

# IHQ Bulletin



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

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## FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 2/12 - Policy Committee.  
Thursday 5/12 - DCs Meeting  
Tuesday 9/12 - Ethics Meeting

Thursday 11/12 - GSL's Forum  
Monday 15/12 - Council Meeting  
Tuesday 16/12 - Commissioners' Meeting.

## POINTS TO REMEMBER

### The Scout Spirit

*Aids to Scoutmastership B.-P. 1919*

The underlying feature is the spirit of the Movement, and the key that unlocks this spirit is the romance of Woodcraft and Nature Lore.

Where is there a boy, or for the matter of that a grown-up man, even in these materialistic times to whom the call of the wild and the open road does not appeal?

Maybe it is a primitive instinct - anyway it is there. With that key a great door may be unlocked, if it is only to admit fresh air and sunshine into lives that were otherwise grey.

But generally it can do more than this.

The heroes of the wild, the frontiersmen and explorers, the rovers of the sea, the airmen of the clouds are Pied Pipers to the boys.

Where they lead the boys will follow, and these will dance to their tune when it sings the song of manliness and pluck, of adventure and high endeavour, of efficiency and skill, of cheerful sacrifice of self for others.

There's meat in this for the boy; there's soul in it.

Watch that lad going down the street, his eyes are looking far out. Is his vision across the prairie or over the grey-backed seas? At any rate, it isn't here. Don't I know it!

Have you never seen the buffaloes roaming in Kensington Gardens? And can't you see the smoke from the Sioux Lodges under the shadow of the Albert Memorial? I have seen them there these many years.

Through Scouting the boy has now the chance to deck himself in a frontier kit as one of the great Brotherhood of Backwoodsmen. He can track and follow signs, he can signal, he can light his fire and build his shack and cook his grub. He can turn his hand to many things in pioneer - and camp-craft.

## **1. From the Chief Commissioner**

*Mr Godwin D'Anastasi*

### **• National Troop Camp**

A total of 173 scouts and 50 Leaders attended this year's National Annual Camp held at Ghajn Tuffieha from Friday, 7th November till Sunday, 9th November.

The Groups were from Gzira, Mosta, San Gwann, St. Julians, St Michaels, Stella Maris College, Attard, Birkirkara, Lyceum, Dingli, Sta. Venera, Birzebbugia, Qrendi and Zurrieq.

The Scouts were intermixed and enjoyed a number of activities during the camp, which included pioneering, backwoods cooking and an orienteering hike.

The Scout Association would like to express its thanks to Vadala Company Ltd., local agents for Knorr products for part-sponsoring the event. The Chief Scout, Mr Vincent Cassar, and the Chief Commissioner, Mr Godwin D'Anastasi, together with a number of Commissioners, took part or visited the camp.

I would like to also thank all those who actively contributed to make this camp the success that it was. These include all the members of the OC and those who contributed in the kitchen, well done to all, we couldn't have made it without them

The Scout Association was honoured with a visit by H.E. Professor Guido Demarco, President of Malta, and Patron of the Association, who toured all the members present.

### **• Policy Committee Members**

The following members form part of the new policy Committee. Mr. Kenneth Demartino, Chairperson will be assisted by Messrs. Adrian Borg, G.S.L. San Gwann, Anthony Vella, G.S.L. Birkirkara, representing the Group Scout Leaders, Raymond Darmenia, IHQ Auxiliary and S.L. St Julians, and Josef Custo, A.D.C. Central and Auxiliary Hamrun, representing the IHQ Staff while Mario Calleja, PRO and GSL Sta Venera Scout Group is the Council representative.. Other members include Ms. Pauline Cefai Azzopardi, Honourary Secretary and G.S.L. Stella Maris College Scout Group, and Mr Godwin D'Anastasi as Chief Commissioner.

### **• Chief Commissioner Personal Award.**

Four adult members were recently honoured with the Chief Commissioner Personal Award. Messrs Martin Camilleri, S.L. St Michael School Scout Group, and Jonathan Callus, S.L. San Gwann Scout Group, and the Ms Mary Pace, Acting Leader Qrendi, and Deborah Xuereb, IHQ Auxiliary were presented with their award by H.E. Professor Guido Demarco during this year's National Troop Camp held at Ghajn Tuffieha.

### **• Deputy Chief Commissioner.**

It is my pleasure to announce the appointment of Mr Anthony Xuereb to the post of Deputy Chief Commissioner. Anthony who is a woodbadge holder was until some years ago the Group Scout Leader of the Birzebbugia Scout Group. I would like to ask all concerned to extend their full co-operation to Anthony in all the work that he will be assigned. This new Appointment will help our Association to further improve its organisational effectiveness to better fulfil its Scouting Mission. On behalf of the Association I wish him luck and thank him for accepting this appointment.

### **• Information requested by Commissioner for Human Resources**

May I remind you that to date a number of Scout Groups have failed to send in the required information requested as per circular number 39/2003, dated 29th September, 2003, regarding the issue of shoulder epaulettes, sent by the Chief

Commissioner. All G.S.L.s had till the end of October to comply with the instructions contained in the circular. This information which is needed urgently is to reach the Commissioner for Human Resources as soon as possible.

- **Beret Badges.**

It has become a common practise that members wear different cap badges. I have clearly instructed very what may be worn in my circular 39/2003. The Association has nearly concluded its negotiations with a foreign manufacturer to have its own metal badges. GSLs are kindly asked to ensure that all their Scouters adhere to my instructions with immediate effect.

- **Withdrawal and Cancellation of Appointments.**

42/2003	John Peel	Auxiliary	IHQ
11/2003	Deborah Xuereb	Acting Leader	Birzebbugia

- **Appointments**

The Chief Commissioner has approved the following Appointments with effect from the 20th November 2003.

50 / 2003	Genovese Raymond	Acting Leader	B'Kara
51 / 2003	Peel John G.	Acting Leader	B'Kara
52 / 2003	Ferriggi Stephen	Acting Leader	Zejtun
53 / 2003	Attard May	Acting Leader	B'Kara
54 / 2003	Azzopardi Joanne	Assistant Scout Leader	Siggiewi
55 / 2003	Cassar Marco	Acting Leader	Zabbar
56 / 2003	Gonzi Robert	Group Scout Leader	Fgura
57 / 2003	Ferriggi Jesmond	Group Scout Leader	Zejtun
58 / 2003	Anthony Xuereb	Deputy Chief Commissioner	IHQ
59 / 2003	Deborah Xuereb	Auxiliary	IHQ

- **Awards and Decorations.**

The Chief Commissioner notifies that nominations for Awards and Decorations for 2003 should reach him by the end of December 2003. The appropriate forms may be obtained from the Administration Office. Reference to the Association's publications "Awards and Decorations of The Scout Association of Malta" is recommended and advisable.

Please ensure confidentiality with regards to all proposals except those forms being filled for service. Also ensure that forms are properly entered and duly signed by all concerned. Late or incorrect forms will not be accepted.

## **2. NEW WORLD SCOUTING LEADER NAMED**

*Geneva, Switzerland, 26 October 2003*

Dr. Eduardo Missoni (Italy) will be the new Secretary General of the World Organization of the Scout Movement as of 1st April 2004. The organization comprises more than 28-million Scouts, boys and girls, in 215 countries and territories. Dr. Missoni, 49, will succeed retiring Secretary General Dr. Jacques Moreillon (Switzerland) who has held the position since 1988. The decision was announced today by Dr. Marie-Louise Correa (Senegal), Chairman of the World Scout Committee, the elected governing body of the World Scouting.

Dr. Missoni was appointed by the World Scout Committee following a thorough, worldwide, selection process professionally conducted "pro bono" through the 81 countries in the network of the Amrop Hever Group, and coordinated by its office in Zurich, Switzerland.

The future Secretary General is a professor at the prestigious Bocconi University Management School in Milan, where he teaches Development Cooperation Management and Global Strategies for Health. For 16 years he was responsible for the Italian government's health cooperation programmes in Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa. He has extensive field experience with youth development issues in a wide variety of cultures. He has represented his government in several international bodies, including the World Health Organization.

He grew up in Scouting, making his Scout Promise in 1965 as a member of the Italian Association of Catholic Scouts and Guides (AGESCI). He became a medical doctor, specializing in tropical medicine, and started his professional life as a volunteer doctor in Nicaragua. Later he worked as a UNICEF officer in Mexico.

He has a strong personal experience and commitment in the development of civil society initiatives for disadvantaged youth, and a dedication to the promotion of active citizenship.

"I know what Scouting does for young people, and what Scouts themselves can do for their society. We have an immense potential for doing even more and I am excited about the opportunity to help lead and manage an organization which really has no equal in the world, and which has the proven capacity to make it better," said Dr. Missoni.

Dr. Missoni and his wife, who was born in Chile, are presently living in Rome; they have a daughter living in Mexico. In addition to Italian, he is fluent in English, Spanish, French, and German.

### **3. Visit of the Qrendi and Paola Scout Group aboard USNS Spica**

*By Mr David Schembri Commissioner for Human Resources & Support*

*By Ing Mario A. Frendo Group Scout Leader Paola Scout Group*

On its recent tour to Malta shores **USNS Spica** was at Malta Shipyards for repairs. A visit was organised by Pawla GSL via US Embassy and ship's Captain. USNS Spica was formerly a Royal Fleet Auxiliary cargo vessel. She and her two sister ships were sold to the Military Ship command and are active within the whole fleet delivering all type of stores when requested by all vessels while at sea. The USNS Spica (ex RFA Tarbotness) is not a stranger to Maltese waters having been stationed at St Angelo, offering support and auxiliary services to the British Naval Forces during its tour of services on our island. USNS Spica was on its first visit to our shores; the other two vessels are Saturn and Sirius, both visited Malta earlier in the year.

Present for this visit were representatives from the **Pawla Group.Fgura Ventures** and **Qrendi Leaders**.

The visit was scheduled for 0930hrs on Saturday 25th October. We were attended at the gangway by Lieutenant Kevin Brown USN and the ship's Public Relations Officer PNI (SW) Jon Vercellono who were going to take us through the vessel's innards. We were taken first to the Captain's area where we were introduced and given instructions about safety on board during the tour. Lot of interest towards us was shown and practically all our questions were answered with enthusiasm. This was a thoroughly educational and most informative tour where the ship's role as a support ship in Peace Keeping Roles was clearly defined and explained. Commemorative photographs of the occasion were taken with their Maltese guests by Mr. Darrie Paterson.

At midday were given a surprise lunch in the officers' canteen where we were served chicken & meat with salad and French fries, pasta and dessert. After this lunch we

were ushered to the officers' dayroom and served with coffee and two whole cakes to take with us. Some photos were taken with various officers, and before we left the Captain gave each one of us a picture of the vessel and a print of a photo which was taken while we were eating lunch. Qrendi GSL told those present about experiences which he had when the vessel was in Royal Navy's service. Thanking their American hosts, Commissioner for Resources David Schembri and the Paola Group Scout Leader Mario Frendo thanked the Ship's Captain and its crew for the excellent ship's tour. Both officials spoke highly of the warm welcome they received from all the ship's crew explaining that the newly made friendship would last for a long time to come. E-mail addresses were exchanged. The tour ended at about 1400hrs.

#### **4. First South District Annual Cook-out Competition**

*By Ing Mario A. Frendo Group Scout Leader Paola Scout Group*

*By Mr Robert Gonzi Group Scout Leader Fgura Scout Group*

This event was organised on the 16th of November at the Zurrieq Scout H.Q. GSLs Mario A. Frendo (Pawla GSL) and Robert Gonzi (Fgura GSL) organised this event. Zurrieq, Zabbar, Zejtun, Xghajra, Zabbar, Marsa, Fgura and Tarxien Groups took part, with a group of six Scouts from each. The aim of this activity was to hold an activity showing creativity and teamwork. Each team was allocated an area for backwoods cooking and two tables where to work and prepare the food.

The choice of the first course and the dessert were left to each team with the only requirement being that part these dishes is to be cooked. The main course was kept a secret until the last minutes. The organisers prepared a box full of ingredients and distributed to each on arrival. This was to be cooked on backwoods. Two Top Chefs were invited to judge the event; again the organisers prepared a series of requirements for the judges to work on. The event started at 0900hrs with a welcome speech and instructions.

At 1230hrs the judges were in their environment, going from one table to another tasting and giving their opinion on each dish and table presentation. DC South Commissioner Mr. E. Bonnici followed closely this activity also tasting each plate and licking his fingers!! At 14.30 the judges finished their assessments and presented their full comments to all the participants. Deputy DC (South) then presented the Certificates of Participation to each member and the Awards to the First placing went to **Marsa Group** with a one point difference over the second placed **Zurrieq** and third place went to **Zabbar**

Everybody was happy with this activity; the food was wonderful and finely displayed for the judges. The organisers are already planning another such event for the near future. This will be the new approach for the coming year's activities for the South District, where every scout would have a chance to participate in some challenge. Special thanks go to **Chef Martin Camilleri** and **Chef Kevin Clews** (both Scouters) and to the **Zurrieq GSL** and his Group for allowing us to use his grounds for this event. Thanks also to our DC and ADC for their support and all the leaders and helpers present making this activity a great success..

#### **5. First Aid Course**

*By Mr Edward Vella The Commissioner for Rover Scouts*

The Training section in collaboration with the St John's Ambulance Brigade will be organising a Basic First Aid Course at IHQ, during the month of February. This certificate will be valid for 3 years. Further details will be given in the next bulletin. Those members interested are to contact the Commissioner for Rover Scouts Mr Edward Vella on [edvella@maltanet.net.mt](mailto:edvella@maltanet.net.mt) or on 79707924.

A total of 7 Rover Crews registered themselves on the 28th of October. The Crews are the following, Mosta, Zurrieq, Cospicua, San Gwann, Tarxien, St Michael and St Aloysius College. The Commissioner welcomes these groups aboard and informs any other Group who wishes to register its crew is to do so by contacting Mr Edward Vella on either [edvella@maltanet.net.mt](mailto:edvella@maltanet.net.mt) or on 79707924. The first official national activity for Rover Scouts is going to be a national camp in March. During this camp it is expected that all new members will be invested.

## **6. From the Commissioner for Cub Scouts**

*By Mr Leslie Bonnici Commissioner for Cub Scouts*

### **• Cub Leader's Camp.**

This year's Cub Leaders Camp was organized on the 10-11-12th October at Zurrieq. This year 20 leaders participated and came from Birzebugia, Fgura, Cospicua, Mellieha, Naxxar, St Michaels, Stella Mares, St Venera and Zebbug. Various crafts were done and also part of the Cub programme was discussed.

### **• National Cub Camp**

This year's National Cub Camp was a huge success. 180 cubs from 14 different packs from Birzebugia, Cospicua, Dingli, Fgura, Mosta, Naxxar, Qrendi, St Aloysius, St Michaels, St Julian's, San Gwann, St Venera, Zebbug and Zurrieq, together with 42 leaders and 24 members of Cospicua and St Aloysius Venture Units and Cospicua Rover Crew. The Camp programme started with Halloween Night on Friday night and continued on Saturday with a nature trail, a trekking trail which ended in an obstacle game area, and crafts. The participants were divided into three sub camps and the programme was run in a rotation system. Mass was celebrated by Fr. Anton Briffa. This year Camp fire was done under Marquee with a different atmosphere. During the camp the Chief Scout Mr. V Cassar and the Chief Commissioner Mr. G D'Anastasi also paid a visit and talked to various participants. Various Scouters from different groups and sections also visited the camp. All leaders expressed with enthusiasm the work which was done by the Ventures and Rovers during the camp. The SAC unit had the responsibility to run the camp kitchen while the Cospicua Venture and Rovers had the responsibility to run part of the programme and campsite duties. Thanks also to the Cospicua Group who pitched their Marquee which was used as a dining shelter during the camp, and to Zurrieq Group where the camp was held. Thanks also to all leaders who participated in running the camp.

## **7. Tunisian Scouts and Guides Malta Visit – September 2003**

*By Mr David Schembri Commissioner for Human Resources & Support*

Eleven Scout and Guide Leaders from the Monastir Scout Region led by Regional Commissioner Mahfoudh Marzouk and the Monastir Medina Group Scout Leader Mourad Benzarti visited Malta between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> September 2003, as part of their International camp 2003.

Lodged at Island Headquarters in Floriana, the Scout and Guide delegation visited numerous tourist and historic attractions throughout Malta, courtesy of Heritage (Malta), who made Museum complimentary passes available for our foreign guests.

Visiting the Ghajn Tuffieha International Campsite during the Summer Scout Camporee 2003, our visitors entertained the Maltese scout groups present with fine interpretations of Tunisian dance and song, whilst enjoying the Maltese hospitality as its best during the Camporee's campfire. Regional Commissioner Marzouk later presented Chief Scout, Mr. Vince Cassar with a memento of the Tunisian Scout Conference held at Tunis in August, on behalf of the Tunisian Scout Association.

A joint "Tunisian / Malta night" was later in the week held at IHQ Floriana between the Monastir Scouts and Guides and the Qrendi Scout Group, featuring folklore and Traditional song and dance, blended with scout songs and campfire stunts. Attending the activity was the Malta Girl Guide Association's Chief Commissioner, Ms Lara Tonna, who spent time discussing guiding programs with our Tunisian counterparts. Later Regional Commissioner Marzouk also presented Chief Commissioner, Ms Lara Tonna with a small memento.

"We came to your Island knowing too well of the warm hospitality that is offered by the Maltese Association to Tunisian Scouts but never imagined the treatment and friendliness that our delegation were to receive from the local inhabitants wherever we ventured", Mr. Marzouk stated.

"Monastir Region has over two thousand three hundred scouts and Guides grouped into twenty five groups and it is our wish to receive Maltese Scout and Guide Groups in Monastir in the future"

### **8. Venture Scout Rally**

*by Mr John Micallef Engerer Commissioner for Venture Scouts*

The National Rally for Venture Scouts was held on Saturday and Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> / 9<sup>th</sup> November 2003 respectively. A total of 99 Venture Scout from Birkirkara Cospicua Mosta, Naxxar, Rabat, San Gwann, St Aloysius College, Stella Maris College, St Julians, St Michaels School, St Venera, Tarxien and Zurrieq attended.

The Venture Scout Units competed for the National Rally for Venture Scouts Shield, which was won by the St Aloysius Venture Scout Unit whilst the Mosta Venture Scout Unit was runners up.

The Rally consisted of an overnight at the Hamrun Scout Group camping ground and a 9 kilometre orienteering exercise covering six check points and four incident points all based on Venture Scout Training such as first-aid pioneering orienteering scout-craft and general knowledge. The Rally took place at Xemxija, Ghajn Tuffieha and Mgarr and their surroundings.

A good number 14 leaders and Rover Scouts from the participating units, gave a helping hand at the various incident points, together with other Commissioners from the Scout Association and the Malta Red Cross.

The Commissioner for Venture Scouts would like to thankj all those who helped as judges, the Malta Red Cross, the Venture Scout Leaders, River Scout and the Venture Scouts themselves for the good behaviour and discipline shown throughout the event. Last but not least a word of thanks goes to the 1<sup>st</sup> Hamrun Scout Group for offering their camping ground for the night. Well done to all.

### **9. Zebbug Scout Group to take care of the YTC Bungalow in Buskett**

*By Mr Mark O'Neill Cub Scout Leader Zebbug Scout Group*

The Zebbug Scout Group has just made an agreement with Fr Morris Mifsud who is in charge of the YTC Bungalow in Buskett. The Group will be entrusted to take care of the administration and maintenance of the site as well as checking after use, since Fr. Morris does not have anyone to do this. All bookings will be kept by a member of the Zebbug Scout Group who will liaise with Fr. Morris. As a result of the agreement the YTC Bungalow will remain available for booking for next year. Fr Morris was in fact thinking of stopping renting it due to the various acts of vandalism found. Any Scout Group interested in renting the Bungalow is to contact C.S.L. Mark O'Neill for more details on 99406796 or on e-mail [moneill@global.net.mt](mailto:moneill@global.net.mt)

## **10. 1<sup>st</sup> Hamrun Scout Group 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

*By Mr Saviour Theuma Secretary 1<sup>st</sup> Hamrun Scout Group*

On the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2003 the 1<sup>st</sup> Hamrun Scout Group organized a District Church Parade to commemorate the Group's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The celebration was attended by twelve District Groups, Hamrun, Attard, B'Kara, Dingli, Lyceum, Qormi, Rabat, Siggiewi, St. Aloysius, St. Venera, Valletta, and Zebbug. The Groups were divided into three contingents led by the 1<sup>st</sup> Hamrun Scout Group, the St. Venera Group, and B'Kara Group.

The three contingents marched through three different routes meeting at St. Gaetan Parish Church. A thanks giving Mass was concelebrated by Mons. M Chircop, Fr. Eddie Pace, Fr. Anton Portelli, Fr. Joe Pace, and Fr. Carm. Portelli all former Group Chaplains, and Fr. Paul Fenech St. Gaetan's Parish Priest. The Guests of Honour present were the Group Patron H.E. Prof. Guido de Marco, President of Malta, The Chief Scout Mr. Vincent Cassar, the Chief Executive Mr. Godwin D'Anastasi and two ex-GSLs Mr. Joe Borg and Mr. Carlo Bugeja.

After Mass a commemorative photo was taken in front of St. Gaetan Parish Church. The whole contingent then marched through St. Joseph High Rd up to the 1<sup>st</sup> Hamrun Scout Group HQs saluting the Guests of Honour on their way down. All the Groups assembled at the 1<sup>st</sup> Hamrun Scout Group HQs to await the arrival of the Guests of Honour. The Group Patron, H. E. the President of Malta, was given the National Salute when he arrived at our HQs.

The GSL Mr. Leo Grima made a welcoming speech. The Guests of Honour all gave short speeches congratulating the Hamrun Group for these 90 years of Scouting. The Chief Executive then presented our GSL with the Bar to the Medal of Merit. The Chief Executive also presented the Hamrun Group with a letter acknowledging the sterling service given by the Hamrun Group to the Malta Scouts Association. This appreciation was further shown when the newly introduced Chief Commissioner Personal Award in Appreciation of Dedicated Service to the Scout Association of Malta was awarded to the Hamrun Group.

The GSL then distributed commemorative tokens to the Guests of Honour and to the Groups present. The contingent was then dismissed and all those present could enjoy some refreshments.

In the evening a reception was held at our HQs for all those who at some time or another helped the 1<sup>st</sup> Hamrun Scout Group.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> October the Group organized a Parade for the Group's Old Scout Members. The Group left our HQs, marching through various streets in Hamrun. Going through St. Joseph High Road the Group stopped in front of St. Gaetan Parish Church where the Old Scouts were assembled. From there the Group together with the Old Scouts marched to our HQs where a reception was held. This was a wonderful evening for one and all. One could hear the Old Scouts reminiscing about the good old days when they use to go camping or journeying. Many had not seen each other for a long time. It was also an occasion where our young members could talk to those from whom they inherited the Group with its glorious past achievements.