

COORDINATOR

LETCWORTH AND BALDOCK DISTRICT BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

January 1966

JOIN THE A.T.C!

(Loose Thoughts by a Tame Typist with Half a Stencil to Fill Up)

Good things and great progress occurred in 1965. Stotfold; Weston; new District Rovers; Letchworth Senior Federation; and a great new DC.

But so much was left undone, it really was a tatty old year.

What's tatty? Shaggy-haired, cheap, inferior, say the dictionaries.* Unkempt, uncared-for, like the grass round District Headquarters Like the hedges. The rubbish left behind after every jumble sale and party. The muck swept into the corners and left. The window that never got mended. ("The warden'll see to that. Get off home, we're late as usual.")

Tatty is when nobody bothers.

There were about 1500 pack, troop or crew meetings in 1965. How many began and finished on time? Promptly? (Honestly: who bothers?)

There were 33 Scouts at the PLs' training course.: How many had been to a patrol camp in 1965? Five. No-one else had bothered.

When nobody bothers it is tatty.

Like jeans and jerseys over uniform on mild, spring evenings. Like Cubs in longs. Like carefully losing berets, and looking like walking unmade beds. (Now we're back to the shaggy hair again!+ Tatty.)

We could do with an Anti Tatty Campaign for 1966. To get things tidy; to trim things up, like grass, hair, uniform, timekeeping, piles of rubbish. ("Who's duty patrol tonight?")

The people in charge of the Anti Tatty Campaign would be any and each Cub, Scout, Senior, Rover, Scouter or odd-and-end who bothered to do anything, to trim things up and eliminate all evidence of unbothering. To get rid of the tatty rubbish - and the tatty Cubs and Scouts who don't bother - and the tatty little troops who are unkempt and uncared-for. ("We'd better leave that to the DC (or the ADC) (or the GSM) - we can't do anything.")

We are getting together and doing better in District Rovers and Letchworth Seniors. Boy Scouts could think about this in 1966. We could do much better things still by tidying up our organization. Not cheap, or inferior.

Join the A.T.C.!

*"The hare of his berde was Lang and taty." (Bellenden's "Livy", 1553 . Oxford. English Dictionary)

+ "He liked loyalty and short hair; he disliked promiscuity and any failure to carry out your promises." (Grace Wyndham Goldie on Richard Dimpleby, Daily Telegraph, 24.12.65). Promiscuity = the quality of being mixed and disorderly (from the Concise Oxford Dictionary)

BARTON SHIELD

ANNUAL DISTRICT COMPETITION IN FIRST AID FOR BOY SCOUTS : SUNDAY 6 FEBRUARY at DHQ

Teams consist of four Boy Scouts under 15 on the day (no restrictions regarding rank or patrol membership). Standards required are knowledge of (a) tenderfoot, (b) second class, (e) first class, and (d) proficiency badge first aid, respectively. (That is, one member of the team only needs to "Clean a wound, and make and apply a dressing" to score his full points!)

NUMBERS OF TEAMS ENTERING MUST BE GIVEN to ADC Les Collins (96 Bedford Road, Letchworth 6487) NOT LATER THAN SUNDAY 30 JANUARY. He will then notify each troop of the hour their teams are required to report.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the last meeting of the LA Executive Committee are being sent with this month's CO-ORDINATOR to all Group Secretaries - and also to all members of that Committee, who are hereby especially reminded by the LA Secretary of the next meeting: Wednesday 12 January, 8 pm at DHQ.

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THE MOD TROPHY

Present holders, 1W were challenged by 4L Cubs to a chess match (teams of two). In order to allow the Weston Cubs to get some coaching, the general rules were clarified to allow this match to take place at any time up to 19 February 1966. Whoever wins, their Boy Scout section (1W or 4L) have been challenged to seven-a-side rugby by 7L Boy Scouts

CLARIFIED RULES:
Any section of a Group, or any patrol or six within a section, or any individual Scouters or non-warranted ranks in the Group, can challenge their opposite numbers in the Group holding the trophy, to any sort of legal competitive activity. A section may challenge a higher section if it wishes (Cubs may challenge Scouts, Scouts may challenge Seniors, etc., but not vice versa). If special equipment is needed, the challengers must be able to provide it for both teams.

If a challenge is not accepted within 1 calendar month and played within 3 calendar months of the previous award, the trophy goes to the challenging group without contest. If no challenge is made within 3 calendar months, the trophy reverts to the District for a new open contest. All challenges, with date and place, must be notified to the Press Secretary, who will enter them in the official record book.

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DISTRICT GANG SHOW

REHEARSALS START AT 6 PM ON SATURDAY
8 JANUARY AT DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS
thence every Saturday until the show:
WEDNESDAY TO SATURDAY 13 TO 16 APRIL
AT SAINT FRANCIS' THEATRE, LETCHWORTH

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BAMBOO POLES

Light and practical for all kinds of pioneering training: from as little as 14s. a dozen (42s. a dozen for 1" thick poles, 8' long). ADC(S) Peter Blott has price lists and all details for anyone interested. 61 Howard Drive, Letchworth.

Larger pine poles? They are listed, too, from 3½d. a foot.

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WHO HOLDS WHAT

A quick reference list of the District trophies, and who got them during 1965

Barton Shield (Boy Scout first aid).....4L
Boy Scout Sports Shield.....1B
Boy Scout Swimming Shield.....2L
B-P Guild Cup (Boy Scout patrols):2L Falcons
Cub First Aid Trophy.....7L
Cub Quiz Trophy.....7L
Cub Sports Shield.....8L Monday
Cub Swimming Trophy.....1B
Icknield Shield (Boy Scout camping).....1L
Nightjar Trophy (Horn of a dilemma).....1B
Pixmore Shield (Cub football)....8L Monday
Plinston Trophy (arts and crafts).....7L
Whalebone Trophy (Senior operations)....1B

Contests without trophies

Boy Scout cooking competition.....5L
Senior Scout cooking competition.....1/3L
Senior Scout swimming competition.....5L

The Mod Trophy

Present holders (see page 1).....1W

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SENIOR COUNTY MARATHON

Senior Scout troops are reminded that all entries for the County Marathon (29-30 January) MUST reach the organizer BEFORE THE END OF THIS WEEK! Application forms were in the November HSN.

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JUST-FOR-FUN LEAGUE

The table given in the December CO-ORDINATOR is now final for 1965. This showed the three most active groups last year to have been:

1B.....2876½ points

5L.....1952

2L.....1765½

The top three in the year 1964 were:

5L.....2746½ points

3L.....2371

1B.....2202½

And the top three of 1963 were:

2L.....1753½ points

4L.....1511

5L.....1114

First contest for 1966 will probably be the Cub first aid on 12 February.

HOUSE ORDERLY BADGE

Mrs I.J. Foster is unable to examine any Cubs for this badge for the time being. CMs please note.

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THE HSN HIKE : Exclusive report

Letchworth a Baldock District provided the control centre for this county exercise on Sunday and Monday this week - and two of the 28 walkers involved

Roger Keeney and Bob Wilson manned the telephone in the map room throughout Sunday, while PL(S) Michael Coram, and Ken Johnson, were walking 30 of the 100 miles around Hertfordshire. David Watson did a gallant rescue job to find these two after dark and bring them home from Leavesden Green, Watford.

Six others started from Letchworth at 8 am on Sunday: Peter Carnoohan (15) and Michael Hall (16) of 64SWH Seniors, kept it up all day, but left off when close to their homes at Watford (31 miles). Four of the "Brown Scarf" Senior Troop of Hemel Hempstead were met at intervals by their Scouters in their Dormobile with coffee, or soup, or sausage and mash, and this way walked an aggregate of 172 miles. Andrew Mathie (17) of 1Gadebridge quit at 30 miles, just after sunset; Jim Anderson (23) of 4 Leith and Colin Connelly (18) of 4Boxmoor, kept going for 16½ hours till giving in at Potters Bar (46 Miles) in the middle of a bitterly cold foggy night. David Shipway (17, and a vegetarian) went on till 1.15 on Monday morning to complete the 50 miles at Cuffley, and was then taken home.

Stevenage were represented by ADC(S) Vic Olley and SS John Watts, who did 18 miles from Rush Green to Leverstock Green. Four Welwyn Garden City Seniors joined in at Codicote, caught up with the main party (who were an hour ahead of schedule) and two of them finished at Bushey (33 miles), the other two at Elstree (38).

Four of the six who started at Harpenden at 8.10 am made the 39 miles to Hoddesdon before retiring late on Sunday night. Two 1Apsley Rovers are believed to, have done 25 miles, and five representatives of 31SWH walked at least 10 miles, earning between them 30 bob a mile for Oxfam.

Colin Connelly's 46 miles were done at six shillings a mile, so altogether when final figures are published (in February HSN) a considerable sum should have been sent to Oxfam.

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JANUARY REMINDERS

- 8 First Gang Show rehearsal, DHQ, 6pm
- 12 L A Executive Committee, DHQ, 8 pm
- 15 Rock Council, DHQ, -8 pm
- 15 2L Group party, St George's Hall
- 17 Scouters' Council, DHQ, 8-pm
- 24 Gang Show Committee, DHQ
- 26 B-P Guild meeting, DHQ
- 23 Last items in, please, to KJ for CO-ORDINATOR 81