

In presenting my comments on the financial position of the Battalion, I must first formally convey the thanks of the Battalion to Mrs Julie Clements, Financial Director of TSC UK Ltd, for acting as auditor of the Battalion Accounts again this year and suggest the Battalion indicates their appreciation formally.

As it can be seen from this years balance sheet(BS) we have again been fortunate in receiving grants to the amount of £2,250 which have allowed us to provide free courses for Battalion officers and Boys and endorse the philosophy of no subscriptions from companies.

The BS also shows those courses (Grade 3 leadership, YLT and Amicus weekend), the financial support to the Amicus initiative, Party-in-the-Park and the £837 (2004 & 2005) District Subscription payments.

At Greenmoor Centre, the income from lettings continues at a good rate due mainly to the efforts of John Kitchener and his team in maintaining the centre and the Battalion Secretary in promoting the centre and organising bookings throughout the year. The high cost of insurance this year is because I have paid both this years and next years premium within this financial year.

With good management the Battalion finances, both General Accounts and the stand alone Greenmoor Centre Account are healthy and with the continued support from grant making organisations will remain so for the foreseeable future.

Even so, should there be some financial needs to promote recruitment of staff or improve the Battalion Structure in the light of proposed changes, I feel that appropriate finance could be made available from the Battalion's financial resources. Should any officer have questions or queries about finances which I may not be able to answer 'off the cuff' at the AGM feel free to contact me in advance or at any other time.

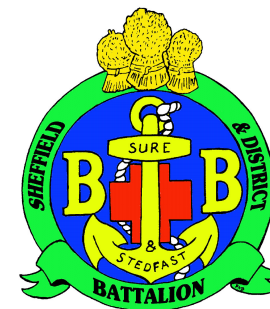
With Best Regards,

*John M Cowie* Battalion Treasurer      30<sup>th</sup> June 2006

#### **Secretary's comments**

I am not putting the statistics in the report as I only had returns from half the Battalion. Please send them to me next session even if you are not sending in your money straightaway. I have also run out of room!!

*Sue*



## Sheffield & District Battalion Annual Report 2006



### **Presidents Report.**

It was and still remains a great honour to have been invited to be your President through 2005/06. For me the year did not go quite as planned being unexpectedly sent to the USA to work for six months. That meant I was unable to visit every company or be as involved as I would have wished to be. A big thank you to Sue Cowie who kept me informed by email of what was going on and taking a good share of my responsibilities and also for John Kitchener and Dennis who stood in on many occasions. John is the perfect VP and Dennis deserves his Hon President title many times over.

I did manage to visit some companies over the year and to some award nights. Many thanks to Carlton-in-Lindrick, Handsworth, Gleadless Town End, Gleadless Valley, and Chesterfield for the invites. I'm always pleased to see companies in action and see what they and their Churches are doing in the community.

Our flagship events this year have been well attended; the Torksey Camp and the Party in the Park. Both of these are a chance for us to gather together and for Boys to meet others from across the region. I'd like to see every company attend these events next year and get involved in the activities. I was unable to attend the camp but I thoroughly enjoyed the Party in the Park, even being coaxed into abseiling down the tower!

My address at the Officers dedication services was all about getting involved. The Battalion is all about just that, being involved. It has been good to see many companies represented at the Battalion meetings but that is only the start. I know it isn't always easy to find the time but if we are to succeed and grow at the company level and reach out to Boys in our communities then we need to make the effort to strengthen the Battalion. The whole being stronger than the individual parts, we always have to remember that the Battalion is all of us not some separate organisation. We need to think bigger and pray harder. I'm sure you'll be surprised what we can achieve.

Our challenge for next year is to come together as a single Battalion. Exciting times I hope you agree. I want to visit every company at sometime so please send me an invite. Don't just save me for presentations, I'd like to see you on a parade night, church services, activity days and understand the challenges you face and I want to meet people from your churches.

I hope you all have a good rest over the summer and look forward to a new session in September and meeting many of you in October at the dedication service.

*Mark*

### **Southern Division**

**11<sup>th</sup> Sheffield**    **59<sup>th</sup> Sheffield**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Carlton-in-Lindrick**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Dronfield**

**14<sup>th</sup> Sheffield**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Chesterfield**



The companies of North Nottinghamshire, North Derbyshire & South Sheffield bring all our friends around the Battalion and further afield best wishes at the culmination of another session in serving our Lord in this great Boys brigade we are all part of.....

completion course, who were also accommodated by our staff. Excellent feedback for the weekend was received from all participants.

If any of your young people are involved in Queen's badge and/or the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme then activities undertaken by the Amicus group should be of interest to them. Please contact me for further information on the activities we are planning for the coming session.

*Barrie Trigg*

### **DEA**

This is still alive and well in the Battalion. As usual communication is our main problem but we have managed two groups this year, one loosely based in the North led by Barrie Trigg and one based loosely in the South and East led by Neil Oxley.

7 boys were involved in a practice expedition on Monday 31st July/ 1st August at Bronze/ Silver and will have their qualifying expedition in the school holidays.

Next session, it is likely we will be running a bowling session for physical again, but it is hoped that under the new Battalion structure we will perhaps be able to organise something for each section which will qualify boys for DEA as well.

Barrie has had similar numbers but our main problem is contacting all members who may be interested and finding a central venue for training. It would be good to have some guidance from Companies as to how we should proceed.

*Tony Drury-Smith* [tonydrusmith@btinternet.com](mailto:tonydrusmith@btinternet.com) (note the missing 'r')

(Please send your email address or that of any young people interested in DEA to Tony)

### **Development.**

This year, I have been involved in Amicus weekend, DEA, Party in the Park, the Worship Band, but with work commitments this allows very little time to plan any development initiatives other than what I am doing.

I have developed some literature to go with the Brigades leaflets. I am also available to help with recruiting in schools and would talk to any churches about recruiting officers or starting new Companies if you have any contacts. At National level, it was encouraging to hear that enquiries recently from churches have greatly increased and that quite a few high profile events have had stands such as Christian resources. Any events of this nature that you feel may be worth visiting would be greatly appreciated. I have a large number of photos which I am hoping to use to advertise to interested agencies and have a display board which could be borrowed if you need one. Please communicate with me and use your older boys to use their email addresses if you don't have one.

*Tony Drury-Smith*

### **Treasurer's Report.**

North Nottingham trainings. Many different groups have used the centre – families, church groups and BB & GB companies. All have made comments about how good the facilities are and maintained. Our thanks must go to John Kitchener and his ‘merry band of helpers’! I know that John appreciates the help given by James Wilkinson and David Judge and many others who I am not aware of.

- There has been work done in the loft area where beetle infestation was found. It gave the working party the ‘incentive’ to clear out lots of rubbish up there. After the loft was professionally treated, new insulation was put in.
- The ceiling in the kitchen has now been plastered.
- New chairs have been purchased for the main room.
- Bedrooms have been painted. This was done with the help of 14<sup>th</sup> Sheffield company section and officers who had a weekend work party. Our thanks go to them.
- At the beginning of the next session in September, a new central heating system will be installed. This should make it easier to control and regulate. (Perhaps the centre will be warmer during the day and cooler at night! Just an observation from staying there).

As you can see the Centre is not standing still and if any company or individual would like to offer any help or suggestions please contact John Kitchener or myself.

*Sue Cowie* **Battalion Secretary**

### **Amicus**

Amicus is for any young people in the Battalion ranging from 14 years of age to early 20's. Company staff should look on the Amicus group as a complimentary addition to a programme. Activities are geared to individual needs and development as well as collective fellowship.

The annual April Amicus weekend at our Green Moor outdoor centre takes centre stage. Once again this successful event challenged members physically and mentally but more importantly spiritually. It is a good prequel to Brigade's Firm Foundation festival, which is always attended by the



group. At the weekend we were pleased to be visited by the Brigade Secretary (Steve Dickinson). His slot in the programme broadened the horizons of our members as well as the candidates on the Yorkshire Queen's Badge

This year our division has scheduled its usual competitions, which often have only been supported by one or two of our division companies. This low take up of attendance is I think often attributed to the reduced numbers of staff in companies, hence if the competition occurs on other than the company meeting night; it becomes another duty on the depleted company officers and helpers to get kids to the competition venue with little or no support on some occasions.

Nevertheless, our lads who have taken part in the many and varied events on our calendar have continued to enjoy meeting other Boys from the Brigade here in our Division. This aspect, prompted the question many months ago at the beginning of the session, would it not be better to open our competitions and events to companies in the other division. We all know where this led – the suggestion from officers of the 14<sup>th</sup> it may be time for unification?

This session, our chaplain, Graeme Dean, has used the parables of Jesus as the text themes of our opening devotions, with comparisons to how this relates to our duty to Boys in our care throughout everything we get involved with in the Brigade. These parables views and guidance given to us remind us we are in the BB to serve our Boys and lead them in the ways of our Object, hopefully giving this service to bring Boys & young men and their friends (both male & female) to a greater understanding of their faith, personal discipline and how to move and develop in today's society.

Often the old ideas can be the best ones but they must be updated into the modern world we live in, in order to attract and interest the young into our organisation.

We in Southern Division believe there is still a bright future for the Battalion if we pool our thoughts, efforts, prayers and resources to attract staff to allow us to become 'cool' and appealing to the 'Billy Smiths' of 2006/2007.

The end of this session is almost here with summer on the way. A new opportunity to get out more and enjoy God's creation with our lads. Very best wishes to you all as we come close to the end of this 122<sup>nd</sup> year of our movement.

*John M Cowie*

### **North Western Division**

We have held our bi-monthly meetings throughout the session. These have not been very well represented, mostly by the same people, but we have discussed many things and tried to raise enthusiasm.

There have been a few competitions and other activities held. A lovely Christmas party was hosted at Grimesthorpe for Anchors and Juniors. In February Hallam hosted the Annual Church Parade. Although the numbers were few it was a good service with all the children taking part. The Division supported the Party in the Park with 10<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 53<sup>rd</sup> and 54<sup>th</sup> taking part. A good time was had by all.

There have been long discussions about dispensing with divisions and becoming one united Battalion. Some officers had reservations but all of us could see the advantages of Sheffield being totally together and working for the good of all.

I thank everyone for their support during the session, but realise that things have to change and move on.

*John Kitchener*

## Queens Badge

### North Western Division

There are currently five boys from the North West division involved in the Queens Badge programme.

I am pleased to say that James Worthington qualified as a Queens man this year. My congratulation go to him and his company.

I must again thank the Company Captains and their staff for the support they give to the young men.

There has been a drop in the number of Queens Badge applications in our division. I have only been informed of one young man from the 23<sup>rd</sup> Company starting the programme this session.

If companies would like to talk to me about Queens Badge, I am always available to answer questions and advise companies on their responsibilities regarding Queens Badge. It is my hope that more companies will become involved in the Queens Badge programme.

I look forward to the new session and working as one battalion.

### Paul Sheard

### Southern Division

The Battalion hosted the Yorkshire & Humberside District Queen's Badge Presentation ceremony in Chesterfield. On the 12<sup>th</sup> July, at Rose Hill URC Church S/Sgt Matthew Lenthall received his Badge presented by the Vice-Lord Lieutenant, as the Queen's representative in the presence of the Mayor, Councillor Keith Falconer and BB officials from Yorkshire & Humberside District. The ceremony was held in the church sanctuary with a splendid buffet prepared by 2<sup>nd</sup> Chesterfield staff being laid out in the schoolroom.

Battalion officials were thanked for the organisation of the event and many commented on the wonderful spread of food to complete the most enjoyable day in Chesterfield.

At the Party-in-the-Park on earlier this month (17<sup>th</sup> June 2006) we were pleased to see this years division QB recipients receive recognition of their awards from Councillor Diane Leek. Sgt Joe Mattock of 59<sup>th</sup> Company was presented with his Queen's Badge in the arena, prior to the Gleadless Band

recital. In addition, two further young men, who could not be present, from 1<sup>st</sup> Carlton, Matthew and Christopher Redfern were mentioned in the ceremony and congratulations given to Captain Eddie Croot in assisting them to completion even with conflicting examinations and moves to university.

**If you have young men who need to talk about what the Queen's Badge involves in advance of applying for the course, please give me a call and I will arrange to meet with them and answer any of their questions/concerns.**

*John M Cowie*



Here you can see the T shirt logo of our 3<sup>rd</sup> camp at Torksey, where we set off for tomorrow (Report written 29 June). Sue & I have got most of the grub, companies are preparing their Boys, the Adjutant, Paul Sheard, has dusted off his 'worry list' of things to do and booked us in for a visit to Whitepost Farm again. We know which room or tent we will sleep in, the sun is shining in preparation for the weekend..... Wait to see what happens next year ! !

So, what happened in 2005?

We tried a number of new things last year, but essentially the weekend followed our successful plan of previous years.

Our new ideas included;

- ☺ Older Boys camping outside in the grounds of the Camp site under the direct guidance of Paul Sheard and Alan Petitt (1<sup>st</sup> Matlock). This initiative was a great success and appealed to the young men who benefited as some had not camped under canvas previously, particularly not in real canvas ridge tents, supplied and erected under guidance from 54<sup>th</sup> officers. Well done Boys & Staff.
- ☺ Whitepost Farm, as our outing venue, replaced the trip to Sundown Adventure in our first year, and was very much appreciated as a better place to go. Our group went by double decker bus to the Farm and on arrival – 70 black t shirted Torkseyians were met by staff of Whitepost who split us into groups to tour the farmyard, reptile house, play areas and picnic parks, not forgetting the animal show and chance to hold some of the small animals!! Great, glad we are going again.
- ☺ Talents Show, I told you we were thinking about last year, turned out to be wonderful, with 'actors' putting on their items in glorious sunshine on the outdoor stage.

This year we were more familiar with the Camp and our contact Dr. K (I cant spell or say his Polish surname so that how we know him) was back fit and well and welcomed Paul on arrival, making the location of cutlery, crockery and keys no problems this time around!

Uncle Michael the Christian Clown came to see the lads again on Saturday evening in his little car and again went down a treat.

Everyone made it work admirably and special thanks should go to Paul Sheard our Camp Adjutant, James Wilkinson and John Kitchener who stepped in to be our Chefs as James Cowie couldn't be with us due to our Grandson, Ryan's impending birth. Nurse, Louise Whittle, and of course Mike Warren who came to take our service in his usual entralling style on the open air stage in brilliant summer weather.

**This Year:** Ryan Cowie is nearly one year old and is attending Camp with Mum Sol & Dad James who is again Chef – ably assisted by camp officers.

*John M Cowie*

Camp Co-ordinator.

### Greenmoor Centre

We have again had a busy and varied year at Greenmoor. There have been our regular lettings from our own Battalion, Y&H District and

