

BB Scotland

Newsletter March 2017



Another busy month, starting off with an excellent trip to deliver training in Orkney Battalion. I am always encouraged, that even when there are small numbers completing YLT training, the other officers from the Battalion come along and support the new recruits, topping up their training experience at the same time. The warmth of the welcome was its usual high standard too!

This seems to be conference season, and it has been good to share with colleagues from across the third sector at the Cashback Day and the Children, Young People and Families Early Intervention Fund (CYPFEIF), who provide our core grant, which focussed on ensuring that our organisations are sustainable for the future. Also, last Saturday it was great to be part of the *Advance for the Future* event in Edinburgh, and to share with Battalion colleagues from across Scotland.

Alan Hunter

Acting Director for Scotland
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National Competitions

Congratulations to all the teams from Scotland who have won through to the UK finals in this year's Masterteam, Chess, Table Tennis, Badminton and 5-a-side football. Good luck as you represent Scotland, competing against the other regions. Thank you to Airdrie, Coatbridge & District who are hosting the national Chess final and Glasgow who are hosting the Senior 5-a-side final. Here's to a great day, with close fought competitions and warm BB fellowship.

Seniors' Sevens

Annual football tournament for seniors (representing their battalion) takes place on the afternoon of April 9th at the Forthbank Stadium in Stirling from 2pm. Cost per team is £30.

To register, or to find out more, please contact Paul O'Shea paul.oshea@boys-brigade.org.uk

Scotland Committee

Nominations are invited from **North Scottish** and **Glasgow & Dunbarton**, for elected members to serve on the Scottish regional committee for the next three years, and also from **East Lowland** and **West Lowland** for an Under 26 representative. Nomination papers were sent to Battalion Secretaries last month and the closing date for nominations to be received at Scottish Headquarters is Friday 30th March. Additional copies can be obtained from Carronvale, if required. Contact Rhona rhona.drummond@boys-brigade.org.uk at Scottish HQ.

Advance for the Future

Thanks to all the Battalions who were represented at the *Advance for the Future* event in Edinburgh. It was good to have input in the morning, from Battalions sharing good practice ideas and evoking conversation about areas where things are not going so well. For the first time, Battalion Chaplains shared in the event and put forward ways to help strengthen links between the BB and Church. Presentations and handouts from the sessions will be shared with all Battalions, whether represented or not. Watch out for the material being circulated this week, once we have it all gathered together.

Scottish Bands Contest

This year's event will be held in Hutcheson's Grammar School in Glasgow on Saturday 25th March. The event will run from 12.30pm to 4.00pm. This is a great showcase event for a wealth of musical talent from across the country, and well worth a visit. Entry will be through programme purchase at the door, with entry fee of £3 (£2).

PVG

We still have some leaders registered in Scotland for whom we don't have a record of an up to date PVG membership. Chaser letters have been sent previously from the Membership Team at Felden. The Carronvale staff, along with some Scotland Committee members, are going to be phoning members on the outstanding list to ascertain the up to date position, on Tuesday 21st March. Prior to this date, if you have leaders who do not have a current PVG membership through the BB, please arrange for a check to be undertaken (or a scheme update, where leaders have their PVG through another organisation). The team will be working from a list produced on that day.

KGVI Youth Leadership

Applications are already filtering in for this year's New Entrants' course, which will be held from Saturday 29th July to Friday 4th August. Information about the course and an application form are available at <http://leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/kgvi.htm> There has been a lot of interest already in this year's course, so an early booking is advisable. Any additional information is available from Alan Hunter alan.hunter@boys-brigade.org.uk

Youthlink Awards

Congratulations to Alistair Joss, Battalion Secretary in Dundee & Angus and Jim McCormack from 3rd Kilsyth, formerly the Expedition Co-ordinator in Scotland, who have been awarded by Lifetime Achievement Awards by Youthlink. These awards will be presented at a dinner later this month. Both awards are very well deserved, for unstinting work completed in the name of The Boys' Brigade.

YoYP 2018 Ambassador Programme

The Scottish Government, alongside Children in Scotland, the Scottish Youth Parliament and Young Scot have launched a search for young people from all over Scotland to be Ambassadors for the Year of Young People. Learn more here <http://yoyp2018.scot/>

Queen's Badge

Best wishes to all those taking part in Queen's Badge Completion Courses over the next couple of months. It is great to see numbers remaining high, and the additional course being run during the Easter holidays by Scottish HQ being full. Completion of the Queen's Badge is a great achievement and, last year, around 50,000 hours of volunteering was completed by young people achieving the award, which makes a huge difference to the lives of individuals and communities across Scotland.

Sports Participation Survey

This survey aims to measure the extent that BB provides regular opportunities for children and young people to participate in sport. It will help provide an up-to-date picture of the variety and popularity of sporting activities in The Boys' Brigade. Each section is invited to take part in the survey by following this link <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/sportBB>

Juniors 100

This year the Brigade is marking 100 years of the Junior Section age group. Battalions, companies and sections are encouraged to get involved by celebrating this very special birthday. There are programme resources, historical information and various party ideas on the dedicated *Juniors100* page <http://leaders.boys-brigade.org.uk/juniors100.htm>

In Scotland, there will also be national events – including Juniors100 Science Centre Sleepover on November 3rd. BB Scottish HQ would love to hear how your section, company or battalion is marking the birthday – please let Niall Rolland know more about your events by emailing niall.rolland@boys-brigade.org.uk

Expedition & Outdoor Leadership

The expedition training course for BB leaders takes place 12th – 14th May at Carronvale House. The training course leads to the awarding of the Certificate in Expedition and Outdoor Leadership for all those who wish train young people in Expedition skills, and/or supervise Expeditions. For further information and to book, please contact Irene Davidson at SHQ by emailing irene.davidson@boys-brigade.org.uk or calling 01324 562008 (option 1).

And finally...Dates for your diary!

18 th March	Cross-country Championships, Glasgow
25 th March	Scottish Bands Contest, Glasgow
25 th March	National Chess Finals, Coatbridge
9 th April	Seniors' Sevens
12 th – 14 th April	Scottish HQ Queen's Badge Completion Residential, Carronvale House
22 nd April	National Senior Fives Finals, East Kilbride
12 th – 14 th May	Expedition & Outdoor Leadership

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