



C-ORDINATOR¹⁴⁵

JUNE 1971

MNB at AGM

Those present at the annual general meeting on 13 May saw the final of the Hall Trophy quiz, won by Eighth Letchworth Trojans with 26 points to Second Letchworth 24 and Seventh Letchworth 23.

During the interval, District Chairman Sydney Blaxland introduced the County Commissioner, who spoke as follows.

"It's awfully nice of you to allow me to come early. As a matter of-fact, I've got to go to Royston from

here. I'm due at Royston at 8.15, and I'm due at Cheshunt at 9.15, and Cheshunt is quite some considerable way from Royston: Luckily it's more or less on the A10, but Mr Burgess is driving me. This, as a matter of fact, is the eighth annual general meeting that I have been to in the last two weeks. I am doing three tonight, two tomorrow, and I don't know how many next week - but we break the back of it next week, as there are only a few left. I can't do two of them next week as on Friday I'm going into hospital - nothing serious! - and I hope to get out very quickly.

But it's very good of you to suit my convenience. Otherwise I just couldn't have done this, because I have some important presentations both at Royston (I have a Silver Acorn and a Queen's Scout to present) and also at East Herts. But I have got one Leader Permit - "

(CHAIRMAN "I'm very sorry, sir, but he's not turned up yet.")

"Let me know if he comes. I've got Mr Tiplady's warrant as ADC, which I'll be delighted to present him with.

Now, as your Chairman very rightly said, this is the last time that you are going to put up with me as your County Commissioner at an annual meeting - "

(CHAIRMAN; "I didn't put it like that, actually.")

"No. But that is the truth, nevertheless. I have been, believe it or not, nine years as County Commissioner, and during that time I have had varying degrees of spelling of my name. The worst type that they get is B.a.l.l.y. S.i.l.l.y., and we have had varying kinds of things on this, and if you can realize what kind of a temptation it was when I was at school, it was tricky and it was only a question of the strong right arm that kept things going.

It's been nine quite memorable years, and a whole crowd of people in the County, I know, will be delighted when Mr Burgess takes over from me on the ninth of October, because they are hoping - I think quite wrongly - to

LETCHWORTH & BALDOCK
DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
MONTHLY BULLETIN

Annual subscription 32½p
Free to Scouters and Group
and District officials
News and subs to District
Information Officer, 80
Spring Road, Letchworth
(3920)

have a quiet easy time, and no further alarms and no further provocation. Possibly Mr Burgess will be more tactful than I am, and you may have an apparently easier time; but I don't think it will be more than apparent.

One of the things that have struck me very clearly during the time that I have been County Commissioner, is the strength of our movement. And it goes on from strength to strength. You have reported, Mr Chairman, a small increase - I can't remember just how much this year?"

(CHAIRMAN: "About eleven.").

"Eleven: yes, just fractionally. You know? Hovering! But you know throughout the County we have got about 600 up, and this is quite good. There are only two districts, Rickmansworth and St Albans, are down, and everyone else is up. And we are up very considerably: that is, by roughly 4.2 per cent.

And this to me is very cheering, because I expect this is a national characteristic as well. It is quite astonishing that a movement which has a restricted membership because of the allegiance to the Scout law and the Scout promise should be on the up and up. Because, you know, we are the only youth movement in the country who are steadily increasing our numbers.

Some of the other youth movements are doing their level best to just keep level, and to do so most of them have had to lower their age groupings, in order to maintain this. We are not. We are keeping them steady. And still we are increasing. And this to my mind is very interesting, and I think it's most encouraging.

We are the biggest youth organization in this country - in the world! I don't know how many millions of Scouts there are - something like nine, I think - in the world, and there's a lot of Guides as well, as some of you know! There's a lot of Guides in this country: about half a million Guides and half a million Scouts, and there are some 15,000 Guides in Hertfordshire and 14½ thousand Scouts. I really don't know how many Guides there are now, because you know they can't count as quickly as we can! So I can't tell you how many they are, but I do know one thing - they've got more than

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THE ST JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE

extend a cordial invitation to all Scout Leaders and Guiders to a meeting at their Headquarters in Birds Hill, Letchworth, on Monday 5 July at 8 pm. Arranged for youth leaders especially, the evening's subject is "Drug abuse", with discussion, questions and films following talks by Dr J.D. Hall (County Council Divisional Medical Officer), Mr Fairfax (Health Officer) and Sgt Harris (Hertfordshire Constabulary).

GREATEST IN THE DISTRICT?

The meeting of the District Patrol Leaders' Council on 20 May appointed a new Chairman: PL Trevor Marshall, 36 Haymoor, Letchworth, and Secretary: Robert Carr, 41 Monklands, Letchworth (72103).

Among items discussed was a suggestion for a District "Great Patrol Hunt", to run through the year, based partly on entries in the County GPH, and partly on participation in District competitions, other District events, public service, and possibly proficiency awards and PLs' attendance at District PLs' Council meetings!

Records for all of the above have been kept during 1971, and a table is, being compiled by the DSL and DIO, for the next meeting's consideration, on THURSDAY 1 JULY, 7.30 pm at 5L HQ, Spring Road, Letchworth. Scouters are particularly asked to remind their PLs and APLs of this meeting, as certain troops still fail to show any recognition of the important part that a Patrol Leader needs to play in the planning of training and competitive events for the Scout section.

ACC (Scouts) John Bennett attended the recent meeting, and urged all those present to arrange Patrol activities for the summer holiday period, especially towards the later part when younger lads tend to be at a loose end. Holiday projects are on the agenda for the 1 July meeting.

Details will also be known by then of Norton UNCOMMON Camp - so called as it is being moved out from Norton Common to Nortonbury Farm, in view of the probability of large numbers of Scouts from elsewhere in Hertfordshire joining us for the weekend, as it is a Great Patrol Hunt event.

Older Scouts are still urgently needed to fill some places in the lists for the Council of Social Service "Here to Help" exhibition and jubilee events at the, Grammar School Hall. -Vacancies are as follows: MONDAY.31 MAY, 2.45: Guard of Honour for the arrival of the Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire. MONDAY 31 MAY to FRIDAY 4 JUNE: six stewards for each afternoon (3-6) and evening (6-9) at the exhibition. SATURDAY 5 JUNE:-six stewards for afternoon only. TUESDAY 8 JUNE: more

(CONTINUED OPPOSITE)

Letchworth GUIDERS

BROWNIE GUIDERS are asked to consider the Agility badge. Is it -.too easy, tab hard, too varied, not varied enough; for the age group, etc? Comments, good or bad, to Mrs Drylie by 4 June, please.

GUIDE BADGE LISTS to Mrs Griffin, 14 Seller-shott East, by 31 May, please!

ROUND TABLE FAIR: 5 June by the Paddling Pool. Guide companies have offered to help at the following times: 2 pm - 4L;.2.30 pm - 9L; 3 pm - 1S; 3.30 pm - 1L; 4 pm - 6L; 4.30 pm - 2L; 5 pm - 11L; 5.30 pm - volunteers still wanted. Teams of 4 Guides from these companies to report in uniform to the tea tent at their appointed time and help for one hour.

CAMPER BADGE TEST: 11-13 June, Nortonbury Farm. It was decided that 2L, 1B and 1A Guides should come at 5 pm on Friday and stay till 7 pm on Saturday. 1L and 6L to come at 2 pm on Saturday and stay till 4 pm on Sunday. I would like to see all the candidates to explain just what we shall expect of them, and I suggest 2 pm at the Thatched Hut, 20 Baldock Road, on Tuesday 1 June. Anyone going away for half-term could arrange to get the information from one of the other candidates, but please let me know if you are coming!

- M.C. DRYLIE

PATROL CAMP PERMITS: 2,3 and 4 July, Weston Scout camp site..

HOSPITALITY WANTED for foreign Guides, 20-24 August after a language course at Cambridge. Their age range is 14-18 years.

DIVISION COMPETITION FOR GUIDES...

(i) a frieze on the history of Guiding - to be a Company effort;

(ii) a book of prayers - to be a Patrol effort. Please give source of prayer, or state if original work; book to be not larger than 8 by 10 inches..

To be completed for District judging by 1 October..

...IUD FOR RANGERS

A book of prayers: same rules as Guides,.but closing date 1 November.

BALDOCK Guiders

PLEASE SEE THE NOTE ON THE CAMPER BADGE TEST, IN THE LETCHWORTH NOTES.

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strong Scouts to move desks and chairs after the concert at 9.30; WEDNESDAY 9 JUNE: desk and chair movers at 9 pm after the puppet show; THURSDAY 10 JUNE: desk and chair movers after the variety show.

Scouters and Venture Scouts will be equally welcome for these public service tasks. In order that the lists may be finalized as soon as possible, will those willing to help please phone VSL Colin Phillips (Letchworth 71705) with their names and addresses, indicating which period of service they are prepared to give. The exhibition is called "Here to Help". Let us be there to help.

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us! But I only discovered this quite by accident recently, because I have become the treasurer of the Hertfordshire Guides and therefore I am getting some inside information. Incidentally, I found that I had E3,000 in the account, and I put it on deposit the other day, and I very nearly put it to the Scout account!

But they count, if you please, among their census figures, the recruits that are in the Brownies and the Guides, but they don't pay capitation fees on the recruits. So this is an easy one, and at the Executive the other day I pointed this out to them. But it must mean a good thousand of a difference, and this is an interesting fact for you.

It is good, isn't it, that we are on the up and up county-wise, nationally and internationally - and Letchworth-wise, too. This is right.

What does it mean?

Now if I may just address a remark or two to the older of you, it is this, I think, that's quite important. When I became County Commissioner nine years ago, I made up my mind to do one thing. I was going to fight the 'permissive society' for as long as I possibly could, and as strongly as I possibly could, and this I have done.

I think there has been considerable success in this, because our movement is increasing in numbers, which means - if it means anything at all - that our older boys are not by any means persuaded that this 'permissive society' is a good thing. They still retain their allegiance to Scouting, and they still do everything they possibly can to further it. And many of them become Scouters.

Now, to my mind, this is absolutely encouraging. I'll give you an example. The other Sunday - two Sundays ago - I had to take the Scouts' St George's Day service at one of the districts, and I had the job of talking. It was open air, and arrayed in front of me were three or four hundred boys, Cubs, Scouts and Venture Scouts; behind me were a whole lot of parents; on one side was the Salvation Army band, and me on a platform with a very good loud-speaker system - all right: But you know, I decided to contain my talk to the boys to seven or eight minutes, which I stuck to. I had a very difficult job to do.

You see, we did all the old things, and I suppose you did, too, at your St George's Day. I mean, we remembered all the saints. We didn't Fight the Good Fight, but we did remember all the saints, and we talked about being Valiant, and the like. And I had the job of talking, and I found it very difficult.

The same afternoon, I went to Phasels, and I suppose some of you were at Phasels, were you? How many of you boys were at Phasels on Sunday afternoon? Well, the thing that was astounding, the highlight to me, in spite of seeing all the boys and

so forth, was the fact that there was a Scout's Own run by young people. A young man took the service, and took the talk. By gum, it was some talk, wasn't it? Hellfire wasn't in it! And there were four young gentlemen about 16 or 17 with their instruments that I wouldn't know the name of. And normally a Scout's Own will last for ten minutes or a quarter of an hour, and if it's too long it's twenty minutes. This lasted for nearly an hour. The boys were obviously loath to stop: which to me was clear. Their promise of doing their duty to God meant something.

I talked to them later in the camp fire circle, further down the field, and I happened to mention to them this: 'I do congratulate you on quite a number of things, but one of the things I do congratulate you on is the Scout's Own. Don't you wish that some of our church services were more like that?' And they expressed that this was so. You see, they had some clues on this. And I was fighting against the tide in the morning, and I joined in their Scout's Own in the afternoon with great joy. I wasn't fighting against the tide on that. I wasn't fighting at all: I was enjoying it.

And therefore I am sure that we are on the right lines in our Scouting, when we are encouraging our boys to worship their God in the way that they feel like doing, with sincerity, and bringing in all the other things in their lives which can be dedicated, at the same time.

Now, if you go on, my friends, you who are the leaders of the Scouts in Letchworth, and you Patrol Leaders, who are leading the boys here, if you go on like that you need have no worry for the future of the Scouts.

This Great Patrol Hunt that seems to be instigated by OUR young friend down the road - sitting down there - you know, I wondered what it was at first, some two or three years ago. It was a County thing but of course he didn't ask my permission - 'May we do this?' Oh no! He just did it! And I wondered what this was about.

Now at every annual general meeting that I have gone to (haven't I?) I've boosted this thing, because I believe that this is a good idea.

And as long as you people in Letchworth make sure that the patrol is the unit of our training, and the Patrol Leader the most important fellow in the movement, we are all lending a hand, then I am sure that the future that we have got for Scouting in this County is very rosy indeed.

You have got a new County Commissioner very shortly. Tony is an old old friend of mine, and we have run this County together for some years now. I am stepping down; he is stepping up; we, I think, will still remain friends, and I will be available when I need to be available, but I

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have now joined the Guides, and there will be other things, doubtless, that I will be asked to do. But you will not find me knocking about with the Scouts, because that wouldn't be fair.

I've had a marvellous time. Do you know how long I've been in the Scouts? Fifty five years! In the Scouts. Which means that I'm pretty old, doesn't it? And I feel it!

But anyway, there it is. Some of the boys are coming with me to the Lofotens (I don't think anybody of this lot are coming to Lofoten? Oh, you are, yes.) I am leading 168 to the Lofotens this summer, which is in the Arctic, and this is going to be the climax of my Scouting career, and I am looking forward to it, to no end.

But I've got no doubts about the future at all. And therefore I do with all my heart wish you well in the future, and I hope that all goes well."

In the annual general meeting which followed, Mr R. Waldock, 53 Bedford Road, Letchworth, was appointed as District Treasurer to succeed Mr M. Gardiner, and Mr H. Jarman, Ashwell End Farm, Ashwell, filled the vacancy on the Executive Committee from the resignation of Mr F.A. Hawley: Other nominations were confirmed as before: President, Mr H. Plinston. Chairman, Mr S.P. Blaxland, 55 Bedford Road, Letchworth. Secretary, Mr P. Norton, 74 Willian Way, Letchworth. Assistant Secretary, Mr A. Wood, 25 Cloisters Road, Letchworth. District Information Officer, K.Johnson. District Badge Secretary, Mrs M. Deary. Executive Committee, Mrs D. Eaves, Mrs I.J. Foster, Mr I.Hooper, Mrs B. Eaves, Mr T. Sparrow, Mr E. Oldham, Mrs G. Watson.

Divisional Commissioner Bryan Cheney presented warrants to ADC(General Duties) Rodney Tiplady and Champion Hills' VSL Colin Phillips. (It should be explained in their defence that the re-timing of the CC's visit had not been notified to them.)

The DC said it had been a very successful year, with numbers up, especially in Scouters and Instructors. He emphasized that it is the GSL's job to lead these adults in training, and find them plenty to do. There are lots of jobs to be done, for we still do not get enough help. He hoped that promises would always be kept, and that we would not let people down. Mr Eaves thanked all those who had done so much, with special reference to Mr Eric Oldham who now retires as a uniformed Scouter but remains on the District Executive; to Mrs Kathleen Tippet, with best wishes for her speedy recovery, as the District is always thinking about her; and to DSL Jeff Robson who has "set us all alight". The DC looked forward to 1971-1972 as a very exciting year.

ENTRY FORM

FOR SCOUT ATHLETIC SPORTS, 26 JUNE 1971

*-Please get this form to DSL Jeff Robson, 67 High Avenue, Letchworth, by Saturday 19 June, with 10p per Troop entry fee. Maximum 3 events per Scout.

TROOP _____

JUNIOR SCOUTS (AGE 11, 12 OR 13)

Event	First name	Surname	Age
100 metres			
200 metres			
400 metres			
800 metres			
Long jump			
High jump			
4 x 200 metres relay			

SENIOR SCOUTS (AGE 14 OR 15)

Event	First name	Surname	Age
100 metres			
200 metres			
400 metres			
800 metres			
1500 metres			
Long jump			
High jump			
Shot put			
Javelin			
4 x 400 metres relay			
Tug of war			

(Note: On the day, some unscored novelty items will be included in the programme to give a break to competitors entered in consecutive items. These may include egg throwing, wheelbarrow races, etc.)

DATES IN JUNE 1971

- 10 Troop Scouters' Council, DHQ, 2000
- 14 (not 7) Norton Camp subcommittee, 5L HQ, Spring Road, 2000
- 21 Pack Scouter:' Council, 38 Valley . Road, Letchworth, 2000
- 26 Scout District Sports (see local press for venue), 1430
- 26 LAST ITEMS IN, PLEiSE, FOR THE JULY CO-ORDINATOR!