



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

Dundee & Angus Battalion

Battalion Development

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

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

REPORT – 25th April 2016

Mountain Safety Awareness Seminar. Sunday 17th April

I took part in an excellent seminar led by Police Scotland's Mountain Rescue co-ordinator, Sgt Peter Lorraine-Smith. He delivered a stimulating talk on his experience leading groups and demonstrated the use of some cheap safety gear which all mountain walking groups should consider carrying. The session concluded with a practical map planning exercise, contingency planning and injury evacuation challenges. A very worthwhile morning was enjoyed by the 15 leaders and senior boys in attendance.

Dundee University – Volunteering.

Following my attendance at the volunteering seminar I have re-registered the Battalion as a volunteering provider on the university 'careers' website portal. This gives us permission to advertise our organisation and highlight the opportunities for paid and unpaid voluntary youth work for students and staff working within the university. Unlike the previous volunteering specific portal, volunteering opportunities are usually only placed for a period of four weeks and as most BB companies are winding up their annual programme I propose to delay the placing of invitations to assist with BB companies until the nearer the start of the academic year.

Online Brigade Management 'OBM' Systems - Carronvale House Wednesday 19th April

I travelled to Carronvale House with Alistair Joss, Gary Miller and Murray McGregor to hear about the new 'OBM' launch.

Some of you will now have heard of this new computer based BB programme named 'OBM' for short. This programme was developed by a scout leader as 'Online Scout Manager' (OSM) when he took responsibility for running his own troop. He decided he could simplify his job by organising the administration, programming, record keeping and financial monitoring of his troop using a computer.

It was so successful that the Scout Association, Girl Guides and Navigators have adopted it for the benefit of all their national and local units. The Boys' Brigade have been working with the owners to modify the original programme for the use by The Boys' Brigade. It has been undergoing testing throughout this month and goes live from 5th May when battalion secretaries and company captains will be given access permissions for their individual companies. The designer's advice to captain's was 'delegate specific parts of the job to your team and make life better for the whole company'.

Scottish Bands Contest, Brunton Civic Centre, Musselburgh 23rd April

Three Dundee pipe bands took part in the national BB contest with the 6/8th placed first in the Championship and retaining their first place from last year in the Contest classes. The 44th took 2nd place in the Novice class and 1st Monifieth gaining 3rd place in the Novice mini band event. It was a privilege to see so many of our musicians perform with such confidence particularly the first timers. Well done to them all.

I continue working with our companies on many issues and am happy to offer advice or find 'Someone who can help us'

Roddy Taylor

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