



Scouts

1st Markfield

Annual Report

1st January – 31st December 2022



Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name:	1 st Markfield Scout Group
Registered Charity Number:	1042586
Scouts Association Registration Number:	10012660
Charity's Principal Address:	Bowmar Scout Hut, Main Street, Markfield, LE67 9LA

Trustee	Role	Active Dates (if not full year)
Alan Brine	Group Scout Leader	
Liam Mawhinney	Deputy Group Scout Leader	
	Scout Leader	
	Assistant Cub Scout Leader	
Lyn Mawhinney	Cub Scout Leader	
Sue Wainwright	Beaver Scout Leader	

Structure, Governance and Management

How the charity is constituted:

1st Markfield Scout is a registered unincorporated charity constituted in accordance with the rules of The Scout Association covering the area of Markfield, Leicestershire.

The Scout Association (Registered Charity No. 306101) is incorporated by Royal Charter to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.

The Charter of The Association provides for the making of By-Laws approved by Her Majesty in Council which, in turn, authorise the making of the Rules referred to above (known as 'Policy, Organisation and Rules', or 'POR'). The charity trustees, who are the Board of Trustees, cannot act outside the Royal Charter, By-Laws, and Rules of The Scout Association.

Type of governing document

In line with the recommendation from Scout Headquarters, the Charity's governing document, adopted at each AGM, is the model constitution from Chapter 5 of POR.

Recruitment and appointment of charity trustees

The Trustees are appointed following the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

Objectives and Activities

Our Purpose

Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

Our Values

As Scouts we are guided by these values:

- **Integrity** - We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy and loyal.
- **Respect** - We have self-respect and respect for others.
- **Care** - We support others and take care of the world in which we live.
- **Belief** - We explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes.
- **Co-operation** - We make a positive difference; we co-operate with others and make friends.

The Scout Method

Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of Scouting and:

- enjoy what they are doing and have fun
- take part in activities indoors and outdoors
- learn by doing
- share in spiritual reflection
- take responsibility and make choices
- undertake new and challenging activities
- make and live by their Promise.

Public benefit statement:

The Group meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 29/11/2022

Acting Chairperson: Duncan Watts (District Commissioner)

Group Scout Leader: Alan Brine

Deputy Group Scout Leader: Liam Mawhinney

Section Leaders: Sue Wainwright, Margaret Beck, Lyn Mawhinney, Liam Mawhinney, Lily Gibbins

Invited: Parents, community members and young people

Welcome and Introductions

Welcome and introductions made by Alan Brine, Group Scout Leader. The meeting was well attended by parents, young people and section leaders.

Duncan Watts, acting Chair and District Commissioner, spoke about the impact of covid-19 and how positive it was to see so many young people earning awards this evening and increasing numbers at 1st Markfield.

Trustees, Executive Committee and Nominations

Liam Mawhinney, Deputy Group Scout Leader, introduced the formalities of the AGM and summarised the role of the elected members, trustees, executive committee and the parent and community support group.

No interest was made for the role of Chairperson.

No interest was made for the role of Treasurer.

No interested was made for the role of Secretary.

Section Leaders, Sue Wainwright, Lyn Mawhinney and Liam Mawhinney put themselves forward as executive committee members and trustees – this was unanimously agreed.

No other nominations or interest was made at the time of the meeting. Following the meeting, Neil Walker and Felicia Lim, put themselves forward to support the group possibly with the Treasurer role and will be followed up following the meeting.

Constitution

As 1st Markfield does not have its own constitution, the constitution of the scout association as detailed in the Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) was presented and unanimously accepted.

Parent and Community Support Group

Liam Mawhinney spoke about the recently shared parent and community support group – an initiative to support the group without the formalities of the executive. Parents had returned a survey during the summer months to indicate support in joining and undertaking different tasks. Liam shared that he had not had time to take this forward since the last meeting, but would be in touch in the near future and intends to share tasks that require support on our website for parents to support and reach out to individuals in the new year. Alan Brine thanks parents for offering their support.

Accounts

The accounts were shared by Alan Brine and unanimously accepted.

A question was asked about expected increases in gas and electricity bills – Alan shared that this was expected and that the group had fortunately secured a fixed rate last year but would see an increase in 2023.

A proposal was put forward for the group to investigate grants for solar panels which might generate income / reduce expenditure. Liam Mawhinney replied this was a good idea and would investigate this further.

Liam Mawhinney shared that following prior engagement with parents, subsequent to a review of our accounts and continued increased costs, subs would be increasing from £11 to £15 from January 2023. Details will be shared through sections in the coming weeks. Liam asked that parents share in recruitment to the group to help mitigate against further costs and reminded all that all have access to financial support from the local, county and national scout funds during this difficult time. This was accepted by attendees.

Trustee Report

Liam Mawhinney shared a summary of the Trustee Report which was signed by Alan Brine and Sue Wainwright as active trustees and unanimously accepted by attendees.

Section Reports

Section reports were given by Margaret Becks (Beavers), Lyn Mawhinney (Cubs) and Liam Mawhinney (Scouts).

Awards

Duncan Watts presented the following awards:

Chief Scout Bronze Awards: Thomas R, Alex A, Jacob H, Matthew K, Luca B, Blake F, Josh C, Toby W, Jamie

Chief Scout Silver Awards: Max L, Thomas R, Jacob H, Aidan C, Alex A, Ewan H, Dexter E
Duncan spoke about the next stage, the Chief Scout Gold Award and congratulated all for their hard work and commitment.

Section Leaders presented the following awards:

Beaver of the year – Luca B

Cub of the year – Ewan H

Scout of the year – Matthew K

End of Meeting

Alan Brine thanked parents, young people, leaders and Duncan Watts for attendance this evening and made special thanks for leaders and their hard work throughout the pandemic.

Liam Mawhinney shared intentions to hold the AGM in June/July 2023.

Achievements and performance

After the unexpected and devastating impact of Covid-19 worldwide, it is good to report that the group has begun now to see a sense of normality return. Thank you again to our leaders, parents and members who supported the group throughout the pandemic and continued to deliver a programme online and later in person to our members.

It is positive to report that our membership across the group continues to increase, particularly with the re-opening of our scout section after several years.

However, throughout this time our leadership team numbers have decreased. Notably, without additional support this will inevitably impact on the group's ability to sustain this level of growth.

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Beavers	18	16	7	11	22
Cubs	13	12	3	20	20
Scouts	12	0	0	0	13
Total	33	28	10	31	55

Source: End of year census figures

Leaders have continued to offer and delivery an exciting and diverse programme, with all sections offering nights away experiences, adventure, development of life skills and most of all fun for our young members.

In addition to the local programme, the group has been working to become more established within the community and with the wider scout district, which will lead to many more experiences and events for our young members and support for our leaders.

There is a need for our attention to turn to supporting the effective running of the group, in particular the need for additional trustee and parent support members. For an example of roles, visit <https://www.1stmarkfieldscoutgroup.org.uk/get-involved>.

The group looks forward to another exciting year ahead, with many more adventures.

Yours in Scouting,

Liam Mawhinney
Deputy Group Scout Leader

Risk and Internal Control

Trustees have identified the significant risks to which they believe the Group is exposed. These have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate them. The main areas of concern identified are:

Risk	Mitigation	Rating
Damage to the building, property and equipment.	The Group would request the use of buildings, property and equipment from neighbouring organisations. The Group has sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.	Green
Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members.	Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities and all Leaders are first aid trained. Through membership fees, the Group contributes to the Scout Association's national accident insurance policy.	Green
Reduced income from fundraising. The Group is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions and fundraising.	The group does hold a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a significant reduction in income. The Group could raise the value of subscriptions to increase the income to the group on an ongoing basis, either temporarily or permanently.	Green
Lack of support on Trustee Board outside of Leadership Team	The group is reliant on volunteers to support the running of the group and ensure that it is safe and compliant. Recruitment is ongoing but limited response has been received, support is urgently required as in the worst-case scenario, failure to recruit may result in complete closure of the Group.	Red
Reduction or loss of leaders.	The group is reliant on volunteers to run and administer its activities, if there were a reduction in the number of leaders, parent rotas would become mandatory, consideration would need to be given to consolidation of sections and in the worst-case scenario, the complete closure of the Group.	Red
Reduction or loss of members.	The Group provides activities for all young people aged 6 to 18. If there were a reduction in membership in a particular section or the group as a whole, then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst-case scenario, the complete closure of the Group.	Green

Financial Review

The group accounts remain in a good position, albeit ending the year with an in-year deficit of £3k. Notably most of the deficit can be attributed to increase badge/uniform costs, several events part-funded by the group, a rise in utility costs and hut/grounds maintenance.

The increase in subscription fees from £11 to £15 per month now better reflects the cost of scouting whilst continuing to provide value for money against other local group activity costs.

It is expected that with the addition of the new scout section, and recent years of inactivity, we are likely to see an increase in spend in the year ahead – including programme costs, camping equipment and events. In addition, groundworks will be undertaken in the next 12-24 months which may incur additional costs. Based on current and forecasted funds, this will be met through available funds. It is expected the group will also seek funding opportunities where possible.

Reserves Policy:

The Group's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the group should income and fundraising activities fall short. The group should at all times hold a sum equivalent to 12 months of running costs, circa £6k. In addition, the group should retain additional funds for building/ground maintenance, circa £3k.

Investment Policy:

The Group does not have sufficient funds to invest in long-term investments. The Group has therefore adopted a risk-averse strategy to invest its funds. All funds are held in cash using only recognised UK banks or building societies.

Statement of Financial Accounts

Receipts	2022 (£)	2021 (£)
Membership Subscriptions	4,034.27	2,339.08
Less Membership Fees Paid On	1,425.20	512.00
Net Membership Subscriptions Retained	2,609.07	1,827.08
Badges/Uniform	36.00	3.00
Bank Interest	8.78	0.92
Events	737.65	-
Donation / Fundraising	-	-
Gift Aid	-	1,541.76
Grants Received	-	6,001.00
Misc.	-	110.00
Rent Income	95.00	1,360.00
Total Receipts	3,486.50	10,843.76

Payments	2022 (£)	2021 (£)
Activities	31.68	-
Administration/Sundries	200.99	-
Badges & Uniform	705.43	275.91
Building Maintenance/Grounds Keeping	908.53	516.66
Events	1,168.49	-
Cleaning	210.00	664.74
Equipment & Maintenance	193.99	-
Utilities	1,460.45	1,070.16
Insurance	933.85	906.38
OSM Subscription and Payment Fees	203.16	-
Section Programme Costs	440.20	604.64
Misc.	94.50	-
Total Payments	6,551.27	4,038.49

Accounts	2022 (£)	2021 (£)
Cash In Hand	-	-
Current A/C	17,160.46	20,167.63
Reserve A/C	5,676.10	5,670.62
Premium A/C	3,403.07	3,466.15
Retained Surplus Bought Forward	29,304.40	22,499.13
Surplus/Deficit for the year	(3,064.77)	6,805.27
Surplus/Deficit Carried Forward	26,239.63	29,304.40

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	2022 (£)	2021 (£)
Monetary Assets (Accounts)		
Cash In Hand	-	-
Current A/C	17,160.46	20,167.63
Reserve A/C		5,670.62
Premium A/C		3,466.15
Sub Total		29,304.40
Non-Monetary Assets		
Land and buildings	124,880.00	124,880.00
Motor vehicles	-	-
Furniture and fixings	5,500.00	5,500.00
Camp equipment	12,500.00	12,500.00
Appliances	1,000.00	1,000.00
Cooking equipment / utensils	700.00	700.00
Scout programme stock	500.00	500.00
Badge stock	500.00	500.00
Sports equipment	500.00	500.00
Scout flags	1,500.00	1,500.00
Disco equipment	500.00	500.00
Garden tools	400.00	400.00
Other	1,500.00	1,500.00
Sub Total	148,480.00	148,480.00
Liabilities		
Accounts not yet paid	-	-
Expenses incurred but not invoiced	-	-
Subscriptions not yet paid	-	-
Sub Total	-	-
Total Net Assets		177,784.40

Section Reports

Beaver Scouts

Here I am again with another annual report on the activities of the beavers.

After all the disruptions of the previous two years 2022 saw a return to all beaver Activities with a big push on Badge work particularly the challenge badges to catchup with all that had been missed. We have now done this and going forward expect Bronze awards to be completed as normal.

The spring term saw us holding a Burns night, pancake making and finally a proper Mother's Day tea.

April saw the first District St Georges Day Parade for 3 years with a ramble through the woods to Conker's for a service. It was very enjoyable although we had to watch the flags did not get tangled in the trees. Sue and I were presented with our 30-year service award albeit 2 years late.

The big event of the Summer was a return to camping at Willesley camp site d=for a Jubilee themed joint district event for all sections. All our beavers and 3 cubs attended for at least a day and 6 beavers slept overnight all in the same tent. This proved to be a very short night starting at around 11.00 and ending at 4.00 in the morning. However, it was lovely to see them enjoying some real outdoor scouting activities which had been missing for so long.

Also, in the Summer we had a den building session at Beacon Hill and a cycling evening, ending the year with our usual water fun night a t the hut.

By the end of 2022 numbers were backup to 18 having dropped dramatically in 2020.

As an update on this year

Numbers have continued to rise, and we have a healthy waiting list. In March we enjoyed an interesting visit to Tesco's in Loughborough where we were tasked with finding food items from various countries. Which certainly opened our eyes up to how far afield food is sourced,

This term we held a Coronation event and planted some vegetable seeds in the planters.

Finally, we were able to enjoy our 1 to 1 camp again and nearly all our beavers attended, each with an adult in their own tent. A much better night's sleep for everyone than last year. We were there during the massive thunderstorm that hit on Saturday night. Only Matthew was washed out and had to be rescued by a kind dad. All agreed it was a wonderful experience.

As most of you know this will be my last news report as after 33 years I am finally retiring this Summer. I am sure the Colony will continue to thrive in Sue and Lilys capable hands. I have enjoyed my time here immensely but feel it is time to move on.

Yours in Scouting,

Margaret Beck, Beaver Scout Leader

Cub Scouts

The Cubs have had another exciting year, we have completed pioneering, a night hike, litter picking, firelighting, orienteering and trampolining, we have learnt about the history of cubs and introduced our jungle book friends, completed our DIY badge making flowers for the community, planting sunflowers in our newly cleared grounds, and hosted our first camp in some years – hiking to and from John Lees Woods and camping at the Scout Hut.

This year we have recently attended our cub-scout camp at Willesley Scout Campsite which was a murder mystery themed camp with a fantastic opportunity to take part in shooting, climbing, pot holing, go karting and more. We have also been out and about in the community and of particular note was our trip to Coalville Fire Station where we had a sudden increase in the number of Mums offering their support that night. We also visited the Outdoor Pursuit Centre for Splash Camp and have another camp planned for later in the year.

A big thank you to my sons, Liam and Wezley who has joined us recently, for their support in helping to run the section which is currently at 21 Cubs.

Yours in Scouting,

Lyn Mawhinney, Cub Scout Leader

Scouts

The Autumn of 2022, specifically, 12th September 2022, saw the Scout section open after several years of not running. The troop started out with 8 Scouts but by the end of the year that number was increased to 12.

Starting the troop has been a big adventure for us all, particularly as Lily and I started to become more aware of the huge list of criteria scouts must tick off to be awarded their badges. The scouts have been amazing at offering their support, making suggestions and getting stuck in with whatever activities we have planned.

In 2022, the Scouts completed a night hike to Thornton Reservoir, problem solving, pioneering, a bring a friend night, and created their own rocket launchers which were launched in the heavy rain under nightfall (requiring glow sticks to be seen). The Scouts also contributed to the design of the troop, our programme and attended the local church to commemorate the passing of our las patron, HM the Queen as well as our local Remembrance service.

More recently, the Scouts have been camping with our Cubs at Willesley for a murder mystery camp, supported several events out in the local community and our summer programme has mostly been outdoors – with lots of adventure.

We look forward to the year ahead, and encourage any parent, friends or family who have expertise or experiences they might share with the troop to come forward to help the Scouts earn their Chief Scout Gold award.

Yours in Scouting,

Liam Mawhinney, Scout Leader