

Issue 55, January 2002

In this issue:

- ◆ Editorial
- ◆ Featured Group
- ◆ Census
- ◆ News from the Groups
- ◆ Broomstick games from Dubai
- ◆ New Programme
- ◆ Training in Dubai
- ◆ Welcome, Farewell and Congratulations

Editorial

A New Year has started. Hopefully you have all had a good Christmas. And what an exciting new year it promises to be in Scouting. We have got a totally new programme for all Sections, including two new Sections. There is also a new training scheme for Leaders coming later in the year and of course, it is The Queen's Golden Jubilee this year. There will be many events and activities organised to celebrate the occasion, including the resource pack full of ideas which we distributed recently. There are cloth badges and pin badges, available from Outdoors at £1 each for the Golden Jubilee.

In each issue we would like to feature one particular Group as well as having general news from everyone. So, with this in mind, could somebody from each of the following Groups let me have a report, with pictures if possible, for the following issues:-

- ◆ April – 1st Kuala Lumpur
- ◆ July – 1st Kampala
- ◆ October – 1st Bandar Seri Begawan

Contributions can be sent by email or snail mail, but I need them by the 15th of the

previous month. If I don't receive anything from you there will be a blank space so get writing! You must be doing something we would like to hear about.

As you can see we have continued to make changes to the look of this magazine. We hope you like them. Any feedback would be welcomed. Unfortunately, due to cost, we are not able to reproduce photos in colour at the moment, but who knows in time even that may be possible.

Featured Group – 1st Islamabad

For obvious reasons this is a much shorter report than hoped for but I felt we should still have it as our Featured Group so that everybody can see what effect September 11th had on Scouting. Let us keep this Group in our thoughts and hope it will not be too long before it is up and running again – Ed.

1st Islamabad

Last term finished on a high. Seven new Leaders had completed their training and there were lots of exciting plans in the pipeline.

The first meeting of the new term went well. It was cool enough to hold it outside and many Cubs attained their Athlete's badge. But just minutes into the second meeting, the terrorist attacks on America took place.

A lot of British families left Pakistan over the next few days. By the following week, there were only a few children left. The meeting had been earmarked for tree planting. There were 30 trees, one per Cub, so the remaining children had to work hard and plant several trees each.

Many of the Cubs (and all the Leaders) are with the British High Commission. BHC dependents were evacuated en mass on 20th September and since then, the group has ceased to function.



BRITISH
GROUPS
ABROAD

County Secretary: Robert Spargo Tel +44 (0)1440 568305 email rjspargo@netcentral.co.uk
Editor: Heather Elliott Tel +44 (0)1440 705509 email h.elliott@lineone.net

The children enjoyed their return to London. As we were all on the same flight, it was a bit like a school trip on a 777. The BA crew were great. They provided loads of activity kits and baskets of crisps and chocolate. When the plane started to get a little messy, each Cub was issued with a plastic bag and they set to work to collect rubbish.

Things are still undecided. If/when the Foreign Office decides it is safe for dependents to return, then, hopefully, the Group will be able to restart. We will keep you posted...

Jane Spurin

1st Islamabad update – January 2002

We have heard that many BHC families have now returned to Islamabad and are hopeful that the Scout Group will begin again shortly.

Census 2002

By the time you receive this edition of *Far And Wide*, Census and Group re-registration forms will have been mailed to Group Scout Leaders or Group Contacts. All Groups are required to complete this census of membership as at 31st January each year in order to remain part of The Scout Association. Payment of membership fees is also a condition!

The covering letter which was enclosed with the census papers explains what is required, but if there's any problems (or if you've not received the Census forms) please get in touch with Bob Spargo, County Secretary. You may recall from last July's newsletter that 14 Groups had their registrations cancelled and a further 6 were classified as "dormant" – please don't let this happen to your Group!

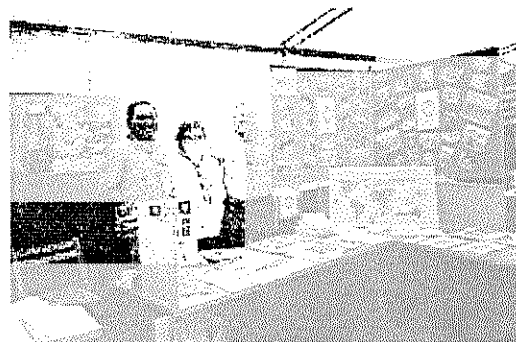
Please mail or fax the completed Census / Re-registration forms and membership lists to the County Secretary as soon as possible. If you're waiting until the last moment to make the most of the discount period for payment, please don't hang on to the forms until then – send them in now – please don't wait to send them with the payment.

Membership subscriptions are due for payment by 23rd April (St George's Day) in order to qualify for discount. The discounted subscription is £14.95. The full membership subscription for 2002 is £15.30 per member – i.e. per youngster and Adult (Warranted Leader, Helper etc.) – and yes, the County Team also pays!

Gilwell Reunion

Three of the team (Tony, Heather and Bob) manned – or "personned" – the BGA display at the Gilwell Reunion in September.

Bill Turnbull was manning the Network Russia base across the marquee from us.



Bob Spargo

News from the Groups

Becoming a Scout with the 1st Nanjing Group!

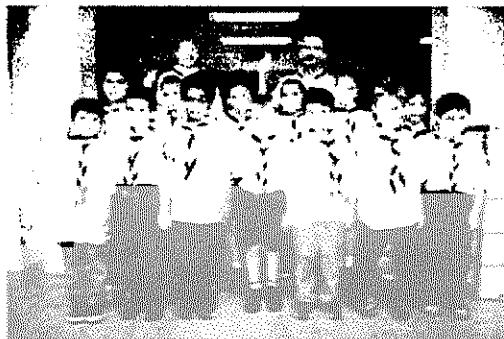
We are a very new group, only really starting this September so Monday 22nd October was a very special day for one teacher, six Cubs and seven Beavers. They all made their Promises and were invested into the Scouts.

Grey Beaver (Mr. Mitchell) was the first to make his Promise, and he is now a warranted Beaver Leader. Akela then invested six Cub Scouts. They all said the Cub Law and took the Cub Scout Promise.

Grey Beaver finally invested the seven Beavers. They all made their Promise together, following Grey Beaver's lead.

All of the boys received badges, yellow and grey scarves and a certificate to mark the occasion. Many parents and friends watched the ceremony making it a very special occasion for the boys.

I'm sure you'll agree – they all look very smart.



Broomstick Games from Dubai

Quiddich for Muggles and other modified broomstick games

The release of the book entitled "Quiddich through the Ages" from the library at Hogwarts was a grand gesture by Dumbledore and helped to raise a substantial amount of money for Comic Relief. Much to the amazement of the Wizard World it has caught the imagination of the Muggle Scout Leaders in the United Arab Emirates, BGA who have adapted the broomstick games for the enjoyment of their Scouts – whatever next ! Here are their results following a period of Learning about the role of games in the programme for young people.

Broomstick Race – Beaver Scouts (or Cub Scouts)

Location: Large sports hall/outside
Equipment: Brooms / rolled up newspapers might be safer.
 Ammunition for Dragons - newspapers rolled into balls / polystyrene filled bean-bags
 Obstacles for Beavers to

Fly through/over/under - benches/hoops/mats

Purpose of Game

Beavers have to 'ride' their broomstick through an obstacle course from starting line to finishing line on other side of hall, passing through a reservation of dragons that will try to stop them.

How to Play

Beavers are divided into Lodges and half of the Beavers from each lodge are chosen to be dragons. Dragons stand in the middle of the course armed with ammunition (newspaper balls) to throw at broom riders from other Lodges as they fly through. The area they can throw from, and move in, should be defined to avoid accidents.

The remaining Beavers line up in Lodges, then take it in turns to fly through obstacle course avoiding dragons on the way. If hit by a dragon ball, they have to fall (dramatically) from their broomstick and lie motionless. A fallen broomstick rider can be rescued by a member of the same Lodge riding out on his broomstick and tagging him, then riding through together, but the rescuer must of course take care not to get hit himself. If the fallen rider is hit again, he must retire from the game

The Winners

The winners are the first Lodge to get all/as many as possible of their Beavers through.

After each game, newspaper could be collected up and some of the broom riders could change places with dragons and start all over again.

Note from Kennilworthy Whisp: The original game dates from the 10th century and took place from Kopperberg to Arjeplog in Sweden – a distance of over 300 miles through a dragon reservation. Now it is an international event and wizards of all nationalities congregate at Kopperberg to cheer the starters, then Apperate to Arjeplog to congratulate the survivors.

Stichstock - Cub Scouts

Location: Large sports hall/outside
Equipment: Large dragon bladder – an inflated or water filled

balloon or a beach ball resting in the hoop of a basketball stand at a reasonably low level.

Purpose of Game

The Cub Scout Six need to avoid a guardian and puncture or dislodge the dragon bladder from hoop.

How to Play

A guardian (a young leader?) is tied around the waist to the post supporting the basketball stand using a rope that is 10 foot long. Alternatively a circle is drawn on the floor 20 foot diameter in which the guardian is not allowed outside.

Each Six in turn attempts to dislodge the ball or burst the dragon bladder using his broomstick (a rolled up newspaper). The Guardian protects the dragon bladder and eliminates attackers by removing their scarf that is tucked into the waistband.

The Winners

The Six with the fastest time taken to burst/dislodge the dragon bladder wins.

Note from Kennilworthy Whisp: *Stichstock is an ancient German game that can be seen in the painting of "Gunther the Violent is the winner" dated 1105. Stichstock died out in the 14th Century.*

Aingingein - Cub Scouts

(Muggles in Dubai would like to believe that it is also known as the Harry Potter Wizard initiation test team race)

Location: Large sports hall/outside
Equipment: Two hoops, bean bags, gym bench or equivalent, ball, cones laid out in assault course sequence as per explanation in 'How to Play' for each Six.

Purpose of Game

A relay race - each Six has to complete the initiation test of carrying the Domm through a series of hazards to become full wizards

How to Play

The first Feagle the Fearless (Cub Scout) passes the magic circle (hoop) over his

body and then picks up the wizard spell bag (bean bag). Then, holding the spell bag aloft, he has to slide along the Bridge of Terror (Gym Bench). At the end he carefully places the spell bag on the ground and takes the Domm (ball), and bounces it round the burning barrels (cones). If the Domm touches any of the barrels the Domm will melt and the Feagle has to start his initiation test again when the rest of the Six have finished.

When Feagle arrives at the moving Ring of Fire (another hoop that a helper can hold out at arms length and move vertically up and down), he has to lob the Domm through it, retrieve it and return it directly to the end of the Bridge of Terror.

The domm is placed on the ground, the wizard spell bag is picked up and held aloft while Feagle slides along the Bridge of Terror. He places the spell bag on the ground, passes once again through the magic circle and tags the next Feagle the Fearless who starts his test.

The Winners

The Six who complete the initiation test fastest.

Note from Kennilworthy Whisp: *In Ireland the game flourished and was the subject of many an Irish ballad. Fingal the Fearless is alleged to have been an Aingingein champion.*

More broomstick games in next issue – Ed.

The New Programme

In the next issue of *Far and Wide*, there will be a detailed set of articles on the new Programme, which is now about to be launched. We shall be practical and aim to help BGAs to look at how you can implement the new approach. The closer we can get what we do in BGAs to what happens in Groups in the UK, the easier it will be for young people to transfer from one place to another and still know where they are with their awards and so on. And, anyway, the new Programme is a great improvement!

During the first three months of 2002, we shall be sending to each BGA:

- ◆ a video
- ◆ the new system transitional booklets (to help you with changing to)
- ◆ Young Person's Guides (for older members)
- ◆ Adult's Guide (for all Leaders)
- ◆ Posters, postcards and fact sheets
- ◆ Order forms for badges and resources.

This is a major development for the Association and we hope that you will be involved fully in the exciting Programme we have developed for young people. The BGA Team will do all they can to help!

David Bull
International Commissioner
County Commissioner, British Groups
Abroad

Training in Dubai

- ◆ **Venue** - Renaissance Dubai Hotel, Conference room - Al Shaheen
- ◆ **Seminar by** - Mr William Turnbull (Bill to his friends)
- ◆ **Date:** 22nd November - 25th November 2001
- ◆ **Aim:** To provide a Learning experience for Leaders and Helpers, in the Scout Groups belonging to the District of United Arab Emirates in the County of British Groups Abroad, that meets their needs and the needs of the Groups to enable better Scouting for more young people.

Yes, you read it correctly - A Leader Training course held in a 5 star hotel in the centre of Dubai. Not only were the facilities A1, but the accommodation and food met the same very high standards as I stayed at the hotel. As there was very few people staying in any of the hotels in Dubai, I had fantastic personal service and was quickly known as Mr Bill and even Mr William. I

must confess I could get used to the 'Life of Riley'.

Enough of the trivialities - we are here to take part in a Learning Experience and learn we did, at a rapid pace. The request from Susan Jalili was to spend 4 hours per day for 3 days, with two separate sets of Leaders and Helpers; group 1 from 8.00am to 12.00 noon and group 2 from 3.00pm - 7.00pm, and provide as much information on Scouting as possible. Fortunately the ability and readiness of the two groups to learn allowed us to complete a fair number of topics that had been considered core learning to the County Team a month before. In all, 25 Leaders, Helpers and people interested in helping out came along, of which 16 were able to come to all 3 sessions. With mixed nationalities and a variety of religions, I must say it was one of the most invigorating experiences that I have had in the years of running training courses - you might say I was kept on my toes by the Leaders and Helpers from Dubai, Sharjah and Abu Dhabi.

From the warm up game - the group has to put that well known Harry Potter poem "Hogwarts, Hogwarts, Hoggly Warty Hogwarts" to a well known muggles tune - to the sessions on Spiritual Development, Systematic Planning and Games, we all continued to learn in a real fun atmosphere.

The review showed 15 of the 19 topics covered were chosen as a favourite of someone, with the most votes (4 each) going to Getting Ideas, Leadership in Practise/Leadership Styles and Recruitment & Retention.

A final farewell dinner - eat and drink as much as you want for about £12.00 - enabled us to hand out the well deserved attendance certificates and to say a few chosen words of thanks. Thanks go mainly to Susan Jalili who did so much to encourage a visit by a trainer following an incredibly successful Advertising Campaign for more Leaders. But also to Dawn and Jannette who took me to a Jifta tent for a Ramadan celebration; to Jannette for obtaining the sponsorship of the Hotel; to the Jalili family who royally entertained me for lunch at the golf club and to the 2nd

Dubai Cub Scout Leaders (good friends from three years ago) for the night out on Friday.

However the greatest satisfaction is to see the enthusiasm of all course participants as they make plans to improve Scouting for more British young people residing in the UAE - good luck to them all they are all stars.



Bill Turnbull



Dubai Desert Clean Up



Camel Colony – HMS Illustrious



1st Abu Dhabi



Joey Buddies - Brisbane

Welcome, Farewell – and Congratulations

We welcome the following Leaders and Helpers who have joined us in BGA since 15th September this year:

Pauline Adshead	Helper	5 th Oman, Oman
Suzanne Baxter	CSL	5 th Oman, Oman
Robert Black	Helper	5 th Oman, Oman
Jean Blundell-Caulfield	BSL	British School Scout Group, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Helen Dowse	ABSL	1 st Nanjing, China
Gareth Ellis	ACSL	1 st Stavanger, Norway
Lucretia Fronen	CSL	Taipei British School, Taipei
Alex Hackney	SL & GC	1 st Rome, Italy
David Hamilton	Helper	British School Scout Group (Riyadh), Saudi Arabia
Nicholas Jones	ACSL	British School Scout Group, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Sarah Love	ACSL	1 st Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei
Christopher Martyn	Treasurer	British School Scout Group, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Vincent Mitchell	BSL	1 st Nanjing, China
Andrew Nelson	Helper	British School Scout Group, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Josephine Nelson	Helper	British School Scout Group, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Heather Orange	ABSL	3 rd Dubai, UAE – returned to the Group!
Nicola Stewart	CSL	1 st Beijing, China
Glynn Stirling	BSL	British School Scout Group, Saudi Arabia

Farewell, and many thanks to the following Leaders and Helpers who have left BGA:

Judith Back	BSL	1 st Oman, Oman
Teresa Cross	ABSL	1 st Oman, Oman
Margaret Easton-Corke	CSL	2 nd Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Carol Farrell	BSL & ADC(BS)	Oman
Hilary Fuller	ASL	English School Fahaheel, Kuwait
Martin Fuller	SL & GC	English School, Kuwait
Debra James	CSL	5 th Oman (Medinat Qaroots), Oman
Sheila McIlroy	CSL	5 th Oman (Medinat Qaroots), Oman
Martha Sammons	ABSL	Oman
Sadia Sheikh	BSL	1 st Oman, Oman
Robert Sword	SL	1 st Oman, Oman
Christine Williams	CSL & GC	1 st Rome, Italy
Wille Wortelboer	Instructor	Oman
Karen Xie	ACSL	1 st Nanjing, China

I'm sorry to advise that the English School Fahaheel Scout Group in Kuwait District has now closed.

Congratulations to the following Leaders who have been awarded Service certificates:

5 Years

Magda Abdul-Rahman	ACSL	1 st Isa Town, Bahrain
Melanie Coslett	ABSL	British School Scout Group Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Long Service Decoration (15 Years)

Neville Dutton	GSL	1 st Salwa Scout Group, Kuwait
----------------	-----	---

Bar to Long Service Decoration (25 Years)

Lorna Pickering	DC	Bahrain
-----------------	----	---------

Congratulations to the following Leaders who have been awarded Wood Badges on completion of their training:

Carol Wright	CSL & GC	1 st Fuengirola (The Ark), Spain
--------------	----------	---

Best wishes to you all.

Bob Spargo
County Secretary