7th Braid Edinburgh (George Heriot's School) Scout Group

Trustees' Annual Report and Statement of Accounts 2026

Registered Scottish Charity No: SC036159

Trustees' Annual Report for the period 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026.

Charity name: 7th Braid Edinburgh (George Heriot's School) Scout Group

Registered charity number: SC036159

The Scout Association registration number: S10022960

Objectives and activities

Summary of the purpose and objects of the charity as set out in its governing document

The objectives of the charity are as a part of The Scout Association.

The Purpose of Scouting

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

The Values of Scouting

As Scouts we are guided by these values

- **Integrity** – We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy and loyal
- **Respect** – We have self-respect and respect for others
- **Care** – We support others and take care of the world in which we live
- **Belief -** We explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes
- **Co-operation** – We make a positive difference; we co-operate with others and make friends

The Scout Method

Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of scouting and:

- enjoy what they are doing and have fun
- take part in activities indoors and outdoors
- learn by doing
- share in spiritual reflection
- take responsibility and make choices
- undertake new and challenging activities
- make and live by their promise

Summary of the main activities in relation to the purpose and objects:

The main activities in relation to these objectives are detailed in Section D.

Statement confirming the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Scottish charity regulator (OSCR) on public benefit:

The Trustees confirm that the charity meets OSCRs Public Benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year identifying the difference and impact the charity's work has made, including on sustainability.

The 7th was one of the first Scout Groups to be established in Edinburgh. It is almost certain that a 'boys club' was running at George Heriot's School before Robert Baden-Powell (BP) started 'Scouting' in 1907. The publication of his book *Scouting for Boys* from January 1908 probably brought some structure to this boys' club through adopting BP's Scouting model. The first recorded mention in the school archives of the 7th Scouts appears in Sept. 1909. We take this month and year as our birthday.

Chair's report

Suzi Mackenzie

During the reporting period (1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026) the Trustee Board has continued to strengthen and currently comprises six trustees. We are in the process of co-opting a further trustee, Bethan. The Board of Trustees holds quarterly meetings and is responsible for the governance of the Group. An annual AGM is held to report progress and set direction.

The District Scouting team has been offering helpful training sessions to support Trustees, and this has been taken up and appreciated by the Trustee Board.

Since the last report, the Group has taken a significant step forward with the restarting of the Group's Scout Troop in February. Plans to restart the Beaver Colony are at an advantaged stage and we expect this section to open after Easter. This expansion has been the culmination of efforts by the Scouting team and the school over a number of years, and the Trustees are delighted with this development. The Group recorded a youth membership of 30 Cubs in the Scout Census which was taken on the 31st January 2026. This represented an annual growth of 25%. With the Scout Troop opened and Beaver colony opening imminently giving young people in our community a pathway through Scouting, we are confident of an increase in growth during the next reporting year.

This year the Group has continued its focus on overnight experiences and outdoor adventure. Highlights included two Cub camps with a strong emphasis on outdoor adventure.

There remains a strong cohort of volunteers supporting the programme, and the work to reach establishment of the new sections would not have been possible without them. We remain mindful that several parent volunteers will naturally transition out of leadership roles as their children move through the sections, and we will continue to support the Group's leadership team to ensure leadership continuity.

The Group is very grateful for the continued support of the parents, leaders and wider community.

Group Lead Volunteer's report

Robert Anderson

With the Group Lead Volunteer's appointment remaining vacant, it falls to me as the Pack Team Leader to provide this report which looks at the Scout Group's operations.

It was very pleasing to see the restarting of a Scout Troop towards the end of the reporting year. A cohort of older cubs and willing parents who transferred from leadership roles in the Pack to the Troop made this possible. We are also very grateful to Scottish Scout Headquarters for their start up grant £400. Plans to reopen the Beaver Colony are at an advanced stage and I expect this section to be operating after March 2026. The Group has a healthy membership in both terms of Cubs and adult volunteers. In the Scout census return taken at the end of January we recorded 30 Cubs, an increase of 25% since the last census. There is a healthy list of potential new members waiting to be offered a place when they come of age. Many of which will hopefully from the initial group of Beaver Scouts. There are 12 Cubs plus some returners of Troop age that provided a healthy start to the Troop.

In terms of the programme, their continues a strong focus on achieving badges, the Membership Award, Skills, Adventure and Outdoor Challenge Awards and several Activity Badges. Many Cubs manage to make progression by participating in two District Camps. The Crossroad camp – for older Cubs and Younger Scouts in June 2025 plus the Cub Night hike and overnight camp in November 2025. Both were held at Bonaly Scout Centre.

Our adverts with Volunteering Scotland, Volunteering Edinburgh. Edinburgh University Student Association (EUSA) and the volunteering opportunity portal on scouts.org.uk continue to deliver many expressions of interest for volunteering. However, transferring these expressions of interest into leaders remains a challenge, although we have better successes during the reporting year. Our main source of leaders and trustees still comes from recruiting parents of youth members. We continue to be supported in delivering the Pack programme by two Young Leaders from the District Young Leaders Explorer Unit. These are Explorer Scouts, aged between 14 and 18, who are working towards the Scouts Young Leaders Award. Some were also doing so for their Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteering section,

I am also very grateful to the Trustees, Leaders and Parents who raised £121 for the Group at the George Heriot's Parent Association Christmas fair.

I would like to close by thanking parents and leaders alike for your understanding, patience and support during what has been a busy but fulfilling year.

Financial Review

Treasurer – Phil McAndrew

Reserves Policy:

The policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the charity should income and fundraising activities fall short. The Trustee Board considers that the charity should hold a sum equivalent to 6 months running costs, circa £1,800

The charity held reserves of approximately £1,300 against this at year end. This is below that required for operating expenses.

However, this is a significant improvement on the previous year's reserves and operating costs balance. The Board expects the Group's operating costs to increase during the next financial year as we expend membership and sections. Our main source of income is currently through membership fees and gift aid. The Board is aware the Group needs to undertake some fund rising activities to bolster reserves and has plans to do so. Another significant contribution to our accounts is our 'pay to participate' model. Certain programme activities such as residential experiences are run at cost.

Investment Policy:

The charity's reserves are small and consequently does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer-term investments such as stocks and shares. The charity has therefore adopted a low-risk strategy

A description of the principal risks

The Board of Trustees has identified the major risks to which they believe the Group is exposed, these have been reviewed, and systems have been established to mitigate against them. The main areas of concern that have been identified are:

Damage to the building. The Group would request the use of alternative accommodation from the sponsoring authority (George Heriot's School).

Damage to equipment. The Group maintains and repairs or replaces equipment on an as required basis. In the event this could not be done, the Group would request the use of equipment from neighbouring Scout Groups or the Scout District. Similar reciprocal arrangements exist with these organisations. The Group has sufficient contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.

Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members. The Group through the capitation fees contributes to The Scout Association's national accident insurance policy. Risk assessments are undertaken before all activities. The trustees can also purchase Personal Accident and Medical Expenses insurance cover for Non-Members when required.

Reduced income from fund raising. The Group is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions. The group does hold a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The Board could raise the value of subscriptions to increase the income to the Group on an on-going basis, either temporarily or permanently.

Reduction or loss of volunteers. The Group is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the operation and governance of the Group. If there was a reduction in the number of volunteers to an unacceptable level in a particular section or the Group as a whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst-case scenario, the complete closure of the Group would be necessary.

Reduction or loss of youth members. The Group provides activities for all young people aged 8 to 11. If there was a reduction in membership in a particular section or the Group as whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst-case scenario, the complete closure of the Group would result.

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

Note about accounts:

www.flickr.com/photos/heriotscubs/

Find us on Flicker for the Group's photos. Register and send us a friend's request to view all the photographs of camps and activities.

	Year start date		Year end date
For the year from	1st April 2025	to	31st March 2026

Receipts and payments

	2025 / 26 Unrestricted funds £	2024 / 25 Unrestricted funds £
Receipts		
Donations, legacies and similar income		
Membership subscriptions	3,420.00	2,190.00
Less: Membership subscriptions paid onto District	- 1,770.00	- 1,375.00
Net membership subscriptions retained	1,650.00	815.00
Donations	-	172.41
Legacies	-	-
Gift Aid	508.69	523.82
Other similar income (Camp fees)	908.00	3,300.00
Other similar income (Excursions and Outings)	843.50	763.17
Other similar income (PayPal)	0.01	-
Sub total	3,910.20	5,574.40
Grants		
Grant - Scouts Scotland	400.00	-
Grant 3 - Tesco Community Grant	-	375.00
Sub total	400.00	375.00
Fundraising (gross)		
Fundrasing Sch PA Xmas fair	121.11	-
Other fundraising activities	-	-
Sub total	121.11	-
Investment income		
Bank interest	-	-
Building Society interest	-	-
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	-	-
Property Rent income	-	-
Other investment income	-	-
Sub total	-	-
Asset and investment sales, etc.	-	-
Total receipts	4,431.31	5,949.40

	Year start date		Year end date
For the year from	1st April 2025	to	31st March 2026

Receipts and payments

	2025 / 26 Unrestricted funds £	2024 / 25 Unrestricted funds £
Payments		
Charitable Payments		
Youth programme and activities (excursions, events)	1,058.23	878.02
Adult support and training	-	60.00
Rent	-	-
Water and Sewerage	-	-
Electricity and Gas	-	-
Insurance	237.19	267.12
Repairs and Renewals	-	-
Materials (resources) and equipment	706.55	1,606.75
Printing, photocopying, stationery, stamps, phone	4.80	84.00
Contribution to camp costs	950.03	3,551.69
Uniforms and badges	343.64	359.89
AGM and trustee expenses	-	-
Other costs detail - OSM Subscription	19.00	19.00
Other costs detail - Flickr Subscription	-	111.84
Other costs details - Minibus permit		20.00
Other costs detail - GoCardless Fees	182.59	201.59
Other costs detail - Bank Service Charge	17.00	-
Sub total	3,519.03	7,159.90
Fundraising expenses		
Other fundraising costs	-	-
Sub total	-	-
Total Gross Expenditure	3,519.03	7,159.90
Asset and investment purchases, etc.	-	-
Total payments	3,519.03	7,159.90
Net of receipts / (payments)	912.28	- 1,210.50
Cash funds last year end	403.72	1,614.22
Cash funds this year end	1,316.00	403.72

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	31st March 2026 Unrestricted funds £	31st March 2025 Unrestricted funds £
Cash funds		
Bank current account	1,316.00	403.72
Bank deposit account	-	-
Building society account	-	-
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	-	-
Cash/Floats	-	-
Total cash funds	1,316.00	403.72
Other monetary assets		
Tax claim	-	-
Debts due from the County/Area/District/Group	-	-
Insurance claim	-	-
Sub total	-	-
Investment assets		
Investment property - detail	-	-
Quoted investments	-	-
Other investments - detail	-	-
Sub total	-	-
Non monetary assets for charity's own use		
Badge stock	-	-
Shop stock	-	-
Other stock	-	-
Land and buildings	-	-
Motor vehicles	-	-
Scouting equipment, furniture etc	-	-
Other	-	-
Sub total	-	-
Liabilities		
Accounts not yet paid	-	-
Expenses incurred but not invoiced	-	-
Subscriptions not yet paid	-	-
Loan - detail	-	-
Other liabilities	-	-
Sub total	-	-

Contingent liabilities and future obligations

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 12th September 2026 (the date of the Board of Trustees meeting that approved the accounts) and signed on their behalf by:

Signature	Print Name	
	Suzi Godfrey	**Chair**
	Phil McAndrew	**Treasurer**

Independent examiner's report on the accounts V2

Report to the trustees/members of

Charity name
7th Braid Edinburgh (George Heriot's School) Scout Group

Registered charity number

SC 036159

On the accounts of the charity for the period

Period start date				Period end date		
Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
01	04	2025	**to**	31	03	2026

Set out on pages

7 to 10 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention [other than that disclosed on the attached page*]

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

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.

Signed:** D M Wilson **Date:** 06-09-2026

Name: David Wilson

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): FCA of the ICAEW (now retired)

Address:

West Longdens
Forty Green Road
Beaconsfield
HP9 1XL

Disclosure section

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose

The Scouts Policy, Organisation and Rules code states at 5e 5.1.2 that all monies received by or on behalf of a Group must be paid into a bank account held in the name of the Group.

At the School Christmas Fair which was a cashless event,

the Paypal account of the Group could not be accessed. A team member stepped in to use their own personal Paypal account so that the Group could still make transactions. After the fair

the money received was immediately transferred to the Cubs bank account on the 1st December 2025 and was verified by other trustees

The amount involved was £121.11.

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document:

The charity's governing documents are those of The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and The Policy Organisation and Rules (POR) of The Scout Association.

How the charity is constituted

The charity is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts. It is constituted as a registered Scottish charity regulated by the Scottish charity regulator (OSCR).

Trustee selection methods

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

Policies and procedures for the induction and training of trustees

All Trustees complete The Scout Association trustee and mandatory learning within the first six months of joining the Trustee Board, they also complete other Scout Association mandatory learning periodically as required.

Additional governance arrangements

The charity is managed by the Trustee Board, the members of which are the "Charity Trustees". As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Scottish charity regulator as appropriate.

The Trustee Board consists of the Chair, Treasurer, Group Lead Volunteer (currently vacant) and three Trustees. The Group Lead Volunteer is an ex-officio Trustee. There are no co-opted Trustees. The Board meets at least four times a year

The Trustee Board exists to support the Leadership Teams in meeting the responsibilities of their appointments and in supporting them to run high-quality and safe programs that give young people skills for life. The Trustee Board maintain appropriate governance policies and oversight.

The Trustee Board is responsible for carrying out its purposes for the public benefit, complying with the charity's governing document and the law, and managing the charity's resources responsibly.

The Trustee Board is responsible for ensuring the charity is well managed, risks are assessed and mitigated, buildings and equipment are in good order, and everyone follows legal requirements and Scout Association Policy, Organisation & Rules.

This includes responsibility for:

- Promoting a positive image of Scouting in the community, as well as its development;
- Developing, maintaining and regularly reviewing a risk register, including putting in place appropriate mitigations;
- Ensuring that the finances are properly managed, and there are sufficient resources (and reserves) to deliver high-quality Scouting;
- Ensuring a system of internal controls is in place that is designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss;
- Ensuring that property is appropriately managed;
- Maintaining appropriate insurance of persons, property and equipment;

- Assisting in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support;
- Having an open and transparent selection process for the recruitment of Trustees;
- Appointing Advisors as required;
- Ensuring effective administration is in place to support the Trustee Board;
- Ensuring compliance with applicable governance and charity regulations, including in respect to safety and safeguarding;
- Ensuring incidents are appropriately reported in line with regulation and policy;
- Ensuring applicable policies and regulations are regularly reviewed and changes implemented as appropriate;
- Ensuring transparency of operations, including in the preparation of accounts and holding and AGM;
- Ensuring compliance with Data Protection legislation;

Reference and Administration Details

Charity's principal address:

George Heriot's School
Lauriston Place
Edinburgh
EH9 3EQ

Charity's registered address:

29 St Albans Road
Edinburgh
EH9 2LT

Board of Trustees

Names of the trustees who managed the charity in the year to 31st March 2026

Group Chair	Suzi Mackenzie (2024 - 2027) from Nov 24
Group Treasurer	Phil McAndrew (2024 - 2027)
Group Lead Volunteer*	Vacant
Trustee	Elspeth Hough (2024 - 2027)
Trustee	Helen Robertson (2024 - 2027)
Trustee	Robert Anderson (2024 - 2027)

* denotes ex officio member

Independent Examiner (for 2026)	David Wilson
Bankers	Bank of Scotland Edinburgh Dalry Road Branch PO Box 17235 EDINBURGH EH11 1YH

7th Braid Scouts

For news and updates follow the Group on Facebook. Find us at 7th Braid Scouts

Section G: Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees by

Signature	Print Name	Position Held	Date
	**Suzi Mackenzie**	**Chair**	12/09/2026
	**Phil McAndrew**	**Treasurer**	12/09/2026

Our calendar of programme and events is available through Google calendars. You can also subscribe to the calendar - then it is updated within your own calendar application.



Annual Report of the Group Council for the

7th Braid Edinburgh (George Heriot's School) Scout Group

Registered Scottish Charity No: SC036159