

Lewisham District Scout Council

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Annual Report 2012/2013

Lewisham District Scout Council

Annual Report & Accounts for 2012/2013

Contents

Contents	Page 1
Notice of 2013 Annual General Meeting & agenda	Page 2
Minutes of the District's second Annual General Meeting held on 25 June 2012	Page 3
Reports & Accounts	
Reference and administration details	Page 5
Structure, governance and management	Page 6
Objectives and activities	Page 8
Achievements and performance	Page 8
Financial review	Page 12
Plans for the future	Page 13
Declaration	Page 13
Accounts (including Independent Examiner's Report)	Page 14
Schedule of Registered Scout Groups & District Explorer Scout Units	Inside back cover

Lewisham District Scout Council

Annual General Meeting

Monday 1 July 2013 - 7.30pm for 8.00pm
Jubilee Sports Ground, Canadian Avenue, Catford, SE6 4SW

Agenda

Introduction

1. Address of welcome by the District Chairman
2. Apologies for absence
3. Adoption of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 25 June 2012

The past year – report on the work of the Scout Council

4. To receive & consider the Annual Report of the District Executive Committee (including the Annual Statement of Accounts)

The year ahead

Nomination of District Chairman

5. Approval of the District Commissioner's nomination of District Chairman

The District Scout Council

6. Election of additional members of the District Scout Council ("The District")

The District Executive Committee

7. Election of officers
 - District Secretary
 - District Treasurer
8. Election of members of the District Executive Committee
9. Confirmation of the District Commissioner's nominations of members of the District Executive Committee
10. Election of a Group Scouter to represent the District on the County Scout Council (the County AGM)

Individuals

11. Appointment of an Independent Examiner for 2013/2014

Immediately after the meeting there will be a brief meeting of the incoming District Executive Committee to appoint and authorise sub-committees and their Chairmen, and to resolve any other time critical business.

Lewisham District Scout Council

Minutes of the 2nd Annual General Meeting held on 25th June 2012 at Catford Powerleague, Private Banks Sports Ground, Canadian Avenue, Catford SE6 4SW

Address of welcome by the District Chairman

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the 2nd AGM of Lewisham District Scout Council. He welcomed:

From the Scout County of Greater London South: Paul O'Brien (County Commissioner), Paul Benn (Deputy County commissioner); Amber Cox (Assistant County Commissioner, Young Leaders).

From the Scout County of Greater London South East: Ben Richardson (County Commissioner); Bill Gunn (Borough Commissioner); Paul Amass (Deputy County Commissioner); Danny Southby (Deputy County Commissioner); Ewyn Muchelt; Claire Farmer; Alison Bruce.

John Kingsmill (former County Chairman, Greater London South); Rod Carder (County Secretary, Greater London South).

He then introduced the District Commissioner, Tom Nixon; himself as District Chairman and Lesley Hine, as District Secretary. The Chairman outlined the purpose of the AGM and reminded the meeting who was eligible to vote. He thanked Catford Powerleague for hosting the meeting and invited contributions or questions from the floor during the meeting.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from: Morgan Fuller; Mel Fuller; Sandra Fuller; Heidi Summerford; Ray Wickes; Trevor Flanders; Richard Simmons; Avril Howell; Layla Oladimeji; Ruth Jenkins; Ray Turpin; May Turpin and Wendy Hutcheson.

Reception and consideration of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 13th June 2011

The Chairman confirmed that the minutes had already been approved by the District Executive Committee as Trustees and asked the meeting to receive & consider them.

Reception and consideration of the Annual Report of the District Executive Committee (including the Annual Statement of Accounts)

The Chairman confirmed that the Annual Report (including the Annual Statement of Accounts) had already been approved by the District Executive Committee as Trustees and asked the meeting to receive & consider them.

He drew the attention of the Meeting to the fact that Census membership was up by 164, an increase of 11.8% on the previous year. Lewisham District had had the largest percentage increase in membership in Greater London. This was a reflection of the hard work of the District's Development Officer and members of the District generally.

The District had a cash surplus of just under £12,000 at the end of the year; but a deficit of £3,500 after write-offs and depreciation were taken into account.

He thanked Stephen Lamb the District Treasurer, who had stood down from the role for personal and family reasons, for preparing the Accounts and for the exemplary way in which he had carried out his duties.

There were no questions on the Annual Report & Accounts.

Approval of the District Commissioner's nomination of the District Chairman

The meeting was handed over to Tom Nixon, District Commissioner who formally nominated Lawrie Smith as District Chairman.

Approved

Approval of the District Executive's nomination of Honorary District President

On behalf of the District Executive Committee, the Chairman requested approval of the nomination of Peter James as Honorary President of the District for a term of 5 years.

Approved

Election of additional members to the District Scout Council

The District Executive Committee had recommended the election of the following additional members of the District Scout Council for 2012/2013:

John Sweeny, Steve Honeyball, Don Coombe, Richard Simmons

Approved

Election of officers

District Secretary: Lesley Hine was nominated by Peter James and seconded by Josie James.

Approved

District Treasurer: No nomination had been put forward. It was proposed that Peter James should undertake the basic duties of paying bills and salaries and keeping the books up to date pro tem, in a non-Trustee capacity; and that the appointment of a District Treasurer should be delegated to the District Executive Committee.

Approved

Election of members to the District Executive Committee

	Nominated by	Seconded by
Karen Chudleigh	Richard Morrison	Lindsey Smith
John Harris	Paul Houghton	Mandy Pywell
David Heathcote	Bill Compton	Joe McEvelly
Gemma McGill	Chris Ellinson	Richard Morrison
Richard Morrison	Michael Wall	Gillian Leach
Peter Sansom	Robert Ludlow	Reese Ludlow

Approved - all six were elected.

Confirmation of the District Commissioner's nominations of members of the District Executive Committee

The District Commissioner nominated:

Alan Britchford, John Goodwin, Michael Wall, Isabel Gainey* & John-Jo McGill. *

1 vacancy – it was moved that the District Executive Committee should have authority to approve a further nomination as necessary.

Approved

* The meeting noted that Isabel Gainey and John-Jo McGill were Explorer Scouts and, being under 18, were not able to become Trustees, but could be members of the District Executive Committee.

Election of a Group Scouter to represent the District on the County Scout Council (the County AGM)

Noted that the District Executive Committee had nominated Joe McEvelly, who had already attended the recently held County AGM.

Appointment of an Independent Examiner

The District Chairman nominated John Lambourne FCA of Latham Lambourne Ltd.

Approved (Peter James abstained)

Any other business

The Chairman reminded everyone that the raffle at the AGM was to support the District's trip to Kenya in July. Over £5,000 had been raised for the project (for direct expenditure on the 'street children') to date, and the raffle had raised a further £170.

Paul O'Brien, County Commissioner addressed the meeting and commented on how much he enjoyed visiting Lewisham District, where people clearly enjoyed their Scouting. He congratulated everyone for providing such inspiring Scouting across the board and was particularly pleased to attend the meeting as he had just been involved with the induction of Tom Nixon as the newly appointed District Commissioner. He went on to say that he was trying to encourage best practice between Districts and had taken the model of how training is dealt with in Lewisham to see how it might be implemented more widely in the County. He stated that he was very proud of the work being done in the District and to see the number of members increasing so significantly.

Tom Nixon, District Commissioner addressed the meeting and outlined how more Groups had been taking part in well run District events. He referred to the excellent support provided by the District Management Team and the success of the District development project. He thanked Chris Ellinson for his time as District Commissioner, and mentioned that so much of the last 12 month's success could be attributed to Chris' inspirational leadership and the work he had done to pull together the two former Districts and the Groups from Albany. Tom went on to express the need for all Groups to have their own development plan; for everyone to work hard to ensure dynamic and progressive programmes are available to our young people; and for the appointment of a District Network Leader and a District Explorer Scout Administrator. He referred to the large increase in District membership of 118 since the Annual Census in January and the fact that it clearly indicated that our young members are enjoying their Scouting. He ended by saying thank you to everyone, on behalf of all the young people we serve, and confirmed how both humbled and inspired he was by the dedication shown by the whole District.

A variety of adult Long Service and Good Service Awards were then presented (including the Silver Wolf to Mike Jackson by the County Commissioner of Greater London South East); together with a 200 Nights Away Badge to Emma Hutcheson and both Jack Petchey and District Commissioner's Personal Awards to a number of Explorer Scouts.

Reference and Administration details

Lewisham District Scout Council is a trust (Registered Charity No. 1001668). Its Scout District Number is 13910.

The District has its own Headquarters building at 66 St German's Road, Forest Hill, London, SE23; it also has 15 years of a 40 year lease outstanding on its campsite – Frylands Wood Scout Outdoor Centre, Featherbed Lane, Addington, Croydon, CR0 9AA (freehold owned by The Scout Association).

The District Executive Committee (Trustees) for 2012/2013

Ex-officio:

- District Chairman - Lawrie Smith
- District Commissioner - Tom Nixon
- District Secretary - Lesley Hine
- District Treasurer – Adedeji Rodemade
- District Scout Network Leader – Lucy Marsh (From 19.11.12)
- District Explorer Scout Commissioner - Garry Leach

Members of the Committee

Alan Britchford	John Harris	Peter Sansom (Resigned on 11.2.13)
Karen Chudley	David Heathcote	Michael Wall
Chris Ellinson	Gemma McGill (Resigned on	Isabel Gainey*
John Goodwin	3.5.13)	John-Jo McGill*(Resigned on
	Richard Morrison	22.5.13)
		* in a non-Trustee capacity

Sub-Committees of the District Executive Committee for 2012/2013

Members of sub-committees are nominated by the District Executive Committee. Chairmen of sub-committees were appointed on 25 June 2012 and members on 16 July 2012. The District Chairman and District Commissioner are ex-officio members of all sub-committees.

Appointments Advisory Committee	District Headquarters Sub-Committee	Frylands Wood Operational Committee
John Goodwin (Chairman)	Michael Wall (Chairman)	Alan Britchford (Chairman)
Pam Goodwin	Garry Leach	Karen Allen (from 30.11.12)
Hilary Leach	Gemma McGill (Resigned on	Rob Britchford
Dave Leach	3.5.13)	Natasha Cox
Mary Turpin	Debbie Soar	Barry Goswell
Ray Turpin	Sarah Tildesley	Penny Hann
Michael Wall	Ray Turpin	Steven Honeyball (Resigned on
		9.5.13)
		Joe McEvilly
		John-Jo McGill (Resigned on 22.5.13)
		John Sweeney
		Ray Wickenden

Other information

Bankers: CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4TA

Independent Examiner: John Lambourne FCA of Latham Lambourne Limited, Chartered Accountants - First Floor, East Wing, Priory Buildings, Church Hill, Orpington, BR6 0HH

Contact: Lawrie Smith, 7 Hayes Chase, West Wickham, Kent, BR4 0HU

Structure, Governance and Management

Lewisham District Scout Council was formed on 1 January 2011 as a result of the merger of Lewisham Manor and Lewisham North Scout Districts on that date; with three Groups and an Explorer Scout Unit from Deptford (formerly in Albany Scout District) then joining on 1 April 2011.

Lewisham District Scout Council is constituted in accordance with the Rules of The Scout Association to provide Scouting in an area that forms the same boundaries as the London Borough of Lewisham and is supported under those Rules by the Scout County of Greater London South.

The Scout Association is incorporated by Royal Charter.

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 – all Scouts are guided by the following values:

Integrity - Scouts act with integrity; are honest, trustworthy and loyal.

Respect – Scouts have self-respect and respect for others.

Care - Scouts support others and take care of the world in which they live.

Belief - Scouts explore their faiths, beliefs and attitudes.

Co-operation – Scouts make a positive difference; they 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.

The Charter of The Association provides for the making of Bye-Laws approved by Her Majesty in Council which, in turn, authorises the making of the Rules referred to above (known as “Policy, Organisation and Rules”, or “P.O.R.”). The District’s charity trustees are the District Executive Committee and are appointed in accordance with P.O.R.

The District is managed by the District Executive Committee, the members of which are the ‘Charity Trustees’ of the Scout District which is an educational charity. As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities, which includes registration, budgeting, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate. The District Executive Committee cannot act outside the Royal Charter, Bye-Laws and Rules of the Scout Association.

The District Executive Committee consists of a number of *ex officio* members: The District Chairman, The District Commissioner, The District Secretary, The District Treasurer, The District Scout Network Leader and The District Explorer Scout Commissioner; as well as elected, nominated and co-opted members. The County Commissioner and the County Chairman have the right of attendance at meetings of the District Executive Committee.

The District Executive Committee exists to support the District Commissioner in meeting the responsibilities of the appointment and to provide support for Scout Groups, Explorer Scout Units and the District Scout Network in the District. It is responsible for such matters as promoting the development of Scouting in the District; the maintenance of District property and management and development of the District campsite; the employment of the campsite warden; administration of District finances; fund-raising; the appointment of Leaders, Administrators and Advisers; and insurance of persons, property & equipment.

The District Executive Committee may establish any sub-committees that it deems necessary. Sub-Committees consist of members nominated by the Committee with the District Commissioner and the District Chairman as *ex officio* members.

The District Scout Council is the electoral body, which supports Scouting in Lewisham Scout District. It is the body to which the District Executive Committee is accountable. Membership

of the District Scout Council is open to Commissioners, Scouters, Administrators, Section Assistants, Skills Instructors, Advisers, all Explorer Scouts, all members of the District Scout Network, Chairmen of Troop Leadership Forums in the District, Members and Associate Members of the Movement registered in the Scout District and including Members of District Scout Active Support Unit, all parents of Explorer Scouts, persons elected or reselected annually by the District Scout Council on the recommendation of the District Commissioner and the District Executive Committee. The County Commissioner and County Chairman are ex officio members of the District Scout Council.

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

Objectives and Activities

The Purpose, Method and Values of Lewisham District Scout Council are the same as that of the Scout Association and referred to above.

Achievements and Performance

Having spent 15 months previously – since Lewisham District was set up on 1 January 2011 – getting to know new friends and colleagues, as well as integrating and consolidating the most effective aspects of our three former Districts, the last year has allowed us to move forward in unison. The development of Scouting in Lewisham, throughout the District, has remained a priority – in terms of providing quality programmes and supporting Groups in need, as well as opening new Groups and Sections.

The following paragraphs set out the amount of work and effort that has been put in by our management and administration teams and others, and the results that has flowed from it.

District development

In January 2011, Lewisham District had 1,385 members at the time of the Annual Scout Association Census. One year later, the District's membership stood at 1,549, an increase year on year of 11.84%. In January 2013, membership had grown again to 1,683, or 8.65%. That means that in two years the District has increased its membership by 298 or 21.5%. By anyone's standards, that's a great success story and one everyone should be very proud of – even more so considering that growth in membership for the whole of Greater London in 2013 was an increase of 571 (1.3%) with Lewisham contributing 23.5% of the total.

However, as marvellous as the figures are, they hide the fact that a number of our Groups decreased in number in the last 12 months, with a few struggling as a result of having too few leaders and therefore experiencing considerable difficulties with running the type of exciting programmes our youth membership wants.

The increase in membership generally is, in part, the product of the very professional and diligent work of our full-time development officer. But, credit has also to be given to all of the leaders in all of the Groups and Explorer Units that have grown and developed in the last year - no more so than the 32nd Deptford, that now has a very impressive membership of 166 (and still growing). The success of the majority of our Groups and Units can only be attributed to having committed and enthusiastic leaders who are offering varied, fun and

adventurous programmes and activities. Quality always counts and cannot be underestimated.

But, the Groups in need of help and some 'tender, loving, care' have not been ignored. For example, they have been helped to put together a development plan. Our development officer has also offered assistance by performing Group 'health checks' with 'RAG assessments', and with leader and youth recruitment advice and practical help. With a few Groups there is still a long way to go but, hopefully, we'll get there.

Using the District Development Plan as its guide, the development project steering group has continued to meet regularly to oversee the District's development work. As a result, we have successfully encouraged, supported or helped the opening in the last year of:

- A new District Scout Network.
- A new Beaver Colony at the 32nd Deptford.
- A new Beaver Colony at the 1st Lewisham Park.
- A new Cub Pack at the 1st Lewisham Park.
- A new Scout Troop at the 15th Sydenham.
- A new Scout Troop at the 17th Lewisham North.
- A new Group – 6th Deptford – starting with a Beaver Colony.
- A second SAS (Scout Active Support) Unit at Frylands Wood.

There are also a number of extremely exciting projects in the pipe-line, with many people working really hard to enable ongoing development into the future. However, our development funding runs out in May 2014, so that has also now become a priority.

Without that external funding, it would not be possible for us to afford to employ our own development officer, and much of the development and support work would fall on the shoulders of volunteers. It is therefore with considerable gratitude the District would like to thank The Scout Association's Development Grants Board, the Sport Relief-Evening Standard Dispossessed Fund and the Don Broome Scout Trust for their financial support.

District administration & District Executive Committee

The District Executive Committee (District Trustees) has continued to carry out its role effectively and responsibly and with due consideration and care. Matters have been discussed in a thoroughly professional and businesslike manner and proper and effective governance remains a key watchword for us.

A District newsletter has not been produced as often as in the past, but more regular and timely 'news bulletins' are now sent out across the District in the form of News Update emails. A diary of events/activities is also in place on our new and vastly improved, and very user-friendly and informative District website. It's a 'must see' for those wanting to know about Scouting in Lewisham and what we get up to!

There have been improvements to our District Headquarters in Forest Hill, with double glazing downstairs and new heating installed. We plan to improve the access to the loft for storage and hope we can modernise the kitchen and its facilities in the not too distant future. Once that has taken place, the hope is that we might be able to hire out the building to community groups, with any rental income being ploughed back into the building.

The Appointments Advisory Committee continues to meet on a regular basis and, in addition to its main role of interviewing prospective new leaders, it has had to take a couple very difficult decisions relating to the alleged behaviour or conduct of leaders in the last year. It

has done so very professionally and conscientiously and should be congratulated for its sensitivity to the issues involved. Its membership remains relatively small, with new members needed to reflect the boundaries of the District and the communities and age range we support.

Both our District Executive Committee and Frylands Wood Operational Committee continue to 'boast' membership of a good number of young members under 25. In fact, we had two Explorer Scouts volunteer their services as members of the Executive Committee at the last District AGM and, even though they are too young to become formal Charity Trustees, their contribution has been very welcome. With several of our Network members directly involved in the planning and leadership of the Kenya 2012 project, it is clear that Lewisham District continues to take its youth membership seriously and involves them wherever possible in the life and decision making of the District. Having said that, we will be looking in the year to come to see how we might make that voice even louder.

District management & District Management Team

Led by our District Commissioner, the District Management Team has continued to work very hard and effectively to support our Explorer Scout Units and our Group Scout Leaders and their Groups. The team's experience and breadth of knowledge has put it in a good position to provide advice, practical help and support to Units and Groups whenever needed to ensure Lewisham is a place where Scouting thrives.

Leader training has continued to flourish, with such things as Safeguarding in Scouting, First Response and Get Started training days and profiling events held. Young Leader training has also been undertaken with record numbers having successfully completed it.

A number of very successful District and Sectional events have been run and enjoyed across the age range. The District Carol Service was a particular highlight of the year. Organised and run by our new District Network (18 - 25 year olds), it was a most enjoyable mixture of traditional carols and slapstick pantomime! During the Service, the County Commissioner was delighted to present the Cornwell Scout Badge to Nicholas Baudry - a Scout at the 1st New Cross - for his pre-eminently high character and devotion to duty, together with great courage and endurance.

With membership slowly growing, the District Scout Active Support Unit has provided support to a number of District events, with a regular monthly working group at Frylands Wood. The SAS has also had time to enjoy meeting socially in local restaurants.

In early May, the District enjoyed a thoroughly successful District Camp, designed to further cement the relationships and friendships made in the last two years as a Borough-wide District. Blessed with unusually rare good weather, several hundred young people enjoyed an attractive programme of activities laid on by their own leaders, whilst the Network and District Management Team laid on a few smaller activities for the whole District. The cubs attained their Athletics and Athletics Plus Activity Badges, whilst the scouts had the opportunity to compete for the new "Challenge Trophy," a competition that involved 50 challenges in a set amount of time. Leaders, on the other hand, had the opportunity to validate training and complete their Nights Away permits, which many did. Due to its success, the District Management Team has decided that a District Camp will now be organised on a two-yearly basis, to provide not only opportunities for young people to enjoy a nights away experience, but also as a good adult support tool.:

Trustees are delighted to report that the following members of Lewisham District were named in the 2013 St. George's Day Awards Roll of Honour:

Silver Acorn - in recognition of specially distinguished service:
Irene Ebdon
Beryl Roberts
Carole Simpson

Bar to the Silver Acorn - in recognition of an additional period of similarly specially distinguished service:
Bill Compton
Jennifer McCullough

In addition, the Chief Scout's Commendation for Meritorious Conduct (awarded for meritorious conduct of a high standard) has been awarded to:
Jennifer McCullough
Yvonne Sansom

Many congratulations to you all.

During the year we were delighted to be able to welcome the Member of Parliament for Lewisham East to the District on two occasions. We were also delighted to see the Deputy Mayor of Lewisham and quite a number of Lewisham Councillors at events as well. The support of our local representatives has been very welcome and much appreciated.

Kenya

At the end of July 2012, a group of 24 Leaders, Network members and Explorer Scouts took part in Lewisham Scouting's second trip to Kenya, to work with the charity Harambee for Kenya and their street kids and safe-house projects. We were very kindly given a reception by Lewisham Council in the Town Hall before we departed and then flew off to Nairobi to set up camp for the street kids at Kenya's National Scout Campsite at Rowallan. Three days of camp activities and a visit to an elephant sanctuary and giraffe centre followed. Then a day's safari was organised that the street kids are still talking about, and four days working to help improve the facilities for everyone at the safe-house in Kisii. We then waved the safe-house goodbye for a number of adventures, including a visit to Lord Baden Powell's grave at Nyeri. Everyone involved thoroughly deserves a pat on the back for a job well done, and they will certainly never forget the vast number and variety of experiences encountered.

District campsite – Frylands Wood Scout Outdoor Centre

Trustees are delighted to report that 2012/2013 was the most successful year since records have been kept for people using Frylands Wood. All of the usage figures went up - including camping nights, use of the indoor accommodation and the number of visitors and hours of activities used. In fact, over 500 groups/organisations used Frylands Wood during the year, with over 1,500 hours of site provided activities completed. Everyone associated with Frylands should be congratulated on a marvellous and quite exceptional 12 months.

There are now only 15 years remaining on our lease for Frylands Wood, at the end of which the site reverts to The Scout Association. Given the current financial state the world is still in, raising sufficient money to purchase it is considered to be somewhat problematic. But, other options might be available and time will tell if we might still be successful in obtaining our goal of long-term tenure.

Bearing that in mind, and with a view to ascertaining if we could generate even more use of Frylands Wood – and therefore generate more income – it was decided to employ a Deputy Warden for six months during the busiest period of 2012. The 'experiment' proved successful and, in part, helped to achieve some of our record figures. So it's being tried

again in 2013, and for a slightly longer period. If it again proves to be of benefit, Trustees will consider whether a permanent Deputy Warden would be of help to the site in the long term.

During the last 12 months, new activities were installed – a tunnels system and additional elements for the assault course. Both were very kindly donated by The Scout Association as they were no longer needed at Gilwell Park, and both were an immediate 'hit' with Scouts and others of all ages. Plans are now underway to enhance everyone's activity experience even more, with agreement to the purchase of a number of grass sledges and the installation of a traversing (climbing) wall.

A new Service Crew Handbook has been drafted and implemented from 1 January 2013. It contains anything and everything our voluntary service crews need to know about Frylands Wood, and their role in helping to manage and run the site in a safe and effective manner.

Thank you

In a report such as this there are too many people to refer to and thank by name. Suffice it to say that without those who have, for example

organised and run District events and activities, supported leaders with their training, helped Groups and Explorer Units to develop and grow, provided support to Frylands Wood as a member of the Service Crew, looked after our 'books' and paid our bills, sat on committees, taken minutes of meetings, and so much more

..... the District would not be in its present healthy state. Thank you to all concerned.

Financial Review

The attached examined accounts form an integral part of this Report.

Regular and detailed financial updates are presented regularly by the District Treasurer to the District Executive Committee and to the Frylands Wood Operational Committee.

Before taking account of the write off and depreciation of fixed assets, the District generated a surplus on general funds for 2012/2013 of £59,078 and an overall surplus (after write offs and depreciation) of £41,341. This is due to a number of grants/donations that have yet to be spent, together with Frylands Wood generating a surplus in cash terms of £30,580.

The District's Reserves Policy is to establish and maintain balances equal to 6 month's budgeted income as a minimum, the money to be raised by putting an amount approved by the District Executive Committee into a general reserve each year until sufficient funding is achieved. In the year the sum of £20,000 was transferred to the general reserve, bringing the balance to £70,000 – representing approximately 3.5 month's budgeted income for the coming year.

Charities are required to set out their investment objectives in an investment policy which they should keep under regular review; the investment policy should be the starting point for any trustee board discussion on investments. At present all District current assets are held at call or short notice, and no investments exist. It has therefore been agreed that this subject would be revisited by the District Executive Committee at a time when it is confirmed by the District Treasurer that there is a need to do so.

Given the need to continue the District's successful development project, Trustees have agreed to employ a professional fund-raiser, for a relatively small outlay, with the brief to

help raise sufficient project funding for a further year. If successful, consideration will be given to using such a method for other areas of the District's work and structure.

Amongst the significant donations of money received during the year 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013 were:

Scout Association's Development Grants Board	£11,560	Development Project
Sport Relief-Evening Standard Dispossessed Fund	£18,000	Development Project
Don Broome Scout Trust	£5,000	Development Project
Rotary Club of Catford	£400	Support to new Groups

They are additional to a number of smaller, but equally generous donations from District office holders and others. Other District office holders have refrained from claiming expenses, and Frylands Wood has also benefited from the receipt of gifts in kind, which have been included in the accounts at valuation.

Plans for the future

In general terms, the short term plans for Lewisham District are to build upon the extremely positive start over the last two years to Scouting in Lewisham on a borough-wide basis; and to:

- a) ensure that Groups and Units provide high quality programmes that are adventurous, varied and fun and that help our young people make a positive contribution to society;
- b) continue to increase District membership by providing specific support to Groups and Units that, from time to time, might require it, and to support the work of the Lewisham Development Project; and to
- c) ensure that all leaders and Group Executives receive the most effective possible personal support via effective leader and administrator training, excellent levels of communication, informative sectional/leader meetings, effective systems (speedy appointments process, etc) and celebrating & recognising success.

We look forward to the opening of new Groups, Sections and Explorer Scout Units over the next couple of years.

Although a few years away, planning has already started for the next trip to Kenya in 2016 to help support Harambee for Kenya and its street children/safe house projects. In addition, a small team has been selected to drive from London to Cape Town in South Africa, to both help raise funds for Harambee for Kenya and awareness of projects of other humanitarian aid charities working in Africa. The 'Lewisham AfriCar Scout Project' will also take place in 2016.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the District's Trustees (District Executive Committee):

Lawrie Smith

Lawrie Smith (District Chairman)

May 2013