

Scouts The Malverns

Registered Charity No: 1030019

Trustees Annual Report For year 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024



Trustees during the year:

Ex Officio

Robert Sidley	- Acting District Commissioner to 20 th October 2023
Ben Johnstone	- Joint District Commissioner from 20 th October 2023
Paul Boniface	- Joint District Commissioner from 20 th October 2023
Derek Barnes	- Chair from 29 th April 2023
David Cashmore	- Treasurer
Susan Revell	- Secretary
Adrian Ward	- District Explorer Scout Commissioner

Elected

Michael Wood	- until 13 th September 2023 (District Badge Secretary)
Ben Johnstone	- until 20 th October 2023
Paul Boniface	- from 13 th September 2023 to 20 th October 2023
Susan Page	- Also BP Guild

Nominated

Peter Ashcroft	- Also District Camp Warden
Maureen Heath	- from 13 th September 2023
Ryan Heath	- from 13 th September 2023

Other Key District Roles during the year:

District Youth Commissioner	Vacant
Assistant District Commissioner Scouts	Matthew Cooper
Assistant District Commissioner Cub Scouts	Debbie Harrison
Assistant District Commissioner Beavers	Maureen Heath
District Explorer Scout Commissioner	Adrian Ward
District Scout Network Commissioner	Vacant
District Appointments Chair	June Etheridge
District Appointments Secretary	Derek Barnes
District Nights Away Advisor	Dick Brocklehurst
District Badge Secretary	Mike Wood
District Camp Warden	Peter Ashcroft
District Local Training Manager	Vacant
District President	Derek Barnes

Structure, Governance and Management

The name of the Charity is 'The Malverns District Scout Council' also known as 'Scouts The Malverns' and is Registered Charity Number 1030019.

The Malverns District Scout Council has adopted the standard constitution recommended in Chapter 5 of the Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) of the Scout Association, established by Royal Charter which was granted 4th January 1912.

Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society. The method of achieving this is by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law, guided by adult leadership.

The key purpose of Scouts The Malverns is to provide:

- Leadership, advice, and support the 11 Scout Groups in the District.
- Management and leadership of the 7 District Explorer Scout Units, Scout Network and Scout Active Support on the District.
- Management and development of the District Camp Site at Warren Oak.
- The appointment of all adult volunteers in the District.
- District activities for young people.

Scout Groups are autonomous charities and provide exciting opportunities for Beaver Scouts (aged 6 to 8 years), Cub Scouts (aged 8 to 10½ years) and Scouts (aged 10½ to 14 years) through the progressive award schemes. Hopefully there will also soon be the provision of Squirrels (aged 4 to 6 years) in some Scout Groups. Explorer Scouts (aged 14 to 18 years) and Scout Network (aged 18 to 25 years) continue this development and award system.

The Trustees comprised: 3 District Officers (Chair, Secretary & Treasurer), the District Commissioner, the District Youth Commissioner, the District Explorer Scout Commissioner, the District Scout Network Commissioner, up to 4 persons elected by members of the District Scout Council at the Annual General Meeting, up to the same number of persons nominated by the District Commissioner and approved by the District Scout Council and up to the same number of persons that may be co-opted. Proposals are invited prior to the Annual General Meeting for elected Trustees. In keeping with the changes in POR, these arrangements will change from 2024 Annual General Meeting

The District Trustee Board manage the District and generally meet every 2 months. Through the year, the Trustee Board existed to support the District Commissioner in meeting the responsibilities of their appointment. However, from April 2024 onwards, the Transformation changes being put in place by The Scout Association mean that the Trustee Board will start to solely focus on governance and related issues.

Members of the Trustee Board act collectively as charity Trustees of the Scout District and in the best interests of its members to:

- Comply with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.
- Protect and maintain any property and equipment owned by or used by the District.
- Manage the District finances.

- Provide insurance for people, property and equipment.
- Provide sufficient resources for scouting to operate.
- Promote and support the development of scouting in the District.
- Manage and Implement the Safety Policy.
- Ensure that a positive image of Scouting exists in the local community.
- Appoint and manage the operation of any sub-committees including appointing a Chair to lead the sub-committee.
- Ensure that Young People are meaningfully involved in decision making at all levels within the District
- Appoint and manage the operation of a District Appointments Committee.
- Manage and develop the District Camp Site at Warren Oak

The Trustee Board also:

- Appoint Administrators and Advisors.
- Approve the Trustees Annual Report and Annual Accounts after their examination by an appropriate independent examiner or scrutineer.
- Present the Trustees Annual Report and Annual Accounts to the District Scout Council at the Annual General Meeting and submit them to the Charity Commission.
- Maintain confidentiality with regard to appropriate Trustee Board business.

Risk and Internal Controls

The District has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide good assurance against material mismanagement or loss. These include two independent authorisers for all payments and comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.

The District conducts risk assessments for all activities and provides guidance to Groups and Units on how they should do so.

The Trustees maintain a top-level risk register for the District as a whole and review this at all Trustee Board meetings to ensure that it is as up to date as possible.

Achievements and performance

Scouting in The Malverns continues to progressively recover after being adversely affected by the COVID pandemic when it shrank from some 1,000 members (adult and young people) to about 800 members between 2020 and 2023. The situation has now stabilised and the District is growing again (young people and adult volunteers). We have been opening new sections (including our first Squirrel Drey for 4 to 6 year olds) and the re-opening of a several Explorer Units. There remains good demand for young people's places across the District with over 100 young people on the waiting lists wanting to join. Nevertheless, there remains a concerning level of vacancies to key District and Group roles that are continuing to be addressed as a priority and are necessary to re-build the District and all its functions including Warren Oak.

Through the year, our campsite at Warren Oak has held up well and is back above pre-COVID levels – which is great. We are particularly thankful to our small team of dedicated volunteers who manage and look after Warren Oak including all bookings. Three key developments for Warren Oak are in the pipeline; a replacement bouldering wall (held up by the very damp weather over the last winter, but soon to be ready), a large covered open area for those using

the site to be able to shelter under during inclement weather and an extension to the toilet and shower facilities at the site.

In order to satisfy the demand for Scouting in the District, continuing promotion, recruitment and support of adults as leaders, administrators, trustees, and supporters is needed. There exists the opportunity to open new Sections in existing Groups and to strengthen some Groups and existing Sections.

The top priorities for the coming year are therefore:

- Adult Recruitment (for most Groups and the District Team, including a new Team DC)
- Support and Development of Warren Oak
- Succession Planning (for most roles in the District, including Explorers and key roles in Groups)
- Embrace The Scout Association's 'Transforming our Volunteer Experience' change programme.

We continued to refine the specific actions needed to address these top priorities through the year.

The District appreciates the generosity, time and effort of all our adult volunteers in the District, in Groups and in support teams (including the local branch of the Baden Powell Guild), all of whom impact directly and indirectly on the District's activities. Thank you.

The District does not employ any paid workers and Trustees have not received any payments except for small amounts of receipted expenses.

Financial Review

Please see the associated Receipts and Payments Accounts for The Malverns District Scout Council.

Reserves Policy:

The District's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the District (including Warren Oak) should income and fundraising activities fall short, and to hold funds to support individuals and Groups in times of urgent need. Trustees consider that the District should hold a sum of £30,000 (equivalent to 12 months running costs, excluding subscriptions payable to Headquarters and County) plus £15,000 to meet any immediate needs of members, Groups and Units within the District. The District held total cash funds of approximately £97,400 at the year end, including approximately £24,500 in our Explorer Units accounts, with the rest roughly evenly split between the main District and Warren Oak. This well covered the required reserves, but included the Warren Oak funds earmarked for the development of the site.

Investment Policy:

The District does not have sufficient funds to invest in long term investments. The District 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.

Addresses:

Correspondence:

Scouts The Malverns, c/o Berrow Bank, Bromsberrow, Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 1SG.

e-mail: administration@scoutsmalvern.org.uk

Websites:

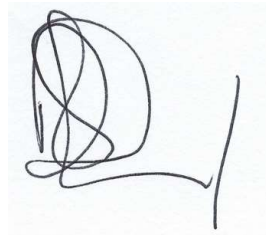
District: www.scoutsmalverns.org.uk

Warren Oak: www.warrenoak.org.uk

This Trustees Annual Report was reviewed and unanimously approved by the District Trustees at their Board meeting on 3rd June 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Dr Derek Barnes
District Chair



David Cashmore
District Treasurer