

IHQ Bulletin



THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION OF MALTA, ISLAND HEADQUARTERS, E.S. TONNA STREET. FLORIANA VLT 16

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FOR YOUR MAY DIARY

Sat 3rd – General Assembly
Tue 6th – Annual Rally Meeting
Tue 6th – Heritage Award Meeting
Sun 11th – Annual Rally
Tue 13th – Level 4 Meeting

Thu 15th – Executive Meeting
Tue 20th – Ethics Meeting
Thu 22nd – DC's Meeting
Sun 25th – Community Service
Thu 29th – Commissioners' Meeting

POINTS TO REMEMBER

What Scouting is not

Aids to Scoutmastership B.-P. 1920

Experience in different fields shows that there are certain shoals to be avoided in launching Scouting, lest it get stranded in commercialism or diverted into dead-end channels that never lead to the open sea.

Here, then, are some of the things that Scouting is not:-

- It is not a charity organisation for people in society to run for the benefit of the poor children.
- It is not a school having a definite curriculum and standards of examination.
- It is not a brigade of officers and privates for drilling manliness into boys and girls.
- It is not a messenger agency for the convenience of the public.
- It is not a show where surface results are gained through payment in merit badges, medals, etc.

These all come from without, whereas the Scout training all comes from within.

What Scouting is

It is a game in which elder brothers (or sisters) can give their younger brothers healthy activities such as will help them to develop CITIZENSHIP.

Its strongest appeal is through Nature Study and Woodcraft. It deals with the individual, not with the Company. It raises intellectual as well as purely physical or purely moral qualities.

At first it used to aim for these ends – now by experience we know that, where properly handled it gains them.

1. Commemorative Stamps from Tunisia

By Mr David Schembri Commissioner for HR and Support

For the 70th anniversary of scouting in Tunisia, 2 postal stamps were issued, as well as a special envelope commemorating the occasion. GREAT FOR ALL SCOUTS, ESPECIALLY THE PHILATELIST. Mr Ezzeddine Derbel, International Commissioner phone: +216 71 790501, 216 71 792316, fax: +216 71 791206, postal address: BP 339 Cite Mahrajene, 1082 Tunis, TUNISIA

2. North District Leader & Rover Camp.

By Mr Adrian Borg DC North

The North District organised a Leader – Rover Camp/Seminar from the 21st to the 23rd March 2003 at Mellieha Scout Group H.Q.

The main objectives for the Camp/Seminar were;

1. To bring together our leaders and rovers to get acquainted with each other and thus share ideas.
2. Assess in general our leaders and rovers in team work, participation, proficiency etc.
3. Analyze the results in 2 and formulate a training needs analysis.
4. Lay the groundwork for the Districts' Leaders Section forums.

The program was packed with innovative ideas for the Malta Scout Association, which was greatly appreciated by all participants.

Participants for the Leaders Rover Seminar were from, St. Michael School, Mellieha, Iklin, Naxxar, Stella Maris College, Mosta, San Gwann, Qawra, Msida, St. Julian's, Groups. The Pembroke St. Andrews Group could not attend due to a last minute commitment.

The Camp / Seminar was ably run by Mr. Vincent Tanti AGSL San Gwann Group, Edward Vella VSL Mosta Group and Commissioner for Rover Scouts, Teddy Farrugia GSL Naxxar and Adrian Borg GSL San Gwann and DC North.

Special thanks go to the following who contributed towards the success of the activity.

- The Mellieha Scout Group for offering their premises free of charge, to Fr Anton Briffa Commissioner for Religious Dimension for celebrating Holy Mass at camp.
- The Naxxar Scout Group for offering their H.Q. for all the preparatory meetings
- The San Gwann Venture Unit for taking care of the Kitchen.
- Elvio Briffa CSL San Gwann for the design of the Name Tags and the Certificates
- To all the contributors for specific lectures or manning of incident points during the adventure Hike, Leslie Bonnici Commissioner for Cub Scouts, Jonathan Callus SL San Gwann, Peter Paul Coleiro ASL Msida, Vince Tanti AGSL San Gwann Group, Edward Vella VSL Mosta Group, Teddy Farrugia GSL Naxxar, Stephan Farrugia GSL St Julian's, Vince Cassar The Chief Scout and Adrian Borg GSL San Gwann and DC North.

During the camp we also hosted esteemed visitors namely Mr. Godwin D'Anastasi Chief Commissioner and Mr. Michael Cefai Director of Training and Program.

At the moment a detailed report is being compiled by Mr. Vince Tanti AGSL San Gwann Group which will be presented to the as Mr. Godwin D'Anastasi Chief Commissioner and Mr. Michael Cefai Director of Training and Program. This report will include all the information gathered from the participants of the Camp Seminar.

3. South District Seminar 2003

By M J Bonnici Ass Commissioner South District

A one-day seminar was held at the Rinella Scout Centre on Wednesday 19th March 2003. This seminar which is the brainchild of the District Commissioner Mr. E L Bonnici is held annually for all G S L and the Service Team within the District to discuss the needs of the District. For this year, on the request of all present at the South District Scouters' Meeting, the Seminar was open to all leaders and prospective leaders so that a better picture of the District's needs would be achieved.

The Seminar consisted of two sessions one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Each session was made up of four workshops were each workshop had a particular topic to be discussed. The topics selected for the discussions were put forward by the same Groups at the previous South District Scouters' Meeting and varied from the difficulties in the day to day running of the Groups to the direction the District should take in the upcoming months.

The day started at 09:00hrs with the registration of participants upon arrival and whilst tea and coffee was served the briefing of the day was issued. The first task for the participants was to enrol themselves in a workshop of their own choice according to the topic of discussion. At 09:30 the teams were formed and after self-introductions were carried out, a chairperson and a team reporter were chosen. Straight away the discussions took place in a very healthy manner. At the end of the first session lunch was ably prepared and served by the Rinella Service Team. For the afternoon session, which consisted of another four workshops, four teams were formed with the same criteria. At the end of the second session tea and coffee was served and everyone gathered inside the main hall for a final round up. After a short address by the District Commissioner, all eight reporters gave a brief verbal report about their discussions. All reports were passed to the Ass District Commissioner so that a final report can be compiled and distributed within the District. The seminar came to an end at 15:45hrs and everyone left with high spirit of achievement after a good day's work!!

4. Promoting Malta and Maltese Scouting beyond our shores

By Mr David Schembri Commissioner for HR and Support

Mr Thomas Calleja Gera is another ex-Maltese Scout who has built up a very interesting website which I think you should find the time to visit. Mr Calleja Gera's web site is <http://www.shurdington.org>

5. New Pack Section and Venture Unit for Birzebbuga Scout Group

By Josephine Gatt, ACSL Birzebbuga Scout Group

On the 16th March 2003, Birzebbuga Scout Group officially opened a new pack section and venture unit. This event was rendered more important by the investiture of five new leaders with the cub section as well as investiture of new cubs and scouts and link badge.

We started off by attending a Thanksgiving Mass at St. Peter's Church at 9.00am. At 10.00am the programme previously prepared by the Group Scout Leader Mr Jesmond Borg and scouters also included a parade with the assistance of Birzebbuga Girl Guides and Cospicua Scout Group's band. Unfortunately this had to be cancelled due to heavy rain.

After the Mass we all proceeded to Birzebbuga Primary School where this most awaited ceremony took place. The GSL Mr Borg thanked all those present who braved the bad weather to attend for this event. Mr E.L. Bonnici, South District

Commissioner honoured us with his presence and invested the new leaders. Nineteen new cubs and two scouts were invested and presented with the group's scarf. Link badge ceremony followed for seven scouts and six ventures. Afterwards those present cheered and applauded the new members of our group.

Seven scouters, namely Mr Jesmond Borg (GSL), Ms Deborah Xuereb (SL), Mr Omar Livori (ASL), Mr Adrian Farrugia (CSL), Mrs Susan Brincat (ACSL), Ms Lorraine Brincat (ACSL) and Mrs Josephine Gatt (ACSL) were awarded a decoration by councillors Mrs Bernardette Pace and Mr Tony Roberts, on behalf of Birzebbuga Local Council. This decoration is the emblem of Birzebbuga and was presented to the scouters as thanks for their voluntary services with young people.

District Commissioner Mr E.L. Bonnici and GSL Mr Jesmond Borg made their speeches. The GSL again thanked all the members, their parents and friends as well as the police officers present for coming to celebrate this event. Photos to commemorate this occasion were taken by the former GSL Mr Anthony Xuereb.

A small reception was then held, organised by the Group's council.

6. A Marketing Plan for the Scout Association

By Ms Elaine Giorgio ACSL Siggiewi Group

I am a university student and I am currently working on my thesis 'A Marketing Plan for the Scout Association of Malta'. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who answered my questionnaires. Special thanks go to Mr. Mark Pizzuto for his continuous support and also to Mr. Mario Calleja who gave me his opinions about promoting Scouting. Also, I would like to thank Qrendi Scout Group (Mr. David Schembri) and Mosta Scout Group (Ms. Jacqueline Sciberras) who took up their initiative to distribute questionnaires to their Groups. For any suggestions, please email to giorgio@maltanet.net

7. Small Nations Games

By Mr Charles Bajada Commissioner for National Events

The Malta Olympic Committee is organizing the Small Nation Games in June of this year. They have requested the Scout Association to provide a number of our members to perform various duties which include flag raising during the medal presentations and other duties such as ushering in guests during the opening ceremony.

This is a golden opportunity for all those senior members to have a grand stand view of their favourite sport by being present at the particular heats.

The events are being held in the following locations

- Marsa – Athletics, Squash, Tennis
- Dolmen Hotel – Sailing
- St Aloysius' College – Judo
- National Pool – Swimming, Basketball
- Kordin – Volleyball
- Bidnija – Shooting
- Gozo – Tabletennis

The ceremonies will be held in the afternoons and evenings.

The MOC will provide transport and snacks. For the opening ceremony we need 70 members for ushering and car park duties. The opening ceremony is going to be held on a grand scale with a show put on by the top Maltese artists.

We hope that we put on a good show as an Association as this show is being televised on various international TV stations. We had to pass on the names of the people helping out by the end of April as passes have to be made by the MOC

Anyone interested please contact me on Mobile no 99240988 or on E-mail baqoqu@maltanet.net

The Chief Commissioner would like to stress the importance of the participation of the Scout Association in this event and is expecting all Groups to do their very utmost to take part.

8. Tarxien Group Easter Camp

By Karmenu Mangani, GSL Tarxien Scout Group

The Tarxien Scout Group has just returned back home from a five-day camp at Nigret, Zurrieq. Every camp has its own story and I believe that every scout has a different story to tell. Yet this camp was quite particular as it was attended by all the sections of the Group. The high sense of comradeship was prevalent during the whole stay at the camp.

During the first day we had to erect four ridge tents against all odds. The wind was blowing with a force of seven and later on it started to rain. It was not an easy task but with a strong will of challenge the tents were finally in place. Trenches were dug in around the tents to prevent flooding. Patches of soil were everywhere and I am sure that some of it has even landed in our dinner!

The next days were totally different. The weather was perhaps too kind. It was fine and not very warm. It was ideal for outdoor games and activities. Several things were organised including a treasure hunt, a quiz and a rally around Zurrieq, Safi and Bubaqra. The latter was organised and manned by the combined effort of the Unit and Crew. The Unit has also erected a pioneering project and a Monkey Bridge, which eventually was used as a playground by the Pack.

On the first night we had a very nasty experience. The tents were invaded by a storm of earwigs. These little creatures with their powerful pincers were crawling from everywhere and some of the scouts were their victims. But in fact these poor creatures had every right to defend themselves. We were invading their territory and we had also the guts to dig trenches into their humble nests.

On Good Friday, moments of reflection were spent in the peace and tranquillity of the natural surroundings. Father Dominic, our spiritual director, lead a spiritual meeting on the topic "Injustice". On Easter Sunday, all participants celebrated Holy Mass.

The camp came to an end by the traditional campfire. The theme of the campfire was "we don't plan; we improvise!" We laughed the night away until the early hours when the last gleaming ashes were blown away by the steady breeze. It was well past midnight when everyone was fast asleep dreaming.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who contributed for the success of this camp – leaders, council members, helpers and sponsors. Thanks also to the Zurrieq Scout Group for their hospitality.

9. Rover/Venture Camp

By John Micallef Engerer Commissioner for Venture Scouts

NOTE – I would like to thank Mr Edward Vella for the write-up he contributed on this event for the last Bulletin. He prepared that write-up soon after he returned from the hectic camp and, without blaming him, he omitted some details. This is another attempt from Mr John Micallef Engerer, Commissioner for Venture Scouts, who also had a part in the Camp's organisation,

to remedy the situation and give further details. I would like to thank them both on behalf of the Venture & Rover Scouts who attended this Camp for their keen interest and congratulate them and their team for a successful event - Mario

The National Venture and Rover Scouts Camp was held between the 28th and 31st March 2003 at the Zurrieq Scout Group HQ grounds. A total of 53 Ventures and Rovers together with their Leaders were present and hailed from the Birkirkara, Cospicua, Mosta, Rabat, Stella Maris College, St Julians, St Venera Tarxien Tigne and Zurrieq Scout Groups. A number of 13 other members from the same Groups attended during Sunday and Monday.

The Program included Scouting skills command tasks, a first-aid / rescue exercise conducted by the Malta Red Cross, a wide game, a scavenger hunt, an obstacle course race, campfire and an abseiling and aerial runway. Rev. Fr. Anton Briffa said Holy Mass on Saturday afternoon.

The Chief Scout and the Chief Commissioner, Mr Vincent Cassar and Mr Godwin D'Anastasi respectively visited the event on Sunday afternoon. The best Patrol received camp mementos kindly sponsored by the Scout Shop.

The Commissioners for Ventures and Rovers would like to thank all those present for their participation and good behaviour. Also, thanks go to the Falzon, Chetcuti and Galea families for their excellent contribution in the kitchen. Last but not least, a word of thanks also to A/GSL Zurrieq Group Mr Anthony Zerafa for allowing the use of his Group's premises for the activity. Well done to all.

10. Venture Scout Award

By John Micallef Engerer Commissioner for Venture Scouts

The VSLs are encouraged to keep the Commissioner for Venture Scouts informed on all progress of their Venture Scouts so that proper recognition is given and published. VSLs are encouraged to provide the necessary activities for their Units to be able to work on the Awards. GSLs are asked to keep the Commissioner for Venture Scouts informed of any changes in the leadership of the Units.

11. Community Service from Ventures and Rovers

By John Micallef Engerer Commissioner for Venture Scouts.

Units and Crews are advised that the next National Event will be a General Clean-up of the Chadwick Lakes together with members from the Malta Red Cross to be held on Sunday 25th May 2003. Further information will be distributed in due course but in the meantime please keep this date free.

12. Service at IHQ by 1st Hamrun Group

By Mr Charles Caruana Commissioner Building and Equipment

On the 26th May a group of Scouts from the 1st Hamrun Group carried out a much needed clean-up exercise in the premises of the Island Head Quarters. A number of jobs were carried out to give our IHQ a better appearance and I would like to thank them for their hard work. I would like to take the opportunity to encourage other Scout Groups to volunteer their time towards this service. IHQ needs a lot of time and effort to be kept in good order and if we could schedule the needed work we would ensure the proper maintenance of our premises. I am sure all of you agree that we should live up to our ideals and help to keep our IHQ in good order. Many visitors frequent our IHQ and this sets the image of our Association and I dare say that a shabby IHQ portrays a shabby Association. Well done Hamrun. Any others?