



Scouting East



The Journal of East Belfast Scouting

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

No. 250

APRIL 2004

From the Editor



Prior to the re-establishment of 28th Group I must admit I had never heard of the *Thanks Badge*. Scanning quickly through past issues of Scouting East, I was unable to find any reference to this award. The 28th Leaders presented Thanks Badges last year to those who had helped to restart the 28th Group, including, to my knowledge (there may have been others) DC Ian and Anne Jackson, and to Billy Robb who carried out refurbishment work on the Bill Elliott Hall; our District also presented Thanks Badges to the Symington Memorial and 43 BB Bands at last year's St. George's Day Service, to thank them for their many years' association with our Parade. More recently, 99th Group presented a Thanks Badge to Rev Derek Drysdale on his retirement as Minister of Belmont Presbyterian Church in recognition of many years unstinting service to the congregation and the 99th Scout Group. My own Group presented our first Thanks Badges during our anniversary weekend; to Anna Cooper, Audrey's assistant with the Pack for more than 25 years, Doris Magill, former Treasurer of the Parents' Committee, Will Hamill, a member of Kirk Session and Youth Council who has had many years' association with the Scout Group, and to Harry Davison, our District Secretary, who helped us to restart the Troop in 1999, and served as acting SL for two years.

The Thanks Badge which comes as a Gents' Lapel Pin or Ladies' Brooch (though each version is equally difficult to pin onto the recipient!!!) is accompanied by a citation from the Chief Scout, George Purdy *'I should like to say 'thank you' for all your excellent work on behalf of the Scout Movement. It is only a small token but I hope that you will treasure it as a mark of my appreciation'*, and is only awarded with the approval of the DC, ensuring that this accolade is restricted to those who most truly deserve it. Isn't this a very fitting way of recognising those people who work away quietly supporting Scouting in East in so many varied and valuable ways without ever expecting or anticipating an award? The pleasure that such awards bring to the recipients and their families and friends is clear for all to see. Well done to 28th for leading the way by making us aware of the Thanks Badge, and reminding us all to say 'Thank You'. How about also recording the individual citations in the District Year Book, or inviting the recipients to join us at a reception at the District AGM? Just a thought!

Wishing you every blessing this Easter time,

David



From the District Commissioner

It is great to be able to start my DC's report this month on a very positive note in relation to the recently completed Census returns and to announce that East District has registered 792 personnel compared to 2003 when we registered 742, an increase of 50. Most Group figures are up, some very significantly and I will be going through the District Group figures with the GSLs at a meeting in March. Obviously our Recruitment, Publicity and the "Parties" strategy is now working and it is important that we keep this very significant upward trend going and continue to recruit. I will be encouraging those Groups who need new members and Leaders to use our County Development Officer Deirdre Kissock to organise Group recruitment and school visits to boost their numbers.

Very well done however to everyone in the District, all Groups/Sections and also to Deirdre and Alex for the recruitment and publicity work which they have been spear-heading throughout the year. Next year I would like to see the District break the 800+ mark and aim to have East back to the 1000 members. Isn't it great to think of 50 new boys, girls and adults joining Scouting here in East during this year? The recent District "Party" at Stormont was again very worthwhile with a significant amount of parents and children making enquiries, even to a degree were we had potential recruits outside Belfast County courtesy of the Radio publicity gained through Alex. We also got a front page colour photo in the "Newsletter". On what better note to finish!

I was delighted during last month to be invited to the new 9th Scout Troop. After a number of years absence the 9th Troop are now back in business under SL Alan Gray, Pat Gordon and their team and looking good it is too. Well done Alan and I know the Deputy D.C is working alongside the 9th with programmes etc and I predict a strong District challenge from Sydenham Methodist in the near future. I also spent a very enjoyable Saturday at Cairn Wood with the combined 3rd and 99th Packs and had great fun building shelters, lighting fires and cooking sausages just the way Scouting should be. Thanks to Roy and Alex for the invite; both sets of lads were a credit to the 3rd and 99th Groups.

Our congratulations to former Belmont Minister and Chaplain to the 99th Group, Rev Drysdale, now retired, on his presentation of a "Thanks Badge" by the 99th Group for his work in Scouting in Belmont and East District. Also my congratulations to 73rd CSL, Stephen Law, and his ACSL, Paul Reilly, on receiving their Wood-badges.

The District Explorer Commissioner, Ian McLachlan, recently chaired and invited me to a meeting of the District Explorer Leaders and two young Explorer

Representatives. I am delighted to see that Explorer Scouting is going so well in East with Census numbers up from last year and a new Explorer Unit at Knock now up and running. Also very positive is an enquiry by the 73rd Group who hope to set up a "Bloomfield" Explorer Scout Unit along with 28th in the near future. Well done to our Explorer Section and keep the development going.

Can I advise all Groups that queries regarding warrants should be addressed to Ann Anderson directly. This also applies to warrant reviews. Please do this yourselves and do not sit and wait, criticising the District for not doing anything in relation to warrants. With such a large District the control of Leader Warrants is a tough job and Ann needs the full co-operation of everyone to keep this running smoothly. I would remind all Leaders of the next District Scouters' get-together on Monday 19th April at 7.30pm at 9th Group HQ, Sydenham Methodist Church, where the International Commissioner Robin Connor will give a talk on international opportunities for our young people. I hope that all young Leaders, even Explorers will be encouraged to come along to this get-together. Good Scouting for the forthcoming month,

Ian



Media Development

As a District we are now getting more and more publicity through the local media. Can I bring to your attention the following information:

Still photography

When photographs featuring young people are being taken specifically for advertising/promotional material it is strongly recommended that parental consent is obtained. Photographs being taken by a professional newspaper attending a Scout event by invitation also fall into the same category - photographers are now asking me if parental consent has been given for a photograph to be taken for the paper. Could all Sections please let me know if your parents have all signed a form saying that they are happy for their child's picture to be used in the local media. In future at any events only those Sections who I know have received consent forms from parents will be photographed. The consent form can be very simple. Something along the following lines on your personal information form would suffice:

I give permission for my son / daughter's photograph to be taken and used by the local media for the purpose of Scout publicity.

Signed:

Dated:

Can I also remind all Leaders that when the local photographers take pictures there is no guarantee that they will be used. The papers will use the photographs which are most appealing to them, e.g. action shots / very colourful shots. The number of photographs used will also depend on the space available. If you or your parents have any queries about why a photograph has not been printed please contact me rather than the paper involved.

Any photographs / Press Releases should all go through me - ideally Press Releases should be sent out 2/3 weeks in advance with a reminder just before the event. Anyone who wishes to send out a Press Release please contact me.

Changes to the Year Book

Francy McCrea

E-mail: francy.mccrea@ntlworld.com

Chris Moss

E-mail: twidge@onetel.com

Anne & George Jackson

E-mail: george.jackson891@ntlworld.co.uk

If you or you know of someone in your Section / Group who is not receiving District e-mails (from info.eastbelfastdist@scoutsni.org) please contact me to have your address added. If you change any of your details please ensure that they are passed on so that our Leaders' contact list is kept as up to date as possible.

Alex, District Media Development Manager



District Cub Scout Cross-country Race

This year's Cross-country race was held on Saturday 28th February at Stormont Estate. We, this year, changed the Race time to 2.15 p.m. to accommodate those Cubs who have other Saturday morning commitments. Over 40 Cubs entered from the following Packs: - 3rd, 4th, 10th, 27th, 28th, 30th and 99th.

Although the day started off frosty (when the ADCs set out the course), the weather improved to near ideal running conditions and the start time rapidly approached. We were to discover at the last minute that some very "Helpful" visitors had decided to either remove some of our direction arrows or re-route them. A quick recce and repair job ensued and the race started slightly late. We estimate the race length to be ~ 1.5miles and the first flyers began to arrive back at the finishing line in about 15minutes.

Surprisingly this year's winner was from the under 9 age bracket - therefore age is no barrier to success. The results are printed below. It is generally agreed that we should continue with this new start time and it is worth noting too that all competitors and their supporters were away by 3.15 p.m. Well done to all concerned, be that runners, marshals, course setters and supporters,

PACK/TEAM	TEAM SCORE	PLACING*
3 rd A	73	3
99 th A	72	2
99 th B	116	7
99 th C	88	4
10 th A	89	5
28 th	113	6
4 th	53	1

*only complete teams (i.e. 4 runners) are shown

4th Pack were this year's winners of the John McKirgan Trophy

Individual Race				
	Under 9 yrs	Pack	Over 9yrs	Pack
1 st	Jamie Fieldhouse	99 th	Michael McMillan	30 th
2 nd	Calum Holland	99 th	David Ward	3 rd
3 rd	Paul McCloskey	4 th	Hall Walker	4 th

Overall Winner: Jamie Fieldhouse, 99th Pack

Suzi and John, ADCs (Cub Scouts)



District Cub Scout 5-a-side Football

The District has an abundance of very keen soccer players who came out in force on Monday 9th March at this year's competition held in Sydenham Methodist Church Hall - an ideal venue with 2 good sized halls.

12 teams - 3rd A and B, 4th, 7th A and B, 9th A and B, 27th, 28th, 30th, 99th A and B battled for the title of District Champions.

After some very exciting and fraught 1st round ties, 6 teams progressed to the semi-finals and the do or die element of the competition intensified. The 3rd A and the 30th were both successful in reaching the final and with a stalemate 0 - 0 result even after extra time, penalties were to be the decider and from this the 30th came through to be this year's victorious winners.

For anyone who witnessed the competition - you're lucky, as the atmosphere was electrifying .Overall the Cubs showed some masterful skills but more importantly - good sportsmanship and grace, even in defeat.

Match Results

First Round	99 th B	3	v	1	7 th B
	3 rd B	0	v	1	7 th A
	27 th	1	v	2	28 th (AET)
	9 th B	0	v	1	9 th A
	99 th A	0	v	2	3 rd A
	4 th	1	v	2	30 th

Play Off for Semi Final

9 th A	4	v	2	28 th
7 th A	1	v	3	30 th

Semi Finals

99 th B	1	v	1	3 rd A (AET)
	0	v	3	Penalties
9 th A	2	v	3	30 th

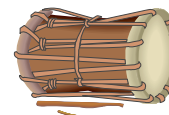
Final

3 rd A	0	v	0	30 th (AET)
	1	v	3	Penalties

Suzi and John, ADCs (Cub Scouts)



News from 30th Pack



The last few months have been very busy for 30th Pack. We have had visits from the RSPB and from the local vet, enabling us to complete the Animal Carer badge, and also from Paint Me Glaze Me, with all of the Cubs making gifts for Mothers' Day, and finishing off the Artist Badge, which we had started last autumn, by making poster displays for our 50th anniversary celebrations. We recently arranged an activity badge exam night, with over 50 badges being earned in one evening for Collector, Hobbies, Book Reader, My Faith, Sports Enthusiast and Musician- many thanks to our examiners, Will and Hilda Hamill, David McDonald, George Johnston and Rev Cheryl Reid. We also held an ethnic dance and drumming workshop, led by Tura from Artfrique, through which the Cubs undertook part of the Entertainer Badge. 4 of the Cubs, Philip, Richard, Andrew and Craig, along with Akela and Haithi, also visited Belfast Citybeat Radio Station and were interviewed on the Owen Larkin Show on 20th February, which was a great opportunity to promote our 50th Anniversary events and also Scouting in Belfast generally, particularly as the visit was the day before the Party at Stormont,

David, CSL 30th



30th Pack Polar Expeditionary Team



Undeterred by a heavy snowfall on Thursday evening, we travelled down to Gosford Guide House for our first Pack Holiday of 2004 on a bitterly cold weekend in February. Thankfully the helpful Guide Commissioner had also braved the elements to meet us and had the heating cranked up full blast for our arrival.

Most of the snow had cleared by Saturday morning and, kitted out in overalls, gloves, hairnets!! and helmets, we were able to venture onto the go-kart track at Gosford Karting for a superb morning's activity; a little frostbite and hypothermia weren't going to stop us- we're made of sterner stuff than that, even if we did nearly break our teeth on the frozen Mars bars from the shop! Even the Leaders joined in although Donna 'Penelope Pitstop' Hawthorne and David 'How do you steer this thing!' Bell were no match for Michael 'Shumacher' Thompson. After refuelling on cup-a-soup and sandwiches, we headed into Armagh for a visit to the Planetarium. The Cubs wiled away the afternoon making and firing rockets with the help of Tom Mason, before being treated to a preview of a star show in the recently refurbished auditorium by Julie Thompson. Julie and Tom were disappointed that the Astronomer badge had been dropped from the new programme, and would be keen for this to be reinstated; they've offered to invite all the Cubs in Belfast to the Planetarium when it officially reopens later this year.

After dinner, we got down to some serious model raft building- some of the designs would have put Harland and Wolff to shame, although they seemed destined to meet the same fate as *The Titanic*. Afterwards, it was time for our Entertainer's Badge Puppet Play, with our judges Happy Dan and So Sad Sam, alias Davy Hawthorne and Michael Thompson. All of the Leaders laughed and laughed until it hurt at the puppets and scripts which the Cubs had made and written themselves, including one featuring a model of Akela's car which they had cruelly christened 'The Tin'!!! We rounded off the evening toasting marshmallows as we huddled around the campfire, singing merrily despite sub zero temperatures, with plenty of actions needed to keep us all warm.

On Sunday, we again braved the elements for a cross-country run, tracking, tent pitching and plaster cast making- why Ryan chose to make a cast of his own ear and nose rather than a leaf or twig is still beyond us!! We also launched our little flotilla of rafts on perilous seas, with chaotic scenes akin to the Dunkirk evacuation, as renegade Leaders attempted to obstruct or sink the boats with strategically placed branches or missiles! Michael and Davy ended up wetter than the Cubs and certainly weren't getting any sympathy!! We rounded off a very enjoyable weekend with a Cubs Own Service and backwoods lunch of garlic and herb dough (bread!), sausages, fish, garlic potatoes and chocolate bananas (and one chocolate sausage- we're still not sure how that ended up on the fire!!!),

David, Donna and Lorna, 30th Pack



The Gilnahirk Road Race



A very big thank you to everyone who supported the Gilnahirk Road Race during 30th Group's 50th Anniversary celebrations on the weekend of 5th-7th March. The inter-Troop relay race saw teams from 10th, 30th and 73rd Troops, along with 20th (West), 62nd (South-East) and no fewer than 5 teams from 104th (South East)- our spies inform us that South East DC, Ann Cowan, had them out training for weeks beforehand- tackle the demanding 1.5 mile course, which this year started with a steep ascent up the Rocky Road, and continued along the Upper Braniel Road before returning back down the Gilnahirk Road to the Jack Britton Hall. The individual race saw an assortment of 20 hardy veterans, Leaders, Young Leaders and Explorer Scouts tackle the course with varying degrees of success, but thankfully neither the Police Search and Rescue nor the First Aider from St. John's were called into action! Congratulations to all of the runners for completing the course, and our thanks to the marshals, police, first aider, and our catering team and those who helped out on the registration desk, and also to Phil Holland and Billy Jenkins who lent their support and to DC Ian for presenting the certificates and medals to the winners. Looking through the archives of Scouting East, it seems to have been a very long time since the race was last held at Gilnahirk; judging by the very positive response this year, maybe we will be able to turn this back into an annual event for the Scouts, Explorer Scouts and Leaders in Belfast County? Perhaps Ann Cowan and I might even enter ourselves next year!!

<i>Inter-Troop Relay:</i>	1 st	10 th Troop	25 min 23 sec
	2 nd	104 th Troop 'A' Team	26 min 03 sec
	3 rd	20 th Troop	29 min 33 sec

Explorer Scouts and Young Leaders' Race:

1 st	Barry Fletcher	McMordie Explorer Unit
2 nd	Chris Foye	Young Leader, 30 th Colony
3 rd	Chris Spears	Stormont Explorer Unit

<i>Leaders' Race:</i>	1 st	Andrew McKinney	ACSL 3 rd Pack
	2 nd	Chris Hardacre	ABSL 10 th Colony
	3 rd	Alyn Adair	Instructor, 30 th Pack

<i>Veterans' Race:</i>	1 st	David McHendry	(overall winner)
	2 nd	David Pollock	
	3 rd	Graham McClure	

David, CSL 30th



30th Belfast (Gilnahirk) 50th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service

We would like to take the opportunity through the pages of Scouting East to thank our fellow Scouters, members of the District Team and District Executive, friends and former Leaders for joining with us on Sunday afternoon 7th March at Gilnahirk Presbyterian Church for our 50th Anniversary Service. We were very pleased by the turnout at the service and have been touched by the many generous comments and anniversary greetings we have received from across the District. We would particularly like to thank Rev Tom Reid and Rev John McVeigh who led the service, the organist, Alf Casement, and Doris Magill and her band of helpers for the terrific spread they put on for us in the Church Hall afterwards. We are also very appreciative of the support we received from DC, Ian, particularly for making the effort to be with us for all of the events held during our anniversary weekend, and for his kind words on Sunday afternoon. We were all very moved by Ken Calvert's speech during the service, especially his fitting tribute to his skipper, the late John McCay, and were delighted that Joy McCay and the family were able to be present with us at the service and later when a tree was planted by the 30th Group in memory of John in the Garden of Remembrance in the Church Grounds,

David, John and Betty, 30th Group



Ardnavalley Art Exhibition 2004 Baden Powell Chalet, Ardnavalley Scout Centre

Thursday 29th April, 7.00 - 9.30 p.m.

Friday 30th April, 7.00 - 9.30 p.m.

Saturday 1st May, 10.00 a.m. – 5.30 p.m.

Sunday 2nd May, 2.30 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.

Admission (including Tea/Coffee and Biscuits) by catalogue £1
Further information available from Ann Anderson or John Maguire
(j.maguire@ntlworld.com)



Inter-Troop 5-a-side Football Competition - Avoniel Leisure Centre

After two qualifying evenings on 20th and 27th February, the finals were keenly contested on Friday 12th March. 4th, 7th, 10th, 27th, 30th, 73rd and 99th Troops participated. Final results as follows:

Juniors: 27th 0 v 1 4th Seniors: 99th 0 v 0 4th
99th won 3-2 on penalties

Stephen Anderson, ADC (Scouts)



*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



News from 7th Belfast Colony



The Campfire

On Thursday 29 January 2004

We had a campfire at beavers.

We started the wood and the leaders lit it. All the beavers stood around the campfire and sang songs while the leaders cooked sausages. We then had hotdogs.

After singing more songs the leaders put the fire out and we all went home.

JAMES BROWN



beavers campfire night
the leaders lit a camp fire
we ate hotdogs and sang songs
found it. we had fun!





Michael Price
Beaver Scout, 7th Belfast Group
A brave and true Beaver Scout

For those of you who were aware of the illness of little Michael Price, I regret to inform you that Michael passed away on the morning of Sunday 7th March. Michael's family and the Beavers and Leaders of 7th Colony are very much in our thoughts at this time,

Ian

Events in April

- 19th District Scouters' Meeting
9th HQ, Sydenham Methodist Church
Contact: Ian or Alan
- 23rd Rehearsal for St. George's Day Service
Gilnahirk Presbyterian Church
Contact: Ian (DC) or Betty (ADC/BSL 30th)
- 25th St. George's Day Parade and Service,
Gilnahirk Presbyterian Church
Contact: Ian or Alan



**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!