

CO-ORDINATOR : November 1965

78

SCOUTERS' NEWSLETTER PRODUCED EVERY MONTH SINCE JUNE 1959 BY...

LEITCHWORTH DISTRICT ROVER CREW

ROVER REVOLUTION

SINCE ITS FOUNDATION IN 1956, LETCHWORTH DISTRICT ROVER CREW HAS BEEN OPEN TO ALL YOUNG MEN AGED 17½ TO 24 IN LETCHWORTH & BALDOCK DISTRICT, AND HAS CARRIED OUT VERY MANY PROJECTS OF SERVICE TO THE DISTRICT - NOT LEAST AMONG THESE BEING THE REGULAR PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF "CO-ORDINATOR" FOR MORE THAN SIX YEARS.

Tributes were paid to the Crew's service record at the meeting at DHQ on Thursday, 28 October: but it was clearly recognized that recent months have seen the end of LDRC as an effective force. Reasons for this are mainly the holding of warrants in other Groups by an ever-increasing proportion of the Rovers, leaving none "unattached" for Rovering pure and simple.

Assistant County Commissioner for Rovers, Ralph Wheeler, making his first official visit to the District, outlined the honourable history of Rovering since 1919, but especially the operation of "Rover Organization and Training" since 1956. It was then that the age limit of 24 was brought in, with the badge training scheme leading to the B-P Award - which he commended as well worth while, despite the lack of interest in badges by the majority of Rover Scouts in the country.

On ORGANIZATION, the ACC said that the Group Crew is ideal - if there are enough Rovers, with a really good leader. In the absence of either of these, he said, a District Rover Crew is the best idea. This provides the opportunities for older members of the less fortunate Groups; but he emphasized that it is essential to retain Group identities within a District Crew. Yet whatever the setup, any Crew not basing its whole programme on SERVICE does not know where it is going.

With all this in mind, ADC John Baker said there was at present a record number of 17 and 18 year olds in the District, to form the foundation of an entirely new style of District Crew. This must have the long-term object of providing channels of activity for Scouts of Rover age in any Group, so that when there were sufficient numbers their own Group Crew could be formed.

Fourth Letchworth, so far the only Group Crew to succeed on these lines, were well represented at the meeting, and came armed with a draft constitution for the new District organization of which they will be a nucleus. This includes the proposal that warranted Scouters should normally be excluded from membership of the District Crew to avoid the weakness, in Jeff Robson's phrase, of "making the Crew top-heavy with Scouters". Jeff's proposal, supported by B-P Guild chairman Fred Eaves, was that the older Rovers and younger Scouters should now form a new and lively sub-section of the B-P Guild, as soon as possible. This suggestion is being put to the Guild committee this Tuesday.

MAIN OPPOSITION TO THE DISTRICT CREW IDEA CAME FROM BRIAN ROBINSON, SEVENTH LETCHWORTH. HE SAID THERE WAS A TENDENCY FOR SUCH A CREW TO BE REGARDED AS A "DISTRICT LABOUR MARKET", MAKING IT LESS ATTRACTIVE TO SENIOR SCOUTS. GROUP LOYALTY SHOULD COME FIRST, AND A SUPPLY OF SCOUTERS TO ONE'S OWN GROUP WAS IN THE END MORE IMPORTANT THAN A ROVER CREW.

Answering this, Richard Smith (Fourth Letchworth) and others pointed out that by not contributing service to a District Crew, anyone of Rover age would be preventing the eventual formation of a Rover section in their own Group, and thereby depriving that Group of experienced potential Scouters in years to come.

THERE IS NOTHING "STRANGE" OR "DIFFERENT" ABOUT A DISTRICT CREW, SAID JOHN BAKER. IT IS JUST ALL OF US, EACH FROM OUR OWN GROUP, WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL THE GROUPS.

And Ralph Wheeler, admitting that the Rover way of life may not be understood by those under 18, gave a warning to those about to start the new experiment: "Always watch your appearance, and your tongue, especially in public. It is so easy to brag about the wrong sort of activity, and so lower the image of Rovering in the eyes of the public and your potential recruits."

The debate continues, throughout the District. But the new shape of the new District Rover Crew is likely to be made clear at the meeting of "under-24 non-warranted Rovers" at 8 pm on Sunday 7 November. All others in the movement over 17½ are asked to attend, for they have much to contribute, and there is plenty of room still for constructive criticism.

THOSE PRESENT

AT THE MEETING

R.Andrews	RS
J.Baker	ADC(R)
P.Blott	ADC(S)
R.Clarke	RS
M.Dilley	ARSL
P.Dilley	SS
F.Eaves	BPG
C.Flemming	SS
A.Gray	RS
D.Groom	RSq
K.Johnson	SA
J.Murden	ASM
I.Pilkington	RS
D.Ringrow	SS
B.Robinson	SS
J.Robson	SM
L.Sapsed	SS
E.Smith	DC
R.Smith	RS
B.Watkins	SSL
R.Watson	RS
R.Wheeler	ACC(R)

"CO-ORDINATOR" AND THE NEW ROVER SCHEME

Most people seem to feel that this monthly newsletter is generally useful, so it will continue to, be delivered free to all warranted. Scouters in the District, and to Group Secretaries and District officials. All other persons who are interested may still subscribe to CO-ORDINATOR at 3s.6d. a year. Jim Davidson, treasurer. of the old Letchworth District Rover Crew, being over 24, will no longer be a member of the new Crew; but until such time as his successor is appointed, CO-ORDINATOR subscriptions should still be sent to him at 10 Orchard Close, Letchworth.

This month's edition is being produced as usual - that is, the stencils are typed by the Press Secretary, the duplicator is operated by Mick Dilley, and the wrapping and addressing are done by whichever members of LDRC turn up.

Future editions will almost certainly be typed as before, and printed and distributed as a regular service by the new-style District Crew. Whether or not there are any changes in the system, WE'LL KEEP YOU POSTED.

OPERATION PHEIDIPPIDES : RESULTS

1	1B Anderson & Wilsher.....	508 points
2	1B Hoeg & Jones.....	503½
3	1B Emery & Hilditch	502
4	5L Cooper & Wilson.....	405
5	2L Lafferty & McEwen.....	373

* * *

High markings and First Baldock's efficient and enthusiastic participation in Operation Pheidippides shot them into top place in the Just-for-fun League which adds together all points won in every possible District competition! It does not seem likely that 5L or any other Group can shift 1B from the top this year - though the next chance is the B-P Guild Cup on 13 November, followed by the Cub Quiz on 17 November and Operation Nightjar on 20-21 November.

PLACE	GROUP	POINTS
1.....	1B.....	2,416½
2.....	5L.....	1,582
3.....	2L.....	1,266
4.....	7L.....	601½
5.....	1L.....	546*
6.....	3L.....	413*
7.....	9L.....	250
8.....	4L.....	199½
9.....	2B.....	199
10	8L.....	174
11.....	1A.....	78
12.....	1W.....	21
13.....	3B.....	5
14.....	LDRC.....	0

THE MOD TROPHY : NOW HELD BY WESTON

1W Cubs challenged 7L Cubs to a spelling bee on 19 October, and beat them by 47-32. Any new challenge must be made (notifying the Press Secretary) before 19 January 1966. If it is before 29 November; only Cub challenges can be made, but after that date Boy Scout challenges will be valid.

OPPORTUNITY '66

Almost every Scout in the District over the age of 14 should have had by now a copy of the brochure entitled "Opportunity '66". It is a concise summary of coming events aimed at those Scouts born in the reign of King George VI. If any of these "Kingsmen" missed the list, will their Scouters please see that they know about the items below, and fill in the form on page 3.

SWIMMERS! A Senior challenge is out for a District relay team to meet the rest of the County some time in NOVEMBER. Full details are due any moment.

WORLD ASPIDISTRA SHOW takes place at Ivinghoe Beacon, 11.45 pm, 13 NOVEMBER. All you need: an aspidistra or similar plant, a pair of feet and a sense of humour. There are prizes.

OPERATION NIGHTJAR - our District's annual Senior insanity - has a new flavour this year. No bikes. Just teams of two (ages 14½ to 18) able to do a hard night's walk (7 to 10 miles depending on how lost you get;) from 10 pm on SATURDAY 20 NOVEMBER 1965. 14 teams only.

WIN A CHRISTMAS PUDDING or something, in the District's PLOUGHING MATCH for Senior Scouts - some time in DECEMBER '65.

VENTURER PART 1: incident testing is being arranged again for some time in December 1965, primarily for older Seniors of 16+.

MOUNTAIN SURVIVAL: a special course under expert instructors at Lochearnhead, open to Hertfordshire Seniors and Rovers - from 29 DECEMBER 1965 to 5 JANUARY 1966. All-in cost including transport, £9:

SENIOR MARATHON - the County equivalent to Nightjar, 29-30 JANUARY - but teams of 6 to 8, with the task of getting into a base camp defended by the Army! 8 pm till dawn, with a free breakfast afterwards.

MAINLY FOR OLDER SENIORS, a chance to say what you think at the County SSLs' Annual Conference, at Well End in FEBRUARY.

FOR ATHLETIC TYPES, the County Senior Cross-Country Championships at Watford on SATURDAY 19 FEBRUARY 1966.

SPECIAL COURSE FOR SENIOR SCOUTS at Lochearnhead Scout Station, 1-8 APRIL 1966. If you've not been yet, don't miss this!

ADVANCED HIKE LEADERS' TRAINING COURSE at Lochearnhead, 7-17 APRIL, costing £12. Tremendous value for any Scout over 17 by then.

JIM STRIKES AGAIN! J M T 3 is definitely on for pairs of adventurous Seniors with some brains and initiative. JMT1 ended at Coventry; JMT2 at Peterborough; JMT3 is from 29 APRIL to 1 MAY 1966.

Various plans are taking shape for EXPEDITIONS in SUMMER '66. Places being men-

tioned include Northumberland, north Wales, Lochearnhead, French Scout exchange camps, Denmark, Morocco. We want to know YOUR preference for ADVENTURE - NOW!

COUNTY SENIOR EXPEDITION TO LIECHTENSTEIN: 11-25 AUGUST 1966 : COST NOT MORE THAN £19 - mainly for Seniors "unattached" to any other Summer Expedition, though open to all.

CUT HERE fill in and return to SA Ken Johnson, 80 Spring Road, Letchworth.

I am interested in the things marked ☒ Please keep me posted, without committing me to anything yet.

I definitely wish to take part in the things marked ☒ if it is physically possible.

<input type="checkbox"/>	COUNTY SWIMMING RACE
<input type="checkbox"/>	WORLD ASPIDISTRA SHOW
<input type="checkbox"/>	OPERATION NIGHTJAR
<input type="checkbox"/>	PLOUGHING MATCH
<input type="checkbox"/>	VENTURER INCIDENT TESTING
<input type="checkbox"/>	MOUNTAIN SURVIVAL COURSE
<input type="checkbox"/>	COUNTY SENIOR MARATHON
<input type="checkbox"/>	COUNTY SSLs' CONFERENCE
<input type="checkbox"/>	CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS
<input type="checkbox"/>	SENIOR COURSE AT LOCHEARNHEAD
<input type="checkbox"/>	HIKE LEADERS' TRAINING COURSE
<input type="checkbox"/>	J M T 3
<input type="checkbox"/>	EXPEDITIONS
<input type="checkbox"/>	NORTHUMBERLAND
<input type="checkbox"/>	NORTH WALES
<input type="checkbox"/>	LOCHEARNHEAD
<input type="checkbox"/>	FRANCE
<input type="checkbox"/>	DENMARK.
<input type="checkbox"/>	MOROCCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	-----
	(You name it)

☐ If none of the above things interests you in the slightest, tick here. In any case, please fill in the rest below, as the information is required by the District.

NAME _____
TROOP _____ Boy Scouts DATE OF BIRTHDAY _____
Senior Scouts IN 1966
ADDRESS _____ AGE ON THIS DATE:-

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Mr & Mrs ALBERT BUSH are now at Robins, Claybush Corner, Ashwell, Baldock (phone Ashwell 350).

Mr & Mrs JOHN FOSTER are now at 59 Three Star Caravan Park, Bedford Road, Lower Stondon, Henlow, Bedfordshire.

BIRTHS

At Chalford, Gloucestershire, on 26 September, to Janet, wife of Michael Blaxland (formerly ASSL, 1L), a daughter; Susan Janet.

At Hitchin, on 16 October, to Peter and Hannah Moules, a son.

B-P GUILD CUP

SATURDAY 13 NOVEMBER, WESTBURY SCHOOL

Teams are composed of five Boy Scouts under 15, who report in uniform but without staves or equipment. They must be genuine standing patrols but may if necessary borrow from another patrol one boy who is not a PL. An officer in charge will be appointed, with a number of stewards. Judges setting the tests will be Group Scouters from our own District, as follows:

- 4L responsible for inspection
- 7L observation
- 3L first aid
- 2B map & compass
- 9L public service
- 5L pioneering

50 points will be awarded under each of these headings. The winning patrol receives the B-P Guild Cup for one year and the members receive an additional prize presented by Letchworth & District B-P Guild. Teams should arrive from 2.15 pm and be ready to start at 2.29, wearing plimsolls or soft shoes.

TRAINING FOR PATROL LEADERS

If it is done this week, there is still time to apply for the County Patrol Leaders' Gathering which takes place at Watford on Saturday 20 November. Scouters please read page 283 of this month's HSN, and use the form in the coloured pages.

Alternatively and additionally, it is proposed to run a TWO-DAY COURSE FOR PLs in the District, on Saturday and Sunday 4 and 5 December. These have always been a great success in the past, but to make the great amount of preparation worth while, it is essential that the names of candidates are submitted by Saturday 20 November, on the form below, together with the sum of 12s.6d. a head, which will of course be returned if there are insufficient applications to run the course.

CUT HERE - - - - - AND SEND TO SM J.V.ROBSON, 67 HIGH AVENUE, LETCHWORTH, BY SATURDAY 20 NOVEMBER.

The following Scouts from _____ Troop wish to attend the 1965 PLs' Training Weekend.

NAME	RANK*	AGE
------	-------	-----

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

I enclose _____ being 12s.6d. a head for course fees and meals.

SIGNED _____

*Seconds and potential PLs may attend, but must hold at least the second class badge.1

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Letchworth UDC announce that their town's Remembrance Service will be at the Free Church on Sunday 14 November at 3 pm, followed by assembly of uniformed contingents outside the church and the parade to Station Place for the wreath laying.

All organizations are invited to take part, including Scouts, who should be at the church not later than 2.40. Group Scouters should write before Thursday 11 November to the Clerk of the Council, in this manner:

".....Scout Group will be represented at the Remembrance Service on Sunday 14 November and will require seats."

LETCWORTH SENIOR SCOUTS' FEDERATION

Four of the joint meetings have so far taken place, at DHQ, Norton Common, Letchworth Police Station and Hitchin Gas Works (but not respectively!) Attendance per head per meeting of those under 18 gives these Group results for October:

5L *****
3L *****
4L *****
1L *****
2L *

One nasty shock on the first evening was the demand for a poem to commemorate the occasion. We are delighted to be able to publish one of the results, by Jim and Mart.

There are but five troops here combined
One or two are surely underlined
These comprises of all the louts
While the others consist of true Senior Scouts

Some where longs and some where shorts
But some have other thoughts
Our neckerchiefs are of varying colours
But we are all well known brothers
We all have our separate interests
Undoubtedly carrying out simple requests
We hope to be complete and train
But sometime it might be in vain.

(All right, you try doing it at a minute's notice!)

D A T E S : N O V E M B E R 1 9 6 5

- 2 District Gang Show committee, DHQ, 8
- 2 County Rover evening moot, Well End
- 3 LA Executive committee, DHQ, 8 pm
- 7 New LDRC inaugural meeting, DHQ, 8 pm
- 9 ROCK COUNCIL, DHQ, 8 pm
- 13 B-P GUILD CUP PATROL COMPETITION, Westbury School, 2.15 pm
- 13 7L Bazaar, Church Rooms, 2.30-6 pm
- 13 World Aspidistra Show, Ivinghoe Beacon, 11.45 pm
- 15 SCOUTERS' COUNCIL, DHQ, 8 pm
- 17 DISTRICT CUB QUIZ, DHQ, 6.30 pm
- 20 5L Autumn Fair, Church Rooms, 11.5
- 20-21 OPERATION NIGHTJAR : see page 2: teams report at DHQ 9 - 9.30 pm
- 26 Last news in to KJ for CO-DRDINATOR 79

by Mrs M.C.Drylie (DC)

OUR A G M has definitely been fixed for 18 November (Thursday) at the Howard Hall at 7.30 pm. Please check that you have this date as we had originally planned a different one. The business meeting will include the adoption of a new constitution. After a break for refreshments the Trefoil Guild will be running the final of the Quiz Competition and presenting the prizes to the winners. If any Guides wish to core for this part of the proceedings they should arrive about 8.30 pm. All Guiders should be there for the whole of the meeting as a matter of course.

ALL PHOTOGRAPHS AND SLIDES of Guide events for display at the AGM to me, please, by 6 November.

ANY NEWS of your Pack or Company to be included in my annual report should also be in by that date. Have you done a Padk/Company Good Turn? Had an outing to somewhere special? Camped? (And how many?) - etc.

CAPTAINS!, Do your Guides like wide games where they have to attack an opposing base? Now is the time to purchase fireworks of the golden rain or Roman candle type, to use as a target to be blown up. There are endless variations on this theme, so if you lay in a small stock now, I can give you fuller plans at our next meeting.

COFFEE MORNING - 11 December - Civil Defence hall, 10-12 noon. Companies and Packs may have a stall for their own funds, but please let me know at the AGM or before if you intend to do so, and also if you can bring your own table as there's likely to be a shortage."

COMMONWEALTH/INTERNATIONAL TRAINING - St Albans, all day Saturday 20 November. Numbers attending have to be in by 6 November. If you let me know beforehand I will send in a block notification and also try to link up these with transport with those without. This is your chance to brush up on Guiding overseas, and it's the last County Training of the year. Let's make it a good one.

LOOKING AHEAD, we have booked the Civil Defence hall for another coffee morning on 8 January for the HQ building fund. 5L Guides will be doing the coffee and 10L Guides a bring-and-buy stall on this occasion. If your Company or Pack would like to book its turn for later on, please let me know which month you prefer.

"BRANCHING OUT": Any Guiders; Rangers, Cadets or older Guides who would like to see this film about the Senior Branch should come to the end of Hitchin's AGM on Wednesday 3 November at Hitchin College of Further Education, Walsworth (arrive about 8.15 pm).

CUT HERE
AND CROSS OUT WHICH IS INAPPLICABLE:-
To Mrs Drylie, 21 Newlands:
TRAINING, ST ALBANS, 20 NOVEMBER: I have spare seats in my car.// I require transport if possible. NAME: