

IHQ Bulletin



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

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FOR YOUR DIARY

Thu 8 th Jan – Executive Meeting	Thu 22 nd Jan – Commissioners' Meeting
Thu 8 th Jan – Scout Youth Programme Team Meeting	Sat 24 th Jan – Initial Adult Leadership Training Course
Thu 15 th Jan – DCs Meeting	Thu 29 th Jan – GSLs Forum
Thu 15 th Jan – Training and Program Committee Meeting	

POINTS TO REMEMBER

Eradicate Selfishness - The Good Turn Habit

Aids to Scoutmastership B.-P. 1919

The Scouting practices tend in a practical way to educate the boy out of the groove of selfishness. Once he becomes charitable he is well on the way to overcome or to eradicate the danger of this habit.

The Promise that a Scout makes on joining has as its first point: "To do my duty to God." Note that it does not say "To be loyal to God," since this would merely be a state of mind, but to do something, which is the positive, active attitude.

The main method in the Boy Scout Movement is to give some form of positive training rather than merely to inculcate negative precepts, since the boy is always ready to do rather than to digest.

Therefore, we put into his activities the practice of Good Turns in his daily life as a foundation of future goodwill and helpfulness to others. The religious basis underlying this is common to all denominations, and we, therefore, interfere with the form of none.

The boy can then realise better that part of his "Duty to God" is to take care of and develop as a sacred trust those talents with which God has equipped him for his passage through this life; the body with its health and strength and reproductive powers to be used in God's service; the mind with its wonderful reasoning, memory and appreciation, which place him above the animal world; and the soul, that bit of God which is within him-namely, Love, which can be developed and made stronger by continual expression and practice. Thus we teach him that to do his Duty to God means, not merely to lean on His kindness, but to do His will by practising love towards one's neighbour.

1. From the Chief Commissioner

Mr Godwin D'Anastasi

- **Chief Commissioner Personal Award**

Due to an unintentional oversight, Mr Joseph Filletti, Group Scout Leader of Attard Scout Group, who is also a member of the National Organisation Team was not listed with the other four recipients who received the above award from HE President Guido Demarco at the last National Troop Camp. We apologise for the error.

- **Abseiling.**

May I remind everyone that under no circumstances is anyone allowed to carry out any high risks activity, such as abseiling, potholing, etc., without obtaining prior permission from the Chief Commissioner. Disciplinary action will be taken against anyone not following this procedure. This information has already been given at the GSLs Forum that was held on 3rd June 2003. District Commissioners were also informed and asked to communicate the new regulations during meetings held on 22nd may 2003 and on the 16th October 2003.

- **New Group and Section Flags.**

Your attention is drawn to instructions issued at the beginning of last year regarding the above. The official phasing out date was 31st July 2003. Please ensure that your flags conform to the official new designs and colours issued. Furthermore all Group and Sectional flags must carry at the top the official scout emblem and the National Flag the pike. No other designs are allowed.

- **Program of events.**

A program of Events is at present being compiled for distribution in mid January 2004, to enable everyone compile his Group activities alongside those organised on a National scale.

2. TRAINING AND PROGRAMME SECTION

by Mr. Michael J Cefai, Commissioner Training and Programme.

Training and Programme - Dates and Events

Thursday, 8 th January	Scout Youth Programme Team Meeting
Thursday, 15 th January	Training and Programme Committee Meeting
Saturday, 24 th January	Initial Adult Leadership Training Course

- **Initial Adult Leadership Training Course (Level 1)**

Applications are open for Adult Leaders to participate on the *Initial Adult Leadership Training Course*, which will be held on Saturday, 24th January 2004. Further details may be obtained from IHQ. Applications are to be handed in by Tuesday, 20th January, 2004, and these will not be accepted, unless they are endorsed by the GSL and DC respectively. Participants are also obliged to be present throughout the whole duration of the Course.

- **Scout Leaders Seminar**

The first Seminar for Scout Leaders and their Assistants will be held on Sunday, 8th February, 2004. The Seminar aims to start a process of consultation for the

creation of a new and attractive Scout Programme for the Scout Section. District Commissioners and Group Scout Leaders will also be invited to attend this Seminar. Leave this date free as we would wish all the Scout Leaders of this Section to be present. We believe that each individual Leader has a valid contribution to give towards the set up of such a pivotal programme. Further details will be given at a later date.

3. Appointments

By Mr David Schembri Commissioner for Human Resources & Support

The Chief Commissioner has the pleasure of announcing the following appointments

Appointment	Name	Group	Position	Training Level
60 / 2003	Calleja Claude	St Venera	Acting Leader	1
61 / 2003	Simler Adolf	Marsa	Acting Leader	2
62 / 2003	Cauchi Dione	Marsa	Auxiliary (Bandmaster)	W.B.
63 / 2003	Dimech Anton Rev.	Marsa	Group Chaplain	N / A
64 / 2003	Vella Silvan	Gzira	Acting Leader	1
65 / 2003	Tonna Chantelle	Gzira	Acting Leader	1
66 / 2003	Darmanin David	Sliema	Cub Scout Leader	W.B.
67 / 2003	Camilleri Kevin	Sliema	Scout Leader	W.B.
68 / 2003	Muscat Carmen	St Julians	Cub Scout Leader	W.B.
69 / 2003	Borg Grech Jeremy	St Julians	Acting Leader	1

N.B.: Appointments will not be issued unless the individual Adult Leader has:

1. Fulfilled all the necessary requirements (Levels and other Modules/Credits) specific for the issuance of that particular Appointment;
2. Completed all the Level requirements, which includes, besides attending the whole course, the submission of all projects.

4. New items for the Scout Uniform

By Mr Charles Gixti SCOUT SHOP

We would like to bring to your attention that the long awaited Malta Scout belt buckle has arrived. This at a cost of Lm2.40 and can be bought from Scout Shop individually or Groups may take on consignment.

As from the 15th instant we will have available the new Cub Scout caps. These have been improved so that they are fully adjustable, of better quality and are more durable from the locally made ones that we used to stock.

Hopefully, by the end of this year we will also receive the new metal badges for the Scout and Venture Scout berets. Those few Venture Scouts who have already bought the previous one and do not wish to wish keep it are asked to exchange it at no cost. This can be done until the end of January if the consignment arrives by the end of this year.

5. North District Leaders / Rovers Camp

By Mr Edward Vella the Commissioner for Rover Scouts

Following the huge success of the last North District weekend seminar Camp for Leaders and Rovers, the committee decided that another one should be organised on the same guidelines.

The District meeting nominated the following members to form a team for this camp; Vince Tanti – AGSL San Gwann, Therese Camilleri – ASL St Michael's College,

Pauline Cefai – GSL Stella Maris College, Godwin Gusti – RSL St Michael's College and Edward Vella Commissioner Rover Scouts and VSL Mosta.

The dates for the camp are the 30th and 31st of January and the 1st of February 2004, and the theme chosen is Building and Sharing Values Through having fun. This camp is going to be held at the Mellieha Scout Group's Head Quarters, who for the second time has offered the premises free of charge.

During this camp Leaders and Rovers from different Groups will have the opportunity to get together and share ideas and make new friends. A very attractive programme is being prepared by the team and it shouldn't be missed by anyone.

Closing date for registration is Friday 16th January, 2004 at St Michael's College HQ by 19:30pm. Each group is to submit the registration form with the list of members and their fees accordingly.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Edward Vella on edvella@maltanet.net

6. VISIT BY THE FGURA PAOLA AND QRENDI SCOUTS ABOARD USNS LEROY GRUMMAN

By Mr David Schembri Commissioner for Human Resources & Support



On Sunday 30th November 2003, no fewer than twenty scouts from the Fgura, Paola and Qrendi Scouts accompanied by their leaders, visited the **USNS Leroy Grumman**, a United States Navy "Oiler" that had just completed repair works at the Malta Shipyards.

The Leroy Grumman, forms part of Military Sealift Command's Naval Fleet Auxiliary

Force that is the lifeline to U.S. Navy ships at sea, providing fuel, food, spare parts and other supplies. Naval Fleet Auxiliary Force, or NFAF, ships enable the Navy fleet to operate at the highest operational tempo possible, and provide underway replenishment services to U.S. Navy ships worldwide alleviating the need for them to constantly return to port for supplies.

Military Sealift Command's Naval Fleet Auxiliary Force Program is composed of fleet ocean tugs, fast combat support ships, oilers, combat stores ships and ammunition ships plus two hospital ships that are kept in a reduced operating status. Besides delivering supplies at sea, NFAF ships also conduct towing and salvage operations and serve as floating medical facilities.

The Maltese Scout contingent were met at the gangway by the ship's purser who took his Maltese scout guests to the vessel's bridge where they were welcomed aboard by the Ship's Captain Richard A. Gray, who gave details on his ship and

explained its role. The Scout contingent was later given the opportunity to tour and see for themselves the various ship departments, most important in the ship's operation.

The intensive ship's tour was made available by the Paola Group Scout Leader, Naval Engineer Mario Frendo and through the excellent relationships that exist between the Scout Association of Malta, the American Embassy and the American Naval Authorities.

Thanking the Captain for allowing their scouts to tour the USNS Leroy Grumman, the Fgura, Paola and Qrendi Group Scout Leaders, Robert Gonzi, Mario Frendo and David Schembri respectively, presented him with their group's scarf and baseball cap together with a Malta History Brochure, in recognition of their visit.

All present took the advantage to wish the Captain and the ship's crew, fair winds and fine sailing.

7. Policy Committee holds its first meeting

By Mr Mario H Calleja Commissioner for Public Relations

The Policy Committee was convened on the 2nd December to discuss various matters of urgency. The Policy Committee is chaired by Mr Kenneth De Martino who is also a member of the National Scout Council, which has appointed him in this position. The following are its other members. Mr Mario H Calleja as Council representative, Mr Ray Darmania and Mr Josef Custo as Commissioner Representatives and Mr Adrian Borg and Mr Tony Vella as GSL Representatives. Mrs Pauline Cefai Azzopardi is the Secretary of the Committee. The Committee was also attended by the Chief Commissioner.

Now that the Policy Committee is fully functioning the Chairman would like to invite anyone who has any suggestions or ideas to submit them to him for the committee's consideration.

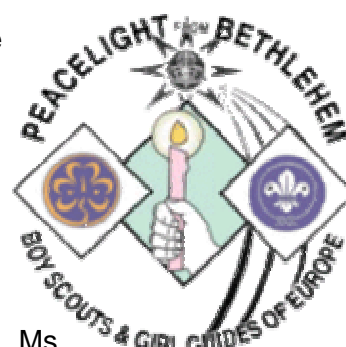
8. Peacelight from Bethlehem - 2003

by Ms Pauline Cefai Azzopardi - Group Scout Leader Stella Maris College Scout Group

The Stella Maris College will be bringing over to Malta the Peacelight from Bethlehem. This is a light collected by the Austrian Scouts from the place where Christ was born in Bethlehem, fly it over to Austria, then distribute it to Scout and Guide Groups across the Globe.

Bro. Keorin, one of the Brothers at the College initiated all this and encouraged us to make the necessary contacts to bring over the Peacelight to Malta for the very first time.

I, together with two Leaders, Mr. Paul Bellizzi - Akela, Ms Marlene Woolsey - Rama, as well as two Scouts, Nigel Schembri - P.L. and Sarah Ann Bartolo - P.L, as well as my son Edward-Joseph, will be travelling to Rome on the 16th December to receive the Peacelight during a Ceremony for the occasion. We have also been invited to attend with about 1500 Italian Scouts to present the Peacelight for the first time to His Holiness Pope John Paul II at the Vatican on Wednesday, 17th December. We shall return to Malta with the Peacelight on Thursday, 18th December on Airmalta Flight KM 613 from Rome at 13:35 hours. So far two flights have been sponsored courtesy of Air Malta. Playmobil have also



sponsored local souvenirs we shall be giving the Italian Scouts as a memento of our presence in Italy.

We shall be distributing the Peacelight from Bethlehem to Scout and Guide Groups in Malta during a Concert and Ceremony to be held at our College Headquarters in Gzira, on Friday 19th December at 18:30 hours.

On behalf of the Stella Maris College Scout Group I would like to invite you all and bring along boys and girls to share the Peacelight from Betlehem with us, and take it back to your Scout Groups and homes.

Groups wishing to attend kindly confirm your attendance by not later than Monday 15th December on Tel. Nos 21464052, 21317610 or Mob. No. 99878210 or by email on paxlodge@di-ve.com

The message of Peace the Scouts and Guides of Europe would like to pass on to you lay in the last message our founder Lord Baden Powell himself stated, "

Try to leave the world a little better than you found it."

9. From the Commissioner for Rover Scouts

Mr Edward Vella

- **First Aid Course**

A course in Basic First Aid is being organised by the St John's Ambulance Malta through the Training and Programme Department at IHQ.

The 16 hour course is intended for Scout members over the age of 16 years and will commence in 3rd February. The sessions will be held on every Tuesdays and Thursdays between 17:30 and 19:30.

A certificate valid for 3 years will be issued at the end of the course. The St John's Ambulance first aid badge may also be worn on the Scout Uniform

This certificate will be equivalent for level 3, the Venture Award or the Dolphin Award.

The fee for this course will be LM11.00.

Closing date for this course is Thursday 15th of January and application forms are available from the Secretariat IHQ. Applicants have to be full members of the association and will be considered on the first come first serve basis, as only a limited number is acceptable. The forms may also be obtained electronically by contacting Mr Edward Vella at edvella@maltanet.net.mt

10. Mosta / San Gwann Units joint activity

By Mr Edward Vella the Commissioner for Rover Scouts

In first weekend of December was special for the units of Mosta and San Gwann. Together we organised a 3 night expedition in Gozo. A total of 18 members including the leaders took part in this 40 kmt walk and the aim of it was that the members could obtain requirement for the venture and the Dolphin award.

The expedition started on Friday from Mgarr harbour at 21:00hrs and during the night the ventures walked towards Bardan Cliffs. Soup and pasta was the menu of the day and soon after we pitched the tents and slept the night. On Saturday, the team set off to Xlendi and on the way we stopped to take a few pictures of the wonderful scenery that dominated that part of the trip. On the same day we visited the Victoria Scout Group and took the opportunity to have a quick shower at their premises. Special thanks go to Venture Scout leader George Said who invited us to do so. Marsalforn was our next target and we reached that just before it was getting dark. The sky was

clear and soon hundreds of stars could be observed. This didn't last long because during the night the weather changed and a wind storm dominated the early hours of Sunday. At 9:30 we left Marsalforn and headed towards Nadur. This was the best part of the journey as it took us by one of the nicest valleys, that is, Ramla valley. Steep hills dominated most of the journey, but this was one of the challenges we faced. Lunch was served by the well known Maxokk Bakery and all agreed that the traditional ftira is a meal no one should miss when visiting Gozo. The last part of the trip took us back to Mgarr harbour. Sunday night was spent at Mellieha. This made us feel safer as the weather was getting worst. Dinner was cooked on backwoods and a little campfire ended the night.

Fun dominated most of the expedition and while keeping the awards in mind this expedition served to create new friends. This was the second consecutive year that the two units organised such an activity together. Both units agreed they have learnt a lot from each other.

11. European Jamboree 2005 UK

By Mr Franco Azzopardi the International Commissioner

Will all those interested in attending the European Jamboree 2005, being held in the UK, between July 29 and August 10, kindly contact the International Commissioner on fazzopardi@hotmail.com or on 79427374 so that an informative meeting can be arranged for all at IHQ during the month of January.

The meeting will include the latest information and the fees structure. All those who would like to get more information prior the meeting are to visit the Jamboree official website www.eurojam.org

A copy of the application form is attached.

12. Troop Scouts Backwoods Cooking Grand Prix

By Mr Martin Camilleri Executive Head Chef, Scout Leader St Michael School Scout Group

The above event is being planned for early next year and below are the details

- Date of event 31st March 2004.
- First Meeting for all GSL's & SL's will be held on the 27th January 2004.
- Second Meeting for all SL,s and their Team of Scouts will be held on the 17th February 2004.
- Third Meeting & Briefing for all Teams will be held on the 16th March 2004.

All Meetings will be held at IHQ at 18.30hrs.

The following are the rules of the event.

1. A team consists of four Scouts, one Scout as Chef, and three Scouts as Commis Cooks.
2. Five hours will be allowed to prepare, cook and present a 3-course meal for 4 persons, from a basket of ingredients supplied by the organizers.
3. The menu must be handed to the Chef Judge neatly written in English not later than 45 minutes from the start of the competition.
4. The dishes will be presented in course sequence.
5. All equipment is to be provided by the competitors.
6. Cooking Methods to be used are Grilling, Boiling, Baking, Roasting, Camp Oven and Fiji Oven.
7. Hygiene and Fire Precautions will be applied.
8. Awards of prizes.
9. Prizes will be awarded according to standards achieved.

10. Where this is not reached no prizes will be awarded.

11. Prizes will be awarded as follows:

- 90% or more Gold award.
- 75% or more Silver award.
- 65% or more Bronze award.
- 55% or more Certificate of Merit.

All Troops are encouraged to participate in this event.

13. Pasta Night at IHQ

By Mario H Calleja Public Relations Commissioner

This event was organised on the 29th November with an attendance of around 150 persons. Amongst those present were a number of members of the Scout Fellowship. During the evening the Chief Scout received two citations regarding the awarding of the MBE to Mr Anthony Azzopardi and Mr John Agius. The Chief Commissioner was also present for the activity. This event was organised by the St Venera Scout Group who would like to thank the Hamrun and St Michael's School Groups for their invaluable support during the event. Profits from this event will be divided pro-rata between the organising Group and the Association which is raising funds for the purchase of a new PC for the Administration.