
REPORT No 24 – 24th August 2017

Development

On 22nd August I attended the Scottish Development team meeting led by John Sharp at Carronvale House to review progress and plan the next 12 months workload.

A full agenda was discussed around the three main topics of the BB plan viz Growth, Quality and Voice. This included the changes in funding and grant conditions. The Cashback to Communities scheme is now into its fourth phase and will target growth in areas of social deprivation. For The Boys' Brigade this means the focus is likely to target small companies in areas of social deprivation assisting them to grow in number or add a new section. Other funding streams are likely to be announced and captains should watch out for these through mailings, national and battalion websites.

An extensive report on training was tabled highlighting the successful KGVI and Queen's Badge courses. New Youth Leader Training (YLT) core module material is due to be released in October for use on leader courses. The Expedition and outdoor leadership Team is currently reviewing the three grades of leadership; viz Basic, Standard and Advanced certificates. More information is likely to be issued once their findings are concluded.

Due to high demand an additional Queen's Badge completion course will be run at Carronvale between Monday 9th and Wednesday 11th October. Early applications are advised.

The Boys' Brigade as members of the Awards Network have signed up to the Awards Aware Chartermark; a recognition of the training and experience delivered by The Boys' Brigade. Battalions can also engage with this charter mark by demonstrating the core principles. If you would like to learn more please contact me directly.

Next year 2018 has been designated the 'Year of Young People' by the Scottish Government and whilst every year in the BB is about young people this may be an opportunity for some additional funding.

Queen's Badge Adviser

Fifteen young men completed the Queen's Badge course this summer and became Queen's Men. The Mid Scottish presentation ceremony took place in Blairgowrie Parish Church with Lord Lieutenant Brigadier Melville S Jameson CBE presenting the certificates. The refreshments were provided by Perth and Kinross Council and hosted by Provost Dennis Melloy an ex member of the Blairgowrie BB.

A further 36 Queen's Badge candidates are currently registered with the Battalion and I hope to visit them in the next 2 months. A QB skills course run at Carronvale House in August 2017 with more compulsory courses to follow.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

The new DofE national co-ordinator for BB Scotland is Development worker Mr Ian McCallum. Ian participated in the Open Gold Award assessed expeditions held in June around Scott Lodge where 8 BB and 7 Girls' Brigade seniors completed their expeditions on what has been described as a challenging event. I look forward to working with Ian on the DofE scheme during the next few months.

A significant number of boys in the Battalion are registered with the DofE scheme through their local schools or Cadet units and some complete different sections of their award with their own BB company. Our battalion is a recognised DofE Group provider and as the co-ordinator I can register boys wishing to undertake Bronze, Silver or Gold Awards and provide the administration for the companies. The programme has four sections which must be completed; these are Community, Skills, Physical and Expedition. This can be undertaken in conjunction with our own President's and Queen's badge programmes without much additional work to the participant.

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