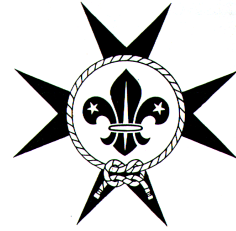


IHQ Bulletin



The Scout Association of Malta, Island Headquarters, E.S. Tonna Street. Floriana VLT 16
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No: 12 /2001

27TH DECEMBER 2001

1. Gone Home

With deep regret we would like to inform that Assistant Cub Scout Leader, [Baloo], Wilfred Borg, of the St. Michael School Scout Group, has "Gone Home" on Saturday, 5 January 2002.

Wilfred was a very keen Scouter and had contributed much to the St. Michael Scout Group Pack Section. He will be missed by all and remembered for many more years to come.

While urging all members to remember him in their prayers, we extend our condolences to his wife Natalie and his son Matthew and to all his fellow Scouters in his Group and the rest of the Association.

2. Scout Crib Competition – Christmas 2001

The Xghajra Scout Group was this year's winners in the Scout Crib – Christmas 2001 Competition organised by *The Gallerija Shopping Complex of Fgura*. The Zurrieq Scout Group placed second and third respectively in a competition open to the scout groups that form part of the South District of the Scout Association.

Addressing the presentation ceremony, Mr. Martin Aquilina praised the participating scout groups for their commitment, exhibition of their crafting skills and initiatives. He emphasized on the importance for the caring of the environment, reminding all that the competition rules clearly indicated against the cutting of sage (Saghtar) and the removal of moss (Qziz) covered stones together with the collection of any other flora and fauna from our country side.

Promising to continue to involve the Scout Association in similar initiatives, Mr. Aquilina, on behalf of "The Gallerija Shopping Complex," presented commemorative plaques together with cash tokens of Lm40, Lm25 and Lm10 to the first three placed contestants. The Qrendi Scout Group was also presented with a memento to mark the group's participation in the competition.

All present were later entertained to light refreshments, courtesy of, "The Gallerija Shopping Complex of Fgura".

3. Lottery in aid of St Venera Group's new HQ

The Group has, on the 21st December, drawn the prizes of a Lottery it has organised in aid of the new HQ. This took place at the offices of the Public Lotto Department and the winners have been all notified of the results. It can be said that this lottery was almost a national event due the participation of a large of number of Scout Groups who helped their brother Scouts in St Venera. This highlights the bond that exists in the Scout Association and the dedication of the Scouts and their Leaders. The Groups were Attard, Hamrun, Rabat, St Aloysius College, St Augustine College, Victoria (Gozo), Mosta, Naxxar, Pembroke, San Anton School, San Gwann, Sliema, St Michael School, Stella Maris College, Birzebbugia, Fgura, Xghajra, Zabbar and Zurrieq. The Group would like to publicly thank them all for their support.

4. Fgura Group's 14th Anniversary

On the 25th November 2001 the Fgura Group celebrated its 14th Anniversary with a Church Parade during which the new Scout Band made its first appearance. The Group led by GSL Mr J Tabone is now 130 strong made a very smart turn out and the Band performed a display in Cottoner Avenue after Holy Mass. Present for this event were the Chief Scout Mr V Cassar, the Chief Commissioner Mr G D'Anastasi, the District Commissioner Mr E Bonnici and members of the Fgura Local Council. Mass was celebrated by Fr J Saliba. Our congratulations go to Mr J Psaila who is instrumental in the setting up of the Fgura Scout Band and to Bandmaster G Gatt for his work. Well done

5. Malta Web Awards

The St Venera Scout Group Website was one of the four finalists in the Youth category of this year's Malta Web Awards. This is the first year that this event has been held and although the Website did not win its category it is a sure sign that our Scout Groups are in the forefront in utilising the latest technology to spread the ideals of the Scout Movement. More Groups are encouraged to build up their own site and join the already numerous websites from local Scout Groups. All Scout Groups who have their own website are to have them registered and linked to the Association website as soon as possible

6. 85th Anniversary of the 1st Birkirkara Scout Group

On the 8th of December, the 1st Birkirkara Scout Group commemorated the 85th Anniversary since its foundation in 1916. On this occasion the Group also celebrated the 46th Anniversary since the setting up of the Group's Scouts Band.

From their Headquarters, the Group marched with the band to Tal-Herba Sanctuary in Birkirkara where Holy Mass for the souls of past members and thanks giving for all these years of service to the community was celebrated by Rev. Canon Charles Gauci, who is also the chaplain of the group.

An investiture ceremony for twenty-seven new members took place during the Holy Mass. Later the Scouts marched around the streets of Birkirkara where the Band played a number of marches for the occasion.

The Group Scout Leader Anthony Vella, this year celebrated the 50th Anniversary as Head of the Group

7. World Aids Campaign 2001

The Naxxar Scout Group and Band together with Xghajra and Qrendi Scout Groups were invited by the Health Promotion Department of the Ministry of Health to join the Girl Guides Association and other youth associations in a solidarity walk to promote a better awareness of HIV / Aids. The walk was held on Friday 30th November 2001 with the motto adopted for this year's campaign being "I Care..... Do You?"

Starting at St Julian's the large youth contingent proceeded through Spinola and Paceville finally ending at the Mother of God Council chapel where the St Monica choir ably interpreted a choral recital.

Following the reading by scouts, of messages sent by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV / AIDS together with an address by the Health Department's Director General, all groups were presented with a commemorative memento marking this occasion.

All present were afterwards invited to a reception held within the parish hall.

Mr. Charles Bajada, the Scout Association's Commissioner for National Events and Mrs. Bajada attended the commemoration

8. Appointments

The Chief Executive has approved the following appointments:-

03/2001	Mark Catania	CSL	Marsa Scout Group
20/2001	David Schembri	GSL	Qrendi Scout Group

9. Warrant

The Chief Scout has been pleased to approve the under mentioned warrant:-

03/2001	Alfred Savona	GSL	Marsa Scout Group
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10. Resignation

Betty Berry CSL Victoria Scout Group.

Just when Betty received her warrant, due to personal reasons she resigned from the Victoria Scout Group. Betty was a much loved Leader and she will be missed by one and all. Betty has accepted to continue as Editor in charge of the newsletter that is published by the Victoria Scout Group and also accepted to remain as an Auxiliary. While thanking Betty for her untiring work and dedication, we wish her all the best in her new role and hope that she will keep in touch.

11. Work at IHQ

Our thanks to the members of the San Gwann Scout Group for helping with a general clean up at Island Headquarters last Saturday, 29th December 2001. In spite of the cold weather prevailing, Leaders, Venture Scouts and Scouts, besides non uniformed members rendered sterling work where it was most needed.

Pruning and a general clean up of accumulated rubbish on the outside was carried out. A much needed wash up of the kitchen, the hall floor and walls and toilets was also undertaken. Others who came to help were Commissioner for Building and Equipment, Mr. Charles Caruana and his wife Doreen, Director Administration Mr. Arthur Azzopardi and his Fiancée, Ms Naomi Mugliette.

It was proposed that a general clean up will start taking place every three months so that the place is kept in an immaculate condition and kept in a state that befits it.

All those wishing to give a helping hand are to contact Mr. Charles Caruana at IHQ.

Well done all.

12. Participation during the Festive Season in Valletta.

Well done all those Group Bands from the various Districts that gave an excellent exhibition and added joy to the existing festive mood in Valletta during the holding of events to celebrate Christmas.

We would like to congratulate also the South District for organising a first ever joint massed bands event in Valletta. Surely this was something that has been tried for the first time and proved to be a great success.

We now look forward to organise something on a similar scale but involving all our bands. Well done also all those Groups who took their members to participate in one way or another.

13. FIRE WOOD

At the moment at IHQ there is a supply of fire wood all those wishing to obtain some are to contact Mr. Charles Caruana at IHQ directly.

14. MANOEL ISLAND CANOE RACE 2002

The Malta Canoe Union would be organising the 13th annual canoe race on the morning of Sunday the 17th of February..

This years plans include in the 3Km distance; open, under 16's, and specifically two new events, the scouts challenge cup, dinghy and rowing races. A new under 12's mini race in full view of the start and finish area, as well as open and sprint classes in the classic 10Km distance. Further details will appear on our web site at www.mcu.org.mt.

The dinghy class started by the AFM last year may be of particular interest to youth groups, scouts, venture scouts, and corporate teams, whom may not have access to canoes. All that is needed is an inflatable dinghy (sans outboard), six paddlers with paddles and buoyancy aids.

It is planned that all participants will be receiving a commemorative medal this year and it is important to register early to book this.

Importantly at this present time we are negotiating a change of venue to the FERRIES, SLIEMA to encourage a wider audience and exposure, but this is still to be confirmed with the local council.

All those interested are to contact:

James Craig Wightman
 Malta Canoe Union
 The Old Marsamxett Valletta Regatta Boathouse
 Marsamxett Landing Place, Marsamxett Harbour
 Malta
 Official return address: 41 Victory Alley, Birkirkara, BKR13 Malta
 mobile number 79537183

15. INTERNATIONAL

All those groups who intend to travel abroad or are going to host some foreign group are to contact the international section at IHQ. Also those who are planning an exchange programme with a group in a European country would like to get help with funding, there exist a programme by the EU which helps both hosting groups and scouts going abroad. Those who are interested are to contact me directly as soon as possible. The deadline for applications for next summer is 1st February 2002.

16. ROVERWAY 2003

Roverway 2003 will be the first edition of roverway and will take place in Portugal, in August 2003. The participants will be asked to do some preparatory work and contacts before the event.

24000 Rovers, and Venture Scouts aged between 16 and 22 will be taking part, Participants will be organized (previously) in 300 teams of 8 members each (from the same country).

Teams will then be organized in 50 groups called communities composed of 6 teams from six different nationalities, one of which the hosting team will be Portuguese.

Communities will be gathered in 10 villages of 240 participants each.

International staff will be constituted by young adults, preferably from 23 to 35 years of age, in a total

of 300 members.

All those wishing to have more information are to contact the international commissioner at IHQ or on fazzopardi@hotmail.com or visit the website www.roverway2003.org

17. INTERCULTURAL AWARENESS SEMINAR

Participants profile:

Active young leaders interested in the international dimension of Guiding and scouting.
Able to communicate well in English or French
Aged between 18 and 30

Venue:

The seminar will take place in the European youth centre in Budapest, Hungary.

Dates:

The seminar will be held from the 10th to the 17th march 2002.

Participation Fee and Travel:

The seminar is funded fully by the council of Europe Youth and Sport directorate. However participants must attend the majority of the seminar in order to qualify for reimbursement of travel expenses.

The fee for the seminar is 43 Euro. The fee will be deducted from the reimbursement of travel costs. The travel costs will be reimbursed according to the rules of the council of Europe.

Participants are asked to arrange their journey in the most economical manner possible. Irrespective of the means of transport used, participants will be reimbursed on the basis of the shortest and least expensive routes between their place of residence and the centre.

Return tickets must be purchased before the start of the journey.

Deadline:

Applications are to reach the international section by Thursday 24 January 2002.

18. WHERE TO STAY IN EUROPE

The booklets **Where to stay in Europe** and the **European Scout voluntary programme** have been received at IHQ. All groups who wish to obtain their copy are to contact the administration section at IHQ. There is only one copy for each group.