

IHQ Bulletin



THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION OF MALTA, ISLAND HEADQUARTERS, E.S. TONNA STREET. FLORIANA VLT 16

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JULY 2003

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FOR YOUR JULY DIARY

Tue 29th – Camporee Meeting at Ghajn Tuffieha International Scout Centre
Thu 31st – Camporee Registration Meeting

Other Dates for your Diary

Friday 29th August to Sunday, 7th September Camporee at Ghajn Tuffieha.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

The Scout Law & Promise

Aids to Scoutmastership B.-P. 1920

The first law, namely, A Scout's honour is to be trusted, is the one on which the whole of the Scout's future behaviour and discipline hangs. The Scout is expected to be straight. So it should be very carefully explained, as a first step, by the Scoutmaster to his boys before taking the Scout Promise.

The Investiture of the Scout is purposely made into something of a ceremony, since a little ritual of that kind if carried out with strict solemnity, impresses the boy: and considering the grave importance of the occasion, it is only right that he should be impressed as much as possible. Then it is of great importance that the Scout should periodically renew his knowledge of the law. Boys are apt to be forgetful, and it should never be allowed that a boy who has made his solemn promise to carry out the Scout Law should, at any time, not be able to say what the law is.

1. From the Chief Commissioner

Mr Godwin D'Anastasi

- Meetings

During the last remaining days in July two meetings regarding the holding of this summer's Camporee are scheduled to take place.

Tuesday, 29th July All GSL's or their representatives will meet at the new Ghajn Tuffieha International Scout Centre at around 18:30.

Thursday, 31st July Registrations and issue of Camp Programme.

It is extremely important that all those Groups who intend to participate to ensure to be present at these two meetings.

No official meetings will take place during the month of August to enable each and everyone to enjoy his free time with his family members. The only meetings that will

take place are regarding the holding of the forthcoming Camporee. Furthermore, if an emergency arises notification will be sent via e-mail or post.

May I wish you all a happy and safe summer.

- Withdrawal & Cancellation of Appointment
18/94 Joseph Bonnici Auxiliary IHQ

- Appointments

The Chief Commissioner has approved the following Appointments with effect from 5th June 2003.

- | | | | |
|---------|----------------|---------------|-------|
| 46/2003 | Joseph Bonnici | Auxiliary | Gzira |
| 47/2003 | Pierre Mangion | Acting Leader | Iklin |

- Gone Home

It is with deep sadness and regret to announce the passing away of Mr Albert Wain, better know as Bertie, former Cub Scout Leader with Sliema Scout Group. While offering our sincere condolences to his wife and son, we ask you to kindly remember him in your prayers. May he rest in peace.

- Pasta Night

A very successful Pasta Night was jointly held by IHQ and San Gwann Scout Group on Friday, 27 June at IHQ. The evening's event was very well attended. Our thanks to all the members of the San Gwann Scout Group for their support and hard work to ensure a successful evening's event.

- Abseiling, Potholing And Other High Risk Events.

Please note that IHQ has issued new instructions regarding the holding of these high risk events. With immediate effect, any Leader who wishes to carry out any of the above, must inform in writing IHQ and copy his District Commissioner to have his qualifications verified and to obtain IHQ's permission to carry out the event.

IHQ will duly issue the necessary permit which must be carried by the Leader in charge of the event. Any Commissioner is duly authorised to ask for the permit on the spot, and if no such permit is presented, disciplinary action will be taken.

IHQ is at present in touch with the competent authorities to hold courses to all those interested to help them obtain the necessary certificates to enable them to carry out any of the events.

2. Scout to the rescue

By Mr Vince Tanti AGSL San Gwann Group

I thought this could interest to the readers of the IHQ Bulletin. My son Andrea, aged 12, and an active San Gwann Scout has been presented with this award by International Animal Rescue (Malta Branch) last Monday the 9th of June, In the popular NET TV Programme Siesta. In the same programme, host Claire Agius was also presented with an award from IAR(M) for the best TV Promoter for Animal Welfare. Andrea's award winning



achievement is as follows:

Andrea and I decided to go for one of our regular kayak trips last summer (2002). Our choice of trip fell to the St. Paul's Bay to Mgiebah Bay area. We set off early from SPB and slowly paddled to this lovely secluded bay with a very light swell behind us. By the time we got to the entrance of Mgiebah Bay the sea and the wind were, as



expected, getting slightly stronger, allowing us to surf our entrance to the Bay. Upon shoring in the empty bay, we had a short coffee break, but the silence of the bay was being interrupted with a distant shirking sound, which naturally attracted the attention of a 12 year-old boy. To investigate further Andrea walked towards the source of this strange sound, and getting closer to this he managed to find out that it was coming from a tiny creature that was soaked and stranded on a rock a few meters from the shoreline. In an instant a wave caught the helpless animal and washed it out to sea, and Andrea quickly dived into the water after it, managed to get hold of the animal to save it from a sure drowning death. Once back on dry land, Andrea quickly tried to dry and warm the lifeless animal with his dry t-

shirt, and thankfully the creature started moving its arms and legs indicating it was still alive. He then tried to feed the animal on fruit and bread crumbs that he could find in the bay, and also gave it some water. We thought that this uncommon animal was a ferret, and when we thought that it was strong enough to endure a 2-3 km kayak trip back to SPB, we headed on our way. Once in SPB I called home so my wife can give us a contact telephone number of Nature Trust. When this was done NT told me that I should contact IARM, as they were responsible for such cases. I contacted Max Farrugia of International Animal Rescue (Malta) and we met and handed over the animal to their expert care. It is here that Mr. Farrugia told us that the animal was in fact a weasel, a very rare mammal for the Maltese Islands (which is depicted on the 1 cent coin). The animal was only a week or two old, and would not have managed to survive, even if left on dry land. In fact, the weasel was given medication to remove the salt water it had swallowed, and a strict diet of specially prepared food and nutrients for the following two months. Once it had regained it's strength, the weasel was returned to it's natural habitat.

This episode was given coverage and prominence on two television programmes, and one newspaper at the time, and it was equally important for the Nature circles in Malta as it provided evidence of an otherwise unknown colony of weasels that lived and bred in Mgiebah.

3. Costanta – The Ship of Peace

By Mr Saviour Borg GSL Xghajra Group

On Wednesday 9th July at 8.00p.m. we gathered at Pinto Wharf to welcome "Constanta", the ship of peace. In fact, this is a Rumanian warship, but there are different intentions to this humanistic project. Instead of "bombs", this ship have eighty drama artists, that are currently touring Mediterranean ports to pronounce "PEACE". It was loaded with big animated sea and other animals, fireworks, laser light and sound equipment. We saw a unique show from these artists which we will remember for all our life.

ODYSSEE 2003, is the project launched by Mr. Richard Martin. Mr. Richard Muscat director of "The Voice of the Mediterranean", inspired by this project, introduced the peace ship to Malta. The aim of this visit was also to empower marginalized people to participate in this project. Paulo Freire Institute of Faith and Justice at Zejtun, directed by Fr. Edgar Busuttil, and Mr. Mario Azzopardi was the center of this inspiration. Other towns and villages in the Southern part of Malta were encouraged to participate.

Xghajra Venture Scouts were entrusted and encouraged to organize the running of the "MERHBA", at Pinto Wharf. A program was drafted, and it took two months to prepare all the utilities, in which Scouts and parents were encouraged to design and make flags, rope wigs, and big colourful hats. Rehearsals and parents activities were organized to motivate the project. Ms. Catherine Bunce, Commissioner of the South East Girl Guides organized the dresses of the Sun Goddess and Guides participation.

We introduced this project in the G.S.L.'s meeting of the South District. It was the first in a series of activities which each group is to organize. It was heartily encouraged by our District Commissioner Mr. E.L. Bonnici who was present with his wife Carmen during the activity. Zejtun, Marsa, and Cospicua Bands, together with Qrendi, Tarxien, Paola, B'Bugia, Zurrieq and Fgura provided the entertainment in this improvised Theatre. Naturally we were over enthusiastic with the success and participation of the Scouts, but nevertheless this is what Mr. Richard Martin and Mr. Richard Muscat, had to say:

"THIS WAS THE GREATEST WELCOME WE HAVE EVER HAD SO FAR. THANK YOU FROM OUR HEARTS".

4. From Australia

By Mr Mario H Calleja Commissioner for Public Relations

Hello fellow scouters overseas.

I'm Daniel Thomas, a venturer in NSW, Australia who is currently doing the Queens Scout Award.

Part of what I need to do is to contact another venturer overseas and discuss our local community life etc. etc.

I'm not sure if you guys need to do that in Malta, but if you do, I thought maybe we could exchange services. if its not part of the 'to do' list, if anyone is willing to be a pen pal for a while I would be very grateful if you could pass this email on, to venturer scout groups and venturers I would appreciate it.

thanks very much

Daniel Thomas

dthomas85@bigpond.com

5. From Canada

By Mr Mario H Calleja Commissioner for Public Relations

Dear Sirs,

My name is Brian Forrest of Calgary, Alberta (Canada). My scout troop, Silver Springs #159 is participating in our Provincial Jamboree. A requirement of the jamboree is to pick a country that is a member of the World Organization of the Scouting Movement, contact the scouting organization in that country and find out all you can about it. Our group chose Malta.

I have looked at your website and it had a lot of helpful information. It would also be helpful if you could send me some additional information about Scouting in Malta. What kind of things do your scouts do? Do you go camping a lot? In Canada we camp all year round even in the winter. I bet that your winters are a lot warmer than ours. What other things do your scouts do? We will be contacting one of your scout groups to get information from them also.

Yours Truly,

Brian Forrest

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