23RD FORTH VALLEY SCOUT GROUP

Annual Report & Financial Statement

For the year ended

31 March 2025

INTERNAL

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Chair's Report

The 'Achievements and Performance' section of this report highlights the wide range of activities undertaken by the Group during the year to March 2025. It continues to demonstrate the breadth of experiences being offered to our young people and the strong commitment shown by our leaders and volunteers.

As in previous years, there has been a varied and engaging programme across both Cubs and Scouts. The time, effort and enthusiasm contributed by leaders, assistants and volunteers has been considerable, and the Group continues to benefit enormously from their dedication. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone involved in delivering a full and active programme throughout the year. The continued healthy attendance across sections is a clear reflection of this commitment.

The programme developed by the leadership team continues to place a strong emphasis on core Scouting values and activities. Traditional outdoor skills, teamwork, challenge and personal development remain at the heart of what we do, making full use of the outdoors whenever possible, and the hall when conditions require it.

During the year there have been some changes within the Group's adult support team. We were pleased to welcome several new volunteers, including Stuart Burns, Kev Burns and Rachel Moon, whose involvement is already making a positive contribution to the running and support of the Group. We are also in the process of establishing Bob Chalmers in the role of Treasurer, and I would like to thank him for stepping forward and supporting the Group during this transition period.

At the same time, we say farewell to Paul Gallagher, who has stepped down from his role. On behalf of the Group, I would like to formally thank Paul for his time, effort and contribution, which has been greatly appreciated.

As always, the Group remains reliant on the continued support of volunteers, committee members and helpers. Any parents or supporters who may be interested in getting involved are very welcome to come forward. Please contact Craig McKellar (Group Lead Volunteer) or myself and we will be happy to discuss how you can help support the Group.

Finally, I would like to thank all parents and carers for their ongoing support, and I look forward to another positive and active year ahead for the 23rd Forth Valley Scout Group.

Steve Deykin
Chair

INTERNAL

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees are pleased to present their report and financial statements together with the independent examiner's report for the year ended 31 March 2025.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity Name: 23rd Forth Valley Scout Group

Charity Number: SC032170

Principal Address
c/o Mr S Deykin
11 Rowan Crescent
Killearn
Stirlingshire
G63 9RZ

Current Trustees
Stephen Deykin – Chair and Quartermaster
Bob Chalmers – Treasurer
Helen McKellar – Acting Secretary
Craig McKellar – Group Lead Volunteer
Morven Shearlaw – Cub Scout Leader

Bankers - Bank of Scotland, Argyle Street, Glasgow

Independent Examiner
Asad Rizwan
The Adelphi, 1 – 11 John Adam Street
London
WC2N 6AU

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STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document
The Group operates in terms of the constitution of the Scout Association, which was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1912 and the Policy Organisation and Rules (POR) of the Scout Association as amended by the Scottish variations.

Appointment of Trustees
The Group's Executive committee are the charity's Trustees. Trustees are recruited, appointed and trained in accordance with the POR of the Scout Association and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)

Organisational Structure
The Group Council is accountable to the Group Scout Leader, appointed by the District Commissioner. The Group Council comprises of the Group Scout Leader, Section Leaders, Assistant Section Leaders, Training Advisors, Centre Manager, Members, Parents and Supporters.

The Group Executive exists to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting the responsibilities of the appointment and is primarily responsible for the maintenance of the Group's property and equipment, raising of funds and the administration of the Group's finance, insurance of person, property and equipment, Group public occasions and assisting with the recruitment of leaders and adult support. The Group Executive is therefore responsible for the day to day management of the Group's affairs and regularly meet to discuss group matters.

Risk Assessment
The Group has carried out an assessment of all major risks (including those relating to Health and Safety) particularly in relation to the children within its care and is satisfied that it has the systems and procedures in place to manage those risks. It is a Scout Association requirement that Health and Safety matters are considered at each Executive meeting and that all adults, including Leaders, Executive Committee members and other adult helpers must be members of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups Scheme obtained via the Scout Association.

OBJECTS AND ACTIVITIES
Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Scouts report - 2024 to 2025

The 2024/25 Scouting year has been another active and well-balanced programme, with a strong emphasis on outdoor skills, teamwork, navigation and traditional Scouting activities. Despite the challenges of weather and daylight through the winter months, the Troop has maintained a consistent and engaging programme, making good use of local outdoor spaces, the village hall, and nearby hills and parks.

Autumn Term
We kicked off the new term in August with a focus on re-establishing routines and getting back outdoors, beginning with games and tarp activities in the local glen. This provided a practical opportunity to reinforce teamwork, shelter building and basic outdoor skills.
In preparation for camp, a dedicated kit check ensured Scouts understood personal and group equipment requirements, followed by sessions on den building and fire lighting. Navigation featured heavily throughout the term, with practical sessions in both the local park and Gartness, helping Scouts build confidence in map reading, bearings and route planning.

As the evenings drew in, the programme transitioned between outdoor and indoor sessions, balancing hall-based games with walks and activities in the glen and on Ibert. A visit and walk at Ibert proved particularly popular, giving Scouts the chance to explore further afield while developing stamina and navigation skills.

The term concluded with a mixture of firepit sessions, knots and lashings, and end-of-term games, reinforcing core Scouting skills in an enjoyable and social way.

Winter Term
The winter programme made effective use of the village hall while still ensuring regular outdoor activity whenever conditions allowed. Early sessions focused on navigation refreshers, welcoming new starters, and re-establishing patrol working.

Outdoor evenings included campfire sessions and glen-based games, providing valuable experience of operating safely in low light and colder conditions. Camp setup skills were revisited ahead of the spring programme, ensuring Scouts retained confidence in tent pitching and site organisation.

A mix of hall games, wide games and practical challenges helped maintain energy and engagement through the darker months, with a popular park-based evening finishing with hot chocolate offering a welcome morale boost.

The term ended with a strong practical focus, including first aid training in the park, reinforcing personal responsibility and preparedness.

Spring and Early Summer Term
As daylight and weather improved, the programme shifted decisively back outdoors. Geocaching sessions proved a highlight, combining navigation, problem solving and teamwork, and encouraging Scouts to apply their skills independently.

Further outdoor evenings included river walks, wide games in the glen, and navigation challenges, continuing to build confidence and resilience. A laser tag session in the park added variety to the programme and was enthusiastically received.

The year concluded with large-scale wide games and outdoor challenges, bringing together many of the skills developed throughout the year in a fun and energetic way.

Camps and Events
In September, the Scouts took part in a two-night District camp at the Barrwood, camping alongside the Drymen Cubs and Scouts. This event provided an excellent opportunity for joint activities, campcraft and socialising across sections and Groups, and was a thoroughly enjoyable and well-attended weekend.

Later in the year, the Troop attended a further two-night camp at Cardross Scout Hall in November, once again joining forces with the Drymen Scouts. During this camp, Scouts visited Dumbarton Castle and made use of the local swimming pool, offering a varied programme that combined history, physical activity and teamwork.

This camp was immediately followed by a strong turnout from the Troop at the Memorial Service, reflecting the Scouts' respect, commitment and sense of community, and providing a meaningful conclusion to the weekend.

Conclusion
Throughout the year, the Scouts have demonstrated enthusiasm, resilience and a willingness to challenge themselves. The programme has remained firmly rooted in traditional Scouting skills while offering variety and progression across the year.

As always, the success of the Troop relies on the commitment of leaders and helpers who give their time week in, week out. Their support enables the Scouts to enjoy such a full and engaging programme, and the Group remains extremely grateful for their continued dedication.

Craig McKellar
Group Lead Volunteer

Cubs Pack Annual Report 2024-2025

The 2024/25 year has been another lively and engaging one for the Cubs, with a programme that balanced outdoor adventure, creative activities and skill development. Throughout the year, Cubs have grown in confidence, worked together as a pack, and enjoyed a wide range of experiences that reflect the spirit and values of Scouting.

Autumn Term
The new term began with a focus on settling back into routines and making the most of the outdoors. Early sessions included meetings in the glen and local park, allowing Cubs to reconnect after the summer while enjoying games and exploration.

A quarry walk provided an opportunity to explore the local area, encouraging curiosity and observation, while glen and fire sessions introduced Cubs to safe outdoor activities and campfire skills. As the evenings became darker, the programme moved between outdoor activities and the village hall, ensuring a good mix of physical activity and indoor games.

The term also included a popular Halloween crafts evening, giving Cubs a chance to be creative and work collaboratively, before rounding off with a series of energetic hall games sessions.

Winter Term
The winter programme made effective use of the village hall, with weekly meetings centred around games, challenges and team activities. These sessions helped maintain momentum and pack spirit during the colder, darker months.

One highlight of the term was a stargazing evening, where Cubs were able to observe the night sky in more detail. On a clear evening, the Cubs enjoyed close views of the Moon and were able to see the Galilean moons of Jupiter, sparking plenty of excitement and discussion about space and astronomy.

As confidence and familiarity grew, Cubs continued to develop teamwork and resilience through regular games-based evenings, with an occasional return outdoors for dark games in the park, adding an extra sense of adventure.

Spring and Summer Term
With the return of lighter evenings, the programme shifted back outdoors. A joint Endura event with Drymen Cubs and Scouts was a particular highlight, introducing Cubs to off-road cycling at the trails. This session was delivered under qualified leadership and provided a safe and exciting opportunity for Cubs to challenge themselves, build confidence and enjoy mountain biking as part of a wider Scouting experience.

Further spring and summer activities included botany sessions, encouraging Cubs to explore and understand the natural environment, as well as first aid training combined with games in the hall to reinforce practical life skills.

Outdoor sessions continued with river walks in the glen and an enthusiastic park-based Laser Quest evening, before finishing the term with a popular rockets session in the hall, blending creativity, problem-solving and fun.

Camps and Events
In May 2025, Cubs took part in *Splosh*, the District watersports camp held at Invertrossachs. This one-night camp gave Cubs the opportunity to experience watersports activities in a well-supported environment and was enthusiastically attended. The camp provided many Cubs with their first experience of an overnight watersports camp.

Conclusion
Over the course of the year, the Cubs have taken part in a wide range of activities designed to build confidence, teamwork and practical skills. Whether exploring outdoors, learning new skills, or simply enjoying games together, the Cubs have embraced each challenge with enthusiasm.

A sincere thank you goes to all leaders, helpers and parents who have supported the Pack throughout the year. Their time and commitment make it possible to deliver such a varied and enjoyable programme. The Cubs Pack continues to go from strength to strength, and we look forward to another exciting year ahead.

Morven Shearlaw
Cub Scout Leader

INTERNAL

FINANCIAL REVIEW

During the year, the Group's expenditure exceeded its income. This was anticipated and reflects a particularly active programme, including the delivery of multiple camps and larger-scale activities for both Cubs and Scouts.

As a result, reserves have reduced and are currently below the level the Trustees would ideally wish to maintain. The Trustees are, however, satisfied that this position is understood, managed, and temporary in nature. No additional external funding was secured during the year, and the reduction in reserves directly supported programme delivery rather than ongoing operating costs.

Looking ahead, the Trustees have agreed to take a more cautious approach to expenditure in the coming year. This will include running a leaner programme while continuing to prioritise high-value activities, particularly larger District events such as camps, which offer significant benefit and value to young people.

Financial oversight remains proportionate to the size and complexity of the Group, with income and expenditure recorded and monitored throughout the year. Bank balances are reviewed regularly, and appropriate controls are in place to ensure transparency and accountability.

The accounts for the year have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis in accordance with applicable charity accounting requirements. An independent examination of the accounts has again been carried out, and the detailed financial statements and examiner's report are included elsewhere in this Annual Report.

Refer to attached 23rd Forth Valley Scout Group End of Year Statement in Appendix A.

APPROVAL

This report was approved by the trustees on 11/10/2026 and signed on their behalf by:



Stephen Deykin
Chair

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Refer to 23rd Forth Valley Scout Group End of Year Statement in Appendix A.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Refer to attached Examiner's Report – 23rd Forth Valley Group in Appendix B

STATEMENT OF BALANCES AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	2025	2024	2023
Funds Reconciliation	**£**	**£**	**£**
Balance as at 01 April 2024	**2805.54**	5024.97	1710.74
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	(**-1,150.04)**	(-2219.43)	3314.23
Balance as at 31 March 2025	**1,655.50**	2805.54	5024.97
Other Assets			
None		**-**	-

All funds are currently unrestricted.

The following Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 are an integral part of these accounts.

These accounts were approved by the trustees on 11/10/2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Stephen Deykin
Chair

Craig McKellar
Group Scout Leader

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1. Basis of Preparation
These accounts have been prepared on the receipts & payments basis in accordance with:
(a) The Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005
(b) The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended)
There have been no changes to the basis of preparation or to the previous year's accounts.

2. Fund Accounting
(a) Unrestricted funds are those that can be expended at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the objects of the charity.
(b) Restricted funds are those that may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor, or when funds are raised for specific purposes.

At the end of the financial year all funds were unrestricted.

3. Taxation
(a) The charity is not liable to corporation tax or capital gains tax on its charitable activities.
(b) The charity is not registered for VAT, thus all costs are shown inclusive of VAT charged.

4. Transactions with trustees and related parties
(a) No remuneration was paid to trustees or any persons connected with them during the year.
(b) During the year, trustees and volunteers were reimbursed for expenditure properly incurred on behalf of the Group. These reimbursements did not represent remuneration.

5. Other Assets
Over the years the charity has been in receipt of donations of equipment, there is no present market value for these but are recorded on an asset register and covered by insurance.

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A - 23rd Forth Valley Scout Group End of Year Statement
Appendix B - Examiner's Report – 23rd Forth Valley Group

Appendix A - 23rd Forth Valley Scout Group End of Year Statement

23rd Forth Valley Scout Group
FY 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

	2024-2025	2023-2024
Income		
Donation	50.00	50.00
Events - Scouts	227.00	280.00
Fundraising	0.00	7.27
Grants	0.00	1,490.50
Membership Fees	1,935.28	878.00
Expense		
Activity Equipment	82.31	150.93
Admin	38.00	233.10
Badges	0.00	63.75
Bank Fees	70.21	39.92
Camping Equipment	257.50	150.00
Events - Cubs	0.00	543.00
Events - Scouts	621.60	1,158.30
Meetings - Cubs	210.00	228.75
Meetings - Scouts	0.00	156.75
Membership Costs	2,082.70	2,040.70
Training	0.00	160.00
Account balances		
23rd Bank of Scotland	1,655.50	2,805.54
Summary		
Account balance brought forward	2,805.54	5,024.97
Total income	2,212.28	2,705.77
Total expenditure	3,362.32	4,925.20
Net income	-1,150.04	-2,219.43
Account balance carried forward	1,655.50	2,805.54

INTERNAL

Appendix B - Examiner's Report – 23rd Forth Valley Group

See attached