



Scouting East



The Journal of East Belfast Scouting

<http://www.geocities.com/eastbelfast/>

No. 239

MARCH 2003

From the Editor



Isn't it great to see East District getting so much positive coverage in the local press in the last few weeks? Firstly with the Cub Scout Mountain Bike Competition in January and then at the Chief Scout's Award presentation for the lads from Belmont which took place at our District Scouters' Meeting at Gilnahirk. Congratulations to all the Scouts and Leaders from 99th Troop on a tremendous achievement and thanks to Alex for all the hard work she is doing to raise the profile of Scouting in our local community.

It was good too to have a large turnout at the District Meeting- we had set out about 50 chairs and were pleasantly surprised when we needed to find some more for the late comers. My own Group found the presentation from Dan McHugh from SEELB very useful, and I'm sure that the other Groups found the BELB/SEELB talk beneficial too. I'd like to thank our Group President, Audrey, and her friend Grace for all their help with the catering for the meeting; Audrey is also already hard at work helping with the preparations for 30th Group's 50th Anniversary next year; we hope to open some of the events being planned to the District, including a special re-run of the *Gilnahirk Road Race* which was an annual fixture in the NI Scouting calendar in the 1960's and 1970's, and also a camp in the local Gilnahirk area, when we plan to invite others to join us for a Fun Day, BBQ and Campfire on the Saturday and an outdoor Scouts' Own Service on the Sunday. So watch this space....

Finally, can I ask again if anyone would be interested in helping me with updating and maintaining the District Website, especially members of the Explorer and Network sections, Leaders and Scout Fellowship members? Some knowledge of computing would be helpful but not essential and access to a computer need not be a problem, it should be possible to provide access to a PC with internet connection to any volunteers. With the right supervision, this might even be an ideal opportunity for Scouts to undertake some of the requirements for the new staged Information Technology badges. Best wishes,

David



From the District Commissioner

Can I firstly offer my apologies to the 30th Group for my mistake in last month's S.E when I mentioned our consideration for the District St George's Day Parade 2004 to be held at St Patrick's, Ballymacarratt. The Parade and Service for 2004 had already been agreed to be hosted by the 30th at Gilnahirk in celebration of their 50th Anniversary. Sorry 30th for any confusion: 2004 is most definitely yours! The information sheet for the St George's Parade and Service 2003 is enclosed and I hope that we will have a large District turnout this year to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the 3rd Group at St Brendan's, Sydenham.

The District Team has informed me that most Sections of Groups are now implementing the new programme and awards. Our County Change Manager, Paula Bryson, has arranged one more programme implementation evening for Thursday 20th March at 8.00pm at Ardnalvalley. This will be especially for the new Explorer and Network programmes. I would encourage all of our Explorer Units in the District to send along reps to this meeting. Why not send some of the Explorers themselves along with Leaders?

I have recently asked Pamela Baxter CSL 7th Pack to be our District Scouter representative on the County Cub Sub-Committee along with the ADCs. The County Commissioner recently hosted a Workshop for all DCs and ACCs and I was privileged to chair a get together of young Scout Troop representatives from the County. These young Leaders, all under 30, requested that the County Scout sub-committee be restarted with each District sending two young Leaders under 30 along with the ADCs. I have therefore asked Ben Clark SL 33rd Troop and Colin McShane, ASL 10th Troop to represent East at this Sub-Committee along with the two ADCs. I hope that County will have the opportunity to listen to these young Scout Leaders and their thoughts and ideas. Following on from this I have asked the two ADC Scouts along with the Deputy DC to meet with me to look specifically at the Scout Section in East. It will be my intention to appoint a District Scout Leader in the near future to work alongside the ADCs and form a small committee to look at all aspects of the Troop section and how we can boost this section now that the top age range has dropped to 14 with the starting of the Explorer Section.

I also have some concerns within the District at the lack of "young Leaders" within the Groups and will be making an appointment(s) at District Level of a co-ordinator of young Leaders under 30 within the District and the forming of a "District Young Leaders Explorer Unit" who will work with Ian McLachlan in an effort to increase the young Leaders

working with Groups/Sections in East and to encourage more of our Explorers to be involved in Leadership especially within the Troops.

Greer Henderson and his "District Recruitment Team" will commence their work in East during this month and I wish them well in this important task that they have been set. I have asked this team for a one year commitment in their job. The new "District Action Team" will also have met for the first time during February and I look forward to decisions taken by this team as we plan a major recruitment and publicity exercise in East in the near future.

I spent a very enjoyable evening in the company of the 28th Beavers and Cubs recently when the Group Presidents, Ernie and Rhoda Sharp, presented a beautiful photograph collage to the Group. This was made up of photos of 28th dating back over the years and will provide a wonderful link to the "new 28th". The new BSL Sonia Copeland and her Assistant Liz Dorman have already increased the Colony numbers and things are also looking good in the Pack where the new "Akela" Jane Uprichard and her assistant Gary Workman are in the middle of teaching this new Pack all the necessary skills of Scouting. Watch out for the re-starting of the 28th Troop in the near future as well. My very best wishes to all these new Leaders in our District as they help bring Scouting to this area of East.

As many of you are aware this year is the "Special Olympics" year hosted by Ireland. I have the very special privilege of being involved in the Olympics firstly as a member of the "Olympic Flame" Relay Team and to have the opportunity to see my Godson represent Ireland at gymnastics. My Godson is Adam Morrison whose dad is Ray Morrison who some of you will remember as a former CSL of the 8th Group in East. A special international Motorcycle event is being run in Bangor over the weekend of 5/6th April and as a result the local Council will donate a sum of money from programme receipts to the Special Olympic Fund for athletes from Northern Ireland. Would East District be interested in being involved in this venture in selling programmes during this weekend and as a District helping with the funding for the Olympics? Perhaps I could have your view or support on this matter or if any Group or Section is interested contact the District PRO, Alex Henry, 99th.

I hope that all Groups benefited from the talk given by the two Youth Officers from BELB and SEELB at our last District Scouters' meeting. My thanks to the 30th Group for hosting the meeting; our next District Scouters' meeting will be held on Monday 7th April at 7.30pm in the 73rd's HQ at St Donard's. If any Groups require any information packs relating to the BELB contact the District PRO. The next District Scouters' meeting may take the form of two meetings, one for all Leaders under 30 and one for Leaders over 30. Watch out for details.

Ian



East District Cub Scout Mountain Biking Competition

The Mountain Bike competition was held on Saturday 19th January. 6 Cub Scout Packs took part with 28 boys in all competing for the medals and the overall trophy. The boys were given medals as prizes and the Champion was given a trophy. Thanks go to Robert and Roy Lamont for their help and to Elizabeth for keeping the score of the winners and for registration at the start of the competition. Also to Alan Campbell our Deputy DC for handing out the prizes.

8 year olds race:	1 st Place	Andrew Flack 30 th Pack
	2 nd Place	Ross Moles 7 th Pack
	3 rd Place	Gareth Baxter 7 th Pack
9 year olds race:	1 st Place	Robbie Lamont 30 th Pack
	2 nd Place	Damon Mosgrove 10 th Pack
	3 rd Place	Ryan McKnight 30 th Pack
10 year olds race:	1 st Place	Andrew Williamson 7 th Pack
	2 nd Place	Jonathan Beattie 7 th Pack
	3 rd Place	Mark Irvine 7 th Pack
Champion of Champions:		Andrew Flack 30 th Pack

John and Suzi, ADCs (Cub Scouts)



PS Communicator Badges all round to Richard (10th), David (30th), Stephen (7th) and John who tried valiantly but of course failed miserably to master the swanky new two-way radios the District had acquired to keep us in contact across the course during the race. Perhaps our new ADC (AT) Colin might need to provide some special remedial training for us lot before we're let loose with such sophisticated toys again! (Ed)

Congratulations also to the following 14 Cubs who earned their cycling badge that afternoon: Andrew Flack (30th), Matthew Cahoon (30th), Damon Mosgrove (10th), Brett Wilson (10th), Andrew Williamson (7th), Mark Irvine (7th), Thomas Beattie (7th), Ross Moles (7th), Jonathan Beattie (7th), Calvin Walker (7th), Aaron Love (7th), Jonathan Moffett (7th), Gareth Baxter (7th) and Stephen Piper (33rd). Many thanks to Davy Hawthorne (30th) who offered to test the Cubs for the badge.

David, CSL 30th



East District Cubs swim to victory at County Gala

East District was represented at the County Gala at the Robinson Centre on 25th January by more than 20 Cub Scouts from 10th, 27th, 30th, 73rd and 99th Packs, who faced steep competition this year from the other Districts, particularly the team from South District which included Sarah Kelly, a very fast senior swimmer who left all the boys from East in her wake. Nonetheless, East was eventually victorious on the night, retaining the Inter-District Armstrong Cup by an impressive margin. The lads from East also amassed a total of 11 individual medals, together with gold for the official District relay team and bronze for another 'unofficial team' made up entirely of additional Cubs from East. Well done to all the winners and our thanks to ACC Steve and his team for a well-organised and enjoyable event. East's winners were as follows:

<i>Gold</i>	Junior Backstroke	Brett Hillis	10 th
<i>Gold</i>	Junior Freestyle	Brett Hillis	10 th
<i>Gold</i>	Senior Backstroke	Philip Hawthorne	30 th
<i>Silver</i>	Junior Freestyle	Oliver Matthews	99 th
<i>Silver</i>	Senior Backstroke	Niall Morrow	30 th
<i>Silver</i>	Senior Breaststroke	Michael McMillan	30 th
<i>Silver</i>	Senior Freestyle	Jack Hewitt	27 th
<i>Bronze</i>	Junior Backstroke	Matthew Cahoon	30 th
<i>Bronze</i>	Junior Breaststroke	Richard Anderson	30 th
<i>Bronze</i>	Senior Breaststroke	Philip Hawthorne	30 th
<i>Bronze</i>	Senior Freestyle	Philip Hawthorne	30 th
<i>Gold</i>	Relay Team	Jack Hewitt	27 th
		Brett Hillis	10 th
		Michael McMillan	30 th
		Philip Hawthorne	30 th
<i>Bronze</i>	Relay Team	Ryan McKnight	30 th
		Niall Morrow	30 th
		Matthew Cahoon	30 th
		Richard Anderson	30 th

David, CSL 30th

Scout Section



The first District Quiz was held at 73rd HQ, St Donard's Parish Church, Bloomfield, on Monday 27th January 2003. Ten teams participated from 6 Troops - namely, 3rd, 4th, 27th, 30th, 73rd and 99th, 40 Scouts in all. Quizmaster Stephen McCord presided, ably assisted by Alex Henry. Questions were asked on a range of topics, as well as general Scouting, and at the end of a very enjoyable and successful evening D.C. Ian Diamond presented one of the teams from the 99th Troop (Belmont Presbyterian) with the winner's cup.



The under 12 5-a-side football competition held at Avoniel Leisure Centre on Friday 31st January 2003 was an equally enjoyable event and a pleasure to run. The turn out of 5 teams from three troops - 7th, 27th and 99th - could be described as disappointing, especially considering it was a football competition; however, on the plus side, it meant more action for the boys with little rest and no 'hanging around'. Every team played each other, with the top two teams reaching the final, which was keenly contested between the 7th & 99th, the latter triumphing 2 - 0. A.D.C. Alan Campbell presented the medals. So, the placings were: 1st - 99th B, 2nd - 7th, 3rd - 27th A, 4th - 99th A and 5th - 27th B. Many thanks to my colleague Stephen McCord who refereed all the matches - good for him! - he even brought along the DISTRICT BANNER.

Stephen Anderson, ADC (Scouts)

East District Cub Scout Quiz

10 teams representing 5 Packs (3rd, 10th, 28th, 30th and 99th) took part in the District Cub Scout Quiz held at the Bill Elliott Hall, Tamar Street on 10th February. Many thanks to Jane and Gary and the 28th Group for hosting the competition and providing refreshments, to the team of markers- Julie, Jamie and Pamela (MENZA membership application forms in the post!), who sorted the clever clogs from the dunces, and to ADC Suzi 'I can be as scary as Anne Robinson' Jeffries who asked the questions (loved Suzi's *Bugs Bunny* impression- 'What's up doc?'). DC Ian was on hand too to present medals to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd placed teams at the end of the evening. Congratulations to the winners, Jordan Douglas, Ryan McKnight, Niall Morrow and Richard Anderson from 30th A Team who will represent East District at the NI Final in March.

Final results were as follows:

Team	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Total
30th A	11	7	12	11	7	10.5	58.5
3rd A	13	8	12	11	7	6.5	57.5
30th B	11	7	12	12	5	9	56.0
28th A	7	8	12	11	6	8.5	52.5
99th B	9	6	10	9	6	6	46.0
99th A	8	4	10	10	6	7	45.0
10th A	8	6	9	9	6	5.5	43.5
28th B	9	5	5	7	3	5.5	34.5
10th B	4	5	5	8	3	5	30.0
3rd B	4	3	6	1	2	1	17.0

David, CSL 30th



News from 10th Pack



In September 2002 we started the new program and I have to say that we are very pleased with how it is going in the Pack. We are defiantly more organised. The new record cards for the boys (although a bore to start filling in) are very well laid out, easy to read and are easy to keep up to date. We think that these will probably be the most valuable records that we can keep on each boy as they go through the Group.

This year most of the boys have obtained their Artist badge, Road Safety Badge, and are well on their way to getting their Creative Challenge Badge. Two boys (thanks to a 30th Cub Parent) have got their Cyclist badge, and several boys in the Pack are working towards their Animal Lover's badge. We are now planning to start the Air Activities badge with them (although I think that it's really Jamie who wants this one).

At Halloween we had a successful overnight for the boys. On the Saturday they could not decide whether the visit to Aunt Sandra's sweet factory on the Castlereagh Road, the visit to the Aquarium in Portaferry (where we had to drag them away from the touch tank after 1 ½ hours!!!!), or seeing the last three fireworks going off at the Ice Bowl (as we missed the rest by spending too much time making potato lanterns) was their favourite activity. The great thing about the new badges meant that each boy who attended obtained his 1st Stage Nights Away Badge.



Pamela Stronge, ACSL 10th



News from 30th Pack

30th Pack recently held a martial arts evening at the Jack Britton Hall with a visit from the Twae Kwon Do Association. Many thanks to instructor, Adam Askew, for a super evening in which the boys enjoyed trying out the various chops, kicks and cries and especially the punching gloves! If any other Packs or Troops would like to arrange a visit from the Twae Kwon Do Association, just let one of 30th Leaders know and we will pass on Adam's contact details. The Cubs are now working on their Communicator badge- special thanks to Paula Bryson, our former ADC (AT), who came along one evening to teach the Cubs sign language,

David, CSL 30th



Sponsored Walk

4th and 99th Groups are taking part in a sponsored walk in memory of John Marshall, a former member of 4th Pack, who died of cancer last year while still only in his teens. The walk is being organised by John's sister, Claire, and will be held at Crawfordsburn on 29th March. If any other Groups in East would like to sponsor the walkers, or take part themselves, registration forms and sponsor cards can be obtained from Valerie Cromey (028 9072 5780) or via Brian Laffin, CSL 4th.

Events in March

1 st	NI Point Orienteering Competition, Crawfordsburn Contact: Colin Turtle (Warden)
7 th -9 th	East District Leaders' Weekend, Killyleagh Contact: Alan Campbell (Deputy DC)



**News & Views, Letters & Comments,
Reports & Announcements to the Editor:**



Email: d.bell@qub.ac.uk or eastbelfast@yahoo.com

not later than **6th March** for the April Issue please!