

All GSLs have been circulated regarding Job Week material, three have replied. Would the rest please let Bob Williams, the District Secretary, have their requirements as soon as possible. (Telephone 686727).

My job in the district

3. Colin Phillips ADC (Leader Training)

When looking at the job of any Assistant District Commissioner, it must be appreciated that, whatever happens in the district, it is the DC's responsibility. He appoints us to assist him, in my case with the training of scouters, especially the initial training of newly appointed leaders.

The training process starts as soon as a GSL applies for a warrant for one of his section leaders. Before approval is given, the person concerned must appear before the Appointments Committee, and it is here that the training obligations are explained, and a personal training adviser is allocated. During the initial training a general information course is held to pass on the fundamentals of scouting.

The next stage is to encourage leaders to attend a basic course, followed by an advanced course, which are run by the County Training Team. In between the various weekends practical assignments are carried out which will help the participants as well as their sections. These have to be monitored, and help given where required, not only by myself but by the District Team and the GSL, etc. The end of the training is marked by the presentation of the Wood Badge, which is at the discretion of the DC.

This all sounds very formal, although it has to be adapted to the individual, and courses can be tremendous fun, at the same time learning from other leaders and trying out new ideas without having the responsibility of young people in your charge.

It can be seen that the training role is a very broad one, covering all sections in every corner of the district. I have two assistants - Alison Wilson (Cubs) and Graham Smith (Scouts), and need the co-operation of all leaders in the district, especially the District Team, who I meet at the regular monthly meetings to discuss problems, programmes and where miscellaneous district jobs are allocated.

To do this job it is important to be an experienced leader, having completed advance training in one of the sections, and to be prepared to help or join the County Training Team. There is a constant demand for tutors and session loaders, and further training can be taken to become a course leader. The leader trainers from the districts in the county meet twice a year to discuss all aspects of training, and to plan courses two years ahead.

All these aspects of training will only be effective if they are done with one thing in mind - helping the boys.

NEXT MONTH: Bob Williams - District Secretary.



Letchworth & Baldock District **Scout Fellowship**

The Fellowship held a highly successful AGM and dinner on 25th October, 1986 at which the County commissioner and ACC (Fellowship) were present. In the fastest (and funniest) AGM on record, Laurie Cook and Ken Johnson were re-elected as Chairman and Secretary, and John Foster was elected Treasurer. The ACC spoke of future Fellowship events, and the County Commissioner made an appeal on behalf of 'Scoutaid', which aims to support scouts in under-developed countries who help with vital community projects. Beech Springs VSU provided a very efficient team of waiters and washers-up.

JAMBOREE

LEE CROSSMAN (12L) and NEALL McCALLION (11L) are the lucky lads who will represent the District at the 16th World Jamboree, to be held at Cataract Scout Park, New South Wales, Australia from 30th December, 1987 to 10th January, 1988. With the rest of the UK contingent they will fly out on Christmas Eve, spending Christmas in the air. After a rigorous selection procedure, a short-list of 6 was compiled from the original 38 names submitted by the Groups, and final interviews were held on Tuesday, 28th October.

The District now has to raise the £3,000 necessary to send our lads to Australia, and the Jamboree Committee, under the Chairmanship of Colin Phillips, would appreciate any financial assistance from groups or individuals. So far, 8L have donated £100, and the District Fellowship £260 from various fund-raising events.

Eileen Phillips will be selling Webb Ivory Christmas cards in aid of the fund; please contact her at 29 Haselfoot, Letchworth, or 'phone 671705.

Further events are planned for 1987. Meantime, watch this space for details of December's social evening for past and future Jamboree participants, and please go into training for the Garden City Walk!

Barn Dance

Tickets are available for the Jamboree Barn Dance

ON Saturday, 7th November
 AT The Highfield School
 FROM 7.30-11.30 pm.
 PRICE £3.00 (including Ploughman's Supper).
 CALLER Brian Limbrick.

GET YOUR TICKET NOW from:

Colin Phillips	Telephone 671705
Roger Comley	
John Moys	685067
Laurie Cook	674046

Where were YOU ?

Thanks to Colin Phillips, Jeff Robson and the two 4th Letchworth Scouts who turned up for the day at Norton Bury. Shame on the rest of you!

Fred.

Field Commissioners

Rule 59 i

Field Commissioners are appointed by the Association's Headquarters and assigned to work in Scout Counties to assist County Commissioners in the development of Scouting.

Have you ever wondered about the men behind Rule 59 i? "Our" Field Commissioner (who is also responsible for Buckinghamshire, Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire) has sent us this account of how he sees his job.

THE VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

No, not a report from a Captain as to what he sees from his command post, but a few remarks from someone who can act as a bridge between different Counties and between those Counties and Headquarters. Also, as anyone who has stood on a bridge knows, one often gets a much wider view than that from the ground, which is almost inevitably limited by the immediate surroundings.

I'm frequently asked what other Counties, Districts or Groups are doing, and I think it a useful and important facet of my job when I can give examples of how others are coping with current problems and events, or preparing for future ones. However, I always try to preface any such examples with comments such as "that's not the only way to do it", or "because it's right for than it's not necessarily right for you".

So, what is the view from the bridge? A lot of the things I see are common to all. The uniform, the Law and Promise, the commitment and dedication of Commissioners, Leaders, Administrators and Supporters to provide young people with exciting and challenging Scouting. I also see common problems concerning such things as the shortage of readers (or the distribution of those we do have) and the perennial shortage of finances.

The things I see that are different are the ways that people have, of tackling these problems and the alternative answers that emerge. The various committee structures which help to decide what's going to be done and who's going to do it. The diversity of appointments made by Counties and Districts to give support to the Leaders in a Group. The various ways of communication used in an attempt to disseminate information.

Is this diversity of approach wrong? I don't think so. There are certain matters where a common policy is laid down and people who have volunteered to join the movement have, by implication, agreed to follow it. There are other matters where Counties, Districts, Groups and individual Leaders are given a large amount of discretion in choosing the best way to meet local conditions.

A number of people say that it would be simpler if we all did the same things in the same way. Simpler for whom? I believe that this diversity of approach is one of the strengths of the Movement. The fact that Scouting is flexible enough to adapt it's approach to current localised events is one of the main reasons for it's present and continued success.

Also, with numerous people, either individually or collectively, trying out different approaches to problems, events and activities, a vast reservoir of information and expertise is built up. This can then be shared and further adapted so that no matter what problems face Scouting in the future, it is well-placed to find acceptable and effective solutions.

However, this freedom of action has it's own built-in limitations. We each have a responsibility to use that freedom in the spirit in which it has been given, for the maximum benefit of the Association and it's Members.

Finally, the next time you feel out of step with everybody else, remember the old military adage which says that the safest way for a large number of people to cross a bridge is for them not to be in step.

Thank you all for the work you are doing and for making my job so much easier and so very pleasant and enjoyable. The view from the bridge is great.

Bill Ferriday
Field Commissioner



Awards

The County Commissioner presented the following awards at the Fellowship Dinner on Saturday, 25th October:

Bar to the Medal of Merit

Jeff Robson

Medal of Merit

Laurie Cook
Lorraine Riley

Operation NIGHTJAR

85 boys in 25 teams took part in Operation Nightjar over the nights of 24th/25th October. The marks in this very popular Scout competition were very close - the top and bottom teams being separated by 80 marks, and the first 6 by only 12. Results were as follows:-

- 1st Team Hotel, 5th Letchworth
(Stephen Hall, Neil Wright, Chris Joannou).
- 2nd Team Quebec, 7th Letchworth.
- 3rd Team Yankee, 12th Letchworth.

Warrants

Warrants Presented:

Anne Lilley	Assistant District Commissioner	(Cub Scouts)
Rosemary Charsley	"	" (Venture Scouts)
Colin Phillips	"	" (Leader Training)
Jeff Robson	"	" (General Duties)
Roger Comley	"	" (Fellowship)
Lorraine Riley	"	" (Public Relations)

Warrants Approved:

Lesley Farmer	ACSL 4L (Musketeers)
Nicholas Farmer	SL 5L
Philip Kerrigan	ACSL 5L
Patrick Tomkins	ASL 11L

100 Club

October results:

£25	R. Smith
£10	D. Eaves
£5	5L Scouts
£5	K. Johnson
£5	D. Cooke

There are still vacancies if anyone else wants to join the 100 Club, which supports Norton Bury. Perhaps Scout Groups might consider joining 5th and 8th Letchworth, who each have a subscription, and have been recent winners. If you would like to join, contact Ron May at 28, Hawthorn Hill, Letchworth.

Champion Hills VSU

Champion Hills VSU, who hold their AGM on 3rd November, have announced that they are to become a mixed unit, under their new VSL, Mrs. Leadley.

The Unit's latest venture was to take part in the Bungo Trophy (The Herts Venture Scout Hockey Tournament) at Welwyn Garden City. The top teams of each league of six took part in the final play-off, whilst the remaining teams played in a knock-out competition for the Bungo Plate, which the Champion Hills team, captained by Kevin Leadley. Shaun Denman was top goal scorer.

Co-ordinator

In an endeavour to compile an accurate distribution list for Co-ordinator, from this issue, GSLs will receive one copy for each leader and group official listed in the new Directory. With the November issue, anybody on the present distribution list not listed in the Directory will receive a letter asking them to renew their subscription with effect from January, 1987. If you are not in the Directory and feel you should be, please contact your GSL. If you receive a letter, and feel that you should not have done so, please contact me.

Lorraine Riley,
Editor

P.S.

Co-ordinator by Letchworth & Baldock, has recently undergone an amazing face-lift with its new editor Lorraine Riley,

HSG October, 1986.

Contrary to expectations raised by last month's HSG, my face remains the same as it always has done!

Published by and for the Letchworth and Baldock District. Scout Council.

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