

IHQ Bulletin



THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION OF MALTA

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01 POINTS TO REMEMBER

The Scoutmaster's Duty

Aids to Scoutmastership B.-P. 1919

Success in training the boy largely depends upon the Scoutmaster's own personal example. It is easy to become the hero as well as the elder brother of the boy. We are apt, as we grow up, to forget what a store of hero worship is in the boy.

The Scoutmaster who is a hero to his boys holds a powerful lever to their development, but at the same time brings a great responsibility on himself. They are quick enough to see the smallest characteristic about him, whether it be a virtue or a vice. His mannerisms become theirs, the amount of courtesy he shows, his irritations, his sunny happiness, or his impatient glower, his willing self-discipline or his occasional moral lapses—all are not only noticed, but adopted by his followers.

Therefore, to get them to carry out the Scout Law and all that underlies it, the Scoutmaster himself should scrupulously carry out its professions in every detail of his life. With scarcely a word of instruction his boys will follow him.

The Scoutmaster's job is like golf, or scything, or fly-fishing. If you "press" you don't get there, at least not with anything like the extent you do by a light-hearted effortless swing. But you have got to swing. It's no use standing still. It is one thing or the other, either progress or relax. Let us progress-and with a smile on.

02 Venture Scout National Events

By Mr John Micallef Engerer Commissioner for Venture Scouts

National Venture Scouts Community Service Day.

On the 23rd May 2004, a number of Venture Scouts, together with their leaders coming from the Cospicua, Siggiewi and St Venera Scout Groups got together at "Id-Dar tal-Providenza" limits of Siggiewi, to help out in the daily running of the home. Those present had the opportunity to see what a hard day it is for the staff to carry out their duty with the residents living at the home. At present there are 132 residents.

The activity started off with Holy Mass, together with most of the residents present for hearing. Venture Scouts helped out the staff in carrying residents, most of them in wheelchairs, to be seated in

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For Your Diary : August

There will be no meetings at IHQ during August but lookout in this space for what is happening in September in a special issue of the IHQ Bulletin which will be circulated at the end of August

time for Holy Mass. Mr. John Saliba, co-ordinator invited all present for a tour around the premises after Mass. Lunch which was offered on the house by the administrators followed.

After lunch, residents were taken to the picnic area for some fresh air. Soon afterwards they were taken indoors, inside the main hall for games. Venture Scouts once again had to help out the staff in conveying them indoors, sometimes even with difficulty. Sweets and drinks were offered around. Late in the afternoon, venture scouts left the premises with a big thank you from all present.

The Commissioner for Venture Scouts would like to thank all those present for their work and exemplary behaviour.

Well done to all.



The Venture Scouts with the patients at Dar tal-Providenza

The National Venture Scout B.B.Q. Canoe Adventure Weekend

The National Venture Scout B.B.Q. Canoe Adventure Weekend was held on Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 July 2004 at Mistra Bay Xemxija.

A total of 50 Venture Scouts and their leaders from Attard, San Gwann, Stella Maris College and Xghajra Groups attended. Also 2 instructors from the Malta Canoe Union took part and gave instructions on canoe handling and water safety during the canoes activity. This was made possible thanks to the efforts made by Twanny Bugeja, VSL Stella Maris College through Mr G Whitman of the Malta Canoe Union.

The Scouts enjoyed themselves during a BBQ held late in the evening on Saturday and also took part in swimming during the afternoon. A nighthike was organised where Stella Maris College and Xghajra units explored the way up to Selmun and their surroundings, late during the night in pitch darkness. Canoe activities were held on Sunday morning. The contingent left the site on Sunday afternoon.

Many thanks go to all leaders present for their work done throughout the activity.

The Commissioner for Venture Scouts would like to thank all participants for their cooperation and regrets that he could not attend the activity due to medical reasons.

Well done to all.

National Venture Scouts 5 aside football tournament

The tournament will be held on Saturday 5 September 2004. A meeting for all Venture Scout Leaders of all interested Venture units will be held on Tuesday 14 September 2004 at 1800hrs at IHQ. Further information will be issued in due course by means of a circular. The Scoutshop I once again the official sponsor of this event. Those who may help in forwarding football grounds for this

activity are cordially asked to inform the commissioner for venture scouts as soon as possible, whilst those units who are interested in participating are to inform same by the end of August 2004.

Canoe Building

The Stella Maris College Venture unit has offered to help all venture units who are interested in building their own fibre glass canoes. Members of the same unit have attended a course in canoes building organised by the Malta Canoe Union and are now in a position of delivering what they have learnt to others at no cost. Any interested units are cordially asked to contact Mr Twanny Bugeja, VSL on 21435043 or 79435143.

03 St Venera Scouts and Guides Weekend Camp at St Vincent de Paul

By Mr Mario H Calleja Group Scout Leader St Venera Scout Group

Scouts and Guides from St Venera on the 6th & 7th June teamed up together to hold a weekend camp at St Vincent de Paul. The main objective of this camp was to introduce the campers to the community staying in this home. The Scouts and Guides spent two days chatting with many of the patients who were quick to make friends. The Scouts and Guides set up their tents in the centre of the complex and became very popular with all the residents. Curiosity and interest in what was happening in this mini campsite quickly spread through most of the complex and visits were made both to the quarters of the residents and to the campsite. The Scouts were particularly interested when they met ex-Scouts who were staying in this Home. Stories were exchanged giving both the opportunity to learn about what Scouting activities were held in the old days and what is happening now.



The Camp was visited by Mrs Helen Damato Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Health, the Elderly and Community Services on Sunday who commended the initiative and augured that more similar activities be held in this complex. The Group Scout Leader of the St Venera Scout Group, Mr Mario H Calleja, was also present and affirmed the commitment of the Group to further promote this initiative. Mrs Natalie Spiteri Guider in Charge of the St Venera Company stressed the importance of joint activities of this nature between both Associations, something that has been ongoing in St Venera for quite a number of years now. One of the ideas that the Scout Group is exploring with the Ministry is the adoption of a ward. This initiative will give the Scouts and the residents the opportunity to get to know each other better and would give the Group the chance to organise specific activities related to the needs of the particular ward.

04 Pawla and Fgura Groups hold joint activity

by Ing Mario A Frendo Group Scout Leader Pawla Scout Group

On Sunday 30th May the whole Pawla Group and a section of the Fgura Troop went on a visit to the Caravaggio Experience at the Vittoriosa Marina. This was a special opportunity especially to the older Scouts who were doing the Art Badge. The paintings are all from the famous artist Michaelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio who is the painter of the "Beheading of St. John" in the St. John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta. This exhibition is situated in one of the Knights of St. John's palaces on the water front and is a must for all to see. This is a unique opportunity where one can see a great part of a collection by this artist.

The visit started at 1100hrs and took nearly two hours. Pawla GSL provided the commentary of each painting... Caravaggio being his preferred artist. Unfortunately there was no time to do the workshop session.

Anybody interested may either contact the Pawla GSL or directly to the organisers...who are very helpful. A special price can be arranged to those interested groups.

05 FROM THE COMMISSIONER FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS

PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

The Commissioner for Public Relations is inviting Rover Scouts and Scouters, preferably coming from the different Districts to assist him in his work in PR. Anyone interested to form part of this team is kindly asked to contact him as soon as possible.

The work of the Public Relations function in the Scout Association should not only consist of issuing Press Releases and producing the monthly IHQ Bulletin. There is an urgent need to have essential other material to promote Scouting in other spheres of our society on local, national and international levels. We need to equip our leaders and commissioners with up-to-date material and tools when they are representing our Association. We need to produce a comprehensive set of information sheets grouped into a pack which would be used as exhibition and PR material. We need to produce posters and handouts aimed for dissemination in schools. We need to design and implement a strategy to seek more exposure in school and specialist magazines, TV Shows, Radio Stations, etc. There is a great need for a CD ROM containing various presentations on different aspects of our Association which would be used during talks, exhibitions and other functions. A Scout magazine is needed to effectively communicate with our members and which would contain news, notices, training ideas, articles, letters, stories, jokes, competitions and other information. This magazine would serve as a showcase of our Association and would give our Scouts a medium to which they can identify themselves. These are just a few examples of what is needed and why a PR Team is required. Many calls have been made in the past for this team to be formed but regrettably response has been little and without commitment. If our Association is to make any progress in this area more people must come forward and become involved. The objectives are not easy but this is a challenge which can be accomplished if this Team is formed and its members are constant, committed and resolute.

06 Overseas visit to Qrendi Scout Group

By Mr David Schembri Group Scout Leader Qrendi Scout Group

Taking advantage of the "Pentecost" holidays, twelve female Ranger Guides from the Katholische Pfadfinderschaft Europas (Catholic Scouts of Europe), accompanied by their pastor Reverend Father Herald Frank, opted to visit Malta between Saturday 29th May and 5th June 2004, seeking to amalgamate scouting with a spiritualism experience.

The ten German and two Austrian Rangers set up their base at the Qrendi Scout Group Headquarters, and attended daily religious Holy services at the "Tas-Salvatur" chapel, made available courtesy of the Qrendi Parish.



Their love for "Our Creator" was evident throughout their religious services and vesper music, talents that brought them much success in their homeland. Scouting campfire singing was another opportunity to demonstrate their medieval music with the help of guitars, mandolins and flutes.

Opting to hike from one locality to another, stopping to camp out under the night stars, the foreign scouts took advantage of the warm, but sometime windy weather, to visit a considerable part of the Maltese Islands crossing also over to our sister Island, Gozo.

"We have extremely enjoyed Malta and Gozo, witnessing first hand the warmth and friendliness of its people, a people with whom we have shared many special moments" continued Reverend Herald. "At Qrendi, the Church Clergy, the Qrendi Scout Group and the local villagers have made us feel extremely welcomed, an experience we shall not forget"

07 Community Service by Mosta Venture Scouts

By Mr Edward Vella VSL Mosta Scout Group

The Mosta Venture Unit recently took part in a swimethlon held at the Razzett tal-Hbiberija at Marsascula. Four members of the Unit swam for one hour continuously in the indoor pool for a fund raising marathon. The Unit managed to raise money which went towards the Razzett tal-Hbiberija to support the people using the facilities carried out in the same place. The Unit also helped out by washing cars during a car wash held in the same premises in the first week of June. The Ventures that took part, did not only feel the satisfaction of helping others, but also obtained credits in both the Venture Award and the Dolphin Award. Well done to all that participated.

08 Datastream Malta Web Awards 2004

From the Chief Commissioner Mr Godwin D'Anastasi

Congratulations go to the Naxxar, Qrendi, Siggiewi (Cobra Patrol), Sliema (Pack Section), St Venera and Zejtun Scout Groups who together with Scoutopaedia © (Webmaster Thomas Vella Zarb formerly from Lyceum Scouts now in Canada) nominated their group websites in this year's Datastream Malta Web Awards.

Although unfortunately none of our scout websites made it to the finals, the exposure to the media and the general public was highly notable and served as a showcase on Scouting in Malta. Our Groups have shown that Scouts care.

In such competitions there are many participants but only one eventual winner but through our Scout group's efforts, all have emerged as winners and truly scouting champions in all respects. **Well done one and all.**

09 WATER RESCUE COURSES

By Mr Edward Vella Commissioner for Rover Scouts

A total of 26 members from Mosta, San Gwann, Cospicua, St Michael's School, Dingli and Birzebbugia Scout Groups will take part in the Life Saving courses to be held by Red Cross Society under the supervision of the Commissioner for Rovers. These courses will be carried out at the Indoor Pool of the Razzett tal-Hbiberija Marsascula. At the end of the course the participants will be awarded with the life saver ID.

10 Libyan Contacts

Cooperation agreement reached between the Scout Association of Malta and the Public Boy Scout and Girl Guide Movement of the Libyan Jamahiriya.

From the Commissioner for Resources & Support Mr David Schembri

Visiting Malta for a short but significant stay, high ranking officials from the Public Boy Scout and Girl Guide Movement of the Libyan Jamahiriya called on the Scout Association of Malta's Chief Scout Mr. Vince Cassar and Chief Commissioner Mr. Godwin D'Anastasi to discuss closer scouting ties and programs between the two scout associations.

The Libyan Scout International Commissioner, Dr. Abduhafid Abudher and Media and Relation Officer Dr. Talal Bariun were returning back to their country after attending the Euro Arab Conference held in Cyprus.

Both scout association officials reached a mutual agreement on closer cooperation at adult leader training programs and in reciprocal and cultural exchanges between the two associations.

The Public Boy Scout and Girl Guide Movement of the Libyan Jamahiriya officials also took the opportunity to visit IHQ Floriana and the Qrendi, Naxxar and Victoria Scout Groups during their respective scouting activities. The Libyan scout delegation also met the Hon Dr. Louis Galea, Minister for Education, youth and Employment where items of mutual interest were discussed.

1st Pan Arab International Assembly for Cultural Exchange and discovering traditions (Promoting World Peace) – Ghadames – Libyan Jamahiriya

From the International Commissioner Mr. Franco Azzopardi

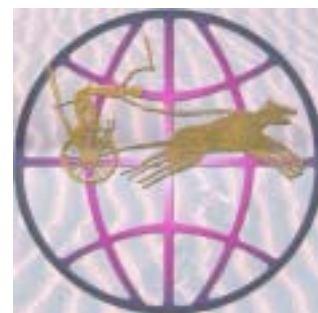
The Public Boy Scout and Girl Guide Movement of the Libyan Jamahiriya wishes to invite scout members from the Scout Association of Malta, between the ages of 18 to 25 years together with their leaders, to join other brother and sister scouts from other Arab and European Scout Associations, Scout Associations in the Sahel and Sahara States and Rover Scouts from the Libyan Association, at the 1st Pan Arab International Assembly for Cultural Exchange and Discovering traditions (Promoting World Peace) to be held in Ghadames – Libyan Jamahiriya

The Assembly, to be held between the 27th December 04 and 3rd January 2005 at the UNESCO world Heritage city of Ghadames, 600 kilometres southwest of Tripoli, offers historical, traditional and cultural opportunities to its participants, within this desert city. Ghadames offers a wealth of Prehistoric carvings, Roman Ruins and Turkish fortresses blended with Arab and Islamic heritage and culture, shrouded in desert beauty. Other cities and sites to be visited are Tripoli, Leptis Magna, Sabratha and the Western Mountains.

Activities during the assembly include visits to the desert sand dunes and salt lakes in 4x4 vehicles, camel trekking, visits to prehistoric caves and Roman Greek, and Turkish archaeological sites together with the participation in forums and seminars on culture and peace.

The participation fee for attendance at the assembly is of 150 Euro per person and includes transfers from Tripoli airport; return air fare costs from Tripoli to Ghadames, food and accommodation together with all assembly activities costs including the camel and 4x4 activities costs.

Interested members are asked to contact International Commissioner Mr Franco Azzopardi at IHQ Floriana for further details.



11 Scouts Ten Pin Bowling Challenge

By Mr David Schembri Commissioner for Resources and Support

Over one hundred and twenty Venture and Rover Scouts together with Leaders and Council members from the Malta Scout Association turned up on Friday June 25, 2004 to participate in the annual Ten Pin Bowling Challenge held at the Eden Leisure Bowling Center in Baystreet.

The scouting members from the B'Bugia, Dingli, Fgura, Qrendi, Naxxar, San Gwann, Stella Maris College, St Aloysius College, and St. Augustine College Groups participated in this highly competitive contest, with the six member team's aggregate score over two games seeing the San Gwann, Qrendi and Naxxar teams emerging first, second and third places in a very close competition..

Addressing the teams and supporters in a packed bowling hall, the Commissioner for Resources David Schembri congratulated all present for the excellent turn out, fair play and high sense of Sportsmanship, whilst presenting together with the North District Commissioner Mr. Adrian Borg, the Ten Pin Bowling Challenge Trophies to the winners whilst praising the Stella Maris College VSL Twanny Bugeja and his unit for once again organizing this fine initiative.

All present also thanked the Eden Leisure management and its entire staff, not only for allowing the various scout teams to "take over" the centre but for also allowing the association to benefit from preferential reduced rates.

12 Naxxar Scouts Annual Camp at Zurrieq

By Mr Teddy Farrugia Group Scout Leader Naxxar Group

The Naxxar Scout Group, this year went to the Zurrieq Camp-site for their Annual Summer camp. This camp was held between the 10th and the 20th July. Scouters, Cubs, Scouts and Ventures took part in this camp together with the help of the Group Council and other lay members.

Besides the daily programme, the Group was involved in such interesting activities. This year's theme was based on Maltese traditions and folklore. During a Maltese Night and the camp-fire, traditional Maltese food was served to the campers. Maltese Songs, costumes, and also fireworks were included in this special camp-fire evening. All parents were present during this evening. Daily swimming and canoeing at different bays, such as Ghar Lapsi, Birzebbugia, and Zejtun, were organized. A Holy Mass was celebrated by Fr. Antoine Farrugia SDB at the end of the camping with a great barbecue afterwards for more than 300 people. Amongst other scouting activities were, backwoods cooking, pioneering projects, water festival, handcrafts and other activities. The Chief Scout Mr. Vincent Cassar and the District Commissioner Mr. Adrian Borg visited the Campers. The Camp-Chief Mr. Teddy Farrugia, on behalf of the Naxxar Scout Group would like to thank , all the helpers, sponsors and all the members of the Zurrieq Group for their hospitality. Also a BIG thanks to all the Scouters, Group Council Members, lay members and all the campers for this great unforgettable Annual Camp 2004.

We are preparing the next issue of the Bulletin.
Please send us information, news, activities and updated calendar of events.

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