



Scouting East



The Journal of East Belfast Scouting

<http://www.eastbelfastdistrictscouts.org/>

No. 248

FEBRUARY 2004

From the Editor



Did you go to the Pantomime this year? No, not the one with May McFetteridge at the Grand Opera House, but Knock Players' excellent production of *Sleeping Beauty* at Knock Presbyterian Church. Many thanks to Knock Players for donating the tickets for a superb evening's entertainment to our District; it was great to see all of the Beavers and Cubs from 3rd, 10th, 30th and 99th Groups really entering into the spirit of the pantomime and enjoying themselves so much. Of course, not quite *all* of the credit can go to Knock Players.....at one point Roy (3rd), Chris and Jamie (10th) and I found ourselves dragged onto the stage, and blinded by the stage lights, we attempted nonetheless to sing and do the actions to '*My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean*', much to the amusement of the audience. Memo to Jenny: did we pass? Are our entertainer badges in the post???

Last Sunday, I also had the opportunity to join with fellow Scouters in South East Belfast District at their annual Vigil Service, held this year in St John's Presbyterian Church, Rosetta, home of 62nd Group. I would like to congratulate DC Ann Cowan and the members of 62nd Group on a well organised and uplifting service, and to thank the invited minister for an inspirational sermon in which his genuine respect and admiration for the work undertaken by the Leaders of youth organisations including Scouting was apparent to all in the congregation that evening. It was good to meet some old friends too, including former 10th Scout, Simon Jackson, now a Cub Leader at 62nd, who took part in the service, and also former CC, Hugh Ferguson, and one of East's own Vice Presidents, Rhoda Sharp.

Don't forget our next Development Event '*Be prepared for Scouting at Stormont*' at 33rd HQ on 21st February. If you are free that morning why not give our County Development Officer, Deirdre Kissock, a call at HQ or speak to your Group's representative on the Action Team to find out how you can help. Let's see if we can all pull together to make this event even more successful than our last *Party on the Beersbridge*. Best wishes,

David

PS Along with this month's Belfast Scouting you will hopefully have received a flyer about the *Gilnahirk Road Race* on 6th March. This is the first of 30th Group's 50th Anniversary events and we would encourage as much support as possible from Troops, Explorers and Leaders in East. We'd love to see you there!!!



From the District Commissioner

I was privileged to attend the Annual Chief Scout /Queen's Scout Award Ceremony at Craigavon Civic Centre on 2nd January to see young people across the Province being presented with their Awards from the Chief Scout, George Purdy. Amongst the recipients were 9 Scouts from the 99th Troop and 3 from the 10th who received their Awards. My congratulations to the 99th and 10th Troops and to the Scouts on their achievements and also to the Scout Leaders for helping the young people achieve these awards. Perhaps now that the new programme is fully implemented we will see more Scouts and Explorers from East at the Award Ceremony in January 2005 to receive their Awards.

From the 1st January, Venture Scouting has ceased to exist and Explorer Scouting is now officially "live". All our Groups and Sections should now be fully into the new programme and the Sectional Awards. I hope to see a significant development of the Explorer Section within the District and again would appeal to all Groups to ensure that any young people connected with the Group between the age of 14 and 18 are encouraged to join one of the District Explorer Units or indeed the District Young Leaders' Explorer Unit to avail of the opportunities to achieve awards and the skills attached to the Explorer Section. Please speak to the District Explorer Commissioner, Ian McLachlan, on any matter relating to this.

The second of our District Recruitment and publicity "Parties" will take place in February and I hope our "Be prepared for Scouting" at Stormont will be as successful as the "Party at Bloomfield". Development continues to play an important part in East and I am delighted to see the continuing development of the 28th Group at Tamar Street. I hope that 2004 will see the formation of a new Scout Group attached to Knocknagoney and the reformation of the 8th Group at St Molua's, Stormont. I will be meeting with Knocknagoney during January and over the Xmas period have made approaches to a number of potential new Leaders for both Knocknagoney and St Molua's. Negotiations will continue with both these Sponsoring Authorities.

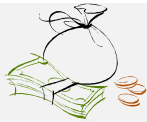
I met with the County Development Officer, Deirdre Kissock, during the Xmas holidays and looked at the District in detail. I am delighted that compared to last year the state of the District looks better with a number of Groups/Sections in better health. Like all Districts we continue to suffer from Leadership shortages and it is vital that Groups continue to recruit Leaders, keep Leaders and encourage members of Explorer Units to help with Sections, particularly the Troop Section. Groups should also encourage young Leaders and helpers to join the District Young Leaders Explorer Unit to give them the opportunity to attend training.

I am delighted to announce that the 9th Troop has resumed down at Sydenham Methodist. Our very best wishes to the new Leaders of the Troop and we look forward to seeing the 9th fully involved in the District after a period of absence.

As most of you are now aware from January 2005 HQ in London have deemed it necessary for all warranted Leaders to have a current first aid qualification. I would therefore encourage all our Leaders to gain a qualification. Our District ADC (Adult Training), Colin McLenaghan, will be organising District First Aid training during the year.

I look forward to 2004 and would encourage all of you to give a real push to Scouting in the District during this New Year. Thank you for all your work and achievements during 2003 and I hope we can surpass these in 2004
Very best wishes to you all,

Ian



Update from the District Treasurer



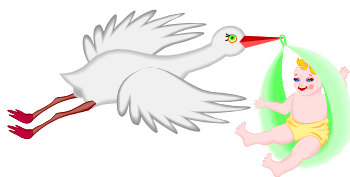
Many thanks to everyone who supported our 'Can you cook it' night in November especially our DC Ian and Deputy DC Alan. Despite abysmal weather on the night our 'Celebrity Chefs' managed to pull the crowds and almost fill the hall. The evening was very educational (for some) and entertaining for everyone else – hilarious to the point of hysteria at times and as far as I know no one came down with the dreaded food poisoning afterwards. Hopefully any claims got lost in the Christmas post!

Thank you to Alex for acquiring so many ballot prizes and also to anyone else who supplied a prize. Thanks also to everyone who supplied goodies for the supper.

To date the evening raised £858.70 for District Funds.

Once again many thanks to everyone who supported the evening and to those who didn't may I just say you missed a great night.

Ann Hanna, District Treasurer



Congratulations to Brian and Eileen Laffin (4th) on the birth of their baby daughter, Rebecca Louise on 7th January!



9th Belfast (East) Beavers visit to Crawfordsburn



On Saturday 6th December, 9th East Belfast Beavers paid a visit to 'Christmas at Crawfordsburn'. The boys (and Leaders) had been looking forward to this trip for weeks and there was great excitement and a LOT of noise on the journey down.

From the moment we arrived everything was exceptionally well organised and every moment was filled with fun and laughter. We first went on the Christmas trail, a lovely journey leading up to the birth of Jesus and along the way as a Leader read the story, the boys answered questions on a word search.

We next went to the holding area where we could try our hand at snowball fights, building a tower with building bricks, and obstacle course and loads of craft work including Christmas finger puppets, drawing, book marks, Christmas cards and the boys favourite making a bag of food for Santa's reindeers. We could have stayed much longer in the holding area but it was time to sing our way up the hill to meet Santa and Mrs Claus. Santa's grotto was a winter wonderland full of fibre optics and twinkling lights and was easily the best we had seen in a long time. Santa welcomed us and asked each of the boys what they would like for Christmas and then asked the boys to sing for him and he in turn, assisted by Mrs Claus, gave the boys a lovely gift.

After all that excitement we were ready for some juice, crisps and a sausage and our journey home. For our Beavers this was a wonderful afternoon and one we will certainly be repeating next year.

9th Beaver Leaders



SAILING THE IRISH SEA

At 8.00 pm Dawn Burns and I arrived very nervous at Carrickfergus Marina. We had to walk along the jetty in darkness and were very afraid we were going to get wet before we left the mooring! On first impression was that the 70 ft boat could not accommodate 18 crew, bunks, galley and eating area but it was surprisingly spacious.

After the Leaders had their tea, we got our bunks ready which were like coffins but without the top! We set sail at around 10.30 pm for Bangor and I even had a go at steering the wheel. We moored at Bangor for the night. In the morning, Dawn and I went to the marina to freshen up as the toilets or "heads" as they are called were not very nice! We sailed from Bangor to Campletown in Scotland which took until 7.00 pm. Dawn and I set off to see the sights which at 9.00 pm consisted of only two sweet shops.

The following day we departed for Carrickfergus hoping to arrive at around 2.00 pm. We were woken at 6.00 am to prepare breakfast (which didn't go so well) while the other crew members set sail. It was becoming 'choppy' which made us feel a bit very unwell. When we got back to our mooring, what we had to do was clean the whole boat before going home, which took a long time.

I was thankful to get home for a hot shower, but I really enjoyed this experience.

Jennifer Stewart, Stormont Explorer Scout



Cub Scout Mountain-biking Competition 2004



Competitive mountain-biking came early to the District on January 10th with Crawfordsburn being the venue for this year's event. 25 Cubs from only 4 packs braved the elements and boy, was this a test of endurance and stamina. The course setter Robert Lamont surpassed himself this year by designing a tough and challenging course which included two "death defying ramps". It is pleasing to note that this course is to be the basis of a permanent feature which can be adapted for all sections. The competition itself was run for three age groups: 8, 9 and 10 years and each race was either 2, 3 or 4 lap duration. All races were closely contested and results are as follows:

<i>8 Years:</i>	1 st	Ben McCadden	30 th Pack
	2 nd	Ryan Townsley	3 rd Pack
	3 rd	Gareth Thompson	30 th Pack
<i>9 Years:</i>	1 st	Andrew Flack	30 th Pack
	2 nd	Matthew Welsh	30 th Pack
	3 rd	David Walker	3 rd Pack
<i>10 Years:</i>	1 st	Robbie Lamont	30 th Pack
	2 nd	Ryan McKnight	30 th Pack
	3 rd	Damon Mosgrove	10 th Pack

1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners went forward to a handicapped Champion of Championship Race and the overall winner was 9 year old Andrew Flack from the 30th Pack. Thanks to all who attended and helped.

Suzi and John, ADCs (Cub Scouts)

pps County Swimming Gala date still to be decided. See Belfast Scouting.
pps District Quiz on Monday 9th February- venue to be confirmed. No excuses for non attenders!!



Update from East Belfast District Explorer Scouts



CHAMPIONS AGAIN

Congratulations to Belmont Explorers who won the 5-a-side football competition (again!!). There were three Units from East Belfast, one from North Belfast, making nine teams. The games were played in a lively spirited fashion, although no doubt a few bruises the next day.

GOING LIVE

NO more Venture Scouts or Venture Units – from 1st January 2004 we officially “say hello” to the Explorer Scouts, the newest Scouting section. East Belfast has five Explorer Units – Stormont, Knock, Belmont, McMordie and Gilnahirk. Once again, a reminder to those within the Scout sections to send names and addresses of those scouts aged 13-14 so the District Units can invite them along to the local Explorer Unit. Next event - Volleyball at Belmont Explorer Unit on Friday, 30 January 2004 from 8.00 - 9.30 pm. All Units welcome.



THE BIG BUILD



POLAND'05

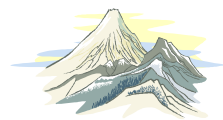
Stormont Explorers are planning a trip to Poland in 2005 to work with Habitat for Humanity and an expedition in Tatre Mountains. There are a few places remaining, so if any Explorer or Young Leader aged 16 by June 2005 is interested, please contact Ian McLachlan on 9048 9555 **by 28th February 2004.**



STORMONT'S ANNUAL EXPLORER DANCE

Saturday, 31st January 2004 at CIYMS from 8 pm late bar. Cost £5.00 at door. Live bands performing.

Ian McLachlan, Explorer Scout Commissioner



*7th Belfast (Dundonald Methodist) Scout Group
Slievenaman School House*



Slievenaman School House is situated in the heart of the beautiful Mourne Mountains. Accommodation includes the School Room, Teacher's Accommodation and surrounding playground where it is possible to set up camp.

For over 30 years, young people from several organisations have enjoyed the 'Slievenaman Experience' of basic country pursuits, easy access to the Mourne Mountains and Tollymore Forest Park, and Newcastle just down the road.

For further information please contact:

Desmond Grant (Scout Leader) 028 9145 9088
Anne Jackson (Group Scout Leader) 028 9022 9636



A Murder is announced

and will take place on Friday 6th February at 7.30pm.

30TH Belfast Scout Group invites all Leaders, Fellowship Members and friends to a Murder Mystery Evening at the Jack Britton Hall.

Opportunity to question the chief suspects as clues are revealed after each scene, and during supper later, with a prize for 1st team or individual from the audience who unmask the murderer!

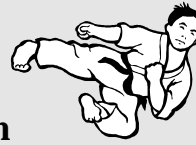
50 tickets (£4 including supper) have been donated to the District and can be obtained from the District Treasurer, Ann Hanna (028 9067 1909)- income from the sale of these will go directly to District Funds.

Tickets are also available from David (07742 287533) or Betty (02890 591080).





Well done Stephen



In October Stephen Holland (Stormont Explorer Scout) competed in the United Kingdom Traditional Karate Federation Championships (UKTKF) in Blackpool. He came second in the Cadet Kimite (fighting) and third in the cadet Kata. Stephen was presented with the silver and bronze medals by Sessei Kawasoe, Chief Instructor for the whole United Kingdom.

Events in February

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|------------------|---|
| 7 th | East Belfast District Beaver Unihoc Competition
9 th HQ, Sydenham Methodist Church
Contact: ADCs (Beaver Scouts) |
| 9 th | East Belfast District Cub Scout Quiz
4 th HQ, Knock Presbyterian Church
Contact: Suzi and John, ADCs (Cub Scouts) |
| 20 th | East Belfast District 5-a-side Football u12's & u15's
Heats at Avoneil 7-9pm for 10 th , 27 th , 28 th , 33 rd , 99 th
Contact: Stephen and William (ADCs, Scouts) |
| 27 th | East Belfast District 5-a-side Football u12's & u15's
Heats at Avoneil 7-9pm for 3 rd , 4 th , 7 th , 30 th and 73 rd
Contact: Stephen and William (ADCs, Scouts) |
| 29 th | East Belfast District Cub Scout Cross-country Race
Grounds of Stormont Estate
Contact: Suzi and John (ADCs, Cub Scouts) |



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



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

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