





UNIT 53: THE WEATHERBEES

County Chair's Welcome

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Annual Report for Greater Manchester West County Scout Council from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023.

What a year! Within this report you will read about the fun and challenging experience that young people have been involved in. This is testament to you, and your teams, in the time that you give to ensure every young person has the opportunity to take part in a wide and varied activity programme, from weekly meetings, days out, camping experiences, adventurous activities and for some, international trips. This leads to the achievement of Top Awards – WELL DONE TO EVERYONE!

There are many volunteers within Greater Manchester West who carry out their role(s). Some are front facing delivering the excellent programme for the young people and many are “behind the scenes” working hard to support you to carry out your role. As a County, we recognise this hard work and the experience many individuals bring – THANK YOU!

Further thanks are passed to our excellent campsite teams who work hard to ensure our campsites are excellent local spaces for many young people to take part in outdoor experiences. The continuing development of activities, programmes on offer, site maintenance and buildings do not just happen – so THANK YOU to everyone associated with our campsites.

It has been my pleasure to work with the County Commissioner and the Senior Leadership Team in order that they have the necessary support to carry out their roles.

Thank you to the County Executive Committee who have welcomed me as Chair since my appointment. Firstly, thank you for the support and direction you have shown me personally, but THANK YOU for the work and decision making undertaken to ensure the future direction and development of the County.

Overall, the commitment, dedication, willingness and just an overall desire to strive to grow is shown by every single person who is part of Greater Manchester West.

THANK YOU!

Silver Wolf Award Holders



Mrs Jacqui Aspinall MBE

Mrs Joan Hayton

Mr Stanley Atkins

Mr Kenneth Ince

Mr Graham Barrick

Mrs Sheila Ince

Mr John Bilsborough

Mrs Eileen Johnson

Mr David Copeland

Mr Keith Lang

Mrs Pamela Copeland

Mr David Maltby

Mrs Sylvia Cornish

Mr Martin Maynard

Mrs Vera Crossley

Mr Brian Mouat

Mr Hugh Davies

Mr Steve Ralph MBE JP

Mrs Iris Emery

Mrs Ann Salt

Mr Derek Freeman

Mr George Sharp

Mrs Christine Gleaves

Mr Geoff Sides

Mr Peter Hart

Mrs Judith Summersgill

Mr Bob Haynes

Mr Alex Waddington

Mr Alan Hayton

Mr Haydn Worrall

Our County Team

County President	Sir Warren Smith KCVO KStJ JP
Vice Presidents	Mr Geoff Sides Mrs Vera Crossley Colonel Sir John Timmins KCVO OBE TD
Regional Commissioner	Mr Brendan Booth
County Commissioner Deputy County Commissioners	Mr Andy Farrell Mr Greg Archer (People) Mr Jacob Bond (Programme and Communication)
County Youth Commissioner Deputy Youth Commissioners	Mr James Turner Mr Reece McSherry Mr Luke Turner Mr Joe Westhead
County Transformation Lead	Mr Jacob Bond
County Chair County Secretary County Treasurer	Miss Susan Leonard Mrs Jean Archer Mr Roger Kettle
County Appointments Secretary Asst. County Appts Secretary County Appts Advisory Committee	Mr Greg Archer Mrs Jacqui Aspinall MBE Mr Graham Barrick (Chair), Mr Peter Marsh, Mr Greg Archer, Mr Lewis Foster, Mr Andy Atherall, Mrs Penny Rothwell Mason
Assistant County Commissioners	Mr Tom Dutton (Beaver Scouts) Mr Dave Finch (Cub Scouts) Mr Bob Wilson (Scouts) Miss Jenn Carline (Explorer Scouts) Mr Oliver Horne (Scout Network) Mr Jeff Picton (International) Mr Chris Starkie (Activities) Mr Anthony Staunton-Unsworth (Inclusion)
County Campsite Managers	Mr Chris Hayes and Mr Martin Shaw (Bispham Hall) Mr David Hughes (Dunham Park) Mr Ste Butterworth and Mr Mike Dunn (Hollinwood)

Our County Team

Managers / Advisers

County Training Manager	Mrs Gemma Higson
County Communications Manager	Mrs Hayley Mullen
Media Development Coordinator	Miss Amy Tomkins
Newsletter Coordinator	Mrs Michele Millington
Digital Project Coordinator	Mr Andy Brown
Digital Systems Coordinator	Mr Lewis Foster
Duke of Edinburgh Award Adviser	Mrs Debbie Pullen
King's Scout Award Coordinator	Mr Steve Ralph MBE JP
Safeguarding Adviser	Mr Greg Archer
Safety Adviser	Mr Mike Barrett

Scout Active Support Managers (not listed elsewhere)	Mr Nick Anderson (Goodwood)
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Assessors

Climbing	Mr Andrew Bradley
Climbing and Abseiling	Mr Neil Gregory
Hill Walking	Mr David Smith
Kayaking/Canoeing/Rafting	Mr Michael McCarthy

County Administrator	Mrs Sue Ralph
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County Training Team	Mr Jacob Bond, Mr Chris Hayes, Mrs Gemma Higson, Mrs Lindsay Johnston, Mr Neil Marks-Parker, Mrs Jane Riley, Mrs Penny Rothwell Mason, and Mr JP Yates
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County Training Administrator	Mr Chris Hayes, Mrs Jackie Worswick, Miss Sam Holloway and Mrs Lindsay Johnston
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District Commissioners	Mr Kenneth Williams (Altrincham) Mr Jacob Bond (Ellesmere) Mr Steve Ralph MBE JP (Lilford) Mr Ryan Swailes (Lowry) Mr Andy Atherall (Sale) Mr Matt Osborne (Stretford) Mr Chris Knowles (Urmston) Mr Jeff Picton (Wigan)
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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2022

Held Tuesday 6th September 2022 at 7.30pm at Dunham Park Scout Camp

Present

Sir Warren Smith KCVO, KStJ, JP County President
Mrs Diane Hawkins JP LLB Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester
Mayor of Trafford Councillor Chris Boyes and Mayoress Mrs Pam Boyes
Mayor of Wigan Councillor Marie Morgan
Ceremonial Mayor of Salford Councillor Ann-Marie Humphreys and Consort Mr Keith Byers
Mr Ian Hill, Regional Commissioner
Miss Sue Leonard, County Chair, Acting District Commissioner Ellesmere
Mr Andrew Farrell, County Commissioner
Mr Roger Kettle, County Treasurer
Mrs Jean Archer, County Secretary
Mr Jacob Bond, Deputy County Commissioner (Programme & Communications)
Mr Greg Archer, Deputy County Commissioner (People)
Mr James Turner, County Youth Commissioner
Mrs Judith Summersgill, Dunham Park Camp Site Secretary, Silver Wolf Holder
Mrs Gemma Higson, County Training Manager
Mr Graham Barrick, County Appointments Chair, District Chair Urmston
Mr Tony Staunton-Unsworth, Assistant County Commissioner Inclusion
Mr Bob Wilson, Assistant County Commissioner Scouts
Mr Chris Knowles, District Commissioner Urmston
Mr Ken Williams, District Commissioner Altrincham
Mr Ryan Swailes, District Commissioner Lowry
Mr Steve Ralph MBE JP, QS Coordinator, District Commissioner Lilford, Silver Wolf Holder
Mr Matt Osborne, District Commissioner Stretford
Mr Jeff Picton, Assistant County Commissioner International, District Commissioner Wigan
Mrs Jacqui Aspinall MBE, Assistant Appointment Secretary, Silver Wolf Holder
Mrs Pamela Copeland, District Secretary Lilford, Silver Wolf Holder
Mr David Copeland, County Executive, District Chair Lilford, Silver Wolf Holder
Mr Hugh Davies, Silver Wolf Holder
Mrs Iris Emery, County Executive, District Secretary Altrincham, Silver Wolf Holder
Mrs Deborah Forrest, District Secretary Ellesmere, CSC member
Mr David Hughes, Campsite Manager Dunham Park Scout Camp
Mr Anthony Roberts, Local Training Manager Altrincham
Mrs Lindsay Johnston, Local Training Manager Ellesmere
Mrs Joan Smith, District Treasurer Wigan
Mr Bob Haynes, Silver Wolf Holder
Mrs Ann Salt, Silver Wolf Holder
Mr Clive Winby, County Executive
Mrs Hayley Mullen, Communications Manager
Mr Lewis Foster, Executive member, Communications Team member
Mr Dave Maltby, District Chair Stretford, Silver Wolf Holder
Mr Brian Mouat, Silver Wolf Holder
Mr Andy Connellan, County Nights Away Adviser, County Training Adviser
Mrs Christine Gleaves, Local Training Manager Sale, Silver Wolf Holder
Miss Sarah Goodstadt, County Adviser Staged Performances

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2022

Mr Josh MacDonald, District Youth Commissioner Lowry
Mr Ste Butterworth, Campsite Manager Hollinwood Scout Camp
Mrs Joan Hayton, Silver Wolf Holder
Mr Alan Hayton, Silver Wolf Holder
Mr Chris Varley, F.C.A. Cedar Solutions (Management) Ltd - Account Examiners
Mr Andrew McDonnell, Dunham Park Camp Site Treasurer
Mr Jon Davies, Dunham Park Camp Site Chair
Mr Dave Marsden, District Secretary Sale
Mr Joe Westhead, Deputy County Youth Commissioner
Mr Michael Harding, District Treasurer Sale, CSC member
Mrs Eileen Johnson, Scout Active Support Manager Ellesmere, Silver Wolf Holder
Mr Derek Jones, Scout Active Support Manager Urmston
Mr Derek Batchen, Hollinwood Scout Active Support
Mr David Finch, Assistant County Commissioner Cub Scouts
Mr Simon Gould, District Chair Altrincham
Mr Richard Gould, Asst. Unit Leader World Scout Jamboree 2023
Mr Paul Wilkinson, Dunham Park Active Support
Mrs Sue Ralph, County Administrator (Minutes) plus 14 other scouters and friends signed the attendance register.

Apologies

Col Sir John Timmins KCVO, OBE, KStJ, TD, DL, DSc, LLD, County Vice President
Mrs Vera Crossley, County Vice President, Silver Wolf Holder
Mr Geoff Sides, County Vice President, Silver Wolf Holder
Mr Haydn Worrall, Silver Wolf Holder
Mr Phil Rigby, County Scout Active Support Manager Hollinwood Camp Site
Mr David Astin, President Bispham Hall Scout Estate
Mrs Sharm Clarke, District Treasurer Lowry
Mr John Bilsborough, Silver Wolf Holder
Mr Phil Horton, Greater Manchester East Scouts
Mr Reece McSherry, Deputy Youth Commissioner
Mr Keith Lang, Silver Wolf Holder
Mrs Cathy Ward, County Commissioner, Greater Manchester North
Mr Alex Waddington, Silver Wolf Holder
Mr Justin McDonnell, Local Training Manager Lowry
Mrs Rona Rommel, Girlguiding Manchester
Mr Ian McGeough, District Chair Sale
Miss Yasmin Lee, District Youth Commissioner Sale
Mr Andrew Atherall, District Commissioner Sale
Mrs Margaret Davies, CSC member
Mr Ged Davies, District Chair Wigan
Mr Chris Starkie, Assistant County Commissioner Activities, County Nights Away Adviser
Mr Tom Dutton, Assistant County Commissioner Beaver Scouts
Mr George Sharp, Silver Wolf Holder

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2022

01/22 **Safety Notice** - David Marsden

02/22 **Opening Thought and Welcome to Dunham Park Scout Camp** - Jon Davies

03/22 **Welcome and Introduction**

The County President, Sir Warren Smith, welcomed everyone to our first face-to-face Annual General Meeting in three years. He welcomed The Lord-Lieutenant Mrs Diane Hawkins, and the civic guests, welcoming their support.

04/22 **Welcome by the Mayor of Trafford**

On behalf of the Borough of Trafford, The Mayor Councillor Chris Boyes offered a very warm welcome to everyone, reminiscing about his Scouting as a boy and congratulating Greater Manchester West Scouts on providing Scouting for the young people helping them to overcome challenges and achieve their dreams.

The County President thanked the Mayor for his warm welcome.

05/22 **Apologies for absence read by County Secretary** - Jean Archer, as listed.

06/22 **Approval to accept the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 29th September 2021 which had been previously circulated to members of the County Scout Council.**

The County President proposed acceptance of the minutes.

Seconded by Iris Emery - All in favour.

07/22 **Presentation of the Annual Report** - Andy Farrell, County Commissioner

Andy asked everyone to take time to read the Annual Report, a lot of exciting things having happened in GMW over the last twelve months. He thanked Jacob Bond and Sue Ralph for putting it together.

08/22 **Presentation of the Examined Accounts** - Roger Kettle, County Treasurer

Roger announced that the accounts as included in the Annual Report were self-explanatory. The finances had been quieter during the period of Covid and from April onwards have started to get busier.

Roger strongly advised groups and districts who did not use digital banking to seriously consider this option due to increasing costs.

For anyone looking for accounting software he could recommend 'Club Treasurer', current annual fee £40. The Account Auditor Chris Varley has this year checked the accounts solely by the information on Club Treasurer, and it saves a lot of time and is easy to use. The International account, shown as restricted funds, are only a holding / handling account for those going on expeditions. The account is now active for the forthcoming 2023 Jamboree in South Korea.

Roger asked if anybody has any questions. None were raised.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2022

09/22 Proposal to approve the Annual Report and adopt the Examined Accounts

The County President proposed we approve the Annual Report and adopt the Examined Accounts. All in favour

10/22 Seconding the move to approve the Annual Report and adopt the Examined Accounts

Seconded by Greg Archer

11/22 Nomination of the County Commissioner's appointment of the County Chair

The County Commissioner announced Sue Leonard as County Chair.

The County President asked for approval from the meeting – All in favour

12/22 Announcement of the County Levy

Roger explained that Online Scout Manager (OSM) is a software programme which currently offers a better administration system for the Scouts than HQ. Last year the County offered to pay 50% of the cost of the 'Gold package' for the groups and sections. County had to pay the full amount to OSM and then reclaim 50% of the cost by invoicing the groups and sections, but the logistics of this have not been an easy task. It was agreed therefore that this year the County will pay for the OSM 'Gold Package' and if groups or sections require anything extra, they must pay for that themselves.

The County Executive had agreed an increase to the County Levy to support the financing of the Online Scout Manager and towards specialist training for instructors allowing us to provide permits and training within the County.

In conclusion Roger announced the County Levy will increase by £1.50 to £11

The HQ UK membership fee for 2023/24 will increase by £1 to £36 discounted to £35.50.

The total subscriptions for each young person under 18 years of age will therefore be £46.50.

The District Treasurers were thanked for making sure the subscription funds were received each year on time.

13/22 Election of the County Secretary

The County Commissioner proposed that Jean Archer continue as County Secretary and thanked her for the brilliant work she had done.

Seconded by Jacob Bond - All in favour

14/22 Election of the County Treasurer

The County Commissioner proposed Roger to continue as County Treasurer and thanked him for all the brilliant work he had done.

Seconded by David Maltby - All in favour

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2022

15/22 Announcement of elected members to the County Executive committee as notified to the County Secretary

Salford Metro:- To be advised*

Trafford Metro: (South) Clive Winby, (North) Solomon Cuthbertson

Wigan Metro:Lewis Foster

16/22 Announcement of the County Commissioner's nominations to the County Executive Committee

Iris Emery and David Copeland

17/22 Announcement of members to the County Scout Council as notified to the County Secretary elected by each District Scout Council

Altrincham	To be advised *
Ellesmere	Deborah Forrest
Lilford	Sophie Rothwell Mason
Lowry	To be advised *
Sale	Mike Harding
Stretford	Matt Osborne
Urmston	To be advised *
Wigan	Margaret Davies

18/22 Appointment to the Committee of The Association

The County Commissioner proposed his representative for adult and youth member as James Turner.

Seconded by Graham Barrick – All in favour

19/22 Appointment of Account Examiners

The County Treasurer proposed that Chris Varley from Cedar Solutions continue as Examiner/Auditor.

Seconded by Andy Connellan -All in favour

20/22 Member Recognition and address by County Commissioner

The County Commissioner then presented the following awards:-

County Commissioner's Commendation Award - Jack Buckley and William Buckley, two young people from 2nd Irlam, Ellesmere District.

Wood Badge - Jacob Bond, Deputy County Commissioner for Programme.

30 Years Service Award -Matt Osborne, Stretford District.

Award for Merit – County President Sir Warren Smith

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2022

Jacqui Aspinall was then asked to come forward to present the following:-

Silver Wolf - Joan Hayton

Silver Wolf - Alan Hayton

21/22 Address by Regional Commissioner - Ian Hill

Ian introduced himself as Acting Regional Commissioner for the North West, holding role of Regional Commissioner in the North East.

Referencing Dunham Park Campsite as the AGM venue, he pointed out how important spaces like this were to our young people, getting them outdoors, and congratulated those who make it possible.

Ian spoke of his reasons for Scouting; not only because he really enjoys it, and critically it's fun, but more importantly really appreciated the difference that Scouting makes to the lives of young people.

During the last few difficult years, Scouting never stopped. He congratulated the amazing volunteers who had showed qualities such as passion, determination, and creativity to keep Scouting going, something that was reflected in GMW's membership figures for 2022. A testament of what we do in Scouting.

For the present, Ian thanked everyone in GMW for getting their young people back outdoors, back around the campfires and back doing the things they love. Providing them with fun, challenge, adventure, helping them to make new friends and of course providing them with skills for life.

Looking to the future and feeling positive about changes that are coming in the next couple of years, Ian reflected on how Scouting had always changed and it's only because of those changes that we are as relevant as we are to young people today.

Our Skills for Life Strategy was making great progress but was delayed by the impact of COVID-19 and taking this forward we are focusing on a warmer welcome, making the joining process easier, to simplify how we volunteer; which means changes to roles, titles, structure, giving more support for the things we do every day.

Compass is to be replaced with a new membership system. Doing more things digitally, all designed to help deliver brilliant programmes for our young people.

Changes include a more engaging 'learning' process making sure we support our leaders to do a great job for our young people, allowing us to deliver more Scouting to more Young People which is so important.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2022

In order to help this process, Ian asked of everyone:-

- Take the opportunity to express your views about the changes that are coming, one way is via the 'testing hub' at <https://www.scouts.org.uk/about-us/testing-hub/>
- Support your Transformation Lead. Jacob Bond in GMW has kindly agreed to take on this role. Help him by going into your Compass record, check everything is up to date including your mandatory training; Safety, Safeguarding, First Aid and GDPR all of which are so important in keeping our young people safe.
<https://compass.scouts.org.uk/login/User/Login>
- Keep sight of our goal – of having more volunteers so that we can offer every young person the experience of benefiting from Scouting.

Concluding Ian thanked each and every one, whatever your role. Everyone is so important and when we work as team we deliver extraordinary things. He also gave thanks on behalf of all the young people and reminded everyone to be incredibly proud of what you do.

For further information please visit the following links:-

Skills for Life – Our plan to deliver better futures: <https://www.scouts.org.uk/about-us/strategy/>

The Next Steps for Growing our Movement: <https://www.scouts.org.uk/about-us/strategy/the-next-steps-for-growing-our-movement/>

People – Improving the volunteering experience at Scouts:
<https://www.scouts.org.uk/about-us/strategy/our-programmes-of-work/people/>

Our Programmes of Work: <https://www.scouts.org.uk/about-us/strategy/our-programmes-of-work/>

Digital Transformation – Our digital strategy supports our members, grows the movement and puts our people at the heart of what we do: <https://www.scouts.org.uk/about-us/strategy/our-programmes-of-work/digital-transformation/>

22/22 Vote of Thanks

Jeff Picton then thanked Dunham Park Scout Camp for hosting the AGM.

23/22 Final Address

The County President, Sir Warren, finished being the Lord Lieutenant of Manchester in July 2022, after 15 years, and had told Her Majesty the Queen that they had probably been his happiest. This was for many reasons, one being the inspiration gained from meeting people throughout the County and no one more so than the Scout Movement.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2022

The pandemic has had a huge impact on young people's mental health and what Scouting has done to preserve the mental health of young people is beyond price, and the one thing Scouts really do well is enable the young people to have fun.

It is phenomenal how many people are prepared to give hours a week as volunteers and leaders within the Scout Movement and thanked each and every one for their contribution.

Sir Warren challenged everyone to be an 'Ambassador' to promote Scouting. To tell their non-scouting friends, work colleagues, employers, and the people around them all about Scouts. Encouraging more people to join and some may even be willing to help financially.

Scouting also has an important part to play in the next two or three years when life is going to get harder and money is going to get tight; no one should be excluded through shortage of money. The young people must still be inspired and given hope. Sir Warren genuinely believed that the Scout Movement can do this.

Concluding Sir Warren again thanked each and every one for the amazing contribution made to the lives and futures of young people.

With the formal business concluded, Paul Wilkinson, former Warden at Dunham Park Scout Camp and Chair of the Friends of Dunham Park Scout Camp then gave short presentation on the history of the site in celebration of its 100th Anniversary.

Following this there was a performance by the Sale Scout and Guide Band.

**Since the AGM we have been advised of the following:-*

Agenda Item 15/22: Lowry District's elected member to the County Executive Committee is Ryan Swailes

Agenda Item 17/22: Altrincham District's representative on the County Scout Council is Jane Ford. Urmston District's representative is Michele Millington and Lowry District's representative is Josh MacDonald.

County Accounts 2022-23



GREATER MANCHESTER WEST COUNTY SCOUT COUNCIL

Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023

PRESIDENT	Sir Warren Smith KCVO, KSJ, JP		
VICE PRESIDENTS	Mr Geoffrey Sides Mrs Vera Crossley Colonel Sir John Timmins, KCVO, OBE, TD		
TRUSTEES:	<i>Ex-Officio</i>	Mr Andrew Farrell Miss Sue Leonard Mrs Jean Archer Mr Roger Kettle Mr James Turner	County Commissioner County Chair (from 21.4.22) County Secretary County Treasurer County Youth Commissioner (from 16.7.22)
	<i>Elected</i>	Mr Ryan Swales - Salford Metro (from 23.9.22) Mr Clive Winby - Trafford Metro (South) Mr Solomon Cuthbertson - Trafford Metro (North) Mr Lewis Foster - Wigan Metro	
	<i>Nominated</i>	Mrs Iris Emery Mr David Copeland	
BANKERS	CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent, ME19 4JQ		EXAMINERS Chris Varley, F.C.A. Cedar Solutions (Management) Ltd. Prospect House 2 Sinderland Road Altrincham Cheshire, WA14 5ET
CONTACT	County Secretary Mrs Jean Archer c/o Office address	REGISTRATION Scout Association Charity	 00168 508002
OFFICE	Unit 5 Kelmercourt House 102 Sale Lane Tyldesley MANCHESTER M29 8PZ	E-MAIL WEB PAGE	county.office@gmwscouts.org.uk www.gmwscouts.org.uk

County Accounts 2022-23

GREATER MANCHESTER WEST COUNTY SCOUT COUNCIL

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2023

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MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE YEAR

A separate report, detailing major Scouting activities and achievements this year, is associated.

Goodwood SASU accounts, for the Goodwood Weekender weekend, which have recently come under the control of GM, have yet to be completed, and balanced against bank statements. In due course these will be incorporated within the GMW accounts, once they have been validated and checked.

The County has continued to support groups, within GMW, with the OSM (Online Scout Manager) programme. As agreed at the AGM with the increase of the County membership fees, there is no cost to any Group or Section.

The International Fund is kept in a separate CAF bank account which is used to receive individual payments for international expeditions and to make payments related to those expeditions. This fund is shown as restricted as GMW is only an acting agent for this account. Most of the balance in this International Account is currently payments paid towards the cost of the 2023 Jamboree in South Korea.

General comment

The Trustees' policy on reserves is to hold funds against specific purposes only. General funds shown on the closing balance are, therefore, all allocated to designated funds, as shown on page 3. Such funds are to enable the administration of the County and management of the campsites to be carried out in accordance with minimum standards and local initiatives, to provide support for adult training & development and the management of Scouting activities, to develop Scouting within the County and to allocate an agreed level of financial grants towards the furtherance of Scouting within the County.

The Trustees' policy on interest received from invested funds is to retain such income to preserve the value of the investments.

The renewal/replacement and acquisition plan for our assets continued, in line with our authorised budget.

The Trustees have identified the major risks to which they believe the County is exposed. They have reviewed these and established systems to mitigate them.

The assessed contingency has been maintained at £17,375 in conjunction with our budget setting procedures.

The objects of the County are as detailed within the Association's Policy, Organisation and Rules.

The County is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scout Counties.

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

The accounts have been drawn up on the receipts and payments basis in line with the Scout Association's rules as amended by the Committee of Council in January 2005.

Approved by the trustees on 4th September 2023 and signed on their behalf by

County Chair Sue Leonard Sue Leonard

County Treasurer Roger Kettle Roger Kettle

County Accounts 2022-23

GREATER MANCHESTER WEST COUNTY SCOUT COUNCIL

Receipts & Payments Account Summary for the year ended

31 March 2023

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	2022 - 23			2021 - 22	
	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds £	Total Funds £
Total receipts for the year (see page 4)	154,737	104,551	-	259,288	149,026
Total payments for the year (see page 5)	122,012	114,030	-	236,042	122,101
Net receipts (payments) for the year .	32,725	(9,478)	-	23,247	26,925
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
Cash, bank and similar funds brought forward	175,292	28,205	-	203,497	176,572
Cash, bank and similar funds carried forward	208,018	18,726	-	226,744	203,497

NOTE

General Funds, shown on the closing balance, are allocated to the following designated funds:-

Name	Purpose	2022 - 23 Total Funds £	2021 - 22 Total Funds £
ADMINISTRATION			
Contingency (& In hand)	Amount to be held against identified and assessed financial risks within the Administration funds (plus amounts C/F in City Office (cash), in Network, and International accounts.)	17,375	17,375
Development Grants	Annual budget agreed By Executive to support specific activities/groups/training.	10,000	10,000
Restricted International Fund	To hold and control funds on behalf of participants for specific international events.	18,726	28,206
Hollinwood Reserves:	Trading reserves transferred from Middlewood Camp Site plus an initial capital reserve from General Funds to cover development costs, less capital spend to date	-	-
Projects Loan	Available to support any development projects within the County. Disbursed by exception by agreement of County Executive Committee, as required	14,474	14,474
Office & Training	Regular day to day maintenance and development spending	70,301	64,491
		130,876	134,546
CAMP SITES			
Hollinwood Trading	Value as shown on the individual trading balance for use to support the operation at Hollinwood Camp Site	62,030	39,356
Dunham Trading	Value as shown on the individual trading balance for use to support the operation at Dunham Park Camp Site	33,837	29,595
		95,867	68,951
		226,744	203,497

The above account and accompanying statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees

on 4 September 2023 and signed on their behalf by the County Secretary and the County Treasurer.

County Accounts 2022-23

GREATER MANCHESTER WEST COUNTY SCOUT COUNCIL

Receipts for the year ended 31 March 2023

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	2022 - 23					2021 - 22	
	General Funds					TOTAL ALL FUNDS	TOTAL ALL FUNDS
	Administration £	Durham Park Camp Site £	Hollinwood Camp Site £	Total General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	£	£
MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS							
Gross Receipts	182,160	-	-	182,160	-	182,160	171,035
Less Paid to H.Q.	142,830	-	-	142,830	-	142,830	135,324
Net Receipts to County	39,330	-	-	39,330	-	39,330	35,711
INVESTMENT INCOME RECEIVED							
Bank Interest	838	54	81	973	-	973	26
60 Day account interest	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	838	54	81	973	-	973	26
DONATIONS/GRANTS							
Miscellaneous donations	281	7,171	-	7,452	-	7,452	-
Grants	-	-	28,337	28,337	-	28,337	-
Patrons Scheme Development	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sundry Income	5	1,789	-	1,794	-	1,794	-
Other Donations - Hollinwood	-	-	4,014	4,014	-	4,014	-
	286	8,960	32,351	41,597	-	41,597	50,777
ACTIVITIES							
Intimational	-	-	-	-	104,551	104,551	43,061
Other County Events/Activity	30,735	-	-	-	-	-	-
Camping/Activity Fees	-	37,822	1,021	38,843	-	38,843	15,668
	30,735	37,822	1,021	69,577	104,551	174,129	62,297
TRAINING COURSE FEES	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FUND RAISING	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
OTHER INCOME	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SUNDRY RECEIPTS							
Providence Sales	-	3,114	85	3,199	-	3,199	193
Misc other receipts	-	-	61	61	-	61	23
	-	3,114	146	3,260	-	3,260	216
TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR	71,189	49,950	33,598	154,737	104,551	259,288	149,026

County Accounts 2022-23

GREATER MANCHESTER WEST COUNTY SCOUT COUNCIL

Payments for the year ended 31 March 2023

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	2022 - 23					2021 - 22	
	General Funds					TOTAL ALL FUNDS	TOTAL ALL FUNDS
	Administration £	Duckham Park Camp Site £	Hollinwood Camp Site £	Total General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	£	£
RUNNING COSTS							
Rent / Rates	3,494	1,170	1,020	5,684	-	5,684	5,789
Water Charges	-	627	-	627	-	627	-
Electricity	-	2,842	2,290	5,132	-	5,132	1,517
Other fuel costs	-	2,048	-	2,048	-	2,048	1,618
Insurances	729	3,082	-	3,811	-	3,811	4,015
Telephone	236	376	-	612	-	612	586
Stampa/Stationary/MinorPurchases	62	-	-	62	-	62	29
Photocopier	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
I.T. Services	798	838	220	1,856	-	1,856	1,158
Security costs	-	1,496	-	1,496	-	1,496	1,053
Cleaning	-	2,671	-	2,671	-	2,671	3,562
Waste Disposal	-	3,083	3,289	6,372	-	6,372	2,577
T.V. Licence	-	159	-	159	-	159	172
Vehicle costs	-	-	1,007	1,007	-	1,007	855
Legal	-	-	338	338	-	338	406
Environmental	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,084
Other miscellaneous	80	743	-	823	-	823	847
	5,401	19,135	8,164	32,700	-	32,700	25,049
STAFF & VOLUNTEER COSTS							
Staff costs	8,238	-	-	8,238	-	8,238	7,827
Volunteer development	3,447	-	-	3,447	-	3,447	42
Expenses	485	1,951	-	2,446	-	2,446	-
Refreshments & Hospitality	-	-	-	-	-	-	208
	12,181	1,951	-	14,132	-	14,132	8,077
FEES & OTHER REGULAR COSTS							
AGM/Meetings	746	-	-	746	-	746	-
	746	-	-	746	-	746	-
ASSET MANAGEMENT							
Renewals, Replacements & Repair	-	4,705	2,760	7,465	-	7,465	12,026
New	-	18,689	-	18,689	-	18,689	25,582
	-	23,394	2,760	26,154	-	26,154	37,608
DONATIONS&GRANTS/DEVELOPMENT							
Development initiatives	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,000
Development	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,000
Hollinwood Development	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	0	-	-	-	21,000
STOCK PURCHASES							
Providers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ACTIVITIES							
International	5,000	-	-	5,000	114,030	119,030	17,669
Other Events/Activity	32,482	1,228	-	33,710	-	33,710	3,515
Covid 19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	37,482	1,228	-	38,710	114,030	152,740	21,184
TRAINING COSTS							
	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,850
SUNDRY PAYMENTS							
Misc	3,328	-	-	3,328	-	3,328	1,245
Branding	-	-	-	-	-	-	89
OSM	4,730	-	-	4,730	-	4,730	3,870
Digital & Website	1,512	-	-	1,512	-	1,512	120
	9,569	-	-	9,569	-	9,569	5,334
FUND RAISING EXPENSES							
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	65,379	45,708	10,924	122,012	114,030	236,042	122,161

County Accounts 2022-23

GREATER MANCHESTER WEST COUNTY SCOUT COUNCIL

Statement of Assets & Liabilities at 31 March 2023

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	2022 - 23			2021 - 22	
	Administration £	Durham Park Camp Site £	Hollinwood Camp Site £	Total Value £	Total Value £
ASSETS					
MONETARY ASSETS Cash, bank and similar funds					
Operating Account(s) (current & instant withdrawal savings a/c)	1,001	31,674	61,942	94,617	67,902
Bank Premium/Deposit Account(s) (CAF Gold)	111,137	-	-	111,137	105,243
International Account	18,726	-	-	18,726	28,205
Cash in hand	12	2,163	88	2,263	2,147
	130,877	33,837	62,030	226,744	203,497
OTHER MONETARY ASSETS					
Accounts receivable	-	1,229	400	1,629	1,302
Debts Due to County	-	-	0	-	0
	-	1,229	400	1,629	(8,698)
INVESTMENT ASSETS					
Other investments	-	-	-	-	-
NON-MONETARY ASSETS (for own use)					
Stocks	-	-	-	-	-
Computer equipment	-	-	-	-	107
	-	-	-	-	107
TOTAL ASSETS	130,877	35,066	62,431	228,373	194,906
LIABILITIES					
DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR					
Accounts not yet paid	600	1,836	10,686	13,122	2,747
Deposits received in advance	-	4,939	-	4,939	4,533
	600	6,775	10,686	18,061	7,280
PAYABLE AFTER ONE YEAR					
Other long term liabilities	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	600	6,775	10,686	18,061	7,280
BALANCE OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES	130,277	28,291	51,744	210,312	187,626
CONTINGENCIES & FUTURE OBLIGATIONS					
Capital spend committed re Hollinwood	-	-	-	-	-
Admin contingency (assessed annually) & cash in hand	17,375	-	-	17,375	17,375
	17,375	-	-	17,375	17,375

County Accounts 2022-23

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of GREATER MANCHESTER WEST COUNTY SCOUT COUNCIL

PAGE 7

I report on the accounts of the County for the year ended 31 March 2023 which are set out on pages 3 to 6.

This report is made solely to the trustees in accordance with Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees for my examination work.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The County's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under Section 145 of the Charities Act);
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the County and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - * to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - * to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: Chris Varley
Qualification: F.C.A.
Address: Cedar Solutions (Management) Ltd.
Prospect House, 2 Sinderland Road
Altrincham,
Cheshire. WA14 5ET

Date: 4th September 2023



Good Service Awards



Silver Wolf

Greater Manchester West

Graham Barrick



Bar to the Award for Merit

Wigan District

Valerie Hussey



Award for Merit

Greater Manchester West

Sir Warren Smith

Queen's Scout Award / King's Scout Award



Emily Topping – Altrincham District (KSA)

Louise Austin - Urmston District (QSA)

Lauren Brennan – Urmston District (QSA)

Tom Dutton – Lilford District (QSA)

Simon Lowe – Lilford District (QSA)

Sarah Mullaney – Lilford District (QSA)

Nathan Murray – Lilford District (QSA)

Rebekah Trott – Lilford District (QSA)

County Commissioner's Report

2022-2023 has been another good year for Greater Manchester West and with the introduction of Squirrel Dreys our membership stands just shy of 6000 members – testament to the hard work of our volunteers given the challenges we faced over the past couple of years.

Our programme continues to provide exciting and educational opportunities for young people and our adult learning is thriving with more and more adults completing both mandatory and manager training.

Looking back over previous reports, I've spoken a lot about change, and this year has been the most significant with the introduction of Transformation across all groups, structures, and trustee boards. This has been a huge undertaking and I would like to thank Jacob Bond and team for all their efforts in bringing us on this journey. I know it's not been an easy ride and whilst we're not over the finish line just yet, we are on track to ensure we are compliant with the new ways of working.

Adult recruitment continues to be a pain point for groups across the County and indeed nationwide. However, I am confident with the new warmer welcome and less red tape (whilst continuing to have checks and measures in place) we can start to attract more adult volunteers and therefore grow our membership.

I would like to thank the Trustees and Senior Leadership for their ongoing support. At times, I know I have a somewhat unorthodox approach to leading GMW and I am grateful to have an amazing group of people around me to ensure that we get things done, in a logical and considered approach.

Finally, thank you to all young people and their parents for always supporting and championing Scouting, whether locally or on an international scale – wearing a GMW badge on my uniform makes me immensely proud and seeing what you have all achieved over the past 12 months, echoes that pride in equal measure.

We have some exciting opportunities coming our way in 2023-2024, and I look forward to sharing them with you as they unfold.



Transformation, Programme and Comms

Transformation

In May 2022 I attended The Scouts Basecamp event at the University of Manchester with other members of the County Team. This event set out the next chapter of Skills for Life for The Scouts, and introduced the improvements being made to enhance volunteer experience.

To give more young people skills for life, we need more volunteers. Scouts have spoken to more than 10,000 people inside and outside the organisation and have been told we need to make volunteering with Scouts easier and more fun, so we can attract and retain more volunteers. Scouts want to make volunteering more flexible, by allowing volunteers to commit the time they have and to be part of a team.

The key changes to help transform volunteering at Scouts to make it easier, more enjoyable and rewarding are:

- Give a warmer welcome for everyone
- Deliver better learning
- Simplify how we volunteer together

All these changes are underpinned by a new membership system. Scouts have also been working to ensure good governance practice in all groups, districts, and counties; some of the changes have already been implemented locally from April 2023.

These changes are being rolled out in phases, and in Greater Manchester West we are keeping the relevant volunteers informed throughout. In March 2023 we held a conference for district teams and group scout leaders showcasing how Scouts are transforming volunteer experience, and the roadmap for our County. We continue to regularly update our volunteers through meetings and our member updates.

Programme

We were certainly back to a full year of programme events and opportunities following a slower start in 2021 after the pandemic. I was amazed to see attendance rocket at events across all sections and a huge increase in the number of Top Awards being presented to young people across the County.

In the spring months we had the Lord Derby and Cardboard Canoe Race which were both well attended and it was nice to see some sections who don't usually enter these events take part for the first time. I would like to especially mention 6th Worsley who stunned many of the teams at the Lord Derby with their nature table decoration base. Beavers Go Bananas was back which involved hundreds of Beavers exploring Blackpool Zoo!

At the annual Day of Celebration which takes place at Windsor Castle each year, the adult volunteers who had received their Silver Wolf Awards were in attendance. We were also delighted to have so many recipients of the Queen's Scout Award attend as part of the Parade. To achieve this award, young people must be dedicated and work hard to complete each component, often including completion of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. Hopefully, we will continue to see an increase in these Top Awards for Explorers and Network across the County.

Transformation, Programme and Comms

In June we held the first Celebration of Excellence Day for Beavers and Cubs since 2019 and I was delighted to welcome over 230 young people and their families to Bispham Hall Scout Estate for an action-packed day of activities including archery, shooting, tomahawk throwing, climbing, cave bus and many more. Each young person who attended has achieved their Chief Scout Bronze or Silver Award; we are so proud of every young person who receives their Top Award in their section. We were joined by the then Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, Sir Warren Smith and other special guests who continue to provide support to Scouting in Greater Manchester West.

July brought another series of events, but the main event was our County Beaver and Cub Camp at Bispham Hall Scout Estate. There were over 1600 campers on site and there were young people attending from every district in the County. On the Saturday, young people took part in a series of activities working towards their Outdoors and Adventure Challenge Awards which included a whole range of themes including adventurous activities, team challenges, craft, and scouting skills. We all came together in the evening for a BBQ which 3rd Ashton-On-Mersey Scout Group had organised, and we could not thank them enough for running this again, the food was great! As the sun started to set, a giant inflatable screen appeared on the farm field where Beavers and Cubs tucked into popcorn whilst watching The Lion King. The activities didn't stop there; on Sunday morning it was Commonwealth Games themed activities starting with a flag parade with each district representing a different country. We then had a variety of sports day activities which supported young people in achieving activity badges in both sections.

Over the summer and autumn, we continued with more programme events including our Camping and Backwoods for Scouts and BST Adventure Hiking event at Rivington Pike. For the Cub Mudder we were joined by the South Lancashire Amateur Radio club who helped our young people also take part in the Jamboree on the Air (JOTA), communicating by radio signal with other Scouts across the UK and overseas.

In November we held our annual Patrol Leader Training Day, which was followed in March by our first Patrol Leader Training Camp. These events provide young people with essential skills for life to lead other young people to make the right choices, share skills and overcome challenges. We are delighted these events are oversubscribed each year, but it is important we provide opportunities for young people to take the lead as they are the volunteers of tomorrow.

There were plenty more events including a return of the Cub Ready Steady Cook, Beavers Cooking Competition and Scout Football Event which was hosted at a new venue at Altrincham Grammar. Altrincham Rifle and Pistol Club hosted our annual Shooting Competition for Scouts, Explorers and Volunteers which has record attendees and a team who headed to the National Competition to represent the County. All these amazing programme events would not have been possible without our amazing programme team, campsite staff and supporters who make these events possible. THANK YOU!

In the world of international, 'The Weatherbees' continued their preparations for travelling to South Korea for the 25th World Scout Jamboree in Summer 2023. The Unit held a number of residential weekends and social activities where they were provided with information to support their trip, time to bond as a Unit and learn more about Korean culture. In addition, there were

Transformation, Programme and Comms

dozens of combined and individual fundraising activities including marshalling marathons, race nights, car boot sales and even running a BBQ stall and activities at our Celebration of Excellence Day. I think the highlight of their year was taking part in Chamboree at the Cheshire Showground which was a week-long camp jam packed with activities on and off site. I was lucky enough to join them for festival day with other members of the County Team, I had one of the best days! It has also been great to see some of our International Service Team (IST) representatives get involved in their activities and support the unit.

We have opened 5 new Squirrel Dreys throughout the year with more opening since the reporting period closed. Squirrels provide young people from the age 4 to 6 with their own Scouting adventure aiming high for their Chief Scout Acorn Award. There are lots of fantastic stories coming from our Squirrel Dreys, including the number of additional adult volunteer the section has brought to some groups. If you are interested in finding out more about Squirrels or are interested in opening a section at your Group – please get in touch!

We continue to provide some extraordinary experiences to our young people! It would not be possible without all the adult volunteers at sections, groups, districts and in the County Team – THANK YOU for everything you do! I'm super proud to lead programme in Greater Manchester West.

Communications

We have continued to adapt and change the way we communicate with our volunteers. We continue to update our website, making it a hub of information for our volunteers. We have continued to develop our monthly member updates to not only include information about calendar events, but also key information such as transformation, mandatory training, inclusion resources and important updates about adventurous activities.

Over the next year we are hoping to grow our team and focus on external communications, improving our online presence helping us to grow the movement across the County. We will be working closely with each of the new County teams to promote their areas of work, share great news stories and showcase the amazing opportunities we provide for young people and volunteers alike.



People

What a busy, transformative year we have had. There have been lots of 'Training' plans, lots of 'Activities' plans and lots of discussions as to what we can do and how we can do it.

The year started with the continuation of face-to-face training. I must say it has been great to see so many members involved in the training weekends. We really hope that you get as much out of them as we do; the team always stress that it is about collaboration between us all.

The team are always conscious that we deliver the best training possible and that is what we always strive to do. We are also aware that there is a new style of 'Volunteering Journey' coming in via the transformation process which no doubt you will have been reading about, but for this reporting year it was business as usual.

It is great to see so many on the training courses, from new leaders starting their journey to leaders who have come along to refresh their knowledge, and it is also great to see so many sharing their experiences and passing on their knowledge.

We do believe the weekends are the best way to deliver training, but we are conscious that this does not work for everyone, and we ask you to get in touch if this is the case. We are approachable and will always try to help. If we don't know we can't help!

All this could not be done without the fantastic Training Team we have in place. Huge thanks to Gemma Higson (County Training Manager) who works so hard in planning the courses, making sure the right people are there to facilitate the delivery of the modules and to make sure we are fed, it all takes time and planning. Any questions on any aspect of training drop Gemma an email at training@gmwscouts.org.uk she will be happy to help.

Training is your responsibility. We can deliver training but making sure your mandatory training is up to date and your Woodbadge modules are completed is down to you. Please check your Compass records and make sure that it is where you feel it should be.

Alongside the Training set up we have Chris Starkie who looks after the Activities for us. Chris has worked so hard to form a team that is able to assist in getting you the right permits needed. Chris and his team have a wealth of experience in various sectors, from Hill Walking to Kayaking we can get you assessed and get your permit. If anyone needs more information on getting a permit, please go to the GMW Scouts webpage and there is a section that will assist you. Any questions email Chris at activities@gmwscouts.org.uk Thanks again to Chris for all his efforts and due diligence in making sure we are covered as a County.

Heartfelt thanks from myself to all the members of my team. As much as I thank Gemma and Chris, I am fully aware of the many people who work alongside them in offering services from weekends to section nights. We could not do this without you so "Thank You" for your time, opinions and guidance which is what makes us work so well.

People

What does next year bring?

As we have always said, we never stop looking at ways of improving and whilst we are not yet completely sure on HQ's vision for 'Volunteer Learning' we know parts will change. However, we will look to put on some more specialist courses and continue to offer the courses we currently run and will communicate any changes with you as we have them.

As always, the other side of my role is supporting the County Commissioner, the rest of the Leadership team and County Executive Committee (Trustee Board). They are doing some fantastic work in the County, and it has been a pleasure to help them where I could. I would like to thank Andy, Jacob, Sue, and the rest of their teams for their support over this year also.

The last part is always the call for help! I speak to so many people who say they would love to get involved but think we are too "cliquey" - We are not. Unfortunately, when we offer what we offer we need people to support that and often call on those we know will help! However, we are like you just trying to make a difference. If you feel you could help, please get in touch, we would love to have that chat. We have so many fantastic members with great skill sets we would love to share.

Finally thank you again to the Teams. I say it every year you make my role enjoyable and working with you is absolutely my pleasure, I would be lost without each and every one of you.

Have a great year of Scouting and look after each other.



It is great to report that we have several new groups taking part in the Award. There are now 10 in total:- Altrincham, Ellesmere, Lilford (Pegasus), Lilford, Sale (MacAlpine) Stretford (Shackleton), Stretford (Longfords), Urmston (2nd Davyhulme), Urmston and Wigan.

This reporting year there were 18 Bronze, 19 Silver and 9 Gold awarded across the County as follows: -

Sale (MacAlpine) 13 Bronze, 6 Silver, 2 Gold

Altrincham 1 Gold

Lilford 1 Silver, 3 Gold

Lilford (Pegasus) 1 Bronze, 1 Silver

Wigan 2 Bronze

Urmston (2nd Davyhulme) 2 Bronze, 11 Silver, 3 Gold

Congratulations to all the young people who have worked so hard to achieve their Awards.



This reporting period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 has been unique in that both Queen's Scout and King's Scout Awards have been issued.

As can be seen on the Awards page this has been a very successful year for the County with 7 Queen's Scout Awards and 1 King's Scout Award having been earned. Congratulations to all Award holders I know that a lot of hard work and planning went into the journey, and I am sure that each and every one of you are justifiably proud, I know that we as a County are proud of you.

The King's Scout Award is the culmination of years of hard work and endeavour; and I would ask that you as leaders encourage your young people to sign up for the Top Awards as soon as possible, i.e., when they start Explorers. The Scouting Awards coupled with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award make for a great and exciting programme. Link these with the Young Leader Award, the Explorer Belt and the Scouts of the World Award and we really have it all covered from ages 14 to 25.

Here's looking to more exciting times ahead, with young people from GMW showing that they are up there with the best.

Bispham Hall Scout Estate



Another year is over and what a busy year it was.....

We were delighted once again to host a number of district and group camps this year including, St Helens, Lowry, Sale Central as well as GMW's Annual Celebration of Excellence and the County Beaver and Cub Camp. The Team at Bispham received great feedback again, from the different camp and event organisers, for helping to make the events run smoothly and great memories for young people. The total number of visitors for the year were 4242 totalling 7115 camper nights. Bispham Hall was used through the year by various schools across the Northwest allowing young people to earn the respective Duke of Edinburgh Awards, which is an area of growth.

Prior to lockdown we had plans drawn up to upgrade the bathroom facilities in the staff accommodation which we were now able to press on with. Members of our team worked hard throughout the year installing new toilets and showers with modern fixtures and fittings. At the same time, we took the opportunity to install fire doors and frames complimenting the new fire alarm system for the staff areas, office, workshop, and providore. This brought the building up to modern standards, as it had not been modernized since the 1970's!

GMW Training Team chose to use Bispham House again to provide leader training for several weekends throughout the year. Thank you to all involved.

We took the decision to consolidate the activities we offered, investing in a smaller number of activities that we can deliver to a high standard and are very proud, in particular, of our shooting, archery and axe throwing facilities.

Bispham Hall held its annual Chariot Race which has been running for over 45 years! As always this was a great weekend which was enjoyed by all. The Chariot Race course was again used the following weekend for Cub Mudder, hosted by GMW, which is becoming an annual event and a training ground for Cubs preparing for the Chariot Race.

As it is for many, the cost of utilities at Bispham Hall have increased significantly which has become very challenging in terms of financial management. One of the ways we have been able to ensure the sustainability of the campsite is to allow Meta Games who are a 'live action role play' provider to use our site for 3 weekends this year, giving us much needed income. We are keen to build on this relationship allowing them to use our campsite again next year in the periods that have been traditionally used less frequently by Scout groups.

The increased costs of utilities and general materials required for the upkeep of the site will continue to be challenging. This is something the Management Committee are very aware of, and this may result in price increases for the use of Bispham Hall's facilities.

We discovered in lockdown that Bispham Hall's Land had never been registered in The Scout Associations name and, working with our appointed solicitor, we pulled together the relative documents to enable them to submit a Land Registry application in June 2022 on our behalf. Due to significant delays with this Government Department, we are yet to receive confirmation.

Bispham Hall Scout Estate



Again, we cannot stress enough the hard work, determination, and drive that our volunteers have which makes Bispham Hall Scout Estate what it is! It is impossible to put into words how much we appreciate the help and support from our amazing team!

Looking forward, we are as motivated and passionate as ever to deliver a site fit for young people to experience something different and make memories.....



Dunham Park Scout Camp



2022 the Centenary Year of Dunham Park Scout Camp saw many opportunities to celebrate the success of the Campsite. In 1922 Dunham was the second campsite in the country set up as a training camp, after Gilwell Park.

The history of Dunham Scout Camp was captured on an informative and inspirational picture board which is now on display at the campsite. It is situated in what has become known as 'Centenary Square' on the site of a slate compass kindly donated by 'Quest' Scout Group in Stretford District.

During 2022 we also joined in the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of our late Queen Elizabeth II with a get together and the lighting of a beacon. We hosted the County AGM at the site in September which was very well attended.

Our volunteers, comprising of our Tuesday Club, our duty wardens and our management team have worked hard during the year completing the tomahawk range, repairing the archery, and shooting ranges which had succumbed to the floods, and repairing and replacing much needed fencing.

A 'reflection area' was also created in a previously overgrown part of the site and it was a most suitable place to site "Pat's Chair" a large story chair purchased in memory of the late Pat Haynes. It is used both for Beavers to listen to stories and for Scouts' Own. We held a Wardens' Day in March and a Christmas meal in January.

We have added to the activities at the site by purchasing a professionally installed zip wire, and bouldering and traversing walls. This was possible with financial help from the Friends of Dunham Park Scout Camp, Altrincham District, and the County. The Beaver trail is now complete and has been used by Beaver Colonies both on evening and weekend bookings. We hosted the Lord Derby Competition in April. The Jamboree contingent met on a number of occasions at the campsite.

After a difficult two years with the COVID pandemic, we are pleased to report a steady increase in bookings, both weekend and weekdays and the return of summer camps. Some of our customers are from scout districts in other counties, they are very welcome. We continue to work closely with our landlords, The National Trust, who held their annual training day at the site in November with over 100 people attending.

As Campsite Manager I am indebted to our volunteers at the site, currently over forty people. They have provided assistance with the management, maintenance, and development, and we are most grateful to the Friends of Dunham Park Scout Camp who fundraise for us. Our Duty Wardens cover the busy weekends, for which we are very thankful, and we are always interested in hearing from anyone who would like to join the team.



Hollinwood Scout Camp



Building a campsite is an amazing opportunity and not something many people get to do. It's as challenging as it is rewarding. We've had a very productive year, with many achievements, and it is only possible with our small but hardworking team.

We DO need your help though; you can come and volunteer or – and we can't emphasise this enough – come and use our incredible space! We promise you'll like it!

It may seem like progress is slow, but we are now a functioning campsite and some of the events that we're able to put on show this. This is a big step forward from where we were just 12 months ago.

As ever, we are striving to make Hollinwood a safe, beautiful, and welcoming place for young people to learn #SkillsForLife.

Some highlights in no particular order are:

Electricity

A big one! We had electricity installed in Spring 2022. You all know how useful electricity is but having this installed is no mean feat and is down to our incredible volunteers.

Grants

Little ones. They keep us going while we're able to be more sustainable. It's expensive to run a campsite and these grants keep us in fuel, good working tools, help pay the rent and all sorts of things. They are also hard work to find. Please come and use Hollinwood so that we're less reliant on them.

Temporary Toilet Block

We know that we need a toilet block which is why we snapped up the chance to buy a small container and fit it out ourselves. Again, a huge amount of effort goes into doing this. If you have any skills that you can lend us, please get in touch! Once this is operational (this autumn hopefully) then we can get rid of our pesky and expensive port-a-loo!

Chalet

This is a great little building (found for us by our County Commissioner no less). Its construction highlighted the positive aspect of the Hollinwood team pulling together and in Jan 2023 we spent a few soggy weekends prepping the ground and foundations. We're cracking on with making this a useable space for our hardworking team.

Youth Investment Fund

Without doubt the biggest potential for Hollinwood Scout Camp since our inception. The team have been diligently working away in the background to prepare a design pack to an extremely high standard. We're now 8 months into the process and should find out in August 2023 whether we've been successful in gaining a large award for 2 buildings, a 'proper' toilet and shower block and a wet weather building. If we are successful, this will propel Hollinwood forward.

Hollinwood Scout Camp



These are just some of the highlights and tangible things that we can point to. What we can't list are all the small things that many of our team do for Hollinwood every single day.

Just a small flavour of what it takes to run a campsite are; running events, removing invasive brambles, missing your tea to go and let groups onto site, setting up corporate team away days, welding in 5 degree temperatures, doing scrap runs, fixing faulty lights, planting hedges, running Explorer evenings, fitting new locks, painting, cutting grass, keeping the bills paid, arranging for machines to be serviced... the list is seemingly endless!

We are hugely indebted to anyone who volunteers their time. But we do need more of us.

Please come and pitch in. You never know, you might like it!



Census Information

Census of County Membership in Gt. Manchester West For the year ending 31st January 2023

	Male	Female	Self-identify	Prefer not to say	Total
YOUTH MEMBERSHIP					
Squirrel Scouts	34	25	0	0	59
Beaver Scouts	1,056	235	2	21	1,314
Cub Scouts	1,186	317	2	9	1,514
Scouts	893	292	2	8	1,195
Explorer Scouts (including Young Leaders)	271	137	3	0	411
Network members	60	32	1	0	93
TOTAL YOUTH MEMBERSHIP	3,500	1,038	10	38	4,586
PROGRAMME DELIVERY ROLES					
Section Leaders	130	118	1	1	250
Assistant Section Leaders	207	203	2	2	414
Section Assistants	65	71	0	2	138
TOTAL ADULT PROGRAMME DELIVERY ROLES	402	392	3	5	802
Young Leaders ⁺	106	70	0	2	178
TOTAL PROGRAMME DELIVERY ROLES	508	462	3	7	980
LINE MANAGER ROLES					
Group Scout Leaders	41	19	0	0	60
District Commissioners	8	0	0	0	8
District ES/SN Commissioners	7	1	0	0	8
County [*] Commissioners	1	0	0	0	1
County [*] ES/SN Commissioners	0	0	0	0	0

Census Information

TOTAL LINE MANAGER ROLES

Male Female Self-identify Prefer not to say Total

57 20 0 0 77

GOVERNANCE ROLES

Group Chair 32 14 0 1 47

Group Secretary 7 33 0 1 41

Group Treasurer 27 31 0 1 59

Group Executive members 31 36 0 0 67

TOTAL GROUP GOVERNANCE ROLES 97 114 0 3 214

District Chair 7 0 0 0 7

District Secretary 2 5 0 0 7

District Treasurer 5 2 0 0 7

District Executive members 4 7 0 0 11

TOTAL DISTRICT GOVERNANCE ROLES 18 14 0 0 32

County Chair 0 1 0 0 1

County Secretary 0 1 0 0 1

County Treasurer 1 0 0 0 1

County Executive members 0 0 0 0 0

TOTAL COUNTY GOVERNANCE ROLES 1 2 0 0 3

TOTAL GOVERNANCE ROLES 116 130 0 3 249

SUPPORT ROLES

Deputy Group Scout Leaders 6 5 0 0 11

Group Administrators/Supporters 4 7 0 1 12

Group Skills Instructors 5 2 0 2 9

Census Information

	Male	Female	Self-identify	Prefer not to say	Total
Other Group Adults	38	20	0	0	58
TOTAL GROUP SUPPORT ROLES	53	34	0	3	90
Deputy District Commissioners	4	1	0	0	5
District Youth Commissioners	2	3	0	0	5
Deputy District Youth Commissioners	0	0	0	0	0
Assistant District Commissioners	6	6	0	0	12
District Leaders	3	3	0	0	6
District Administrators/Supporters	10	6	0	0	16
District Skills Instructors	3	1	0	1	5
Other District Support roles	12	3	0	0	15
TOTAL DISTRICT SUPPORT ROLES	40	23	0	1	64
Deputy County Commissioners	1	0	0	0	1
County Youth Commissioners	1	0	0	0	1
Deputy County Youth Commissioners	0	0	0	0	0
Assistant County Commissioners	3	1	0	0	4
County Leaders	0	0	0	0	0
County Administrators/Supporters	0	1	0	0	1
County Skills Instructors	0	0	0	0	0
Other County Support roles	7	2	0	0	9
TOTAL COUNTY SUPPORT ROLES	12	4	0	0	16
Active Support	63	50	1	0	114
TOTAL SUPPORT ROLES	168	111	1	4	284

TOTALS

Census Information

	Male	Female	Self-identify	Prefer not to say	Total
TOTAL YOUTH MEMBERSHIP	3,500	1,038	10	38	4,586
TOTAL ADULT MEMBERSHIP	743	653	4	12	1,412
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	4,243	1,691	14	50	5,998

Total Membership due to pay the Headquarters Membership Subscription
ie Total of Youth Membership excluding Scout Network

UNITS	
Squirrel Scout Dreys	5
Beaver Scout Colonies	81
Cub Scout Packs	85
Scout Troops	71
Explorer Scout Units (Including YL Units)	38
Local Scout Networks	8
Active Support Units	21
Young Leader Units	6
Groups	81
Districts	8

* Also includes roles in Regions/Countries; * YL totals are not included in the overall totals as Young Leaders are already included in Explorer Scout totals.

