

Wolverhampton North Annual General Meeting

**Monday 6th July 2026
19:30**

District Activity Centre, Moathouse Lane West.
WV11 3HA

Squirrels **BEAVERS** **cubs** **SCOUTS** **EXPLORERS**

Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Governance topics (to comply with charitable status)
 - a) Approve minutes of the previous AGM
 - b) Re -adopt model constitution
 - c) Note the financial year (1st April – 31st March)
 - d) Members of the District Scout Council and agree quorum.
 - e) Approve and appoint members of the District Trustee Board and agree quorum
4. Review of the year 2024-25 (reports may be found in the AGM booklet)
 - a) District Lead Volunteer Partnership
 - b) Review of the Trustee Board's work (to include financial report from Treasurer)
 - c) Report back from District Team Lead's
 - d) Report back from Patshull rep.
 - e) Report back from Badge secretary
5. Appointments
 - a) District Chairperson
 - b) District Treasurer
 - c) District Auditor
 - d) Nominate Patshull Reps.
6. Closing remarks.

Minutes of the Previous AGM

Monday 15th July 2024

Date:	Monday 14 th July 2025
Time:	7.30pm
Location:	Wolverhampton North Scout District Activity Centre

Attendees	Bob Denson, Adam Blount, Richard James, James Steel, Christine McKechnie, Kyle Daly, Nigel Blount, Diane Blount, Steve Crocker, Maryann Edge, Sarah Frisby, Jason Frisby, Jess Carlini, Jonathan Edwards, Mick Collins
Apologies	Simon Vilks, Ben Barlow

Welcome – Bob (District Chair) welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting

Minutes from the last meeting – the minutes of last year’s AGM were accepted. This was proposed by Nigel Blount and seconded by James Steel.

Adoption of the constitution – Adam ran through the constitution model as a reminder for everyone; further details could be found in the booklet. The adoption of the constitution was proposed by Diane Blount and seconded by Christine McKechnie.

Financial Year – it was noted the financial year, to comply with the charity commission, would be 1st April to 31st March

Members/roles of the Scout Council – membership of the Scout Council was approved.

Quorum of the District Scout Council – the quorum was agreed at 9 members

Members of the Trustee Board – it was agreed that the following would be members of the Trustee Board; Bob Denson (Chairperson), Simon Vilks & Adam Blount (District Lead Volunteers), Richard James (Treasurer), Nigel Blount, Ben Barlow, Steve Crocker, Mick Collins, James Steel, Christine McKechnie, Jonathan Edwards. The roles of the Board were proposed by Diane Blount and seconded by Sarah Frisby.

Quorum of the Trustee Board – the quorum was agreed at 5 members

District Lead Volunteer Report (Adam Blount) – a full copy of Adam and Simon's report can be found in the booklet, however key points of note were:

- Following the passing of Jean Rowlands within the last year, her outstanding contribution and long service to the District was noted; she played an integral role as Secretary and is sadly missed by us all.
- The District is currently looking to recruit a note taker role going forward instead of having a Secretary
- Transformation work had concluded within the last year; this had required significant efforts and contributions from many which was greatly appreciated
- Membership within the District was up by 84 (a 19% increase) which was positive
- To support growth we'd tried to open a group in Shareshill, unfortunately due to a lack of adult volunteers it had not been feasible to keep it going
- Adam and Simon wished to thank all the Group Lead Volunteers for their hard work

Treasurer Report (Richard James) – the spreadsheet of accounts and full report can be found in the booklet. Key points of note were:

- The year end closing bank balance was higher than in recent years. This was connected to the annual Capitation Payment (£27,401) that was payable to West Mercia Scouts being deferred until April, as per County's request (normally its paid within the financial year)
- Rental income incorporates some outstanding payments owed from previous years. All payments are now up to date.
- £600 donation received from Jean Rowlands Family. This will be ringfenced and spent on something in her memory.
- This year we have consolidated bank accounts moving the NatWest account into Lloyds. This has resulted in efficiencies and ease of administration/payments.

Volunteer Development Team Report (Nigel Blount) – Nigel shared details of the new team. Nigel explained there had been some delays in holding ‘welcome conversations’ with new volunteers, this had been linked to new processes for getting references. Jess and Sarah have been helping to clear the backlog. A full copy of his report can be found in the booklet.

Support Team Leaders Report (Christine McKechnie) – Christine shared details of the support teams work over the last 12 months. A full copy of her report can be found in the booklet.

District Explorers Report (Steve Crocker) - Four units are established, and they are progressing well. Steve informed the meeting he was looking to step down from his role.

Badge Secretary Report (Diane Blount) – Diane explained there had been an increase in sales (compared to last year), these totalled £6,248. A full copy of her report can be found in the booklet.

Patshull Update (Bob Denson) – Overall it has been a good year at Patshull, with ongoing investment in the grounds by the Mercer Family. There has been an incident in recent months which is being investigated by Scout HQ. At the minute high wires activities have been suspended. Scout HQ has done a whole site review, and they have picked up a few other points. There will be a published report following their review and Patshull will continue working through the recommendations made.

Election of Auditor: Simon Tonry has supported for many years; it was agreed we continue with him as auditor. This was proposed by Adam Blount and seconded by Jason Frisby.

Appointments:

The following roles were appointed for the next 3 years.

- District Chair - Bob Denson was nominated by Adam Blount and seconded by James Steel
- Treasurer – Richard James was nominated by Adam Blount and seconded by Christine McKechnie
- President – Brian Walters was nominated by Adam Blount and seconded by Nigel Blount

County Rep – Christine McKechnie will continue in her role as County Rep

District Team – Jason Frisby and Sarah Frisby were welcomed in their new roles.

Date of next meeting - to be advised.

Meeting closed - Bob closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

District Lead Volunteer Partnership Report – Adam & Simon

First and foremost, can I thank all of the Adult members of Wolverhampton North District. Without your continued commitment to Safe, Fun and Inclusive Scouting the District would not be in the extremely healthy place it is today. Secondly to all of our Youth Members, we hope to continue to provide you with experiences, memories and skills that will last a lifetime.

To our GLV's, thank you for sticking with us through a very changeable time, whether this be rules around safety, the new membership system or the requirements of us all as volunteers. You have handled yourselves admirably, so thank you for your continued support and for the support of your Teams.

Growth/Membership

A key metric for membership used by the Scout Association is the progress towards 2020 census, this is one completed directly prior to the COVID 19 outbreak. I am pleased to say that all 3 metrics (Youth aged 6-17, Young Leaders, and Adults volunteering in sections) have all now surpassed the 2020 metric for the first time. This is an incredible achievement by everyone, thank you.

As a District our headline growth figure is 56 Young People (11%) across the District, however if we break this down further is more impressive than that. Of the 10 groups plus District Explorers (so 11) 8 have grown in Youth Membership one has stayed the same and only 2 have decreased in members.

Sectionally Squirrels and Scouts have increased by at least 20 members with Beavers and Explorers also showing double digit growth. Cubs was our only section to have fallen, this could be put down to moving between section, this trend can be monitored over the next few years.

In summary the District is growing with numbers the healthiest they have been for more than 5 years.

Learning Compliance

Learning and compliance, the dreaded words that make all Lead Volunteers sigh and say 'what's wrong now'. Well, actually on the whole nothing is wrong. We have consistently been in the top 2 for Learning Compliance in the county of the last 12 months. Each week myself and Simon have an email from HQ without weekly compliance issues, around 50% of the time there are no compliance issues. When there are issues we pass these on to our amazing Group Leads and they are sorted out almost always within a week, we have only suspended a couple of Adults this past year for lack of Learning/compliance issues. This is testament to all volunteers' willingness to complete the mandatory training that helps us provide Safe, Fun and Inclusive Scouting. On a great number of occasions, especially at the beginning of the year it was often not the volunteer's fault, the membership system went through a phase of knowing the date your learning or DBS ran out however it helpfully decided not to tell anyone, sometimes it wouldn't even tell you if it had been out of date for 3 months. Just another bug that was added to the pile at the time.

Talking of the membership system, can I apologise to all volunteers who have experienced problems or who are continuing to experience problems. I know HQ have been upfront and honest in their assessment, that it wasn't/isn't working how they want it to but they assure us progress is being made. Speaking from personal experience I would say progress is being made slowly but surly.

DAC

Thank you to 2nd Wednesfield Scouts and Explorers, they formed a service team to paint the fence around the boundary, helping load the skip and general site maintenance/tidying. They achieved so much as a team and it was great to see a group formed of multiple sections come together and help maintain our site. We plan on making this an annual event with hopefully more participating groups in the future.

Our shooting range has had an upgrade over the winter making safer and more usable than ever. Thank you to our District Team of shooting instructors, James Steel and Tom Loftus.

We are so lucky with our location on the canal that we can offer kayaking sessions, there have become more popular over the last few years thanks to our kayaking instructors (Chris Bell, Jonathan Edwards and Kyle Daly)

District Team

Our District Team is full for the first time since transformation, myself and Simon are grateful to all the volunteers who work help us run the District, you hopefully know Chris, Nigel and Jason.

We are pleased to introduce Martin Jefferies as 14-24 Team. Martin has been involved in Scouting for more than 7 years, multiple of those as an Explorer Scout Team Leader. Joseph Downing is the 2nd addition to our team this year, he will be our new District Youth Lead. This position has been open for a number of years. We welcome both of them to the Team and hope you will get to know them in their roles.

Milestones

The last 12 months we have had some milestones and anniversaries, 2nd Wednesfield are celebrating 100 years of being an active Scout Group. 1st Essington celebrated 60 years of combined Scouting and Guiding last year.

Adult volunteers are the life blood of Scouting, we celebrate our volunteers service to the community in multiple ways. The main three are: Commendations, Good Service Awards and Length of Service Awards.

Myself and Simon have the honour of giving out the above awards as part of our role, it is arguably the best part. On that note it is with great pleasure that we can give out two 60 Year Length of Service Awards to Robert 'Bob' Denson and Christine McKechnie. Myself and Simon want to thank you both on behalf of the whole District at present and all of the past Young People and Adults alike, who you have helped provide with Scouting.

Written by Adam Blount on behalf of the District Lead Volunteer Partnership

Volunteering Development Team Lead's Report – Nigel Blount

It has been a turbulent year with everyone continuing to get to grips with the system that will improve over time we just need to be patient, easy to say I know.

Can I thank all my team who have willingly helped and held Welcome Conversations over the last year, also my thanks to the GLVs who have sat in and secured dates so I can arrange the meetings.

We will continue to do the Welcome Conversations on Teams as this gives much more flexibility and reduces the need to travel therefore cutting down on the length of time for the whole process. However there will always be an opportunity for an in-person meeting if the need arises.

Now that Transition is complete there are still many members that require a Welcome Conversation to allow them to become FULL members of The Scout Association (TSA). With this in mind I fully appreciate the extra work this brings to all our GLVs and if you feel I can assist you further then please contact me as I'm sure between us we will make it happen as efficiently as possible.

The main stumbling block seems to be obtaining references as these are now by email only and this I just a reminder of the criteria.

- Referees should be aged 18 or over, know about the volunteer's work or contact with young people and be able to comment on their character and relationships with others. They must not be a relative of the volunteer. At least one referee should have known them for at least 5 years. One referee will be from outside of Scouts. You can put up to four email address, two as a minimum, in then the system will select the first two replies it receives and base its decision on these.

Can I also remind GLVs that they can have a delegate rather than themselves to be part of the Welcome Conversation who has done the training and will complete the form as this will relieve some time from their calendar.

In conclusion we are active as a team and look forward to welcoming new members into the movement and as time goes on the function of this role will broaden and include

training and skills sessions arranged locally, please contact me if you have any training or other issues. I look forward to meeting more of you in the future.

Yours in Scouting,

Nigel Blount
Volunteer Development Team Lead

Treasurer's Report – Richard James

- Capitation funds received from Group's increased from £31.6K (24/25) to £35.6K (25/26)
- Badge sales of £6.5K down on last year
- International Trip (Malta 2027) - £3.6K is held within a new designated bank account.
- Hire of building & DAC slight increase in income from £4.3K to £5K.
- Capitation funds paid over to County increased from £27.4K (24/25) to £31.2K (25/26)
- Purchase of kayak's for the benefit of DAC
- Repairs/Building Maintenance – upgraded consumer unit within the building to ensure compliance with electrical regulations
- Cash Funds shown in the accounts are the combined total of District Main Account, Badge Account and Malta International Trip Account
- Trustees are proposing to open a savings account, where previous granted funds would be held

Receipts and payments

	2025/26	2024/25
	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	£	£
Receipts		
Donations, legacies and similar income - Rowlands Family	-	600
Membership subscriptions	35,624	31,624
County rebate	258	217
Badges	6,492	7,389
Camps and events	3,570	3,104
Sale of assets - Kayaks	-	255
Sub total	45,944	43,189
Grants		
Maintenence grant	-	-
Other grants - Wednesfield Rotary	-	500
Sub total	-	500
Fundraising events (gross)		
Sponsorship	-	-
Training	-	-
Detail 3	-	-
Other fundraising activities	-	-
Sub total	-	-
Scout hut income		
Hire of building	3,504	4,290
Hire of equipment	1,465	-
Other Scout hut income	-	-
Sub total	4,969	4,290
Investment income		
Bank interest	-	-
Building Society interest	-	-
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	-	-
Other investment income	-	-
Sub total	-	-
Total Gross Income	50,913	47,979

Receipts and payments

	2025/26	2024/25
	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	£	£
Payments		
Charitable Payments		
Membership subscriptions paid on (National/County/Area/District)	31,228	27,401
Youth programme and activities	167	-
Adult support and training	-	-
Rent	1,500	1,500
Cleaning etc	471	606
Electricity and Gas	1,775	1,887
Insurance	766	491
Repairs and Renewals	1,523	52
Room hire	-	158
Kayak purchase	240	-
Go Kart event	-	50
Badges	5,190	6,874
AGM and trustee expenses	633	558
Stationery	32	-
Travelling expenses	672	239
Broadband	230	220
MPLC Licence	-	-
Bank charges	-	-
Building repairs	1,329	825
Group support	-	-
Sub total	45,756	40,861
Fundraising expenses		
Detail 1	-	-
Other fundraising costs	-	-
Sub total	-	-
Total Gross Expenditure	45,756	40,861
Asset and investment purchases, etc.	-	-
Total payments	45,756	40,861
Net of receipts/(payments)	5,157	7,118
Cash funds last year end	36,456	29,338
Cash funds this year end	41,613	36,456

Scrutineer's Report to the Trustees of the Wolverhampton North Scout District (Charity no. 1150887)

I report on the accounts of the District for the year ended 31st March 2026

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Scrutineer

As the District's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that neither the audit nor independent examination requirements of the Charities Act 2011 apply. It is my responsibility without carrying out an audit or independent examination to scrutinise the accounts and to report to you.

Basis of Scrutineer's Statement

In accordance with the directions given in the District's constitution, I have scrutinised the records and the accounts set out on pages 1 to 3.

Scrutineer's Statement

In my opinion the accounts are in accordance with the records produced to me and comply with the constitution.



Name: Simon Tonry
Address: 2 Becket Street
Bilston
WV14 7NT

Date: 3rd July 2026

Support Team Lead's Report – Christine McKechnie

Well, that's another year gone. This is very brief as no one has really asked for any support on Special Needs or other help. Unless you ask us, we cannot help because we don't have a crystal ball to see who needs what.

We have been involved in trying to set up new groups, unfortunately both have failed due to no parent interest in helping out on a weekly basis, and as a district we cannot run a new group without the help of new leaders, short term help was available in the group involved from District but not long term.

One thing that would help me is if GLV's would let me know when they can take no more youth members in their sections or of course can take youth members again. I can then try and find another group for them to attend. Also, we occasionally do have adults apply to help, so if you need extra help to run a section also let me know. A warning though, we do not get many apply.

As many of you know I am a trainer for the County and an Assessor of Wood badge modules, if anyone wishes to complete training and gain a Wood badge, look on the County Web site and book an Assessing Session and we will help you through the process.

I would also like to thank all volunteers, regardless of how little or much you do in Scouting, as it should be flexible so that you attend when is suitable for you, obviously with agreed weeks in the group, so that they know you can only do every other week etc. without you all, Scouting would not be as successful as it is in Wolverhampton North.

Programme Team Lead – Jason Frisby

Overview

This year has been defined by programme growth, strong youth engagement, and steady improvement in volunteer capability across all sections. Our focus remained on delivering a balanced, inclusive, and adventurous programme that reflects the aims of Scouts while supporting leaders with practical tools and guidance. Our aim is to improve programme Quality, with increased use of the Programme Planning Tool and shared resources.

We are actively recruiting new program team members to help:

- **Section Support** - check-ins with section leaders to ensure alignment with the programme themes and helped identify gaps early.
- **Resource Sharing** – help create a centralised digital folder for activity plans, risk assessments, and term programmes.
- **Inclusivity Focus** - ensure activities are accessible for young people with additional needs, including sensory-friendly options and flexible participation roles.

Challenges

- **Leader Availability** - Occasional shortages impacted programme variety, particularly in the second half of the year.
- **Admin Load** - Risk assessments and event paperwork continue to be a pressure point for volunteers.
- **Retention** - While youth recruitment is strong, retention in the older sections requires continued attention.

Priorities for Next Year

Strengthen Leader Support - Introduce skills workshops and mentoring for new and existing volunteers.

Expand Outdoor Programme - Aim for at least one district-level outdoor event per year.

- **Improve Youth Leadership** - Formalise youth leadership pathways, including training for young leaders, PLs and APLs.
- **Streamline Admin** - Trial simplified templates and shared risk assessment libraries

Appreciation

A sincere thank you to all leaders, volunteers, parents, and-most importantly-the young people who make our programme vibrant and meaningful. Your commitment continues to strengthen Scouting across the district.

Future Events

18th July 2026 Squirrel 5th Birthday party
19th July 2026 Beaver 40th Birthday Party
25th July 2026 Cubs 110th Birthday Party

District Activity Camp Kibblestone 2026, September 11th to 13th

Next year will also be the 120th birthday celebrations for Scouts

Yours in scouting
Jason Frisby
Program Team Lead

14-24 Team Lead's Report

No report due to lack of Team Lead.

District Youth Lead

No report due to lack of Team Lead.