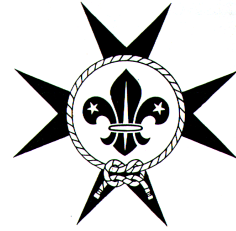


IHQ Bulletin



The Scout Association of Malta, Island Headquarters, Floriana VLT 16
Tel: - 224334 Fax: - 251382 Website: <http://members.tripod.com/maltascout/>

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30TH JANUARY 2001

1. Resignation of the Chief Executive:

“I am sorry to inform you that, due to family reasons, I have to absent myself for a long time from Island Headquarters and also from attending to my Scouting duties as Chief Executive of The Scout Association of Malta.” This was the opening paragraph of a letter dated 1st December 2000 addressed to all Scout Council members and Commissioners by Mr Joseph G. Grech, the Chief Executive of the Association. In the same letter, Mr Grech, whilst affirming that “in (his) present situation (he) could not contribute positively to the running of the Association”, with deep regret, “put forward the proposal to relinquish (his) appointment as Chief Executive” and requested that “arrangements be made for someone else to take over”.

It was with regret for me to learn from Mr Grech himself, early in November of last year that his 84-year old aunt had an unfortunate accident and that as a consequence, at least for the then foreseeable future, he would not be able to attend to his duties at Island Headquarters. The only reason for this was that his aunt had become entirely dependent on him.

Although Mr Grech’s situation at home did improve over the weeks that followed, yet it was not such that could allow him the liberty, free time and tranquillity to attend to his scouting duties.

In fact, at the Extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly held on the 18th January 2001, the members of the General Assembly “whilst noting with regret the resignation of the Chief Executive” and at the same time “thanking him for his indefatigable sense of duty to the Association” unanimously approved a motion presented by the Scout Council recommending that, considering the circumstances that Mr Grech had found himself in, his resignation should be accepted.

Mr Grech has extensive experience in scouting having served in various important positions at Group, District and Island Headquarters level. In fact, Mr Grech has dedicated his life to scouting, having served as Group Scout Leader, District Commissioner and Training Commissioner besides having represented the Association at various world and European seminars and conferences.

Since 1990, Mr Grech held the post of Chief Commissioner of the Association, and more recently, since October 1999, after a change in title when the Association’s Constitution was amended, as Chief Executive.

Mr Grech, who hails from Gozo and is the founder of the Victoria Scout Group, has attended Woodbadge courses, both in Malta and at Gilwell Park. He has also attended World Scout

Jamborees and international scout camps. He is, moreover, the holder of the Silver Dolphin, the highest award of the Association granted to those who have given over twenty-five years of exceptionally outstanding service to the Association.

There is no doubt that Mr Grech's dedication, sense of duty and love for the Association was manifestly and constantly demonstrated over the years when, to the surprise of all and putting aside financial and personal hardship, he used to regularly cross from Gozo to Malta every Tuesday and Thursday to attend to his duties at Island Headquarters. Needless to say this even meant crossing over to Malta and back in inclement weather and sometimes even braving rough and dangerous seas. Moreover, Mr Grech also used to be present at the many functions held by the various Scout Groups in Malta.

Joe, I know that you will miss your scouting events and long to be back with us. Your sense of duty and care to your relatives, especially to a fragile and loving aunt has had to prevail over other considerations and duties. This is an example of that true and sincere Scouting spirit that you have been able to show and embrace over the years. Putting aside personal considerations and commitments you have decided to dedicate yourself to help those who are in need of your support. This event also came at a time that I am sure you were looking forward to – that of your retirement, at the age of sixty-one, as a public school teacher. I am confident you were looking forward to those days when you could have more time to dedicate to Scouting.

On behalf of the Association I can assure you that your pledge to offer your services to help the Association as, where and if required is most welcome and we all look forward to see you again amongst us and to share your experiences and knowledge. Whilst thanking you for your kind words expressed in your farewell letter of the 1st December 2000, allow me to quote your parting words addressed to all leaders of the Association – “May God be with you to lead the Association to more successes and, especially, to greater benefits for our young members.”

Whilst wishing your aunt a speedy recovery may I thank you Joe, for all that you have done for the Association.

The Chief Scout

2. Founder's Day:

Thursday, 22nd February 2001 should be a red-letter day for the Association. Besides commemorating Founder's Day the signing ceremony for the transfer of the land at Ghajn Tuffieha will also be held on that day.

As already announced in the first issue of the International Scout Centre (Ghajn Tuffieha - Malta) bulletin the signing ceremony for the transfer of the land from Government to the Association will take place on that day. This will effectively mean that the land at Ghajn Tuffieha will, as from that day up to the 21st February 2049, be considered as being the property of the Association.

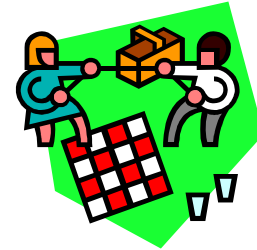
The signing ceremony will take place during the customary yearly reception held at Island Headquarters on Founder's Day. The ceremony will be witnessed by His Excellency Professor Guido De Marco, President of the Republic and Patron of the Association as well as by the Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Education, the Hon Perit Jesmond Mugliette M.P.

Invitations have already been sent out to all Groups and to other distinguished personalities inviting

them to attend the reception at Island Headquarters. It is hoped that all invitees will make it a point to attend this memorable occasion.

3. National Cub Camp:

This Activity is going to be organized on the 16th 17th and 18th of March 2001. A number of meetings are going to be held in the coming weeks to organize this event.



13th February. A preliminary meeting for all CSL will be held at IHQ at 18.00 Hrs. During this meeting a camp staff will chosen to run the NCC. This team will be responsible to build a program and run the camp. Those CSLs who are not able to attend, please do send your assistants for this meeting.

27th February. Meeting for the camp staff at IHQ at 18.00 Hrs. Those who will be in this team, please prepare yourself for some tough work.

6th March. Meeting for all CSLs at IHQ at 18.00 Hrs. During this meeting the camp program will be explained. It is important to note that those Packs who will be represented during this meeting will be able to attend the W/E Camp.

4. Cub Scout Programme:

Hereunder are some of the activities that are going to be organized by the Cub Scout Programme Planning Team through the year 2001. Please keep these dates free so that you can participate in these activities.

April Sunday 29th: Seminar for Cub Leaders. A follow up of the Forum that was specifically organized to update our Cub programme. An update of our progress will be presented during this seminar. Details will follow.

July Saturday 7th : Pack Summer activity.

October 12th 13th and 14th W/E Camp: For all Cub Leaders. After the success of last year's W/E Camp we intend to organize another camp for all cub leaders to meet, socialize and exchange ideas during this activity. Hoping that we will see many of you during these activities, and if we can be of any assistance to your-good-selves and to your Pack, please do not hesitate to contact us either at IHQ or Mr. Leslie Bonnici Commissioner for Cub Scouts on 0949 5879 / 633346.

5. Venture Scout Activities:

The commissioner for venture Scouts informs all leaders concerned that during a meeting for VSLs, it was decided by all those present that five national activities are to be held during the year 2001. The first event being National venture Scout Camp to be held from Friday 16th March, to Monday 19th March, 2001. The venue for this event will be Zurrieq Campsite. Please leave these days free from other activities and join your brothers and sisters in Scouting, camping under canvas.

A committee for this activity has been set up to help organize the programme and the preparations

needed for this event to be a success.

The following are serving as members:

Edward Vella	VSL Mosta
Kurt Caligari	VSL Cospicua
Elvio Briffa	Scouter i/c San Gwann
Kenneth Mangion	VSL Zurrieq
Charles Bonnet	Rover San Gwann

Anyone interested in joining this committee, or anyone having any suggestions regarding the programme may contact the commissioner for Venture Scouts Mr. John Micallef Engerer at IHQ.

Further information regarding this activity will be sent in due course.

6. Camping Skills Course:

IHQ is for another time organising a camping skills course beginning next March. The course is going to be limited to 36 participants and a maximum of three from each group will be accepted. The course is going to be held either Tuesdays or Thursdays at IHQ between 18:00 hrs and 20:00 hrs. All interested applicants are to contact their GSL or IHQ for further information and applications are available from IHQ administration or training sections.



7. European conference 2004:

The Malta Scout Association together with the Malta Girl Guide Association is bidding to hold the 11 European Scout and Guide conference in Malta. With this in mind the executive committees of both associations have selected a team composed of three Scout representatives and three guide representatives to start working on the bid. The team has already met a couple of times and a presentation has to be compiled till March.

8. Census return:

A handful of groups and IHQ staff have not presented their IHQ Census return for this year, the closing date of which was 31 January 2001. All concerned are to send their returns as soon as possible.

9. Vat Returns:

Please note that the notice to all GSL sent by the director of Finance regarding the VAT Returns Supersedes what the Scouter's manual say on page 4.4.1 as this was issued later. An amendment to this page will be issued shortly.

10. Congratulations:

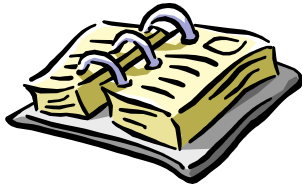
Congratulations go to Victor Bonanno from the Mosta Venture Unit for obtaining the Venture Award. Well done.



11. Scouter’s Manual:

We know that the Scouter’s manual is not complete yet, this is still in the process of verification so for the time being, when information or applications are needed from those pages which have not been issued yet, please refer to the previous version. We are doing are best so that you will be in possession of the complete edition as soon as possible.

12. For your diary:



	5 th February	European Conference meeting
	10 th February	Feast of St
Paul		
	15 th February	European
Conference meeting		
	22 nd February	Founder’s
Day		
	16 th – 18 th March	Cubs National Camp at IHQ
	16 th – 19 th March	Ventures National Camp at Zurrieq
31 st March		Freedom day