

Chorley District Scout Council Annual Report & Accounts 2023-2024



CHORLEY DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

48th Annual General Meeting

10th July 2024 7.30pm

CHORLEY DISTRICT SCOUT HEADQUARTERS

AGENDA

Introduction and welcome

Apologies for absence

Governance topics

- ♦ Approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17/09/2023
- ♦ Agree the number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board
- ♦ Agree the quorum for future meetings of the District Scout Council (excluding this AGM)

Review of the previous year

The District Lead Volunteer's review of Scouts in the Chorley District

Receive and consider the Annual Report of the District Trustee Board, including the annual Statement of the Accounts

Making appointments

Appoint the District Chair, following recommendation from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board – Alan Venn

Appoint the District Treasurer, following recommendation from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board –

Appoint members of the District Trustee Board, following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board

- Kerry Houghton
- Andy Walton
- Paul Smith
- Vicki Finley
- Pete Sturgess
- Phil Fairclough

Emir. Barker—minute taker ADMIN not Trustee Member

Appoint District President and/or Vice Presidents

Appoint the Scrutineer / Independent Examiner Mr Ian Wilkin
Senior Officer of LCC.

Closing remarks

Mayor of Chorley

Gail Stanley - County President



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
Chorley District Scout Council	1024746

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	1st April 2023		31st March 2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Membership Fees	73,592		-	73,592	57,950
District Activity Income from Members	20,605		-	20,605	37,959
Explorer Unit Member Contributions		37,662	-	37,662	26,235
Sales	4,380		-	4,380	7,885
Donations			-	-	639
Interest	974		-	974	168
Gift Aid			-	-	2,761
Property Rental	1,797		-	1,797	1,949
Other Income	2,851		-	2,851	1,073
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	104,198	37,662	-	141,859	136,619
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
None	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	104,198	37,662	-	141,859	136,619
A3 Payments					
District Activity Costs	35,358			35,358	67,879
Explorer Unit Activity Costs		36,404		36,404	23,183
Headquarters Membership fees	53,269			53,269	45,792
Leader Training	2,544			2,544	2,837
Stock Purchases	3,136			3,136	6,100
Property Costs	14,457			14,457	8,743
IT Costs	3,452			3,452	2,709
Equipment Purchases	1,170			1,170	560
Other Overheads	1,711			1,711	3,278
Sub total	115,097	36,404	-	151,501	161,081
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Platt Field Campsite		-	-	-	25,317
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	115,097	36,404	-	151,501	161,081
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 10,899	1,257	-	- 9,642	- 24,462
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	122,082	11,646	-	133,728	172,024
Cash funds this year end	111,183	12,903	-	124,086	147,562

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Main Bank Accounts	103,677		-
	Explorer Unit Accounts		12,903	-
	Chorley Capers Account	2,797		-
	JMC Property Management Account	4,709		-
	Total cash funds	111,183	12,903	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	Shop Stock	2,602	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	None		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Headquarters Building (70% Ownership)	General	-	64,500
	All Saints Building	General	-	30,000
	Platt Field Campsite	General	21,000	21,000
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	nil			
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	

District Lead Volunteer Report

Amy Calderbank

It feels like only 5 minutes since our last AGM where I took up the role of District Lead Volunteer but already it seems time has flown by.

We've seen some significant changes over the last few months as we continue our transformation journey, with our volunteers starting to adopt the new role titles and our Executive Committees across the District becoming Boards of Trustees.

Whilst this has felt challenging at times, it is great to see adults embracing the new structures and still doing what they do best – providing amazing experiences to young people.

There are still further changes to come as we look ahead to the introduction of our new digital system and changes to our volunteer journey later this year and we'll continue to share information on what's coming next for all members.



Looking back over the last few months there have been some real highlights

- **3 new Squirrel Dreys opening (with more planned!)**
- **An increase in the numbers of Scouts and Explorers in the District**
- **Increases in the numbers of top awards achieved in all Sections**
- **Young people participating in International opportunities including the World Scout Jamboree, sailing expeditions and European Jamborees**
- **An increase in the numbers of adult volunteers in the District**
- **Platt's Field starting to be used by groups for evening activities**

Over the last year I have continually been impressed by the dedication and commitment of our adult volunteers supporting our young people in sections across the District. The variety of events and adventures that they have experienced is all down to the hard work that is put in by our leaders, occasional helpers, active support and trustee members.



It has been a privilege and a pleasure to recognise a small number of our volunteers through long service and commendation awards throughout the year and those individuals are listed as part of our report.

However, to all of our volunteers – a very heartfelt thank you for all that you do to make Chorley District a brilliant place to Scout.

I look forward to continuing to work with you all over the next 12 months to continue to ensure Chorley District is a thriving District for young people and adults alike to enjoy the best that Scouting can offer.



District Trustee Board Chair Report

Alan Venn

The past year has shown with tremendous commitment from all those involved in leading and enabling programmes which has provided so much benefit and enjoyment to our young people. The year saw an increase in our Membership although our Beaver and Cub sections showed a reduction in number, the opening of more Squirrel Dreys across the District has made a positive impact on the census.

It has to remain our ambition to provide the benefits of Scouting to as many young people as possible, not only those on waiting lists but also those areas of the District or from backgrounds we have not yet reached. For everyone it is about encouraging friends to become involved to meet the shortage of Leaders and helpers.

There are many people who are part of, and support Scouting in Chorley. I wish to thank all involved for the impact you have made and will continue to make.

Alan Venn

District Chair of Trustees



BEAVERS

What a busy 12 months. Firstly, I would like to thank the District Beaver Team for all their support and all the Beaver Leaders for their dedication, bringing experiences, life skills and forever memories to our young people.

Thank you also to Ecclestone Beavers for a wonderful Christingle Service at St George's Church. The church was full and it was a wonderful sight to see. For the first time, Acorn awards were presented and it was an honour to present them to Anderton Squirrels. A huge well done to all the Beavers and Squirrels on achieving their Top Awards.



Also Thank you to Amy our District Lead Volunteer for presenting them.

We've also supported County events as a district, with several of our groups attending events at Waddecar. Everyone had a great time meeting other Beavers, having fun together and learning new skills and activities.

We had a sleepover at Rascals play centre over 2 nights.

In total 183 attended the event, not a lot of sleep for the Leaders, but the Beavers had a fabulous time!

In April we visited Smithhills Farm.

It was the District's first joint event with Squirrels; the weather was lovely, not too hot and everyone had a great day learning about all the different animals, watching the cows being milked, feeding the calves, holding various baby animals and best of all eating lots of





home-made ice cream.

On the 1st June, 135 of us had a Special Trip to Manchester Runway Visitor centre. We sat on board Concorde, learned about the different jobs in the Airport and Beavers got to wear Pilots, Stewards and emergency services uniforms. They also got to sit in the cockpit and pretend to fly the plane.

We watched planes take off and land, including the world's largest Airplane.

The number of Bronze / Acorn Awards presented in the last 12 months was an amazing 150. Congratulations to all the Beavers and Squirrels. Well Done!!

I feel Beavers and Squirrels have thrived over the last 12 months, and I look forward to the next 12 months of new adventures and challenges.

Kate Sturgess,

District Lead Volunteer for Beavers.

EXPLORERS

As always I must thank all the Explorer Leaders for their hard work over the last few months, and the excellent programmes they have delivered.

2023 saw five of our Explorers jet off for what was supposed to be an experience of a lifetime at the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea. Sadly it didn't quite go as planned and the event was hit by several problems. But in true British style our Explorers made the best of a trying situation and had a great time. They have certainly come back with memories that will last them for a lifetime

Some of our Explorers also had the opportunity to attend the Haarlem Jamborette in Holland where, as in previous trips, they had more than their fair share of rain and mud.



Closer to home though our Units have been very active this last year.



It is not possible to list everything that they have done over the last few months

in a short report, but they have certainly been busy.



As a snapshot of some of the wonderful array of events and activities they

have taken part in , the activities range from a night of axe throwing at Bibbys Farm, archery at Platt Fields, book bench trail in Chorley, Monopoly Run in Manchester and London, murder mystery night at C02 to mention just a very few.



The District again had a few teams in the Mountain Activity Challenge (MAC) but sadly we failed to retain the trophy but came in a very creditable second. Let's hope with a few more teams, we can take it back this coming year.



It has not just been adventurous activities; a number of Units have been out and about helping in the Community with some helping to tidy up around Chorley whilst others have given up their time to work on the Service Crew at Bibby's Farm and I know that Bibby's are grateful for this help



Phil Fairclough
District Explorer Scout
Commissioner

You will only see a section report from the Beavers in this year's AGM report. Key roles in Squirrels and Cubs remain open and are being actively recruited for.

Will has come onboard recently as Team Leader for Scouts and is already making a huge difference; I am sure he will have plenty to say in next year's report

A massive thanks to all the Leaders in our District who have helped deliver top awards and continue to contribute to section programming—a special call out to Kate for taking the Squirrels under her wing this year.

Due to certain circumstances, we have had to operate with a limited District calendar this year. However, this has not deterred our young people from achieving fantastic milestones and receiving top awards.

Our young people have truly shone this year across all sections. their achievements are not just significant, but also a source of immense pride for us all.

Squirrels – 12+ Acorn Awards

Beavers- 120+ Bronze Awards

Cubs- 70+ Silver Awards

Scouts- 50+ Gold Awards

Together, we have delivered over 200 nights away, with all our sections having enjoyed camping outdoors on at least one occasion.

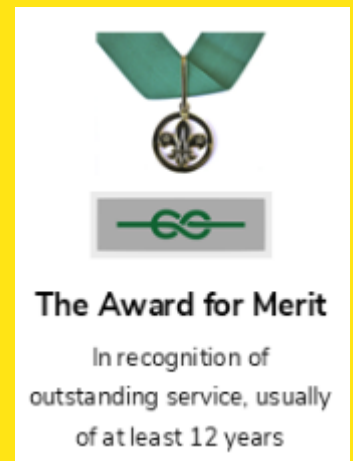
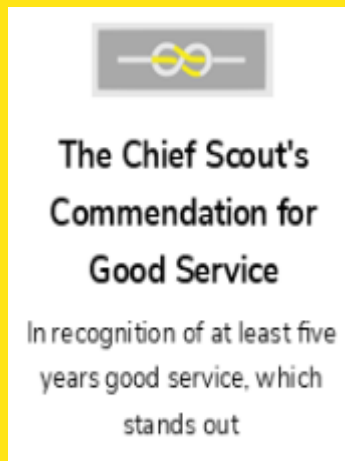
We are eagerly looking forward to 2024 and are confident that it will be another year of remarkable achievements and growth for Chorley District.

Mark Finnegan

Awards

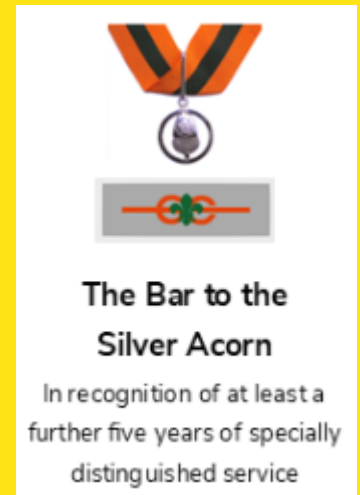
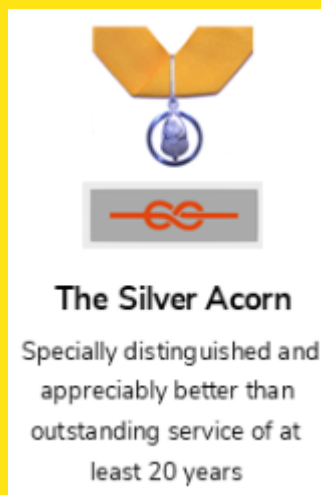
Chief Scout's Commendation For Good Service

Ellie Baker
Paul Barker
Darren Lomax
William Laidlaw
Carol Bentham
Oliver Brett
Susan Brocken
Mark Brocklehurst
Lawrence Cocker
Bryan Cocker
Gary Fairclough
Victoria Finley
Paul Headen
Catherine Jones
Julie Lowe
Jeffrey Mellling
Martin Sherlock
Anthony Smith
Michael Taylor
Jack Bullon
Danielle Oates
John Wilcock
Mark Cocker



Award for Merit

Christine Coxon
Elizabeth Baker
Peter Baker
Emma Hardacre



Silver Acorn

Barry Matthias
Lynne Whitehead

Bar to the Silver Acorn

jim Banks

Minutes of the CHORLEY DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL (CDSC)

47th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING –

Venue – Bibby's Farm Scout Campsite

Sunday 17th September 2023

Time – 3.00 p.m.

No. of attendees – 38. Groups represented - 12; ESUs represented – 1.
Plus, SASU, District Team and District Board of Trustees.

Presentation of District Colours by Charnock Richard SG (outgoing duty Group)

District Chair welcomed everyone to the AGM including our VIP guests The Deputy Mayor and Mayor-ess, Cllr Gordon France and Councillor Margaret France, Craig Dewar-Willox (County Commissioner) and commenting that it was good to see so many attending. Attention was drawn to the fact that whilst this is the AGM for the previous financial year ending March 2023 it was in the Scouting year leading up to Chorley District's 50th anniversary and the 50th anniversary of the borough of Chorley.

Our District President, Sir Lindsay Hoyle sent his apologies for not being able to attend our AGM via his pre-recorded address, which was played back at this point.

Opening thoughts by George Lewis on the theme of 'Change and Continuity'.

Apologies. Rt. Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle, MP, Phil Fairclough, Kerry Houghton, Andy Walton, Andy Baker and Ellie Baker.

Awards Presentations – just one award presented at the AGM to Doreen Gibson for 60 years' service to Scouting in Chorley.

Presentation of the Minutes of the 2022 AGM.

Minutes of the 2022 AGM were tabled, having previously been circulated to members of Chorley District Scout Council (CDSC). There were no points raised, no queries and no proposed amendments.

Minutes proposed by Kate Sturgess as a true and accurate records of the 2021 AGM proceedings and seconded by Tom Whittaker.

All members of CDSC attending voted in favour.

The 2021/2022 Annual Report and Accounts.

Approval of change to the 2022/2023 account examiner appointed at the 2022 AGM.

The District Treasurer reported that we are required to appoint an account's examiner at each AGM for the upcoming year, usually 12 months in advance. Due to current pressure of the appointed examiner, Mr. Andrew Aspden was unavailable. Mr. Ian Wilkin, a senior officer for LCC kindly agreed to examine the accounts for the financial year 2022 -2023. The following proposal was then tabled.

Proposal is to seek approval from the District Scout Council for the change in examiner of District end of year accounts from Mr Andrew Aspden to Mr Ian Wilkin, Senior Officer of LCC.

Proposed by Mike Grayson and seconded by Pete Beesley.

All members of CDSC attending voted in favour.

Presentation of 2021/2022 Annual Accounts.

District Treasurer, Mike Grayson highlighted the following headline points from the accounts which had previously been circulated to member of the District Scout Council. Noting that the accounts had previously been successfully examined by Mr, Wilkin and approved by the District Board of Trustees on 12th July 2023.

District accounts are in a strong position with an overall balance of around £130k.

There were 2 significant spends during the financial year. The purchase of the greenfield activity site at Birkacre for £25k and further £25k invested in the growth of Scouting in Chorley including a reduction of £2/head in the district element of the membership fee.

Attention was drawn to the changed presentation standard of the accounts with the Charity Commission standard format being adopted. This makes the accounts easier to follow. Mike's closing remarks were a vote of thanks to the previous treasurer, Alan Venn for his work done over the previous years.

Presentation of the 2022/23 Annual Report by Andy Lewis. This was Andy's final presentation of the annual report, as District Commissioner, (see appendix 1).

Changes to CDSC Constitution, - background to proposed change.

POR has been updated 8 times since Jan 2022 the last one being July 2023

The April 2023 update brought in a number of significant changes about the terminology we use e.g., Board of Trustees and not executive committees, requirements of AGMs and the responsibilities of adult volunteers.

These changes would mean a complete re-write of the current District Constitution. Additionally there is a raise in issue of POR due in spring 2024. Advice from HQ is that all groups and districts adopt the model constitution in Chpt 5.4 of POR.

Proposal

As a result of major changes in POR it is proposed that CDSC adopt the model version of the district Constitution defined in POR para 5.4

Proposer – Jim Banks. Secunder – Lisa Lewis

All members of CDSC attending voted in favour.

Investiture of new DC.

Craig pointed out then when Andy Lewis signed up to be District Commissioner it was pre 2019. Since then Covid and the lockdown took its toll on DCs across the county. A great burden of responsibilities was placed upon them to sustain the district's finances and bring about an overall recovery. The number of members in a district is one indicator of the health of that district. Current Chorley are at 98.6% of the pre-lockdown total. Across the county we lost 25% in first year and some districts still haven't recovered. In a more light hearted remark he would still like to know how Andy convinced the trustees spend £15k on the Bounce Back Camp. On behalf of the whole of the county Craig passed on his thanks to Andy for all that he had achieved as DC.

Craig then introduced Amy Calderbank as our new District Commissioner, commenting that a DC has to be someone that the district and WLSC can rely on. Amy has done many things in the Scouting over the past 20 years. She is highly motivated and passionate about Scouting and what she can do in Chorley. It gave him great pleasure to ask Amy to repeat her Scout Promise and take up the role as DC of Chorley District.

Approval of the new District Commissioner's nomination of District Chairman.

DC's nominee for District Chairman – Steve Morton

Approval by all those attending the meeting.

A vote of thanks was made by the Chair to Alan Venn and Jim Banks who were both standing down as District Officers.

Election of District Officers.

Nominee for District Secretary – Pete Sturgess

Proposed by Steve Morton and seconded by Mark Finnigan.

Nomination approved by all those attending the meeting.

Nominee for District Treasurer – Mike Grayson

Proposed by Paul Smith and seconded by George Carroll.

Nomination approved by all those attending the meeting.

The District Executive

This year will see a number of changes in the membership of the exec committee and the Chair made a vote of thanks to all exec members standing down.

Elected members - the following have been nominated:

Kerry Houghton

Andy Walton

Andy Baker

Paul Smith

Proposed by Pete Beesley and seconded by Paul Ryan.

Nominations approval by all those attending the meeting.

Confirmation of District Commissioner's nominations:

Alison Kirby (Eccleston SG) – District GSL rep.

Jim Banks

Emir Barker

Vicki Finley

Proposed by Amy Calderbank and seconded by George Lewis.

Nominations approval by all those attending the meeting.

Approval / Appointment of Auditors.

Resulting from the inability to engage Mr A Aspden as examiner for the 2022-2023 accounts, the district board of trustees agreed that in order to de-risk this happening again in the future, we should look to find a suitable auditor/examiner and retain them on a commercial basis. So the following proposal is made –

That permission is granted by the District Scout Council, for the incoming board of trustees to find a suitable professional accountant and retain them on a commercial basis to examine the accounts for financial year 2023 - 2024 at the appropriate time in 2024

Proposed by Mike Grayson and seconded by Ian Lonsdale.

Proposal approval by all those attending the meeting.

Note that the Chorley District membership fee remains unchanged at £14 per young member.

New District Commissioner's early thoughts and vision of next 12 months.

Amy wanted to echo Craig's thanks to Andy for leaving district in strong position and that Andy will still be here doing jobs in district.

Amy is honoured to be here and has been in CDSC for last 20 years. It's brilliant district to be part of both as youngster and an adult,

Transformation and change. Scouting has always been a movement of change. In last 30 - 40 years introduction of Beavers and Squirrels and we will carry on changing. Transitioning through the changes we will have Skills for Life and talk about challenges won and the opportunities for young members. Next year is our 50th. The plan is to make it a really big celebration and show what we can do for our members. This is OUR district and Amy is looking forward to doing the role.

County Commissioners Address.

The AGM is good chance to look across the county. Chorley District is in good health and 8% membership growth is incredible – reflecting great growth in what young people in Chorley can do. Scouting gives Skills for Life. it helps to build leadership skills and resilience. Nationally there are more clubs than ever before but parents are still choosing Scouting,

TRANSFORMATION – overarchingly it reflects World change. There was change before and during pandemic. National research shows that we are a complicated organisation for new people to join, we have to change to recruit new people. Scouting is thought of new people as being hard to understand. What will change is how we organise ourselves. Teamwork for instance; we shall do more of it rather predominantly lead by one person and then people becoming burned out.

Digital tools coming down the line – new training to help people develop.

What doesn't change- are our values, and the opportunities and support we provide.

For some change is uncomfortable. The challenge is to take people along with us – this is about changing more lives as we go along. In county we have 800+ young people on waiting lists. We need to do something different to get the opportunities for these young people opened.

Return of district colours by in-coming duty group Eccleston.

Closure of formal proceedings.

The chair thanked everyone for attending and participating. There being no further business he closed the meeting at 16.05.