

IHQ Bulletin



THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION OF MALTA

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01 POINTS TO REMEMBER

Thoughts on Camping

(adapted from the Scouter's Five Minutes, and from B.-P.'s Outlook.)

Have you ever thought how a camp helps your boys to practise living the Scout law?

For example, trustworthiness. There's hardly any place where things are as open and available as a camp, if a fellow wanted to steal. But somehow the camp atmosphere helps a Scout to be trustworthy.

A Scout demonstrates loyalty every time the flag is lowered at camp.

And where else offers as many opportunities for him to be helpful? Other Scouts need help on achievements; new campers need encouragement; some boys need a lift here and there.

How about friendliness? Well, every once in a while a fellow in camp needs a friend-the kind of friend his fellow Scouts can be to him.

A Scout finds chances to be courteous any time, anywhere. At camp there are chances to be kind to animals. And courtesy is involved in treating the outdoors and the campsite with respect.

Obedience is important in many camp activities; swimming, boating, canoeing.

Finally, there's no place like camp to bring out the cheerful spirits of boys.

B.-P. summarized the values of camping when he said, "It is in camp that the Scoutmaster has his opportunity for inculcating under pleasant means the four main points of training; character, service for others, skill and bodily health. But beside all, it is his golden chance to bring the boy to God through the direct appeal of Nature and her store of wonders."

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The Devil's Sale

There is a story that the devil once announced he was going out of business and offered to sell his tools to anyone who would pay the price. On the night of the sale, the tools were all attractively displayed. They were a nasty looking lot-malice, hatred, envy, jealousy, deceit-each marked with a price tag. A little off from the rest lay a harmless looking wedge-shaped tool, much worn, and priced higher than any of the others.

"What is it?" someone asked the devil.

"That's discouragement," he replied.

"Why is it priced so high?" the prospective customer asked.

"Because," said the devil, "it is more useful to me than any of the others. I can pry open and get inside a person with it when I could never get near him with any of the others. Once inside, I can use the person in whatever way it suits me best. That's why it is so worn, you see. I use it with nearly everybody, because few people yet know that it belongs to me."

It is probably not necessary to add that the devil's price for this tool was so high that there were no bidders. And he is still using it.

(told by Colin McKay in Scouting (U.K.) magazine)

B.-P. said...

What we need and what, thank God, we've got in most places in our movement, is not merely the spirit of good-natured tolerance but of watchful sympathy and readiness to help one another. We not only need it but we've "got to have it" if we are going to teach our boys by the only sound way, that is through our own example, that greatest of principles - goodwill and cooperation.

(from B.-P.'s Outlook)

02 From the Chief Commissioner

Mr Godwin D'Anastasi

Appointments

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

024/2006	Mario Ellul	Group Scout Leader	Cospicua
025/2006	Martin Bajada	Asst. Group Scout Leader	Cospicua
026/2006	Kurt Caligari	Asst. Group Scout Leader	Cospicua
027/2006	Felician Lanzon	Asst. Venture Scout Ldr.	Cospicua
028/2006	Albert Harmer	Acting Leader	Cospicua
029/2006	Kevin Spiteri	Scout Leader	Cospicua
030/2006	Damien Abela	Asst. Scout Leader	Cospicua
031/2006	Matthew Sammut	Acting Leader	Cospicua
032/2006	Giliane Abela	Acting Leader	Cospicua
033/2006	Josianne Scerri	Acting Leader	Cospicua
034/2006	Oliver Fsadni	Acting leader	Cospicua
035/2006	Clinton Cutajar	Quarter Master	Cospicua

Cancellation of Appointments.

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

005/1981	Victor Harmer	Group Scout Leader	Cospicua
010/1994	Mario Ellul	Scout Leader	Cospicua
033/1995	Martin Bajada	Cub Scout Leader	Cospicua
002/1997	Anna Spagnol	Asst. Cub Scout Leader	Cospicua
008/2000	Kurt Caligari	Venture Scout Leader	Cospicua

New Deputy Chief Scout.

At the first sitting of the newly formed Council, Avril Frendo was unanimously voted as the new Deputy Chief Scout. Avril has been in scouting for a good number of years, during which time she served amongst other roles as Cub Scout Leader with the Sliema Scout Group. She was for a time an active member of the Training Department and in recent years she served as a member on various committees. Please join me in congratulating Avril on her new appointment.

Honorary Secretary

Evander Borg, GSL St. Michael Scout Group, has been reappointed by the Council as the Association's Honorary Secretary. While congratulating Evander on his important role, please join me in wishing him good luck in the continuation of his work.

Gone Home.

It is with great regret that we announce the going home of architect Joseph L Genovese who went to meet his creator on the 28th July 2006. He rendered invaluable service during his time, where amongst other roles he was a member of the B'Kara Scout Group and the University of Malta. He was also an active member of the Association's Council and was in charge of the refurbishing project that occurred at IHQ in the middle 1990's. While offering our condolences to his family, a prayer is solicited.

Policy Committee.

The following are the new members who make up the Policy Committee for the next two years.

Avril Frendo	-	Chairperson
Godwin D'Anastasi	-	Chief Commissioner
Mario H Calleja	-	GSL St Venera. [Council Representative.]
Leslie Bonnici	-	Comm. Training & Prog. [IHQ Representative.]
Josef Custo	-	District Commissioner Central. [IHQ Representative.]
Edgar Borg	-	GSL Msida Seascouts. [GSL Representative.]
Jesmond Borg	-	GSL B'Bugia. [GSL Representative.]

Awards Committee.

After a good number of years serving as Chairperson on the Awards Committee, Colonel John Harrison, BEM, has tendered his resignation due to other commitments. On behalf of the Association, I would like to thank Colonel Harrison for the valuable and delicate work undertaken in the past years.

The Ghajn Tuffieha International Scout Centre Advisory Committee.

The Scout Association of Malta, conscious of the fact that the current development of the Ghajn Tuffieha International Scout Centre has reached a stage where it is important that its future management needs to be properly defined and formalized, at its meeting of the 11th July, 2006, has decided to establish a Committee of the National Scout Council be assigned with the responsibility of recommending to the same Council the way forward for the Centre's further development and subsequent management. The Committee shall be known as The Ghajn Tuffieha International Scout Centre Advisory Committee. The members are the following gentlemen.

Robert Gonzi	-	GSL Fgura [Chairperson].
Adrian Borg	-	GSL San Gwann & Council Member [Council Rep].
Raymond Darmania	-	Comm. Administration. [Executive Rep].
Mark A Pizzuto	-	Council Member [Non voting Secretary to the Committee].

The Committee started functioning on the 11th July 2006 and expires on the 31st October 2006, by which date it must submit its recommendations.

Camp Afloat.

An unusual camp was recently held by the Venture Unit of the St. Julians Scout Group. A ridge tent atop a floating platform was anchored in the middle of Spinola Bay from the 10th to the 13th August 2006. The Venture Scouts were under the leadership of Acting Leader Jeremy Borg Grech.

Holistic Xhef.

On behalf of the Association may I congratulate and thank the following Venture Scouts and their respective Leaders on their successes they achieved in their recent overseas tour to Gebel l'Ahdar in Libya. Their attendance and behaviour besides their achievements has made our Association proud. Our sincere well done go also on their achieving the highest Libyan Scout award the **Holistic Xhef** that was presented to them at the Corinthia San Gorg and in front of a very large audience by the Libyan ambassador and other high local dignitaries.

David M Schembri	-	International Comm. and Contingent Leader.
John Micallef Engerer	-	Commissioner for Venture Scouts
Mario Cutajar	-	Lay Helper and Photographer
Jurgen Bonavia	-	Zabbar
Andrea Bugeja	-	Cospicua
Thomas Bugeja	-	Cospicua
Carsten Camilleri	-	Xghajra
Andre Chetcuti	-	Xghajra
Warren Gauci	-	Xghajra
James Ahren Grech	-	Cospicua
Eman Scicluna	-	Cospicua
Chris Zerafa	-	Cospicua

The following members also helped to further ensure the success of the trip.

Martin Bonnici	-	Dist. Comm. South
Mario Ellul	-	GSL Cospicua
Salvu Borg	-	GSL Xghajra
Marco Cassar	-	Scouter in charge Zabbar

03 A killing Summer

Forwarded by Mr David Darmanin – CSL Sliema Scout Group

On the 12th of July 2006, when Lebanon and Scouting in Lebanon were preparing to welcome the Scout Jamboree of the Arab region to be held from 10 to 20 August 2006, the war with its atrocity started....

Towns and villages are bombed, thousands of houses and buildings are wiped, nearly all the bridges which link all the parts of the country are totally destroyed, the stocks of fuel burn, harbours and airports are hit with an extreme violence ; all the infrastructures are totally damaged, there are hundreds of deaths and thousands of injured.

A short instant of madness has been enough to make all our plans and projects come to nothing. Our Scout leaders who were all so enthusiastic when preparing this Jamboree are facing another reality, a reality which

will push them to put their dreams aside and to face a disaster which was not at all foreseen ; they will have to become organized in order to be at the disposal of the population which needs their help, their courage, and their commitment.

Great is our mission, we accomplish it with joy. Challenge is our responsibility, we take it with dedication. Difficult is our track, we walk on it with perseverance.

At the very beginning of the conflict, our Rover Scouts, full of this conviction, offered their services to the Red Cross, either for civil defence to assist the population, or they organized themselves in groups to welcome, in some places in Beirut or in the mountains of Lebanon, thousands of refugees of the damaged zones, and give them logistic or humanitarian support.

More than 750 000 displaced persons have left their houses to seek refuge in less dangerous zones, with no shelter, with no food, with no clothes, with no medicines. All schools, all convents and welcome centres have opened their doors to provide help for those people ; even families have welcomed displaced persons in their homes.

Already for over 12 days our scouts **set themselves generously, work without looking for any rest, and fight fearless of any wound**⁽¹⁾; when this article is written we already have 25 persons wounded among our scouts who were serving bringing support in zones being bombed; one wound is very serious , and a scout leader has lost his two legs.

Death was also there, Scouting in Lebanon has lost four leaders *who return into the Father's house* and who have watered their blood in the Cedars' country.

Those four leaders will sing together, with Father Sevin, the excuses of the novice....They will not go to the camp Why ?...holding to their Promise, holding to their mission, they gave their lives when assisting wounded persons and children under bombs. Such was their conviction, such was their destiny.

When violence seems more invading, when virtues bang against the walls of negligence, when communities or even nations try to build a lost identity, the Scout movement invites us to go beyond ourselves, and to overcome obstacles which postpone our actions.

It invites us to look further and to look much wider to have a good understanding that our mission is full of principles and full of love.

Our objectives are well-defined, our law, our principles and our goals melt in our adventure to make it more useful and more pleasant.

The strength of our faith in God and in our fellow man guides our steps toward the Light to be scouts at the ***Father's resemblance***.

Georges El Ghorayeb

Member of the WOSM World Committee
International Commissioner of Scouting in Lebanon

(1) Extract of the Scout Prayer.

04 Celebrating 100 years of Scouting

Mr David Schembri – International Commissioner

Grahame Maggs is a CSL in the Avon County in UK which is based in the Bristol area.

In his district are 13 Scout Groups, with each group consisting of Beavers Cubs and Scouts. The district also have Explorer and Network Scouts (they have replaced the old Venture Scouts)

Several Leaders in his district have voiced an interest in an International Link up with overseas Scout Groups to celebrate the 100 birthday of Scouting, to share with each other the celebrations and joys of Scouting.

Grahame has visited your Island HQ whilst on Holiday in Malta to talk to someone about this but unfortunately Floriana was closed.

Should any Groups, Troops or Packs be interested in this link up, the International Desk of the Scout Association of Malta would appreciate if contact be made direct (copying davidschembri@yahoo.com) with Mr Grahame Maggs on grahamemaggs@btinternet.com advising him of your Leaders E-mail address, in order to get their leaders in turn to make contact in this regards.

Good luck and let's get the ball rolling, as there is a golden opportunity to establish greater scouting contacts abroad.

05 Camp-a-float 2006

Mr Jeremy Borg Borg – AVSL St Julians Scout Group

That's what the **St. Julian's Venture Unit** did from the 10th till 13th August 2006.

The St. Julian's Ventures have sheltered from sun and dew under a ten men tent, which was pitched on a raft bang in the middle of St. Julian's Bay.

The members involved left the H.Q. at 4:30 am and headed down to the bay using a cart, which was purposely built to transport most of the equipment in the traditional way and leaving the use of trucks for the very heavy equipment. The whole idea was to reduce the use of polluting trucks.

After tying about seventy knots mostly clove hitches, the frame was afloat on large metal tanks. Then came the decking followed by the tent and finally the personal equipment. Just before noon, using the traditional boat 'frejgatina', the raft was towed from the slipway and anchored between the Cavallieri Hotel and St. Julian's Water Polo club.



Camp officially began by saying a prayer, followed the raising of the Maltese and group flag.

A vast program was prepared which amongst usual duties etc, also included the cleaning up of the bay where the unit went around the bay using canoes to collect any floating bottles or rubbish they could see afloat.

On top of this, canoe races and water games, sailing with man made sailing boats we built whilst on board and the fabulous floating bar-b-que added to the fun.

It was a truly successful event and we hope to repeat it again in future summers.

Hint Hint! With the ever-reducing bare land due to construction sites, camping on the sea is the solution.

Members involved were: A/V.S.L. Jeremy Borg Grech Unit members: Andrea Urso, Daniel Sammut, Domenic De Brincat, Gabriele Brincat, Matthew Naudi, Russell Farrugia and Thomas Xuereb. With the co-operation of G.S.L. Mr. Albert Cassar, S.L. Mr. Julian Muscat and Unit member Brian Muscat. Troop members several helped out and paid a visit.

A special thanks to our sponsors and all who supported or helped us during the event.

06 Marsa Scout Group Annual Camp at Marsaxlokk

Mr Tony Mercieca - PRO Marsa Scout Group

The Marsa Scout Group has just returned home from a two-week camping led by Group Scout Leader A. Savona, who acted as Camp Chief. Savona was assisted by Asst. GSL. M. Catania, Hon. Cub Scout Leader J. Galea and eleven Scouters. Due to the fact that this year the number of participants has exceeded that of previous years, more tents were needed. In fact, a total of 20 tents were put up, as well as 6 showers and 4 mobile toilets.

During the event, a series of activities were organised by the various entities present, which included the Troop led by Scout Leader A. Cutajar, the Pack under the supervision of Cub Scout Leader A. Vella and the Ventures guided by Ass. Venture Scout Leader M. Meli. With the help of their assistants, the leaders managed to keep all the members of the Sections busy engaged in activities such as Fire Fighting, Canoeing, Pioneering, Cooking, Swimming, Tent Pitching, Drill and Badge Work. The Cubs and Scouts have sown what they have reaped and now sport a greater number of badges on the sleeves of their uniforms. The Group has also stressed the importance of caring for our environment and subsequently set up a waste separation scheme, where young and old practised separating their rubbish in special skips provided by WasteServ for the occasion. Another daily activity was mass, celebrated by the Group Chaplain Rev. Anton Dimech.

As is the tradition in such camps, a number of guests visited the camp site. This year, the Group was honoured with the presence of Rev. Manwel Abela, parish priest at Marsa, Chief Scout Vincent Cassar, South District Commissioner Mr Martin Bonnici, ex-South District Commissioner Mr Lino Bonnici, Group Scout Leader Mr George Camilleri, Group PRO Mr Tony Mercieca and ex-Drum Major Mr Salvu Debrincat, who also provided the

Group with rations and fruit. The members of the Group's Committee were also invited to live the camping experience and a special dinner was organised in gratitude for their hard work within the Group.

However, the highlight of this camping was the Camp Fire, where a number of people, including parents and members of the Marsa Scout Supporters Group spent an enjoyable evening at the Marsaxlokk Camp Site. A talent show was organised by the members of the Group for this activity whilst the guests were served with delicious food prepared on site. Well done goes to A/GSL Mark Catania whose experience as a Camp Fire Leader always leads to a successful event. During his speech, GSL A. Savona thanked all those who participated in the camp, which once again was a success. The Camp ended with the Marsa Group Hymn.

The winners in this Camp were:

Best Patrol: Panther Patrol led by P.L. Darren Cioffi

Best Leader: Assistant Patrol Leader Loran Xuereb

Best Scout: Scout Christopher Bugeja

Drill Competition: Senior Scout Jurgen Balzan

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

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