



ANNUAL REPORT

Financial year: November 2015 - October 2016
Charity number 1102633

www.apexchallenge.co.uk



The Apex Challenge is considered to be among the toughest of all the UK's adventure competitions with events each year for Explorer Scouts and Scout Network members aged 14-25.

Combining challenging outdoor activities with navigation and teamwork, our events offer a unique adventure experience. Our dedicated team of volunteers is working to modernise and energise the whole Scouting movement with dynamic events and activities.



The **Apex Challenge** became a registered charity in 2004 and is governed by its own declaration of trust. The charity operates throughout England and Wales. It is also part of the Scout Association and operates under its rules and guidelines. Its aims are '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 the local, national and international communities particularly by the provision of specialised outdoor activities'.

The Apex Challenge currently has three trustees. These first trustees are permanent appointments:

- **Matthew Richards:** The Old Barn, 11B The Cross, Barwick-in-Elmet, Leeds, LS15 4JP.
(Registered charity address.)
- **David Pape:** 45 Old Road, Stanningley, Pudsey, LS28 6BG.
- **James Webster:** 45 Old Road, Stanningley, Pudsey, LS28 6BG.

New trustees may be appointed by the existing trustees for a term of one year by a resolution passed at a special meeting called under clause 15 of the Apex Challenge declaration of trust.

If you would like further copies of this annual report, please write to Apex Challenge, 45 Old Road, Stanningley, Pudsey, LS28 6BG. A small charge to cover printing, postage and packing will be required.

From the trustees...

"What a great atmosphere!"

"It can be really intense or people can just come for a laugh."

"It was my favourite Apex yet."



Matt Richards - Event Director

Reading through the comments we get after the event on social media and through our questionnaires, it's always hugely rewarding to see the impact we make on those who take part.

Whether they come to our events to push themselves to the physical limit of endurance, or just for a fun weekend away with their mates, we're proud that the Apex Challenge has created a unique atmosphere in which young people can develop.

2016 was another great year for us with two more big events. Although we had lower than anticipated numbers in the spring, by October we were packed to capacity. Throughout the year we have continued to develop the activities we provide, the formats for the events and the team who deliver it all. Without everyone's dedication and incredible hard work none of this would be possible, so our thanks go out to everyone who's done their bit for the Apex Challenge in 2016.

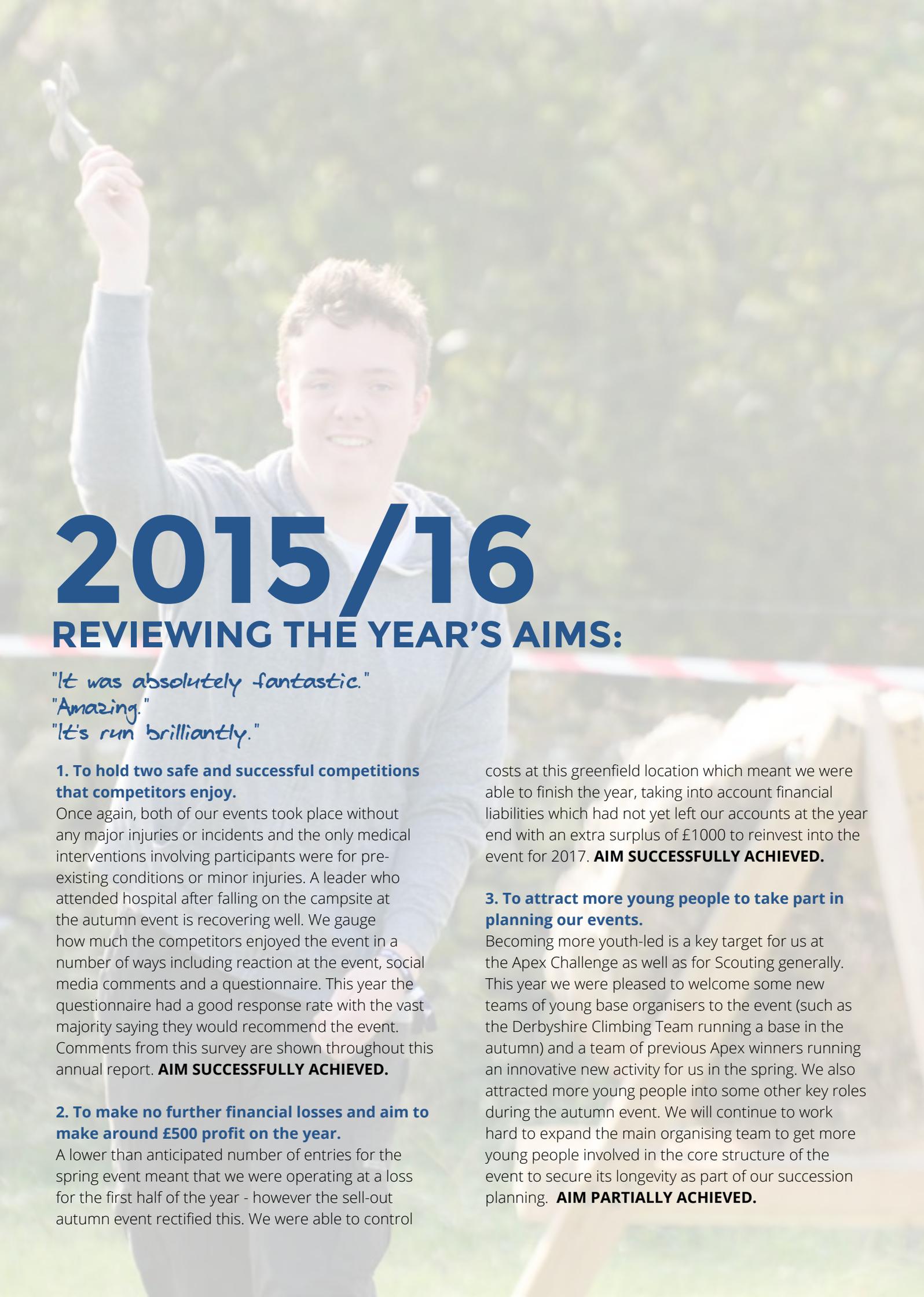
In 2017 we are resting the overnight format, which usually takes place in the spring, and concentrating our efforts on just one big event in the autumn at Bramham Park in West Yorkshire. We can't wait to see you there!

Statement of public benefit

In seeking to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical intellectual social and spiritual potentials, the Apex Challenge has this year staged two large outdoor adventure competitions for members of the Scout Association.

The two events provided opportunities for around 700 young people to take part in a wide variety of activities that allow them to demonstrate their physical skills as well as promoting teamwork and social interaction.

In organising these events, the charity has had due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising its powers and duties.



2015/16

REVIEWING THE YEAR'S AIMS:

*"It was absolutely fantastic."
"Amazing."
"It's run brilliantly."*

1. To hold two safe and successful competitions that competitors enjoy.

Once again, both of our events took place without any major injuries or incidents and the only medical interventions involving participants were for pre-existing conditions or minor injuries. A leader who attended hospital after falling on the campsite at the autumn event is recovering well. We gauge how much the competitors enjoyed the event in a number of ways including reaction at the event, social media comments and a questionnaire. This year the questionnaire had a good response rate with the vast majority saying they would recommend the event. Comments from this survey are shown throughout this annual report. **AIM SUCCESSFULLY ACHIEVED.**

2. To make no further financial losses and aim to make around £500 profit on the year.

A lower than anticipated number of entries for the spring event meant that we were operating at a loss for the first half of the year - however the sell-out autumn event rectified this. We were able to control

costs at this greenfield location which meant we were able to finish the year, taking into account financial liabilities which had not yet left our accounts at the year end with an extra surplus of £1000 to reinvest into the event for 2017. **AIM SUCCESSFULLY ACHIEVED.**

3. To attract more young people to take part in planning our events.

Becoming more youth-led is a key target for us at the Apex Challenge as well as for Scouting generally. This year we were pleased to welcome some new teams of young base organisers to the event (such as the Derbyshire Climbing Team running a base in the autumn) and a team of previous Apex winners running an innovative new activity for us in the spring. We also attracted more young people into some other key roles during the autumn event. We will continue to work hard to expand the main organising team to get more young people involved in the core structure of the event to secure its longevity as part of our succession planning. **AIM PARTIALLY ACHIEVED.**

"I enjoyed this weekend more because the chasers add another exciting element to the event."

SPRING EVENT: TEMPLE NEWSAM

With the muddiest tunnel in Apex history, a dozen tough challenges and a brand new area – our 25th Apex Challenge event proved once again to be an unforgettable weekend.

Hundreds of keen adventurers joined us at Temple Newsam for this overnight adventure challenge where the icy night and sunny morning proved a great backdrop for the event.

Whether the teams were grovelling through the adventure caving bus, testing their target skills at the archery, or pushing their team bonding to the limit at the skill games, the teams all took part with impressive teamwork and positivity. But it wasn't just about the activities. Teams were also hunting for the escaped giant owl, while trying to hide from our teams of highly skilled chasers who were desperate to track them down and steal points away.

While this event provided a great weekend for those taking part, the number of teams able to join us for this event was down on recent years. The very early Easter break meant schools in different areas took holidays at varying times making it more difficult for some teams to join us and the event reached just 75% capacity. Because of the financial impact of these reduced numbers, the Apex team worked hard to manage costs during the rest of the year.



"It was my favourite yet. The bases just seemed better and the control points were more challenging to find."

AUTUMN EVENT: EASTERN MOORS

With a stunning new area and a host of new and challenging activities, this event was genuinely one of the toughest ever.

After Friday night's Apex Intense where teams completed a 'sprint' version of the main event, Saturday was the main attraction. This new area of the Peak District provided us with a stunning location to provide a wide range of activities.

With six hours to visit as many points as they can, teams needed a great strategy to succeed. Activities ranged from kayaking across an open lake to scaling a sheer rock face and hurling axes. But time was ticking and it was those who used clever route planning with endurance and determination who came out on top.

On Saturday night the teams were rewarded by a great live performance from the Boon Dogs as part of Saturday Night Live, then on Sunday they took on the toughest ever Apex Adventure Race. The 5.2km course took in open moorland, rocky edges and thick forest, but dotted along the route were also more than a dozen obstacles. From crawls under 'barbed' wire to slides down firemen's poles, tough mazes and wobbling bridges this tested the endurance of even the fittest competitors.

Following the low numbers at the spring event, we were pleased to see this competition sell out well ahead of the event. In total 99 teams took part, creating a great atmosphere through the weekend.



Check out the exclusive video of this event:

www.facebook.com/apexchallenge



Royal award for 'inspirational' event

Following last year's assessment by the Duke of York's Community Initiative, members of the Apex Challenge were this year invited to meet Prince Andrew to receive a certificate of recognition.

During the day, the Duke listened to members of the Apex team explain what our competitions entail and how they benefit the young people who take part. He spoke of how it was his place to say "thank you" to charities such as ours and to urge us "keep doing what you're doing".

A new future for Apex

For almost 15 years the Apex Challenge has been staging some of the biggest competitions in Scouting with two main competitions every year. This year has been an opportunity to reflect on what we are doing and how we can carry on organising such events in 2017 and beyond.

The events we organise take months of planning and work commitments now mean that some of the charity trustees have less time to put into organising our events than they did 15 years ago. None of the team want the standard of our events to drop and so the decision has been made to put all our efforts into organising one major event each year instead.



Thank you!

A huge thanks to everyone who has once again worked so hard to make the Apex Challenge possible:

Ben Abell, Aaron Adams, Joanne Alflat, Simon Atha, Matt Atkinson, Ashley Baker, Andrew Batley, John Batley, Rob Batley, Grace Baxter, Martin Bennett, Phil Bennett, Sam Bennett, Andrew Billington, Jo Blythe, Ian Bradshaw, Sean Brady, Michelle Bragg, Ian Brannan, Abby Brown, James Brown, Ruth Bullivant-Layton, Kevin Bumby, Stewart Butler, Jake Carpenter, Tony Casson, Charles Cave, Sarah Cave, Julia Charlesworth, Joe Christian, James Clarke, Darrell Coates, Brad Cole, Tom Conroy, Ian Cook, David Cooper, Jake D'Souza Kelly, Alex Detalia Riley, James Dobson, James Downs, Rachel Edwards, Alex Ellis, Sam Farnsworth, Mike Fawcett, Martyn Foster, Paul Fox, Richard Galliford, James Garrett, Richard Garrett, Phillip Gillingham, Fran Glew, Rob Godfrey, Tim Hague, Tom Hague, Steve Hall, Elinor Hamilton, Sarah Harris, Ricky Harrison, Simon Harrison, Guy Harrison, Graham Harrop, Sarah Henell, Ian Hill, Lucy Hobbs, Richard Hollingworth, Janet Horner, Samuel Hough, Alex Hummel, David Ingledew, Andy Jackson, Duncan Jefferies, Marcus Jenkinson, Karl Jones, George King, Alison Lamb, Danny Levick, Kristian Lucas, Maria Mahon, Ross Masters, Sarah McConnachie-Kessel, Neil McKay, Bruce Meek, Andrew Melloney, Jack Mellors, Adam Mitchell, Jon Mitchell, Derek Mollan, Andy Moore, Dom Moore, Lynn Moore, Dave Mott, David Needham, Charlie Newton, Phillip Norton, Richard Oliver, Andy Pagett, David Pape, Gordon Parkinson, John Parkinson, Marion Parkinson, Simon Peers, Andrew Phipps, Nicky Phipps, David Platts, Andrew Plummer, Lee Plummer, Lynne Plummer, Sara Plummer, Claire Probert, James Purdy, John Putland, Hayley Richardson, Matt Richards, Nigel Redfern, Brian Robinson, Danny Rogers, Bev Rothery, Mark Rothery, Dave Scott, Mike Sharp, Dom Sharpe, John Smallwood, Tom Smith, Mike Snaith, Chris Spencer, Mike Squires, Ben Stevenson, Matt Stevenson, Sian Stockham, Jason Stubbs, Molly Stubbs, Nadine Sweeney, Bob Teasdale, Ian Thompson, David Thorp, Haley Toseland, James Tucker, Sam Turnbull, Julia Voyse, Matt Ward, Tom Ward, Edward Watchorn, David Webster, James Webster, Carolyn Welborn, Kevin Welborn, Will Wells, Jim Wild, Susan Wragg, David Yates, Mark Yates.

Accounts summary



David Pape - Treasurer

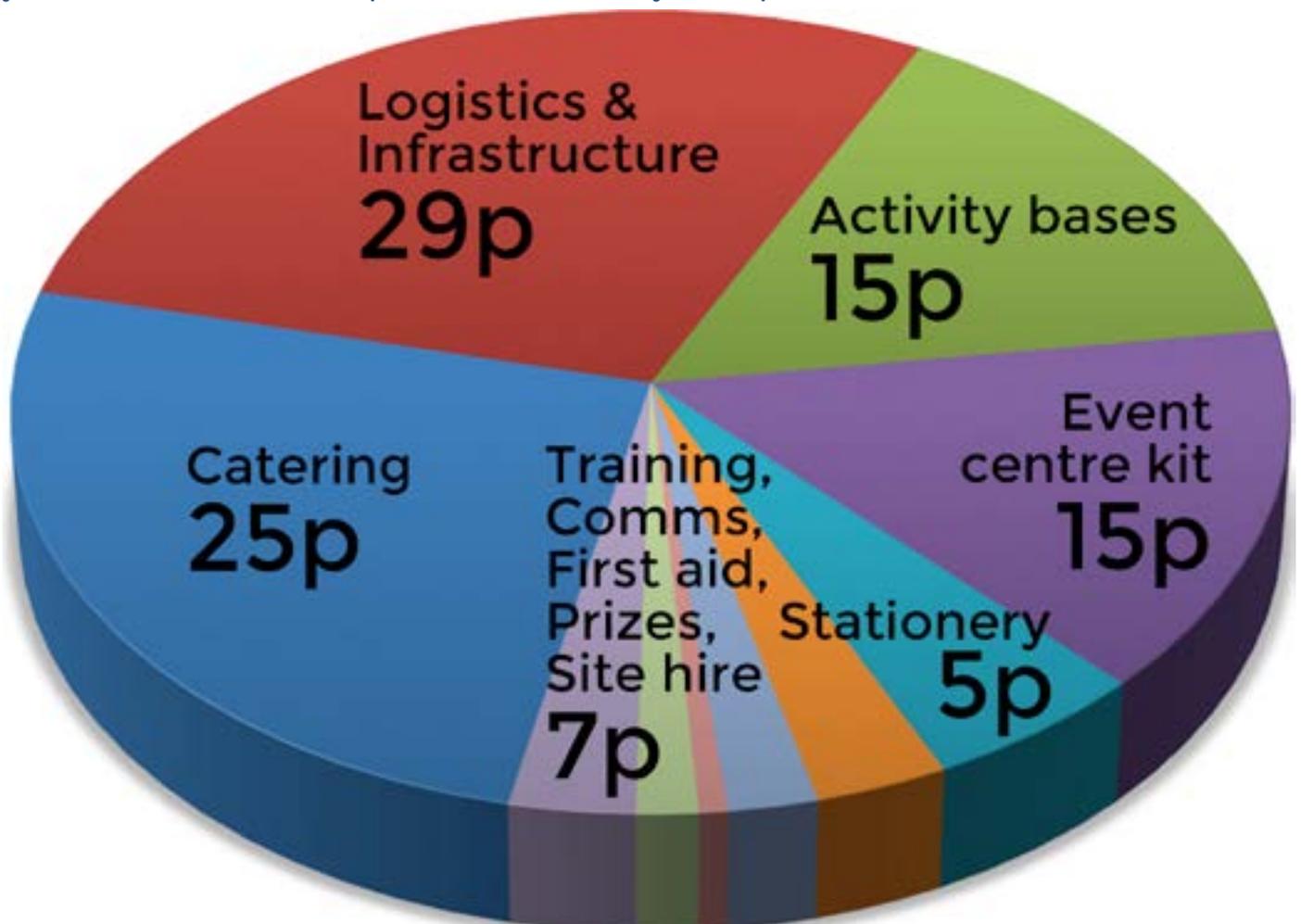
2015-16 has been a successful year for the Apex Challenge financially. The figures show that we have made a profit of £2902 this year.

It is however important to note that this figure is skewed because there are payments totalling £1437 that have been made in the next financial year that relate to events this year and an outstanding loan for cash flow purposes of £500 to be repaid to a trustee. This means that in reality we have made a profit of around £1000 on the year.

This year our spring event made a loss. This was due to a slightly lower number of entries than expected combined with some fixed costs for the event. A sell-out autumn event made a profit, which has offset the loss in made in spring. We have also been careful this year with spending, resulting in no asset purchases.

We aim to have reserves in the bank that give us a financial cushion when planning future events in case of unforeseen events. We are entering 2016-17 with around £6600 which acts as a buffer to cover any unexpected costs which could arise from our activities this year.

Every Apex Challenge has varying income and costs. The graph below gives an indication, based on this year's accounts, of how each pound of a team's entry fee is spent.



We always try to spend money within Scouting where possible to keep funds within the Movement. Of our total expenditure this year, the amount remaining in Scouting was:

£4120

Section A: Statement of receipts and payments

A full list of receipts and payments, from which this summary has been prepared, is available on request.

	Unrestricted funds this year (2015-2016)	Restricted funds this year (2015-2016)	Unrestricted funds last year (2014-2015)	Restricted funds last year (2014-2015)
Receipts				
Entry fees (Spring)	£ 6840	£ 0	£ 8904	£ 0
T-shirt sales (Spring)	£ 1616	£ 0	£ 1939	£ 0
Other merchandise sales (Spring)	£ 164	£ 0	£ 168	£ 0
Entry fees (Autumn)	£ 15000	£ 0	£ 14000	£ 0
T-shirt sales (Autumn)	£ 1132	£ 0	£ 1211	£ 0
Other merchandise sales (Autumn)	£ 248	£ 0	£ 591	£ 0
Income from third party events	£ 0	£ 0	£ 0	£ 0
Sponsorship donations	£ 0	£ 0	£ 192	£ 0
Miscellaneous income (incl interest)	£ 507 ¹	£ 0	£ 2	£ 0
Sub-total	£ 25507	£ 0	£ 27007	£ 0
Assets and investment sales	£ 0	£ 0	£ 0	£ 0
Total receipts	£ 25507	£ 0	£ 27007	£ 0

Payments

Activity bases	£ 3433	£ 0	£ 3576	£ 0
Catering	£ 5288 ²	£ 0	£ 6356	£ 0
Communications and first aid	£ 326	£ 0	£ 527	£ 0
Event centre kit	£ 2221 ³	£ 0	£ 2536	£ 0
Information technology	£ 470	£ 0	£ 783	£ 0
Logistics and infrastructure	£ 6386	£ 0	£ 6277	£ 0
Merchandise	£ 1783	£ 0	£ 2659	£ 0
Prizes	£ 665	£ 0	£ 448	£ 0
Site hire	£ 700	£ 0	£ 1800	£ 0
Stationery and printing	£ 1180	£ 0	£ 89	£ 0
Training	£ 153	£ 0	£ 606	£ 0
Sub-total	£ 22605	£ 0	£ 25656	£ 0
Assets and investment purchases	£ 0	£ 0	£ 1392	£ 0
Total payments	£ 22605	£ 0	£ 27049	£ 0
Net of receipts/payments	£ 2902⁴	£ 0	£ -42	£ 0
Cheques written but now expired	£ 0	£ 0	£ 0	£ 0
Cheques received but now expired	£ 0	£ 0	£ -193	£ 0
Cash funds last year end	£ 5638	£ 0	£ 5873	£ 0
Cash funds this year end	£ 8540	£ 0	£ 5638	£ 0

NOTES

Column totals may not sum correctly due to rounding. All amounts are shown to the nearest pound.

¹ receipts includes a loan from one of the trustees of £500 to aid cash flow which is yet to be refunded.

² payments should also show a further £365 spent on catering but which did not leave our bank account before the year end.

³ payments should also show a further £1073 spent on event centre kit which did not leave our bank account before the year end.

⁴ net of receipts/payments going forward to 2016-17 is effectively reduced by the amounts detailed in notes 1-3.

Section B: Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of this period

Cash funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds
Cash in hand	£ 0	£ 0
Bank account balance (as at 31 Oct 2016)	£ 8865	£ 0
Sub-total	£ 8865	£ 0
Less cheques written but not cashed	£ 325	£ 0
Total cash funds this year end	£ 8540	£ 0

Assets retained for the charity's own use	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost at purchase
Total value of assets purchased before 2015-16	Unrestricted	£ 6392

Liabilities	Fund to which liability belongs	Amount due
SportIdent expenses	Unrestricted	£ 427
Catering expenses	Unrestricted	£ 365
North Yorkshire Scouts activity kit	Unrestricted	£ 645

Declaration

This annual report and summary of accounts is signed to certify it is a true and accurate record of the Apex Challenge's activities for 2015-16. To the best of our knowledge all details contained within this document are correct and no essential details have been deliberately omitted.

Matthew Richards (Trustee) _____

Date: _____

David Pape (Trustee) _____

Date: _____

James Webster (Trustee) _____

Date: _____

Independent Examiner's report

I report on the accounts of the Apex Challenge (charity number 1102633) for the year ended 31 October 2016 which comprise the 'Statement of receipts and payments' and 'Statement of assets and liabilities' set out on pages 9 and 10.

This report is made solely to the trustees in accordance with Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees for my examination work.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Apex Challenge trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under Section 145 of the Charities Act,
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Apex Challenge 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 the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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 respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have 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.

Signed (Independent examiner) _____

Date: _____

Sarah Harris - Solicitor of England & Wales (Non-practising),

Inglewood House, Lingards Road, Slaithwaite, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD7 5HY.

2016 HALL OF FAME

Spring event: Temple Newsam



Explorers Competition Winners
Picking A Name Is The Hardest Part
Halifax Sea Scouts (West Yorkshire)

Autumn event: Eastern Moors



Explorers Competition Winners
Master Baiters Come Again
Woodseats Scout Unit (South Yorkshire)



Network Competition Winners
You Got Bante - Jo Smells
Roundhay Red Kite Network (West Yorkshire)



Network Competition Winners
Winning - That's What We Do Best
Halifax Sea Scouts (West Yorkshire)



JCH Award Winners
Hwan King
Halifax Sea Scouts (West Yorkshire)



JCH Award Winners
Frozen & Chill
St. Neots ESU (Cambridgeshire)

Join the adventure in 2017:
www.apexchallenge.co.uk