

# 11<sup>th</sup> Bridge of Allan Scout Group Trustees' Annual Report

Financial Year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025



## **The Trustee Board (and OSCR Charity Trustees)**

### **NOMINATED FOR RE-ELECTION IN TRUSTEE ROLES:**

**CHAIR: GARRY STIMPSON**

**TREASURER: STEVEN MURRAY**

**TRUSTEE: JAN MACDONALD**

**TRUSTEE: IAIN ROBERTSON**

**TRUSTEE: BEN TAYLOR**

### **Chair's Statement**

Welcome to all of you to our 2025 Annual General Meeting. This is our first AGM since we transitioned to the new Trustee Board format, which has gone smoothly, and we seem to have overcome all of the minor teething problems. I would like to thank Iain and Jo and all the other members of the trustee board for all their hard work and advice to make the transition so successful.

It has been another successful year for the Group, most of which is down firstly to the continued hard work and dedication of all of our volunteer leaders, and then the enthusiasm and sense of adventure brought by all the young people who attend all our sections – Squirrels, Beavers, Autism Provision Unit, Cubs, Scouts, and Explorers. Finally, we thank all of the parents, care givers and guardians for your support to your young people and the group.

Of note has been the continued participation throughout the year of many of our Explorer Scouts as Young Leaders in the sections. The growing numbers of cubs is also heartening to see. Overall, the sheer range of activities and events that all the sections have undertaken is impressive, as is the amount of fun and laughter and smiles on all our young people as they take part!

Our finances remain healthy, with a slight surplus, allowing to continue to edge towards our longer-term goal of our own Scout Hall. Despite rising costs everywhere, the securing of several grants, and cancellations of some events, meant our expenditure was reduced. Thank you to Steven Murray as treasurer for his careful stewardship of the finances.

We look forward to another exciting and inspiring year of events for the Group, and once again, thank you to everyone for their dedication and support!

## Review of the Year

### Young Leaders

We continue to enjoy the help of our Explorer Scouts (aged 14-17) in most of the sections – they are a fantastic help for the leaders and we thank them! During the year we had several Young Leaders attend the 2024 Blair Atholl Scottish International Patrol Jamborette (picture on Front page) and they did us proud!

### Autism Provision Unit

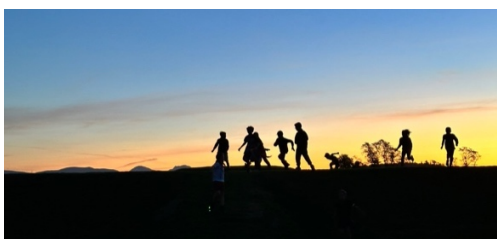
It has been a little quieter within Eive House this year as we were a little short of leaders. We focussed on a Nature theme in the Autumn term, turned our hand to Christmas theme at the end of Winter term and then the Scottish Thistle Challenge badge after the New year. We particularly enjoyed spending time with the Scouts that we first started with 3 years ago. We then saw them graduate from S6 at the end of the summer term and proudly saw them leave with their 1st Rionnagan neckies.. Wishing them all the best with their futures!

### Scouts

This past year the scouts spent time making a short film about what we do at scouts. We sent this to a troop in Mexico as part of our World Challenge Badge. The Mexican Scouts then sent us back a short film they made of all the activities they do.

Scouts have done quite a lot of cooking and baking. They have made quesadillas on an open fire, baked shortbread, fairy cakes and empire biscuits as well as holding our own “Bake off” where the scouts made Battenberg cake and marzipan fruits.

We have tried our hand at orienteering, kayaking, squash, tennis, paddle and pétanque. We camped in the hobbit huts at Lapwing and some scouts did their expedition. We took part in Scoutopoly which is a team challenge set in and around Stirling where we were competing against other scouts in the District.



### Cubs - Mondays

In the Autumn term, Monday Cubs were outdoors a lot, up Dumyat, at Kings Knot and around the village collecting conkers. When it got really dark they played laser quest in the woods and went on the Ghost Walk round Stirling Old Town. They finished the year by celebrating St Andrews night and Christmas activities, ending with a family Christmas Quiz. Several Cubs attended the Remembrance Service. In Spring term, the Cubs celebrated Burns Night, the Lunar New Year (with some pancakes) and got outside to do some backwoods cooking. They also had a look at the stars and planets through Kev’s telescopes. They also had a great time performing in and watching Gang Show at the MacRobert. In Summer term, the Cubs were outdoors every evening, doing athletics, climbing, caving, and walking the Glen Road. In May, seven Cubs attended SPLOSH District Camp at Inverrossachs and enjoyed time on the water doing kayaking and bell boating, and time on land doing backwoods cooking and other fun activities. In the evenings they did NOT enjoy the millions of midges that came out for dinner!

## Cubs - Wednesdays

Been a superb year, and always supported/enabled by Iain and Jo. Numbers now up to 28cubs, since we started with only 8 just 4 years ago that's quite an increase. Building continuity of leadership is a challenge, but we survive and have core leaders who have been fantastic (Archie, Fabian, Jordan, Alex, Nik), and committed young leaders help too. Our Pack now has an identifiable culture where the 6 is the team, the sixer and seconder play an important role, the sixer forum shapes the program, 'Cub of the Week' now a recognized and motivating award for one who 'Did their Best' (requested by sixers), and they enjoy the consistency and structure of the fun we offer.

Goal is to provide activities they cannot get anywhere else (school, sports clubs etc), cubs and leaders are all happiest when we are out and about. Highlights of 'organized' events like a Ghost Tour around Stirling, our Group and District camps were well attended and well enjoyed, but the usual Wednesday stuff continues to be bread and butter. Haggis Hunts in the park, Wide Games at the Kings Knot, den making in the woods, laser tag in the dark, conker finding and games, fire making and backwoods cooking, gathering 'owl pellets', team athletics competition, bike maintenance and fixing, MTB rides off road, rides round the carse, caving @ Barrwood, chef badges and cooking Chinese dumplings (delicious!) ... all great fun! Making the guy for the BofA bonfire was a hoot, even with some distress at the outcome!

## Beavers

Beavers have had an exciting year, having lots of time outdoors. We have done several sports nights, covering football, hockey, cricket and cycling (very muddy cycling for the Monday group). We have had fun making hedgehog houses, building dens, making fires, and toasting marshmallows. We celebrated Chinese New Year and made pancakes for Shrove Tuesday. We had two special nights, starting with a visit to Westwood Farm, where the beavers got to meet Bob the friendly horse and churn butter, which we then ate on oatcakes. Secondly, we had a visit from the Lunar Eclipse Therapy Ponies, and learned about the purpose of therapy animals and met two (adorable) Shetland ponies. We worked on some badges too and completed Space, International, Experiments, Digital Maker, and Disability Awareness badges.



## Squirrels

The Squirrels group engaged in a series of meetings that focused on both recreational activities and creative projects. They explored wellness through a yoga session, enjoyed outdoor play at the Fountain Road Play Park, went on a scavenger hunt and developed practical skills during den building and flower pot painting. We had a superhero week where we did some superhero training, designed our own superheroes and explained how they could help people and talked about our everyday superheroes such as emergency services etc. Additionally, the highlight of the term included a Teddy Bears Picnic, which aimed to foster community connections, particularly with a local care home, alongside a fun water fight and BBQ to celebrate the last evening of term. 2 Chief Scout Awards have been awarded and no accident reports were required!

## Financial review

### Treasurer's Report

2024/25 was another good year for the group, with income slightly surpassing expenditure with a surplus of £1897 and allowing us to save more funds towards the goal of having our own Scout Hut.

Although income was reduced significantly in comparison to last year, £23,308 against £43,022 due in main to considerable grants being received in 23/24 and cancellation of camps, our expenses were also reduced hence the surplus.

### Reserves Policy

The trustees believe that reserves should be a minimum of 3 months normal expenditure to allow for any unexpected costs that arise. 'Normal' expenditure range is now in the region of £30,000 per year – giving a reserves target of at least £7,500. Reserves at the end of March 2025 were £33,000.

# Group Consolidated Accounts

<b>Consolidated Group Accounts</b>	<b>Year Ending 31st March: 2025</b>		<b>2024</b>
<b><u>Receipts &amp; Payments</u></b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Receipts</b>			
<b>Voluntary Income</b>			
Subscriptions	3a	£ 6,424.08	£ 8,952.50
Donations	3b	£ 270.00	£ 1,256.40
<b>Fund Raising Activities</b>		£ 3,929.20	£ 5,661.01
<b>Activities</b>			
Camping and Events		£ 7,224.51	£ 11,194.00
<b>Branded Gear</b>		£ 549.75	£ 1,217.90
<b>Grants Received</b>	3c	£ 671.50	£ 12,840.00
<b>Gift Aid</b>		£ 4,239.38	£ 1,900.76
<b>Interest</b>			
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>£ 23,308.42</b>	<b>£ 43,022.57</b>
<b>Payments</b>			
Transaction Fees		£ 916.57	£ 1,141.96
Fund Raising Costs		£ 442.74	£ 1,088.05
<b>Activities</b>			
Camping and Events		£ 8,966.91	£ 15,075.04
Programme		£ 3,828.40	£ 5,672.85
Badges and Uniform		£ 2,272.81	£ 2,429.15
<b>Branded Gear</b>		£ 658.00	£ 1,383.40
<b>Premises</b>	4	£ 1,240.55	£ 2,151.85
<b>Equipment Purchase &amp; Maintenance</b>		£ 1,965.68	£ 1,603.86
<b>Insurance</b>		£ 359.75	£ 316.06
<b>Postage/Stationary</b>			
<b>Leader Training</b>		£ -	£ 162.04
<b>Other</b>		£ 277.30	£ 298.74
<b>Grants and Donations made</b>		£ 500.00	£ 320.19
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>£ 21,428.71</b>	<b>£ 31,643.19</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for year</b>		<b>£ 1,879.71</b>	<b>£ 11,379.38</b>
<b>Summary</b>			
Opening Funds		£ 31,120.76	£ 19,741.38
Total income		£ 23,308.42	£ 43,022.57
Total expenditure		£ 21,428.71	£ 31,643.19
<b>Net Balance At Year End</b>		<b>£ 33,000.47</b>	<b>£ 31,120.76</b>
 <b><u>Statement of Balances</u></b>			
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Restricted Funds		£ 6,854.26	£ 6,948.29
Unrestricted Funds		£ 26,146.21	£ 24,172.47
		<b>£ 33,000.47</b>	<b>£ 31,120.76</b>

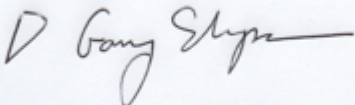
## Future plans

The Group has expanded significantly over the past six years and we are now concentrating on delivering a balanced programme across the sections. We continue to look for opportunities to acquire our own Scout Hall.

As ever, all of this is only possible through the continued recruitment of our volunteer leaders who continue to perform miracles for just 2-hours-a-week of unpaid labour ;-)

## Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:



Print name

Garry Stimpson

Designation

Chairperson

Date

25<sup>th</sup> August 2025