



125 Activity Weekend



Inverclyde 5 – 7 June 2009

Set on a wooded hillside behind the Ayrshire town of Largs, lies the sportscotland National Centre, Inverclyde.

Over the first weekend in June this large estate was bathed in glorious sunshine, making the view over the Firth of Clyde to the Isle of Cumbrae perfect, the peace shattered only by 150 Company Section boys and their leaders as BB Scotland took over the site, for the culmination of the national 125th Anniversary celebrations in Scotland. Nothing could spoil the idyllic setting – well apart from the swarms of midgies and the heavy downpour of rain, as the campers put up their tents. These negatives were soon forgotten however as everyone, young and not so young alike, signed up to take part in a number of coaching sessions over the next couple of days.

The facilities at Inverclyde have been developed for the top Scottish sports people so for the two days the boys and leaders were able to have a go, coached by the same people and on the same equipment used by their sporting heroes. With 10 sessions available over the weekend there was plenty of scope for trying something new as well as developing a sport already undertaken.

Budding Robin Hood fanatics had a go at archery, whilst the golf buffs tried out the Bob Torrance School of Golf, hitting balls from the same tees as Pdraig Harrington will have done. Other indoor sports on offer included, Badminton, Fitness, Squash (not as easy as it looks on the TV), Table Tennis, Trampolining and Volleyball. Outside provided opportunities to improve skills on the

Trim Trail, in Football, Hockey, Mountain Biking, Orienteering and Tennis.

A group of around 20 hopped on the ferry over to Cumbrae for a spot of sailing and kayaking.

If throughout the day the participants hadn't had enough exercise, everyone competed in a Highland Games on the Saturday evening, a great event providing a lot of fun for all concerned, even when the midgies tried to spoil it!

Friday and Saturday evenings provided a wonderful worship experience, ably led by Rev Steve Emery, Chaplain of the 1st Ellon Company from Aberdeenshire, with a band from the Bridge of Don area of Aberdeen. The singing was tremendous and the message quite uplifting, certainly making us all leave with something to think about.

The success of the weekend was helped by a band of volunteers, who ensured that the event ran smoothly and grateful thanks is expressed to each and every one of them. The real stars of the weekend, however, were undoubtedly the young folk taking part. There was a really friendly atmosphere about the place, just another example of the strong BB family. Excellent reports were received from the centre regarding the manner and behaviour of those attending.

Did you miss out on the event?

If you did, or if you were there and enjoyed it, then watch this space!

The centre at Inverclyde is available for any Company who would like to use it for a similar type activity weekend. Want to know more? Check out the website at www.nationalcentreinverclyde.org.uk



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NATIONAL



RACHEL HOUSE

The 1st Kinross raised £500 for Rachel House, Seniors have completed voluntary work there in preparation for their Queen's Badge

Below is a profile on Sam Dick, one of the boys who was involved...

Practical service

Start date: 15/4/06 Finish date: Continuing. Total hours: 50 (two and a half weekly).

What did you do?

Preparation for mealtimes – table setting, serving meals, tidying kitchen and dining areas. Support for kitchen staff and adult volunteers in providing meals for up to 30 people, Rachel house families and staff.

What did you enjoy?

Learning how to interact with a wide variety of people – both visiting families and staff/ adult volunteers; the warm welcoming atmosphere of the hospice; the feeling of doing some good for others.

What did you find difficult?

Dealing with families suffering from bereavement. Dealing with my own feelings when I knew the people involved.

What did you learn?

How to serve meals to a large group of people; how to clear up in an efficient, hygienic manner; how to chat with strangers both visitors and other volunteers; that a hospice is not necessarily a sad place. I am continuing to work as a volunteer as long as I can, depending on my commitments in further education. Even then I might be able to do intermittent volunteering. It gives me a good feeling knowing I am doing a little to help people less fortunate.



Mrs Elsa Sinclair from the local CHAS receives cheque for £500, with members from the three sections.



Members of 1st Ashton in Makerfield Company Section who took part in the sponsored bike race.

SPONSORED NIGHT BIKE RACE

On Saturday 4th October 2008 members of the 1st Ashton in Makerfield Company Section participated in a squadron 125 mile sponsored bike race. Three squads of five began the race at 8pm, swapping team members at regular intervals. The Boys raised a total of £250 for Derian House Children's Hospice as part of the BB 125th Appeal for Children's Hospices.

CHILDREN'S HOSPICES UK

Below is a list of donations we have been notified about from February to May 2009. If we have missed you out then please let us know as soon as possible.

3rd Lisburn	50.00	East Lancashire Battalion	200.00	1st Stourbridge	200.00
22nd West Kent	150.00	1st East Cowes	50.00	3rd Wallasey	213.00
Carlisle & District Battalion	200.00	1st Ashton in Makerfield	250.00	Perth & District Battalion	328.88
1st Matlock	230.00	Mr P J Stanley	100.00	12th Sidcup	343.10
1st Mauchline	420.00	North West District -		1st South Woodham Ferrers	500.55
1st Ulverston	164.07	Battalion Church Parade	200.00	Portadown & District Battalion	125.00
Mid Staffs & Sandwell Battalion	133.50	Oldham Battalion	80.00	1st Middlewich	400.00
6th/8th Dundee	75.00	1st Over Wyre	825.00	26th Stirling	527.00
4th Lisburn	225.00	Central Lancashire Battalion	200.00	Tyneside Battalion	727.98
5th West Bromwich	1000.00	st Rishton	200.00	3rd Gateshead	241.00
Lanarkshire Fellowship	80.00	East Cheshire Battalion	260.00	1st Ponteland	600.00
Havering & Brentwood Battalion	680.20	1st Bromborough	344.50	3rd Kilsyth	1000.00
16th West Kent	150.00	32nd Nottingham	60.00		
5th West Bromwich	1000.00	2nd Coleraine	325.00		
12th Ayr	100.00	17th Nottingham	102.68		
1st Kinross	500.00	Mid Scottish Queen's Badge	90.00		
99th Belfast	111.27	Carlisle and District Battalion	84.00		
2nd Witham	447.00	North West Durham Battalion	103.00		
4th Barking	825.00	North West Durham Battalion			
58th Belfast	50.00	(The Grove Methodist Church)	120.00		
Antrim & District Battalion	144.83	North West Durham Battalion	91.13		
68th Aberdeen	125.00	54th Sheffield	150.00		
10th Enfield	1000.00	15th Paisley	1250.00		
1st Acomb	580.00	Stedfast Association London	299.53		



The total to the end of May is £84,607.95 plus 25,000 Euros. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to this magnificent total.

If we have missed you out then please let us know as soon as possible.

The Hospice appeal will come to an end on 31st August 2009.

There will be a full round up in the October issue of the Gazette.

CAIRN COMMEMORATION



Apprentices from a local firm, Frews, were taking part in a Skills Scotland competition to build something that would benefit the community. Members of 1st Stevenston Company proposed a Cairn with an anchor to commemorate 125 years of The Boys' Brigade. The cairn was built and is near the church, in the gardens in front of the Field of Hope, which members

planted for their 125 community badges. A dedication service was held followed by a tea in the church. As well as BB members, there were representatives from the Scouts, The Girls' Brigade, community police, local councillors, British Legion and Gordon Smith, Chief Executive of the SFA, who is a former member of the company.



FLORAL TRIBUTE

The Belfast Battalion wrote to the five local councils which represent the Battalion to ask if they could do anything to help them celebrate the 125th anniversary of The Boys' Brigade. Each of the councils planted a flower tribute in their area which is shown in the photographs above.

5TH WEST BROMWICH 125 COMMUNITY TIDY UP

As part of the 125th Anniversary celebrations of The Boys' Brigade and in taking part in the 125 community award, the 5th West Bromwich Company chose the national Big Tidy Up campaign and their local council's Big Spring Clean as their community project.

Over 30 boys and officers took part in two litter picks in March 2009, around the immediate area of the company church and



public footpaths alongside the Midland Metroline in West Bromwich town centre and Hill Top area. In total, 30 bags of rubbish were collected, six of which were recyclable. The achievements of the company within their local community were recognised by Sandwell Council at an Awards Ceremony on 30th April where a certificate and trophy were presented to the 5th.



125TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

The sun shone, the band played and for the first time in many years, members past and present of the 15th Paisley Company marched to morning worship to celebrate 125 years of The Boys' Brigade. The service was taken by the boys, staff and former members of the 15th Paisley and members from companies within and outwith Paisley joined the celebration. After the service, Alan Young, a member of the Company Section presented CHAS (the Brigade's chosen charity for the 125 celebrations) with a cheque for £1250. Calum Barr, Anchor Boy, presented Erskine (charity for ex servicemen and women) with a cheque for £850.



Battalion President, Robert Park, and the Revd Gavin Black, of Crosshill Parish Church, Motherwell, cutting the cake.

GLASGOW EXHIBITION

The Mitchell Library, one of the leading libraries in Scotland, provided an exhibition to mark 125 years of BB service in Glasgow. The exhibition ran from 6 April to the end of May and, thereafter the display boards were exhibited at local libraries across the City before wider use by Glasgow Battalion. The exhibition was formally launched with Karen Cunningham, head of Library Services, Sir Kenneth and Lady Ann Calman, Lord and Lady Macfarlane, Bailie Margot Clark and other invited guests from City bodies and funding supporters and, not least, representatives from the young people Glasgow serves. Karen Cunningham commented that both the Mitchell Library and the BB were formed around the same period of history by men of vision achieving remarkable progress and impact throughout the world.

1ST STOURBRIDGE FUNDRAISING

Members of the Junior Section of 1st Stourbridge Company compiled joke and puzzle books that they sold to family, friends and church members. Together with the money raised by the Anchor Boys' coin collection and the Company Section sponsored ten pin bowling competition, a cheque for £200 was presented to the Worcester Acorns Hospice.

3RD WALLASEY SMARTIES!

Each boy in the Company was given a tube of Smarties with the invitation to enjoy the Smarties and then fill the empty tube with 20p pieces. As a result a cheque for £213 was presented to Claire House Children's Hospice.

