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# **Ajax Sea Scout Group** and **Explorer Sea Scout Unit**

*Annual Report and Accounts  
for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019*

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**100 years of the RN Recognition Scheme**

**100 Scouts afloat on the Thames**



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**71<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting  
of the Group Council of the  
4th Thames Ditton 'Ajax' Sea Scouts  
(Royal Navy Recognised Group No. 60)  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at the  
Chiefy Sharman Water Activities Centre**

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**Agenda**

1. Group Chairman's welcome.
2. Group Scout Leader's report.
3. Group Chairman's report.
4. Group Treasurer's report and adoption of the Trustees' Annual Report and Statement of Financial Activity for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.
5. Approval of nominations for honorary roles:
  - a. Group President
  - b. Group Vice Presidents
6. Approval of the Group Scout Leader's nominations for the Group Executive Committee for the coming year:
  - a. Group Chair
  - b. Group Vice-Chair
  - c. Group Advisers
  - d. Youth Representative
  - e. Other members of the Group Executive Committee.
7. Confirmation of Section Leaders wishing to be members of the Group Executive Committee for the coming year.
8. Election of lay officials for the coming year:
  - a. Group Treasurer
  - b. Group Secretary
  - c. Independent Examiner.
9. Election of Section Representatives to the Group Executive Committee for the coming year.
10. Any other business.
11. Presentations.

## GROUP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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This has been another excellent year for Ajax with possibly our strongest ever Explorers group. We had a great National Regatta which we co-hosted with Warspite and a very successful Summer Camp. Our connection with the Royal Navy continues to prosper and culminates in the RN Review which we value greatly.

We also had another very successful year at Island Barn and it's great to see some of our Troop broadening their sailing skills by joining the Island Barn Sailing Club.

Our fleet grew with the addition of Stand Paddle Up Boards and two Visions which were kindly donated to the Group. It has also been an important transition year with Chris West taking up the reins as Group Scout Leader and Steve Smith signing-off as Group Treasurer. All of Steve's expertise and diligence is greatly appreciated and we are in good shape in terms of record keeping and finances.

Our website was rebuilt and significantly improved and we now have a more active presence on Facebook which is where you can keep track of many of our activities.

I'd like to thank the members of our Executive Committee who meet five times a year and provide valuable input. Included in the Exec this year is Dane Wilson who, as Youth Representative, now provides direct input from our Scouts and Explorers.

With huge thanks to our leaders, parents, members and volunteers we are now financially in a strong position to commence our building projects. The first phase, which we hope to start this side of Christmas, will include four new unisex toilets which are very much needed.

As ever, funding came from a number of key events which rely heavily on parent, scout and volunteer input. Adrian Smith once again led the Esher May Fair which raised £10,221 and Susan Drewett likewise ran the Plant Sale which raised £1,570.

We reduced our Claygate Flower Show input but still managed a very healthy profit of £2166 with many thanks to Ben Rutherford who ran the bar and showed great leadership.

Total funds raised from these three events were £13,957!

We have continued to strengthen our relationships with local residents and thank Mike Sansom for his constructive dialogue. We are also working with Elmbridge Council and thank their officers for their support and encouragement.

Finally, I would like to applaud the enthusiasm and endeavour of all the members of Ajax Sea Scouts who continue to surprise themselves and their parents.

I know that Chris has laid much of the groundwork in the last 12 months to move us forward and I look forward to an exciting year as we start work on our building.

Andrew Roberts  
GROUP CHAIRMAN



## GROUP SCOUT LEADER'S REPORT

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This year's AGM marks my first year as Group Scout Leader (GSL), and what a great year it's been!

I'll admit to being pretty nervous about taking on this role at this point in time last year; Mark had left some pretty big shoes to be filled. However, our amazing team have been very supportive, and I've always had Mark on hand to help me with any challenges that popped up. You will read about all the Sections' activities in their own reports, so I'll simply tell you some of my personal highlights of 2018/2019.



My first official outing as GSL was to attend the Remembrance Day Parade, where I was most proud of the whole Group as they turned out in full, smart uniform to pay their respects at the war memorial on Giggs Hill Green. In the New Year, I was invited to not one, but two winter camps; both cycling in the New Forest. With the Explorers I enjoyed a long but stunning bike ride down to the coast. Later, I joined the Scouts for an adventure exploring the woodlands of the New Forest, as well as a thorough investigation of the sweet shops of Lyndhurst.

In the midst of our Summer term, we once again played host to the National Sea Scout Pulling and Kayaking Regatta, co-hosted with our sister group, Warspite. As if this event was not enough for two busy GSLs on a weekend, we also invited the Royal Navy to undertake our review at the same time. I had the pleasure of welcoming Lt Toby Milligan to the Regatta where he was blown away by the standard of the event that was taking place. That was even before we showed him what we had planned next!

Crewed by a team of Scouts, Lt Milligan was then transported by gig back to the WAC where we had quite the surprise lined up for him. As this year celebrates the centenary of the Royal Navy recognition scheme for Sea Scouts, we wanted to celebrate and mark the event by getting 100 Scouts afloat at the same time. I am very pleased to say we achieved our goal, as you can see by the photos included in this pack. After this water-based display we completed a formal muster culminating in cake

for all. Upon his departure from the event, I spoke to Lt Milligan again when he said he was completely bowled over by the standards, teamwork and achievements of both groups.

The last event of the year before the AGM is of course Summer Camp. This is by far the biggest event of Ajax's year and definitely the highlight for Scouts, Explorers and leaders alike. I have the dubious pleasure of organising the camp, for which planning begins way back in January each year. This year was a busy camp on Mersea Island in Essex, with 50 young people and over 25 adults attending at different times to run activities and support the Group. If the comments of those who went are anything to go by, I would say this is one of the best camps ever, great fun was had by all!

One of the most important factors that makes Ajax so great is its highly dedicated team of leaders. It's amazing to see the devotion they all have to the Group, and how much of their personal time they give up making sure Ajax works.

At this point, I would particularly like to thank Pete Wadsworth, my Assistant Group Scout Leader. Since appointing him this time last year, Pete has worked tirelessly around the building doing maintenance and repairs as well as building new things. He has single-handedly built extra storage outside the building and installed new systems like the screen in the focsle and the projector on the main deck, to name but a few of his projects. Besides all the improvements he's made around the building, Pete has also provided me with invaluable support in doing my role as GSL and I can't thank him enough.

Next, I would like to thank Marcus Butlin who is stepping down this year as my Assistant Group Scout Leader Cubs and Beavers. Marcus has been doing this role for a number of years and has led the Beaver and Cubs Sections exceptionally well. Although he is now taking a step back, I'm glad he'll be continuing on with the Group as an Assistant Cub Leader.

This leaves us with naming the new Section Leaders who will take Beavers and Cubs forward for the next year. I am pleased to announce that from this term Peter Stephens will be stepping up to be our new Beaver Section Leader. Peter joined us only last year, and after an action-packed year, I am looking forward to seeing where he takes the Colony this year.

Also, I am thrilled to announce that Ruth Mortby will be taking on the role of Cub Section Leader. Ruth is Pete Wadsworth's partner and they have both been involved in the Group for many years.

Ruth has a number of boating qualifications, a huge range of experience in Scouting and is already our Group's training adviser.

I'd like to go on and mention every single leader who has played their part this year and thank and recognise them each in turn. However, the list is long, and space in this report short, so I'll take this space to recognise their collective contributions – they have all done an amazing job to deliver a dynamic and exciting programme over the last 12 months! If I can, there are two leaders that, as usual, have gone above and beyond: Nick Barber, Explorer Section Leader is always there for his Explorers, encouraging and supporting them in all their endeavours and Diane Davison, Scout Section Leader, who not only keeps the Troop going, but regularly attends Explorers and is always there at District events and our fundraisers. I am very glad to see that Diane and Nick have both been recognised for their efforts with the awards they will receive at this year's AGM.

I thank the Group Executive Committee for all their work throughout the year, particularly Andrew Roberts, (Chair) and Kate Ashley, (Secretary), who have been amazing support to me. Lastly, I would like to say a huge thank you to Steve Smith, who is stepping down as Group Treasurer. As part of the Group Executive Committee, Steve has worked extremely hard behind the scenes to keep Ajax going by ensuring all our finances are in order and meet the requirements of the Charity Commission.

I am very excited about the coming 2019/2020 year in Ajax. Andrew and I will be working to start making building improvements, while behind the scenes Pete and I will keep improving systems for leaders, hopefully meaning everyone has more time for the most important things: making sure all our young people can keep learning, growing, and having fun and adventures at Ajax.

Here are the reports from of our training Sections:

### **BEAVER SCOUT COLONY**

*(For young people aged 6 to 8)*

Beaver Colony Leader Peter Stephens writes:

During the summer term the Beavers concentrated on their Challenge badge, plus three activity badges: Cyclist, Cook and Communicator. All seven of our Beavers due to swim up on the 16th September to Cubs achieved their Chief Scouts Bronze Award.

This is testimony not just to the Beavers but the hard work of an excellent leadership team.

Our big events of the year were:

- St. Georges Day parade, where the Beavers loved being able to walk in the middle of the road
- Esher May Fair, where they met the mayor (who they thought was the Queen)
- Walton Firs, flour trail and lots of marshmallows
- District Camp, an excellent and exhausting day out where a lot of badge work was achieved

We also can't forget our memorable trip to 'go ape' at Chessington where I was amazed at the fearlessness of our 6-8-year olds. We currently operate at 24 Beavers (13 girls and 11 boys).

Although we didn't have any Beavers join us this term and say goodbye to 7, as well as losing another due to his family relocating to Spain, we are looking forward to taking a new intake of 8 Beavers and are considering the possibility of increasing our numbers from 24 to 28 in the new year.

This term we're planning on doing the World Challenge badge and International, Space and Safety badges. We will try and get the Beavers out on the water early with the starfishes and are planning visits to:

- Teddington Lifeboat
- Poppy factory
- White Spider Climbing
- Sleep-over at the WAC

Ending the year with a night on the Ringos at Sandown Park ski slope.

### **CUB SCOUT PACK**

*(For young people aged 8 to 10½)*

Cub Scout Leader Ruth Mortby writes:

A fantastic year for the Cub Pack, full of fun, challenges and adventures for our young people (and our adults too!). As we head into our new year, we say goodbye to Joe, Edward, Tennyson, Luc and Kieron. We wish them well with all the exciting opportunities the Scout section has in store for them. We also welcome 12 new members to the Pack, taking our numbers to 35, and 2 new leaders, Carolyn and Dan who we are thrilled to have onboard.

Looking back over the year, in the Autumn we enjoyed a Zumba evening:

*"Watching the cubs (and leaders) being taken through their paces by Alex's wife was a real picture. The cubs loved it!"*



The District Hike was another highlight of the Autumn term – it was fantastic to see our young people progress from moaning about having to walk into a real sense of purpose and achievement once they were full of lunch and topped the hill into Denbies with the views.

The Cubs said "It was challenging, very tiring, but great fun", in leader language – a perfect day



The Autumn term also saw us doing activities such as a local village walk and making our own bird feeders, getting the thumbs up from the Cubs too. We finished the term with our now annual (and much anticipated) tradition of sliding down Sandown ski slope on Ringos.

Spring term featured the swimming test – a source of many personal challenges for the Cubs. One of our leaders said *"I felt so proud of the determination and courage so many of them showed and then the look on their faces as they were told they had passed!"*

We also had a fantastic visit from the local food bank, and we're looking forward to going to see them to help in this much needed community venture next year.

Summer term arrived fast and saw us heading outdoors as much as possible. We had great engagement from the Cubs for their Gardener's badge, even learning the Latin names for their plants. Many Pack parents will still be enjoying the efforts of their young people.

Thanks to the Scout and Explorer teams, we all got afloat with 2 Saturday boating musters, trying sailing, rowing, powerboating and kayaking. A great time was had by all.

One of our Pack parents said:  
*"I never thought I would see my child at the tiller of a boat, in control and doing an amazing job".*



District Camp is a firm favourite and regular highlight. This year we attended with 25 Cubs and lots of effort from our leaders and Pack parents to pitch and strike camp. The Cubs enjoyed activities from archery to adventure courses to bouldering, as well as some great campfires and an opportunity to make friends across the District.



We finished the term with a brilliant water fight and colour run. One leader says "I particularly enjoyed watching one of the Cubs getting into their parent's recently valeted car!" Personally, I liked the smug look on the parent's face who had thought to bring bin bags to wrap their child in!





As I write this I'm looking forward with equal parts trepidation and excitement to taking on the section leader role and continuing to deliver such a full and engaging programme for this wonderful group of young people. I want to thank Marcus Butlin from everyone involved with Ajax for everything he has done over the years. We look forward to seeing you at our events and musters (as your time allows) for many more to come.

I'd also like to thank the cub leadership team – Alex T, Phil, Emma, May, Alex M – your energy and enthusiasm in delivering the cub programme is an inspiration – you make this possible. It has been a pleasure getting to know you all over the past few months and I very much look forward to working with you. Thank you for all that you do.

### **SEA SCOUT TROOP**

*(For young people aged 10½ to 14)*

Sea Scout Leader Diane Davison writes:

A challenging year!

The Scouts were challenged to improve their nautical skills and their practical skills, particularly rowing.

The leaders were challenged in the new year with over half the Troop never having been on the water with us.

In March this year a large number of Scouts moved up leaving us with a totally new Patrol Leader and Assistant Patrol Leader team. This group have impressed us no end by stepping up brilliantly. They excelled at PLs camp and immediately formed close bonds which have served them well right through to Summer Camp this year.

The Patrol leaders are: Amy, Tom, Ben, George, James LJ, and Will S. Congratulations to all and particularly to Ben who has achieved his Chief Scouts Gold Award.

In Autumn, our programme focused as usual on to two main areas: Traditional Scouting skills and Nautical skills. On the traditional side we covered pioneering, fire lighting and cooking skills, as well as map reading and navigation (in daylight and at night). We used these skills and improved our local knowledge with a walk in the Thames Ditton area following bearings. We also recreated our version of the trenches with a tunnel maze in the dark. The Scouts also achieved a selection of Swimming and First Aid badges.

Again, this year we entered the District Scouting Skills and First Aid Competition and our Sea Scouts once again showed the breadth of our skills to the land Scouts by coming second. An excellent achievement!

Congratulations to Hannah, Tilly, Will S, George and Grace.

In the Spring term, we started off with cooking skills...always interesting! We went skiing and climbing on high ropes, ate pancakes, went to the fire station and then started prepping for the boating season.... An early start this year, we were on the water before the Easter break! We also started thinking about issues affecting the environment we boat in and what we can do about it. A local River Thames environmental group came in to talk to the Scouts and to spark ideas. The result is that Ajax Scouts have been collecting plastic waste from the river and putting it in the bins where it belongs not threatening the wildlife!

In addition to these activities we went to the New Forest for our Winter Camp when, of course, the Scouts after having cycled some 20 plus miles had to visit the fantastic sweet shop in Lyndhurst ...yum!

Summer term, as usual, has been manic!

Boating every Thursday and most Saturdays! It was great to see the enthusiasm for Saturdays and the Scouts had great fun, even trying out raft building with the pontoon blocks!

All that practise rowing, kayaking, sculling paid off with success at the National Sea Scout Pulling and Kayaking Regatta.

The Under 12 ½ team did exceptionally well: they won the Gig pulling and the Double Dinghy and came second in the Kayaking. And even better they won the Overall Best Under 12 ½ team!!

Congratulations to the team: Amalia, Axel, Grace, Leila, and Matilda

A brilliant performance!!!

The under 14 team faced tough competition this year, putting in a phenomenal effort against really strong teams... but they'll be back next year!

Congratulations to the whole team!

Patrol and Assistant Patrol Leaders Camp was held at Walton Firs and clear up happened so quickly on the Sunday that we could all make the St George's Day parade!

Two weekend sailing trips to Cobnor where, as always, we had great fun! Not much sailing one day but superb trips out in the harbour on the power boats.

The Scouts were a great help on the sweet stall at the Esher May Fair, not sure how much they ate or was it the Explorers doing all the eating?

The Scouting year culminated in a fantastic Summer Camp on Mersea Island in Essex. We had brilliant sailing, fantastic kayaking, coxswains' cruises, night hike and day hikes.... and a host of other activities. And we didn't get blown out or rained out!! Every Scout had a brilliant time and luckily only 3 or 4 missed out on the Summer Camp experience!

I am as ever indebted to a wonderful group of volunteer Leaders, Instructors, and Young Leaders who make all of the above possible. Without their generosity of time, holidays, skills and good humour Ajax would not be the same!

My grateful thanks go to Bernadette Banks, Nick Barber, Robert Elliott, Graeme Jones, Ed

Mauleverer, Paul Norman, Barbara Ruis, Rob Stephens, Peter Wadsworth, Dane Wilson, Clive Hedley - who all regularly attend musters.

Also thanks to Jack Barnett, Henry Carrow, Callum Davison, Mikayla Davison, Julie Dawson, Joseph Dunne, Isabel Elliott, Charlie Johnson, Robbie Mallett, Alex Soden, Lydia Thomas, Lauren Thompson Chisnall, most of whom on returning from university provide invaluable help and enthusiasm at musters and at camp.

And last, but certainly not least our Young Leaders Alek, Kristian, Marcus, Tom, Jamie and Harry who help week in week out.... depending on exams!!

## **EXPLORER SEA SCOUT UNIT**

*(For young people aged 14½ to 18)*

Explorer Sea Scout Leader Nick Barber writes:

We are extremely pleased to continue to report that many of our Explorers are also Young Leaders, helping with the other Sections in an adult leadership capacity. It is also great that more and more former Explorers are coming back to assist when they are back from university or when they can find the time in their busy working lives. This is becoming a strong tradition now and is really helping with big events such as Summer Camp. This is very satisfying to see and really very positive for the health and continuity of the Group. So, I'd like to personally say thank you to the next generations who I consider family for taking up the challenge. Also, thanks to each of our Young Leaders whose contribution is further acknowledged in the various Section reports.

Over the past year, members of the Unit have; attended the District Winter Walking Weekend in the South Pennines, followed swiftly by a cycling weekend in the New Forest, been practicing the fundamentals of their kayak and canoe skills - congratulations to Tom Ruis for mastering the eskimo roll, been busy working on various elements of their Duke of Edinburgh Awards - well done to Hugo, Isabelle, Sydney, Ieuan and Elin who gained their Bronze DofE awards and Iwan for gaining his Silver DofE.

As well as regular pulling and kayaking at the WAC and sailing at Island Barn, activities have included, London Marathon Water Station, Young Leader training, Go-karting, bring your dog for a walk, various District events, go-karting, bell boating, stand-up paddle-boarding with our new boards and Wake-boarding.

I would still like to encourage every member over the age of 14 to apply for a voyage aboard one of the Rona Sailing Project's purpose-built sail training yachts. Lauren Thompson-Chisnell and Isabel Elliott continue to sail with the RSP as Watch Leaders - Well done you two - very proud.

As ever, our three annual Cobnor sailing weekends are key events for the Unit, providing the opportunity for some exciting sailing in coastal conditions and passage planning.

At this year's National Sea Scout Regatta we were delighted to yet again win the Under 18 Gig event. This is not an easy one to win!

A massive thanks to Robbie, Lydia, Jack, Dane, Charlie, Isabel, Alex, Miky, Callum, Marcus, Henry, Jo and Lauren who made such an impact in helping to run this year's Summer Camp in Mersea - What a team of not so long-ago Explorers - Love your work.

Even bigger thanks to Diane Davison, Jan Harley, Graeme Jones, Peter Wadsworth and Dane Wilson because without all their terrific support it would be impossible to keep this fantastic group of young adults entertained and stimulated throughout the year.

At the time of writing this report we have 28 members comprising of 15 young women and 13 young men. This will increase in September when we will look forward to welcoming 2 Troop members who have come of age. Finally, my thanks to the Unit for looking after me. I'm very lucky - Love you all!

## **SCOUT ACTIVE SUPPORT UNIT**

Jointly with our partners, Warspite Sea Scouts, we operate a Scout Active Support Unit. Membership of the ASU is open to anyone over the age of 18. The ASU provides a home for the over 18s where they can socialise, and it provides a pool of volunteers to support various needs, both within the two Groups and beyond. We would strongly encourage members of Ajax who reach the age of 18 to join the ASU. They are a great bunch of folks who have lots of fun together.

## **OUR FLEET**

Over the past 12 months we have continued to focus on maintaining our existing fleet.

However, we have had some additions. We were very lucky indeed to receive two fully working Vision dinghies which will complement the two we already have very well and give us more flexibility in their usage.

We also put our RN grant to good use by purchasing some stand up paddleboards. These arrived in time for Summer Camp and where a huge hit with the younger members.



We do however need much more help with boat maintenance so if you are able to lend a hand, or know someone who could be interested, please do let me know.

## **WATER ACTIVITIES TRAINING**

Ajax and Warspite continue jointly to operate a Royal Yachting Association 'Recognised Training Centre' (RTC) at Thames Ditton.

A big thank-you to Ed Mauleverer, Robert Elliott and Graeme Jones who have taken the lead on getting all our young people their dinghy sailing qualifications this year.

Thanks to the dedication of our fantastic team of Instructors, it has been another great year for our youngsters who have gained a bumper bundle of RYA qualifications.

In addition to RYA qualifications in sailing, powerboating and First Aid, we have also been able to award several BCU qualifications in kayaking, canoeing and Water Safety and Rescue. Our thanks to our British Canoe Union Coaches without whom, none of this would not have been possible.

This year congratulations go to Ed Mauleverer who has gained his RYA Senior Dinghy Instructor Qualification. Ed will be joining the RYA Centre Management team, taking over the Chief Instructor Sailing role from Peter who will continue as the Centre Principal. Also, congratulations and welcome to the team to Mikayla Davison and Joe Dunn who have both gained their RYA Dinghy Instructor qualifications this year.

Our thanks again to all the Instructors and Coaches who make possible our exiting and immensely varied programme of water activities training.

## **ISLAND BARN**

Island Barn, a reservoir in West Molesey, continues to be a key base for our local sailing activities. It provides a great venue for the more advanced sailing (e.g. spinnaker work) that we deliver for the older Scouts and in the Explorer section.

Also, a big thank-you to all those who have supported our Instructor team by driving safety boats, sailing as competent helms, or just rigging and helping pack away. I know that all this support is greatly appreciated by the team.

## **RONA SAILING PROJECT**

*(For young people aged over 14)*

Rona Sailing Project [www.ronasailingproject.org.uk](http://www.ronasailingproject.org.uk) is a registered charity which provides affordable sail training on purpose-built yachts. Their stated aim is to provide opportunities for young people to develop a sense of responsibility, resourcefulness and teamwork which will help them throughout their lives. Anyone over the age of 14 can apply for a place and we strongly recommend all Ajaccios to do so. In fact a number of the volunteer skippers and mates at RSP are Old Ajaccios!

## **DUKE of EDINBURGH AWARDS**

*(For young people aged over 14)*

The D of E programme continues to grow in popularity with the Scouts and with the Explorers. This year five of their number have completed their Bronze Award and one their Silver Award. Congratulations to them all.

We have a new team of Explorers who have begun the planning to undertake an expedition next year for their Gold award.

## **ROYAL NAVY RECOGNITION**

Ajax is one of just 105 Sea Scout Groups in the UK to be officially recognised by the Royal Navy and we have held this recognition continuously from the inception of the Group. Beyond the prestige of RN recognition, there are a number of tangible benefits including access to grant aid.

Following a relaunch of the scheme two years ago, all RN Recognised Groups are now affiliated with a local RN Unit. Together with nine other Groups in the London area, we are affiliated with the London University Royal Naval Unit under the command of Lt Toby Milligan.

To maintain RN recognition, all Groups are regularly reviewed to ensure the required standards are maintained. As mentioned previously, we had our review this year and passed with flying colours.

## **WEBSITE**

We were very pleased to launch our new website early this year. Big thanks to Alex McNeil for all his work on this.

Go have a look for yourself: [www.ajax.org.uk](http://www.ajax.org.uk)

## **THANKS**

A big thank you to all who have contributed to the success of the Group over the past year. A special thanks again to all our Section Leaders and to Peter Wadsworth, looking forward to another amazing year in Ajax.

Chris West  
GROUP SCOUT LEADER

15<sup>th</sup> September 2019



## 4<sup>th</sup> Thames Ditton 'Ajax' Sea Scouts

In common with all Scout groups, the 4<sup>th</sup> Thames Ditton 'Ajax' Sea Scouts ("the Group" or "the Charity") is a charity established under the Royal Charter granted to The Scout Association dated 4<sup>th</sup> January 1912 as amended by supplemental charters dated 28<sup>th</sup> March 1949, 18<sup>th</sup> February 1959, 5<sup>th</sup> May 1967 and 19<sup>th</sup> July 1991. Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association.

### Group Information

<b>Charity Registration Number:</b>	303764
<b>Scout Association Registration Number:</b>	25880
<b>Honorary President:</b>	Mrs Marguerite Rollason MBE
<b>Honorary Vice Presidents:</b>	Mrs Janet Barber Mrs Doreen Neal Mrs Brenda Sharman
<b>Trustees Ex-Officio:</b>	
Group Scout Leader	Chris West
Assistant Group Scout Leader	Peter Wadsworth
Explorer Sea Scout Leader	Nick Barber
<b>Trustees Nominated:</b>	
Group Chair	Andrew Roberts
Group Vice-Chair	Peter Carrow
Group Advisers	George Barber Mark Faulkner Mark Marriott
Supporters	Raymond Mears
<b>Trustees Elected:</b>	
Group Treasurer	Steve Smith
Group Secretary	Kate Ashley
Beaver Scout Parent	Mark Dence
Beaver Scout Parent	Heather Ryder
Cub Scout Parent	Kerri-Lynn Hauck
Cub Scout Parent	Andrew Rowan
Sea Scout Parent	Misia Collins
Sea Scout Parent	Adrian Smith
Sea Scout Parent	Chris Eyssell
Explorer Sea Scout Parent	Susan Drewett
Explorer Sea Scout Parent	Peter Lloyd-Jones
<b>Custodian Trustees:</b>	The Scout Trust Corporation
<b>Independent Examiner:</b>	Richard Webb
<b>Contact Name and Address:</b>	Chris West 7 Campbell Close Twickenham TW2 5BZ

## Trustees Report

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the 4<sup>th</sup> Thames Ditton 'Ajax' Sea Scout Group for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

### Responsibilities of the Trustees

Charity law requires the Trustees to keep accounting records and prepare annual statements of account for the Charity which must be audited or independently examined and provided to the Charity Commission. In preparing the annual statement of accounts the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Comply with applicable accounting standards subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the annual statement of accounts; and
- Prepare the annual statement of accounts on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume the Charity will continue its operations.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and are responsible for safeguarding its assets and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### Review of Activity of the Charity

The Group currently has an active Beaver Scout Colony, Cub Scout Pack and Sea Scout Troop and a partnership agreement with the Ajax Explorer Sea Scout Unit. Key details of each Section are as follows:

- The Beaver Colony is for boys and girls aged 6 to 8 years. The Colony meets once a week and as at 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2019 has 24 members (2018: 23).
- The Cub Scout Pack is for boys and girls aged 8 to 10½ years. The Pack meets once a week and as at 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2019 has 28 members (2018: 33).
- The Sea Scout Troop is for boys and girls aged 10½ to 14. The Troop normally meets twice a week and as at 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2019 has 39 members (2018: 39).
- The Explorer Sea Scout Unit is for boys and girls aged 14½ to 18. The Unit normally meets once a week and as at 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2019 has 30 members (2018: 24)

All Sections have continued to work in accordance with the progressive training scheme as laid down by the Scout Association.

The Group has continued to operate a Royal Yachting Association Training Centre based at the Water Activities Centre and operated jointly with Warspite Sea Scouts. The RYA Centre's Principal is supported by a team of RYA Instructors with qualifications covering sailing, power boating, VHF communications and first aid.

The Group is one of just 105 Sea Scout Groups in the United Kingdom recognised by the Royal Navy. This prestigious and beneficial recognition is subject to a rigorous regular review.

### Reserves

The Trustees have adopted a formal policy on reserves which is reflected in these accounts. The policy provides that reserves be maintained at a level which has regard to:

- The risks associated with each stream of income and expenditure varying from that budgeted
- The planned activity levels
- The Group's commitments
- The need for adequate readily realisable resources to meet the Group's commitments (after subscriptions and camp fees) for the coming twelve-month period.

Readily realisable resources are defined as the balances at the bank less current liabilities and the balance on designated funds for WAC building development.

The level of reserves available at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 under the policy is £9,195 (2018: £12,405) against reserves required of £16,711.

## **Investment Policy**

The Group does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer term investments. All funds are held in cash or "at call" short term investment with The Scout Association, Skipton Building Society, and Cambridge & Counties Bank.

## **Governance**

The Group's governing documents are those of The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, The By-Laws of the Association and The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

The Group is a trust established under rules which are common to all Scout Groups.

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

The Group is managed by an Executive Committee made up of all the Charity's Trustees. As charity trustees, they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping of proper accounts and making of appropriate returns to the Charity Commission.

The Group Executive Committee consists of independent representatives comprising Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and parent representatives of each Section together with the Group Scout Leader, Assistant Group Scout Leaders and the Leaders of each Section. The Committee normally meets five times per year.

The Committee exists to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting the responsibilities of the Group and is responsible for:

- The maintenance of Group property;
- The raising of funds and the administration of the Group finance;
- The insurance of persons, property and equipment;
- Group public occasions;
- Assisting in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support;
- Appointing advisors other than those who are elected.

## **Risk Assessment**

The Committee has identified the major risks to which they believe the Group is exposed. These have been reviewed and systems established to mitigate against them as follows:

*Damage to buildings and equipment:* The Group would request the use of buildings and equipment from neighbouring organisations. The Group has sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.

*Injury to leaders, members and helpers:* The Group, through the capitation fees, contributes to The Scout Association's national accident insurance policy. Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities.

*Reduced income from fund raising:* The Group is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions and fund raising. The Group does hold a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The Committee could increase the level of subscriptions to increase the income to the Group either temporarily or permanently.

*Reduction or loss of members:* The Group provides activities for young people aged 6 to 18. If there were a reduction in membership of a particular Section or of the Group as a whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a Section, or in the worst-case scenario, the complete closure of the Group.

*Reduction or loss of leaders:* The Group is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of the Group. If there were a reduction in the number of leaders 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, or in the worst case scenario, the complete closure of the Group.

The Group requires two signatories for all payments to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss of money and holds comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.

### **Group Objectives**

The aim of the Group is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international community. The method of achieving this aim is by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law and guided by trained adult leadership.



# **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the 4<sup>th</sup> Thames Ditton 'Ajax' Sea Scouts**

I report on the accounts of the Group for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

## **Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner**

As the Charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

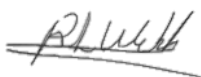
## **Basis of Examiner's Report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 seeking explanations from you as 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 connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respects the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Act and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and
  - to comply with the accounting requirements of the Acthave 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



Richard Webb  
FCCA

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Beam Ends  
41 Esher Green  
Esher Surrey  
KT10 8AH

## Statement of Financial Activities For the Year Ended 31 March 2019

	Notes	2019 £	2018 £
<b>Income from:</b>			
Donations, legacies and similar income	2.1	15,766	14,706
Subscriptions, camp fees and other activities in furtherance of the Charity's objects	2.1	58,682	58,908
Fundraising	2.1	28,332	30,187
Investment income		<u>1,170</u>	<u>343</u>
<b>Total</b>		103,950	104,144
<b>Expenditure on:</b>			
Fundraising costs	2.3	14,866	15,332
Expenses of the activities by the Group	2.3	<u>76,061</u>	<u>82,689</u>
<b>Total</b>		90,927	98,021
<b>Net Income</b>		<u>13,023</u>	<u>6,123</u>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>			
Total funds brought forward		<u>131,336</u>	<u>125,213</u>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<u>144,359</u>	<u>131,336</u>

## Balance Sheet at 31 March 2019

	Notes	2019 £	2018 £
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash at bank and in hand	3	137,265	129,644
Debtors and prepayments	4	15,163	13,930
		<hr/> 152,429	<hr/> 143,573
<b>Creditors:</b> amounts falling due within one year	5	8,070	12,293
		<hr/> 144,359	<hr/> 131,336
<b>Total net assets</b>			
<b>Funds of the Charity</b>			
Designated funds	6	132,017	116,600
Unrestricted funds	6	12,342	14,736
		<hr/> 144,359	<hr/> 131,336
<b>Total funds</b>			

Approved by the trustees on 13<sup>th</sup> Sept 2019 and signed on their behalf by:



Andrew Roberts  
Group Chairman

# Notes to the financial statements 31 March 2019

## 1. Basis of preparation of accounts

### 1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

### 1.2 Going Concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

## 2. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies, all of which have been applied consistently throughout the year, are set out below.

### 2.1 Income recognition

All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Income comprises donations, subscriptions, fundraising and investment income.

Donations are recognised once received. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the Charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the Charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

### 2.2 Expenditure and liabilities

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated or



apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings. The classification between headings is as follows:

Expenditure on fundraising includes all expenditure associated with raising funds for the charity. This includes event costs

Expenditure on charitable activities of the Group includes all costs associated with furthering the charitable purposes of the Group through the provision of its charitable activities.

### 2.3 Assets

Tangible assets acquired are written off on acquisition. During the year the expenditure was incurred of £12,500 in respect of a rigid-inflatable boat (RIB).

The lease and building are held by The Scout Association Trust Corporation on Behalf of 1<sup>st</sup> Cuddington "Warspite" and 4<sup>th</sup> Thames Ditton "Ajax" Sea Scout Groups. Ground rent is reviewed by Elmbridge Borough Council every seven years based on Retail Price Index since the last review. The current ground rent is £76 per annum, and the next review is due in 2022. The lease expires in 2080. As the lease cannot be assigned or transferred and does not permit subletting it is not considered to have any market value. There is a legal agreement between the two Groups for a Joint Liaison Committee meeting to take place at intervals of not exceeding six months to review matters of mutual interest

### 2.4 Funds

**Unrestricted General Funds** are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity.

**Designated Funds** are funds set aside out of unrestricted General Funds for specific purposes or projects.

**Restricted Funds** are funds subject to specific restrictive conditions imposed by the donors or by the purpose of the appeal. The purpose and use of restricted funds is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

## 3. Analysis of Cash at bank and in hand

	2019	2018
	£	£
Short term cash investments (less than 3 months maturity date)	91,701	90,586
Cash at bank and on hand	45,564	39,058
	<u>137,265</u>	<u>129,644</u>

## 4. Analysis of Debtors

	2019	2018
	£	£
Prepayments	4,720	4,257
Gift Aid Recoverable	4,620	4,585
Capitation	5,823	5,088
	<u>15,163</u>	<u>13,930</u>

## 5. Analysis of Creditors

	2019	2018
	£	£
Deferred Income summer camp	3,868	3,405
Expense accrual	3,472	6,469
Provision for fundraising held on account	730	2,370
	<u>8,070</u>	<u>12,239</u>

**6. Details of material funds held and movements during the current reporting period**

	Balance 1 April 2018 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers £	Balance 31 March 2019 £
<b>Designated Funds</b>					
Building					
Development fund	105,000	-	-	15,000	120,000
Canoe Fund	500	-	-	-	500
Small Craft fund	4,000	-	-	-	4,000
Tentage fund	2,150	-	-	350	2,500
WAC Security fund	2,500	-	-	-	2,500
National Regatta fund	2,450	67	-	-	2,517
<b>Total Designated</b>	116,000	67	-	10,850	132,017
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>					
General fund	14,736	12,956		(15,350)	12,342
<b>Total Funds</b>	131,336	13,023		-	144,359

**7. Restricted Funds**

There have been no restricted funds during the period under review.

**8. Transactions with Trustees**

No remuneration was paid to Trustees. Trustees were reimbursed expenses incurred on behalf of the Charity.

**9. Capital Commitments**

At 31 March 2019 there were no outstanding capital commitments (2018: nil).

**10. Contingent Liabilities**

At 31 March 2019 there were no contingent liabilities (2018: nil).

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# **Ajax Sea Scout Group** and **Explorer Sea Scout Unit**

## **KEY CONTACTS**

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Group Scout Leader	Chris West	07967 806818	gsl@ajax.org.uk
Asst. Group Scout Leader	Peter Wadsworth	07527 554029.	peter@ajax.org.uk
Beaver Colony	Peter Stephens		beavers@ajax.org.uk
Cub Pack	Ruth Mortby		cubs@ajax.org.uk
Sea Scout Troop	Diane Davison	07814 131377	troop@ajax.org.uk
Explorer Sea Scout Unit	Nick Barber	07981 037052	explorers@ajax.org.uk
Group Chairman	Andrew Roberts	020 8786 6882	chairman@ajax.org.uk
Group Secretary	Kate Ashley	020 8398 8186	secretary@ajax.org.uk
Group Treasurer			treasurer@ajax.org.uk

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**For more information about this report or membership of Ajax contact:**

Chris West  
Email: [gsl@ajax.org.uk](mailto:gsl@ajax.org.uk)

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Ajax Sea Scout Group and Explorer Sea Scout Unit  
The Chiefy Sharman Water Activities Centre  
19a Ditton Reach  
Thames Ditton  
Surrey KT7 0XB

*(No facility to receive mail at this address)*

Telephone: 020 8398 4777

Website: [www.ajax.org.uk](http://www.ajax.org.uk)

Ajax Sea Scouts is a Registered Charity No: 303764



## Summer Camp 2019 – Mersea Island

