



Scouting East



The Journal of East Belfast Scouting

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

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MARCH 2004

From the Editor



Scouting East is positively brimming this month with reports of recent badge nights, Group News and District competitions and information about forthcoming events. By the time you receive this, our next Party Event at Stormont Presbyterian will have taken place and will hopefully have netted some new recruits for our District ranks. As a District, our focus now turns to the Fashion Show later this month. It is important that we build on the success of recent fundraising events, so please do try to come along if you can and more importantly do your best to publicise this event and encourage your friends and neighbours to support us. I gather that the organisers are still recruiting models for the show, so why not consider offering *your* services to Ann and Alex? Your Editor would be happy to volunteer to undergo a makeover and strut my stuff on the catwalk, if they can find at least *two* other Cub Leaders in East mad enough to join me!!!

Now is the time when Packs, Troops and Units start to plan weekend and summer camps. If you haven't found a venue yet, why not come along to the Scouters' Meeting next month to get a few suggestions from our International Commissioner, Robin Connor. Or, if you prefer somewhere closer to home, how about spending a weekend at Slievenaman Schoolhouse? This offers an excellent base in the heart of the Mourne suitable for all Sections from Cubs upwards and I know Anne and Des would be happy to provide you with information and booking forms. Better still, maybe we could arrange a District ramble in the Mourne followed by a BBQ at Slievenaman later this spring to enable Leaders in the District who haven't been before to tour the Schoolhouse and grounds to see what's on offer before bringing along their Group or Section?

Also in this issue, Jenny has provided information about a forthcoming Science Badge Course for East's Cubs. We've managed to get several people from QUB on board for this and it looks as if it will be a super afternoon, so please encourage your Cubs to take part. And why not ask the Beavers and Scouts in your Groups to suggest some courses that Jenny might organise for them too? Since HQ have introduced a requirement that all Leaders have at least some first aid training, perhaps we might look at arranging an Emergency Aid Badge Course or a District First Aid Competition for our Cubs and Scouts, as this would encourage all of us, Leaders included, to brush up on our First Aid Skills. Best wishes, *David*



From the District Commissioner

Firstly my congratulations to 7th SL Des Grant and 24th GSL Donald Murray on the recent Medal of Merit awards. Both these awards are well overdue and very well deserved and my thanks to Anne and Shirley for making the necessary arrangements to have both Des and Donald at our last District Scouters' meeting in uniform for the presentation by the County Commissioner Maynard Porter.

I am also delighted to announce the appointment of 99th CSL Alex Henry as our third ADC Cubs. Alex will join John and Suzi to commence work with the Cub Section in the District and will combine her ADC duties with her current position as District Media Development Manager. We wish Alex well as she takes up her new position. Unfortunately I have to announce that Stephen Hand has stood down from his position as ADC Beavers. Stephen has held his ADC role for many years and I would like to pay tribute to the work which he has carried out within the District during this time. Stephen will be missed by the Team but will continue for the rest of the year in supporting Liz and Betty within the Beaver Section. A new appointment will be made for September. Julie McIntyre has also stepped down from her role of Explorer Leader to the District Young Leaders Unit due to family commitments. My thanks to Julie for all her work in setting up our Young Leaders' Unit and I have asked her assistant, Richard Clark, to carry on with this position until a successor is appointed.

As most of you are now aware the District has been keen to organise a trip to Alton Towers for October 2004 and I am delighted to hear that the contingent of Cubs, Scouts and Leaders who will represent the District on the trip now numbers 70. I have asked ADCs Alex Henry and Betty Robb to lead this contingent with support from ADC Adult Training Colin McLenaghan and from the programme that is being arranged our young people are in for a super weekend. Anyone who may wish to get involved with this trip should contact either Alex or Betty.

The ADCs and Deputy DC will be meeting with the 30th Group and the Rev John McVeigh to put together the arrangements for St George's Day 2004 which will be held on Sunday **25th April** at Gilnahirk Presbyterian Church. We hope to "form up" and "disperse" from Knock Presbyterian Church and parade via the Kings Road, Gilnahirk Road to the Church and return. An information sheet will be sent to all Leaders of Groups giving necessary instructions. We also hope to have three Bands on Parade with us this year and I would ask that Groups/Sections start to make their arrangements now and perhaps include in the weekly programme some "marching practice". Why not invite a member of the Military or PSNI to your Section meeting to include some "marching"-might be good fun!!

I would remind all Leaders in East of the NI Conference which this year will be a one day affair at the Ramada Hotel on Saturday **20th March** 2004 from 10.00-

5.00pm and would encourage as many as possible particularly from the Scout and Explorer Sections to attend.

The District Badge Secretary Jenny Lamont has been hard at work organising District Badge Course evenings for the Cub Section and I called in recently to Avoneil Leisure Centre to see the pool full to the brim with East Cubs. Well done to Jenny and perhaps the Scout Section could approach Jenny to start arranging some District Courses for the Troops in the District.

The next District Scouters' meeting will be on **Monday 19th April** 7.30pm at the 9th Group HQ, Sydenham Methodist (no uniform required). I have been very encouraged to see an increase in attendance from our District Leaders especially the young Leaders and helpers who are now attending. I have asked the Northern Ireland Commissioner (International) Robin Connor to attend the April meeting to give the District information on International opportunities for Cub, Scout and Explorer Sections and especially information on District, County and Northern Ireland opportunities in 2005 and to the Centenary celebrations in 2007.

The 30th Group are now well into their 50th Anniversary Celebrations and I look forward to joining with the Past and Current members of the Group at their Anniversary Dinner in March. Thank you 30th for the invite. I hope also that East Troops and Explorer Units will support the 30th by entering the old "Gilnahirk Road Relay Race" which will be run on Saturday **6th March**. The rumours are untrue however that Alan and I are going to make an appearance in the Veteran's Race (certainly not without first aid or ambulance back-up)!!!!

I look forward to meeting with you all over the next month.

Good Scouting

Ian



East Belfast District trip to Alton Towers 22 - 24 October

Cost: £120 This includes flights (Friday at 2100, and returning 2200 on Sunday), food, accommodation, full day in Alton Towers and tour of Old Trafford (depending on fixtures). So far there are 65 Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Leaders going. It's still not too late to be part of this trip. If you are interested in going please contact me as soon as possible for further information.

Alex Henry, ADC (Cubs)

alexhenry@supanet.com Tel: 028 90 228271

News from 27th (St Dorothea's) Pack

We have had a busy time since Christmas, what with spending the entire evening creating masterpieces of moving models from what can only be described as the contents of a recycle bin.

Having said that, did you know that the best jet propelled wheels come from old inhaler lids and that long tubes of plastic transformed an ordinary car into a Dick Dastardly special. This is a definite must for an evening and all the boys from youngest to oldest thoroughly enjoyed the event - in fact we could have twice the time. I am advised that 'fine tuning' continued for several days at home. Watch out - perhaps we have the next builder for a Martian spaceship in our midst.

Last Thursday we held a Badge Night offering Information Technology (by far the most popular), Hobbies, Sports Enthusiast, Physical Recreation and Book Reader. Every boy attempted at least one badge and well over 40 were achieved.

Thank you to the Leaders involved but especially to our District President, Phil Holland, who manfully took up the challenge of the Hobbies Badge. It says it all when one Cub said to another (of Phil) 'I'm scared of him' the other quickly retorted 'Why? He's really nice and he wants to know all that you've done, he's great'. So a vote of thanks from the boys too,

27th Cub Leaders



East Belfast District Beaver Unihoc Competition

The noise emanating from Sydenham Methodist Church Halls on Saturday 7th February alerted the neighbourhood that something very exciting was happening. That something was the District Beaver Uni-Hoc competition, and boy WAS it something!!! 14 teams representing EVERY group in East Belfast were battling it out for victory. Because of sheer numbers, we had taken over two halls at the church and ran 2 leagues, with 2 semi-finals and the final being played in the larger of them. The excitement was almost too much for our DC who, due to the notable absence of his able assistant, (I suppose we have to wait till next year for the beard to be trimmed again, Alan?) had to try to divide himself between both venues. However, all good things must come to an end, and the semi-finals were played out between teams from 3rd, 4th, 30th and 99th, with 30th A the eventual winners and 4th B runners up. The organisers decided that the other 2 teams played so well that they deserved to have medals too, which should have been presented before this goes to print. Our thanks go to Sydenham Methodist for their hospitality, to Pat and Ann for supplying the tea and coffee, and to all the Beavers and Leaders who took part. We were also very pleased to have Roy, Jenny and Elizabeth from the Fellowship to keep score. We could not have done it without them. We hope to see you ALL again next year.

Betty Robb and Liz Whitley, ADCs (Beavers)



CUB SCOUT ACTIVITY BADGES



In the month of January, we have managed to achieve two more Activity Badges. The first one to be held was the 'Road Safety Badge' in which 5 groups attended. We had the Road Safety Officer from Police Service of Northern Ireland, who gave a very informed talk and the boys and girls were able to answer all the questions on Road Safety. This was followed by a short film starring 'May McFetridge'. I would like to thank Alex and Julie for their most welcoming night and for the juice and crisps for all the Cubs.

On 30th January 41 Cubs, Leaders and parents invaded Avoniel Swimming Pool. All the boys and girls were able to gain badges. This event was organised on our behalf by David Bell and I would like to thank David for all of his hard work, and to all of the Leaders who assisted with examining the badges: Carol (ex 27th BSL), Alex and Julie (99th), Roy and Elizabeth (3rd) and Gary and Jane (28th).

We plan to have the 'Scientist' and 'Sportsman' badges within the next few months and hope to organise another swimmers' night, especially for those wanting to take part in 'Stage 1', who may find difficulty in obtaining the badge. On this occasion we will require more help from Leaders who will be prepared to get into the water to safely supervise the boys and girls and give them confidence.

Jenny Lamont, Badge Secretary



The Scientist Badge will be on Saturday, 20th March from 1.30-4.30 p.m. at 30th HQ (Gilnahirk Presbyterian) Jack Britton Hall. Will you please inform me as soon as possible if your Group will be attending, as part of the badge will need to be completed before you attend. The Cost per Cub will be £2.50



Reminder: Please support!!



- *The Gilnahirk Road Race* 1.30 p.m. for 2 p.m. start on Saturday 6th March. This is the first of 30th Group's 50th Anniversary events and we are hoping for a large number of entrants from Troops, Explorers and Leaders (of all Sections) in East. We'd love to see you there!!!
- *The District Fashion Show* on Friday 26th March at Knock Presbyterian Church. Models of all ages, shapes and sizes are still being actively recruited. Or, if you're not mad or brave enough to stride the catwalk yourself, why not at least buy some tickets and come along for the craic?



East Belfast District Cub Scout Quiz



The annual District Cub quiz took place on Monday 9th February and 13 Teams + Leaders fitted cosily into Stormont Presbyterian's new youth complex. The teams battled it out for 7 rounds on the following subjects:- General Knowledge, Science, Sport, History & Geography, Music, TV & Films, Scouting Knowledge & the inevitable Picture Round.

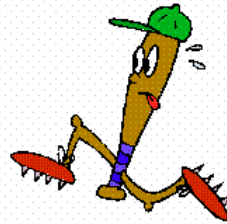
This year's questions were set by Paula (ACC Cubs) and judging by the Leaders' gasps proved to be taken from either MENSAs or a PhD student's finals. The evening flew by and the Cubs were all exhausted towards the end but were quickly rejuvenated with some crisps & drinks. We are indebted to all those "runners", "markers" & "minders" who ensured the evening ran so smoothly. Technology played a big part as Alex could run off from her laptop the rounds scores and was able to rapidly produce a final table which is shown below. Congratulations to the 30th A team who won the competition and will be representing East in the Northern Ireland Quiz final in the Cathedral Hall, Enniskillen on Saturday 6th March. We wish them "best of luck"

John and Suzi, ADCs (Cubs)

2004 EAST BELFAST CUB QUIZ RESULTS.

	Team	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Round 7	Total
1st	30th A	10	13	10	10	7	8	7	65
2nd	4th A	10	10	9	8	5	9	7	58
3rd	99th B	9	10	10	8	7	7	6	57
4th	30th B	9	9	9	9	5	9	6	56
5th	3rd A	9	6	8	10	8	7	6	54
6th	99th A	7	10	7	7	5	7	8	51
6th	10th B	10	8	8	6	7	6	6	51
7th	4th B	8	4	7	8	4	10	8	49
7th	3rd B	7	8	8	7	4	8	7	49
8th	7th B	7	6	9	6	4	8	6	46
9th	10th A	7	2	8	4	7	7	6	41
10th	7th A	4	3	7	4	5	5	6	34
10th	27th	6	1	5	7	5	6	4	34

East Belfast District 2004 Cub Cross Country



DATE: 28th FEBRUARY 2004
VENUE: STORMONT ESTATE
TIME: 2.00pm for 2.15pm START

Meet at security barrier – Upper Newtownards Road end

Parking is available at Maynard Sinclair pavilion

Teams to consist of - 4 members(No more than 2 seniors / team)

(Seniors – over 10)

(Juniors – under 10) on the day.

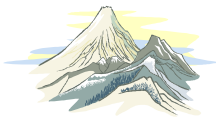
COST: 20p per Cub (No limit on No. of Teams entered)

Extra Cubs (not members of the Pack's team) may also enter @
a cost of 20p per Cub

Group scarf to be worn

Spectators are encouraged. The finish is anticipated @ 3.15pm

On race day each leader to supply a list of names and dates of
birth for ALL entrants.



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



Events in March

- 6th Gilnahirk Road Race
30th HQ, Gilnahirk Presbyterian Church, 1.30 p.m.
Contact: David or Betty (30th)
- 8th District Executive Meeting
District HQ, Bill Elliott Scout Hall 7.45 p.m.
Contact: Harry Davison (District Secretary)
- 14th District Team Meeting
Stormont Hotel, 7.30 p.m.
Contact: Ian or Alan
- 26th East Belfast District Fashion Show
Knock Presbyterian Church
Contact: Ann Hanna (District Treasurer)

EXPLORER SCOUT LEADERS' MEETING



To all Leaders - there will be a meeting on Monday, 1st March, at 8 p.m. at Tamar Street Scout Hall. Don't forget to bring along two representatives from your Unit.

Reminder - any Explorers interested in going to Poland in 2005 should contact Ian McLachlan for more information. Tel: 90489555.

INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN BIKE RACE



We have been asked to marshal this race on Sunday 18th April from 10 a.m. onwards at Castlewellan Forest Park. If you can help, there is a possibility of camping overnight in the Park.

Ian McLachlan, Explorer Scout Commissioner



**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!