

THE BOYS' BRIGADE

DUNDEE & ANGUS BATTALION

ANNUAL REPORT : MAY 2017

The work of the past year has continued as we strive to make our Battalion vibrant and suitable for the work being carried out by our Companies.

At last year's AGM, the majority of the necessary appointments were made. During the year the Management Team continued to look at our various appointments to see how they reflect our place in youth work in our Battalion area. We are very happy to present a part-list of our Honorary President and Honorary Vice-Presidents to you for a further term. Due to the local Council Elections, we await confirmation that the Lord Provost of Dundee and the Provost of Angus will accept our invitation to be our Honorary Battalion President and one of our Honorary Vice-Presidents. One of our Vice-Presidents, David Husband, must stand down as he has completed two terms of appointment. Pat Ritchie continues in post, and a new Vice-President will be appointed. Our Reserve of Officers list continues as before. PVG checks continue to be carried out as necessary. It was with sadness we noted the passing in October 2016 of one of our Honorary Vice-Presidents, Councillor Helen Oswald, Provost of Angus after a period of ill-health. We were represented at her funeral by members of the 1st Carnoustie Company.

Mr C F Scott Williamson, a solicitor and Chairman of Blackadders continues as our Battalion President. Scott has settled in very well and we appreciate his chairmanship at meetings as he often sees things through different eyes and with different viewpoints. In respect of our Battalion Chaplain, we can report that Rev Willie Strachan, OLM at Lochee Parish Church and a former BB member agreed to become our Chaplain for the three year period back-dated to the AGM in May.

The time we all take out of our "normal" lives to work within our Battalion no matter the position or role we hold in a purely voluntary capacity is very much appreciated and acknowledged.

Roddy Taylor's appointment as our Development Worker on a part-time basis continues. He is still a part of BB Scotland's Team of full-time and part-time staff and support workers and attends their regular meetings at which ideas are exchanged and developed. This is proving beneficial for all. Each of his Reports is available on the website. During the year Roddy took on the role of our Queen's Badge Adviser and Adviser in respect of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Other events we continued to support were BB National Competitions, (Masterteam, Table Tennis, Chess and 5-a-side football). Many of our entrants did well, only 1st Monifieth reached one of the Finals, Table Tennis, and although they did not win, they enjoyed their visit to Liverpool. This year's finals of the Scottish Cross Country Championships were held in Glasgow at which our teams and individuals performed creditably. Our bands continued to support our local Competitions as well as the Scottish Bands Contest. This year the 6th/8th again returned as Scottish Champions, a great achievement given the very high standard of competition and this surely shows that practice and determination of both the boys and their leaders and tutors leads to success. Other Battalion Bands from the 30th and 44th Dundee and 1st Monifieth did well in their classes and they now form the basis of a "Battalion Band" to let them get the feel

of what competing at the national level is like. We were represented at the Edinburgh, Leith & District Battalion's Annual Beating Retreat on the Esplanade of Edinburgh Castle.

As a registered Charity, we must comply with the legislation administered by OSCR (Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator) and as such our Annual Accounts for the period 01.04.15 to 31.03.16 were duly submitted and "passed" by OSCR. We are content for the moment that we have sufficient funds for our day-to-day operations.

As we report yearly, our different Task Groups work away at their remits and we are grateful for their commitment to the work of the Battalion. Activities have been supported, but we still had to cancel a couple of competitions due to poor entries. Scott Lodge continues to be a great attraction with our own Companies and many outside supporters. Supplies give us access to all Brigade's many resources and Training offers many and varied courses to equip Officers and other Leaders with the tools to be effective in their work. We welcomed leaders from other Battalions to a number of our Courses and are pleased to report that their feedback was always very positive in praise of our Team's efforts. We continue to provide good venues for our competitions and training and this year we have used the Dick McTaggart Centre for indoor football, Bright Street Baptist Centre and the 6th/8th halls for our Bands day and the meeting/conference facility at St. Aidan's in Broughty Ferry, as well as the Headquarters of the 1st Carnoustie for training.

We have still not yet fully resolved the problems with the water at Scott Lodge, but are now closer to finding a permanent solution. The effects of the storms of the winter of 2015/16 meant we had a lot of work to do to rectify some of the damage etc. and the majority of that work has been completed with the exception of the adjustments needed to the access road. We may then be able to forge ahead with our ambitious plans to build an extension on the south side of the Lodge to provide some new en-suite accommodation. The plans are still "on hold" until a number of problematic areas are resolved with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA). We still enjoy good relations with our neighbours the Carn Dearg Mountaineering Club, and were represented at the official opening of their new "Clubhouse" in April 2017. We continue to develop, refresh and update our website –

www.bbdundeeangus.org.uk.

It is now our main tool communication.

The results of all of our Battalion competitions are placed at the appropriate place on our website.

Gary Miller continues as our "Webmaster" as we continue with our development ideas. Our "Facebook" page grows steadily and provides another medium for effective communication as do our two email addresses – (1) info@bbdundeeangus.org.uk and (2) scottlodge@bbdundeeangus.org.uk.