

IHQ Bulletin

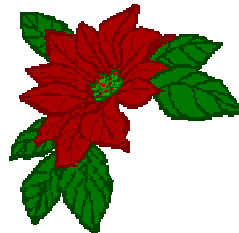


THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION OF MALTA

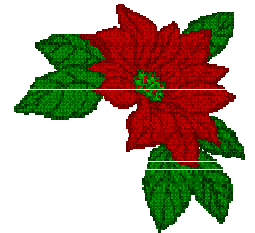
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Best Wishes
for a
Merry Christmas



From the Chief Scout, Chief Commissioner and Commissioners may you all experience Christmas in the true Scouting Spirit and may 2006 bring peace and prosperity.

01 POINTS TO REMEMBER

I hear and I forget; I see and I remember; I do and I understand. (*Confucius*)

What you are is God's gift to you;
What you make of yourself is your gift to God.

Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.

When you are sad, condemned, disappointed, and disillusioned, remember that it is the crushed grape that yields the wine. (*Colin McKay, Scouting (UK) magazine*)

One hundred years from now, it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the car I drove.

But the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child. (*The Loop, S. Saskatchewan Region*)

The greatest good you can do for another is not just to share your riches but to reveal to him his own. (*Benjamin Disraeli*)

Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there. (*Will Rogers*)

Opportunity may knock, but you still have to get up off your seat and open the door.

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The Part Scouts Have to Play.

(*Message from Pope John Paul to the 17th World Jamboree*)

The Scouts... have a special part to play in building the future. The more conscious Scouts are of the noble ideals of their movement and the more united in friendship, the greater will be their contribution to breaking down artificial barriers and to creating a new civilization of solidarity, service, and love.

Where there is no vision, people perish.
(*Proverbs 29:18*)

Our Spiritual Compass

For Scouts on a hike or canoe trip, a compass is an important tool. Because it gives you a stable reference point (magnetic north), you can set a course and follow it. As long as your compass is accurate and you don't damage it, it will serve you faithfully. If you trust it.

Our faith or spirituality is something like that. We have a point of reference that does not change, God. And we have a compass, so to speak, in our relationship with God. It's something we have learned and continue to learn about, just as we learn to use a compass properly.

We use our spirituality and faith to get us through this grand journey we call life. If we are prepared to trust the things we have learned about God and creative living, our spirituality can guide us through the joys and temptations of life. We can use it to show us what service we may give and what potential dangers to stay away from. We can use it to guide us in our friendships, in our work, in what we say to people and about people, and in how we treat our natural world.

(Scouter Rob Brown, N. Saskatchewan Region)

02 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM)

Mr Mario H Calleja - Commissioner for PR

The recent CHOGM meeting in Malta besides serving as a showcase for Malta also served as a show place for our Association. The St Michael's School Scout Group was a protagonist at the opening and closing ceremonies at the Commonwealth Youth Forum that took place at Qawra. The Group participated with its Band and was instrumental in providing a spectacle to the participants that took part in the Forum as well as to the many locals and tourists that attended the opening and closing ceremonies.

Another occasion during which the Association played an important part was during the Children's Rally held at the Cottonera Sports Complex on Thursday, 24 November in honour of Queen Elizabeth II. The Hamrun Scout Group with its pipes and drums provided an excellent spectacle to the audience that was present.

The Chief Scout, in his own personal capacity, had the occasion to be presented to the Queen during her visit here. On that occasion, although not presented to the Queen in his capacity as Chief Scout, he availed himself of the opportunity to refer to the Association and to recall to Her Majesty the many occasions in the past that she had in meeting and talking to members of the Association the last of which was at Windsor Castle on the occasion of Her Golden Jubilee three years ago. The Queen replied that she had always held in high esteem The Scout Association of Malta and thanked the Chief Scout for the excellent and splendid display put up by the Scouts the day before, that is, at the Cottonera Sports Complex.

Congratulations and a well done is due to the two Groups under reference and to all those that took part.

International Catholic Conference of Scouting (ICCS)

During the weekend Friday to Saturday, 2 to 3 December 2005, the ICCS held its Board Meeting in Malta. Present for the meeting were Mr Hermans Baldur (Germany) Secretary General of ICCS, Mr Bray Barnes (US) Deputy Secretary General, Mgr Bob Guglielmone (US) the World Ecclesiastical Assistant to ICCS appointed by the Vatican, Br Jose Antonio Warletta (Italy) i/c of ICCS publications and communications, Mr Rodolphe Jabbour (Lebanon) ICCS Secretariat member and Ms Francesca De Laura (Italy) Secretariat Secretary.

The members of the Secretariat were accommodated at the St Joseph Retreat Home, Rabat where they also had their formal two day meeting.

Members of the Secretariat arrived on the morning of Thursday, December 1 and they were met at the airport by the Chief Scout. In the afternoon they were taken on a conducted tour to the Domus Romana at Rabat, St John's Co-Cathedral, the Upper Barrakka Gardens and St James Cavalier in Valletta before proceeding to Island Headquarters for a meeting with Commissioners, GSLs and Group Chaplains. At the meeting topics linked to the Catholic aspects of Scouting were referred to in the interventions made by the Chief Scout, the Commissioner (Religious Dimension), the Secretary General of ICCS and the World Ecclesiastical Assistant who were the main speakers. A number of those present also took part in the discussion that followed.

At the end of the meeting the Chief Scout was presented with the Certificate of Membership confirming the Association as a full member of ICCS with all the rights and responsibilities of such membership. The Scout Association of Malta was admitted as a full member of ICCS in 1992 but such a Certificate of Membership had never been transmitted to the Association.

Accompanied by the Chief Scout and the Commissioner (Religious Dimension) the ICCS delegation also had the occasion to pay a visit to H. G. the Archbishop Mgr Joseph Mercieca at the Archbishop's Curia in Floriana. The meeting was very cordial and topics relating to Scouting in general, the family and problems afflicting youth were discussed.

At the end of the meeting, Mgr Guglielmone on behalf of the ICCS Secretariat presented to H.G. the Archbishop a stole bearing the insignia of ICCS (photo).

During their five day visit the members of the ICCS Secretariat had the occasion to visit a number of places of interest and to taste local food, including rabbit.

Following their return to their homeland, the Chief Scout received the following message from the Secretariat Secretary: "I believe I can represent all the members of the ICCS Secretariat in sending you our best thanks for the great welcome and support during the days of our stay in Malta. We really appreciated all your efforts and kindness in every detail. Please send our special thanks also to the people involved in the service of driving and showing the places and regards to all the Committee of the Malta Association. I wish you a blessed Christmas and we will remain in touch for the future."

The Chief Scout wishes "to thank all those that helped in making the ICCS visit a successful one, with special thanks going to David Schembri, Asst International Commissioner for his unfailing assistance during the delegation's stay in Malta".



03 From the Central District

Mr Mario H Calleja – District Secretary Central District

The Central District has on the 7th December organised what has now become part of the District's yearly calendar of events. This is the District Night and it was held at IHQ at 1830hrs. The meeting was opened by the District Commissioner Mr Josef Custo who welcomed those present to the Meeting. The DC continued by exhorting the Groups to increase the number of joint activities so as to promote the true brotherhood in Scouting. This year the District changed the format of this event and it was decided to organise it in the form of an Annual General Meeting. Reports were in fact presented to those present on the activities organised in the past three years by the District Secretary, Mr Mario H Calleja, together with a financial report by the District Treasurer, Mr Joseph Saliba. Each Group presented its own report on activities they organised during 2005. The Chief Scout closed the meeting by congratulating the District on its great number of activities especially those directed at the Service to the Community. He insisted that it is these activities that show that we are living our Scouting principles. He encouraged all to continue to work in this direction and to promote the true values of Scouting in our community. Also present for this meeting were Mr Martin Bonnici DC South and Mr Adrian Borg Secretary to the DCs' Meeting. The Meeting ended with refreshments being served to all present.

04 NGO White Paper

Mr Mario H Calleja – Commissioner for Public Relations

The Report on the Comments of the Scout Association on the NGO White Paper as approved during the meeting held on the 18th October at IHQ were presented to the 30th November to Dr Maria Scirha. Members of the Scout Association who would like to have a copy of this report are to either contact the Commissioner of PR for an electronic copy or the Director of Administration for a hard copy.

05 100 YEARS ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Mr Mario H Calleja - Commissioner for PR

100th Anniversary Committee

As announced in the IHQ Bulletin of July/August 2005 the Scout Council has appointed Mr Kenneth DeMartino Chairman of the 100th Anniversary Committee. The committee has in fact met four times and is made up of the following members.

Kenneth DeMartino	- Chairman
Ray Darmania	- Secretary
Vince Cassar	- Chief Scout
Godwin D'Anastasi	- Chief Commissioner
Arthur Azzopardi	- Deputy Chief Commissioner
Leslie Bonnici	- Commissioner Training and Program
Charles Bajada	- Commissioner National Events
Franco Azzopardi	- International Commissioner
David Schembri	- From the International Desk
Mario Calleja	- Commissioner Public Relations
Joe Grech	- DC Gozo
Joseph Sciberras	- North District Representative
Joseph Filletti	- Central District Representative
Mario Frendo	- South District Representative
Paul Vella	- Member of the Scout Council
Kevin Camilleri	- Committee Member

Program of Events 2007 – 2008

The Committee discussed and approved a number of events for both the centenaries. The events being proposed are meant to bring Scouting to the forefront. Further details will be communicated during the official launching. In January details will be release on a number of dates related to the launching of the Program of Activities for the Centenaries' Celebrations. All Commissioners and GSLs will be informed in due course.

Scout Association 100 years Logo

The Committee approached a number of persons asking them to submit designs for a commemorative badge to be worn during 2007 – 2008. The Committee was pleased to receive a number of designs and after considering all of them the one chosen was a design by Elvio Briffa. The Committee thanks all who contributed their ideas for their time and effort.

Formation of sub-committee

The Committee has set up a number of sub-committees to support and strengthen the organisation of the whole program. The first sub-committees and their respective chairmen are the following.

Special Fund	Paul Vella
Merchandizing	Ray Darmania
World Scout Jamboree	Franco Azzopardi
The Displattoo	Leslie Bonnici

The Chairmen are to each form their own committees from within or outside the Scout Association. Anyone interested in joining one of these committees is to contact the Director for Administration. Other sub committees will be formed in the near future.

06 Displattoo 2007

Mr Leslie Bonnici – Chairman of the Displattoo Sub-Committee

As announced above and as part of the centenary celebrations one of the main events that the Scout Association is organising is a Scout Displattoo in March 2007.

All Groups who have a registered Scout Band with The Scout Association of Malta should please forward the following information to IHQ marked 'SCOUT BANDS' to the Director for Administration.

- The type of band (e.g. pipe band or brass band)
- The number and type of musicians (e.g. 8 bagpipes, 4 side drums, 3 xylophones etc)
- The type of instruments (e.g. 3 bugles, 4 snare drums etc)
- How many rehearsals weekly or monthly are held and when
- Any other musicians within the group (such as clarinet, althorn, trombone etc)

An organizing committee is being formed to establish the type of displattoo that will be organized in 2007. Any Scouter or Band Leader who is interested in forming part of the said committee is to send his proposal in a sealed envelope to the Director of Administration marked "Displattoo Organizing Committee". The chairman of the organizing committee will have the final word as who is to form part of this committee.

All information must reach IHQ by post or email at admscout@bell.net.mt till the 20th of December 2005.

07 EU Youth Exchange on Outdoor Adventure Activities in Luxembourg

Ms Francesca Agius Vadala – ACSL Sliema Scout Group

Last week James Buhagiar from St.Patrick's residential home, Dorothy Bugeja from SPYS (Salesian Pastrol Youth Service), and myself from the 1st Sliema Scout Group (Bernard's Own), all volunteers working with Maltese youth participated in a EU Youth Group Exchange organized by the Youth National Agency in Luxemburg.

The week was jam-packed with a number of outdoor activities, such as an adventure park which involved climbing, balancing, abseiling, caving and hiking. These activities lead to a number of discussions such as "becoming aware of our limits" and "organizing such activities with young children in different countries".

Through such activities and discussions all participants were able to exchange ideas about different sessions that could be carried out with children. One thing that struck me was how the environment of ones country reflects so much on the activities presented to the children. For example; in Malta the sea side is to a certain extent an important venue for our scout activities; where else other scouts had very similar games which were adapted to play in the woods or in the snow.

Contacts were made with participants from other countries for future training sessions. This was done through a number of different work shops and very casually between participants on the coach or during our free time which at times was very scarce and far between due to our hectic schedule. Our hosts made it a point that apart from the programme we got to see quite a bit of Luxemburg.

The programme ended with an enjoyable evening where all participating countries were asked to bring along some local delicacies. Of course our local beer, soft drinks and traditional food flowed freely, and I must admit our Maltese table was a great hit with a number of the participants!

Through the training course I learnt so much about getting to know myself and my capabilities and even deepen my own limits. This was an exercise we faced every day and something I have got back with me to pass on to the children that I have under my care.

Did we enjoy it? Will we go again? Will we recommend such an experience? Definitely!

08 CAR PARK No 3

Mr Ray Darmania – Director for Administration

Finally, car park number three is ready for use. For those who do not frequent IHQ premises so often, a big change could be seen in the ditch opposite the Scout Shop, which has been converted into a car park. The work on site started in June 2005. The huge amount of debris, which accumulated during the years, had to be cleared with a bulldozer and no less than 10 commercial skips were used to clean the area. This mammoth task was entrusted to Mr Charles Bonnet, ex-San Gwann Venture Leader, who offered his services when I was planning to make this area look decent. Once the debris was cleared, I had to find a contractor to resurface the area. This proved both difficult and expensive. Once more Mr Bonnet came to the rescue.

Due the position of the area, lighting had to be provided to make the area safe for use. It is here that the Mosta Rover Crew came to the scene. During the Ventures Community clean up, in October **(to which I would like to apologise to the Mosta Rover crew, for not mentioning them in my write up)** they did all the electricity works. They fixed six floodlights around IHQ. Two of the floodlights were placed at the back of IHQ to enable campers to have light. The other four floodlights were used to light up the new car park. They also adjusted any other outside wires that needed some attention.

At this point, I would like to thank Edward Vella, Mosta AGSL and his crew for their support. I would also like to thank Edward personally for his assistance and advice when it comes to electricity works. Thank you all.

09 Roverway 2006

Mr Edward Vella – Commissioner Rover Scouts

A total of 15 Maltese members made up of participants, Leaders and International staff will join 5,000 scouts from around the world in an event hosted by the Italian Association next year in August. This is the second Edition of Roverway and it is going to be held in Florence Italy. These participants come from the Rabat, San Gwann and Mosta Scout Groups and will be lead by myself for a 10 day camp fully packed with adventurous

activities. The Maltese contingent was given the name of Maltese Rovers and will do everything to promote the hospitality of the Maltese people in Italy. During their stay they will participate in an Education project based on Arts and Culture.

Any scout above the age of 16 who wish to join the contingent, is to contact me as soon as possible because the closing date for applications is end of December.

I will take this opportunity to wish all of you and your families a very Happy Christmas and a new year full of successes both in you life and in your scouting career.

10 Mosta Rovers and Mellieha Scout Group helps at Razzett tal-Hbiberija

Mr Edward Vella - AGSL Mosta Scout Group

For the second consecutive year the Mosta Rover Crew and the Mellieha Scout Group helped out in an activity of fund raising organised by the Razzett tal-Hbiberija. The activity consisted of a round Malta treasure Hunt for Mountain Bike riders. The Mosta Rovers prepared all the food for the participants while the Mellieha Scout Group provided the sleeping quarters for the event.

11 Joint Activity between Zebbug and Siggiewi Packs

Mr Mark O'Neill - Akela Zebbug Scout Group

Last Saturday 10th December was a special occasion for the pack sections of the Zebbug and Siggiewi Packs. It was the first time that the pack section organised a joint activity together. Both sections met at the Marsa sports centre with a total of 36 Cub Scouts 6 Leaders and 3 helpers and all carried out the Athlete's Badge. The weather was ideal for the event to take place and all children of both groups got on well with each other in a real scouting spirit. At the end of the day although not everybody gained the athlete's badge a smile of happiness and fun could be seen on every participating child. Both groups were so happy with the outcome of the activity that both decided to organise further joint activities in the future. This activity has further enhanced the strong friendship relationship that has been existing between the groups. A big thanks goes to all leaders, helpers and children that made this event a success as well as to both Group Scout Leaders Ray Spiteri Binett (Zebbug) and Mario Azzopardi (Siggiewi) for their support in this activity.

12 Scout Challenge 2005

Dr Kevin Camilleri – Training & Program Department

The Scout Challenge Activity is an inter-Troop Competition that was planned in February 2005 during a Scout leader's Meeting. The concept of the activity is a scouting skills challenge based on the former Bates Cup that used to take place more than 15 years ago.

The Scout Challenge took place on the 13th December 2005 at I-Aħrax tal-Mellieha on which day the participating teams and their leaders were greeted by wet and windy weather, but this did not deter any of the 16 teams from the challenge. At 9am the map references were given out and each team had a circular route to complete, with a number of checkpoints on the way.

The checkpoints were manned by a mixed group of leaders and the topics covered included first aid, emergencies, mapping, knotting, handling of a hatchet, fire building and general scouting knowledge. The Troops that participated were Tarxien, Sliema, Hamrun, St Aloysius, Qawra, Fgura, St. Venera, Rabat, Zebbug, Birkirkara, San Anton, Mosta, San Gwann, Iklin and Qrendi.

On the 22nd November, the Teams met at IHQ for the presentation of prizes. The Tarxien Team won the Challenge with 119.5 points, the Sliema Team came second with 104.5 points and the Hamrun Team netted third place with 97 points. Apart from a commemorative shield for the first three teams, the winning team also got to keep the Scout Challenge Shield which was specially made for the activity for one year. Every participant was also given a certificate of participation.



"I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year."

~Charles Dickens.

13 Scout Seminar 2005

Dr Kevin Camilleri – Training & Program Department

On the 3rd December a good number of Scout Troops met at Buskett for a morning of team games and a discussion on the current scout programme.

The Activity was organised by the Scout Programme Team who prepared a questionnaire with points for discussion. The aim was to ask scouts of all ages from the Troop Section what they think about various items in the Troop Programme. The topics covered included the age bracket of Troop Members, the Scout Uniform, the length and choices within the scout standard, the way Patrol leaders are chosen, the way scouts are grouped into patrols and whether the participants wanted to become leaders in the future.

After a brief lunch break, the teams met up for a plenary session where each team reported back to the whole group what they discussed and the last few items were discussed. The Troops were dismissed after another short game. The information collected during the seminar will now be used by the Scout Programme Team in the formulation of the upcoming new Programme.

14 2006 INTERNATIONAL SCOUT EVENT – SAUDI ARABIA CIVILIZATION RECOGNITION AND CULTURE EXCHANGE “TOGETHER FOR PEACE”

Mr David Schembri – From the International Desk

The Scout Association of Malta has accepted an invitation kindly extended by the **International Union for Muslim Scouts**, in coordination and cooperation with Saudi Arabia Boy Scout association (al Jubail troops), to attend the **World's Scouting Encampment for Civilization Recognition and Culture Exchange**, entitled **“Together for Peace”**. The encampment will be hosted in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, between the 2nd and 10th February 2006.

At the encampment, considered to be the first of its kind in Saudi Arabia, the International Union of Muslim Scouts with the cooperation with the Scouting Activity in Jubail Industrial City aim to help to contribute to changes in the world and help spread the culture of peace and tolerance with others through scouting.



Scouts are invited to be their countries ambassadors of peace and participate in this encampment unique in amalgamating the noble Arab original heritage and today's modern technical development, whilst spreading of a Peace Culture among the World's Youth, whilst reinforcing the friendship concepts among all nations, regardless of their different creeds and race.

The recognition of Saudi Arabia's culture, tradition and heritage, as well as the better understanding on the civilizations of other countries, are amongst the organizers principal aims at this encampment. The importance of dialogue and cultural exchange, whilst living in peace among all the nations of the world, is another major issue to be addressed.

Scouting in Saudi Arabia was officially founded in 1961 even though Scouting was active many years prior, with the Saudi Arabia Boy Scout association being recognized by the World Scout Bureau (WOSM) in 1963. Membership in 2005 was well over 58,994 registered Scouts. The Saudi Arabia Scout Association seeks to spread Scouting throughout the Kingdom with the aim of promoting the Scout ideals of courage, self reliance and brotherhood, whilst observing the scout law. Qrendi Group Scout Leader *David Schembri* and Scout Association of Malta Council member is to represent the local scout association.

More information on the “Together for Peace” encampment can be found on the Internet at www.peace2006.org

What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace. ~Agnes M. Pharo

15 DIN L'ART HELWA PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FOR THE QRENDI SCOUT GROUP

Mr David Schembri – Group Scout Leader Qrendi Scout Group

The Qrendi Scout Group – Malta are the proud recipients of the “**Commemorative Silver Medal for Service to Din l'Art Helwa**”, presented to their scout group by the President and Council of Malta's Heritage guardians Din l'Art Helwa, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of their foundation in 1965.



The prestigious award was bestowed to the Qrendi Scouts in recognition of the sterling work carried out by their group's Scouts and Cub Scouts alike at the Bir-Miftuh and Hal-Millieri Chapels as well as the Santa Marija Tower and Santa Maria battery and redoubt in Comino.

During the awards presentation, held during the Volunteers' Party at Torri Mamo, Marsasala on the 9th December 2006, Mr. Mario C. Grech, CEO of Middlesea Insurance p.l.c. and the Din l'Art Helwa chairman, Mr. Martin Galea praised and thanked the Scout Association of Malta and the Qrendi Scout Group in particular for answering their call for voluntary assistance each and every time this was required.

The joy of brightening other lives, bearing each others' burdens, easing other's loads and supplanting empty hearts and lives with generous gifts becomes for us the magic of Christmas. ~W. C. Jones

Whatever else be lost among the years, Let us keep Christmas still a shining thing: Whatever doubts assail us, or what fears, Let us hold close one day, remembering its poignant meaning for the hearts of men. Let us get back our childlike faith again. ~Grace Noll Crowell

Somehow, not only for Christmas,
But all the long year through,
the joy that you give to others,
Is the joy that comes back to you.

And the more you spend in blessing,
The poor and lonely and sad,
The more of your heart's possessing,
Returns to you glad.

~John Greenleaf Whittier

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

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