

# ActivitiesNEWSLETTER

A bulletin from the National Activities Team and Activities Office

Issue One, 2002



## **Climb 2001**

### **National Indoor Arena, Birmingham December**

Although the Scout Regional Climbing Competition was run at short-notice, there was an excellent turnout for this event, mainly due to the efforts of a few Counties, supported by Headquarters. Our competition was held on the Saturday of the Festival of Climb (BMC members can read about the Festival in 'Summit').

*In all, 120 young people aged 10-18 took part, with 28 going to the finals at the Arena.* Watch out for a feature in a future edition of Scouting magazine. Discussions are underway about making this an annual event.

Many thanks to BMC and climbing wall manufacturers Entre-prise for sponsoring this event and our competition.

## **RN Recognised Sea Scout Swimming Gala**

### **HMS Raleigh, February**

*Twenty-four teams, from RN Recognised Sea Scout Groups, participated in this weekend at this Naval training base in Plymouth.*

The winners of the cherished Otter Trophy (Gala) were 8<sup>th</sup> Norwich with 6<sup>th</sup> Torbay being the winners of the skills day on the Saturday.

Hard work from both Leaders and the Royal Navy made this an excellent weekend!

## **National Scout Caving Conference**

### **Ingleborough Hall, November 2001**

*Expected numbers were around 30. In fact, 78 turned up to this event, called by our recently appointed Special Advisor for Caving, Ian James.*

A Scout Caving Group has been established out of this Conference, to look at Factsheets and guidance. *They would like to hear* from all those engaged in Cave Leadership in order that details go on to a central database for mailings. Contact Dave Wooff, 11 Coniston Road, Fulwood, Preston, Lancashire Tel: 01772 700487 email [Woofy@btinternet.com](mailto:Woofy@btinternet.com)

## **Special Advisers**

*Air Scouting* and *Rock/Snow/Ice Climbing* have been selected and going through the HQ process. Announcements will be made shortly.

*Paddlesports.* Received a number of excellent nominations and applications. Interviews/discussions will be held soon.

## **Non-RN Recognise Sea Scout Groups**

*Trinity House Fund for non-RN recognised Sea Scout Groups is greatly under utilised.*

Money can help with boats, equipment and training. However, is everyone relying on someone else to tell these groups about this opportunity? Will AAC/ACC (Activities) make a special effort to target these groups and alert them to this opportunity?

*For details contact:*

*Fundraising Department at Gilwell or e-mail [natasha.belenkin@scout.org.uk](mailto:natasha.belenkin@scout.org.uk)*

## **Factsheets**

### ➤ **New**

FS120421 Single Rope Technique (SRT)  
FS120623 Class C Waters  
FS120708 Hovercrafting

### ➤ **Updated**

FS120006 Aerial Runway Code  
FS120620 Swimming  
BR120151 National Directory of Waters  
FS120402 Application for Authorisation for Climbing and Abseiling  
FS 120411 Care, Inspection and Storage of Climbing Equipment  
FS120625 Cruising & Narrow boating on inland waters

Please either down load from ScoutBase or contact the Activities Office for a copy.

## **BMC**

*Membership deal (excluding insurance cover) is available to all in The Scout Association*

Details will be available, soon, about a dedicated information service and catalogue of publications.

## Mobile Phones

*Widespread ownership now makes a mobile telephone a useful piece of safety equipment, or is it?*

- They can spoil other peoples enjoyment of a remote environment (nuisance)
- Coverage in remote areas is still patchy
- The 'phone for a friend attitude' (I can always call for help) is dangerous
- In the event of an incident, there should be a clear structure of communication – not everyone calling a host of different people.

*Before going in to remote areas, the whole party should be briefed as to the above. In the event of an incident, it should be made clear who calls whom!*

## Mountain Assessors Workshop (Scout Mountaineering)

*By now you should have received details of the Mountain Assessor Workshop being held on 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> May at Great Tower (Windermere) and kindly hosted by West Lancs Scout County.*

This is a pilot scheme within Scouting, to bring together a more National picture of *issues* in the field of Scout mountaineering.

This is not a replacement for the Mountain Assessors Workshops being run by Plas Y Brenin and Adventureworks (see Mountain Skills Supplement).

## Explorer Challenge

### British Schools Orienteering Association

Despite the name, the award is available to members of The Scout Association and provides an excellent way of getting a wide range of people involved in orienteering – from the young, to those doing D of E or leaders wishing to gain experience or qualification.

*Certificates, badges, videos and other resource materials are available and provide an excellent initiative in getting younger members (and older!) introduced to this skill.*

Contact ECAS Administrator, 55 Bruce Road, Kidderminster DY10 2TY email [info@explorerchallenge.com](mailto:info@explorerchallenge.com)

Visit the BSOA website on [www.bsoa.org](http://www.bsoa.org)

## Out of Tune

*At least 20 Counties/Areas with Bands do not have Band Advisers! So, no Annual Inspection, no Grade and probably no County/Area support!*

The Activity Office needs to know the contact details of current, or newly appointed Band Advisers.

## Part of the scene

*The infrastructure of campsites provides excellent opportunities.*

There is on-going and good work in publishing details of campsites, and their facilities, in Scouting Magazine, plus the availability of that information on ScoutBase.

You can now, also access the Council of Camp Site Wardens (an initiative between sites in Scouting and Guiding) on [www.ccsww.org.uk](http://www.ccsww.org.uk)

## Institute for Outdoor Learning

*Tap in to the IOL for publications and ideas as to how the 'outdoors' can be used for more than simply getting folks to do 'the slog'*

Looking over their December 2001 catalogue, here is just a sample of the publications that can be purchased.

- 101 of the Best Corporate Team Building Activities we know
- Outdoor games for Trainers
- Averting Aggression
- Feeding the Zircon Gorilla
- Safety on Mountains – Booklet and Video
- City Adventures
- Creative Art/Drama/Games in Groupwork
- Fun Stuff Volumes 1/2/3
- Ethical Issues in Experiential Education
- Trail Orienteering for Disabled People
- Health and Safety Pocket Guide
- Celebrating Diversity: Learning by sharing cultural differences

*Now, that is just a sample.* The ideas could give you an ideal opportunity to speak with members of your County/Area Teams about development, Adult Support and a host of other matters. For further details and information, why not contact [institute@outdoors-learning.org](mailto:institute@outdoors-learning.org). Or visit their website or call them on 01768 891065 for their catalogue and a good old-fashioned 'flick-through' over a cup of coffee.

## Up in the air

National parascending competition, *Sky High*, 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> July at Luffenham (Leicestershire) and *Jubilee Air Scout Camp* 10<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> August at Kemble (Gloucestershire). Information from (you know the answer!) the Information Centre.

## **NSGSO**

The National Scout and Guide Symphony Orchestra (NSGSO) are still short of a few 'strings' for their *annual orchestra course and public performances, 28<sup>th</sup> July to 4<sup>th</sup> August in the Reading area.*

Application forms are available from the Info Centre or via the Course Co-ordinator Derek Jackson on [derekjackson@freenetname.co.uk](mailto:derekjackson@freenetname.co.uk)

**MAKE A DATE IN YOUR DIARY FOR THE PUBLIC PERFORMANCES ON 2<sup>nd</sup> OR 3<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST – DETAILS WILL BE ANNOUNCED.**

## **From the BCU**

### **Paddlepower and the Star Awards**

Coaches please note that the Level 3 award of Paddlepower One is recognised by the BCU as equivalent to the One Star Award.

This can therefore be accepted for paddlers going for Two Star awards and for paddlers taking youth organisation badges such as the Scout organisation. If you would like more information on Paddlepower contact Youth Programme at BCU telephone 0115 982 1100 email [youth@bcu.org.uk](mailto:youth@bcu.org.uk)

### **BCU YouthFest and Bellboat National Championships – 25<sup>th</sup> May National Watersports Centre, Nottingham**

A great action packed day of paddling and fun! Includes Bellboat racing, kayak and canoe events, Diamond Slalom Challenge, Come and Try it and Ergo Challenge. The Bellboat National Championships has prizes in each age category for the fastest Scout/Guide team – so come and show everyone just how good you are!

For the Bellboat National Championships you need a team of 8 (preferably mixed) – age groups are Under 12, 15, 18 and the entry fee of £24 per team includes entry to all other events on the day.

For more details contact British Canoe Union – Telephone 0115 982 1100 and ask for Youth Programme or email [youth@bcu.org.uk](mailto:youth@bcu.org.uk) or check out the web site at [www.bcu.org.uk](http://www.bcu.org.uk)

## **Staff changes**

**Barnaby (Barney) Poulton** joins the Activities Office as P&D Adviser and the replacement for **Robert Halkyard**, who moved over to become a manager in Adult Support. Welcome Barney.

**James Thompson**, P&D Adviser, will be leaving soon in order to pursue an ambition to travel the world.

**Tracey Rogers**, P&D Manager, will also be leaving to devote more time to her family.

*A very big thank you to Robert, James and Tracey* who have supported the Department extremely well. As many will appreciate, being full time staff is not a simple 9 to 5 job, but also includes evenings and weekends in order to support the volunteer side.

Whilst recruitment and training takes place, please be a little patient with the service from Gilwell.

## **Ordnance Survey Great Outdoors Show**

**NEC Birmingham 15-17 March**

*Readers of Scouting Magazine were offered 100 free tickets plus a special two-for-the-price-of-one offer. (what, you don't subscribe?)*

If you can make it (appreciated that the dates coincide with the issue of this Newsletter), why not pop in to The Scout Association stand to say 'hello'.

## **Questions**

*A general round up of questions at Regional Meetings and into the Activities Office*

### **Disappearance of the National 'Team'**

Reason – cost and communication. Regional Activities Panels will be supported by a member of the National Activities Team, or the Activities Office, at your annual Regional Communication and Consultation Day.

### **Rules for those aged 18 plus**

The Scout Association has an organisational responsibility to our members irrespective of age. The current rules are the current rules. However, there is some discussion going ahead about this subject and thoughts would be greatly appreciated.

### **GNAS Archery Qualification**

Some work in progress regarding a reduced course for those who wish to provide instruction at the 'introductory' level. You will be kept updated as to developments.

### **Class C Waters**

There has been some inconsistency regarding the application of this definition. Some bordering Counties are working on clearing-up this matter. Meanwhile, the current (no pun intended) classifications apply. Details available in the New Directory of National Waters, available from the Information Centre.

## ***D of E***

National Commissioner responsibility has moved from Activities to Scout Network and on the staff side to Tim Pike. This reflects the fact that D of E becomes a more integral part of the Programme. At District/County/Area level the support for the DofE is a matter for local decision. It would help if Advisers could e-mail Tim Pike with details, [tim.pike@scout.org.uk](mailto:tim.pike@scout.org.uk) or write to him at Gilwell.

## ***Sharing Accident Information***

A Safety in Scouting Group has been established at HQ to deal with the subject generally. Specific case examples are difficult to release, some of which may be under investigation. However, some thought will go into providing 'classic' scenarios to use as training tools.

## ***Overseas Visits***

European Activities Forum at Gilwell was a starting point for sharing of international best practise. However, a small working work will shortly be established (Mountain Activities Research Group Europe [MARGE]) to look at more defined assistance in the area of Scout mountaineering activities.

## ***Contacting Special Advisers***

The procedure is via the Activities Office, unless you have sneakily managed to obtain details other ways!

## ***New Camping Permit***

This will relate to traditional Scout camping and not to remote camping.

## ***Apologies***

A couple of email distributions have recently contained very large files that have taken ages to download.

## ***Bouncy Castles***

Information Centre has some leaflets entitled 'Recognising a well run Bouncy Castle' issued by RoSPA.

Alternatively, from the HSE 'HSE Guidance Note PM 76 – Safe operation of inflatable bouncing devices' (catchy title?), available from HMSO, or, from the Hire Association Europe – 'Bouncy castle safety instructions' (telephone 0121 377 7707), or visit <http://hse.gov.uk/pubns/etis&.pdf>

## ***Canyoning/Gorge Walking etc***

This activity is currently under evaluation by the Activities Team. Our current position is that this is only permissible under the approval of Kandersteg International Scout Centre

(Switzerland), or, in the UK, through an AALA licensed provider, subject to the POR Rules regarding selection of professional centres.

If there are Scouting operations wishing to do this, please let the Activities Office know, since we are working on a Factsheet for Combined Water/Rock Activities.

## ***DC Authorisation – First Aid Issue***

DCs issuing Authorisations may well appreciate advice regarding whether the First Aid requirement has been met. In the main, this is mainly due to the variety of qualifications that are now available. Local system of support is recommended.

## ***Authorisation Forms/Certificates etc***

Credit card sized I.D are available from the Information Centre, together with self-adhesive laminated pouches. Admittedly, improvements can be made to the design, but something is there to use.

County/ Areas are free to design their own version for their District Commissioners to use, perhaps incorporating their County/Area logo.

## ***And finally***

### **National Commissioner for Activities**

Firstly, I should say 'welcome' to a new format for the Activities Newsletter. However, it is bound to change. There is a continuous need to experiment and change the way information is shared throughout the network of people that support the programme through 'activities'. Change is based on views and opinions, so please share them.

By now, many of you should have seen the new programme material. It is bright, modern and reflective of our status within the area of youth development. And that is where the danger starts... it is not an end-point, it is a new beginning.

I hope all of us in the National activities 'network' will take time to reflect over the material and ask ourselves questions where we are targeting our support. Are we doing enough 'introductory' level support for 9 and 10 year olds? What opportunities are there for creative activities? And.....well the list could go on!

I am conscious of the fact that I have not been able to cover the whole of the UK in my first six months of appointment. But I will by the end of the year!

***Alex Minajew***