

IHQ Bulletin



THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION OF MALTA

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Issue No : 1/2005
Jan 2005

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01 POINTS TO REMEMBER

A Leader

A leader is a person who is going somewhere - but not alone.

He takes others with him.

His skill is setting up Situations in which other people are willing to follow him and are happy to work with him.

This skill is made up of thoughtfulness and consideration for others, enthusiasm, the ability to share responsibilities with others, and a multitude of other traits.

But fundamentally, a leader is one who leads by his example, who has a plan, who keeps headed toward a goal and a purpose. He has the enthusiasm to keep moving forward in such a way that others gladly go with him.

In my travels and visits, I have been inspired by many who fit this description well.

But I have also observed some who seem to project a different image.

Indifferent leaders breed indifferent boys, in terms of programs, objectives, activities, and uniform.

Please, always strive to assess yourself and to improve, even what you did last week.

Remember the phrase; I am a leader because I care. A caring leader produces caring boys.

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For Your Diary : Nov / Dec

- 22/2 Founder's Day
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You Might be A Scout(er) If....

- you have holes in the pockets of your jeans from carrying a pocket knife.
- you begin to think half frozen french fries, don't taste all that bad.
- you keep a bucket of water by your side while cooking dinner.
- you spontaneously break into strange songs in public.
- you can stare at a spider web for an hour, and not notice the time

The Puttinu Cares Parent Support Group (for children suffering from cancer) will be organising a 50 hour Swimming Marathon from the 18th – 20th March and is looking for Scout Groups who would help in this effort. The organisers would like to have 4 Scouts assisting in the organisation and 6 Scouts helping out in a Car Wash that will be running throughout the event. The Marathon will be held at the Ta' Qali Indoor Swimming Pool and Scouts may also camp for the two respective nights. Those interested are to contact the Commissioner for National Events Mr Charles Bajada bagoqu@onvol.net

02 FROM THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER

Mr Godwin D'Anastasi

New Group name tags

The need for changing the present design of Group name tapes was highlighted at various GSLs' Forums. Following a discussion that took place it was decided that the new size shall be 7.5 cm x 2.5 cm. The standard format shall have yellow lettering and border on a green background. It was further agreed that if any Group opted to have its own colour scheme, prior permission must first be obtained in writing from the Chief Commissioner. This standard name tape is for universal use by all sections and will come into use after present stocks of name tapes are exhausted.

Groups are also being given the opportunity of having an alternative shape if so desired. This will be in an arched top form and a flat bottom. Size shall be 9 cm at the base and a maximum height of 5 cm from base to the highest part of the arc. These are only intended for wear by Scouts, Ventures, Rovers and Scouters. Prior consent showing design, lettering and colour are first to be submitted for approval by the Chief Commissioner

Christmas drinks at IHQ.

These were held at IHQ on the 9th December, 2004. This year's invitation was extended to everyone and the event was very well attended by over sixty persons. The Chief Scout and the Chief Commissioner delivered a short speech to all present auguring all a happy and holy festive season.

Birkirkara Scout Group.

Until further notice, Mr George Sillato, will assume responsibility as scouter in charge of the Birkirkara Scout Group.

Appointments.

The Chief Commissioner has approved the following appointments with effect from 1st January, 2005.

001/2005	Maria Dolores Cassar	Group Scout Leader.	Gzira
002/2005	Mariella Camilleri	Acting Leader	Iklin
003/2005	Mariella Bugeja	Acting Leader	Iklin
004/2005	Steve Shaw	Asst.Venture Scout Leader	Msida
005/2005	Martin J Bonnici	District Comm. [South]	IHQ

Cancellations of Appointments.

The following appointments have been withdrawn and cancelled with effect from the 1st. January 2005.

022/1994	Joseph M Galea	Auxiliary [Rnella]	IHQ
001/2002	Emanuel L Bonnici	District Comm. [South]	IHQ
010/2002	Joseph E. Bonnici	Asst. D.C. [South]	IHQ
004/2003	Martin J Bonnici	Asst. D.C. [South]	IHQ
034/2003	Maria Dolores Cassar	Scout Leader	Gzira

Warrants.

The Chief Scout has approved the following Warrant with effect from the 1st January 2005.

W 01/2005	Vincent Farrugia	Scout Leader	Attard
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Scouter Emeritus.

As previously informed, with effect from the 1st January, 2005, the new Scouter Emeritus appointment has come into being. All those scouters who have reached their 65th birthday will now be eligible for this appointment. It would be pertinent to inform that all scouters, with the exception of those holding an Auxiliary or else a Commissioner's rank [not District Commissioner], may continue over the stipulated age at the discretion of the Chief Commissioner. This new appointment allows the holder to remain with his Group or serve anywhere with the only exception that he/she do not have executive powers and are not eligible to vote. Furthermore they are entitled to continue wearing their uniform and may be recommended for the same Awards and Decorations normally allotted for the uniformed members.

Scouters appointed Scouter Emeritus.

At a recently held event at the Rnella Scout Centre on the 17th December, 2004, the following scouters were appointed in the new rank of Scouter Emeritus.

Mr John E. Brincat	Ex. Deputy Chief Scout	IHQ
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Mr. Emanuel L Bonnici	Ex. District Commissioner [South]	IHQ
Mr. Joseph E. Bonnici	Ex. Asst. Dist. Comm. [South]	IHQ
Mr. George Camilleri	Ex. Group Scout Leader	Marsa
Mr. Joseph M. Galea	Ex. Auxiliary [Rnella]	IHQ
Mr. Anthony Cutajar	Ex. Venture Scout Leader	Marsa
Mr. Joseph Galea	Ex. Cub Scout Leader	Marsa

Chief Commissioner Personal Award.

During the same event, all the above scouters were also presented with the Chief Commissioner Personal Award in appreciation of their long and dedicated service to the Association

03 FROM THE FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENTS

by Mr Mark A Pizzuto Commissioner for Finance & Mr Noel Muscat Doublesin Commissioner for Administration

All GSLs are reminded that the Census is to be submitted up to the 28th February on Tuesdays and Thursdays administration days only. No excuses will be accepted after these days. Census is to be duly filled and will not be accepted if any information is missing such as accounts or property, etc..

04 From the Districts

The Central District Night - *By Mr Mario H Calleja District Secretary*

Groups from the Central District got together on the 3rd December during what has now become part of this District's calendar of events. The Scouters and Members of the Group Council from all the Groups of the District get together during this District Night to exchange Greetings and to meet each other in an informal and relaxed evening. This is also an occasion for the changing of the Keeper of the District Flag which this year was handed over from the Rabat Group to the St Venera Group. Present for this evening were the Chief Scout and Chief Commissioner together with the DC Gozo Mr Joe Grech and the DC North Mr Adrian Borg. A Commemorative Booklet was distributed to all who were present.

From South District – *By Mr Tony Cutajar District Secretary*

On Friday 17th December all Scouters and Group Councils were invited for eats and drinks at Rinella to celebrate the festive season and exchange wishes for the New Year. At this gathering attended also by the Chief Commissioner and the Chief Scout, certificates were presented by the DC to those attending a Basic Scouting Skills in Ropework and Knotting organized by the District on behalf of the Training Department, Patrol Leaders course certificates to 90 scouts who attended a P.L.'s course in September and the Thanks Badge to Mr. Richard Aquilina who forms part of the Rinella team. Six other scouters were awarded the 'Scouter Emeritus' for their long dedicated service towards youth by the Chief Commissioner. Mr. Lino Bonnici attending his last occasion with his colleague scouters and council members as South District Commissioner reminded the numerous gathering, of the many activities enjoyed together despite problems which cropped up from time to time, bringing back memories of his dedicated life in scouting and the successes the District had. Although it was his occasion to say good bye to his rank it was not the end of his scouting as the Rinella Team will immediately see to his enrolment.

A new DC for the South District - The end of the year 2004 marked the last day in office for Mr. Emanuel L. Bonnici as District commissioner. Lino as I familiarly call him was a dedicated Scouter and Commissioner for our District and managed to retain and strengthen the cohesion and cooperative spirit the South District ever boasted of in the last good number of years. On his resignation or rather retirement the outgoing DC issued a call for nominees from within the District to fill his vacancy. At a meeting called purposely with this agenda on Monday 10th January a new elected DC was announced and a unanimous secret vote of confidence was given by all Group Scout Leaders and the Rinella Team to Mr. Martin Bonnici, ADC South for the last two years. He was congratulated by all and he on his part thanked all and promised to fulfil the responsibilities which he now shoulders, with enthusiasm and sincerity.

05 Founder's Day

by Anthony Xuereb Deputy Chief Commissioner

The Deputy Chief Commissioner would like to invite Commissioners and Groups to put up an exhibition during the forthcoming Founder's Day which will take place on the 22nd February. Those interested are to co-ordinate with the Commissioner for Public Relations

06 CPD Weekend

by Mario H Calleja Commissioner for Public Relations

The Civil Protection will be organising its annual open weekend on the 16th – 17th April. The Department is offering to allocate part of the Grounds for the use of the Scout Association to camp over the whole weekend. The Association would like to therefore invite Groups to participate in this weekend to set up a model Campsite and show the public what Camping the Scouting way is all about. This is an excellent opportunity to promote the Scout Association and we wish to encourage as many Groups as possible to take part. For further information please contact the Commissioner for Public Relations.

07 Scout Association of Malta participation at the 1st Pan Arab Assembly for Cultural Exchange (Promoting peace) at Ghadames, Libya

By Mr David Schembri Group Scout Leader Qrendi Scout Group



Six Adult leaders from the Qrendi and San Gwann scout Groups have just returned from the Libyan Jamahiriya, having attended the 1st Pan Arab Assembly for Culture exchange (promoting regional peace), that was held in Ghadames, Libya between the 26th December 2004 and 4th January 2005.

The assembly, marking the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Public boy Scout and Girl Guide movement of the Libyan Jamahiriya, saw a record number of male and female participants from the European and Arab Scout Regions, namely Libya, Tunisia, Algiers, Jordan and the Sultan of Oman, together with participants from England, Malta, France, Spain, Holland and representatives from the Australian and Columbia Scout Associations.

Welcomed at the Joddaim International Scout Camp at Tripoli, the scout delegation were given the opportunity to tour the roman ancient city at Leptis

Magna and the rock cut coliseum and sea port at the Libyan city of Al-Khums, before undertaking a ten hour coach journey south of Tripoli to the city of Ghadames (the jewel of the Sahara).

Cultural visits to the neighbouring towns of Dirj, Nalut, Shaawai and Sinaawen, as organized by the Libyan hosts gave the participants the opportunity to experience Arab hospitality extended to them by the respective scout groups. Utilization of all parts of the palm trees in buildings, cordage and bag making were experienced by all participants during their respective visits. Song, ritual tribal dances and camel riding by the Touareg tribesman also helped to better understand life in the harsh Sahara desert. Seminars on the need of a better understanding of each others culture and the promotion of regional peace, were conducted by Prof. Bahlul Eliagoubi, Director of the Science and Scientific Research Programmes at ALESCO, formed an integral part of the assembly. A tree planting ceremony within the Tunin olive grove saw each participating scout association contribute in the forestation of this locality.

Returning to Tripoli following a most fruitful assembly, the participants were welcomed at the Libyan General Headquarters in Tripoli by Chief Scout, Dr Mohammed Hassona Fehama and Secretary General Mr. Abduljalel Dasch, who elaborated on the need to organize such events in different countries whilst serving to bring people and cultures closer together.

Dr Fehama personally thanked all the respective scout associations and assembly participants and congratulated all the members of the Libyan Scout Organizing team, particularly Dr. Talal Bariun, for leaving no stone unturned in their efforts to promote regional culture exchanges and peace.

The European Scout Delegation leaders in turn thanked all members of the Libyan Scout Association for making them feel most welcomed in the Libyan Jamahiriya and hoped that such noble initiatives would be organized on a regular basis.



08 Tsunami Disaster – Messages of Sympathy

By the Chief Scout Mr Vincent Cassar

Following the recent tsunami disaster that has hit a number of countries in Asia, the Chief Scout and the International Commissioner have sent messages to the Scout Associations afflicted by the disaster.

The Chief Scout, Mr Vincent Cassar requested Mr Anthony Thng who is a personal friend of Mr Cassar, and who is the Chairman of the Asia-Pacific Scout Region to convey to the Scout Associations concerned the deepest sympathy and solidarity of the Scout Association of Malta.

The Chief Scout, in writing to Mr Thng said :

“It was with concern and great sympathy that we learned of the great damage and loss of life that the recent earth quake and tsunamis that occurred in your region have left in at least six countries belonging to the Asia-Pacific Scout Region. All the Maltese population, including The Scout Association of Malta have followed the events closely as they unfolded themselves on our TV screens and we sympathise and understand the grief that such events have left.

On behalf of The Scout Association of Malta may I kindly ask you to convey the attached message to the six Scout Associations whose countries have been hard hit by such a disaster.

Whilst expressing our solidarity and feelings of sympathy as conveyed in our message, I wish to inform you that the Scouts of Malta have already joined forces with the local Civil Protection Department in collecting and organising for shipment to the stricken areas more than thirty container loads of food, water, medicines and clothing. We hope that this contribution from a small country like ours will help to alleviate the suffering of the stricken populations.”

In his reply to the Chief Scout, Mr Thng wrote :

“On behalf of the Asia-Pacific Region, in particular the six countries that you have mentioned and on my personal behalf, I expressed my gratitude and heartfelt appreciation for your concern and care expressed in your message and for the solidarity of the Scout Movement. It is indeed kind of you and the Scout Association of Malta for the support and co-operation in helping our brothers and sisters in these countries.

Once again, thank you very much and God Bless.”

The Message of Sympathy, dated 31st December 2004, that the Chief Scout dispatched through Mr Thng to the Scout Associations of India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand and that was reproduced on the WOSM website together with other messages from other Scout Associations read :

“Dear Brothers and Sisters in Scouting in India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand

The earth quake and resultant tsunamis and the consequent tragic deaths and destruction that have affected your countries have been followed closely here in Malta with great sympathy and concern.

The Scout Association of Malta takes this opportunity to express our deepest sympathy to your Scout Associations, to all Scouts and their families and to those people in your countries who have not only lost loved ones or suffered injury but who have been caught up in such tragic circumstances.

Whilst expressing our solidarity and feelings of sympathy we assure you that not only are our thoughts and prayers with you, but that our members have been urged to support local and international aid both financially and materially.

On behalf of the Scout Association of Malta and all its members,
Vincent Cassar
Chief Scout”

At the same time the International Commissioner, Mr Franco Azzopardi on the 13th January 2005 dispatched the following message to the respective International Commissioners of the afflicted Associations:

“The recent events caused by the devastating effects of the Tsunami on the 26th December 2004 have left our island deeply in shock. The loss of life, families and homes, has grieved all that have experienced nature’s destruction at a time when most world countries were celebrating a time of peace.

Most unfortunately, whilst many were in warm homes others were homeless. When most were in a festive mood, others were without food and water. Whilst many were surrounded by family members, many were searching for loved ones. Whilst others were receiving gifts, others lost all.

It is at such sad times that one needs to reflect on such situations that can affect one or the other at any one moment, it is a time to seek solidarity with those lesser fortunate and more over, offer assistance and support to the needy.

The Scout Association of Malta through its members, was happily amongst the forerunners in our island to offer their support in the collection of clothing, foods and funds in aid of the Tsunami victims. A duty to help others at all times, as specified in the Scout promise, preformed with open hearts by many of our young members.

There are not many words of comfort that one can offer all those who have suffered during this devastation, but please rest assured that the Scout Association of Malta shall keep you in our minds and in our prayers.

We pray to Almighty God to give you all the strength to rebuild your lives, homes and families and to reunite all as truly worldly brothers and sisters in Scouting.

Yours in Scouting
Franco Azzopardi
International Commissioner
Scout Association of Malta”

In a message to the Fgura, Gzira, Naxxar, St Venera, Sliema and Victoria Groups the Chief Scout thanked and congratulated all those members of the Scout Association of Malta that took part in the public activity organized by the Civil Protection Department for the collection of aid to survivors of the Tsunami disaster.

He added that “helping others is part of the Scouts' duty and all those who took part in the activity did more than their daily good turn. As can be verified from the various emails received and from reports in the press, the response was impressive and we should all feel proud of having contributed in a small but sure way towards this success and towards a noble cause.”

On behalf of the Association, the Chief Scout expressed his heartfelt thanks to all those Groups that participated - their Leaders and Scouts – and in particular, however, to the Commissioner (Public Relations) Mr Mario Calleja who was instrumental in getting the Chief Scout's original request for participation around and for co-ordinating the subsequent response and to the Commissioner (National Events) Mr Charles Bajada for co-ordinating the Scouts efforts at Ta' Qali and at the Maria Regina School.

The Chief Scout joined the Deputy Chief Commissioner, Mr Anthony Xuereb in congratulating all for their efforts and for the important part played by all as representatives of the Scout Association. He ended his message with reaffirming the words made by the Commissioner (Public Relations): "It is good that the Scout Association did its small part to help out, after all this is what Scouting is all about."

09 Tsunami Disaster – Reports by the individual Groups

By the Commissioner for Public Relations Mr Mario H Calleja

On the 2nd January I e-mailed all the Groups who participated in the above initiative to submit a report on their activities connected to the above. The following are the ones I received.

FGURA SCOUT GROUP

It was 8:30 am on the 31st when i read the email. I called my group council chairman and asked him to set up a roster of helpers at the HQ for Sunday. I then made some calls to have vans available on the day, and was glad to see that I got positive feedback wherever I phoned. By 9:15am we had everything set up. I therefore immediately phoned the parish priest to ask him to make announcements during mass. He informed me that he had been trying to reach me, as he had already informed the public that he will be collecting the goods at the Parish Hall, but he needed help to sort/pack and deliver everything to Maria Regina. I phoned again my Council Chairman to inform him about the changes. On the 1st of January I met with most of my Venture Unit and Rover Crew at RTK as we had made arrangements to volunteer in their Campaign by answering phones of donations. I informed them of the assistance needed and they agreed to help. We had agreed to meet with the Parish Priest on the 2nd at 11:00am, but at 7:30am he called me to inform me that the response was unbelievable and the Hall was getting filled up. So i made some calls to meet earlier and personally drove the first van to Maria Regina at 10:00am. I was never more pleased to be stuck in traffic. The view of all those people, carrying all they could handle to the school made me feel proud to be Maltese. I unloaded my Van and helped unloading some others, whilst i was being informed by the Parish Priest that the other vans were on their way. I was sorry I had to leave and couldn't stay longer helping all those volunteers, but my group members are pleased they have been given the opportunity to give a small helping hand to our Asian brothers.

GZIRA SCOUT GROUP

On the receipt of the email, from the Commissioner for PR, our group decided to make available our Headquarter on Sunday 2nd January from 09.00hrs – 13.00hrs, to anyone who would like to donate, Food, Blankets etc. for the Asia relief. The Parish priest was advised to inform the Gzira Parishioners on Thursday evening. This he did on Friday during Holy Mass. He unfortunately did not continue doing so on the following

days during Holy Mass. With the consequence that many people went to the receiving points themselves. Our Quarters was manned by 3 leaders and 4 scouts. Who where even sometimes requested to go to the home of donors to carry the heavy bottles and cans of food. At 13.00hrs everything was loaded onto our 3 cars and after making contact with Charles Bajada we made our way to Blata-il Bajda. When we finally got there we were advised that the place was full and told to make our way to Ta'Qali, Which we did. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to be of help and also to see first hand the Good Heart of the Maltese people.

HAMRUN GROUP

The Hamrun Group gave its assistance from Monday to Wednesday in the sorting of aid at Maria Regina.

SLIEMA GROUP

Our Head Quarters was open from Monday 3rd January 2005 to Friday 7th January 2005 from 1830hrs to 2030hrs to enable people to bring aid for the Tsunamis Disaster. The following was accepted, Sheets, Blankets, Towels, Water and Preserves. The Sliema Group also collected funds on behalf of the Malta Red Cross and scouts were stationed outside the Sliema Churches all of 2nd January morning.

ST VENERA GROUP

On becoming aware of the initiative the GSL notified the Parish Priest to announce that the Group would be open on Sunday 2nd January from 1000hrs up to 1200hrs. This announcement was made in all churches in St Venera throughout the whole weekend. At the appointed time aid started flowing in at an unbelievable rate and in the two hours the Group filled up three truckloads. This reaction was totally unexpected and assistance was sought from Charles Bajada Commissioner National Events for his support who was stationed at Maria Regina. At about 1100hrs the Group was visited by the Acting President Dr George Hyzler who praised the effort of the Association in this moment of need. Later on in the afternoon the group delivered the aid to Ta' Qali and whilst waiting to unload Scouts gave a hand in the sorting of the material that was being brought in. The Group left Ta' Qali at 1600hrs tired but happy knowing that we had done our little part in the effort.

10 The President's Award Scheme.

By Mr Mark A Pizzuto – Member of National Committee

The Scout members that are participating in the **President's Award Scheme** are to note that the year 2005 will be a year of presentations and therefore are to make their utmost in finishing their respective levels so as to be awarded their Award on the appointed day.

There will be a **Bronze and Silver Award ceremony/presentation** during the month of **February 2005** and the **ceremony/presentation for the Gold Award** is then expected to take place during the month of **September 2005**.

Any Scouts that are finalising these levels are to immediately contact the **President's Award Scheme Malta** Chairman Mr Charles Cilia, immediately on tel: 2122 4548 (office) or 2148 6992 (home) or Email: info@presidentsaward.org, or through the website to be found at www.presidentsaward.org

11 GHELUQ TA' L-ATTIVITAJIET TAL 75 ANNIVERSARJU TAL MARSJA GROUP

minn Mr Joe Galea Assistant Segretarju Marsja Scout Group

Il-lum il-Grupp għalaq il-programm vast mifruq matul is-sena 2004 b-quddiesa konċellebrata u wara b-riċeviment, Il-quddiesa saret fil-knisja ta' Marija Regina u kkonċellibraw iż-zewg kappillani tal-parroċċi tal-Marsja Rev, Fr Pawlu Bugeja, Rev. Fr Manuel Abela, id-Direttur Spiritwali Rev Fr Anton Dimech u Rev Fr Mario Azzopardi li kien ex-membri tal-Grupp. Presenti barra l-Grupp u l-Kumitat kien hemm is-Sindku s-sur F.Debono, iċ-Chief Scout is-Sur Vincent Cassar, iċ-Chief Commissioner is-Sur G. D'Anastasi, A.D.C. tas-South District is-Sur M.Bonnici u l-G.S.L. Onorarju is-Sur G.Camilleri. Ta minn issemmi lid-daqq u l-kant sar mill-membri tal-Grupp bis-sehem ta Mrs M.Vella u Miss G. Castillo, biex wara l-quddiesa tkanta l-innu tal-Grupp fuq kitba tas-CSL A.Vella. Wara sar March Past bis-sehem tal-Banda tal-Grupp sal HQ fejn it-Troop u l-Pack ingħataw refreshment biex il-kumplement tal-Group u l-Kumitat taw riċeviment lill-mistiednin fosthom dawk kollha li jgħinu fil-ħrug tal-magazine li joħrog il-Grupp, dawn ġew ippresentati b-tifkiera tal-75 Anniversarju mill G.S.L. Alfred Savona li ringrazzjom tas-support li jagħtu. Wara iċ-Chief Commissioner ippresenta xi badges u certifikati tal-President Award lil erba membri mil-Grupp li kienet l-ewwel darba li din l-Award inghattat fil-Grupp.

Finalment iċ-Chief Commissioner irringrazzja lill-GSL, l-iScouters u l-Kumitat tax-xogħol kollhu li jagħmlu fil-Grupp kif ukoll ta l-attivitajiet li għamlu matul din is-sena tal-75 sena tal-Marsja Group u b'rikonoxximent huwa ippresenta Plakka li tfakkar dan l-Anniversarju lill-GSL, li min naħa tiegħu irringrazzjaħ tas-support li dejjem ta lill-

Grupp u żgur li din il-plakka f'ha tibqa tfakkarna f'dan kollhu, Wara il-GSL Alfred.Savona għadda biex għan-nom tiegħu u ta l-iScouters jgħid grazzi kbira lill-kullhadd ibda minn dawk li ġew qabilna li bdew dan il-Group fl-1929 u komplew issa f'hu tul dawn il-75 sena biex issa għaddewh ilna biex inkomplu biex ma jagħlaq qatt. GRAZZI MILL GDID.

12 Investiture & Going-Up Ceremony, A.G.M. & Reception at the Stella Maris College Scout Group

by Pauline Cefai Azzopardi - Group Scout Leader



The Stella Maris College Scout Group has started the year 2005 with an Investiture & Going-Up Ceremony held at their Headquarters at Stella Maris College.

Two Scouts and nineteen Cub Scouts were invested by the Group Scout Leader, Skipper and Akela in the presence of their proud parents and the Training & Program Commissioner. A Going-Up Ceremony of seven members to the Troop and eleven members to the Unit was also held.

On this occasion Daniel Cuschieri was awarded the Venture Award. He is also in the final stages of being awarded the Dolphin Award. At the end of the Ceremony all members of the Group renewed their Scout Promise. A very well done to all!

Afterwards, the Scout Council held the Annual General Meeting where the Chairman, the Treasurer and the Group Scout Leader read out their reports for the Year 2004 to all present. The evening ended with an enjoyable reception for all.

The Commissioner for Public Relations would like to inform the readers that the Venture Scout Unit of the Stella Maris College Scout Group was amongst the Units who took part in the Venture Rally last year. This was inadvertently omitted in the last IHQ Bulletin.

13 TRAINING AND PROGRAMME DEPARTMENT

by Mr. Michael J Cefai, Commissioner Training and Programme.

Level 2 – Introductory Adult Leadership Training Course - Applications are now open for participation at the next *Introductory Adult Leadership Training Course (Level 2)*, which is due to start on Saturday, 26th February 2005. Application Forms are available from the Secretariat at IHQ. The closing date for these Application Forms is Tuesday 22nd February 2005. Applicants will be accepted to attend this course only if all the Projects assigned to them have been completed and handed in to the *Commissioner Training and Programme*. Further details are available on Application.

Patrol Leaders' National Training Course - The next *Patrol Leaders' National Training Course* will be held between **Friday, 11th and Sunday, 13th March 2005**, at Island Headquarters, Floriana. Further details are being sent to *Group Scout Leaders* and *Scout Leaders*.

New Wood Badge Training Emblems - Information about the new *Wood Badge Training Emblems* is presently being sent to all Wood Badge Holders by the *Commissioner Training and Programme*. Wood Badge Holders are asked to send in the information requested in the Circular, so that the appropriate Emblem/s are issued. Any Wood Badge Holder, however, not receiving this Circular is kindly asked to notify immediately the *Commissioner Training and Programme* at IHQ.

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

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