



President: Scott Williamson LLB NP
Vice-Presidents: Murray McGregor, David Husband
Secretary: Alistair Joss
Treasurer: Jonathan Bruce

Dundee & Angus Battalion

Battalion HQ Craigiebank Church Halls
Carlochie Place,
Dundee, DD4 7LX

Battalion Development

Telephone 01382 457567
e-mail: info@bbdundeeangus.org.uk

REPORT – 22nd August 2016

The summer has seen many changes for me as I left the 44th Company after a 44 year association and joined the group of officers in the battalion known as the reserve officers' list.

While some companies had a seasonal break from BB companies a good number enjoyed more outdoor events; most notably the annual summer camps which give our young members so many happy memories and our officers so much work. I applaud every one of you for the efforts you undertake on behalf of the boys.

Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations

I was privileged to attend the Angus Lord Lieutenant's birthday party celebrations for our Queen and patron's 90th birthday. Despite a rather cold damp evening it was good to join Alistair Joss in representing the BB and our own battalion. The gathering was held at the home of Mrs Georgianna Osborne, Lord Lieutenant of Angus in her role as the Queen's local representative.

For those who attended a recent battalion council meeting you may remember the excellent talk given by Mrs Osborne highlighting the historical role and some of the current duties of the Lord Lieutenants across the UK.

The local Army and Sea cadet bands provided the entertainment at the reception before a young bugler sounded sunset as the union flag was lowered at the end of proceedings.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Diamond Jubilee Celebrations.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Award scheme and the battalion was invited to provide a pipe band at two events in the battalion area. The 44th Coy accepted the invitation and played for the Earl of Dalhousie at Brechin Castle when he hosted a special DofE dinner attended by Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex. The second engagement was hosted by Lord Provost Bob Duncan in Dundee City Square where the band played. Four senior members of 1st Carnoustie and 44th Dundee met the Earl of Wessex and collected an anniversary tee shirt after climbing an artificial wall provided by Ancrum Outdoor Centre. A further three young band members joined in climbing the wall for their own tee shirts after the band performance.

An unexpected email from Ramsay Aitken had me back out on the hills as a Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition assessor to a group from Inverness and Lanarkshire completing their Gold Award. It was a rewarding experience for me having undertaken my own Gold expedition nearly 50 years ago. Thank you Ramsay.

DofE Awards for Boys Brigade Members

I attended the training course held in Ibrox Church on 4th August hosted by Jim McVean, Glasgow Battalion's secretary and delivered by Ramsay Aitken, our Scottish BB, DofE Manager. Only three other officers participated in the course which covered a lot of material on who, what, why where and how to manage the award scheme in BB Groups.

Two companies currently have boys working towards a bronze or silver award. Are there more? Following a discussion with a number of officers at national and local training level I have a proposal to create a DofE group based on our battalion to which all company boys may register and complete their award. Why suggest this? It can simplify the administration for us as BB officers; boys who wish to join the scheme can do so at battalion level even if their own company does not offer this activity. (Or they are unsuccessful in joining a school group). Finding others to complete expedition groups for practice and final assessments which require a minimum of 4 people per group should be easier for the individual. Much of the other work can be completed within their own companies.

I would be delighted to hear your comments and gauge the level of interest

Band work in the Battalion

As some of you may know I have been working with the 44th Dundee in Broughty Ferry and 1st Monifieth pipe bands which combined to play at over 20 functions in the previous year.

The band has proved a popular activity for the members and has been well received by the public. It is also a good example of publicising the work of the Boys Brigade locally.

Whilst it is often difficult to arrange practices I would like to see our recent efforts extended to all companies in the battalion whether you have one budding musician or a whole championship band.

Again, please contact me if you have any interested boys.

Scottish Development Team Meeting 11th August 2016

The development team was held in Rosebery House, Edinburgh very close to Haymarket Railway station.

i) A round-up of the team's activities over the summer highlighted the continuing work undertaken throughout the 'quiet summer time' of the BB annual calendar. These included the Youth Leader Network (YLN) which organised a trip to Madrid; BB camps from Felden Lodge to Copenhagen; Queen's Badge presentations; Games camps and tasting sessions; Youth United and battalion camps and chaplain's breakfasts. The list goes on.

ii) A large number of companies are still operating without registered captains. Fortunately, this battalion has a full complement of captains and is in the process of appointing one new captain.

iii) Material for the new recruiting campaign 'One for All' and 'Grow by one member in each section' is now available and can be downloaded from the BB website or ordered through supplies.

Have you heard a good story from a teacher or member of the public about how the work of the BB has affected one of your boys. Niall Rolland, our PR development worker would like to hear from you with a view to creating a blog to illustrate the effect good BB work has on the individual and the community. Niall's email is niall.rolland@boys-brigade.org.uk

iv) The Scotland Team has been working on the new Work Plan with action points and targets for the next 12 months. More information to follow.

v) The BB has now negotiated the use of 'Spill the Beans' for all BB companies and I commend the material which is targeted at specific age groups from Anchor Boys to Seniors. The website has the latest issue No 19 May to September 2016 to be found at <http://scotland.boys-brigade.org.uk/Scotland/Spill-the-Beans-Issue-19.pdf>

vi) Bill Stevenson visited the FDF youth camp in Denmark this summer which had 12,000 campers on site. The benefits and experience of camping in the BB are well known to those of us who attended and ran camps. Enjoyment, learning, social communicating and organisational skills developed during these camps are remembered long after the hard work and poor weather are long forgotten. Did your boys receive the opportunity to attend a summer or games camp this year? Not all members do and it is hoped that by offering battalion or area events more young people can enjoy the experience of summer camp with others of their own age.

Are you interested in taking a group abroad next year? There are still a number of small grants available which might make a difference to your proposed venture.

vii) Do you require help with advertising your company or church event? The Scottish headquarters has a small supply of banners and pop ups which may be borrowed. We have two battalion pop ups in our Craigiebank office and I have recently used the national wave type banners when hosting the battalion bands' competition. The later may be booked through the Carronvale office. If you would like your own company banner please get in touch as a competitive price can be arranged through members of the development team.

viii) The Cashback to Communities due to end in the summer has been extended and two further tranches are available with cut-off dates of September and December 2016 so act quickly and submit your applications to Carronvale as soon as possible.

There has been very little communication local from companies over the spring and summer relating to development work however I am pleased to offer help and advice at any time to you and your individual company.

Roddy Taylor

Contact details: development@boys-brigade.org.uk mobile telephone 07925 589 833