



Scouting East



The Journal of East Belfast Scouting

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From the Editor



This year, the annual Leaders' Conference returned once more to its usual venue of the Slieve Donard Hotel, after a break last year for the new programme launch at the Waterfront Hall. It was good to be back, not least because numbers were much increased on previous years and there was a definite buzz in the air, with a lot of interest and enthusiasm for the new programme readily apparent. Certainly the Cub Section programme was well organised and good fun, not only for the opportunity to watch other Leaders make as much of a fool of themselves as I did completing various craft activities like designing a teapot stand and a fair trade banana logo, and especially at the excellent drama base run by Jean Major (I've already tried out some of Jean's ideas with my own Pack since the conference with hilarious results), pleading with big Steve to let us back into the warmth again after he'd sent us out onto the beach in sub-zero temperatures on the pretext of a scavenger hunt, and taking part in 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire' (Trevor Canning should be on stage!!!). Antrim District also ran an excellent workshop based on the International Friendship Award, outlining their own project that is helping to develop Scouting in Malawi by collecting old uniforms and badges to send out to these Scouts, together with other programme materials including knotting ropes, compasses, footballs etc. 30th are very keen to become involved with the Antrim District Project since Dr Donald Brownlie, a former ASL with 30th Troop, is currently working at a hospital in Malawi. Perhaps others in East might be interested too? There was a good balance of activities and opportunity for discussion throughout the weekend as well as a lot of general banter and great craic. Spotted relaxing in the jacuzzi later were the Stronges and Richard Clark (10th), together with East's former ADC (LT) Paula, lounging around in the lobby was DC, Ian, while scoffing tea and bikkies in the hotel bar were Betty (30th) and Anne (7th) and strutting their stuff on the dance floor very late into the evening were Steve and Antonia Hoskins (27th). It's a just a shame more Leaders from East didn't take the opportunity to get along even for part of the conference. Maybe next year...? With best wishes for a very Happy Easter,

David



From the District Commissioner

I have been very encouraged by the obvious agreement throughout the District for the need to proceed with our proposed Recruitment and Publicity campaign and as a result I chaired a very positive meeting of the District Action Team. Each Group in the District was represented and agreement reached to run a "Party in the Park" at the lower end of the District and at the upper end and finally a large event hopefully at Stormont. The first of these will be held on Saturday 4th October at St. Donard's car park, home of the 73rd Group. The Action Team will meet again on Monday 24th March at the District HQ, Tamar Street, to finalise arrangements and events. It is vital that ALL Groups in East are involved in this venture and I wish the Team well as they plan for the event.

The new District Recruitment Team will also meet on the same evening and will start planning for the Party in the Park and their own form of recruitment of both members and adults within East. Again I would ask that individual Groups commence some form of recruitment within their areas in an effort to "saturate" East Belfast with Scouting recruitment and publicity. If we can get everyone working hand-in-hand I have no doubt that we can achieve a major success within our District.

On the downside however I have to report that the District Census figures for this year show a slight decrease in numbers. A full District Census chart will appear in S.E. I have to express my disappointment in this but am confident that with the work on-going in recruitment we will increase our members and adult Leaders significantly.

I am delighted to be able to announce that the 28th Scout Troop will re-start after Easter after a number of years' closure. We have secured the services of the District's first female SL who will be supported by the ADCs and District Scouters and with four young female Scouts already invested into the 28th Group we wish Michelle and the girls our best wishes for the future. I would ask the Troop Section in the District to give the new 28th Troop 100% support as they re-start.

I was privileged to be invited to the Dedication Service at Belmont where the 99th Group and the Belmont Guide Company re-affirmed their promises and where I had the opportunity of presenting the GSL Bruce McCormick with his Medal Of Merit. My thanks to the Leaders of the 99th for the invite and for a very pleasant morning at Belmont. Our congratulations to Bruce from the District.

The District Fellowship and Executive ran a super Quiz evening at C.I.Y.M.S on Friday 28th February and a large turnout enjoyed a great evening's "craic". My thanks to the Fellowship and Executive for their work and we look forward to the next one!

I have been very impressed with the District participation at all of our Sectional events during the month and hope that ALL Groups and sections participate in these events. My thanks to the ADCs for their continued work. It was especially a delight to see the 28th Pack fielding two teams at the District Cub Scout Quiz and my congratulations to Jane and Gary the new "Akela" and "Baloo" of the 28th on their achievements with the Pack.

Everyone should have now received the information on St George's Day 2003 which will be held at St. Brendan's Parish, Sydenham, in celebration of the 3rd Group's 50th Anniversary. For the first time the District will run TWO services in one. Some of our Groups will attend a Service in the Church and some in the Parochial Hall. Both of these will run simultaneously and with separate speakers etc. Groups will be fully briefed at our District Scouters' Meeting on 7th April at 73rd HQ. The only change from the original information sheet is a change in meeting and dispersal venue which will now be Ashfield Boys High School, Hollywood Road, due to the demolition work at the Hollywood Arches Health Centre which has now started and making the car-park unusable. I hope that we will have a "MASSIVE" turnout of the District at St George's Day this year as we use this event as the first of our District publicity and Recruitment events. Every Group is encouraged to play its part in this project. Good Scouting and I hope to see all our Leaders at the District Meeting at St. Donard's on 7th April.

Ian



**District Scouters' Meeting 7th April 7.30pm
73rd Group HQ, St. Donard's C.o.I**

The District is about to start work on setting up a "Young Leaders Explorer Unit" in East. We invite all young Leaders and helpers under 25 years of age to come along to the District Scouters' Meeting to meet the DC and find out how this project will help you.

The Unit will help young Leaders in their quest for awards and in Leader training and to establish a "social" scene amongst our young Leaders in the District. I would ask that all "senior" Leaders, GSLs etc. pass this information on to their young Leaders and encourage them to come along to the District Meeting.

To all Groups/Sections and Leaders in East District.

As you all are aware the new 28th Group has been re-formed and is flourishing in Tamar Street. The hall now known as the "Bill Elliott Scout Hall" has now been officially designated as the EAST BELFAST DISTRICT SCOUT HEADQUARTERS.

Work has been ongoing on the inside and outside of the Hall and we hope to have an official opening next year. This is OUR Headquarters as well as the Headquarters of the 28th Group and we want to see it being used by East District.

Ian

The County Change Manager has arranged a final programme implementation evening primarily for Explorer Leaders and Scout Leaders for Thursday 20th March at 8.00pm at Ardnalvalley. This is your opportunity to ask questions and get advice on the new Scout programme. We would encourage all Scout and Explorer Leaders in East to attend or send a representative to this worth-while evening



Census 2002

Group	Beaver Scouts	Cub Scouts	Scouts	Ventures, Explorers, Scout Network	Leaders &Helpers	Total 2002	Change ± 2001
3 rd	6	14	5		6	31	↓ 2
4 th	15	12	7	2	15	51	↓ 4
7 th	20	14	15		15	64	↓ 14
9 th	10	12	0		8	30	↓ 8
10 th	25	14	11	4	23	77	↓ 13
24 th	16	16	8		7	47	↓ 7
27 th	17	16	22		11	66	↓ 4
28 th	8	11	0		4	23	↑ 3
30 th	35	35	14		16	100	↑ 2
33 rd	20	20	16		11	67	↓ 36
73 rd	0	10	13		10	33	No change
99 th	25	18	30	12	16	101	↓ 9
Total	194	184	141	18	142	690	↓ 92

Many thanks to everyone who got their census returns in on time to Harry, our District Secretary. Don't forget to pay your Group's capitation fees to the District Treasurer, Ann Hanna ASAP if you have not already done so! (Ed)



Scout Section

Tuesday 11th February saw the under 15 floorball competition held at St Donard's CoI - 73rd HQ. The 10th, 27th, 73rd and 99th Troops participated in this keenly fought competition, with the final result that 99th 'A' defeated 99th 'B' 1 - 0 in the final after extra time.

The Friday night of the following week (21st) was the under 12 Floorball competition held at Belmont Presbyterian Church (99th HQ). Six teams from 4 troops participated - 4th, 10th, 27th & 99th. Again, this was a very competitive event with 99th again triumphant in the final against the 10th.

No less than 14 teams turned up for the under 15 5-a-side Football competition at Avoniel Leisure on Friday 28th February. The 3rd, 4th, 7th, 10th, 24th, 27th, 30th, 73rd & 99th Troops flexed their 'Beckham' skills against one another. Such was the number of matches played that we just had time to play the final between 99th & 24th before the leisure centre staff turned the lights off! The result - 1 - 0 to 99th, definitely the Troop to beat this year! Many thanks to everyone who participated, but especially to Ian Hall, SL 4th, Owen Watson, Young Leader 4th, Mark Hallis, ASL 73rd and of course Stephen McCord, ADC Scouts, for all their help.

Don't forget - DISTRICT TROOP CAMP AT CRAWFORDSBURN
FRIDAY 13TH - SUNDAY 15TH JUNE.

Stephen Anderson, ADC (Scouts)

NI Orienteering Competition

Teams of Cubs from 10th, 30th, and 99th Packs took part in this year's NI Orienteering competition held at Crawfordsburn on 1st March. Many thanks to Colin and the Warden's Team for running the competition. The Cubs seemed to enjoy taking part in an orienteering event even if they did display varying degrees of success at reading the map and going around the bases in the right order! Perhaps if they'd realised that the Scouts were doing a different course and had actually tried to work out a route for themselves rather than following the older lads, East might have fared better on the day. Still, it's all about taking part, and perhaps we might even consider our own District Orienteering event at the 'Burn for Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and maybe even Leaders and Fellowship next year?

David, CSL 30th



Cub Scout Swimming

Congratulations to the following Cubs who completed the requirements for the new staged swimming activity badge at Avoniel Leisure Centre on 21st February and many thanks to the Leaders of 10th Pack (Pamela, Jamie and Richard) who helped me out with the badge exam (and yes- I'll admit it- unfortunately the Cub who streaked through the leisure centre reception at the end of the evening with only a towel barely covering his blushes and those of the female attendant on the reception desk was in fact one of mine- somehow he'd managed to lock his locker key inside his locker!!).

Stages 1 and 2: M.Cahoon (30th), J.Bannister (30th), C.Blundell (30th), R.Anderson (30th), R.Tweedie (73rd), C.Paxton (73rd), J.Glover (73rd), C.Miles (73rd), B.Hillis (10th)

Stage 3: J.Gowdy (10th), R.McKnight (30th),
M.McMillan (30th)

David, CSL 30th

News from 30th Pack

30th Pack recently completed the requirements for the new Emergency Aid Activity Badge, with a total of 29 Cubs successfully completing the badge. On hand to help with the badge examination were Dr Vivienne Crawford and Dr Bob Taylor (of BBC NI Children's Hospital fame) from QUB Medical School. Many thanks to both and also to the Clinical Skills Education Unit for the loan of a resuscie Annie dummy (Akela had to borrow this on a total of four occasions and the staff in the unit were certainly starting to wonder....).

We also tried our hand recently at 'miniature indoor cooking'. For those of you who haven't tried this before it's an excellent activity which I stumbled across at conference several years' ago. Basically, it involves cooking with almonds- these can be placed on the end of a piece of wire and once lit, the oil in the nut burns for a very long time and gives out a lot of heat; this can be placed underneath a small pan made out of tinfoil and used to cook an Ulster Fry, or for the more adventurous, banana, apple or even mini-pancakes! Why not give it a go??

David, CSL 30th



A Night at Trax

The District Cubs or rather "too many Cubs" as I remember descended in a state of heightened anticipation for a night of "fun" at the Trax Arena in Bangor. To completely disorientate the Trax staff the combined might of the 99th and 4th arrived first. As if that wasn't bad enough the 9th had already beaten us to it and so with a combined strength of over 36, (the Arena was expecting groups of 20 or so) the activities started. As a mixed bunch of twelve merrily bounced into each other, the two Leaders who had joined them on the bouncy castle and in a few instance the floor, the other 24 proceeded to zap each other to bits in the Laser Quest. At the end of the first period the teams rotated and the mayhem commenced once again, and so it went on for what felt like an eternity! Me I just sat and watched, something I could easily do as I had absolutely nothing else to do the whole evening, so all in all I had a great night. And the Cubs? Well having enjoyed myself so much doing nothing, I forgot to ask how they enjoyed it! I remembered again on Wednesday and the consensus was a resounding "YES" More of the same from the District anytime.

Thanks to all concerned.

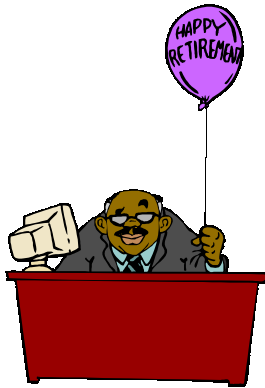
Brian Laffin, CSL 4th

Thought for the month.....April

Ancient Japanese Proverb

日本は古くから
 右に顔を向ける
 習慣がある

If you cannot understand Japanese,
tilt your head to the right.



Happy Retirement!!!!

(well at least until 'they' find something else for you to do!!)

'Big Steve' retires as ACC (Cub Scouts) this month after more than 5 years at the helm. On behalf of all of the Cubs and my fellow Cub Leaders in East I would like to thank Steve for the tremendous hard work he has put in over the last five years with everything from the infamous County Camp at Ardnalvalley, to the steam-train trip to Carrickfergus, not forgetting all the swimming galas, football matches and County Flag cooking competitions in between! Thanks Steve ... for everything. See you around, big lad! You're a hard act to follow, but with East's own Paula Bryson stepping into your boots, Cub Scouting in Belfast County is sure to be in safe hands (Ed)

Events in April

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|------------------|---|
| 12 th | Belfast County Flag (Cub Scouts)
Ardnalvalley Scout Centre
Contact: Steve Hoskins (ACC Cub Scouts) |
| 12 th | John Marshall Memorial Sponsored Walk
Contact: Brian Laffin, CSL (4 th) |
| 25 th | St.George's Day Practice at 3 rd HQ (St.Brendan's)
Contact: Any member of the District Team |
| 27 th | St.George's Day Parade and Service |



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



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

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