

**1ST PORT OF GALWAY (24th
GALWAY)
SEA SCOUTS**

**ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL
STATEMENT 2022-23**

For the financial year ending August 31st 2023



Introduction

This Annual Report covers the period for the financial year of September 1st, 2022 to August 31st 2023 and details the governance, financial standing and activities of the charity related to its core purpose of youth development.

Trustees & other information

| | | |
|-------------------|---|------------------------|
| Trustees | Mihai Shirlui | Chairperson |
| | Erin Killeen | Group Leader |
| | Kenneth Larkin | Assistant Group Leader |
| | Brian Hallahan | Treasurer |
| | Damien McCoy | Secretary |
| | Denis Murphy | Bosun/Quartermaster |
| | Sinéad Ní Bhrádaigh | Youth Representative |
| Charity Secretary | Damien McCoy | |
| Charity Number | 20206534 | |
| Registered Office | Galway Ocean Sports Centre | |
| | Harbour Enterprise Park, New Docks | |
| | Galway, H91 V25X | |
| Bankers | Bank of Ireland, Salthill, Galway, H01 CR97 | |

Trustee Election

All Trustees of the Charity hold office by virtue of election to Scout Group Council at EGM on December 1st, 2022 in accordance with the Charity Constitution. All Directors hold office for 1 year, except for Group Leader who holds office for 3 years from date of election.

Group Charter

The aim of the Scout Group is to encourage the physical, intellectual, character, emotional, social, and spiritual development of young people so that they may achieve their full potential and, as responsible citizens, to improve society. The Scout Group achieves its aim through a system of progressive self-education, known as the Scout Method, which is detailed on the Scouting Ireland website.

Governance & Structure

In line with Scouting Ireland policy, the Scout Group established itself as an independent charity this year, successfully achieving charity status on 30th May 2023. The Scout Group is also affiliated to Scouting Ireland and is registered as an approved Training Centre with the Irish Sailing Association.

The Group Constitution which details the election and responsibilities of the Group Council office holders, who are also Trustees of the Charity and other aspects of good governance is published on our website. Our Membership Policy, Child Safeguarding Policy, Annual Report, Financial Statement and Conflict of Interest declarations will also be provided on our website.

The Group is registered and operates under the following names: 24th Galway 1st Port of Galway Sea Scouts, 1st Port of Galway (24th Galway) Sea Scout Group, 1st Port of Galway Sea Scouts, 24th Galway Scout Group, Port of Galway Sea Scouts, Gasóga Mara Chalafort na Gaillimhe, Galway Sea Scouts, Gasóga Mara na Gaillimhe, 1ú Gasóga Mara Chalafort na Gaillimhe.

The Trustees have committed to always act in the best interests of the members.

Group Leader Report

The Group focused heavily at the start of the year on reconstituting a Group Council, establishing good governance in preparation for our application for Charity Registration, discovery of the financial standing of the group and working through a mutual agreement with the Board of Directors of the independent Company Limited by Guarantee which was established to manage and operate the site licensed by the Port of Galway.

The primary focus remained the delivery of our youth program of Sea Scouting across all sections after the challenging period during the pandemic and ensuring that we put in place the skilled volunteers and resources required to support these activities.

I would like to thank all the Group Council members for their hard work during the Sea Scout year 2022-23. Our Group's Chairman Mihai, Secretary Damien, Bosun Denis, Treasurer Brian, acting Deputy Group Leader Ken and Youth Representative Sinéad. I would like to thank Brian for his work during the year as outgoing Treasurer and wish him well with his future endeavors outside of Sea Scouting.

The Group has recovered well from the challenges presented to delivery of its program during the pandemic and is now well positioned to grow and expand the youth development services it can offer.

Beaver Section

Beavers held hall meetings on a regular basis covering Adventure skill badge levels 1 and 2, learning skills through bases and fun games. The Beavers undertook three mini hikes, one involving a water safety talk on Ladies beach.

Beavers had 2 water safety sessions on Deadman's beach, one was a safety talk by Irish Water Safety and the other was a swimming & boat capsize drills session. Beavers took part in the Sea Scout Treasure Hunt as part of the Docklands Festival.

The Beavers loved the view of the Galway crowds sitting in Our Sea Scout Gleoiteog, the 'Loveen' during the St Patrick's Day Parade walking along in front of our specially built "Pirate Ship" trailer which included our kayaks and a tent showing some of the components of our land and sea adventures. Our

Beavers went to Shannon Air Adventures to learn about aviation for their Adventure Skills Air Level 1 badge.

Beavers had a boat trip on support motor boats and sailed in Galway Hooker traditional boats (Gleoitog's) in the harbour near Claddagh. Beavers went sailing in Hawk keelboats on the River Corrib near Dangan.

In the Spring, we held six Kayaking sessions on the river Corrib which enabled them to build their paddling skills.

The Beaver Section enjoyed an overnight stay in Renmore Den, a Camp preparation and training session in Rusheen Bay. Beavers attended our end of season Group BBQ.

Beavers took part in Galway County events which included a Halloween Spooky Walk and activity bases in Renville Park, a Cinema day in Pálás Cinema, a County Hike from Cong to Clonbur, a County skills day where the Sea Scouts ran a water safety base. Beavers attended County Camp where Sea Scouts provided one of the Camp Chiefs and Provincial Camp 'Tír na nÓg' where our group helped run the pioneering chariot building base.

Thank you to all our Beaver leaders and all our Scouters for making it possible to run so many events for our youth members throughout the Scouting year.

Cub Section

The Cub Section kicked off the year with our weekly meeting in Scoil Bhríde bonding as a Cub Pack and learning both outdoor and nautical skills together with games that encourage teamwork, leadership and resilience. This included learning about parts of a boat, the points of sailing and some formal first aid training.

We also took a trip to Eile Mental in late September where we enjoyed an outdoor game of laser tag. We then started October activities with a night trek in Rusheen Woods where we learnt to light a fire and explored nature, including learning about bat boxes which have been placed to provide a habitat for our local bats and closed the month with a Hallowe'en party which includes ghosts, Egyptian Mummies and witches all getting up to high jinks. We also took part in the Treasure Hunt that was part of the Galway Docklands Festival.

We then closed out the term with a trip to the Galway Christmas Market which included a surprise tourist train ride around the city and we also fitted in a special evening of cooking alongside our regular weekly meeting activities.

Cubs started back in February with an Orienteering event in Cappagh Park which helped the Cubs brush up on their map reading, navigation and teamwork skills and we also participated in the County Treasure Hunt which took place around the city.

In March we undertook a hike in the Burren on the Lough Avalla Farm Loop and closed out the month with our participation in the St Patrick's Day parade where our cubs enjoyed their view from inside Loveen, our Galway Hooker.

We started April with a trip to Shannon Air Adventures where they learned about the wonders of flight and the evolution of aviation and later that month, we enjoyed Kayaking as part of the Cub County Water Day in Rusheen Bay

Throughout April and May we trained our cubs in kayaking on Lough Corrib with the Galway Kayak Club, ensuring they build up their confidence on the water and their kayak handling and paddling skills.

Throughout May we undertook a light camp where the cubs practiced orienteering and pitching and packing tents and some other campcraft preparation. This was ensuring that the Cubs were prepared for the 'Tír na nÓg' Provincial Camp in early June where they joined Cubs and Beavers from across the Western Province for a fun-filled weekend of activities in Kilcornan.

We started our sailing program in May, with the Cubs joining our Scout and Venture section on Sunday mornings in Galway Bay. These gave our older youth members an opportunity to train and mentor our Cubs who are on the early stages of their sailing journey. We also undertook a Swim Safety session with Irish Water Safety in June

Some of our planned activities were curtailed due to Leader availability and we did lose a number of female cubs at the start of the year as the Monday evening meetings clashed with another club that there were members off. We actively focus on ensuring we maintain both gender balance and diversity in our Cub section.

I'd like to thank all of the volunteer Cub Leaders who gave up their time to plan and deliver the Cub program this year. The giving of their time, skills and life experiences are very much appreciated.

Scout Section

The Scout Section had a productive and busy Scouting year 2022/23 with 24 Scouts and 5 Scouters. Regular sailing sessions were run throughout September and October on the Hawk 20 Sailing boats which were loaned by the Irish Sailing Association and temporarily moored at Dangan for use on the Corrib, or at Claddagh for use in Galway Bay.

In addition to the activities listed below, hall meetings were held once a month minimum at Scoil Bhríde throughout the year. Topics covered at meetings included First Aid training, hillwalking, map reading skills, tides & navigation, and camp preparation.

Over the first few months of the scouting year in autumn, the Scouts undertook a Beach clean followed by a cook-out at the beach, ran a treasure hunt as part of the Galway Docklands Festival and participated in the Malahide Sea Scout Regatta. They also camped at Castle Ellen in Athenry and also stayed at the Ben Lettery (*Binn Leitri*) hostel in Connemara. We then closed out the year with a visit to the Galway Christmas Market.

We started back up in February with the Scoutopoly County Event, followed by maintenance work on Loveen, our Galway hooker. In March we joined the rest of the Group in the Galway St. Patrick's Day parade and also camped in the Burren. April was mostly focused on preparation and training for our upcoming Camps, including County Camp which took place in April. We then took part in the County Water Day at Rusheen Bay which was a chance to reconnect with Scouts from other groups.

In May and June we spent as many Friday evenings and Sunday mornings sailing dinghies from Dead Man's Beach at Galway Port and in July we undertook a sailing and camping expedition to Kinvara. We then wrapped up the Scouting year in August with some repair and refurbishment of RASA our cruiser boat.

Venture Section

In the Scouting year 2022-2023 we had 11 youth members register and 2 leaders.

At the start of the year we “hit the ground running” training for the 51st Sea Scout Sailing Regatta organised by Malahide Sea Scouts on Malahide Estuary straight after coming back from Nawaka, the Dutch National Sea Scout Festival. We had 4 Ventures taking part in the event alongside the scouts and we took an honourable 3rd place.

We participated in the County Galway Scouts Forum and we had one of our Ventures elected in the county team. The next activity was Ventchill, a two night residential camp organised by the County team in Castlebar Scout den where the Ventures planned and ran a series of activities and games. This was followed by a Western Province activity “Zombie Apocalypse”, a youth leadership training weekend in Castlebar.

In November we joined the Scout section on a two night stay in Ben Lettery Connemara Hostel and attempted to climb Ben Lettery (*Binn Leitrí*) which was abandoned because of the poor weather.

In 2023 the year started with the Ventures Ball on the 6th of January in the Clayton hotel and an overnight stay in the Aras, Salthill. In March we had our first camp of 2023 when we participated in the Venstorm camp organised by Western Province, a two night camp in Renville where the ventures had the opportunity to light camp or hammock.

Also in March we started the very overdue maintenance of RASA with a very good clean up and it was continuous work of sanding and washing, painting and more washing until we managed to relaunch in late July.

May Bank Holiday weekend we had the Ventures attending the County Galway Scouts Camp as staff where they helped with everything from setting up camp to kitchen duty to running bases, and later that month we had 5 Ventures starting the training for Dúshlán with a 20km hike and one night light camping. The same month we also started the sailing season as well which was run in parallel with the scouts section all summer.

Late July we had our Dúshlán teams out training again with a 35km hike and two night camping. In August we had our 5 ventures participate in the Dúshlán event with 3 ventures completing 140 km hike around Ireland over 7 days and 2 ventures completing 60 km over 3 days and all of them finished in Portlick Scouts Centre where they camped for another 3 days. This was a great achievement for all involved.

And we finished the year on a high in the first weekend of September when three ventures and one of our scouts competed in the Cong to Galway sailing race, which is about 30 nautical miles in total, and they finished first in the cruiser class.

Bosun / Quartermaster Report

We had a busy year in maintaining our current inventory and procurement of new equipment.

With our camping gear we had all our bell tents repaired and got bright new bags made for them, they certainly stand out.

More work was done on our boats where our 6 Topaz dinghies were given some much-needed repair and maintenance over the winter and some new sails were purchased. Mihai did some excellent work on the MaryAnn safety boat, varnishing all the seats, and giving the boat a good cleanout. He also led the refurbishment of the RASA, ensuring the cruiser was freshly painted and anti-fouled in time for the Kinvara trip. RASA hasn't looked so good in many years, so thank you to everyone who helped there.

The Group is expecting delivery of a new 4.5m RIB in December which will become our primary safety boat. Following sea trials in Donegal it will join our fleet in January 2024 when we expect to ask our youth members to suggest a suitable name.

We are in the process of purchasing two new Canadian Canoes and associated safety equipment, marker buoys and anchors, expecting them to be available for next year's water program.

One of the most critical parts of our equipment inventory is our dinghy fleet which supports our spring and summer sailing program in Galway Bay. Currently we operate with 6 very old Topper Topaz dinghies which were donated to us from another club many years ago. These have now reached the end of the useful service life and we have identified the replacement of these as a priority need. This formed the basis of our recent 2023 Sports Capital Grant application which is detailed later in the report, but we are hoping to have these in place for our Spring 2024 sailing program start.

All scouting activities but particularly sailing and boating causes wear and tear on our equipment so there are always opportunities for maintenance and upkeep. I encourage everyone to reach out if you have a few hours to give,

we can use any skills you might possess, even some you don't know you have!

The Sea Scout Group licenses a Unit at Galway Ocean Sports Centre which provides our primary storage area. This license expired in August 2023 and we are currently establishing its renewal. We also have access to a site and storage at Lough Atalia which we currently do not actively use and have access to a Boathouse on the River Corrib and a field for camping at Rusheen Bay.

The Sea Scout site located in Port of Galway has been placed into the management of an independent Company. The Group is partnering with the company to ensure that the site development serves the needs of the Group and Sea Scouting in general. We hope to establish the site as our main base of operations, maintenance, and storage activities as soon as possible in the future, giving us one central location to work from.

Financial Report

In our opinion the following financial statement give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as of 31 August 2023 and of its surplus for the financial year then ended;

| | 31/08/2023 | 31/08/2022 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Savings Account Incoming Balance | €202.09 | €202.09 |
| Current Account Incoming Balance | €29,307.69 | €25,944.64 |
| Total Balance | €29,509.78 | €26,146.73 |
| | | |
| Income | | |
| Membership Fees | €10,692.83 | €11,436.75 |
| Fund Raising | €0 | €770.00 |
| Grant Income | €7,192.00 | €7,207.45 |
| Activity Income | €11,221.85 | €34,224.29 |
| Total | €29,106.68 | €53,638.49 |
| | | |
| Expenditure | | |
| Membership Fees | €7,020.00 | €8,060.00 |
| Administration /Current Account Fees | €35.73 | €196.69 |
| Nawaka Camp Refund/ Expenses €26,664.26 | €2,585.50 | |
| Scouter Training | €1,790.00 | €1,120.00 |
| Boat and Tent Repairs | €2,762.93 | €2,821.47 |
| Scouting Gear (i.e. hoodies, badges) | €2,364.20 | €0 |
| Camp Expenses | €5,723.15 | €0 |
| Scout Programme / Activities | €4,200.65 | €7,165.61 |
| Insurance | €1,529.30 | €540.00 |

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Den Rental | <u>€180.00</u> | <u>€3,712.30</u> |
| Total | €28,191.46 | €50,280.33 |
| Surplus / Deficit | €915.52 | €3,358.16 |
| Closing Account | | |
| Current | €30,223.21 | €29,307.69 |
| Savings | <u>€202.09</u> | <u>€202.09</u> |
| Total | €30,425.30 | €29,509.78 |

Grant Funding

The Board of Trustees have undertaken a review of prior grant awards and undertaken submission of several new grant funding applications as outlined below.

2018 Sports Capital Grant Award

The Group recently formally accepted the 2018 Sports Capital Grant Award which was awarded to support the purchase of a new 4.5m RIB which will become our primary safety boat. We are purchasing from Atlantic Composites and expect delivery in December 2023 when we expect to ask our youth members to suggest a suitable name. The total cost is €32,800 with €8,200 of our own funding required and €24,600 grant funding awarded which we will draw down immediately.

2020 Sports Capital Grant Award

A 2020 Sports Capital Grant Award for Boathouse Building and associated Services for works of a total cost of €49,826.00, comprising of €10,000 of own funding and €39,826 grant funding award has been reviewed by the Trustees and it is recommended that we request this is transferred to the CLG that manage and operate the Port site for which this grant pertains. It may also require scope amendment given the expected needs of the site now, but that will be for the Independent CLG Directors to determine.

The transfer of this grant award and the €10,000 own funding element to the CLG is dependent on the agreement of the Funding Award body (Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media) and the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that the Trustees have established with the CLG Directors, including the

establishment of a formal license agreement for the Scout Group to use the site and its facilities on a preferential basis. The MoU is published on our website.

2023 Sports Capital Grant Award

We have just submitted our application under the 2023 Sports Capital Grant program for 10 new Topaz dinghies which we hope to enable us to have these boats available for April 2024 and the start of the sailing season. The total expenditure for these dinghies is €52,996.40, with €47,690.00 applied for, leaving a balance of €5,306.40 which the Group would need to fund.

GRETB Local Youth Club Grant Scheme 2023

We successfully applied for a €2,547 Grant which we are using to fund the purchase of two Canadian Canoes, Paddles, and other safety equipment. This grant has been fully drawn down.

Galway Sport Partnership & Galway City Council

We were awarded a Club Development Grant of €550 to support female participation and utilized this funding to enable three female leaders to obtain their 'Introduction to Powerboating' Irish Sailing Association certification. In addition to providing them with a formal qualification it also ensures that our female youth members have female role models for our sailing activities.

We have applied for a Sports Club Grant 2023 of approximately €3,000 to support the club running expenses associated with the refurbishment of the RASA cruiser, various buoys and anchors and leader training for which a grant award decision is pending.

Tesco Community Fund

We gained a grant award of €600 by enrolling in the Blue Token Community support scheme with Tesco Knocknacarra. We hope to avail of this scheme on a regular basis and hopefully to expand it to other Galway branches of Tesco.

Fundraising

As we focused on re-establishing the group after the pandemic, we did not undertake any direct fundraising activities. We plan to launch a new Fundraising Team in 2023 to plan a number of fundraising activities. This ensures that the financial burden on families is reduced and also ensures that we will meet the fundraising criteria of various grant schemes which usually require us to provide partial funding.

We also plan to seek corporate fundraising from the multinational sector in Galway, especially those who may have locations in the docks area or who may have a special interest in youth development, wind or water.

Our stated fundraising target will be €10,000 per annum which we hope to achieve progressively over the next number of years.

Membership Data

Each year, the Group is required to take a membership census of active adult and child members for submission to Scouting Ireland. A payment of €65 is paid to Scouting Ireland for each registered member. For youth members this is paid from their Group annual fees and for Adult volunteers this is paid on their behalf from group funds.

The 2023 Group membership census is shown below and an associated payment of €7,020 was made to Scouting Ireland on 17th July 2023.

| | Male | Female | Total | Fee | Due |
|------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----|--------------|
| Scouter | 16 | 9 | 25 | | €1625 |
| Scouter + Rover | 1 | 1 | 2 | | €130 |
| Associate | 0 | 0 | 0 | | €0 |
| Rover | 1 | | 1 | | €65 |

| | | | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|--------------|
| Transferring to Adult Membership | 0 | 0 | 0 | | €0 |
| Pending Members | 4 | 1 | 5 | | €0 |
| Honorary Members | 0 | 0 | 0 | | €0 |
| | | | | | |
| Beaver Scouts | 10 | 6 | 16 | | €1040 |
| Cub Scouts | 19 | 10 | 29 | | €885 |
| Scouts | 14 | 10 | 24 | | €1560 |
| Venture Scouts | 8 | 3 | 11 | | €715 |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | Over 18 Fees | €1820 |
| | | | | Under 18 Fees | €5200 |
| | | | | Fees Paid | €7020 |

2023 Annual Census and Scouting Ireland Fee Statement

Conclusion

We wish to thank our volunteers, supporters, partners and most importantly our youth members. You are all helping to grow and develop Sea Scouting in Galway City and ensure that we can support as many people as possible as they prepare for their journey to adulthood.

Trustee Declaration

We declare this Annual report to be a true and fair representation of the standing of the 1st Port of Galway (24th Galway) Sea Scout Group and approve it for submission to the Charities Regulator and Scouting Ireland.

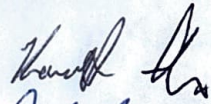
Mihai Shirlui Chairperson



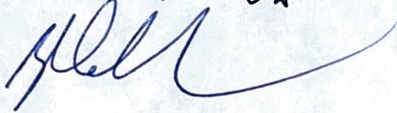
Erin Killeen Group Leader



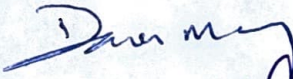
Edmund Larkin Assistant Group Leader




Brian Hallahan Treasurer



Damien McCoy Secretary



Denis Murphy Bo'sun/Quartermaster



Sinéad Ní Bhrádaigh Youth Representative

