

Greater London North County Scout Council

Registered Charity Number: 272028

www.gln-scouts.org.uk



Annual Review 2006-07



Comprising the Scout Districts of:

Barnet
Camden, City and Islington
Docklands Scout Project
Edmonton
Enfield
Haringey
Hendon and Edgware
Finchley, Friern Barnet and Golders Green
Southgate



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THE COUNTY'S ROLE

The County is part of the infrastructure of Scouting, providing support, channels for communication, and opportunities for young people and Leaders in the delivery of the Association's progressive training programme in the London Boroughs of Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey, Islington and the City of London. It is one of six Scout Counties covering the Greater London conurbation.

The constituent Scout Districts are listed on the front page of this review. The County also works with the Enfield Scout Sailing Association (ESSA) and Longridge Scout Boating Centre to provide a full maritime dimension to the programme.

The County, through its Executive Committee, Scout Network and Galleon Scout Fellowship, has particular responsibility for:

- promoting the development of Scouting in the relevant London Boroughs;
- arranging for harmonious co-operation between its Districts and with other Scout Counties;
- raising funds and the administration of the finances and any property;
- overseeing the appointment and training of Leaders, Skills Instructors, Administrators and Advisers.



THE COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S OVERVIEW

I can hardly believe that a year has passed since taking up the position of County Commissioner. So much has taken place that it would be impossible to record it all.

From the outset, I have tried to meet as many people in the County as possible and attend as many functions as possible; and I believe that paid dividends. I hope I now understand the requirements of the County and we almost have a full County Team to support these requirements.

The Local Development Officer (LDO) project was one that had been discussed for a long time and had support from District Commissioners (DCs) and the County Executive. I channelled a lot of my energy into this project and after a year we finally reached our goal and achieved the funding required, thanks to Jack Petchey Foundation and the Association's Development Grants Board. On May 8 2007 Russ Dyble took up the post of LDO and is looking forward to the challenges and rewards ahead.

For a few years, Edmonton District had been in slow decline and if action was not taken soon, then we could see it disappear forever. After lengthy discussions with DCs and a consultation with the District Leaders, a decision was taken and approved by the County Executive to bring Edmonton into the Enfield District. This was not an easy decision and I knew that some people would not approve. However, my overriding thoughts were that we must consider the good of Scouting and remember that we do this for the benefit of our youngsters. We are not here just to perpetuate a name. So, from the April 1 2007, five Groups transferred to Enfield District and were embraced by the DC, District Team and Executive. I would like to offer my sincere thank to Enfield District for being so welcoming and supportive to their new Groups. I am positive that Scouting will start to thrive again in the Edmonton area with the renewed support and enthusiasm from everybody involved.

The DCs of Haringey and of Finchley, Friern Barnet & Golders Green both decided that they needed new challenges and it was time to move on. After a search process was implemented, we were able to fill these positions by appointing Andrew Myers-Nobbs and Charles Rowell respectively. We wish them every success in their new roles and look forward to sharing their achievements. I would also like to thank the respective District Chairmen, Del Spencer and Richard Tester, for their assistance in the process.

The 2007 Census (see below for summary figures) was not the good news that I had hoped for. However, what I am sure of is that the numbers are as accurate as we could have achieved. All but two of our Districts showed growth and, with a decrease in membership of less than 1%, I am certain that we have a good foundation to build upon. We are still committed to grow by 10% between now and 2012; and I know that I have the support of the District Commissioners to help achieve this.

Communications have been a huge issue for the County and at last, with the help of our "Media Team" managed by Mark Darlow, we now have a new look North Circular and a user friendly web site. This will all help to raise the profile of Scouting and we have already this year been hosted by the Greater London Authority at a Centenary Reception and by Gordon Brown at No 11 Downing Street. Please make sure you visit the web site regularly to keep up with the latest in Scouting.

What has been achieved in this, my first year, could not have been done without the support of the County Chairman and Executive, Deputy CC's, County Team, District Commissioners, and many other individuals, too numerous to name.

My thanks to you all.



THE COUNTY CHAIR'S OVERVIEW

Another terrific year behind us! It appears to me to be a certain fact that, as you get older, time passes more quickly! I find it hard to believe that Barry has been in post for a year! It has been a wonderful twelve months under his inspiring leadership. The County has gone from strength to strength with so much being achieved. It has been a real pleasure to work with Barry as he took over as 'our leader'. I have watched with admiration his attendance at so many meetings and events, and I have watched with enormous pleasure the wonderful way that he responds to people with real warmth and enthusiasm. Even difficult people are treated with respect and seem to leave feeling happier. It has been great to watch our County grow so much over the last twelve months. Barry is just the sort of person that we need to take us forward. I have a very positive feeling about our direction and our purpose; and, with Barry's ability to motivate and engage people, I feel confident that we will enter our next Scouting century as a very strong County.

There is so much that is good happening in Greater London North and so many of our voluntary leadership excel at providing fantastic programmes for our members. The commitment of our leadership is amazing and a great testament to the value that people place on Scouting and on our values. That so many people give endless hours to contribute to a better world by involvement in Scouting, makes me proud to be a member. If we added together the time that people spent on serving our communities through Scouting and gave it a monetary value, people would be astonished. The vast number of young people that we serve equates to several very large schools in each of the London Boroughs in our area – and we all do it voluntarily! An amazing contribution to local communities and no cost to Council Tax payers!

In the background and supporting our front line uniformed leaders is a large army of other folk who are supporters and helpers. Many also serve on our committees and some take on additional responsibilities as chairs, treasurers or secretaries. These folk help make the work with young people possible and I would like to pay a particular tribute to this 'hidden army' this year. Every Group and every District is well served by such folk. The County also has a tremendous Executive Committee who over the last twelve months have felt invigorated and enthused by Barry's leadership. The very high quality of the work done by our treasurer and by our secretary is worthy of particular note. As a County, we are very fortunate to have such professional colleagues who bring a wealth of expertise and common sense to our work to support Scouting across the County. As a Movement, we are richer for their significant contribution to our work.

In many ways, this is a very sad year for me personally, as I will have to stand down as your County Chair following my appointment to a uniformed leadership position. Sadly, our rules (for very good reasons) do not allow me to continue as Chair and to hold an adult appointment at the same time. I feel that I am standing down at a very exciting time and will be sad not to be able to carry through many of the changes that Barry has started and will continue to make as he leads us forward. I believe strongly that our Movement remains as relevant today as it has done for the last one hundred years and I hope to continue to serve for many years to come. I wish my successor every success and sincerely hope that they enjoy the role as much as I have done. The next Scouting century awaits us all – and I find that a very exciting prospect. Very best wishes to you all for the future.

As my final act, I would like to commend this annual report and review to you. It shows a little of the great things done in this County and it reminds us of our core purpose – Scouting excellence for the young people who are our members.

Andrew Wellbeloved



OUR PEOPLE

County Appointments

County President:	Vincent Fleming
County Vice-Presidents:	Herbert F. Bennett Benson F. Catt
*County Chair:	Andrew Wellbeloved
County Commissioner:	Barry Manley
*County Treasurer:	Brian Hosier
*County Secretary:	Alan King
* Executive Members (at the end of May 2007):	Barbara Carter, Roger Colebrook, Matthew Cook, Peter Davis, Paul Feakes, Roderick Morriss, Ashley Payne and Cliff Trott

* These appointments are subject to nomination or election at the AGM

County Board: (at the end of May 2007)	Barry Manley (County Commissioner) Adele Batsford (Director of Activities) Roger Colebrook (Chairman) Mark Darlow (Director of Communications) Nick Dewdney (Director of Programme)
County Team: (at the end of May 2007)	the County Board plus Mark Batsford (ACC Land Activities) Derek Chambers (Editor "North Circular") Paul Feakes (County Scout Network Commissioner) Fiona Henderson (Child Protection Co-ordinator) Allan Lanstein (Water Activities Registrar) Lin Manley (ACC Special Needs) Mike Nadin (ACC Water Activities) Tim Pike (ACC Explorer Scouts) Nick Rider (County Network Leader) Lucy-Jayne Roberts (ACC International) Stuart Sinclair (County Training Manager) Trevor Staines (ACC Cub Scouts) Eddie Stone (DoE Award Adviser) Patricia Stone (ACC Beaver Scouts) Cliff Trott (Water Activities Adviser)

The positions of ACC Scouts and ACC Fellowship are currently vacant.



Membership figures at January Census

Age Range	Section	2005	2006	2007	Gain/Loss 2007 v 06
6 - 8	Beavers	920	886	803	-9.4%
8 - 10 ½	Cub Scouts	1498	1468	1489	+1.4%
10 ½ - 14	Scouts	1151	1189	1239	+4.2%
14 - 18	Explorer Scouts	351	367	340	-7.4%
18 - 25	Scout Network	14	12	12	Nil
	Youth Total	3934	3922	3883	-1.0%
	Leaders etc	1101	1101	1122	+1.9%
	Total	5035	5023	5005	-0.4%

DISTRICT	2006	2007	Gain/Loss
Barnet	350	358	+2.3%
CCI	761	775	+1.8%
DSP	77	80	+3.9%
Edmonton	267	245	-8.2%
Enfield	975	989	+1.4%
Finchley	587	580	-1.2%
Haringey	601	537	-10.6%
Hendon	430	442	+2.8%
Southgate	910	916	+0.7%
County	65	83	+27.7%
Total	5023	5005	-0.4%



Awards

Congratulations to the following members of the County who were honoured by the Scout Association during 2006 and the first months of 2007

* Gilt Cross

James Ault

Edward Moulder

Matthew Scrase

* Bar to the Medal for Meritorious Conduct

Stephen Darlow

* Medal for Meritorious Conduct

Roger Baker

Jeanette Butcher

* Silver Acorn

Maureen Fisher
Christopher Nagle

Alan Garner
Ian New

Christopher Hoskins

* Bar to the Medal of Merit

Gabriella Bunch
Charles Rowell

Revd. Peter Bunch

Stephen Gough

* Medal of Merit

Victor Adams
Jean Carter
Steven Grey
Margaret Holgan
Patricia Lambeth
Robert Wanders

Stuart Austin
Beryl Crease
Stephen Hagger
David Jenner
John Limrick

Brenda Bell
Corinne Dowsett
Andrew Hawkes
Leslie Kirby
Audrey Pizer

* Chief Scout's Commendation For Good Service

Jane Elliott

Adam Holding

Tricia O'Connor

and the many Leaders who received Long Service Certificates and Decorations, especially

50 years

Donald Gibbons

40 years

John Blundell
Robert Clay
Maureen Molloy
Lynda Rigg
Denys Welch

Valerie Bright
Douglas Cornish
Michael Moore
Shaun Rigg

Stephen Church
Pamela Fleming
Sheila Ridley
Charles Sterman



Jack Petchey Foundation Awards

2006 was our first year as members of the scheme and we have received and distributed £20,000 in awards to youth members and £9,000 for leaders.

The youth members must be aged 11-25 and qualify if they have achieved something appropriate to their age and ability. It does not have to be climbing Everest – although that will count – it just has to be something that others recognise is a noteworthy achievement and are prepared to nominate the person. We do have to allocate the 50 awards available every 6 months between all the Districts in the County, so most get 5 or 6 awards they can make. The scheme envisages there being more applications than awards, so each District needs to decide which ones are to go forward; and it is entirely up to Districts to decide how they organise the scheme within their own area.

The award winner gets a certificate and a dummy cheque for £200. A real cheque is sent to the Group for banking. The young person may not benefit directly from the award but it is a condition they decide how it should be spent. This may be on a special event or for some equipment or even used to support another good cause. Although the Cub Scout and Beaver Scout Sections cannot benefit directly from the awards, they can benefit from whatever the award is used for. So an activity funded by the award can include the younger members.

The youth awards are worth £200 each but in addition there are the Leader awards worth £1,000 each. There are only 9 of these for the whole County, so 1 per District. Again, the scheme wants to see many Leaders nominated and a choice made. Parents, supporters and the scouts should all be encouraged to nominate and then the District will need to decide who receives the award that year.

Nominations for this half year close tonight at the AGM but after June we will be in the next period, so if your Group has not yet had an award winner why not make an application. Forms are on the County Website and should be sent to your DC when completed.

At the end of the year a special presentation is arranged and all winners should attend and will receive a medallion, perhaps even from Jack Petchey himself. This is a great way to publicise Scouting, the County and your Group and at the same time receive much needed funds for even more activities.

Brian Hosier
Co-ordinator



OUR ACTIVITIES and ACHIEVEMENTS

BEAVER SCOUTS

Another year has flown by and the Districts of Greater London North are offering their Beaver Scouts great activities.

Let's go round the Districts

Haringey: Fancy Dress New Years Party - Visit to The Science Museum -
Sleepover - Swimming Gala - Campfire - District Fete

Finchley, Friern Barnet & Golders Green: Cadbury World visit – Sleepover -
Willows Farm Outing – Swimming Gala

Enfield: Fun Day at Tolmers (23rd Enfield won the dominoes) -
Visit to London Zoo – Fun Sports Day (Heathfield Trophy)

Hendon & Edgware: Experiment Badge Afternoon – Visit to Paradise Park -
Magic Show – Sports Afternoon - Sleepover

Barnet: Swimming Gala - 20 years Birthday Party - Magic Show -
Visit to Woburn - Fun Afternoon

Edmonton: Indoor Activity Day – Sports Afternoon – Water Splash – Fun Run -
District Gilwell Day – New Year Party - Peter Pan Treasure Hunt at GOSH

Southgate: Carol Service – Fun Sports Afternoon – Visit to Paradise Park –
Audrey Trophy – Sleepover

Camden, City & Islington: Halloween Sleepover – Fun Sports –
visits to Imperial War Museum & British Museum

All Districts participated in our County Competitions and are represented by the Colony that wins the preliminary District round. Congratulations to the winners

Dominoes: 23rd Enfield Craft Model: Barnet
Craft Picture: 24th Southgate
Craft Collage: 24th Southgate

With regular meetings and “meals out” GLN has a committed Beaver Leader Team.

Patricia Stone

CUB SCOUTS

I took on the role of ACC Cub Scouts for GLN in June 2006 at the end of the County Cub Camp “C9U0B” - a very successful event at Tolmers with about 600 plus Cubs and Leaders attending from all over the County.



Since then I have not stopped and have been very busy meeting Cubs and Leaders from most of the Districts in the County. All of the Districts are active; and I have been to Swimming Gala's, Badge Days, New Year Parties, Football Tournaments, District Cub Camps, a My Faith day (which showed how diverse Scouting really is in the County), District Cub Leader Bowling events, District Cub Leader Meals, Leaders Meetings; the list goes on... and I have had a really good time at all the events. Much more importantly, so have all the Cubs.

Still to come around the County in 2007 are District Centenary Camps, visits to the Jamboree, District Outings, "LIVE07" in the O2 Arena and much more. I really do not know how it all fits in to one year.

In addition to the above District events the County has organised a Bowling Competition, a Leaders Meal and a Chess Competition; and has planned a Cub Water Activity day at ESSA in July, and in November a Cub Bowling Competition.

2008 will also be a busy year. The Beavers and Cubs will be going on a day trip to LEGOLAND next summer: information is with ADC's and details will be confirmed later in 2007.

A special thank you should go to all the Leaders running their packs every week, the DCSLs and the ADCs that either organise, plan or run the events in the Districts and the County as I know how much work is put in to them. Lastly I would like to thank everyone who has supported me over the last year.

Trevor Staines

SCOUTS

The 2004 review of Section age ranges had perhaps more impact on the Scout section than any other. The change of age range effectively reduced the time spent in the Troop by a third, and the 'loss' of older boys and girls to Explorers had an enormous impact on how Troops could operate the Patrol system. It is therefore hugely to the credit of the Troop Leaders of GLN that the Scout Section has not only avoided shrinking, but from 2006-2007 grew by 4%.

The lack of older PLs hasn't stopped Troops carrying on with 'real' Scouting either. Around the Districts we still see Patrol camping, Patrol cooking, shelter building, knife and axe skills, and so on. I understand that one hardy Troop from Hendon & Edgware is pushing their kit to their 2007 camp on a trek cart. Tradition lives on!

A lasting tradition, of course, is the gaining of awards. I'm very pleased to say that Scouts still want to achieve, and they still want badges to show off their achievement. Well done to the many Scouts I see at various events sporting armfuls of badges, and particular congratulations to the 23 Scouts who achieved their Chief Scout's Gold award.

Tradition aside, we do need to adapt to a changing society and to the changing demands of young people. They do more now and expect more. Again, GLN Scout Leaders are proving they can adapt; the ever popular staples of 5-a-side competitions, swimming galas, and the like are now being matched up with video-game Olympics, skateboard events, and Quasar shoot outs.

We do face problems of course. The 10-14 age group has never been easy to deal with, and the changes in the rules and regulations that govern us seem to become more restrictive every day. This doesn't seem to stop us though, and every Troop is getting on and putting the 'out' into Scouting. I am delighted to report that 85% of GLN Scouts spent at least a weekend on camp last year, and over 50% spent over a week. They've camped in huts, in tents, in shelters, in boats, in museums, in the UK, and abroad.



Where there are problems, I am always encouraged to see how well we face them. A lack of Leaders is a perennial problem, and we often find the Scout Section attracts fewer volunteers than the younger age groups. This has led to some Scout Troops closing. In Barnet, the solution was to create a District Scout Troop to provide for Cubs coming up from Groups with no Scout Troop; a practical and sensible solution.

No GLN report would be complete without a mention of the 17th Holborn (Great Ormond Street Hospital GOSH). I recently accompanied the County Commissioner on a visit to their Scouting evening. On these evenings the Leaders can expect children numbering anywhere from 1 to 31; they can be able-bodied, or bed bound, English speaking or not, with or without any experiencing of Scouting. The happy, productive Scouting that we saw puts into perspective some of the difficulties that the rest of us Leaders moan about!

In summary, the Scout section thrives in GLN. It is a challenging age section to run, at a challenging time, in a challenging location; but the GLN Scout Leaders are clearly up to the task.

Nick Dewdney

EXPLORER SCOUTS

I am pleased to continue to report a thriving Explorer Scout provision in Greater London North. It is amazing to think that whilst Explorer Scouting has only been in existence for just over five years, it seems so natural that all our 14-18 year olds are now in one Section. During my visits around the County, I am always impressed by the enthusiasm and energy of Explorer Scout Leaders, who give so much of their time to delivering an excellent programme.

With only weeks to go until the largest Explorer Scout event ever, the 21st World Scout Jamboree, many of our members are understandably focused on this great event. I hope that it also provides a springboard to local Units to try new programmes and look outwards, beyond their local community to the worldwide family of Scouting.

I am pleased to report that our County continues to produce some excellent Queens' Scouts, and I have had the pleasure of meeting many of the them and finding out what they have completed to gain their awards. Without exception, they have all put many years of effort into their Scouting, completed some fantastic expeditions and put a great deal back into local Scouting.

We can also continue to testify the success of the Young Leaders Scheme in providing training for Explorer Scouts who are assisting with another Section. Whilst many will hopefully become our Leaders of the future, it is also assisting many Sections in providing a more creative and energetic programme. I know that many Districts have plans to further develop their Young Leaders Scheme during the next year, and I hope that many more Young Leaders enrol in the coming 12 months.

It remains a challenge in many parts of the County to find adults willing to take of the role of Explorer Scout Leader. With the increased demands of our working lives, it is difficult to find the time required to deliver the Explorer Scouting that 21st century young people are looking for. I would to thank all those adults who are putting in many hours to provide excellent Explorer Scouting around the County, and I hope that we are able to find many more who are prepared to take up the challenge. It could not be more important to provide activities that challenge and motivate young people into constructively using their free time.

Tim Pike



INTERNATIONAL

I have only recently taken over from Steve so am still learning the fantastic role of ACC(I). So far I have dealt with a few requests for forms but my aim is to deal with more of these in the future. I would like eventually every Scout and Explorer in the County to have the opportunity to go on an international experience, be it in the UK or abroad; and every Beaver and Cub to know about what the Scouts and Explorers get up to with their experience. 2007 is the perfect year to kick start this with the huge amount of international camps on offer and a large number of young people taking part. The Ho(me) Ho(spitality) aspect of the Centenary Jamboree will also provide the opportunity for all in UK Scouting to meet other young people and discuss with them their experiences of Scouting in their own country.

For Network members we are looking into running an Expo to Switzerland in the summer of 2008 and I would love to know who would be interested in going, I am also looking for a small number of "leaders" (25 and over) to take part in the Expo too. We hope this is to be a yearly event and would love to hear ideas for future Expo's and anyone that would like to take the lead on one.

The international pages of the County website will hopefully become a big resource for programme ideas, international opportunities, and gap year ideas for both Network and Fellowship age. If you would like to see anything in particular on this please contact me.

Hopefully, next year's report will be much longer and full of all the exciting things we are up to internationally as a County but in the mean time please keep getting requests for trips abroad to me and have a fantastic year.

Lucy-Jayne Roberts

DoE AWARDS

It's been a busy 12 months. I've issued 113 Award Record Books to Explorers and young Leaders across the County, mostly Bronze and Silver, but an impressive 28 Gold, so we can look forward to a bumper crop of completions next year!

Many Congratulations to everyone mentioned below, who have completed their D of E Award this year! I have issued 17 Bronze and 8 Silver Certificates, and helped to process 2 Gold Awards. Very well done!

Bronze

Ruairi Faherty, Martyn Hobbs, both of 23rd Southgate
Toby Marshall, Catherine Hanrahan, both of The Grovers, Southgate
Jamie Smith, Steven Dunne, George Bolton, all of 11th Islington
Victoria Perez, 15th Finchley
Sam Down, Philip Maton, James Brereton, Ross Burkin, Catherine Anderson, Emma Tuttlebury, Elizabeth Tobin, Charlotte Lane, Tom Whiter, all of 11th Finchley

Silver

Alice Durham, 15th Finchley
Catherine Evans, 16th Bermondsey / 8th Holborn
William Dunford, Nick Butler, Nick Barber, Philip Maton, James Brereton, Ross Burkin, all of the 11th Finchley



Gold

Gemma Kitchen , Liisamaria Markula, both of 8th Holborn

To everyone who has nearly finished .. don't give up!

Eddie Stone

SOUTHERN 50

2007's Southern 50 Challenge Hike celebrated its 28th consecutive appearance and turned out to be a scorching success. An avalanche of 75 teams from 16 counties across the UK wanted a slice of action and adventure – never mind the snow on Friday, the freezing cold temperatures on Friday night, the driving rain on Saturday morning and Saturday night, and the warm sunshine on Saturday afternoon. A flood of 300 walkers were keen to try their hand at a linear walk, brought back as quick as lightning by the organising committee to make this event special for Scouting's Centenary year.

Teams assembled on the Friday evening and early Saturday morning at Icknield Community College which provided us with a fine base in Watlington in Oxfordshire in the Chiltern Hills. From 0600 hrs on Saturday morning the teams of four set off, evaporating into the hills, testing the temperature with their navigation, determination, teamwork and endurance skills.

As usual, Greater London North (GLN) managed the event and welcomed all participants so they enjoyed a good atmosphere rather than a frosty reception. The rules provided either a 50 mile or a 50 km course. Explorer Scouts had their own 30 km course to tackle and were ferried to Speen Scout Hut for their own thunderbolt start, which nicely doubled up as Checkpoint 8. This was after everybody had enjoyed a hearty breakfast, and the extra portions of porridge were not only good for the wind but they also gave walkers a warm front.

Everybody had to navigate their way along their own route, a hilly climate, passing random snowmen along a ridge of high pressure before ending up at Tring School in Hertfordshire. They all had 24 hours to complete their mission before they were given a sunny welcome at the end.

The main event, the 50 mile hike, was won by old friends of The Southern 50, the GLN mountaineering team, who paradoxically named themselves "Late Finishers". They stormed round in 13 hours 16 minutes, thus becoming "raining" champions. Runners-up, breezing home 29 minutes later were The Psychic Pop Tarts, from Chesham in Bucks. Ten Gallon Dixie from Hornchurch, GLNE produced a hurricane finish to come 3rd. Ven-Ford, a team of mild Explorer Scouts from the 20th Torbay finished 4th, picking up the Novice Trophy and the Chiefs Cup for the first team home with team members under 25. The next team finishing a few minutes later was called La Grande Traversee des Alpes, which made you think that the event had gone truly international until being told that they came from the 15th Finchley. They were only trying to fog the issue. The last team to finish was The Corner Plotters from GLSW who enjoyed the wet so much they stayed out for 21 hours 54 minutes.

For the second time in two years, the 50 km event saw another GLN team named "The Phoenix Flyers" finishing in 9-37, some 8 minutes up on last year's time and blowing like a gale at the end. They were 28 minutes in front of the 20th Torbay Network Scout Unit from Devon, who, in turn were 75 minutes ahead of the 1st Plympton, also from Devon. "The Fruitcake Hobbler", also part of the GLN mountaineering team appeared from out of the haze just a few minutes later, ending their drought by picking up the Martin Hornsby Tankard for the fastest team whose combined age exceeds 200 years. 19 complete teams finished this event.



The first three teams home in the 30 km event were dominated by Devon based Explorer Scouts, with once again the 20th Torbay taking home the spoils. It's obviously all that training on the exposed parts of Dartmoor in the drizzle that did the trick. A total of 18 Explorer Scout teams completed their event. The Plympton Explorer Scout Unit based in Plymouth, Devon, consisting of three 16 year olds and one 15 year old, took time out of the event when they came across an overturned car that had skidded on ice. The two occupants were escaping when our intrepid band of heroes found them. They all made sure that the occupants were not injured and re-assured them before turning the car the right way up and continuing on their journey. They tried to cloud over their heroism but their gallant act was caught on camera.

Overall, 45 complete teams completed this year's event, that's 60%. However, 224 a total of walkers successfully finished, and that works out as 75% of all starters.

The event would never have been possible without the help of a monsoon of over 100 volunteers who hail the Southern 50 as much as the walkers themselves. They return each year to staff checkpoints, cater for your every need, drive minibuses, and help out at the start and finish.

During the slick Sunday morning presentation, our new CC Barry Manley was a ray of sunshine. He showered praise on the event and asked the misty-eyed audience "weather" everybody would be back for next year, 16th February 2008.

Chris Foster

MOUNTAINEERING

Since heading the team last November things have been a little slow, due mainly to everyone's involvement in the Jamboree. We have also had to get our heads around the new Activity Permits that we are now using.

A 2 day Climbing Course was held 3-4 February in conjunction with the Guides, at Chigwell Row Guide Campsite. 11 people attended the course and it was a great success. Another will be held the same time next year.

The Winter Mountaineering training course in North Wales that was due to be held earlier this year had to be called off., due to problems getting people to commit to a common date.

This Spring saw a County Terrain One Hillwalking Course. 6 Leaders took part in the 3 day training. Amongst the trainees were a DC, an ADC plus our own CC. Everyone taking part gained from the course, with most hoping to take it further and go later for assessment. A report of this event should soon appear in the North Circular.

Amongst the team, 8 climbing assessments have been successfully taken for people within the County, plus climbing assessments for Campsite crews from other areas.

We are at the moment buying new County Climbing Equipment that will be available for anyone within the County with the right Activity Permit to use. Details of this will appear in the North Circular once it all arrives.

I am hoping that we can build on this year and offer more training/assessment courses next year, for those wishing to get out in the hills.

Mark Batsford



MARITIME FORUM

We are very fortunate to continue to have the County's Maritime Forum. This is made up of the Dockland Scout Project, Discovery Sailing Project, Longridge and ESSA, plus the County Registrar and County Water Activity Adviser. We have a chairman, secretary and treasurer of course, and me. We meet twice a year and share good practice and support. Between us we were able to provide almost every type of water activity.

As is customary for Royal Navy Sea Scout Groups, an inspection was carried out by Lt Cdr Griffiths RN of The Naval Home Command on 24th January 07 at the HQs of the 10th Enfield Sea Scout Group. Mike Dowsett, the DC, was present and praised the group for its continual participation and support for District events. An evening of Instruction and activity ensued. At the end of the meeting Lt Cdr Griffiths addressed the assembled gathering and noted the successful role model of Enfield Sea Explorers meeting as one on parade. He noted that a balanced programme was carried out with the widest range of Nautical skill training, sailing, power vessels and cruising; and that, whilst Recognition was granted for a further period, there was a requirement for the Group to increase its numbers significantly. The meeting then closed with sunset and proper ceremony.

Our thanks to ESSA for again hosting our County Regatta in September. Many congratulations to Islington Sea Scouts who were presented with the County Trophy by our CC, Barry Manley.

Boat Inspections continue throughout the County where the last checked figures revealed that we have approximately 300 boats and canoes of various sizes and styles owned (not necessarily used). These and present personal authorisations will need to be reconsidered when the new permit scheme falls into place on 1st September this year.

My thanks to everyone who has helped to get our young people on the water. We have a team of assessors, advisers and boat examiners in addition to the Forum, all of whom await a call so they can offer fun, activities, training, assessments and help. My email address is <mnadin6404@aol.com> and I am a whiz at forwarding requests to the right person.

Mike Nadin and Cliff Trott

The Dockland Scout Project had a very good 2006; we managed to run 18 Water Activity weekends for Groups, Districts and Counties as well as 4 very busy Open Days. We also ran a full range of BCU and RYA courses covering kayaking, open canoeing, dinghy sailing, powerboats, pulling and first aid. The centre was also used by groups for evening boating in the summer. The Project also had an active part in the Great River Race. We have a similarly active 2007, with many busy weekends and in July the arrival of the Sea Scout Armada, made up of over 30 sailing boats from Sea Scouts as far away as Poland and Norway. Contact the website at <www.lordamory.org> for more information.

The Discovery Sailing Project, which is part of the Dockland Scout Project, completed another very successful year. Taking part in the 50th Anniversary Tall Ships Race from Torbay to Lisbon with their President Mike Nadin aboard sailing again as he did in the first race in 1956. The Project sailed on to Cadiz and to La Corunna before racing back to Antwerp. Many Scouts, Explorers, Network Teams and Leaders sailed aboard the sail training yacht Discovery from the Project's base on the River Hamble near Southampton. Such was the clamour for spaces that they have purchased one of Robin Knox Johnson's round the world racing clippers, the Thermopylae. With 15 berths and awesome sailing capabilities, the opportunity for exciting and challenging sailing is available to our County. Thermopylae is entered in the 2007 Tall Ships Races and anyone between 16 and 25 years can take part. Their website is <www.dsp.uk.com>

Richard Hart



ESSA, which is based on a beautiful lagoon at Nazeing, has also had a very good year. Many successful courses for dinghy sailing and canoeing have taken place. Raft building and raft races were great fun. Power and safety boat training has also been very popular. We ran three County's regatta again and everyone had a great time; and there is room for more groups to participate

The Foundation for Sport & the Arts awarded a £17,000 grant towards the purchase of dinghies, buoyancy aids, wet suits and waterproof clothing.

The Princess Royal (President of the RYA) honoured Marion Caslake, ESSA's principal, awarding her the RYA COMMUNITY AWARD. Many congratulations to Marion, and heart felt thanks for all she does for ESSA. The Award recognizes the outstanding contribution, time, effort and volunteer dedication which makes it possible for others to enjoy sailing and boating. The Award was presented by round the world yachtswoman Dee Caffari. ESSA's website is <www.essa.org.uk>

Longridge

This is the fiftieth anniversary of the Longridge Scout Boating Centre at Marlow, so a time to reflect on all the positive support for young people over many years, and the chance to look forward to a secure future if a final effort can be made on fundraising to purchase the freehold.

Water activities remain the main focus, with a solid summer of bookings lined up in the evenings and weekends. However, there are many opportunities to join existing courses in kayaking, canoeing, sailing and powerboating, so with Longridge just an hour away from GLN, this is an excellent option for camps and day trips.

Many people in Scouting will have known Graham and Iris Bucknell as the critical underpinning for Longridge over many years, so there will be a celebration of their work for Scouting, as well as the fiftieth birthday party, on 2 June.

Several initiatives are in the pipeline, including a new high ropes course across to the island, and planning permission has recently been granted for revamping the site. Check out the Longridge website, and particularly a short video created by Scouts in GLN to support the fundraising effort, at <www.longridge-uk.org>

Julian Fulbrook

ADULT LEADER TRAINING and SUPPORT

The past year has seen a tremendous amount of training taking place in campsites, Group HQs and even in the homes of many of our Local Training Managers!

The programmes that have been delivered during the last twelve months have enabled us to present a record number of nearly 30 Wood Badges. Barnet, Enfield/Edmonton, Finchley, Southgate and Camden, City & Islington Districts have all been successful in training a number of Leaders to the standard required to complete the compulsory adult training qualification, as part of their ongoing commitment to training and the development of the young people in their individual Sections and Groups.

We are extremely grateful to the Leathersellers' Company Charitable Fund whose generous donations enable the County to provide the compulsory training free of charge to the participants.



All Districts have, where required, been delivering interesting and enjoyable “Getting Started” sessions for our newest Leaders and I’m pleased to report that many of these sessions, which focus on the first three training modules, have had Leaders from other Districts attending – this movement of Leaders and transfer of expertise between Districts is a valuable part of making the sessions an enjoyable learning experience and something we are actively encouraging across the County.

September and October was our annual residential Nights Away training course for Leaders who are keen to gain the necessary qualification to supervise young people at camp. More than twenty Leaders attended these two weekends at Scout Park in Wood Green and were trained in “Skills of Leadership”, “Activities Outdoors”, “Practical Skills” and, of course, “Nights Away – Planning and Running a Residential Experience”. The next opportunity to attend this essential training course will be Autumn 2007 and we already have thirteen leaders enrolled. Thanks are due, as always, to Andrew Bailey and his team of leaders and caterers, who run these weekends so effectively.

Martin How and Pixie Serman, with Barbara Garner’s assistance when required, have been kept busy delivering Basic Red Cross training courses for Leaders. Our most recent session in May in Enfield/Edmonton attracted sixteen leaders and we have another one planned for June in Southgate on which eight leaders are currently enrolled - these sessions will allow leaders to obtain Module 10 in First Aid

I am also pleased to report that we have run a number of successful Module 25 (Assessing Learning) sessions around the County. These short courses have allowed us to validate even more Leaders as Training Advisers and who are now qualified to act as friendly supporters to the new Leaders in their care.

Our policy of delivering training, where and when it is wanted, seems to be paying dividends. There is now a great deal more training happening locally under the control of the District Commissioners and Local Training Managers.

After the camping season, we are planning to run some further training in Child Protection, Valuing Diversity, Working with Adults, Administration, Facilitating and Presentation Skills – all topics which have been requested by Districts and which will help Leaders to deliver even better Scouting for more young people in Greater London North.

Finally, a big thanks to everyone who has helped with training in the past year, particularly Geoff Coughlin and Sara Thorp who have now emigrated to Cheshire; and a warm welcome to Roger Turner who has taken over as Local Training Manager in Hendon & Edgware District.

Stuart Sinclair

FELLOWSHIP

We’ve had an eventful year and the highlight must surely be our enjoyable week away at Weston Super Mare in September. Stopping off at Bath en-route was a great start to our holiday. Visits included a basket making farm, Cheddar Gorge, Glastonbury (not the festival!) and a cider farm.

Jamboree fund raising.

£1700 was raised in many ways, the most money coming from our ‘Cream Tea’ at Scout Park in September. Other events included a Strawberry Tea, (our thanks to Ann and Freddie for the use of their garden), a quiz night and our stall at the Scout Park fete.



Supporting

Many members gave their time to help run a base at Southern 50, stewarding for two nights at the Southgate and Haringey pantomime and taking the collection at the annual service at Golders Green Crematorium.

Social

Enjoyable functions throughout the year included a Halloween party, Pre-Christmas drinks and a New Years celebration.

Outings

Great days (and nights) out during the year!

Kentwell House. A great experience of life, as it was 500 years ago!

London Lights. Superb guided coach tour enjoying the West End Christmas lights followed by a flight on the London Eye.

Thanks are due to the committee for all their hard work in arranging these events that have made it a most enjoyable and worthwhile time for all of us.

In closing, may I wish you all the best for the coming year and thank you for your ongoing support.

Peter "Jumbo" Davis.

COMMUNICATIONS

Well hopefully you will all know about the new county website on

[<http://www.gln-scouts.org.uk>](http://www.gln-scouts.org.uk)

and maybe you have already had the chance to have a look. We really value what you think so please send me your comments to accommms@gln-scouts.org.uk and we will review them. You never know, your idea may be the best thing since sliced bread so please do not keep it to yourself, do let us know.

You may or may not have seen the new North Circular newsletter. We have tried hard to get an easy to read format which is informative and interesting; and a product that will not only tell you what is happening around the County but will also be used to congratulate award winners and tell you things you probably do not receive via any other source. Derek Chambers, the editor, has done a brilliant job to get all the articles in and make it look so good and he would like to hear from you with your ideas for news stories. You can contact him on northcircular@gln-scouts.org.uk. If you are not receiving the newsletter by e-mail, please e-mail me with your address and I will add you to the list. We are still trying to gather all the right addresses, so please be patient with us.

The third member of the communications team is Mark Feakes who is the County Media Development Manager. It is Mark's responsibility to look after the young spokespersons and the local MDM's. If you are interested in working in the media in your District, get in contact with Mark on cmdm@gln-scouts.org.uk. He would love to hear about any stories you have and he is trained to help you get articles in the press. Use his skills and maybe get a better result. If you are a young person who would like to be a young spokesperson and deal with the newspapers and local TV and radio get in touch with Mark and he will steer you in the right direction.



I am looking to help appoint a member of the team in each District who will act as a liaison between the communications team and the Districts, in conjunction with the District Commissioners. If this is a role you would fancy, have a chat to your DC and copy me in so we can let you know what the role involves. If you feel you would like to be a part of the communications team, please e-mail me with the skills you would hope to bring to the post and we can have a chat.

Well, that's it from the comms team, except for me thanking both Derek and Mark for all their hard work and also the young spokespeople for putting themselves forward and to those of you who have contributed so far to any of the communication channels we have. Please keep the messages coming and keep your eyes on the web site and newsletter for important news and updates.

Mark Darlow

SPECIAL NEEDS

As I have only been in post since 1st April, there is little I can say about the past year. However, I can tell you that I am well qualified to carry out this role as my daytime job is working with people with learning difficulties. Already I have visited Great Ormond Street Hospital and seen the marvellous work they do to offer Scouting and Guiding under extreme circumstances.

I am looking forward to the challenges and rewards that the role will bring and to supporting those Leaders that go that extra mile to ensure that Scouting is on offer to everybody irrespective of their needs and abilities.

Lin Manley



OUR FINANCES

A few words to provide some extra background to the full, formal Accounts that form part of the separate Trustees Report & Statement of Financial Activities.

We spent around £94k. With no HQ or camp site(s) to look after, most of the money went on County activities, events and grants (including the Jamboree contingent and Jack Petchey Awards ... see below for further explanation), adult training and administration.

We had around £86k income £9k from the County annual subscription and £4k from investments but mostly attendance fees and donations (including the Jamboree contingent and Jack Petchey scheme again).

There was therefore a £8k loss.

So, at first glance it does look as though 2006 was not a good year financially, with our total funds falling from £109,360 to £101,625 which is the amount of the funds we've carried forward to the current year.

However, the year end position was complicated by the Jamboree. So far all the attendance fees have been paid by the County and under note 8 to the full Accounts you will see £30,224 has been charged to our General Fund. The contingent has, however, been fundraising, as has the rest of the County; and the income generated, less the expenses of training etc, has been included as a Restricted Fund. Nevertheless, regardless of which pigeonhole the money appears in, it is clear we have spent about £20,000 more than we have received in income in respect of the Jamboree, so the need continues to raise funds to avoid any eventual charge on District or County reserves.

Other major entries in the Accounts are:

- the Jack Petchey Award scheme for the first time. We received £20,000 and paid out £20,000 but both sides have to be disclosed in the accounts and as this is a Restricted Fund that is where it appears;
- the Cub Scout Camp and you will see the income (in note 3) was £9,770 and the expenses (in note 8) were £9,991, so a very small deficit.

We are fortunate in that we have received a further grant of £5,000 from the Leathersellers' Company for adult leader training. Again this is included in our Restricted Funds and is being spent to provide free Wood Badge training within the County.

Despite having over £100,000 in the kitty, we are not in the business of accumulating large reserves. £20,944 of our total funds is in Designated Accounts and, while ultimately available to pay for any worthwhile projects, has been earmarked by the Executive for specific purposes such as Activities. A further £16,208 is in Restricted Funds and can legally be used only for the purpose for which it was raised e.g. adult leader training. That just leaves £64,473 in the General Fund at the year end. This is probably more than we need immediately but, with the appointment of our Development Officer, hopefully more Groups and Sections will be set up in the not too distant future and the Executive will be happy to consider using the money to help them get off to a flying start.

Finally, our thanks to our two main sponsors this year – The Jack Petchey Foundation and The Leathersellers' Company Charitable Fund.

Brian Hosier