



ANNUAL REPORT

Financial year: November 2018 - December 2019
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.



Matt Richards - Event Director

2019 was another very busy year for the Apex team which led up to one of our toughest ever events.

We were proud to take the event to a new area, holding the competition on the exclusive Ampleforth Estate in North Yorkshire for the first time. But choosing a new site also brings its issues, such as not being able to confirm the final details until later in the year, and also being underprepared for what the ground conditions may be like.

Weeks of heavy rainfall in September led to a very boggy field for our October event which brought problems with access, the site build and logistics through the weekend. But we are extremely proud of our Apex team who rose to the challenge, pulling off another successful event which hundreds of young people thoroughly enjoyed.

We're all ready to do the same in 2020 but hopefully with slightly less mud!

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 this year staged a large adventure competition for members of the Scout Association.

The event provided opportunities for almost 400 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.

Legal information

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 Barn, 3 Cherry Tree Court, Sherburn in Elmet, Leeds, North Yorkshire, LS25 6PZ. (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.

2018/19

REVIEWING THE YEAR'S AIMS:

"I've never been so muddy in my life and it all just added to the enjoyment of my Apex weekend!"

1. To aim for more activities at this year's competition than ever before.

This year's Apex Challenge had 12 activity bases which was fewer than in 2019. It remains a challenge trying to find more people to run activity bases at the event and a conscious decision was made when it became clear we did not have enough people to run more activities to concentrate on quality rather than quantity. Part of the problem was not having a confirmed event date until much later in the year than usual. **AIM NOT ACHIEVED.**

2. To stage an event at a new playing area.

The 2019 Apex Challenge was staged for the first time on the Ampleforth Estate in North Yorkshire. This provided a great playing area for teams to explore throughout the weekend which had varied terrain including woodland, open spaces, hills and lakes. There was also no shortage of camping and parking space. It is a site the event could easily return to again in the future, even though the main event field would need to be moved to one with better drainage. **AIM ACHIEVED.**

3. To make a slight financial profit, and definitely not a financial loss.

Financially the Apex Challenge faced several challenges in 2019 which had an unexpected impact on the end of year bank balance, notably the significant purchase of a new printer. There were also extra costs associated with the unpredictably wet weather during the event weekend and costs associated with some damaged catering equipment. As a result the charity ends the year with £3930 less in the bank than at the start of the year. **AIM NOT ACHIEVED.**

4. To recruit more people to the core organising team.

It remains an aim of the charity to find more people who can assist with the organisation of future events. During the 2019 competition more thought was given to what roles could benefit from additional support from new team members in future years and attempts will be made during 2020 to find people who could take on such responsibilities with a view to getting them more involved in the organisation of the event in the future. **AIM NOT YET ACHIEVED.**

"No doubt THE BEST
camp I've ever been on in
Scouting!"

THE MUDDY ONE: AMPLEFORTH ESTATE

The 2019 Apex Challenge had it all – a tough new area, loads of exciting activities, our most challenging Adventure Race and simply mountains of mud!

As teams arrived, the challenges had already begun for the organising team. The field was starting to flood, cars were getting stuck and the pre-arranged parking plan had already been ripped up. The mud was spreading – but so was the infectious enthusiasm as teams started to appear in the camping field, eager for what lay ahead.

The Apex Intense soon began. Teams were racing off over the inflatable assault course on their 70 minute moonlit adventure. With 15 places to try to find, teams were struggling as the muddy paths and difficult terrain started to bite.

But this was no time to slow down – as the Apex chasers were out in force. Being caught meant losing 25 points – and that night 20 teams fell victim to the chasers' skills and ingenuity. As teams arrived back, excitement for the rest of the weekend's activities was building.

As the sun shone on Saturday morning, the main event began. Teams grovelled their way around the caving bus, mountain biked with dripping colanders on their heads, zorbed their way over an assault course and fired arrows at tricky targets. Others raced across the lake in a canoe, while more tackled tough skill games in the high tech "Grid".

It was a long, challenging day and after a quick results update it was time for our guest band The Electric Idols to play their way into Saturday night. The marquee was packed with dancing, singing and impromptu stage diving.

Sunday morning arrived - the day of the Adventure Race - with teams setting off on our most challenging ever 5K route. It took in steep ascents, watery river crossings, and loads of marshy mud baths – as well as a series of tough obstacles.

From the grovel at "Boggy Log" to the nasty climb at "Vertical Limit", the tricky rope course of "Web of Deceit" and the impossible ascent of "Banking Crisis" – each challenge was testing the teams to the max. But the long string of obstacles at the lakeside assault course was really the pinnacle. Scramble nets, walls, tunnels and mazes.

As teams returned to the sweet smell of the Apex BBQ, the results were being compiled and the event was drawing to an end with prizes for the top teams and the climax of a truly memorable weekend of adventure – all made possible by the hugely talented team of more than 70 Apex volunteers.

Check out the exclusive video of this event:

www.facebook.com/apexchallenge

Accounts summary



David Pape - Treasurer

At the start of the financial year we set the aim of making a financial profit during 2018/19 and certainly not a financial loss. This aim was not achieved with a loss this year of £3930.

This loss is due to some unexpected expenses, liabilities from the last financial year that have been settled in this financial year and some equipment purchases. Without these costs and taking into account liabilities settled from the previous financial year we would have seen a £23 profit this year.

We have changed our financial year reporting period to end on 31st December. These accounts cover the period 01/11/18 to 31/12/2019. This has been done to help ensure that all costs for an event can be paid in the same financial year, making it easier to get a true financial picture of each event. This has helped this year but we still have a £512 liability that has been paid in the next financial year, and have settled the £2124 liabilities from the last financial year.

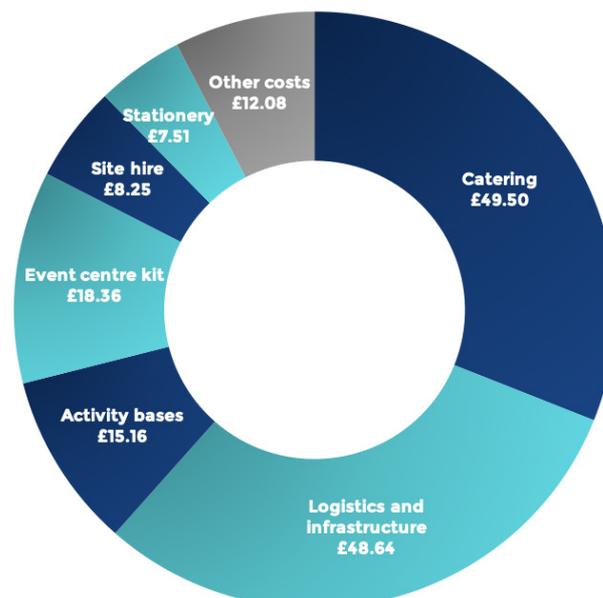
£1122 was spent on buying equipment that will be used in subsequent years including a new printer to replace the existing one that stopped working after many years of use.

Other unexpected costs include mud related expenses totalling £430 (cleaning and mats), and some accidental damage of hired equipment (£790).

At the end of this year we have a financial buffer that is 15% of outgoing costs. This seems acceptable, but does not leave much breathing room for future unexpected costs. This will be taken into account when deciding on spending and entry fees for next 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 (excluding one-off asset purchases).



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:

£2619

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 (2018-2019)	Restricted funds this year (2018-2019)	Unrestricted funds last year (2017-2018)	Restricted funds last year (2017-2018)
Receipts				
Entry fees	£ 15360	£ 0	£ 14100	£ 0
T-shirt sales	£ 2464	£ 0	£ 2040	£ 0
Other merchandise sales	£ 1305	£ 0	£ 487	£ 0
Income from third party events	£ 0	£ 0	£ 0	£ 0
Sponsorship donations	£ 0	£ 0	£ 0	£ 0
Miscellaneous income (incl interest)	£ 0	£ 0	£ 321	£ 0
Sub-total	£ 19129	£ 0	£ 16947	£ 0
Assets and investment sales	£ 0	£ 0	£ 0	£ 0
Total receipts	£ 19129	£ 0	£ 16947	£ 0

Payments				
Activity bases	£ 1837	£ 0	£ 1471	£ 0
Catering	£ 5999	£ 0	£ 3721	£ 0
Communications and first aid	£ 60	£ 0	£ 163	£ 0
Event centre kit	£ 2225	£ 0	£ 1984	£ 0
Information technology	£ 1340	£ 0	£ 455	£ 0
Logistics and infrastructure	£ 5895	£ 0	£ 4906	£ 0
Merchandise	£ 2548	£ 0	£ 1387	£ 0
Prizes	£ 64	£ 0	£ 166	£ 0
Site hire	£ 1000	£ 0	£ 600	£ 0
Stationery and printing	£ 971	£ 0	£ 87	£ 0
Training	£ 0	£ 0	£ 0	£ 0
Sub-total	£ 21937	£ 0	£ 14940	£ 0
Assets and investment purchases	£ 1222	£ 0	£ 0	£ 0
Total payments	£ 23059	£ 0	£ 14940	£ 0
Net of receipts/payments	£ -3931	£ 0	£ 2007	£ 0
Cheques written but now expired	£ 0	£ 0	£ 0	£ 0
Cheques received but now expired	£ 0	£ 0	£ 0	£ 0
Cash funds last year end	£ 7623	£ 0	£ 5616	£ 0
Cash funds this year end	£ 3692	£ 0	£ 7623	£ 0

NOTES

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

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

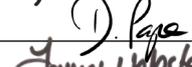
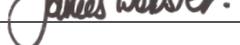
Cash funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds
Cash in hand	£ 0	£ 0
Bank account balance (as at 31 Dec 2019)	£ 3692	£ 0
Sub-total	£ 3692	£ 0
Less cheques written but not cashed	£ 0	£ 0
Total cash funds this year end	£ 3692	£ 0

Newly purchased assets retained for the charity's own use	Fund	Purchase cost
A3 Colour Laser Printer	Unrestricted	£ 887
Trailer	Unrestricted	£ 235

Liabilities	Fund	Amount due
The charity had financial liabilities at the end of the financial year	Unrestricted	£ 512

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 2018-19. 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) 
 David Pape (Trustee) 
 James Webster (Trustee) 

Signed electronically on date: 6th May 2020

Signed electronically on date: 6th May 2020

Signed electronically on date: 6th May 2020

Independent Examiner's report

I report on the accounts of Apex Challenge for the year ended 31 December 2019 which comprise the 'Statement of receipts and payments' set out on page 5 of the annual report.

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) 

Signed electronically on date: 24th June 2020

Sarah Harris - Solicitor of England & Wales (Non-practising),
 Inglewood House, Lingards Road, Slaithwaite, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD7 5HY.

2019 HALL OF FAME

Explorers Competition Winners



006.9

**Stannington, Fulwood Explorers
South Yorkshire**

Network Competition Winners



**The Dinner Lady Assault
Force**

**Cromwell Network
Cambridgeshire**

JCH Award Winners



Dixie Normous

**Tame Valley Explorers
Greater Manchester East**

Thank you to all who make Apex possible...

Ben Abell, Lloyd Acornley, Aaron Adams, Scott Adgar, Joanne Alflat, Alex Atkin, Fiona Atkin, Matt Atkinson, Sheenagh Austin, Ashley Baker, Debbie Baker, Matthew Barnes, Rob Batley, Martin Bennett, Phil Bennett, Sam Bennett, Neil Benson, Andrew Billington, Jo Blythe, Ian Bradshaw, Sean Brady, Michelle Bragg, Ian Brannan, Rachel Breeden, Abby Brown, Graham Brown, James Brown, Ruth Bullivant-Layton, Kevin Bumby, Darren Burgess, Stewart Butler, Jake Carpenter, Tony Casson, Charles Cave, Sarah Cave, Julia Charlesworth, Joe Christian, James Clarke, Brad Cole, Tom Conroy, Ian Cook, David Cooper, Harry Curtis, Jake D'Souza Kelly, Alex Detalia Riley, James Dobson, James Downs, Rachel Edwards, Alex Ellis, Sam Farnsworth, Mike Fawcett, Rosie Flint, Paul Fox, Richard Galliford, James Garrett, Richard Garrett, Fran Glew, James Godfrey, Rob Godfrey, Tim Hague, Tom Hague, Steve Hall, Elinor Hamilton, Tom Hamilton, Sarah Harris, Ricky Harrison, Charlotte Harrison, Simon Harrison, Guy Harrison, Tom Harrison, Graham Harrop, Sarah Henell, Irene Hewitt, Ian Hill, Lucy Hobbs, Richard Hollingworth, Gaz Hopkins, Janet Horner, Alex Hummel, Josh Hunsley, Hannah Hurt, David Ingledew, Adam Jacklin, Andy Jackson, Barrie Jenkinson, Marcus Jenkinson, Karl Jones, John Kessel, Sarah Kessel, George King, Alison Lamb, Dale Lawrence, Sue Lawrence, Danny Levick, Kristian Lucas, Maria Mahon, Ross Masters, Daniel Maude, Neil McKay, Andrew Melleney, Jack Mellors, Adam Mitchell, Jon Mitchell, Derek Mollan, Andy Moore, Lynn Moore, Dave Mott, David Needham, Charlie Newton, Phillip Norton, Andy Pagett, David Pape, Joanna Parker, Gordon Parkinson, John Parkinson, Marion Parkinson, Simon Peers, Andrew Phipps, Becca Phipps, Nicky Phipps, Thomas Phipps, David Platts, Jeanette Plumb, Andrew Plummer, Lee Plummer, Lynne Plummer, Sara Plummer, Claire Probert, James Purdy, John Putland, Joanne Rayner, Hayley Richardson, Tony Richardson, Matt Richards, Nigel Redfern, Brian Robinson, Danny Rogers, Bev Rothery, Mark Rothery, Dave Scott, Amy Sears, Mike Sharp, Dom Sharpe, Tim Shiles, Lewis Simpson, John Smallwood, Tom Smith, Mike Snaith, Chris Spencer, Jonathan Spencer, Mike Squires, Ben Stevenson, Matt Stevenson, Sian Stockham, Jason Stubbs, Molly Stubbs, Ian Thompson, David Thorp, Daniel Tinker, Phil Todd, Haley Toseland, David Towner, James Tucker, Sam Turnbull, Julia Voyse, David Ward, Matt Ward, Tom Ward, Edward Watchorn, James Webster, Will Wells, Jim Wild, Susan Wragg.

Join the adventure in 2020:

2-4 OCTOBER - BRAMHAM PARK

More details at www.apexchallenge.co.uk