

Issue 58, October 2002

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Editorial

Hopefully by now you should have all received the new programme resources that were sent to you. What do you think of it? Have you started to use it yet? Do let us have your thoughts and comments about it and then we could make a feature of them.

I seem to be very short of contributions for this issue which is only to be expected after the summer break, but please send me lots for the January issue. We need lots of programme ideas that can be shared.

The featured groups for 2003 will be as follows:

- January – 1st. Beijing
- April - 1st. Salmiya
- July - 1st. Mallorca
- October - Tanglin Trust School

Please let me have copy by the 15th of the previous month, preferably by email but snail mail will do.

Featured Group

1st. Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei

The 1st Bandar Seri Begawan Scout Group was formed in early 1999 in Brunei. There was a need for something for the boys to do at the International School Berakas once they reached 6 as the girls were well catered for with Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. We have a good and friendly working relationship with the Guiders here in Brunei and regularly attend their Thinking Day celebrations.

We started with a Beavers Pack and the photo shows our first Pack with their new neckers and woggles for a group photo. The GSL, Joy Beddoe known as Badger and Fox and Cathy Fairnington, a Beaver helper are at the back. Our main helper Cathy Watt, who lasted the full 2 years before her son moved on to Cubs took the picture (Thank you Cathy)



The aim was to involve the boys more in what goes on around us and we managed several visits to places such as the Fire Station, Turtle Conservation Centre, and British Warships that visit Brunei. We have "Swum for Asthma" and enjoyed doing many other things. An enthusiastic Beaver helper, Allan Bradley had the idea of involving the Dads a bit more in our Fun days and arranged in November 2000 a visit to some local mud flats. A boy had to bring his Dad if he wanted

to join in. The Dads had a great time throwing mud around, building bridges, attaching scrambling ropes to trees and climbing rocky steep slopes. Then off to a nearby house for a swim and barbecue. I think the boys had a good time too. The next "Fun day for Dads" was on a local beach where we had wacky races in cardboard boxes, sleigh ride races on boards pulled by teams of boys and parents (Mums could only attend if Dad was working.) The boys also flew kites, swam and generally enjoyed the water.



Finally the long hours of filling water bombs by GSL (and family in a flooded kitchen) was put to the test. She failed!! There were not enough water bombs. They were thrown at everyone!! And then someone had the idea of using buckets. We finally had a BBQ and a singsong and some tired parents were taken home for a rest.

Another International School in Brunei (Jerudong Int School.) wanted to start a Beaver Scout Group. It was duly set up and then, as always with helpers, there were other more pressing calls on their spare time and along with the decrease in numbers meant they were not able to continue. Such a shame, but they did manage a joint visit to the Warship HMS Nottingham with the International School Berakas Group. It was great fun to see so many Beavers in Brunei (Thanks to Sue Dryburgh and Helpers)



In September 2001 a lot of the boys were ready for Cubs, so we formed the 1st BSB Cub Scout Pack and gained another group of boys all keen to "DO" things. Linden White became our Akela, Sarah Love, Chil, Allan Bradley, and GSL now became Baghera.

At the same time Beavers was taken over by Fox, Maureen Shaw, who has worked hard with the boys and even managed to get them on the local radio station. We shall be very sorry to lose Maureen in the New Year, as she will be moving up to Cubs. This now leaves us with the problem of finding someone to run Beavers again.

The Cubs have been working hard towards gaining their badges and excelled themselves by swimming so well, (luckily the weather and pools are excellent here) that the majority of boys got their 3 swimming badges in one go. We also had a session of football coaching from the Brunei Football Team's Professional Coach (Post World Cup Fever) who worked the boys very hard.

We have said goodbye to so many boys over the last few years and look forward to welcoming more into our Group.

As GSL I would just like to thank all the boys I have seen through my short career in Scouting for giving me so much fun.

News from the Groups

1st Kuala Lumpur



On Sunday 7th July 1st Kuala Lumpur Cub Scouts accepted the "Tea in a Tent Challenge".

At 12.30 pm 20 Cubs put up 4 tents in the middle of Mid Valley Shopping Mall, Kuala Lumpur, the largest shopping mall in Asia.

Jien and Azura, the presenters of Disney Channels 'Disney Buzz' programme came along, with a crew, to have tea in the tent. We served traditional English tea – cucumber sandwiches, shortbread biscuits and tea in china cups. We will appear on national television, here in Malaysia over the weekend of 4th – 6th October.

Thank you for the Challenge. The boys had a great time and are looking forward to seeing themselves on TV in the near future.



Maxine Savidge - Akela

Blast from the Past

THAILAND: Scouting as a Prisoner of War on the Death Railway

During the Second World War, one of the grimmest experiences was to be a prisoner of the Japanese. In Thailand the most notorious prisoner of war camps were set up and made famous by the film "The Bridge over the River Quai." Less well known is that many of those involved were active Scouts.



Much has been written and said about the conditions which prisoners of war experienced under the Japanese. The tortures, both physical and mental, the horrors of malnutrition, the many diseases and lack of medicines, were with them daily, even hourly. This nightmare life of three and a half years for those who survived produced many strong, unselfish, clean-living characters who helped others combat the awful demoralising effects of the continual oppression, sickness, death and general all-round physical weakness. It took great courage to survive the hardship and privations of the time and all admire those whose courage pulled them and their comrades through.

We all realise that the Spirit of Scouting, with its Law and Promise, requires effort to keep it alive. Even under normal conditions this is not always easy. As a prisoner of war, the effort required by all concerned to maintain self-respect and a sense of proportion was enormous. So Scouting may feel justly proud of the part played by Rover Scouts in these camps. From the very beginning, all Scouting activities were strictly forbidden. The Japanese made it clear that Scouting was an offence against the Emperor, punishable by death and all meetings were prohibited. In spite of or perhaps because of these terrible conditions, the Scouting Spirit - as handed down by B.-P. — not only survived but prospered in the camps, where many Scout "units" were formed.

The MENUM KWA NOI Rover Crew in Thailand was formed in March 1944. It existed until August 1945 and consisted mainly of a mixture of British, Australians, Dutch and Americans. The Crew was born "upriver" during the building of the Bangkok-Mulmein railway, often known as the Railway of Death. The Crew grew rapidly and three Patrols were eventually formed. Soon the prisoners were sent to other camps and the Rovers consequently scattered. But individual members carried on Rovering, starting Crews in their new place of captivity, until Scouting was in at least five different camps and organised to such an extent that the original 12 Rovers had increased to 200. Here are some personal accounts of those times:

"The name Menum Kwa Noi means North of the River Menum, and each offspring of the original Crew maintained this title. Each camp had its gathering of Scouts and Rovers; who naturally sorted themselves out by their common desire for fellowship, Christian or otherwise. A Leader was elected and Patrols formed. The Patrols met on different nights, but occasionally the whole Camp Crew would get together. Meetings were kept strictly secret from the Japanese. Lights had to be kept concealed and noise eliminated as much as possible."

"At Kaorin Camp we used to meet in the Barber's Shop. This was a small hut built of bamboo and rattan. The roof was made of dried bamboo leaves doubled over a thin bamboo cane about three feet long. These were placed like long slates on rafters and purlins all of bamboo, well overlapping each other. We made our own stools, in fact almost everything we possessed we made ourselves, for instance, shorts out of rice sacks and shoes or "klompans" from wood.

Our activities were limited. We went through the Scout tests, had advanced talks and demonstrations of first aid and ambulance from "Doc," played games and told stories, relating past Scouting and other experiences. Some of our members had not been Scouts before; these chaps had to go through a probationary period and a type of training. The tests were as near to the real thing as possible, but the emphasis was on character and discipline.

Investitures were held in the little chapel that we had built on the camp and which served all creeds. The Japanese did not stop us having a church. In fact they were quite scared of it, thinking that it contained spirits which would object strongly if interfered with. The chapel though small and simple, was a real House of God. Here the whole Crew would assemble for an investiture on the "Yasumai" or Rest Day that occurred every ten days. There were no Sundays, as we know them, every day was the same, work from 8a.m to 6p.m,

and sometimes from 8pm to midnight or later, according to the work in hand."

In these places of horror it was found that the example of the Scouts doing the utmost to turn out as smartly as possible and to keep healthy, clean and cheerful had a marked effect on the spirits of the men. Through these Crews, there grew up a strong fellowship and love of one's fellow men. A fellowship which would undoubtedly be carried on afterwards, retarded a little perhaps by the thought that there might not be an afterwards in this world, but such thoughts were few and far between. The unity of the Crews helped tremendously towards a happier and more optimistic outlook on the future. Our previous Scout and Rover training was absolutely invaluable during those four long years."

"Patrol meetings often took the form of discussions. The item which proved of the greatest interest was the talk entitled 'My own Pack, Troop or Crew, and how it was run,' which every member had to give on joining the Crew. With people from ten different countries in the Crew, you can imagine the large number of different ideas brought to light."

Here is another story from a more personal angle, from another member of the Menum Kwa Noi, who though a member at the same time as the above contributor was unknown to him, being a member of a different Crew within that Crew.

"At the age of seven, I joined the Wolf Cubs, and was a Sixer before going up to the Scouts at eleven, eventually becoming a Patrol Leader. At eighteen, I was expected to join the Rover Crew, but after reading 'Rovering to Success' I felt I was not worthy, and so left the Scouts.

When the war came, I was called up and sent to Singapore. I had been there eight months when the island fell and like many others, found myself a prisoner of the Japanese. It was then that I realised that, thanks to my previous Scout training, I was able to look after myself, and help my companions to do the same.

After 18 months in Saigon, Indo-China, I was taken to Siam to work on the Death Railway. There it was a perpetual nightmare. But I had faith that God was caring for me, and repeated the 23rd psalm every day. At one of the camps on the railway, it was suggested that anyone who was an old Scout or Rover should notify someone who was hoping to form a Crew in the Camp and try to extend it to other camps. This was to be done without letting the Japanese know, or they would have thought we were planning for an attack or escape, which is why we always held our meetings in secret. Meetings were largely devoted

to Scout work and games. They gave life once again some meaning, and helped us from Great Britain and our American, Australian and Dutch brothers to live through those years."

"When there were no Japanese's guards about, meetings were often held outside under trees. But gatherings of any number of men were treated by the guards with suspicion. On one occasion a Rover who was sick was so keen to attend a meeting that, with the Medical Officers permission, he was brought across on a stretcher. As this rather hampered any quick dispersal if a Japanese guard should have appeared, it was arranged that one of the Rovers should be giving a lecture on the patient's disease in the hope that the guard would not stop to argue, for fear of catching something. Fortunately we got away with it."

The Menam Qua Noi Rover Crew grew in the end to nearly 200 members, being run in several parts. Ten countries were represented, including Britain, Australia, Holland USA, and even Switzerland. The Scout Certificate of Meritorious Conduct was awarded to Lieutenant AM Service, (who before the war was attached to the 24th Ayrshire Scout Group), for his services to the Menam Qua Noi Prisoner of War Camp Rover Crew.

Lieutenant Service acted as Rover Scout Leader from its formation in March 1944 until it disbanded in August 1945. Seven British Rovers and three Dutch assisted RSL Service in its organisation.



As soon as the Rovers learnt of the Japanese surrender, a "Rovers Own Service" was held, for which one of them composed a Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication. Their first thought after liberation was not how long before they arrived home, but of thanks for their safety during their long years of imprisonment.

Tony Dunn, BGA. Historian

Leader Training

I am attending a seminar in November on the new Leader Training so have not got anything new to tell you at this point. However, it would help me enormously to assess what training is required if all Leaders who have not yet got their Wood badges could let me know what training, if any, they have already done, either in the UK or while they have been abroad. You will see later in this issue that we are trying to get a British Groups Abroad Fellowship set up and one of the aims of this is to have former BGA Leaders and others who have done Scouting abroad as a support network for those needing training. It would also be helpful if when you return to the UK for a holiday you let me know as then we could arrange perhaps to meet and for some aspects of training to take place while you are here.

I look forward to hearing from you all.

Heather Elliott, County Training Manager

International Friendship

Having been able to link up with many foreign groups around the world as part of our International Friendship award activities earlier this year, I would like to take the opportunity of forming some links with British Beaver Colonies and Cub Packs abroad. I am the Cub Scout Leader of the 4th. Balham & Tooting, Southside District, in the County of Greater London South. The 4th Scout Troop was formed in 1910 and the Group celebrated its 90th anniversary in 2000.

The Cub Pack started in 1924 and has a membership of twenty-five boys. The Beaver Colony started in 1983 and at present has about eighteen boys. We have just finished for the summer holidays and will resume our activities in September, when we will be embarking on the new Scout training programme. It would be nice to be able to communicate with other British Beavers and Cubs abroad and exchange badges, programme and activity ideas.

I look forward to hearing from you very soon.

Tony Holland (Akela, 4th B & T)

Anybody wishing to take up this link may do so through the County Secretary

Storytime

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the

cracked pot arrived only half full. For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water to his house. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own perfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do. After 2 years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologise to you. I have been able to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts," the pot said. The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I planted flower seeds your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house." Moral: Each of us has our own unique flaws. We're all cracked pots, but it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding. You've just got to take each person for what they are, and look for the good in them. Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape.

This may be a good story to tell to Beavers or Cubs

Scouting and the Criminal Records Bureau

HQ Records Office is making excellent advances in using the CRB, and in addition to using the new form for internal (Scout Association) checks as before, are currently able to get clearance from the CRB in about 4 weeks.

Internal clearance will allow the applicant to work in the Scout Group in a supervised capacity – (you will receive email or fax notification of this approval from the County Secretary) – full clearance from CRB is required before Leader or Helper applications can be finalised and a Warrant or Certificate issued.

HQ will no longer accept the old CE form; any old CE forms submitted will now be returned unchecked, with a request that a CRB form is completed.

HQ also advise that it is sometimes necessary to return for correction CRB forms which have errors or omissions, before they can be submitted to the

CRB. This can be particularly irksome for BGAs where the mailing time is considerable; so – please double check that CRB forms have been filled in correctly before you send them to the County Secretary.

Recent (BGA) problems with CRB forms have included crossing out and amending the details already printed in Section B – (these should not be amended or added to in any way), and signing Section Y (this can only be signed by the registered authority – Scout Association HQ)

The forms are intended to be computer-scanned. Please (try to!) write only in the boxes provided (and not in the 'grey' Section heading areas) – thanks.

An updated CRB – Frequently Asked Questions & guidance notes for completion of the CRB form is included as an appendix to this edition of Far And Wide.

British Groups Abroad Scout Fellowship Formed

The inaugural meeting of the BGA Scout Fellowship was held on the 8th of September 2002 in the appropriate setting of the Training Ground of Gilwell Park at the Gilwell Reunion.

Present were Scouters who had served British Scouting in Bad Oyensen, Germany; Libya; Kuwait; Dubai; Cyprus; Bahrain; Shanghai and Berlin. Two Cub Leaders were present who will soon live in Fuengirola, Spain and hope to join the British Group there. Apologies were received from other parties who unfortunately could not attend.

The meeting was opened by David McKee from the International Office who explained that the main reason for forming the Fellowship was to support the existing BGA Group leaders with Adult Training, practical advice and programme ideas. In addition, it would bring together the many people who had served with British Scout Groups overseas, enabling them to maintain contact and form new friendships with Scouters who had had similar experiences.

David Bull the International Commissioner, who also fulfills the role of County Commissioner for British Groups Abroad, introduced the existing BGA Team explaining their roles and also how the proposed Fellowship would benefit the Groups. An open discussion followed, covering the reasons for the existence of British Groups Abroad and the difficulties experienced peculiar to Scouting overseas. It was then agreed to form the Fellowship and a Secretary was appointed with David Bull as Chairman.

David Bull also presented Heather Elliot with her warrant as County Training Manager.

Further details on the Fellowship can be obtained from the International Office at Gilwell.



Welcome, Farewell – and Congratulations

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

Sue Brown	ABSL	3 rd Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Marian Clark	ACSL	3 rd Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Heather Elliott	County Training Manager	BGA
Cath Etchells	ABSL (from BS Helper)	1 st Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
Moira MacIver	BS Helper	3 rd Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Alex Miller	ACSL	1 st Dhahran, Saudi Arabia (Eastern Province)
Julia Pang	BSL	Tanglin Trust School, Singapore
Louise Vallis	BS Helper	Tanglin Trust School, Singapore
Elke Woll	ASL (from CS Helper)	1 st Dhahran, Saudi Arabia (Eastern Province)
Mark Yon	CSL	1 st Jamestown, St Helena

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

Paul Chapman	CSL	1 st Salmiya, Kuwait
Alex Hackney	SL & GC	1 st Rome, Italy
Siggi Imrecke	BSL	St Catherine's Attica, Greece

I'm sorry to advise that 1st Rome Scout Group has now closed.

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

5 Years

<i>Rita Chaitanya</i>	ABSL	1 st Oman, Oman
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And last but not least – congratulations to Paul and Annette Chapman on the birth of a daughter Emeila on 28th August last – a sister for Henry. Paul was, until very recently, CSL with 1st Salmiya Scout Group, Kuwait.

Best wishes to you all

Bob Spargo, County Secretary

The Scout Association

Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Checks

The CRB – Frequently Asked Questions

Does the CRB check replace the Association's Form CE checks?

The CRB form has replaced the Association's Form CE. However the Association will continue to carry out its own internal checking procedures using the information provided on the CRB Application.

Who must be checked?

Those likely to have **UNSUPERVISED ACCESS** to young people **MUST** be checked using the CRB procedures. Such persons include: Warranted Appointments, Skills Instructors, Activities Authorisations, Scout Network members, Scout Fellowship members and Section Helpers.

Similarly, Officers of Group, District, County and Area Executives i.e. Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer **MUST** be checked using the CRB.

Who should also be checked?

Additionally, we recommend that all adults, especially those attending camps or who have any form of contact with our young members, should be checked using the CRB

Do we check persons under the age of 18 years?

No – as a youth Member under the age of 18 years working with another Section **MUST NOT** have unsupervised access to other youth Members.

Do identity checks need to be done by a member of the District Team?

Ideally the District Secretary or the Secretary of the Appointments Sub-committee should check the identity documentation. However, the Association recognises the practicalities of doing this where the District is very large in numbers or geographically spread. Therefore, this check can also be done by the Group Scout Leader or Scouter in Charge. For British Groups Abroad, the BGA County Appointments sub-committee administers all Appointments. Identity checks should therefore be undertaken by the Group Scout Leader or Group Contact except where a District Commissioner has been appointed for that specific District

Who should have the CRB booklet *Applying for Disclosure*?

Each Group should hold a copy. A copy should be available to help applicants complete the CRB form. The Scout Association recommends that the completion of the CRB form should be done with the aid of the Group Scout Leader, Group Contact or other District personnel as above.

Why does the CRB request a reference? Does it replace those requested by the Association?

The CRB will use the referee in the event that the applicant does not have any of the preferred forms of identity. It does not replace the referees requested on the Association's Form AA (Adult Appointment Application).

Can the CRB form be photocopied?

No. Each form has a unique reference number, which is used as part of the tracking process by the CRB. Supplies of the form are available on request from the BGA County Secretary (email: rspargo@netcentral.co.uk).

Will the Applicant receive details of the outcome of the check from the CRB?

The Applicant and The Scout Association Records Department are the only recipients of the actual disclosure report from the CRB.

Guidance Notes for the completion of the CRB Form for British Groups Abroad

Please read these notes carefully as incorrectly completed application forms may be returned. This will hinder the CRB check and the valuable aid of the Applicant to your Group or District. The Scout Association recommends that the CRB application form should be filled in with the help of a relevant member of local Scouting.

General Advice:

You **MUST** use BLOCK CAPITALS and black ink – any other colour, blue included, will not be acceptable to the CRB. Do **NOT** cross anything out on the form. If something does not apply, leave it blank.

Where required, enter an **X** in the appropriate box, not a tick.

Advise the applicant in advance to produce as many identification documents as possible

Section A – Applicants Details:

Please ensure all items are completed, especially lines 8 – 12.

Section B – Details of position for which Disclosure is being requested:

This has already been completed for you and **MUST NOT** be altered. **DO NOT** amend or delete anything

Section C – Additional personal details:

An applicant **MUST** enter all maiden / former surnames and forenames. Use a continuation sheet, if necessary

Section D – Previous addresses:

An applicant **MUST** reveal all home addresses for the last 5 years. Use a continuation sheet, if necessary.

Section E – Additional Information:

*Completing this section is voluntary – an applicant does not have to provide these details. However, if **ANY** details are provided, the CRB will be all the more reassured that they have the applicant's true identity. Consequently, the CRB will be able to process the application more quickly by using widely available commercial data sources.*

*If **ANY** part of Section E is completed, then the applicant's signature is required at section H in the box at line 69.*

Section F – Referee details:

Please refer to the guidelines in the Applying for Disclosure booklet.

Section G – Payment:

Leave this section blank, The Scout Association as a Voluntary Sector Registered Body is exempt from payment.

Section H – Applicant declaration and consent:

Please enter an **X** in one of the boxes at line 66, and also in the box at line 67, if a continuation sheet has been used for either of Sections C or D.

Section X – Checking the identity of an Applicant:

You **MUST** record the details of a passport **OR** a photo driving licence, if the applicant possesses either of them, together with as many other documents as possible. It is vital that the person checking confirms the applicant's home address using, for example, a current utility bill. Having done this, the checker **MUST** then insert an **X** in the box at line 15 **AND** enter their name at line 16.

Section Y Statement by Registered Person:

Please **DO NOT** enter anything here.

Section Z Official use only:

Please **DO NOT** enter anything here.

And Finally... for British Groups Abroad:

The completed CRB Application Form(s) must be returned by BGAs to the County Secretary British Groups Abroad who will complete *The Scout Association CRB Returns Form*.

A copy of *The Scout Association CRB Returns Form* will be returned by HQ Records Office to the BGA County Secretary confirming that The Scout Association's internal checking procedures have been completed.

It is recommended that a Group or District may commence using adults in **A SUPERVISED ROLE** when such a notification has been received from BGA County Secretary. However, adults must be advised that this preliminary clearance is subject to a full CRB disclosure that will take a minimum of 4 weeks to complete.
HQ Records Department – Authorised BGA amendment to Issue: July 2002 v3