

# The Scout Association of Malta

## IHQ BULLETIN



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS NEWS FEATURES STORIES

### 1908 - 2008 - 100 years of Scouting in Malta

01

### POINTS TO REMEMBER

#### THE ACTIVITIES OF SCOUTING

By the term "Scouting" is meant the work and attributes of back-woodsmen, explorers, hunters, seamen, airmen, pioneers and frontiersmen.

In giving the elements of these to boys we supply a system of games and practices which meets their desires and instincts, -and is at the same time educative.

From the boys' point of view Scouting puts them into fraternity-gangs which is their natural Organisation, whether for games, mischief, or loafing; it gives them a smart dress and equipment; it appeals to their imagination and romance; and it engages them in an active, open-air life.

From the parents' point of view it gives physical health and development; it teaches energy, resourcefulness, and handicrafts; it puts into the lad discipline, pluck, chivalry, and patriotism; in a word, it develops "character," which is more essential than anything else to a lad for making his way in life.



The Scout training attracts boys of all classes, high and low, rich and poor, and even catches the physically defective, deaf mutes, and blind. It inspires the desire to learn. The principle on which Scouting works is that the boy's ideas are studied, and he is encouraged to educate himself instead of being instructed.

*Scouting is a jolly game in the out of doors, where boy-men and boys can go adventuring together as older and younger brothers, picking up health and happiness, handicraft and helpfulness*

It gives a good start in technical training through badges for proficiency in various kinds of hobbies and handicrafts, in addition to the actual Scouts' Badges of First and Second

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Class, testifying to their capabilities in swimming, pioneering, cooking, woodsmanship, and other points of manliness and handiness. The object of offering so many as we do at an elementary standard is to draw out the boys of every type to try their hand at various kinds of work, and the watchful

Scoutmaster can very quickly recognise the particular bent of each boy and encourage it accordingly. And that is the best road towards expanding his individual character and starting a boy on a successful career.

**02**

**FROM THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER**

Mr. Godwin D'Anastasi

**APPOINTMENTS**

The Chief Commissioner has approved the following appointments

**With effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008**

045/2008	Patricia Marsh	Auxiliary	IHQ
046/2008	Charles Grech	Auxiliary [Chaplain]	Cospicua
047/2008	Horace Bonavia	AVSL	Mosta

**With effect from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2008.**

048/2008	Emanuel Grech	ASL	Msida
049/2008	Anthony Debono	AVSL	Sliema

**CANCELLATION AND WITHDRAWAL OF APPOINTMENTS.**

The following Appointments have been withdrawn and cancelled.

**With effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008**

003/2004	Horace Bonavia	Acting Leader	Mosta
016/2007	Patricia Marsh	Support Leader	St. Michael Sch
065/2007	Keith Wright	Support Leader	B'Kara

**With effect from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2008**

009/2005	Glorianne Briffa	Acting Leader	San Anton Sch.
017/2007	Emanuel Grech	Support Leader	Msida
055/2007	Anthony Debono	Support Leader	Sliema

**SCOUTER EMERITUS**

The Chief Commissioner has approved the following Scouter Emeritus appointment with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2008.

Joseph Dalli	Ex member	B'Bugia
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**CHIEF COMMISSIONER PERSONAL AWARD**

The following member was presented with the Chief Commissioner Personal Award in appreciation of dedicated service to the Association.

Joseph Dalli

Ex member

B'Bugia

### **ERRATA CORRIGE**

Ian Micallef, 027/2007 listed under *Cancellation and Withdrawal of Appointments* should read Ian Fenech .

While apologizing we regret any inconvenience.

### **NEW DESIGNED MEDALS TO REPLACE OLD.**

To mark the occasion of its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its Founding, The Scout Association of Malta has embarked on replacing some of its medals bearing the Arrowhead with the local Maltese logo. The last few remaining Medal of Merit will be issued at the next Founders Day in 2009. The Bar to the Medal of Merit and The Medal for Meritorious Conduct will also feature the new style.



The only remaining awards pertaining to the British Scout Association that will still be in use are The Silver Acorn and The Bar to the Silver Acorn. The Gallantry Awards, namely



The Silver Cross and The Gilt Cross will also be retained. The Thanks Badge has also been changed to give it the Maltese identity. The Maltese Logo will replace the Arrowhead in the middle and the wording *With Thanks* will now be replaced with the word *Grazzi*. These will still be issued in the Gents and Ladies versions.

At the moment the whole award system is being updated with the introduction of a new service emblem and also the introduction of another Commendation Award.



Another medal that was intended for the Lay members in the past will now be directed to our uniformed section.



The illustrations above left show the old medals namely, The Medal of Merit, The Medal for Meritorious Conduct and The Bar to the Medal of Merit of The Scout Association that our own Association has been using since their introduction, while the illustration on the right shows the newly designed medals featuring the Maltese logo. The other two illustrations show the old type Ladies Thanks Badge used while on the right we have the newly introduced Grazzi Badge.

## **NEW STAFF AT IHQ**

Following a call to all scouters that are needed to help in the Finance and Administration sections, IHQ received three applications in all in answer to the call. It is with great pleasure that we welcome with us Ms. Patricia Marsh, formerly of St. Michael School Scout Group, and Mr. Robert Gonzi, Group Scout Leader of the Fgura Scout Group.

Thanks to these two scouters we now look forward to further improve our services in these two important areas. We would also like to thank the third applicant, Ms. Alexia Vassallo, who although was not taken on a full time basis, will however be engaged from time to time to help out as and when required.

## **CHIEF COMMISSIONER ON RADJU BAMBINA.**

On Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> June, the Chief Commissioner, Mr. Godwin D'Anastas was invited to attend a program aired by Radju Bambina. The program *Ghal harsien tal familja taghkom*, by Fr. Michael Borg had amongst its topics various scouting or scout related aspects that occurred in Gozo since scouting was introduced in 1916. Mr. D'Anastasi spoke mainly on the life of the Movement's Founder, Lord Baden Powell and also what the Scout Association teaches its members. Other participants were Mr. Lorrie Saliba, GSL Victoria Scout Group who spoke at length about Scouting in general on the island of Gozo. Mr. Vincent Vella, GSL of the reactivated Xaghra Scout Group spoke about his role and scouting life in the Association, while Mr. Carmel Attard who is assisting Mr. Vella highlighted the past history of the Xaghra Scout Group.

Fr. Jesmond Gauci who left no stone unturned to ensure that The Xaghra Scout Group reopened its doors ended by thanking everyone for their help and contribution in reactivating the Group for the benefit of all the children of Xaghra. The whole program took two hours and will be aired at a later date on two separate occasions.

## **...AND ON RTK**

On Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> August, the Chief Commissioner was also invited to attend another recording, this time at the RTK Studios in Blata I Bajda. The program *Gherf Imlissen* by Ms. Cynthia Zerafa discussed scouting issues such as the Birth of the Movement, its Principles, the Promise and Laws, Activities carried out, Special Activities in conjunction with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary held Locally and Internationally, and finally the Association's future prospects. This program will be aired on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 15:20.

## **FR. ANTON BRIFFA, O.F.M. Cap. REAPPOINTED SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR.**

We are happy to announce that H.G. Mons. Pawl Cremona, O.P., Archbishop of Malta, has reappointed our Commissioner for Spiritual Dimensions Fr. Anton Briffa, O.F.M. Cap., as Spiritual Director to the Association for another period of three years with effect from the 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2008.

While we congratulate Fr. Anton on his reappointment, we promise him all our help and prayers.

**03**

## **SCOUT ASSOCIATION OF MALTA FEATURES IN THE GREEK SCOUT ASSOCIATION'S "PROSKOPIKOS KOSMOS" OR "SCOUT WORLD".**

By Mr. Vassilis Birtsas - Assistant International Commissioner - Scouts of Greece

The Scout of Greece has the pleasure to forward the 9th issue (June-July 08), electronic newsletter of International Department "Proskopikos kosmos" or "Scout World".

One understands that it's "all Greek", but if one notices carefully, one can find a special part on the 100 years of Scouting in Malta, especially at the under mentioned pages:-

Page 3, column 3, second half (The Annual Scout and Guide parade, stamps, etc)

Page 6, second half (History of Maltese Scouting, Motto, Promise, photos, flag)

Page 7, Maltese recipe

"In every issue the Scouts of Greece dedicate some pages to a Scout Association, and in this issue it was the Scout Association of Malta's turn".

"Once again, we congratulate you all on your scouting centenary".

The full text of the electronic newsletter of the International Department "Proskopikos kosmos" or "Scout World", can be accessed by logging on to the "Scoutkeeper" website at <http://www.scoutkeeper.net/>, courtesy of its webmaster, Dr. Kevin Camilleri

**To the Scout Association of Greece, and in particular, to Assistant International Commissioner, Mr. Vassillis Birtsa, go the Scout Association of Malta's most sincere gratitude.**

**04**

#### **ACTIVITY IN GOZO**

ASL Kristina Abela St. Michael School Scout Group

The end of a whole week of exams was celebrated in scouting style by the St. Michael School Scout Troop who spent two days in Gozo, doing several activities which made their stay a truly memorable one.



The scouts crossed over to Gozo and proceeded to their temporary campsite L/O Kercem. In the afternoon an interesting and mind boggling treasure hunt was organised for the Troop at the Cittadella. Later on in the day, they met up with other Scouts from the Xaghra Scout Group led by Fr. Jesmond Gauci for a refreshing swim at Ix-Xwejni Bay. As it grew dark each patrol lit its BBQ's and cooked its dinner on the beach.

The highlight of the night was a night game called 'light house' on the nearby hills where the scouts tried out their climbing and hiding skills. This proved to be a very

enjoyable game for both Groups. The evening ended with some campfire songs and showers to wash off all the mud as the Scouts seemed to have brought back the whole beach to camp.

The next day was started off with physical exercises and breakfast. The Scouts then took off on a hike in the vicinity, visiting 'L'Ghadira ta Sarrafflu'. They also enjoyed the scenic views of Dwejra, Fungus Rock and the inland sea. They later unwillingly made their way back to Malta exhausted.



All in all, although being a warm weekend, all

participants seemed to have enjoyed these two days and it was decided that these activities will be held more frequently. The Troop was led by Scout Leader Charles Grixti assisted by Assistant Scout Leaders Tina Abela and Jeanelle Bugeja.

05

LETTER RECEIVED FROM MS. MIRIAM WILLIAMS, DAUGHTER OF FORMER STA. LUCIA SCOUT GROUP G.S.L. MR. JOE. M. GALEA

The attached letter thanking everyone who attended the funeral service of our departed friend and fellow scouter, G.S.L. Mr. Joseph M. Galea was received from one of his daughters, Ms. Miriam Williams.

You are kindly asked to remember our dear friend Joseph in your prayers so that the Creator will grant him eternal rest for all that he did for the young of Santa Lucia.

Sweethaven 88  
Triq il-Kahwiela  
Santa Lucia  
SLC1831  
MALTA GC

05 July 2008

Mr Godwin D'Anastasi  
Chief Commissioner  
Scouts IHQ  
Congreve Memorial Hall  
Floriana

Dear Mr D'Anastasi

In the name of my mother Vivienne, sister Marilyn, brother Antray and the rest of the family, I would like to thank you and all the other Commissioners and members of the Scout Movement, who participated in my father's funeral on the 14 June.

Scouting was a big part of my father's life. He was always a very active man and gave his all to whatever he was involved in. He had previously been a referee, involved in Civil Defence, and a member of the Territorial Army (KOMR). He had also always supported my sister and my Guiding activities. When the KOMR had disbanded he was at a bit of a loose end, but not for long! In 1972 we started the Scouts and Guides in Santa Lucia, and from that moment he gave his all to Scouting. Even after he was no longer actively involved at Group level, he kept track of what was happening in the Scout Movement and was never happier than when he was attending Scouting activities, the last time being this year's Annual Parade.

Being separated from those we love is never easy, but even in the midst of our sorrow, we felt a certain pride and consolation in seeing so many people who came to pay their last respects to my father. My father had expressed a wish that the Scouts were to be told when he passed away, so, as a family, we were pleased that his Scouting friends and comrades, including so many of his 'own' Scouts and Guides were there to accompany him on his last journey. We know it was what he would have wanted.

Thank you again, therefore, for being there, and we would be grateful if you would also pass on our thanks to all the other members of the Scout Movement who attended. Our funeral Director, Mr Karmena Mangion, who was also my father's personal friend, has given me some of the names of those who were there, but I felt it better to write to you as the representative of all of them, as I would not like to inadvertently leave out anyone who attended and whose name I did not have. We appreciate the respect you all showed my father, both during his lifetime, and also at his last send-off.

Yours sincerely



Miriam Williams

06

## **38th WORLD SCOUT CONFERENCE – JEJU ISLAND, KOREA**



The 38th World Scout Conference was held 14-18 July 2008 on Jeju Island, Korea. It was

attended by 1189 participants from 150 countries. Hosted by the Korea Scout Association, The Conference was officially opened by Dr. Han Seung-soo, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea.

Aside from the official sessions and workshops, participants had the opportunity to take part in a varied evening programme and an educational tour of Jeju Island on the Wednesday afternoon.

The World Scout Conference is the governing body, the "general assembly" of World Scouting, and is composed of all the members of the Organisation: the National Scout Organizations.

Its function is to consider the policy and standards of the Scout Movement throughout the world, formulate the general policy of the World Organization, and take the action required to further the purpose of the Movement.

### **NEW MEMBERS**

The Conference welcomed five new members to their first Conference: National Association of Cambodian Scouts (NACS) the Organization of the Scout Movement of Kazakhstan (OSMK), Association of Scouts of Montenegro; Scouts of Syria; National Organization of Scouts of Ukraine (NOSU).

The admission of Montenegro as a Member Organization has changed the status of the National Scout Organization of Serbia, which retains membership in WOSM.

All were presented with a certificate of membership on the opening day of the Conference.

### **FUTURE EVENTS**

Progress reports were made about the following future events:

13th World Scout Moot, Kenya 2010

39th World Scout Conference, Brazil 2011

22nd World Scout Jamboree, Sweden 2011

Japan was chosen by the Conference to host the 23rd World Scout Jamboree in 2015. Singapore also made an invitation to host the event.

### **ELECTIONS**

Six people were elected to a six-year term and one to a three-year term on the World Scout Committee, from a field of twelve candidates:

Mr. Eric Khoo Heng-Pheng, Malaysia  
Mr. Wahid Labidi, Tunisia  
Mr. John May, United Kingdom  
Mr. John Neysmith, Canada  
Mr. Oscar Palmquist, Brazil  
Mr. Simon Rhee, Korea  
For a 3 year term:  
Mr. William F. "Rick" Cronk, USA

The World Scout Committee elected the following officers:

Chairman: Mr. William F. "Rick" Cronk, USA  
Vice-Chairman: Mr. Mario Diaz Martinez, Spain  
Vice-Chairman: Mr. Simon Rhee, Korea

Continuing their mandates on the World Scout Committee are Mrs. Thérèse Bermingham (Ireland), Mr. Mario Diaz Martinez (Spain), Mr. Georges El Ghorayeb (Lebanon), Mr. Nkwenkwe Nkomo (South Africa), Mr. Gualtiero Zanolini (Italy).

Retiring World Scout Committee members are: Mr. Philippe Da Costa (France), Mr. John A. Gemmill (Canada), Mr. Habibul Alam (Bangladesh), Mr. Wayne Perry (USA), Mrs. Ana E. Piubello (Argentina), Mr. Mohamed Triki (Tunisia).

## **BRONZE WOLF**

The Bronze Wolf, the only award of the World Scout Committee, was presented to Mr. William "Bill" Cockcroft (United Kingdom), Mr. William F. "Rick" Cronk (USA), Lalit Mohan Jain (India), Sir Garth Morrison (United Kingdom), Yongyudh Vajiradhul (Thailand), Neil Westaway (Australia). The following were presented at another time following the previous World Scout Conference: His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, Klaus J. Jacobs (Switzerland), David Bull (United Kingdom), Toby Takemichi Suzuki (Japan), Henry R. "Bill" Hall (United Kingdom), Kirsty M. Brown (Australia).

## **KEY AGENDA ITEMS**

Key-note reports were made by Philippe Da Costa, Chairman of the World Scout Committee; Luc Panissod, Acting Secretary General of the World Organization of the Scout Movement; and Maurice Machenbaum, Treasurer.

Governance was a key focus throughout the Conference. Some of the issues identified were:

- The need for continued debate and analysis in the next triennium;
- Policy and strategy for World Scouting needs to be developed at world level but delivery should be local;
- A deeper debate on membership criteria;
- The financial implications of good governance must be addressed;

- The need for improvement in the Organization's communications, having regard to differing situations around the world;
- The need to develop more partnerships and to find ways of making sustainable developments in our governance.

On the Strategy for Scouting, progress on each of the seven priorities was reported with many countries presenting examples of success and best practices. NSOs had the opportunity to participate in a choice of over 30 workshops on topics such as membership growth, youth programme, support to volunteers and developing volunteering in Scouting, and Scouting's profile. Some of the main issues identified to work towards in the coming triennium are: involving young people, supporting adults, better communications and improving the image of Scouting.

Issues relating to membership growth were addressed such as the need to offer better Scouting to more young people. A new [membership development toolkit](#) was presented to the Conference in order to encourage NSOs to think about the topic and learn how they can get new members and retain existing ones through the example of NSO best practices. A dynamic workshop allowed NSOs to interactively explore the toolkit and take a copy was provided to each NSO to home with them.

The new corporate identity of the World Scout Shop has been launched during the Conference, following the decision of the Board of Scout Resources International (SCORE) to start a plan of development for 2008-2011. Scout Store, as it is now known, will provide new services to the NSOs and all Scout event organisers.

Many of WOSM's partners were participating in the Conference. These Included Vice Chairman Linden Egdell and Chief Executive Mary McPhail from World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, Dong Eung-Park from Korean Committee for UNICEF, Hon. Abdourahmane Sow from World Scout Parliamentary Union, President of CONGO (Conference of NGOs) and distinguished representatives from SCORE, Kandersteg, DESMOS, International Catholic Conference of Scouting, International Scout and Guide Fellowship, International Union of Muslim Scouts and YWCA.

The new [World Scout Environment Programme](#) (WSEP) was launched at the Conference- this includes the World Scout Environment Badge, activity resources, and a framework for environment education. The WSEP strengthens the commitment of World Scouting to the environment. The Web of Hope, a partner organisation of WOSM, were present at the Conference, collecting data in order to carbon footprint the event.

**07**

#### **ST. JULIAN'S CAMP-AFLOAT**

Ms. Carmen Muscat – CSL St. Julian's

St. Julian's Scouts Camp-Afloat was held for the 8<sup>th</sup> time in succession, at St. Julian's Bay from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> July. This has become an annual activity involving the Troop and Unit section. (11-18 year olds). It all started seven years ago as a big event to mark the new Millennium. As we all know, open spaces for camping are becoming restricted as time goes by due to the construction industry,

so, our Group came up with the bright idea of pitching a tent on a constructed large raft to enable members to camp for a week in the St. Julian's bay in a rather unusual way. During the event eleven Group members from the Troop and Unit sections together with Leaders lived afloat.



A jam packed program was prepared including canoeing, cleaning up the bay from floating bottles and other garbage, swimming tests, seaside skills, life skills instructions, and the sensation of sleeping on board.

On Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>, all those involved loaded the equipment on the truck and headed off to the quayside at the bay where the base structure was assembled out of pipes and wood while making use of a number of knots to secure a large number of drums to the frame. Round 3.00 in the morning the raft was completed but due to rough seas and a threat by jellyfish it was decided that

for safety precautions, the raft remain sheltered in shallow water till Thursday when the conditions would perhaps improve.

The Troop were grouped in three's to do their duties, with each group being involved in Shopping, cooking and cleaning duties. On Friday the raft was checked again and set out to sea as the rough sea had by now settled and cleared from jellyfish. The tent was then pitched again and the routine for shopping had to change, as now shopping, had to be done with canoes. Cooking was however done aboard the raft itself.

On Saturday morning there was a change of shift and the Venture Unit boarded the raft till late Sunday. The same routine was adopted by this section.

Although weather elements were not favourable this year, all members had fun and enjoyed the scouting activities that were laid on. Our young members really look forward to it as the whole event enables them to pass a week full of adventures, besides learning how to survive without the modern commodities of home. It further enable them to socialize and enjoy a lot of spare time without the panic and hazardous lifestyle that they live during the year. This is a way of life mostly wished for by everybody with the possibility of being away from trouble.



Young people can easily see the fun they can manage to have from such an activity, besides showing adults that our young generation can have fun in a clean and healthy environment while most important promoting that scouting is fun and adventure and not just parading in uniform, as many wrongly think.

**08**

**Policy Decision 001/008**

Ms. Avril Frendo – Chairperson Policy Committee

Following a request from Mr. Adrian Farrugia of Birzebbugia Scout Group, the Policy Committee discussed Rule 31 relating to Scouters' Meetings, particularly in regard to section (ii). The Policy

Committeem, Executive Committee and the National Council have agreed the following wording.

### **Rule 31 – The Group Scouters' Meeting**

- (i) The Group Scouters' Meeting is held as frequently as necessary and is led by the Group Scout Leader. Its purpose is to:
  - concern itself with the well-being and development of each member of the Group;
  - ensure the progress and continuity of all training in the Group;
  - plan and coordinate all the Group's activities;
  - keep the Group Council advised of the financial requirements of the training programme and activities.
- (ii) Membership of the Group Scouters' Meeting – The Group Scout Leader as Chairman, the Assistant Group Scout Leader and all IHQ-appointed Section Leaders. Any other holders of Appointments and Warrants within any Section of the Group, Group Chaplains and other holders of Appointments who carry the status of Scouters may attend such meetings if requested by the Group Scout Leader.

**09**

#### **GONE HOME. MR. SHANTILALL DHANJEE, O.B.E.**

Mr. Didier Camalboudou - International Comm. – The Mauritius Scout Association

Scouting in Mauritius is deeply bereaved by the going home of Mr Shantilall DHANJEE, previous Chief Scout of the Mauritius Scout Association today 2 August 2008.

Mr Dhanjee, aged 93, was the founder of the first local Hindu Scout Troop in 1946. He was the first Mauritian to be appointed as Chief Scout of the Association in 1978 and remained in office for 20 years. Shantillall Dhanjee led a very active life in Mauritian society by being a high caliber educationalist, owner and director of the Dhanjee College. He was also for many years the chairman of the local "Alliance Française" and has also been a national inescapable figure in the local world of sports during the 1970s.

Mr Dhanjee was also the first Mauritian Scout to receive the "Order of the British Empire" (O.B.E.) in the late 1990s for his life contribution in social work and awarded by the President of the Republic of Mauritius on recommendation by the Prime Minister. In 1998 he was also the first Mauritian to be awarded the "Africa Elephant" the highest Scouter recognition award for Scouting in Africa awarded by the Africa Scout Committee.

The funeral took place this Sunday 3rd August at 09h30 at Quatre Bornes. Incineration at Phoenix.

The Chief Scout, Mike Jangeerkhan, Chief Commissioner ,Jos Nanette and Aimé Nanette (ex-Chief Commissioner) represented the M.S.A. and World Scouting.

May his soul rest in peace.

**10**

#### **SLIEMA VENTURE SCOUTS DONATE BLOOD**

Anthony Debono - AVSL Sliema Scout group

On 6th August members of the Sliema Venture Unit headed to the National Blood Bank in St Luke's Square to donate blood. This was their first time giving blood but the staff at the clinic were very helpful. First they went through a series of physical tests with the doctor to make sure that they were

fit enough to donate blood. An interview followed during which the donors were quizzed on various aspects of their personal life to make sure that there is no risk of contagious diseases being passed on from the donor to recipients of the blood.

Before giving blood the Ventures were left in a nice cool canteen and given water to drink along with free snacks. The actual process of giving blood takes about six or seven minutes and around a pint of blood is normally taken. This can leave one feeling a bit faint or light headed so it was suggested that the donors sit in the cool air-conditioned canteen for ten minutes before going out.

Giving blood is an easy way to *help other people!* Everyday there are people in Mater Dei who need a blood transfusion in order to survive and due to the heavy demand, the blood bank is often low in stock. They depend on voluntary donors to give blood. The Sliema Ventures have decided to put a Blood Drive activity in their program every three months (since that is the minimum time gap between two donations for males) and hope to rope in more and more donors including other leaders from the Sliema Group.

Donors must be over 17 years of age. It is recommended that one phones the National Blood Bank for more information prior to going over. It doesn't take very long and can make all the difference to someone in a hospital bed!!"



**Photo Caption: "AVSL Anthony Debono and VS Matteo Rubei outside the National Blood Bank before giving blood"**

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## **QRENDI SCOUTS PARTICIPATE AT A POLISH INTERNATIONAL "YOUTH IN ACTION" GATHERING**

Pamela Schembri - CSL Qrendi Scout Group



The Qrendi Scout Group have just returned from a scout youth exchange programme entitled "Never Ending Story", in Poland, as part of the EU "Youth in Action" Programme.

Ten Scouts, aged between thirteen and eighteen, led by leaders Pamela Schembri and Warren Muscat, joined 11 other Polish scouts from the Zzczecin city Scout group members of the Związek Harcerstwa Polskiego (the Polish Scout and Guide Association), led and coordinated by Alicia and Michael Wafka Lawniczak, at this programme

This international gathering was held between the 21<sup>st</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2008, at the Berdo Scout Campsite, located near Myczkowce a small village, situated in the San River valley in the very heart of the Bieszczady Mountains. The

campsite, located on a largest artificial body of water in Poland, also known as the Solina Reservoir having an area of 22km<sup>2</sup>, requires a ten minute boat ride from the mainland.

The Bieszczady mountain region forms part of the UNESCO's list of the World's Biosphere Reserves, where the Qrendi and Zzczecin scout groups participated in a 2-day expedition deep into the Bieszczadzki National Park.

The Youth Action Activities throughout the programme included the gathering and presentations of information on the Heritage, cultural diversity, and general information of each of the EU member states. Mud and water games, fresh water fishing, Scouting woodcraft, trekking and camouflage activities, brainstorming sessions, environmental and racism discussions, and teamwork games, also formed part of the programme's itinerary. Polish and Maltese song and dance were preformed by the participants during the daily scouting campfires.

The Polish exchanged ended with a two day tour of the City of Krakow, and included visits to the Wawel Castle, the Kazimierz district and the Aushwitz-Birkenau concentration camps.

The Qrendi, Mqabba and Safi local council, together with Messer Godwin Micallef, Aguis Stone, Works, Express Aluminium and HSBC, co financed the Maltese Scout Group's visit to Poland, whilst the Zzczecin Tourist Board (Stse'tsin 2050 floating garden project), together with the Polish Youth National Agency, further sponsored all travel costs throughout the programme's activities

Promotional Material on the rich culture and history of Maltese Islands was also made available by the Malta Tourism Authority.



"Special Thanks" go to Malta's National Youth Agency and its entire staff, for all their assistance and support, before and throughout the Youth in Action programme's visit to Poland by the Qrendi Scout Group..

**12**

### **MAGERIT 2008 – YOUTH IN ACTION 1.**

Frank Muscat – Acting Leader Victoria Scout Group

Victoria Scout Group has participated in a multinational youth exchange programme named *Magerit 2008* financed by the E.U. Youth in Action Programme. Ten Gozitan Scouts aged 13 to 15, led by Acting Leader Frank Muscat and Cub Scout Leader Anita Muscat, joined 26 other scouts from three other Scout Groups – Grupo 159 – Escoteiros do Monte from the island of Madeira in Portugal, Assoraiders de Sora from Villavallelunga, Italy and Grupo Scout 217 Matterhorn from Madrid, Spain, who were the organisers of this youth exchange.

This international meeting between Scouts was held between 29<sup>th</sup> June and 12<sup>th</sup> of July in San Lorenzo de el Escorial, a small, quiet, leafy town about 50 kms away from Madrid, famous for the Royal monastery of El Escorial, a World Heritage Site that houses the crypt of the Spanish monarchs.



The aim of such Youth Exchanges that fall under Youth in Action 1 is to get groups of young people from different countries together so that they can meet and take part in a programme of activities aimed at exploring their social and cultural differences and similarities. Youth Exchanges are targeted at young people between the age of 13 and 25. In Magerit 2008 the young people had to be between 13 and 15 years of age. They receive the unique opportunity to experience significant mutual learning situations in a non-formal setting and to strengthen their feeling of being Europeans.

The two themes around which this youth exchange revolved were those of Cultural Diversity and Water Conservation, that are particularly relevant to the daily experiences of the young people involved. All the participants come from Mediterranean countries where the water situation is becoming increasingly critical and all of them live in increasingly multi-ethnic, multicultural communities.

The programme of activities that sought to raise awareness of these two themes took the form of hands-on fun-packed activities such as producing creative posters based on the themes of water conservation and cultural diversity, PowerPoint presentations prepared by the participating Scouts and workshop sessions in which small groups made up of scouts from the four participant countries helped the participants brainstorm the topics and explore the issues raised by these two important themes. Video forums based on the films *Babel* and *The Day after Tomorrow* also helped the participating scouts to focus on aspects related to the two themes. A giant

Cultural diversity was also promoted by cookery workshops during which each participant country prepared some typical national dishes that were tasted and greatly appreciated by all the participants. Language workshops also helped the participating scouts become aware of the richness of diversity but also recognise the common features that make us all European.

The participating were also given the opportunity to go on two cultural visits to Madrid and to Segovia, another World Heritage Site because of the famous Roman Aqueduct and its medieval architecture. The sight seeing tours proved to be a culturally enriching experience. During the visits top these Spanish towns, a giant posture featuring the water conservation theme that had been prepared during the workshop was unveiled and all the participating scouts went round collecting signatures in favour of the water conservation initiative. In all 500 signatures were collected.

This youth exchange is expected to run for the next three years as each Scout group will be called upon to organise a fourteen-day exchange in its own country. Next year's youth exchange involving the four scout groups will be held in the exotic island of Madeira, Portugal. In all, although initially communication problems generated misunderstandings, *Magerit 08* was a celebration of Scouting, the values Scouting represents – solidarity, friendship, respect for diversity, and the joy of being young.

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**FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF TRAINING & PROGRAMME**  
**Leslie Bonnici – Commissioner for Training & Programme**

### **Training**

The end of summer is finally round the corner - it has been a very long, very hot summer. Well done to all of you who organised and survived summer camp! Due to the various commitments that summer brings with it whether of a Group or a personal nature, not much *appears* to happen within the Department of Training & Programme.

But this is not quite correct.....

During the months of June and into the hot sultry month of July, forty participants attended and completed the Advanced Adult Leadership Course. Despite the heat (and the bus strike) work carried on regardless and the 21<sup>st</sup> July was the final evening of the course much to the relief of the participants. The course was very well received and apart from the discomfort caused by the heat (beyond our control), comments were very favourable.

With the actual course over, all that remains is for the participants to organise their project and have it assessed by the Department of Training & Programme. Participants will then be the proud recipients of the Woodbadge Beads and Certificate as well as the Gilwell Scarf.

*Just a small reminder to all participants:*

Please remember that sufficient notice must be given to the Training Department of when you intend to carry out your project. All details, especially the programme, must be forwarded in advance. I will personally be visiting you to assess your project and without this information it will be impossible for me to attend and carry out an assessment.



**Back Row:** Sylvio Galea, Maria Bonello, Caroline Portelli, Jacqueline Tanti Zahra, Glen Farrugia, Antonella Sant, Glorianne Briffa, Josefa Sant, Naomi Attard, Emanuel Grech, Mark Borg, Edward Sciberras, Joanne Pisani, Henriette Soler

**Standing Middle Row:** David Grech, Angela Borg Barthet, Jeremy Borg Grech, Franco Bugeja, Joseph Zahra, George Mangion, Anthony Debono, Antoine Azzopardi, Ian Fenech, Andre Brincat, Maryrose Bugeja, Erika Micallef, Antoinette Pace, Loredana Ida Desira, Edith Camilleri

**Front Row:** Bertha Patiniott, Horace Bonavia, Karl Psaila Custo, Patricia Marsh, Pierre Mangion, Leslie Bonnici (Commissioner Training & Programme) Bernard Schranz, Matthew Sammut, Joseph Farrugia, Paul Grixti, Carmen D. Borg

## **Reminder of Forthcoming Courses/Events:**

### ***Pathfinder Course***

Registration for the Pathfinder Course will take place on the 6th October and the Pathfinder Course will be held on Saturday 11th October 2008 starting at 09:00. The course will be held at IHQ in Floriana.

For any leaders wishing to attend, please ensure that you are already registered with the Department of Training & Programme prior to applying for the Pathfinder Course i.e.

- you have already sent in your application to be a registered leader with the Association
- you have already completed and sent in your Workbook
- you have already completed the Getting Started stage of Adult Leadership Training.

All forms mentioned above, as well as the Workbook may be downloaded from [www.Scoutkeeper.net](http://www.Scoutkeeper.net). Alternatively should you require any clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact me on [lesliebonnici@onvol.net](mailto:lesliebonnici@onvol.net).

If the required number of participants is not reached, i.e. fifteen, the course will be postponed to a later date.

### ***Advanced Adult Leadership Course***

The second Advanced Adult Leadership Course will be held as already advertised and will start on the 20th October 2008. Any leader eligible to apply for this course is urged to send in

their application form from now and not wait for Registration Day (13th October) in order to avoid disappointment (all leaders who have already applied need not reapply).

Only forty applicants will be accepted for this course.

### **Skills Camp**

As already advertised, a weekend residential course in the form of a camp is to be organised from **Friday 21st** and **Sunday 23rd November 2008**. This course will serve to provide a revision of basic scouting skills and all leaders (especially the new comers) within the Movement are invited to attend this course.

The Application Form for this camp will be issued within the coming days and details of the venue and the exact programme will be issued shortly afterwards.

### **Review of the Cub Programme**

It has been five years since the launching of the Cub Programme, enough time to take stock of whether the programme is achieving all that was expected of it.

Following a call for volunteers to come forward and help out, a group of ten people, headed by Adrian Farrugia have been getting together practically every Thursday evening since the end of June to go through the Cub Book with a fine tooth comb. It is hoped that by the end of the year enough progress would have been achieved to enable the new version of the cub book to go to print.

At present a questionnaire has been circulated to all the GSLs, Cub Scout Leaders as well as Leaders within the Cub Section. It is hoped that feedback will be ample as it is only in this way that your opinions can be taken into consideration. Therefore, please take the time to complete the questionnaire and return it as soon as possible.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you in advance for your time and assistance.

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