

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

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Url : <http://www.maltascout.org.mt>
email: info@maltascout.org.mt

01 POINTS TO REMEMBER

SCOUTING'S PURPOSE

There are two realms of human understanding: the material world and the spiritual world. The material world is the realm of science, hard facts, observations, conclusions, and objectivity. "Things fall because of gravity" "The universe is about 15 billion years old" are statements of fact about the material world. Many are testable; they can be shown to be false or true (though absolute proof is only possible within mathematics). For a number of reasons, some things in the material world cannot be shown to be true or false. For example, it is not possible to look outside the universe, so one has little to go by when hypothesizing about what might be there.

The spiritual world is the realm of emotion, ethics, beauty, and the meaning of life. "My love is like a red, red rose" and "That is a beautiful painting" are statements about the spiritual world. They cannot be demonstrated to be true or false. One may see beauty in a painting that another finds to be ugly. Neither person is wrong. A purely material examination of a painting would reveal that it is a piece of cloth covered with a substance that reflects many different wavelengths of light. There is no material way to measure or even talk about the

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beauty of a painting. Spiritual concepts allow us to give meaning to the cold facts of the material world.

Scouting believes that the development of a person must incorporate the development of elements from both worlds. This is expressed in the three Principles of Scouting: Duty to God, Duty to Others, and Duty to Self. Duty to God represents the spiritual world; Duty to Others and Duty to Self represent the material world, dividing it between our social obligations to other people and our personal obligations to ourselves. Duty to God brings rise to spiritual development; Duty to Others social development; and Duty to Self physical development for the body, and intellectual development for the mind. These together are the four areas of personal development mentioned in Scouting's Purpose: physical, intellectual, social, and spiritual

02 From the Chief Commissioner

Mr Godwin D'Anastasi

THE ASSOCIATION AWARD

Frank Miggiani Ex Dc South IHQ

BAR TO CHIEF SCOUT COMMENDATION FOR GALLANTRY

John Micallef Engerer Comm. Venture Scouts IHQ

CHIEF SCOUT COMMENDATION FOR GALLANTRY

Arthur Abela G.S.L. Mellieha

SILVER ACORN

Victor Harmer G.S.L. Cospicua

MEDAL OF MERIT

Martin J. Bonnici	DC South	IHQ
Mario Bugeja	C.S.L.	Naxxar
Charles Johnson	Scouter Emeritus	San Gwann
Mario Rayner	G.S.L.	St. Augustine.

CHIEF SCOUT COMMENDATION FOR GOOD SERVICE

Raymond Darmania	Comm. Administration	IHQ
Robert Gonzi	G.S.L.	Fgura
Saviour Richard	G.S.L.	Dingli

THANKS BADGE

El-Sade Ali El-Sade	Supporter	Libyan Cultural Center
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DOLPHIN AWARD

Marcel Borg	Xghajra
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CHIEF SCOUT AWARD

Jean Marc Bonello	Fgura
Andre Chetcuti	Xghajra
Warren Cauchi	Xghajra
Charlene Pace	Fgura
Antoine Saliba	Marsa
Ramon Saliba	Marsa
Christopher Zerafa	Cospicua

SCOUTER EMERITUS

Victor Harmer	Ex G.S.L.	Cospicua
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CHIEF COMMISSIONER PERSONAL AWARD

Victor Harmer	Ex G.S.L.	Cospicua
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APPOINTMENTS

The Chief Commissioner has approved the following appointments with effect from 1st February 2006

001/2006	David Grixti	Acting Leader	Tarxien
002/2006	Matthew Sammut	Acting Leader	Tarxien
003/2006	Carmen Borg	Acting Leader	Tarxien
004/2006	Maria Aquilina	Acting Leader	Tarxien
007/2006	Yanika Ellul	Acting Leader	Tarxien
008/2006	Ryan Ellul	Acting Leader	Tarxien
009/2006	Paul Grixti	Acting Leader	Tarxien
010/2006	Rose Farrugia	Acting Leader	Attard
011/2006	Joseph Farrugia	Acting Leader	Attard
012/2006	Mariella Zerafa	Acting Leader	Attard

CANCELLATION OF APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments have been withdrawn and cancelled with effect from 1st January 2006

016/2003	Raymond Zammit	Asst Q.M.	Marsa
035/2005	Elizabeth Camilleri	Acting Leader	Iklin
003/2003	Sandrine Spiteri Asst.	Cub Scout Leader	Attard
010/2003	John Zahra	Acting Leader	Attard
013/2003	Violet Zammit	Asst. Cub Scout Leader	Attard
026/2003	Helen Farrugia	Acting Leader	Naxxar

With effect from 1st February 2006.

016/1994	Jane Farrugia	Asst. Cub Scout Leader	Naxxar
023/2003	Bruce Cortis	Acting Leader	Naxxar
032/2004	Salvinu Ellul Bonici	Acting Leader	St. Aloysius
015/2001	Mario H Calleja	Comm PR	IHQ
013/2001	Franco Azzopardi	International Comm.	IHQ

PRO and International Desk.

The present Commissioner for PR, Mr. Mario H Calleja has resigned from his post due to other more pressing commitments and personal reasons. We would like to thank Mario for the sterling work he has rendered during the tenure of his appointment. Mario will however continue to be in charge of the Bulletin and also of distributing information to members via e-

mail. Until future notice, I.H.Q. Auxiliary, Ms. Mariosa D'Anastasi will be assuming the new role of PRO and anything pertaining to this section is to be addressed to her on either mariosad@gmail.com or else on dagodwin@onvol.net Mr Raymond Darmania will assist her in the initial stages.

Another Commissioner's post that will be vacated is the International when Mr. Franco Azzopardi who is the present International Commissioner will be

leaving us to further his career abroad. Once again we wish Franco all the very best and hope to see him from time to time. Franco has transformed the International desk during his term and he will be missed. Asst. International Commissioner, Mr. D. Schembri will be taking over responsibility of the International desk until further notice and may be contacted at his usual e-mail address and telephone numbers.

Service Decoration.

As from this year, Service Awards will no longer be presented with the rest of the Awards and Decorations on Founder's Day. These will be sent automatically direct to the individuals or via his GSL on their due date. At present IHQ is in the process of updating all its records relating to Appointments and since this is the only source of information that will be available to enable individuals to receive their awards, everyone is urged to check that their records are good and in order by checking with the Chief Commissioner at your earliest. IHQ will not be in a position to send the said Award unless it has the correct information.

Gone Home

It is with regret that we announce the going home of another scouter last December 2005. Mr John Agius, MBE, who in bygone days was a member with the Sliema Scout Group, passed away after an unfortunate car accident. Mr Agius was well known both locally and abroad for his vast knowledge with regards to the Second World War.

Our sympathies to his next of kin. Your prayers are solicited.

Refurbishing at IHQ

Those who recently visited IHQ could not fail but notice that the front door has been replaced by a new one. Other refurbishing include the repainting of the

03 Bowling Activity

Mr David Schembri – GSL Qrendi Scout Group

Following the recent Scout Bowling Social Activity that was held at the Eden Bowling arena, in which a "sell out" of participants (160 in number) was registered, it was evident that such scouting social activities are much in demand.

At the event it was agreed by all present that any proceeds would go to "Dar il-Providenza".

We are happy to announce that together with donations from various leaders, fifty Malta pounds was donated to this worthy cause.

Well done one to all for making this possible.

Evident during the night was the fact that a number of Scout Groups are most interested that such social activities should that place, activities in which

main hall and entrance hall, the two new plaques exhibiting the Promise and Law in Maltese, the hanging of curtains in the Conference room. Other work is also projected and all this is being done to give a modern and better state of the art to IHQ and its surroundings. The Association is ensuring that it is time that its member should have a decent and inviting environment where to meet. Our thanks go to Mr Godwin Guisti who is doing all the carpentry work and to all those others who are helping out.

National Service Team

It is with great pleasure to announce that at present we are trying to revive a National Service Team to be attached to IHQ. This team will be made up of persons above a certain age who can become members. For further information please contact Mr Edward Vella, Commissioner for Rovers.

Founder's Day

Founder's Day was this year held on Wednesday, 22nd February 2006. The evening's event was very well attended by a very good number of uniformed and lay members. H.E. Dr. Edward Fenech Adami accompanied by his wife was in attendance. Present also for the occasion were the Ambassador of Tunisia, the Acting Deputy High Commissioner of U.K., a representative from the Embassy of the U.S.A., Mr. El-Sade Ali El-Sade from the Libyan Cultural Center and other distinguished guests.

The two new plaques manufactured by Mr Godwin Guisti were exhibited for the first time. The event was very ably managed by members from the Central District under the guidance of their District Commissioner, Josef Custo. An eight minute film showing Baden Powell's life and the founding of the Scout movement was also shown on a big screen. Well done all.

one can relax, have fun and enjoy themselves, and not just restricted to bowling. Participants were more interested in having fun and meeting new friends than winning trophies.

It is hoped that other scout groups can follow up on this initiative and organize similar activities to the benefit of our groups, leaders and members whilst inviting as many scout groups as possible to join them. After all this is what makes SCOUTING.

We are all looking forward to participating in other activities as organized by other scout groups and awaiting hearing from you with your idea's

04 International Scouting

30th November Scout Gathering of Europe

Banja Luka, 24th – 27th November, 2005.

Bosnia & Herzegovina

Mr Ivan Azzopardi and Mr George Mangion - 1st Birkirkara Scout Group - Central District

The smallest scout contingent in this gathering was the first to reach this remote country in the South East of Europe, after heavy snow hindered the arrival in time of scout participants to this event. Ivan Azzopardi and George Mangion from the 1st Birkirkara Scout Group travelled to join over 260 Scouts from Scout Groups in the Serbian Republic. The only other European State that was present for this Scout Meeting was France, with a contingent of three adult scouts all working as volunteers with United Nations in Belgrade.

This annual scout meeting is held to commemorate the assistance the city received from neighbouring and European Countries after the earthquake that hit the city in November of 1969. This event is hosted by the Scout Group 22nd April Banja Luka.

Two other Scout Groups came from within Banja Luka City, which has a population of over 400,000. The Maltese Scout contingent, was the attraction of the meeting, since many of the participants never heard of the Islands of Malta. However friendship and brotherhood in scouting could be felt, notwithstanding the language barrier. Other groups came from Belgrade and cities in its vicinity, and from Macedonia, Kosovo and Croatia.

We were impressed by the high level of organisation, dedication and professionalism, notwithstanding the lack of resources which we consider a normal and for granted affair in our country.

Apart from the various events held to give the participants a memorable experience in making new friends and consolidating old ones, adult leaders had talks and visits to places of interest and a meeting with the City's Major, which was given a lot of media coverage both on television on the papers. On the 2nd day of the Scout meeting an 18km route around the main landmarks of the city was prepared for teams of scouts representing various groups, and this included a lot of compass and mapping skills. Ivan Azzopardi formed part of one of these teams.

The Maltese contingent prepared two power point presentations that highlighted recent events in the life of the Group, and a short history of the Maltese Islands. These presentations were shown with the other presentations the other scout contingents prepared, on Saturday evening as part of the cultural evening where every contingent promoted its country of origin. A lot of interest was shown to visit the Malta in the future.

A lot of scepticism still surrounds those who are invited to travel to these remote countries, however we admit, that the Scouting Spirit in Banja Luka is alive and strong.

Visit to Malta of Italian Scout Group - July 2006

Mr David Schembri – International Desk

The Italian Scout Group, Catania 5 wishes to visit Malta during the last days of July.

The touring group shall consist of 5 troops, 3 male (in all 18 boys) and 2 female (in all 8 or 9 girls); plus 4 leaders 2 male and 2 female. The Boys and girls are 11 to 15 years old.

Any scout group wishing to host this group as a twinning program or offer hospitality to the Italian Scout Group is kindly asked to contact the International desk (attention David Schembri at davidschembri@yahoo.com) at the earliest possible opportunity.

05 31st Anniversary of the St Venera Scout Group

Mr Mario H Calleja – GSL St Venera Scout Group

The Group kicked off its program of activities on the 10th February with a Publicity Stunt in front of the town's new Parish Church. This consisted of pioneering projects, an exhibition and the display of a banner with our Group's Motto, "Better build boys than repair men" (*the St Venera Group is not co-ed*). With the Church being on the main road the event was a great success, attracting passers-by to the activity taking place.

On the 12th the Group held a Church Parade and Thanksgiving Holy Mass was celebrated by our Founder and Patron Fr Renato Valente. This was followed with a parade back to our HQ where a number of ceremonies took place. These included the Investiture of two Beaver Scouts and four Venture Scouts. A number of Group Appointments were handed out and also a number of going up ceremonies which included six scouts going up into the Unit. We are particularly proud of this last ceremony due to the fact that four of the new Ventures joined the Group as Beaver Scouts. Fr Renato addressed all those present and expressed his satisfaction on the

development of the Group whilst promising to continue to give his support as much as he can and urged us to continue to “build boys”.

The much awaited Annual Dinner was held on the 18th February and is the opportunity for the Group to recognise the efforts of all who worked hard for the Group during 2005. Besides presentations to the best Scouts during last year there were also a number of GSL Awards which this year were marked with presentations to parents who contributed significantly towards the development of the Group. Our Guests of Honour were Fr Renato and the St Venera Mayor Mr Stephen Sultana and his wife.

On the 19th the Unit organised an abseiling day which was ably supervised by AVSL Glen Catania. Almost fifty persons turned up for this activity which included parents and friends. A BBQ was held on site. Besides abseiling, the Unit organised a number of games which kept visitors active whilst the others were doing abseiling.

On the 23rd a very important meeting took place at our HQ with the Mayor and other members of the Local Council during which both sides stressed their commitment to continue to support each other for the good of the community. A number of points were brought up and positive decisions were taken. The Group notes with satisfaction that it has a lot of common ground with the Local Council which is very much in line with our Scout Promise.

The chain of activities was closed with a Teambuilding Weekend held on the 25th and 26th February. A total of sixteen leaders and venture scouts were present for this weekend which was held at our premises and included a number of outside speakers. We thank Fr Anton Briffa, Commissioner Spiritual Dimension, who explained the historical background of the Promise & Law and why is spirituality so important in Scouting, Mr Joseph Saliba who spoke on the roots of the Movement in Malta, its development and its future challenges and representatives of Young Light (<http://www.younglight.org/>) Kristjana and Gerald who explained the importance of communication. Many of the other sessions were run by the GSL and included Teambuilding games, discussions and self appraisals.

All-in-all a very memorable Anniversary filled with interesting activities aimed at consolidating the growth of the Group and priming it to continue to be of good service.

More information on the Group can be viewed at <http://users.waldonet.net.mt/stvenerascouts/index.htm>

06 SITUATION VACANT

Mr George Mangion – AGSL 1st Birkirkara Scout Group

Akela

The 1st Birkirkara Scout Group invites Scouters to take up the post of “Akela” to run the Pack of Cub Scouts within the Group.

Candidates are expected to be very flexible, to be team players and work in a team, have strong communication skills, enthusiastic about Scouting Philosophy and Scouting Beliefs, must have respect and loyalty towards the Authority in the Group, to the District Commissioner and towards the Scout Association Executives. Candidates must be over 18yrs of age; Interested Scouters are to submit a detailed “Curriculum Vitae”, showing personal scouting history, scouting skills, scouting personal beliefs and experience in teaching and leading younger scouts. Hand written applications will be vetted by the Central District Commissioner before candidates will attend for an interview at the Group’s Head Quarters in Birkirkara. Applications in Hand Writing should be sent to the

The Group Scout Leader, 1st. Birkirkara Scout Group, 29, Qrejzu Street, Birkirkara. or send an email to: scoutsmaltaserbian@yahoo.co.uk

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

Editor: Mario H Calleja
Island Headquarters, E. S. Tonna Street
Floriana VLT 16, MALTA
e-mail : mariocalleja@vanilla.net.mt

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