

MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE BATTALION COUNCIL HELD AT Battalion HQ, Clifford Street, Glasgow On Thursday 28th February 2019, at 7.30 pm

1 Opening Devotions

Rev Neil Galbraith led the opening devotions.

2 Present & Welcome

John Kelly, Battalion President welcomed all to the meeting;

22 Leaders, 3 Reserve Officers from 15 Companies were represented.

7 members of Council had tendered their apologies.

3 Minutes of Meeting held 13 November 2018

Approved with the amendment that Alan Murray chaired the meeting in the absence of the President & Vice-President and that he noted the date of the next meeting at item 10.

4 Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved

5 Matters Arising

All matters arising are covered in the agenda

6 Finance Report

The Treasurer reported that:-

Our costs continue to be well controlled and were slightly lower in the 9 months to 31st December than for the same period last year.

- Our new approach to fund raising is gaining some ground ,donations received in the 9 months were ahead of donations received in the full year to 31st March 2018-we will have to work hard to produce an increase in donations in the remainder of this financial year. A payment to account from a legacy resulted in the nine-month accounts showing a much reduced deficit when compared with the out-turn for the same period last year and also when compared with budget. The Training Credit has started well with £1475 allocated with a potential sum of £2275 for the year to March 2019.
- Investment Income is an important part of our budget. The stock market is volatile at present, however the consensus among investment advisors is that dividend income will continue to increase at a greater rate than inflation.
The stock market continues to be turbulent, our broker took some profit for us in the summer when prices were high. Our portfolio is well placed to weather the Brexit storm and, so far, dividends are holding up well.

7 Committee Reports

7.1 Board of Trustees Report

Council noted that summary reports of Board meetings are posted on the Battalion website. The following points were highlighted from the February meeting:-

- A Chaplains' event is to take place at the end of April/beginning of May. Statistics show that only 23 Companies have a registered Chaplain.
- 10 Church of Scotland Guilds have received presentations on The Boys' Brigade Faith in Young People Project.
- The rental agreement for the use of the offices at Ibrox Parish Church has been extended for a further 3 years. Additional hall lets have been included in the arrangements.
- The QB ceremony on 6th June at the City Chambers will have Tim Frew, the new CEO of Youthlink Scotland, as guest of honour.
- 160 young people attended the JS Sports event at the Emirates Arena. Initial reports indicate that the move to a Friday night was successful.
- 43 Glasgow Companies have completed their Annual Statistical Return out of 57 using OBM indicating a reduction of 69(4%)in numbers which is in line with Brigade Scotland Statistics.

- An opportunity to discuss BB work at Castlemilk Parish is in hand.
- Discussions are in hand to look at under 11 work in two schools in Ruchill.
- An offer of a development Officer visit to Companies is available.
- Options of auctioning old kit such as musical and camping items as a fundraising initiative is planned.□

7.2 Activity Committee Reports

Council noted the reports relating to Anchor, Junior & Company Sections including:-

- Anchor Section Collage Collage events built on the Cathkin District event held last session.
- Anchor Section workshops held in East Kilbride and Cathcart.
- Junior Section Competitions running as per calendar of events. Feedback suggests a need for a training session on delivery of figure marching as a programme item, possibly as part of a wider workshop similar to the recent Anchor Section initiative.
- Company Section – A programme planning workshop to encourage new ideas for delivery of badgework will be held prior to the June AGM
- Plans will be set up for a Company Section 5 a side football event.
- The local Gideons groups are keen to offer visits to Companies who would like to receive the Boys' Brigade New Testaments. A supply of Bible for Companies who have already had a visit but have one or two new recruits will be available through the Battalion office.
- R. McLay (9th Glw) advised Council that the Company runs a Brass/Bugle Tuition class on a Thursday evening and is open to Boys from the Battalion.
- The Secretary is looking to plan the 2019/2020 calendar of events prior to the June AGM
- A joint initiative with the Church of Scotland, The Guild, Boys' Brigade and Girls' Brigade to plan a special Easter Saturday walk through Glasgow is being planned

Training

Since the last Battalion Council meeting, the Training Team has completed its programme of courses for the session with the exception of the Holiday Leadership course on Sunday 3rd March at Ibrox Parish Church and the Queen's Badge residential course at Auchengillan from 22-24 March.

Training courses continue to draw in participants from a wide number of Battalions, without which some of our specialist courses would not be viable in terms of the numbers attending. The Captains' course and Holiday Leadership course are prime examples of where most of the attendees are from outside Glasgow Battalion which made the course viable in terms of numbers attending.

It has been noted that the number of boys attending the "Building your Skills" and "Skills for Queen's Badge" course has dropped over the last few years, which has implications for the size of accommodation required for future Queen's Badge residential courses at Auchengillan as numbers are unlikely to fill both accommodation blocks currently used. Indeed there are still a number of spaces available on this year's course. Numbers attending the key skills courses for Boys, which include attendees from other Battalions over the past five years, have been-

2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
Building Your Skills				
109	113	80	93	82
Skills for Queen's Badge				
97	107	113	99	90

The Training Team will shortly be meeting to plan out the programme for 2019/2020, taking into account projected course numbers for next session and suitable accommodation for the likely numbers attending. Companies who would like to see a course on next year's programme that we currently do not run were advised to contact the Battalion office so that it might be considered for inclusion for next session's programme. Youth Leader Training will likely reduce to 2 days as part of a new programme.

7.3 Kilbryde Hike Committee Report

Council noted the information on dates for the Kilbryde Hike- June 8th & 9th 2019. The Veteran's Category has been introduced to recognise the 50th Anniversary of the first hike.

7.4 Scotland Committee

Ronnie Campbell reported on a number of items as follows:-

- Scottish Cross Country, 16th March 2019 in Kilsyth
- Scottish Bands Contest, 23rd March 2019 at Hutcheson Grammar School, Glasgow.
- The Year of Young People Advisory Group has reformed as a Youth Forum.
- Elections for 2 Boys' Brigade members to the Scottish Youth Parliament take place from 15th to 29th March 2019. There are 4 candidates for 2 posts.
- The Committee have set up a review group to look at the regional structure.
- Raise the Bar Roadshows are taking place with the Paisley event on 9th March the closest for Glasgow Companies. Workshops include Faith Development, Additional Support Needs and information on the new Under 11's programme and a proposed Mini Grants Scheme
- Following Annual Statistical Returns from 1060 (83%) UK & Republic of Ireland Companies statistics show a reduction in national membership of 1199 young people. England & Wales have reduced by 769 (6%), Scotland 386 (5%) and Northern Ireland 360 (3%). 208 Companies nationally have still to complete the annual return and pay contributions (12 in Glasgow)
- The continuing decline in national membership and the associated reduction in income has affected Brigade UK budgets. Separate Staffing and Costs Reviews are in hand with a decision made to reduce staff costs by £100k. It is intended that this will be achieved without loss of service.

8 Battalion Development Session

The Battalion Secretary delivered a workshop designed to promote ideas on how we work, as a Battalion and as individual Companies, towards the Brigade UK development plan – Growth, Quality & Voice. Following a practical exercise discussion turned to what we can do locally. Work will be carried out on :-

- Growth – synchronising efforts across the Battalion/Districts, Supporting transitions (Anchor to Junior: Junior to Company Sections), increasing visibility through community partnerships
- Quality – Training & Programme materials (develop Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics STEM activities), support Leaders to share and discuss faith, deliver local events, identify new methods to encourage engagement.
- Voice – Promoting our key message through local media channels.

Comments on use of Battalion funds, changes to the name of the organisation and questions on monies received via national agencies (compared to the Police Scotland Youth Volunteer groups) were noted for action by the Secretary and Board.

9 AOB

Congratulations were passed to the 128th Glasgow on achieving first place in the Scottish Masterteam Finals. The now progress to the UK Finals to be hosted by Wishaw Battalion. Colin Harkins (208th Glw) reported that a media article on the Cashback programme is due to be published. Boys from the Company were interviewed on the impact of recent events they had participated in, provided as a result of the support received through the initiative.

10 Date of next meeting:

The President noted the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 12th June 2019, 7:30pm at Battalion HQ.

11 Closing Devotions

The meeting was closed with the Grace.