

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period

From (start date)

0 1 0 1 2 3

to end date

3 1 1 2 2 3

Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name

Blackdown District Scout Council

Other names the charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

3 0 5 6 3 3

HQ registration number

Charity's principal address

Tangier Scout and Guide Centre

Castle Street

Taunton, Somerset

Postcode

T

A

1

4

A

S

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	Shawn Rutter	Chair	Appointed 23 May 23
2	Richard Smith	District Youth Lead	Appointed 23 May 23
3	David Lumbard		
4	Thomas Hold		
5	Mark Cummings		
6	Christopher Pinguenet		
7	Nadia Atherton	District Lead Volunteer	
8	Sarah Milsted		
9	Phillip Bayles		
10	Andrew Milsted		
11	David Johnson	Treasurer	
12	John Lewis		
13	Marian Scott		
14	Tricia Sedgbeer		
15	Shaun Dale	Chair	Until 23 May 23
16	Laura Willets		Until 23 May 23
17	Scarlett Atherton		Until 5th September 23
18	Michael Bowditch		From 5th September 23
19	Anwar Watson		From 8th November 23

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

Section B**Structure, governance and management**

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document

The District'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.

(e.g. trust deed, constitution)

How the charity is constituted

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

(e.g. trust, association, company)

Trustee selection methods

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

(e.g. appointed by, elected by)

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

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

Blackdown District Scout Council is managed by the District Trustee Board, the members of which are the 'Charity Trustees' of the Scout District 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

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

This District 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.

The District Trustee Board has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss.

Section C	Objectives and activities
Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document	<p>The Purpose of Scouting Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.</p> <p>The Values of Scouting 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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects	<p>See the Blackdown District Annual Review 2023.</p> <p>We provide advice and assistance to groups, to support volunteers and enrich the Scouting experience of our young people. We enhance the great work and activities of the groups by supporting and running additional district activities.</p>
Additional details of the objectives and activities (optional information but encouraged as best practice)	
You may choose to include further statements, where relevant, about:	<p>Assist with the cost of relevant training for adults, and make grants to young people for international expeditions and events.</p> <p>The Huish Woods campsite and activity centre we own is a major land & building asset, for which the Trustees are responsible with the assistance of a volunteer operational management team.</p>
Public benefit statement	<p>The District 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

See also the Blackdown District Annual Review 2023 attached.

Supplementing the great work and activities of the groups, we have further enhanced experiences for our young people by supporting and running the following:

- Supporting the opening of 3 new Explorer units.
- Leading the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) award programme
- Running a St Georges Day parade through the County Town.
- Supporting the Gang Show.
- Running District events at Huish Woods for Squirrels, Beavers and Cubs.
- Running Brompton Ralph activity events for Scouts and Explorers.
- Running a raft race for Scouts and Explorers
- Running a Beavers fun and craft days.
- Running an archery competition for Scouts.
- Supporting and running the training for Ten Tors for both District and County Explorer participants.
- Operating Huish Woods.
- Financial assistance with the cost of training for adults.
- Grants for young people for international expeditions and events.

Membership continued to grow through 2023, and as at the Annual Census on 31st January 2024 we had 1466 Young People as members, adding over 100 new members and making us the quickest growing District in Somerset for 2023.

Section E**Financial Review**

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the Charity to maintain unrestricted funds at a level which equates to approximately 12 months unrestricted expenditure.

Quantify and explain any designations

Details of any funds materially in deficit (circumstances plus steps to eliminate)

n/a

Further financial review details (optional information)

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

Accounts

See the statutory accounts prepared for the year ended 31 December 2023. There was total income of £150,755 which is similar to 2022, although expenditure was greater at £170,921, which led to a deficit on the year of £20,166. This can be explained mainly by additional maintenance works at Huish Woods including tree safety works of c£17k. The deficit reduces the overall funds shown on the balance sheet to £605,906, and note that only £92k of this was held in bank accounts.

When contemplating future capital improvements to Huish Woods we have the benefit of the development fund of £170k, for which projects are currently in planning.

The reserves policy states that reserves will be held to cover 12 months unrestricted expenditure so this also needs to be taken into account when looking at future costs. Although, if income is lower at Huish Woods then expenditure by way of running costs will also be much reduced.

As owners of Huish Woods we have a responsibility to invest in the infrastructure of this great asset of ours that all benefit from, i.e. buildings and activities, and so continue to do this. The current volunteer management team are working hard to improve activity infrastructure and equipment. For 2024 the Trustees have agreed a break even budget for Huish Woods.

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

Principal sources of funds

The District's principal sources of funds are:

1. District membership subscriptions.
2. Huish Woods membership subscriptions and charged activities.

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

How expenditure has supported our objectives

Expenditure enables us to operate so we can:

- provide the district support and governance structure required of by the Scout Association
- enrich the experiences for young people to support group activities and run district activities i.e. events & parades, provide adult training grants, young people expedition grants.
- maintain & operate Huish Woods for the long term benefit of all our members.

- investment policy and objectives;

Investment Policy

The Council 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.

2

Section F Other Optional Information

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



Support the opening of 3 new Explorer Units opening in 2024
Support the opening of a new Squirrel drey.
Run New Cub lego day competition event.

Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

	
---	--

Full name(s)

Shawn Rutter	David Johnson
--------------	---------------

Position (eg Secretary, Chair)

Chair	Treasurer
-------	-----------

Date

2	6	0	4	2	4
---	---	---	---	---	---