

# IHQ Bulletin



THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION OF MALTA

Island Headquarters, E. S. Tonna Street, Floriana VLT 16, MALTA  
Tel : +356 21 224334 Fax : +356 21 251382

Issue No : 2/2005  
Feb - Mar 2005

Url : <http://www.maltascout.org.mt>  
email : [info@maltascout.org.mt](mailto:info@maltascout.org.mt)

## 01 POINTS TO REMEMBER

### A SCOUT IS LOYAL

Scouts, what's the second point of the Scout Law? That's right, "A Scout is loyal. " Our Scout handbook explains that a Scout is loyal to his family, Scout leaders, friends, school and nation.

I'm going to add one more thing to that list - a Scout is loyal to his team. The team might be his patrol or sports team.

Your patrol or soccer team can't be as good as it should be if you goof off a lot or constantly complain about your teammates or your patrol leader or coach. A winning patrol and a winning team must have a winning attitude. That means that every member must be willing to do his part and not spend time griping because the patrol's plans or the game are not going his way.

That doesn't mean that you have to be close friends with everybody in your patrol or team or even like all of them. But it means that when you join, you commit yourself to the success of the patrol or the team and pledge to give it your best effort.

In Scouting and sports, it's teamwork that makes winners. So whenever you're with your patrol or sports team, remember, "A Scout is loyal".

### In This Issue :

- 01 Points to Remember
- 02 From the Chief Commissioner
- 03 Data Protection
- 04 From the Districts
- 05 Scouting & Spirituality – Food for thought
- 06 CPD Weekend
- 07 Survival Weekend
- 08 Contact with Scouts in Bosnia Herzegovina
- 09 Mosta Group AGM

### For Your Diary : Nov / Dec

- 22/3 DCs' Meeting
- 29/3 Commissioners' Meeting
- 5/4 Executive Meeting
- 12/4 DCs' Meeting
- 14/4 GSLs' Forum
- 24/4 Annual Rally

### You Might be A Scout(er) If....

- you carry your own toilet paper wherever you go.
- you always read by a flashlight.
- your radio is always tuned to the weather station.
- you horde tent stakes.
- you wear 2 pairs of socks to bed.

### Paradox of our time

The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings, but shorter tempers; wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints; we spend more, but have less; we buy more, but enjoy it less.

## 02 FROM THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER

*Mr Godwin D'Anastasi*

### **Appointments.**

The Chief Commissioner has approved the following appointments with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2005.

006/2005	Joseph Sciberras	Group Scout Leader	Mosta
007/2005	Edward Vella	Asst. Group Scout Leader	Mosta
008/2005	Angela Borg Barthet	Acting Leader	San Anton School
009/2005	Glorianne Briffa	Acting Leader	San Anton School
010/2005	Bertha Patiniott	Acting Leader	San Anton School
011/2005	Anthony Rizzo	Venture Scout Leader	San Anton School
012/2005	Raymond Darmenia	Asst. Group Scout Leader	Qawra

### **Cancellations of Appointments.**

The following appointments have been withdrawn and cancelled with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2005.

031/1997	Edward Vella	Venture Scout Leader	Mosta
017/92	Joseph Sciberras	Asst. Group Scout Leader	Mosta
010/2004	Raymond Darmenia	Scout leader	Qawra

### **Cancellation of Appointment and Warrant.**

The following appointment and warrant has been cancelled with effect from 13<sup>th</sup> December 2004.

002/1998      Teddy J Farrugia      Group Scout Leader      Naxxar  
Warrant as issued and published in The Bulletin dated 31<sup>st</sup> May 2001 to Teddy J. Farrugia.

### **Warrants.**

The Chief Scout has approved the issue of the following Warrant with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2005.

W 02/2005      Raymond Darmenia      Asst. Group Scout Leader      Qawra.

### **Scouter Emeritus.**

During the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2005, by the Mosta Scout Group, the following Scouter was appointed Scouter Emeritus

Mr. Charles J Vella      Ex. Group Scout Leader      Mosta

### **Chief Commissioner Personal Award**

Mr. Charles J Vella was also presented with the Chief Commissioner Personal Award in appreciation of his long and dedicated service to the Association spanning 66 years.

### **Annual Rally**

This year's Annual Rally will take place on Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2005. More information will be given later by the Commissioner for National Events, Charles Bajada when available.

### **Founder's Day**

This year's Founder's Day was held on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2005. During this year's event that was very well attended, our Association hosted for the first time H.E. Dr. Edward Fenech Adami, President of Malta and newly appointed Patron of the Association. On his arrival H.E. was escorted on foot by the San Gwann Pipers, and on his arrival in the main hall he was greeted with a fanfare by the Mosta Scout Group. H.E. proceeded to sign the VIP Guest book and then was taken around to meet all present. After the Chief Scout Mr. Vincent Cassar delivered his speech; H.E. replied that he was happy to be amongst so many volunteers who have rendered an excellent service to so many over nearly a hundred years.

Prior to His Excellency's arrival, the presentation of this year's Awards and Decoration took place and no less than 36 scouters were decorated for their work or service. The Chief Scout then presented the certificates of the Dolphin Award to the following Venture Scouts.

Brian Scicluna	Tarxien	Daniel Cuschieri	Stella Maris College
Jacob Vella	Mosta	Mario Attard	Stella Maris College
Emanuel Bonnici	Mosta		

**Invitations to Founder's Day.**

On behalf of the Association, I would like to apologize to any Groups, uniformed or lay members who failed to receive their invitation to attend the function. This was purely an oversight and any inconvenience is deeply regretted.

**Awards and Decorations – February 2005**

• **SILVER ACORN – Specially distinguished service over 15 years.**

Joseph Galea	Scouter Emeritus	Marsa
--------------	------------------	-------

• **BAR TO MEDAL OF MERIT – Additional 5 years specially good service.**

Lawrence Saliba	GSL	Victoria
-----------------	-----	----------

• **MEDAL OF MERIT – Specially good service of not less than 10 years.**

Castillo Lawrence	Quartermaster	Marsa
Custo Josef	District Comm Central	IHQ
	RSL	Hamrun
Lanfranco Reuben	Comm. Sea Scouts	IHQ
Micallef Lino	AGSL	Valletta

• **CHIEF SCOUT COMM FOR GOOD SERVICE – Not less than 5 years**

Borda Alfred	ASL	B'Kara
Camilleri Kevin	SL	Sliema
Catania Mark	ACSL	Marsa
Ferriggi Valerie	CSL	Zejtun
Guisti Godwin	Acting Leader	St. Michael
Mangion Pierre	Acting Leader	Iklin
Micallef Mary	CSL	Valletta
Muscat Doublesin Noel	Comm. Admin.	IHQ
Sammur Irene	AGSL	Tarxien
Sciberras Charmaine	ACSL	St. Venera
Xuereb Anthony	Deputy Ch. Comm.	IHQ
Zerafa Adelina	ACSL	Tarxien

• **BAR TO LSD – 40 YEARS**

Galea Joseph	Scouter Emeritus	Marsa
--------------	------------------	-------

• **BAR TO LSD – 25 YEARS**

Borg Adrian	GSL	San Gwann
	Dist. Comm. North	IHQ
Castello Lawrence	QM	Marsa
Cauchi Dione	BM	Marsa
Savona Alfred	GSL	Marsa
Zammit Charles	ABM	Marsa

• **BAR TO LSD - 20 YEARS**

Borda Alfred	ASL	B'Kara
Schembri Marita	SL	Qormi
Vella Antoine	CSL	Marsa
Warrington Jacqueline	AGSL	Pembroke / St. Andrews

• **LONG SERVICE DECORATION – 15 Accumulated years**

Catania Mark	ACSL	Marsa
Micallef Josephine	GSL	Pembroke / St. Andrews
Zammit Raymond	ABM	Marsa

- **SERVICE DECORATION – 10 Years continuous service**

Callus Jonathan	VSL	San Gwann
Cassola Mark	CSL	St. Aloysius College
Falzon Manuel	CSL	St. Venera
Magro Claudette	ACSL	St. Venera
Micallef Lino	AGSL	Valletta

### 03 Data Protection

by Dr Arthur Azzopardi Commissioner for Data Protection Matters

The attention of all Group Scout Leaders is hereby being drawn to the following:

1. Only the official data protection forms are to be used and no Group is allowed to use their own or amend them in any manner.
2. Groups that have issued their own are to use the Association forms also.
3. All Groups are to submit a copy of the adult consent form, in either language, for every Scouter whose details are collected by means of the Annual Census Return and kept by IHQ.
4. Failure to abide by such directives shall lead to a serious breach of the Data Protection Act and thus jeopardise the position at law of The Scout Association.

On a more positive note, GSLs are kindly being informed that ALL Group Scouters (duly appointed) may have access to data held by the Group.

Also by way of clarification, transfer of data within The Scout Association is permissible provide that such transfer is being made in furtherance of Scouting Principles and in lieu of administrative requirements of Scouting

### 04 From the Districts

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

#### **South District Church Parade - Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February**

To celebrate Founder's Day while at the same time bid farewell to DC. Lino Bonnici the South District held a church Parade at Paola on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February. During Mass which was celebrated by Island Chaplain Fr. Anton Briffa, members from all Groups participated either in readings offertory or choir singing. In his homely Fr. Anton highlighted the dedicated duties which Mr. Lino Bonnici carried out during his term and augured well to newly appointed DC. At the end of Mass the Secretary read the last message of Baden Powell which no matter how many times you listen to it, it serves always a reminder of the fundamentals of good Scouting.

After Mass the Groups preceded by their bands marched in one whole contingent to Boffa Gardens where Mr. Lino Bonnici took the salute for his last time. A girl Scout from Tarxien read a 'Thank You ' speech on behalf of all and presented a bouquet to Mrs. Bonnici for her ongoing support while he was in office. Then the GSL's presented a Group Scarf printed with Scouters signatures, while the secretary presented a silver token on behalf of the whole District carrying the South District emblem and the names of the eleven groups making up the District.

The ceremony proceeded with Mr. Lino Bonnici delivering his very last speech to the South District and then ended with the whole contingent reciting the Scout Promise.

---

*I would like to join in, on behalf of the Scout Association, to thank Mr Lino Bonnici for the invaluable service he has rendered throughout the past years not only on a District level but also on a National level. His experienced advice was always volunteered and welcome. We are sure that this is not the end of his Scouting career and that he will find ways to continue to contribute his energies towards the good of the Movement. - Mario*

## 05 Scouting & Spirituality – Food for thought

by Mr Carmel Mangani Group Scout Leader Tarxien Scout Group

Many misapprehend Scouting as merely a recreational diversion for children and young people. This applies not only to the public at large but also to many scouts. But the real danger starts when the Scouters themselves (who should know otherwise) let the recreational overwhelm the spiritual side.

Once, Baden Powell was asked what was in his mind as regards God when he instituted Scouting. He was asked: where does religion come in? Well, his reply was that religion does not come in at all. He replied that God is already there. It is the fundamental factor underlying Scouting.

Unfortunately, after almost a century, some Scouters are still missing the point altogether. They are still delving themselves into useless pique and counting their badges on their uniforms.

“God is in the World, the World is in God, the World is God. God is distinct from the World, but the World is not distinct from God.” (*Hindu Saying*)

The recognition of a spiritual dimension to life is one of the universal core values of Scouting. These values are at the heart of the Scout Movement.

We must not let the technical to outweigh the moral. Scouting skills, backwoodsmanship, camping, hiking, etc. are all means, not the end. The end is CHARACTER BUILDING, the active service of Love and Duty to God and neighbour.

## 06 CPD Weekend

by Mario H Calleja Commissioner for Public Relations

The Civil Protection will be organising its annual open weekend on the 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

The CPD has informed me that both Red Cross and St John's will be organising first aid courses throughout this week end with the intention of covering the whole syllabus required to be certified in first aid. It is therefore advised that all those wishing to avail of this opportunity are to apply as soon as possible.

Another added experience will be the offer by the CPD to include Venture Scouts in their demonstrations and exercises. This is sure to be of interest to all concerned. All necessary precautions will be taken by the CPD to ensure safety to all those who participate.

## 07 Survival Weekend

By Mr Carmel Mangani Group Scout Leader Tarxien Scout Group

After a lot of long and time consuming preparations by the Leaders, VSL Paul Grixti and RSL Trevor Mallia, the Team finally met at the Tarxien Scout Headquarters and set off towards the start of the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Survival Weekend organized jointly by the two adult sections of the Team.

The participants were given a set of rules, which included a list of equipment that they could bring with them, including a list of food, which consisted of 250grams of food only and just 1 litre of water. No one

was allowed to carry any money. The rest of the food they had to find themselves by either hunting or fishing, or eating the variety of food on the menu that the wild can offer. The Team was checked and every member's equipment was searched before the start. Any item that was not on the list was temporarily confiscated and returned at the end of the activity.



*Finding the Best Route*



*A deserved Rest at one of the Check Points*

The Team was taken to the starting location which was at Ghajn Tuffieha, but which was not yet known to them, the same as they did not know anything about the expedition route etc. Throughout the journey, they were given a series of envelopes at every check point, with the grid references of various incident points that they had to pass through, and with questions regarding these points. During the first night they walked about 30kms, leaving from Golden Bay at about 2100hrs and ending at Dingli Cliffs Barracks at 0530hrs, where they set camp.

The route took them through various points in Malta including Nadur Tower, Dwejra Lines, Ta' Qali and Mdina. Unfortunately for them the weather did not help them at all, with severe cold winds and icy rain battling against them all through the night. Apart from that, at the various check points the Leaders set up various obstacles related to scouting, including a car accident simulation, a first-aid written and practical test and a constant test in advanced compass and mapping. The Team were not judged on an individual basis but as a Team adding to the final goal of the activity which was Team building. After some time of earned rest, the Team set off for their second part of the expedition at around noon on Saturday.



*exhausted after 50kms*



*Building Bivouacs for the night*

The route on the second day led them through another 20kms of rough terrain, passing near the Laferla cross, Siggiewi and Ta' Kandja, Mqabba and ending at the Zurrieq Campsite, kindly offered for the occasion by the Zurrieq GSL. Again the Leaders set up various obstacles for the Team, which included ropework, cocking and various others.

By this time the Team had already walked nearly 50kms and the moral and strength of the members was starting to break down, considering the fact that they had survived various obstacles too, including the toughest being the shortage of food and drink. However this did not seem to cause them concern, since they found various sources of food and drink on the track. The moral went up quite a bit when they plotted

the final check point for the day, and found out that it was the Zurrieq Campsite. There they could freshen up a little bit, and most of all, sleep under the shelter of a roof away from the cold and wet night that was forecasted.

But this enthusiasm quickly shattered when they arrived on the site and found it all locked up. The Leaders had purposely not gone for the key, and the Team had to build bivouacs for the night. Also, since wild hunting is not an option in Malta, they were given 3 whole raw chickens and some potatoes, which they had to cook and eat. This was done to simulate the eventuality that something was caught and had to be cooked. At that moment the whole of Malta was jammed in front of the telly listening to Chiara's Angel

After waking up at about 0800hrs, the Team set off for their final destination, which was at the Team's Headquarters at the

Dar tal-Kejka in Tarxien. There they found their Leaders awaiting them and were given a well-deserved hot meal to end this hard gained weekend.



AVSL Matthew Sammut preparing the chickens

## **08** 1<sup>st</sup> Birkirkara Scout Group makes contact with Scouts in BANJALUKA (BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA)

By Mr George Mangion Group Secretary Birkirkara Scout Group

*Following my visit to Bosnia last December, I tried to keep the contact with the Banjaluka Scouts alive, as much as possible. I understand that Bosnia is not in the centre of Europe, and some people maybe think that going there is abnormal. Going there now, may sound abnormal especially at temperature of -18, but traveling after April, would be decent. The people are very kind, and the Scouts are really doing a good job. They are helping in the community, in the hospitals, working with old people, working with other NGOs, working with orphanages etc. This is only a fraction of what they do there. They really try to do the GOOD DEED OF THE DAY. As you can see from the last e-mail (reproduced below) that I received this week, they have a number of activities and lots to offer.*

*Also as you can read, some WISH to travel to Malta. Any idea how we can help them? This year I will be going there but I am still undecided when to leave, but for sure this will be after mid-May. Is anyone interested to join me? Can we plan an exchange? I assure you that it will be new experience for many. This is not central Europe. Maybe we can go there and do a couple of day's community service there and learn about Scouting in this country.*

Your mail drew out quite a smile, since these days we have to deal with temperatures of -18 here in Banjaluka! That means that - if I don't smile when I come out of my house in the morning - I have a grungy look on my face until I reach next warm indoor space

About your Group - coming to Banjaluka - people in my Scout Group and I would be more than happy to welcome you! There are several occasions that you might visit this year:

22nd April - day when we celebrate the very name of our Scout Group, as you know, but it is also date celebrated by city of Banjaluka and many organizations here. There are a lot of activities happening at this very day and we can always think of something in days that follow after 22nd.

May - on 7th or 8th of May we are going to have our traditional activity for Cub-Scouts (Search for Hidden Treasure) and it is one-day activity. We don't have a camp in May, I'm afraid, since it is school-time, but if we agree that you and youngsters come then - we can certainly make a plan for your staying here for a week!

Also, we are planning to have a summer-camp at the seaside in Montenegro – one more opportunity.

And also our Scout gathering in the last weekend of November, which is special since we are celebrating 30th year of implementation of this activity and 35<sup>th</sup> year of Scout Group "22nd April".

Now, it would be great if you might come and visit us for every of these occasions! Also, if we agree about the best date and time to twin our Scout Groups here in Banjaluka - we can also think of some activities that might follow your visit - if it will not be related to the dates that I mentioned! For example - there is Jamboree organized by Scout organization of Vojvodina (Serbia and Montenegro) that is going to happen in between 18th and 28th of July that we might send at least one unit to and if you are interested - this is web-site to visit and to know more about this activity: [www.v-scout.org.yu](http://www.v-scout.org.yu)

I talked a lot about your visit to Scouts of my Scout Group later on. Our Scout Master sends to you and your fellow Scouts his best regards and thanks for the presents that you brought and your interest!

Actually, there are 3-4 scouts at age of 17 and 18 that would like to come and visit your Scout Group. I remembered that you mentioned activity that you will have in a month of May and they seem to be very interested. And I measure their interest according to all the facts about Malta that I find at the desktop on our computer at different times when I come to Scouts' office. So, they are really interested and they would like to know more about this event that you are going to have and how long does it last and what are the activities done on that day and what they might prepare if they decide to come?

Please send my best regards to members of your scout group and your family as well!

And stay well and in a good spirit!

## **09 Mosta Scout Group hold memorable Annual General Meeting**

*By the Commissioner for Public Relations Mr Mario H Calleja*

On the 5<sup>th</sup> March the Mosta Scout Group held its Annual General Meeting. This was no ordinary AGM and the Group met not only to listen to and consider the usual reports but also to give honour to the outgoing Group Scout Leader, Mr Charles J Vella who dedicated his entire Scouting life to the same Group. Charles, known as "Sir" in his Group became synonymous with the Mosta Group and it is through his tireless efforts that the Group is what it is today, a strong and very well organised Group rich in leaders and Scouting tradition. This was evident from the many presentations prepared by the different sections making up this Group. Also of importance were the Investiture Ceremonies of a number of Cubs and Scouts and the formation of the Rover Crew and Investiture of a number of Rover Scouts.

Of equal importance were the Appointments of the new GSL and AGSL, Mr Joe Sciberras and Mr Edward Vella respectively, both gentlemen need no introduction and have worked hard in the Group for many years as well. We congratulate them on their appointments and wish them luck and good Scouting.

During the same evening Mr Charles J Vella was Appointed Scouter Emeritus and awarded the Chief Commissioner Personal Award by the Chief Commissioner during this evening and in accepting this appointment he promised to continue to do what he can for the Movement both within the Mosta Scout Group and within the Association in general.

Present for this AGM were the Chief Scout, Mr Vincent Cassar, the Chief Commissioner, Mr Godwin D'Anastasi, the District Commissioner (North) Mr Adrian Borg, the Commissioner for Training and Programs, Mr Michael J Cefai, the Commissioner for Cub Scouts, Mr Leslie Bonnici and the Commissioner for Public Relations, Mr Mario H Calleja.

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

Editor: Mario H Calleja  
Commissioner for Public Relations  
Island Headquarters, E. S. Tonna Street  
Floriana VLT 16, MALTA  
e-mail : [mariocalleja@waldonet.net.mt](mailto:mariocalleja@waldonet.net.mt)

Articles in this Bulletin  
may be reproduced  
provided the source is  
quoted

**out Association of Malta The Scout Association of Malta The Scout Association of Malt**