

# Trustees' Annual Report

For the period



From (start date) 1 0 9 2 3 to end date 3 1 0 8 2 4

## Section A

## Reference and administration details

Charity name

1st Stanmore Scout Group

Registered charity number (if any)

3 0 8 1 6 8

HQ registration number

1 0 5 5 2

Charity's principal address

186 Marsh Lane

Stanmore

Postcode

H A 7 2 S L

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

(These will be published in the annual report of the charity and the Charity Register if reporting for a Registered Charity with a charity regulator)

	Trustee Name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	Ashley Martin	Group Lead Volunteer (Ex-Officio)	
2	Vipul Mehta	Chair (-Co) (Ex-Officio)	
3	Sailesh Vekaria	Chair (-Co) (Ex-Officio)	
4	Rob Curtis	Treasurer (Ex-Officio)	Resigned June 2024
5	Ona Jomaa	Assistant Treasurer (Appointed)/ Active Treasurer	Treasurer since June 2024
6	Jigna Patel	Trustee (Appointed)	
7	Duncan McDowall	Trustee (Co-Opted)	Resigned Jan 2024
8	Jackie McDowall	Trustee (Co-Opted)	
9	Bhrat Patel	Trustee (Co-Opted)	
10	Ramesh Dave	Trustee (Co-Opted)	
11			

Names and addresses of advisers (optional information but encouraged as best practice)

(These will be published in the annual report of the charity)

Type of advisor	Name	Address
Independent Reviewer	Bhushan Pradhan	

1st Stanmore Scout Group

186 Marsh Lane Stanmore HA7 2SL T: 020 8952 9299 M: 07891 620 268 E: mail@1ststanmore.co.uk W: www.1ststanmore.co.uk

Registered Charity Number 308168 (England and Wales) Scout Association Registration Number 10552

**Section B****Structure, governance and management**

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document

(e.g. trust deed, constitution)

The Group's governing documents are those of the The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

How the charity is constituted

(e.g. trust, association, company)

The Group is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.

Trustee selection methods

(e.g. appointed by, elected by)

The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association. Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR)

Additional governance issues (optional information but encouraged as best practice)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:

The Group is managed by the Group Trustee Board, the members of which are the 'Charity Trustees' of the Scout Group which is an educational charity. As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.

Policies and procedures adopted for:  
a) the induction and training of trustees; b) trustee consideration of major risks and the systems and procedures to manage them

The group is managed by an elected board of trustees, comprising Group Co-Chairpersons x 2, Group Lead Volunteer, Group Treasurer and Group Secretary along with individual section leaders, parent's representatives and others nominated onto the committee for their knowledge or skills. The Trustee Board meets at least 3 times a year.

Members of the Trustee Board complete Being a Scouts Trustee learning within the first 6 months of joining the Board.

This Group Trustee Board exists to make sure the charity is well-managed, risks are assessed and mitigated, buildings and equipment are in good working order, and everyone follows legal requirements and the organisation's policies and rules. Their support helps other volunteers run high-quality and safe programmes that gives young people skills for life.

**Section B****Structure, governance and management (continued)****Risk and Internal Control (Specimen 1)**

The Group Trustee Board has identified the major risks to which they believe the Group is exposed, these have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate against them. The main areas of concern that have been identified are:

1. Damage to the building, property and equipment. In addition to adequate insurance provision to mitigate against permanent loss via the Scout Group Policy, in the event of damage critical to the provision of Scouting The Group would request the use of buildings, property and equipment from neighbouring organisations such as Community or other Scout Groups .

2. Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members. The Group through the capitation fees contributes to the Scout Associations national accident insurance policy. Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities and continual training and supervision of Leaders and members with safety briefings in place.

3. Reduced income from fund raising. 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 major reduction in income. The Board could raise the value of subscriptions to increase the income to the group on an ongoing basis, either temporarily or permanently.

4. Loss of Key Trustees, Skills and inability to maintain minimum number of 5, creates significant risks for the compliance and governance of the Group. The Trustees shall endeavour to have contingency plans and succession planning in place for all Key roles, with distribution of tasks and continual recruitment including co-opting members. Having Co and assistant positions for critical roles.

5. Reduction or loss of leaders. The group is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of the group. If there was a reduction in the number of leaders to an unacceptable level 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. Trustees will endeavour to continually recruit and train volunteers with a division of labour to help retention. Working with Beaver and Cub parents is a key strategy. Keeping in contact with former Young Leaders is a longer term strategy for recruit future leaders perhaps post University breaks.

5. Reduction or loss of members. The Group provides activities for all young people aged 4 to 18. If there was a reduction in membership in a particular section or the group as 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.

**6. Risk and Internal Control**

The group has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, these include 2 signatories for all payments and a comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.

Section C	Objectives and activities
Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document	<p><b>The Purpose of Scouting</b> Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.</p> <p><b>The Values of Scouting</b> As Scouts we are guided by these values:  <b>Integrity</b> - We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy and loyal.  <b>Respect</b> - We have self-respect and respect for others.  <b>Care</b> - We support others and take care of the world in which we live.  <b>Belief</b> - We explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes.  <b>Co-operation</b> - We make a positive difference; we co-operate with others and make friends.</p> <p><b>The Scout Method</b> 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.</p>
Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects	<p>We have 3 active sections to which we have also working with 1st Edgware added an Explorer Unit on Friday nights. We have a thriving group with programmes including camps and scouting activities. However we have had a number of key support and volunteers step back this year due to commitments and have been unsuccessful in garnering enough further voluntary support, particularly in Leadership roles. We thank Lizzy King for stepping up to be the Scout Leader. Our efforts to recruit more assistance will be increased in 2024/25 as more are needed in certain sections to ensure sustainable growth and support. Our Leaders have been amazing in supporting our Young Leaders, who have been developed and performed exceptionally well and have been able to put this towards their Duke of Edinburgh award achievements. It was warming to note that former 1st Stanmore Scouts who have maintained their commitment to the Group have returned to support trips and activities as Leaders.</p> <p>Trustees would like to express their gratitude to all Leaders and Volunteers for yet another year of (increasing) commitment and hard work. More details by section will be given at the AGM.</p>
Public benefit statement	<p>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.</p>

**Section D****Achievements and performance**

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

- In addition to running successful programmes with several achieving Scout Awards and meeting DofE requirements we have experienced a growth in numbers
- Opening Explorer unit jointly with 1st Edgware
- Our growing number of Young Leaders being supported in their development
- Essential maintenance and refurbishment of our building post water damage in Dec 2023
- We have created a ring fenced sum to support families in financial need on request so enable scouting from all backgrounds and have endeavoured keep Scout activities affordable so those who need us most can benefit from the skills that Scouts teaches.

**Section E****Financial Review**

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

**Reserves Policy**

The Scout Group's Policy on Reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the activities of the Group for a period of at least 12 months in the event that income and fundraising activities fall short of our requirements. We continue to hold funds on reserve in the event that major roof works are required. Given the age of our building it is likely that major roof works will be required at some point in the future and the Trustees consider it prudent to hold funds on reserve to cover this.

Further financial review details (optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);

**Investment Policy (Specimen 1)**

The Group's Income and Expenditure is very small and as a consequence does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer-term investments such as stocks and shares. The Group has therefore adopted a low risk strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies.

- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;

The Group Trustee Board regularly monitors the levels of bank balances and the interest rates received to ensure the group obtains maximum value and income from its banking arrangements. Occasionally this may involve using an account that requires a period of notice before funds may be withdrawn, before doing so the Group Trustee Board considers the cash flow requirements.

- investment policy and objectives;

The Group does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer term investments. The Group has therefore adopted a risk averse strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies.

**Section F****Other Optional Information**

Plans for future periods (details of any significant activities planned to achieve them)

Changes to Scout processes will be adopted at the 2024 AGM on 6 September and fully embedded with simplified roles and strengthening of the governance functions of the Trustee board in responding to recent changes.

**Section G****Declaration**

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s) Vipul Mehta and Shailesh Vekaria

Full name(s) Vipul Mehta and Shailesh Vekaria

Chair)

Date 2 9 0 8 2 4