

TAUNTON DISTRICT NEWS

ISSUE No. 27

DECEMBER 2000

The Chief Scout is coming to Creech! Yes, that is correct, the Chief is coming to the County Conference for GSLs and Group Chairmen on Saturday February 3rd. The aim is to have every Group represented, even if the GSL or Chairman cannot attend the invite should be extended to any member of the Group Executive. Apply now!

TRAINING - please remember the next **INDUCTION/INTRODUCTION TO SCOUTING** evening is Thursday 25th January 8pm, Tangier. The programme of **GCA Units** for next term is now available.

PROGRAMME SKILLS – GENERIC is planned for Tuesday 9th January 7pm Scout Sectional Programming (County course, cost £20) is Sunday 14th January both courses at Tangier.

FOOD HANDLING/CAMP CATERING COURSE on Saturday the 27th January, cost £1. There will be 2 courses one in the morning and one in the afternoon, at Bishops Lydeard HQ.

LEADERSHIP SKILLS (County course) Sunday the 28th January at Yeovil, cost £25

CAMPING SKILLS first evening February 5th, the weekend part 5th-6th May 2001.

Any queries or for application forms please contact June Hick, 284028.

BITS & PIECES

Many of you will no doubt have heard that the names for **Sections 4 & 5 are Explorer Scouts and Scout Network**. These new Sections come into being in 2003.

Can I remind you that the **Scout Shop** will continue to supply uniform, books and badges. Arrangements have been made with the other Scout Shops in the County to swap sizes and badges.

I went along to a D of E conference and was told that there is an **electronic route card** available on freeware at www.net-basics.co.uk or mike_halsely@bigfoot.com. Please check it out, it may be useful.

Steve Walker, SL Trull

THANK YOU to SWEB (via Steve Walker) for the replacement **OHP**, and to the Red Cross (via Roy Crocker) for a **Resusci-Annie**. Both will be very well used in the District. The **Tangier Coffee Morning** raised £385, many thanks if you supported this.

The **RSPCA 2000 Challenge** was very well supported by 4 Sections from 3 Scout Groups. Congratulations to Bishops Lydeard Beavers and Cubs, West Monkton and Wiveliscombe Beavers. They collected over 500 items but I'll give you the final total and details in the January newsletter.

Congratulations to Andy Clayton for his winning photo in the **Beason Trophy**.

Geoff Pinney took 2nd and 3rd place with other entries from David Eele and me, the DC!

The winners of the December **NO NAME CLUB** draw were:- £50 Mr A. Shawyer from Langport and £10 Peter Bournier. The January draw, for £10, will be on Wednesday the 3rd. Will you be lucky?

Over 40 youngsters turned up for the **GANG SHOW** auditions. They had a brilliant afternoon and are looking forward to starting rehearsals in the New Year. There is still some space for Scouts and Leaders.

WELCOME to Dave Cornish who has taken up the appointment as ABSL at East Taunton.

SPECIAL OFFERS FOR SCOUTS: 2 Nights at Youth Hostels for £10. Participating Hostels include some of those in the Snowdonia and Lake District National Parks - contact the office for full details.

From: Public Relations, Baden-Powell House, **Uniform Consultation: Update 16 November**

The five month Uniform Consultation has turned out to be the largest and most successful of its kind ever undertaken by the Movement. Two days after the scheduled closing date (to allow for the current postal delays) the number of Uniform Questionnaires returned was 46,000. The ratio of responses from young people to adults is approximately 2:1. Over 400,000 Forms were circulated. The data is now being entered into a database so that an analysis can be performed and a report prepared for the Committee of the Council meeting on **13 December**. It is the Committee of the Council that will make the final decisions on changes to uniform.

SECTION ACTIVITIES

Although only 3 Colonies were represented at our first **Beaver games** competition, we had a successful afternoon. There were 16 children playing altogether which made a very easy split of 4 children per table. The game chosen for this occasion was 'Matching pairs'. The Beavers played 8 altogether and the winner was chosen by their accumulative score from all the games.

The winner was Oliver Larkman from Central, 2nd Josh Pearson from Wellington , 3rd Jamie Cox from Rockwell Green. By coincidence that was one winner from each Colony! Other participants were Callum Sawyer, Eva Rosser and Isobel McMohn from Central (Pine), Lee Monger, Adam Shore, Kit Hardcastle, Jake Skeet and Jamie Taylor from Rockwell Green, James Carson, Aaron Richards, Jamie Fleet, Graham Anderson, and Jason Bull from Wellington. Well done to them all. They all played fairly, were well behaved & sang beautifully when we were adding up the scores at the end! **Yvonne Back, ADC Beavers**

Cub Gala - CONGRATULATIONS, what a super afternoon at the new location of Taunton School. It was such a success that the pool has been booked for next year. 1st Central 54 points, 2nd Oak – 53 3rd Norton – 44, Joint 4th Acorn & TPS – 43 with 5th Trull – 41. Other Packs in the Gala, Henlade, Staplegrave, Wellington and West Taunton. **David Eele, DCSL.**

On Sunday 22 October 2000, Taunton District Scouts took part in the **43rd Jamboree On The Air (JOTA)**. With the help of Peter Robinson, Bill Lindsay-Smith and Tom Taylor from Taunton Amateur Radio Club, a station was set up at Huish Woods campsite using the call sign GB2TWH (Taunton West Hatch). JOTA is a way of putting Scouts in touch with each other both nationally and internationally. About 30 Scouts and Leaders, including a visiting Patrol from Clevedon, spoke to people from a variety of places including Yugoslavia, Portugal, Sweden, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. The furthest contacts made this year were with North East Ohio and Toronto in Canada. “As always, our grateful thanks go to Peter and his colleagues whose enthusiasm allows us to take part in this event. We are already planning for next year!”

Taunton Deane Scouts challenged each other individual races and relays keeping them busy during their **Swimming Gala**. With a lot of support from families and friends in the balcony, the Scouts showed us just how competitive and sporting they can be when the pressure is on! Two and a half hours of cheering and shouting is enough exercise for anyone yet several of these Scouts were entering consecutive races and displaying incredible determination. At the end of a well fought battle Trull Scouts were the overall winners with Bishops Lydeard second and Central third. The Venture Scouts held their own race which was won by Mark Baker. “It was a brilliant atmosphere and everyone enjoyed the evening. Tricia and I would like to thank the two Lifesavers– Graham Bell and Graham Carne, also those who attended at the pool side and acted as judges – Andrew Sedgbeer, Judy Addicott and, of course, Henry.”

West Taunton Scouts showed off their style and stamina when they beat Castle Cary in the finals of the **County Scout 5-a-side Football** competition. Held at Wellington Sports Centre, the event attracted teams from Ilton and Broadway, Barrington, Templecombe, Castle Cary, Rockwell Green and Taunton. This is the first year a County competition has been held following District tournaments to select representative teams. ACC, Tony Hunt, congratulated all of the participating teams and said, “ I hope to see even more teams taking part in next year’s competition. I am delighted to be here to present the Trophy to the first winning team. Everyone has played well and made it a very challenging afternoon. Our thanks must go to Tricia Sedgbeer for organising the event and referees – Chris Cox and John Troake.” - **Rose Birley, DSL.**

43 Scouts from 5 Troops entered the **Orienteering Competition** on the 3rd December. Some were novices before the event but certainly weren’t by the end of the day! The winners, Trull C, completed the course in 1 hour 39 minutes and visited 11 control points. Taking just 10 minutes longer were a novice team from West Monkton, with Wilton A just 1 minute behind them. **Wilton Leader Team.**

HAPPY CHRISTMAS & A HEALTHY NEW YEAR