



# Scouting East



*The Journal of East Belfast Scouting*

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## **From the Editor**



Wasn't it great to see such a good turnout of Leaders, especially young Leaders, at our recent District Meeting? Many thanks to the ladies of St. Donard's for the lovely spread that they laid on for supper- I certainly played my part in helping to demolish the mountains of delicious sandwiches and tray bakes. At the meeting, amongst other things, the Cub Leaders discussed the possibility of a District activity badge day, an Athletics Badge Night and a District Wide Game. In my own Pack, we recently held a badge examination night to enable the Cubs to complete badges such as Book Reader, Collector, Hobbies, Sports Enthusiast, My Faith and Musician and I was very grateful for the help of our examiners who included several members of Kirk Session, our Crusaders Leader, a member of the Church Praise Band and an ex Rugby International. This was a very successful night and it made me think again what a good idea it would be if we could re-establish the District Badge Exam Days and also try to compile a new list of approved badge examiners. I know Jenny is thinking along the same lines and would welcome suggestions and support from the District. With regards to the Cub Scout Wide Game, I hope to be involved along with John and Suzi, and Jamie and Pamela from 10<sup>th</sup> in organising a wide game possibly based on the theme of *Lord of the Rings* in the autumn, and will be 'auditioning' for various roles soon if any of our Leaders, Explorers etc. would like to join in!! There was also some discussion at the meeting about the Malawi Appeal (more details in this issue) and about a number of forthcoming District fundraising events- I'd encourage everyone to become actively involved in supporting both of these projects.

By the time that you receive this issue, our first Party in the Park and also the St. George's Day Parade will have taken place. Hopefully both will have been outstanding successes. Thank you to everyone who supported these events and especially to the Chairman of our District Action Team, William Moore (73<sup>rd</sup>), and members of 3<sup>rd</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Groups; let's hope that everyone will continue to help William and the Team as we plan for the next 'Party on the Beersbridge' in October. Finally, best wishes to Roy and 3<sup>rd</sup> Group celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year,

*David*



## From the District Commissioner

As most of you already know our own Paula Bryson, former ADC (Adult Training) has been appointed as ACC (Cub Scouts) for Belfast County. We wish Paula well in her new position and I trust that she will continue to receive 100% support from all the Cub sections in East.

I was delighted to see a large turnout at our District Scouters' Meeting at the beginning of the month and especially at the turnout of our young Leaders. We have now set up our District Young Leaders' Explorer Unit and Julie McIntyre will work as the Explorer Leader with this Unit. I hope that all GSLs will encourage any members of their Groups who are of Explorer age (14-18) and are involved as a Leader or helper with a section of the Group to get involved with the DYL EU. Julie will be working within the District to encourage this.

I recently spent a very enjoyable evening with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Group at their annual Parents' Evening and along with the Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and Leaders had a great evening. My thanks to Roy, Sharon and Roger for the invite.

The District Action Team under chairman, William Moore (73rd), is finalising plans for the first of our District "Party in the Park" activities and by now all Groups in East should be on board. The next meeting of the Team will be on Monday 2nd June, 7.30pm, at the District HQ, Tamar Street and please ensure that every Group in East is represented. The "Party on the Beersbridge" will take place on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October from 10.30am to 12.30pm. If you are not involved get involved now-your Group will benefit.

The District AGM is on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 8.00pm in the 99<sup>th</sup> Group HQ, Belmont Presbyterian Church. Could we have a special effort to have all Groups represented at the AGM this year?

Ian McLachlan, our Explorer Commissioner and his Administrator, Trevor Dunbar, continue to work in developing the Explorer Section in East and I was delighted to be invited to the first meeting of the District Explorer Committee. Representatives from the Stormont, Gilnahirk, McMordie and Knock Units very ably chaired by Matthew Thompson of the McMordie Unit made up the first Explorer Committee and I was very impressed with the discussion that took place. I wish the young members of this committee well as they work alongside Ian and Trevor to develop Explorer Scouting in our District.

One of our priorities for the next year in East is to bring on our younger Leaders and to give them more of a say in the District. A number of these

positions have been set in place and I will be ensuring that a representative from the District Young Leaders' Explorer Unit and the District Explorer Committee will be given the opportunity to serve at District level. Our representatives at County level will be given to young Leaders under 30 years of age and we have already set this in motion by nominating Colin McShane (10<sup>th</sup>) and Ben Clark (33<sup>rd</sup>) as District reps on a new Belfast County Scout Committee.

My sincere thanks to Scouts and Explorers from the 27<sup>th</sup> and 99<sup>th</sup> Troops and Belmont Explorer Unit for taking the time to spend a weekend recently selling programmes at the international motorcycle trial competition held in Bangor. The lads did a first class job and raised some £2500, £2000 of which will go to the NI Special Olympic Fund for our athletes representing Northern Ireland at this year's Special Olympics in Dublin. I have a special input into this as I will be in Dublin to watch my own godson competing for Ireland in gymnastics. Our thanks to Alan, Stephen and the lads for a job well done and super piece of community involvement for East Scouting and my own personal thanks for the time taken to do this.

Have a great Easter and to those Troops who have been to Easter camp I hope everything went well and finally best wishes and good luck to all our District Packs and Troops taking part in the County Flag competitions this year,

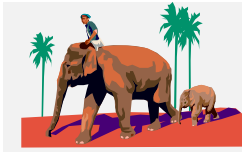
Ian



### **FIM World Championships**

15 Scouts and Leaders from 27<sup>th</sup> Scouts, 99<sup>th</sup> Scouts and Belmont Explorers spent 5 and 6 April in Bangor selling programmes for the FIM World Trials Championships. During the two days the boys were seen helping out in the community as they sold programmes and raised £2000 for the Special Olympics. All the boys enjoyed themselves - they all got kitted out with caps, bum bags etc, but the best thing was a personal alarm (they especially loved testing it!). The PSNI in Bangor looked after us all very well - keeping us fed with crisps, coke and Burger King for lunch. I know the boys walked miles and got to watch most of the stages during the day as well as completing part of their community service badgework. Well done to all the boys who were well turned out in full uniform and thanks to Alan (27<sup>th</sup>), Stephen (99<sup>th</sup>) and Chris (Belmont Explorers) for passing on the information to the boys - it's just a pity that so few turned up for what were two very enjoyable and worthwhile days,

*Alex Henry, CSL 99<sup>th</sup>*



## Tales from Thailand



The 20<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree took place between the 27<sup>th</sup> December 2002 and the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2003, in Thailand. There were more than 20,000 Scouts and Leaders there from all over the world, but only one intrepid Scouter from East Belfast. Here, he recounts what he did in Thailand as a member of the International Service Team....

“I was involved in supervising a Community Action Day at a primary school about 60km north of the Jamboree site. The International Team, consisting of two young Thais, a French Guide leader and me, provided the link between the teaching staff of the school and the Explorer Scouts who spent a day working at the school. Each day we were visited by between 50 and 80 Scouts and Leaders, usually from a wide range of countries. There were inevitably some linguistic barriers among the staff, the International Team and the Explorer Scouts. However, with a little patience these rarely posed too many difficulties, except in the case of Japanese scouts who had absolutely no spoken English, and Indonesian scouts who always caused me trouble.

“At the school, the Explorers were involved in a number of projects, including gardening, painting walls, and resurfacing a volleyball court. The Explorers did most of the work, but the school children helped where they could, and local builders gave a lead where necessary. Sometimes the Thai building techniques had me a little worried or confused.

“In addition to the work, the staff at the School gave the Scouts the opportunity to play with the Thai children and to learn something of Thai culture. Each lunchtime, the older schoolboys and the more active scouts took part in football matches. On my first day, the teams must have included Singaporeans, Australians, Thais, Germans and Bangladeshis, all having great fun playing together. The younger schoolchildren usually adopted Scouts (or Service Team Members) and played “piggy-in-the-middle” with them. We also had the opportunity to eat the authentic Thai food which the children had for school dinners. The children were more than happy to swap this for the Scouts’ “western” packed lunches. The staff at the school also organised demonstrations of Thai culture, including music, sweet-making, dancing and traditional games. However, their repeated attempts at teaching me Thai dancing met with little success, and prompted much joking from the teachers.

“As a member of staff, there were a few moments where I noticed that things did not run completely to plan. Every morning, it was difficult to check everyone onto the coaches and liaise with the police escorts, when there were another 40 teams in the same position. There were also

problems with making sure that there was enough water for all the Scouts working in the heat of the Thai day, when the drivers hid the water in different places on the buses. It was also a challenge at times to make sure that all the Scouts (especially Belgians who insisted that I spoke to them in Dutch) were kept amused for the duration of the day. This was achieved by some tactful liason with the teachers, trying to remember the concept of “face”. This was not easy for your average straight-talking Ulsterman.

“Despite the fact that some of the Scouts had early reservations about being used as “slave labour”, and that some of them were too “cool” to play musical chairs with the school children, the Community Action Day was a at all the sites where the activity was run.

“I will not forget the Thai children’s smiles, their shouts of “*phîi William!*” when I appeared every morning, and their attempts to get me to play with them despite the language barrier. I think that I am now expert in playing piggy-in-the-middle and musical chairs.

“I will also not forget the Thai food, which I was given for free at the school. On our first day, we were introduced to a range of foods, some of which were rather spicy (to say the least), and were taught a very important sentence “*a-han Thai alloi*”: Thai food is delicious!”

*William Gowdy, 4<sup>th</sup>*



**Whatever did happen to Herbie then???**



Members of 30<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Packs gathered with Cubs from other Districts at Ardnalvalley on 12<sup>th</sup> April to compete in the Belfast Cub Scout County Flag competition. Amongst the challenges for our teams this year were a scavenger hunt, mini pioneering, compass, and flag activity. Once again though our own ADC Suzi stole the show for sheer creativity and originality!! Having coerced the assistance of her son Barum, home briefly on leave from Uni in Dublin, Suzi ran her own version of ‘Name That Tune’ with the Cubs trying to play well known tunes on a collection of glass bottles half filled with water. Very entertaining (if not perhaps the most musical performance we’ve ever heard!!!).

The highlight of the competition was of course the lunchtime cooking event although we were concerned that Steve had enlisted some new victims to sample the food this year- surely Herbie McFarland did *eventually* recover last time????? Has ANYONE seen him since???

I’ll let Michael, one of my own Cubs, describe the gourmet cuisine on offer as listed on the menu he created for the ‘*eat@30e café*’:

## TODAY'S LUNCHTIME SPECIAL

### *Chef's Uniquely Brilliant Soup*

-a blend of seasonal vegetables simmered to perfection

### *Chef's Unbeatable Beef Surprise*

-beef cooked slowly over an open fire with carrots and onions, served with delicious mashed potatoes and worth the wait!

*Please allow time for your order to be prepared as our trained Chefs freshly cook all meals over an open fire*

(I'll leave it to your imagination to define 'simmered to perfection on an open fire' and to guess just *how surprised* the judges were by the beef!!!)

It was my turn to be surprised later that afternoon though, as my own Pack secured a unique double, when, in a dramatic conclusion to the day's competition, the 30<sup>th</sup> B Team won the County Flag, beating the 30<sup>th</sup> A team into second place by 3 points. Well done to both teams and to the lads from 10<sup>th</sup> also (I sampled their beef stew at lunchtime and it was gorgeous). All three teams did East proud and I'm delighted to report that the Cub County Flag has returned to East District! Let's hope now that one of the Troops in East can win the Scout County Flag for us in May.

### ***Congratulations to:-***

1<sup>st</sup>: 30<sup>th</sup> B Team: Rory, Niall, Tom, Michael, Richard and Matthew  
2<sup>nd</sup>: 30<sup>th</sup> A Team: Ryan, Philip, Ryan, Chris, Rob and Adam

We've promised to take both teams to Pizza Hut for a *decent* meal to celebrate their win,

*David, CSL 30<sup>th</sup>*



## **News from 30<sup>th</sup> Pack**



Torvill and Dean eat your heart out! 38 Cubs and Leaders from 30<sup>th</sup> recently visited Dundonald Ice Bowl for an ice-skating session. Some of the Cubs had been going along regularly on Saturday afternoons since before Christmas, and keen to attempt the new skater badge had persuaded the rest of us to come along too. Akela had some difficulty with the requirement 'demonstrate how to fall safely and regain your balance (dignity)' much to the amusement of the Cubs who revelled in my embarrassment. My humiliation was complete however when the DJ gave me a special mention at the request of some 2<sup>nd</sup> year medical students and I realised that a group of them had been there watching all along!!! Well done to Philip, Chris, Andrew, Ryan and Michael who put Akela to shame by completing all the badge requirements with ease.



## **Boxes for Malawi: We need your help!!!**

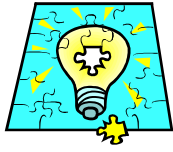


NISC are hoping to send a container full of troop boxes to help our fellow Scouts in Malawi and also to enable our Cubs and Scouts to complete the International Friendship Award in the process. The Malawi Scout Association has just been started but as it is in the 7<sup>th</sup> poorest country in the world, it is asking for our help with set up costs. We are already funding Leader Training but the Malawians are desperately short of training materials and equipment to start a Cub Pack or Scout Troop.

Mid-Antrim District have proposed that as our uniform and badge scheme has recently changed, we might send some old badges, handbooks, uniforms and also any maps, compasses, knotting ropes, bandages, training books, etc. etc. to assist in setting up the new Scout Groups. Mid Antrim Scouts are filling plastic boxes (2 cubic feet) with these materials and once they have filled at least 200, plan to arrange transport of these to Malawi. Each box costs £17.

30<sup>th</sup> Group are especially interested in supporting this project particularly as one of our former ASLs, Donald Brownlie, is currently working as a Missionary Doctor in Livingstonia, Northern Malawi. A work party from Gilnahirk Presbyterian Church, including our Guide Leader, Suzanne Hanna, visited Livingstonia last summer, and Donald is very keen to see Scouting and Guiding established in his area. There is a suggestion that another work party from Belfast might consider visiting Donald in Livingstonia next summer (incidentally coinciding with the proposed NI Explorer Scout Trip to Malawi next year). 30<sup>th</sup> Group would be delighted if we were able to support Donald in this way, and would welcome offers of help from any of the older Explorer Scouts, Network Members or Leaders in East District who might be interested in forming a work party for this purpose. The DC has asked the members of 30<sup>th</sup> Group to co-ordinate the District's response to the Troop Boxes for Malawi Appeal. We have already ordered our first box and obtained a list of suggested items for inclusion which we plan to distribute to other Groups in East very soon. Any other Groups interested in supporting this project are encouraged to forward suitable items for inclusion to any of 30<sup>th</sup> Leaders so that we can distribute and pack the items received evenly between boxes and co-ordinate delivery of filled boxes to one of the designated collection points and the ordering of more boxes as needed. Offers of assistance from other Groups towards the cost of purchase of each box (£17) would be much appreciated. Many thanks,

*David, CSL 30<sup>th</sup>*



## NI Final Cub Scout Quiz

Congratulations to the 30<sup>th</sup> Pack team of Ryan McKnight, Jordan Douglas, Richard Anderson and Tom Noteman who came 3<sup>rd</sup> (out of 19 teams) in the NI Cub Scout Quiz final at Ardnalvalley Scout Centre on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April, narrowly beaten by teams from Londonderry and Jordanstown. Well done lads, and our thanks to Jean Stewart, Steve Hoskins and the organising team for a well run and exciting quiz,

*David, CSL 30<sup>th</sup>*



## Junior Ardnalvalley Walk

Members of 30<sup>th</sup> Pack and 10<sup>th</sup> Colony were amongst those taking part in the Junior Ardnalvalley Walk in March, organised by Ann Cowan and SE District. The 30<sup>th</sup> Akela inevitably soon got lost and stopped to check his bearings much to the embarrassment of his own Cubs and the amusement of a certain 10<sup>th</sup> Beaver Leader who mocked as she passed by that 'It takes the brains of a 10<sup>th</sup> Leader, and a female one at that, to lead the way'.. well we'll leave you to work out who had the last laugh as the same Beaver Leader passed him again travelling in the opposite direction a few moments later.....

### Events in May

9 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup>	Belfast County Flag (Scouts) Crawfordsburn Scout Centre Contact: Stephen Anderson (ADC Scouts)
12 <sup>th</sup>	East Belfast District Scout Council AGM 99 <sup>th</sup> Group HQ, Belmont Presbyterian Church Contact: Harry Davison (District Secretary)



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



Email: [d.bell@qub.ac.uk](mailto:d.bell@qub.ac.uk) or [eastbelfast@yahoo.com](mailto:eastbelfast@yahoo.com)

not later than **6<sup>th</sup> May** for the June Issue please!