

FAR AND WIDE

Information for British Groups Abroad



Issue 91
June 2011

WELCOME

I'm delighted to bring you the latest edition of *Far and Wide*. I hope you enjoy reading it!

Copy for the next issue (1 September) is 1 August.

David Bull, Editor, *Far and Wide*
mail@davidbull.net

PROPOSED RESTRUCTURE OF BRITISH SCOUTING OVERSEAS

You will have recently received an e-mail about the restructure of British Scouting Overseas, including British Groups Abroad, seeking comments and suggestions from all Leaders and helpers about the proposals.

Could I encourage you to read the discussion paper and send any responses (even if you think that it will have no impact on your Groups at all!) to me at cc-bga@gmx.com? Comments will be collated by the end of May and, if needed, responses made for everyone to see.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours in Scouting

Peter

Peter Dawes
Commissioner - British Groups Abroad

SAFEGUARDING

A number of Leaders have emailed me about the Safeguarding Awareness Course and what it entails. The course is a three module course which is completed on line. You read a short leaflet and then answer about 10 questions on what you have read. To register for this course you will need to let me know, so that I can sort it out here in the UK and get you your log in details and password.

EVERYDAY ADVENTURE

THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION

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Registered Charity numbers 306101 (England and Wales) and SC038437 (Scotland)

However, if you are coming over to the UK then I am sure I can find out who the nearest Safeguarding Awareness Coordinator is in the area you are visiting and see if they will go over the module with you. Please let me know if you would be interested in this and I will try to arrange it for you.

There is a lot of press coverage at present about Bullying and Safety over the internet. The Scout Association has produced some excellent material on this matter. These are for Leaders and young people and can all be ordered free of charge from the Scout Information centre.



There is a booklet and poster called *Let's Stamp Out Bullying Together*. Also each section has a small booklet which is suitable for their age range called *Stay Safe*. The Beaver one has stickers to help them understand.

If you have any queries on this course then feel free to contact me.

Debbie Phillips
Safeguarding Awareness Coordinator



WELCOME

Steven Ward	AESL	Spain but connected to 1st Fuengirola
Scott Ritchie	ESL	UAE but connected to 1st Abu Dhabi
Craig Reed	OCH	1st Falkland Islands
Anuja Devaraj	OCH	1st Kuwait Salmiya
Andrew Kappus	OCH	1st Kuwait Salmiya
Helen Smallcombe	OCH	Tanglin Trust School
Peter Wolf	OCH	1st Djursholm
Alan White	OCH	1st Djursholm
Jean Forcione	OCH	1st Djursholm
Piero Benazzo	OCH	1st Djursholm
Tony Buckingham	ACSL	2nd Abu Dhabi
Sean Taylor	ASL	3rd Dubai

Change of Appointment

Kerry Hazel	From ACSL to ASL, 2nd Abu Dhabi
Heather Bell	From OCH to CSL1st Murcia Sur

Congratulations

Lizz Swan	1st Djursholm	5 year Chief Scout's Service Award
Zorina Vondracek	1st Dubai	10 year Chief Scout's Service Award
Cynthia George	1st Jamestown	10 year Chief Scout's Service Award

Farewell

Barry & Gillian Acton	1st Murcia Sur
Carol Dolan	1st Murcia Sur
Eileen Clark	1st Kuwait Salmiya
Sandra Bradley	1st Stavanger
Peter Fletcher	1st Oman
Carlo Carboni	1st Oman
Claire Crawford	1st Oman
Stuart Farmer	1st Oman

UPDATE FROM THE APPOINTMENTS SECRETARY

Census

As you can see by the chart on page 3, BGA has had an excellent year showing a very healthy increase in the Membership Numbers. Thank you all for your hard work in making Scouting available to so many young people. Two new Groups have opened during the year but unfortunately Mallorca had to close.

Appointment Forms

The Adult Application Form (AA) and the Occasional Helper Form (OH) are available to download from the Scout Association Web site (www.scouts.org.uk) Member Resources - Online Catalogue. Both are now Version 3 although Version 2 is still acceptable. Any previous versions should be destroyed. The forms cannot be completed on-line but have to be printed, completed and either sent to me by post or re-scanned and emailed to me. Forms are also available from me either by email or by post. Do not send completed forms direct to Scout Headquarters at Gilwell.

Cancellations of Appointments need to be notified to me as soon as the person leaves. An email notification is acceptable giving the date and reason for leaving unless there is an Adverse Report in which case Form CS will need to be completed. This is also available to download or I can supply.

Further information available from:

Ann Payne, Appointments Secretary
BGASecretary@gmail.com

CHIEF SCOUT'S AWARDS

Members of the 1st Abu Dhabi Group receive their awards from British Ambassador Dominic Jeremy.



Census 2011		Beavers	Cubs	Scouts	Leaders	Group	Explorer Unit		Total	Total
Country	Group					Total	Sc	Leaders	2011	2010
Norway	1st Stavanger	20	19		5	44			44	31
Sweden	1st Djursholm	16	15		5	36			36	24
UAE	1st Abu Dhabi	16	26	27	6	75	6	1	82	92
	2nd Abu Dhabi (Raha)	16	15	23	12	66			66	43
	1st Dubai	8	6		2	16			16	24
	2nd Dubai	19	23		5	47			47	47
	3rd Dubai		23	40	9	72	11	2	85	83
Oman	1st Oman	24	27	36	9	96	8		104	104
Bahrain	1st Bahrain (St Christopher's)		13	1	1	15			15	31
Malaysia	1st Kuala Lumpur	24	23	12	3	62			62	56
Falkland Islands	1st Falkland Islands	7	25		7	39			39	52
Ascension Island	1st Ascension Island	10	15	13	8	46	8		54	49
St Helena	1st Jamestown	5	9	10	7	31	8	2	41	41
Singapore	Tanglin Trust School	52	26		6	84			84	25
Spain	1 st Fuengirola (The Ark)	10	19	16	7	52	14	3	69	64
	1st Murcia Sur		3	4	3	10			10	32
	1 st Madrid (Reg 06/08/2010)		6		2	8			8	0
Kuwait	1st Kuwait Salmiya	24	25	12	10	71			71	27
China	1 st Nanjing (Reg 25/07/2010)	11			2	13			13	0
Indonesia	1 st Kemang	9	23		8	40			40	12
County					7	7			7	3
	1st Mallorca Closed									16
14 Countries	Total 20 Groups	271	341	194	124	930	55	8	993	856

SCOUT ACTIVE SUPPORT UNITS ARE STARTING ACROSS THE UK

From January 2010 to March 2011 membership of the Units has increased to over 11,000 members, mainly through the formation of Units from scratch, comprising Co-ordinators, Managers and Members. Across the UK, 975 adults have joined Scout Active Support as their first role in Scouting. This means that this new approach to volunteering is appealing to adults who had not held an adult role in Scouting before.



Who will be the first Group in BGA to form a Scout Active Support Unit?

All resources to support Scout Active Support are available from www.scouts.org.uk/activesupport, or from the Scout Information Centre. Scout Shops have a range of optional merchandise, including scarves, polo shirts, badges and flags. There is a regular *Active Support-eNews* and in the one for March 2011 you will find information and progress. I would very much like to hear news of our first SAS in the BGA.

If you require help please send us your queries or, better still, news that you are forming a Unit. Good luck for the future.

Alan K B Beavis OBE
alanbeavis@btinternet.com

DUST TSUNAMI ENGULFS BEAVERS' 'FUN IN THE DESERT' DAY!

Here in Kuwait, the 1st Salmyia Beavers were caught in the horrendous dust storm that enveloped Kuwait on Friday 25 March. The day was billed as a 'fun day in the desert'. It was that, but the dust storm that rolled in the late afternoon ensured that it was truly an 'unforgettable day in the desert'.

Beavers has just finished their barbeque of hot dogs and burgers and the camp fire has just been lit, when an immense cloud of dust filled the horizon at the base of Al Mutla Ridge, about 70 km North of Kuwait city.

From the time it was spotted, to the time it the storm got to the Beavers camp was literally five minutes. In those ensuing five minutes before the storm, parents, Beavers and helpers, packed away as much of their kit

as possible. But there is only a certain amount anyone can do in five minutes! The storm brought wind speeds of more than 50 kmh and a thick black blanket of dust that totally enveloped our camp, bringing visibility down to less than ten metres! Day or evening was almost instantly turned into night! Equipment was turned outside down or blown away. We beat a hasty retreat to the relative safety of our cars, which were buffeted by the strong winds.



After three hours we decided to leave the desert, as the storm was not quite as intense. We left in a convoy of cars at a snail's pace to ensure that no one was left behind. Kids with breathing difficulties could not wait indefinitely for the dust storm to clear, so we had to move.

It was difficult to see as we crawled along the highway, hanging on to each other's tail lights. The dust and sand had blown onto the highway creating large 'sand ramps' - a bit like speed bumps made from sand, which proved quite treacherous, as you did not see them until you were on top of them. Anyway, we eventually arrived home. It was an experience that the 1st Salmyia Beavers Scout group will never forget.

We would like to thank our group leader Oak Beaver, who went back to our desert camp the next morning after the dust storm had subsided and cleaned up, leaving the dessert in an even better condition than before we arrived for our day in the desert.

We would like to thank Oak Beaver for setting up the Beaver Colony of the 1st Salmyia Scout Group and for all of her hard work and effort over the last two years. We wish her well and many years of happiness of retirement in France. Nature can put on an awesome display when you least expect. What a display! What a day!

Fergus Hegarty
Beaver Scout Leader, 1st Salmyia

NEWS FROM THE FALKLANDS

Winter is fast approaching, but we have had a lovely long warm summer, and have been able to do lots of outdoor activities especially cook outs, den building, tracking, and Cub Camp.

We were invited to Mount Pleasant Air Base to have a look around 1435 Flt. And have a close look at the Typhoons



A spot of wing walking!

We were very involved in the visit by forty ex-crew members of HMS Glamorgan, whose ship was hit in the Falklands War and they unveiled a new memorial to their lost crew mates.

We took part in a moving cross laying ceremony in the 1982 Memorial Wood and also in the unveiling service of the new memorial.



Word and pictures from
Jan Miller
Cub Scout Leader, 1st Falkland Islands



In the Memorial Wood with Captain Barrow of HMS Glamorgan



Marshmallows



Cook out at Cub Camp, cooking twists and ready to launch their model rafts

FUNDRAISING IN THE EXPLORER UNIT

How does your Unit raise funds to pay for the everyday activities or for the more expensive items such as equipment, tents and Section flags? Where does the money come from for camps, or attending a Jamboree? Or do you just hit the parents for the whole lot as it occurs? The latter could make you unpopular and mean some can't afford to participate in the activity. So apart from subs, how do we generate income?

There are three basic types of fundraising.

1. **One-off Events** such as sales. Organisation is intensive over a relative short time, you run the event, count the money at the end and that's it.
2. **Income-streams.** This is where there is initial set-up activity followed by further small inputs over a long period which generate income steadily over the period. Recycling is an example. Income streams can raise surprising amounts of money long term, and even out the boom or bust of fundraising.
3. **Grants and Donations.** Varies from small amounts to very large sums usually from businesses or charitable trusts. All you have to do is meet certain criteria and fill in the forms. King George VI fund, National Lottery or the British Council are examples. Contact Gilwell for the range of grants available.

Here are some ideas. Don't dismiss them out of hand because they may need adapting to your host country. All these ideas have a proven track record for generating funds. If you think of any more please let me know so we can share them.

One-off Events

Jumble sale. Only you know if second hand clothes will sell. If they do, they need sorting, perhaps washing, ironing or repairing. Remember if it looks like tat it will sell at tat prices, so display it on rails (make your own Scout style ones if need be, using broom sticks and lashed tripods). Items on coat hangers sell quicker and for higher prices. Borrow hangers and return them after.

Music and Games sale. Advertise street by street and collect old CDs, DVDs, records, tapes, computer games, even old play stations etc. Sort into genre and sell as seen. Display flat in rows on lots of tables for quick sales. Have a music centre to play music and laptops and play stations to show/test games. Books are another option.

Bric-a-brac, kitchenware, lamps, small furniture are all worth considering but can be bulky. Make sure second hands goods are clean and safe before reselling. All

electrical goods must be pre-checked and certified safe by a qualified electrician.

Cake sale. Approach the local bakers (small independent ones are best as they can make instant decisions) and ask for a donation of some cakes (and cake boxes). Ask mums to bake cakes. Collect the cakes close to the sale to ensure freshness. Sell below retail but not too cheaply. Raffle the best cake. Have a 'guess the weight' raffle of another cake. Fruit flans and homemade preserves also sell well.

Sponsored events such as runs, abseils, canoeing are getting boring now so use your imagination. How about beard, leg or eyebrow shaving, dieting, fishing or challenges that help the community such as speed path laying, wall building or ditch or graveyard cleaning? Sponsor per metre achieved.

Marshalling. Sports days, regattas, garden parties, fetes, carnivals, galas, parades, and other events often need marshals or car park attendants to direct people or traffic, run errands etc. Income is derived from a donation from the organisers from their proceeds.

Drink and food stalls. The same events as listed under marshalling often require refreshments, Cold and hot drinks, filled rolls, hot dogs and beef burgers are all good earners. Arrange with the organisers for you to supply the victuals and keep all or a good portion of the profit for the Group. To avoid losses, buy half the estimated food, sell it and restock when demand established, but well before it runs out. Remember its fast food so ensure it's served fast! Carefully plan speedy production and follow health and hygiene rules.

Community Car Treasure hunts. Plan a treasure trail by car or on foot with clues with a worthwhile prize at the end. These can be themed such as Easter, St Valentines, Halloween, and Christmas. Best venues are more remote areas where clues won't be disturbed by others. Clues can be in matchboxes or drink cans, to avoid casual detection in towns. Charge an entrance fee to cover costs and advertise well.

Raffles work best when attached to some other event. If they are stand alone they need quality donated prizes or a reasonable lump sum. Many raffles fail to earn their full potential because insufficient tickets are sold. Remember people won't ask for raffle tickets, someone has to sell them to them, so they need pushing by everyone, everywhere.

Sports Raffles. Make a list of the tickets numbers to sell and write the names alphabetically next to them of a horse in the Grand National, football team in the cup or local camel races etc. Sell the ticket and then tell the



buyer which horse or team it represents. Pay out on according to who wins.

Quizzes. Produce a devilish or quirky quiz and sell the quiz papers for £2 each. Have varying lump sums for the best three papers returned.

The other way is to run a local quiz with teams from the community and charge a team entrance fee. Increase takings by including a buffet.

Quizzes are steady but not usually big earners so do the maths to ensure you don't make a loss.

Gang Shows and Pantomimes. Join with the Scout and Guides. Contact your local amateur dramatics society who will have access to expertise, lighting and a venue. Staging a show is hard work and rehearsals can take six months or more as the standard must be professional. But they are good publicity, fun for the kids and can raise large amounts. Scout material is available written by Ralph Reader (from HQ), adapt other material or write your own. Mix comedy, serious, visual and other emotional material to give a balanced show. Pantomimes are similar but usually with a fairytale theme.

Income Streams

Hirings. Does your Group own its own HQ? Does it stand empty during the day or any evening? It is still costing you for that empty time so why not rent it out to a child or wives group or sports or other club? Money can be made from renting it for community or church meetings or even as a polling station. Just make sure that an agreement is drawn up with any occupier giving you a termination clause of say one months notice. You may need it for a new section for example, who knows? But in the meantime it can be earning for you.

Guided Tours. Swot up on local history and run tours for tourists. Also run separate tours for new arrivals on what to see and where the best places are to buy things etc. Can be done by foot, in cars or in some cases, public transport. Advertise and selling tickets for a set price is better than a donation bucket. Wear smart Scout uniform and Explorers must always work in pairs for safety.

Tent hire. Our ESU hires out marquees for garden fetes, weddings, regattas, fairs etc. We deliver, put them up and take them down and charge £100 for a large marquee. Do you or your District have any large frame tents, walled dining shelters or patrol tents suitable to rent out? The hire could eventually pay for the tent used and more. Avoid parties and wild events and always have a damage/repair clause.

Bag-packing. A major Scout fundraiser in UK. Arrange with a busy supermarket to pack shopping for customers at the checkout at peak periods. Have a picture board advertising your activities with recruiting material at the entrance and a collection bucket at each till. Works well with Beavers or Cubs as they are cuter than Explorers but it's worth a try. Always wear smart uniform – and smile!

Recycling. Paper seems to have had its day but aluminium prices are still good. Could you make money collecting drink cans from home, cafes and bars?

Scouts in UK make very good money collecting used photocopier toner cartridges from businesses and returning them to specialist firms for refilling.

General Tips

You must advertise hard! Use all media - posters, mail shots, emails, English papers local radio as well as word of mouth. The more who know, the more will come and the more you will make.

When asking for donations of money or goods always be accurate for what the money will be used for. People are more likely to give for a specific item rather than general funds. Make sure all donations receive a letter of thanks and/ after an email picture of what their money paid for. This may be tedious but you need to keep them sweet for next time!

Try to run a mix of both one-off and income-stream events each year to ensure a regular income.

Let us know how you get on your successes and difficulties so that we may improve the events for next time.

Tony Dunn

Assistant County Commissioner (Explorer Scouts)



BEAVER SCOUTS



This year seems to be going so fast, we are nearly half way through the year. I hope everybody now has their Beaver Birthday Badge sewn proudly onto their uniform.

As I am writing this I have just returned from a trip to the Isle of Man where 36 young people and 4 leaders camped for the weekend. This was one of our Jamboree preparation camps for the World Scout Jamboree in Sweden. I am lucky enough to have been chosen as one of the Assistant Unit Leaders for the Cheshire/Isle of Man unit and will be jetting off on the 24 July for a three week trip of a lifetime to Copenhagen, Sweden and then Switzerland. I hope you are all finding the excellent Join in Jamboree book useful in your programme planning

I am also preparing for a Beaver Scout Residential Experience. We are taking advantage of the fact that Beavers can now stay longer than 24 hours. We have teamed up with Beavers from two Colonies from different Districts. Our first 20 will arrive at 7pm on Friday evening and leave at 8pm on Saturday evening, whilst our second group of 20 will arrive at 9am on Saturday morning and leave at 11am on Sunday morning. This will mean that we will have all 40 Beavers together for the whole of Saturday. We have planned a variety of activities during the day with a Birthday Party for our evening meal and finishing off on the Saturday evening with a big camp fire.

I have found that there is a huge difference between Beaver Sleepovers and Camping with Explorer Scouts! On our first Jamboree preparation camp it was great to tell the Explorers that all the tents needed taking down and everything needed clearing away and it was done. On a Beaver Sleepover we have to allocate Leaders to entertain the Beavers whilst some clear up. However the experience is just as important to the young person no matter what age and I have had a fantastic experience at both types of camp.

Our Programme on a plate this time will look at a Beaver Birthday Party. You could expand on these ideas and create ones of your own. You could even plan a Residential Experience like mine with a huge Birthday Party in the middle. Many Colonies in the UK are planning birthday parties to celebrate this exciting Milestone

Don't forget to take photos of your birthday celebrations and send them to us so that we can show the other Sections what an exciting part of the movement we really are.

Don't forget if there is anything we can do to help please let us know. I look forward to seeing all those photographs of Beavers and Leaders celebrating 25 years of Beaver Scouting



Debbie Phillips
Assistant County Commissioner (Beaver Scouts)

Turn to page 9 for this issue's Programmes on a Plate, which focuses on Beaver Birthday Challenges

Challenge	Examples	Programme Area
Birthday Card	Make a Birthday card and send it to another Colony. Why not exchange with another BGA Colony?	Creative Friendship Challenge Global Challenge
Birthday Cake	Make a mini sponge cake or cup cake. This can then be decorated during the event. Beavers could then add a candle to their cake	Creative Healthy Eating
Party Bags	Let the Beavers decorate their own Party Bags. You could then fill them at the end of the event.	Creative
Planting	Plant a Tree or flowers to celebrate our Birthday. You may like to plant a small tree or shrub around your meeting place or in a residential home's grounds. The Beavers can then watch this grow over the years.	Global Challenge Outdoor Challenge
Game	Pass the Parcel. Beavers like sweets and tasks added between the wrapping papers. You could add a forfeit (e.g. sing a nursery rhyme) and a small sweet between each sheet of paper or just add the forfeit and then give the Beaver a sweet when they have completed the forfeit	Play Games
Game	Musical Statues. This is the same as musical chairs but can be played anywhere. Not all Colonies have enough chairs for all the Beavers to take part in musical chairs so Musical Statues would be ideal. Play the music and tell the Beavers that they have to stand still like a statue when the music stops. Those that move will be out. You could also give a prize for the best statue	Play Games Fitness Challenge
Game	Musical Bumps. The same as musical statues expect that they need to be sat on the floor when the music stops.	Play Games Fitness Challenge
Game	Corners. Label the 4 corners of the room with Birthday themed words. Eg Birthday Present, Birthday Card, Birthday Cake, and Birthday Party. Beavers then run round. When leader shouts stop then Beavers need to go to one of 4 corners. Leader chooses a corner and all those stood in that corner are out	Play Games Fitness Challenge

GROUP AND DISTRICT BADGES OF BGA

BGA has a long tradition. The first BGA Scout Troop opened in Portugal in 1910 and the first District (or Local Association as they were then known) to issue its own badge was British Scouts in Egypt in 1929. Since then there have been many BGA Groups issues and District badges.

Here are all the current BGA badges. Some new Groups such as those in Pakistan, Indonesia and Malaysia have never had a badge. Other countries have and many of these are now dormant waiting for the day when a BGA is re-established in that country so the badge can be resurrected. As BGA Historian I hold all the known designs and in most cases an example of the obsolete badge concerned, so an authentic copy can be re-issued.

One of the last places to issue a badge was the UAE, (United Arab Emirates), where we currently have Groups in Abu Dhabi and Dubai. They had their own Sheikdom badges issued in the 1970s when they were individual states so the new badge brings them up to date.

If anyone has any queries or want to know anything to do with current or previous BGA badges or Group History then I will be pleased to try and help.

Tony Dunn
BGA County Historian



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