



THE BOYS' BRIGADE



>the adventure begins here



THE BOYS' BRIGADE PAISLEY & DISTRICT BATTALION
ANNUAL REPORT SESSION 2017/2018



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The Boys' Brigade

OBJECT

The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys, and the promotion of habits of obedience, reverence, discipline, self respect and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness.

Paisley & District Battalion

MISSION

Helping the Church win Boys for Jesus Christ

AIMS

Supporting local Companies
Developing the Christian Commitment of our Leaders
Providing effective leadership training
Organising attractive inter-company activities

OFFICE BEARERS

President: Bill Keddle
Vice Presidents: Georgy Rae, David Love, Brent Dorey
Secretary: Lawrence Napier
Chaplain: Rev Gordon Armstrong
Treasurer: Jim Auchincloss
Assistant Secretary: Anne Sellars

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE

Anchor Boy Convener: Ina Young
Junior Section Convener: David Ashton
Company Section Convener: Hugh Young
Seniors and Young Leaders Convener: Nathan Orr
Duke of Edinburgh Convener: Vacant
Christian Faith Convener: Rev Gordon Armstrong
Community Convener: James Wardrop
Development Convener: Andrew Dinnett
Finance Support Convener: W. Raymond Shaw
Property Convener: Paul Birch
Public Relations and Resources Convener: Brent Dorey
Training Convener: Stewart Digney

Additional Members: Willie Speirs, Jim Bonner
Under 26 Representatives: Fraser Digney, Jack Mitchell
Battalion Administrator: June Murdoch

HONORARY OFFICE BEARERS

Honorary President: Campbell McGregor
Honorary Vice Presidents: (non-BB)
Provost Lorraine Cameron, Provost Jim Fletcher,
Wendy Alexander, Baroness Goldie, George Adam MSP,
Derek Mackay MSP, John McDowell, Allan Steele,
The Moderator of Greenock and Paisley Presbytery,
Gavin Newlands MP, Kirsten Oswald, Paul Masterton MP
Honorary Vice Presidents: (BB)
W. Raymond Shaw, Anne Sellars, John Stewart,
Rev Arthur Sherratt.

It is once again my pleasure to make a few comments for our Annual Report. During this year there have been many activities and Battalion occasions and like our previous years our first big event was the Civic Reception for our Queen's men which again took place in the stunning Paisley Abbey. Our grateful thanks go to Renfrewshire Council for providing this occasion and for the attendance of our Provost, Lorraine Cameron. Our thanks also go to the many Ambassadors in attendance who help us throughout the year and to the parents in the Abbey supporting our young men.

Our Annual Battalion Parade was to St Paul's, Johnstone and the attendance was such that many, including parents, had the Service relayed to them in an adjacent hall. Our thanks to Reverend Shaw for an uplifting service and the officers and boys of the 2nd Johnstone for their assistance.

For years now our activities committees have provided a wide range of competitions and activities for all the age groups in the Battalion. On behalf of the Executive I express our gratitude for all the extra work that convenors and committees do in order to achieve such a wide and varied programme throughout the year.



Our events take place in many different places within the Battalion and we would like to thank the many churches for allowing us the use of their halls and other church premises.

Foreword

My sincere thanks to the Office Bearers and the Executive for their attention to duties and the diligence with which they carry them out. My thanks to June Murdoch, our Administrator who has dealt with all our problems in an efficient manner during a personally difficult time. Thanks are also due to Lawrence Napier our Secretary who keeps the ship afloat and to our Shop Staff.

I offer sincere thanks to the sterling work carried out by many officers in their Companies, week by week, in the face of many difficulties and problems. On behalf of the Executive I offer you our thanks for your continuing commitment to The Boys' Brigade and the part you play in the work of your Church.

I hope and pray that the Battalion will continue to prosper and we are able to Advance Christ's Kingdom among Boys.

Bill Keddle
Battalion President.



Executive Report

Battalion Council

Wallneuk North Church Hall was the venue for the Annual General Meeting of Battalion Council on Monday 12th June 2017. Rev Gordon Armstrong, Battalion Chaplain, conducted the opening and closing devotions. Mr Jim Auchincloss, Battalion Treasurer, highlighted extracts from the Finance Report and Mr Paul Birch, Property Convener, summarized all the work undertaken in connection with the refurbishment of Headquarters. A motion to amend the Junior Section Rules was proposed by Mr David Love and approved by Council. A second motion to amend the Company Section Rules was proposed by Mr Hugh Young and accepted by Council.

Mr Brent Dorey was appointed to the vacant post of one of the Vice President positions. Mr Jim Bonner was elected to fill one of the vacant positions of Battalion Representatives to the Battalion Executive. Battalion Council approved the proposal to send two Representatives under 26 years to Brigade Council in Manchester this year and each year thereafter.

The Autumn General Meeting of Battalion Council was held on Monday 6th November 2017 in Martyrs' Sandyford Church Hall. The Rev Gordon Armstrong, Battalion Chaplain, conducted the Service of Rededication. Mr Nathan Orr was appointed Seniors Convener. Mr Stewart Digney invited Mr Bill Keddie, Battalion President, to present Youth Leader Training Certificates to new Officers who had completed Youth Leader Training recently. Mr David Love, Battalion Vice President and West of Scotland Area Representative provided an update of events at national level. Mr Nathan Orr provided a full report on the meeting of Brigade Council in Manchester and went on to provide a detailed outline of the way ahead for Seniors in the Battalion.

Civic Reception

On Monday 18th September 2017 Paisley Abbey was the setting for the Civic Reception granted to the Battalion by Renfrewshire Council in recognition of the achievements of the young men who gained their Queen's Badges. A full report appears on page 16.



Remembrance Sunday

In some ways the Annual Service of Remembrance held on Sunday 12th November 2017 at the Cenotaph, Paisley was unique. The boys laying the wreaths were from the 1st Barrhead Company attached to St Andrew's Church, Barrhead and their Chaplain Rev. Jim Cowan, as Moderator of the Presbytery, conducted the service.

Our picture includes Stuart McKelvie, Jack Balloch, Charlie Gander, Connor Gardiner, they were a credit to the Battalion.

Captains' Social

An informal meeting of Captains was held on Wednesday 17th May 2017. A strong representation from the Battalion expressed the view that The Boys' Brigade both locally and nationally should do more to honour and recognize the volunteer input of its Leaders. Other charitable organisations gave more public recognition of the commitment week by week of the time and energy given by many in their spare time.

Launch of Battalion Headquarters.

Following the major upgrade and refurbishment of our Battalion Headquarters, we were delighted to welcome Councillor Lorraine Cameron, Provost of Renfrewshire Council on Saturday 28th October 2017. Lorraine cut the ribbon across the door and officially launched our property as fit for purpose to provide support to the Battalion in the years to come. The ceremony was accompanied by music provided by the 3rd Johnstone Brigade Band attached to St Andrews Trinity Church, Johnstone. On the day we were pleased to welcome a number of our Honorary Vice Presidents including Jim Fletcher, Provost of East Renfrewshire, Rev Jim Cowan, Moderator of the Presbytery, Allan Steele, George Adam MSP and Mrs Stacey Adam. Raymond Shaw, Finance Support Convener, outlined the problems of raising funds for the refurbishment of the building. He praised Renfrewshire Council for their continued support of our work and the major funders who had financed the project.



National Cross Country

It is two years since we were first asked by The Scottish National Cross Country Committee at Carronvale to host the 2018 event in our area. A special committee was formed under the leadership of Georgy Rae, Battalion Vice President. A separate report appears on page 18.

Obituaries

John Osborne

John passed away on Wednesday 22nd November 2017. He had served for 18 years as a Leader in the Shipmates before becoming Officer in Charge of 3rd Paisley Anchor Boys attached to Wallneuk North Church from 1985 until the Company disbanded in 2009.

Rev Arthur Sherratt

On Wednesday 7th March 2018 a large congregation filled Wallneuk North Church for the funeral service of Rev. Arthur Sherratt who passed away on Friday 23rd February 2018. Arthur enrolled as an Officer in the former 15th Paisley Company attached to Mossvale Church of Scotland in 1964 completing his Basic Training at that time. In 1976 he joined the Junior Section of the 3rd Paisley Company attached to Wallneuk Church and became Captain in 1984; a position he held until 1994. He was proud of the fact that the Company won the Company Section Battalion Championship in 1988. On 5th May 1994 he was ordained and inducted as Minister of Kilbarchan West Church and became joint Chaplain to the 1st Kilbarchan Company. At the same time he was appointed Battalion Chaplain; a role he filled for 20 years until 2014, when he was appointed an Honorary Vice President of the Battalion. On 27th January 2014 Arthur was inducted to the charge of St. Cuthbert's, Saltcoats where he became Chaplain to the 1st Saltcoats Company. On returning to Kilbarchan, he was appointed a Reserve Officer. To Susan, Karen and Kim, we extend our deepest sympathy.

Staffing and Appointments

During the course of the session Brent Dorey was appointed to the vacant post of Public Relations Convener. There were no changes of Company Captain during the course of the session apart from the appointment of Bobby Stevenson to fill the long outstanding vacancy at 1st Kilbarchan Company. Mrs June Murdoch and Mrs Christine Wilson have continued in service as Battalion Administrator and Battalion Cleaner respectively and again I thank both ladies for their service and loyalty to the Battalion.



Lawrence Napier
Battalion Secretary



Anchor Boys

This session was a very important one for the Anchors as we celebrated our very own 40th birthday. We were able to do this for our red jumper-wearing boys at no cost to the companies; this was due to the efforts of Robert McKenzie in obtaining generous funding from the Hugh Stenhouse Foundation. The Committee decided that we would use the money to give the boys a birthday party, and the fun started for us in trying to organise what we would do on the day. We had birthday cake, birthday banners, and party games, with a well earned rest to refuel with a snack and juice. At the end of the afternoon each boy left Gleniffer High School with a party bag filled with toys and sweets.

Most of the boys travelled to and from this event in buses provided by Southern Coaches, the last time that they will be doing so, as the company is being wound up later this year. We would like to thank them for their years of quality service to the Battalion.

There are two other activities for Anchor Boys: P3 and P2 events, each with its own theme.

P3 Afternoon had an American theme and was held at Martyrs Church Hall on a cold Saturday, not that you would have known it inside the hall. We played baseball, had some American-inspired fitness activities, with the craft being making sun visors. All this was rounded off by enjoying hot dogs and juice.

The theme of P2 day was 'Senses' and was again held at Martyrs Church Hall. The boys learned about how people cope with not having some of their senses by playing blind football, then making noisy musical instruments and bangers. Quiet time included interactive yoga, then the boys enjoyed juice and crisps before heading home.

As mentioned earlier in this report we received generous funding from the Hugh Stenhouse Foundation, and we are very grateful to them and to Robert McKenzie for thinking of us, as we haven't had funding for some considerable time. The boys had a great afternoon, as could be seen on their smiling faces on the day.

We could not hold the events each year without the help of the churches. A huge thanks is sent this year from all involved in the Anchor Boys to Martyrs Church for allowing us use of their halls, to Renfrewshire Council, and to Gleniffer High School.

As always, many thanks go to all members of the Anchor Boys Committee, BB leaders, helpers and parents, but most of all to the boys who come along - without you there would be no events.



Ina Young
Anchor Activities Convenors



Junior Section

This session proved to be another busy year for Junior Section activities with fifteen sections taking part in at least one of the six Battalion events. To celebrate the 100th anniversary of Juniors, a party was held at Renfrew North. The turnout was excellent with over 100 boys from 11 different companies taking part. There was a range of activities such as crafts, games and singing. A time capsule was also planted in the garden of the church while the event was streamed live on Facebook which was a first for the Battalion. Thanks go to Jan Phillips, Andrew Scott and James Glen for planning the event and to all the leaders who helped them with preparations and running the day.

The Football Cup was held this year at Ralston Sports Centre. A total of 10 teams entered this year from 8 different companies. It was a very competitive afternoon with the 1st/3rd Renfrew claiming first after defeating the 16th Paisley in the final

Ten pin Bowling was held at SOAR, Braehead in November 2017 and proved to be as popular as ever! Overall 87 boys from twelve sections enjoyed a night of bowling. It was a great night with some record high scores from the boys. The event was won by the 1st Neilston Company.

The new and revamped Potted Sports competition proved successful with 11 teams participating in the competition in Renfrew North Church. The wider range of activities proved very popular with the boys. The competition was won by 1st/3rd Renfrew on home ground with Bridge of Weir claiming second.

The swimming gala was once again held in Renfrew Baths along side the Company section event. 9 teams participated in the relay event with all boys taking part in the individual event as well. 1st Bridge of Weir claimed victory this year with 24th Paisley coming in second.

Figure marching was once again a closely fought competition with 6 Companies represented. Our Judges were impressed with the standard of marching this year with 1st Houston retaining the crown. As always the parents of the boys participating turned out in force to give support which was great to see and much appreciated. Our thanks go to Bill Andrew and Jim Reid for giving up their time to judge this event for a second year and to the 22nd Paisley for running our tuckshop this year.

The Annual Sports Day saw 9 sections participate in the flat race, hurdles, long jump, welly throw and relay. The day was well attended by boys with some competitive heats and an excellent parent support in the stands. 1st Lochwinnoch took the sports day crown this year.

The Battalion Championship this year was so closely contested that 1st/3rd Renfrew and 1st Bridge of Weir were joint champions with third secured by 1st Erskine. Congratulations to this year's top three.

Finally, this was my last year as the convener of the Junior Section. I have enjoyed my time over the last three years and grateful for the support I have had. I would like to thank Stuart Willbond, Craig Mclean, Georgy Rae, Susan Wylie, Gordon Simpson, Colin Hailey, David Love, Jan Phillips and the late Stephen Cochrane for their support during their time on the committee and to all the leaders who helped at the events making sure they ran smoothly.

David Ashton
Convenors, Junior Section Activities Committee



Competition Winners

Team Games	1st/3rd Renfrew
Bowling	1st Neilston
Swimming	1st Bridge of Weir
Figure Marching	1st Houston
Sports Day	1st Lochwinnoch
Football	1st/3rd Renfrew

Championship Result

- 1 1st/3rd Renfrew & 1st Bridge of Weir
- 2
- 3 1st Erskine



Company Section Activities

The Company Section Activities Committee planned a full year of competitions as part of the Championship. 23 competitions covered 13 different activities, and 14 companies in the Battalion participated in at least one of these events. The boys were a credit to the companies they represented in the way that they applied themselves to the discipline of each event.

The activities are selected to promote the Object of the Boys' Brigade within our Battalion., and range from traditional BB events such as Drill, Christian Faith, Physical Education and First Aid, as well as the sports of Volleyball, Football, Cross Country, Basketball, Swimming and Badminton, as well as Ten-Pin Bowling. A General Quiz is the opening event of the year. Due to the excessive snow at the end of February this year, we had to call off the Drill Competition on safety grounds.

The Championship could not be run without the assistance given by many people, both BB staff and others from outside agencies. I would like to take the opportunity to thank some of these individuals and groups.

We must first thank our main sponsor, Intu Braehead Shopping Centre for their continued support of the Battalion.

The PE Competition was hosted by Neilston Parish Church in their halls, and the event was judged by Mr Dougie Gillespie. A previous member of the 1st Kilbarchan Company and a high school PE teacher, he was very impressed by the quality of the skills on display and has offered his services in future years.

The Swimming Gala was held at Renfrew Victory Baths, which has proved to be a great venue, with the spectators getting up close to the action and the boys at the side of the pool all adding to the atmosphere. The evening, which is a joint event with the Junior Section Committee, was again sponsored by Providing for People in Paisley. Medals were provided by Lodge Houston St. Johnstone and Mr Peter Smolarek presented the awards to the winners on the night. Our thank also go to Mrs Sophia Murphy who instructed the officers who were acting as swimming officials, keeping them right in the duties required to make the event run smoothly. We also acknowledge the work of the staff of the Baths who ensured the safety of the boys, and we are indebted to them for this.

The First Aid event was held at Stow Brae Kirk. It was judged by Red Cross staff and was lead by Ann Brogan, assisted by Dr Fiona Wood, Angus Weir, Jack Houlison, John Quinn and Steve Goudy. The Battalion are honoured to have the Red Cross as an Ambassador, supporting us in teaching this life-saving skill to the boys.

The Cross Country event was held at a new venue, Thomas Shanks Park in Johnstone, as a rehearsal to test the course, as the Battalion were to be hosts of the Scottish National Competition. St Paul's Church halls in Johnstone were used for administration and changing facilities. We are grateful to Renfrewshire Council for allowing us to use the park for this event.

This year we were able to secure accommodation for our main sports activities - Badminton, Basketball, Volleyball and Five-a-Side Football - at the ON-X Leisure premises run by Renfrewshire Leisure at their Linwood site. We are grateful to the staff who were very amenable to all our requests.

As always, the Battalion is indebted to the Kirk Sessions who allow us to use their church halls for many of our activities. Without this assistance we would not be able to have such a varied list of events. I would like to express my thanks to Erskine Parish Church (Drill), Renfrew North Church (Quiz, Recruit Games and for hosting our Committee meetings), Neilston Parish Church (P.E.), St Paul's Johnstone (Cross Country), and Stow Brae Kirk (First Aid). We could not do it without your help.

I would also like to thank the officers of the Battalion who helped in any way - time-keeping, refereeing, or even just bringing your team to the events. Without this assistance we could not run the Championship. The Committee is always looking for ways to improve the way things are run, so if you can help, please contact me or come along to any of our meetings.

Hugh Young
Company Section Activities Convenor



Company Section Competition Winners for session 2017/2018

Christian Education	Junior Senior	15th Paisley 3rd Johnstone
Drill	Squad Elementary	Not Held (Snow) Not Held (Snow)
Quiz	Junior Senior	1st/3rd Renfrew & 24th Paisley (Composite) 15th Paisley
Basketball	Junior Senior	1st Barrhead 1st Houston
Badminton	Junior Senior	1st Barrhead 1st Houston
Volleyball	All ages	1st Houston
Physical Education	Junior Senior	1st Bridge of Weir 1st/3rd Renfrew
Swimming	Junior Senior	24th Paisley 1st Houston
First Aid	Junior Senior	15th Paisley 15th Paisley
Ten Pin Bowling	All ages	15th Paisley
Recruit Games	P7&S1	1st/3rd Renfrew
Cross Country	Junior Senior	1st/3rd Renfrew 1st Erskine
5 A Side Football	Junior Senior	1st Houston 1st Houston



Battalion Championship Results

1st	15th Paisley	244 points
2nd	1st /3rd Renfrew	231 points
3rd	1st Houston	219 points

Christian Faith Committee

Thanks to the Battalion Administrator, we continue to have a stand at Battalion Headquarters where booklets for Anchor Boys, Junior Sections and Company Sections are available. Over the years, these resources have proved to be popular, not only within our Battalion, but other companies who use the supplies department have also purchased the booklets.

The Annual Christian Faith Competition was held on Sunday 26th November. On the day, we had 9 Junior and 7 Senior teams attend on the event. The results of the competition were very close. Team 2, of the 15th Paisley Company were the winners of the Junior Competition and the Senior Competition was won by the 3rd Johnstone Company.

Once again, there was a good attendance of at the Annual Church parade this year and congratulations are due to all for making all the arrangements for this.



Rev. Gordon Armstrong



Service for Others

1st Lochwinnoch held a Christmas Dinner for staff from all sections, Boys in the Company Section, and some guests, all planned and prepared by a group of Boys under the watchful eye of our Chaplain, Rev Archie Ford.

The evening included a presentation of this year's World Mission Project and a donations were taken for the project resulting in a sum of £156 being donated.

1st Erskine Company donated £20 to the Salvation Army and gave £300 to Erskine Parish Church. 1st/3rd Renfrew Company donated £200 from a coffee morning towards Voltage Vouchers for the rewiring of the halls of Renfrew North Church.



During 17/18 our Company 15th Paisley has been fairly active in our work for others. While some of our work started off as part of the Juniors 100 Challenges our efforts were very much supported by our anchors and Company sections and that allowed a much greater donation.

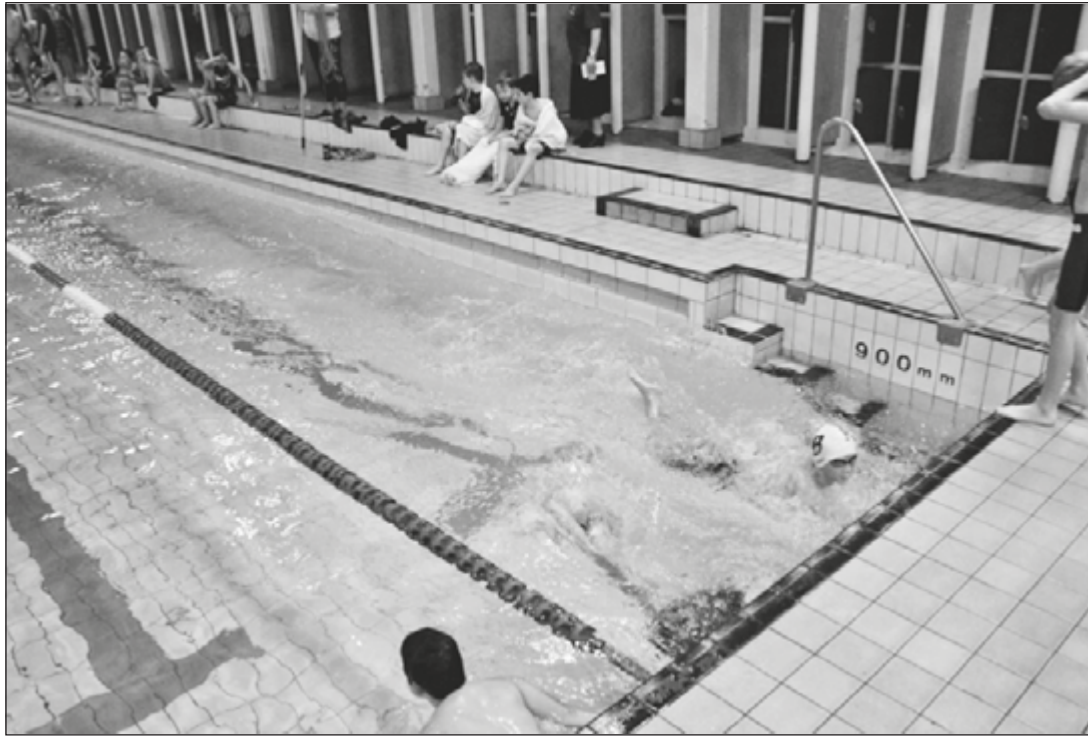
At Easter we wanted to share the message with others and asked members from all sections to donate an egg. We were overwhelmed with the results which allowed us to make a very healthy donation to the local Renfrewshire foodbank. Our picture shows last year's donation and we've just handed over another 91 eggs.

Boys from our Juniors planted well over 100 bulbs and some plants which had been donated by the Company to brighten up the outdoor area at ROAR (reaching older adults in Renfrewshire).

Christmas was a very busy time for us and in working to complete some of the remaining Juniors 100 challenges we challenged our boys to participate in the Jingle Bell run at Barshaw Park, seek sponsors and raise at least £100 for charity. As ever our boys (from all sections) and parents and friends too rose to the challenge. In early 2018 we invited representatives of the William Hunter House (one of the Salvation Army's homeless units) to come along to tell our boys of their work and to accept a cheque as we'd decided that this was the charity we wanted to support. We gave a total of £500 which will support the work they do to. They explained when they visited that as part of their rehabilitation programme they train for and participate in the Homeless World Cup and some of our money will be used for this work.

This year we again filled shoeboxes as part of the local Night before Christmas boxes appeal. These shoeboxes are distributed through Social Work and others to children and others in need in our own communities and help to bring the meaning of Christmas to folks who for whatever reason don't have very much.





Presentation Day

Awards

On Sunday 4th June 2017 the Battalion Presentation Day took place in Oakshaw Trinity Church, Paisley. This year our Guest of Honour was Kirsten Oswald, an Honorary Vice President of Paisley and District Battalion and formerly Member of Parliament for East Renfrewshire. Kirsten presented President's Badge Certificates to 36 Boys, Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Certificates to 13 Boys and Duke of Edinburgh Silver Certificates to 12 Boys.

L/Cpl Glen Verney, 22nd Paisley Company, outlined the work which he had undertaken to gain his President's Badge. The Battalion Training Convener, Mr Stewart Digney, laid out the scope of the work to be completed by the Boys to go forward and gain their Queen's Badge. He encouraged the Boys, with the support of their parents, to complete the challenge of gaining a Queen's Badge.

Battalion Championships

1st Houston Company were the winners of the Intu Braehead Company Section Championship Trophy which was presented to them by Mr Gary Turnbull, General Manager, Intu Braehead Shopping Centre. He went on to present 2nd and 3rd place certificates to the 15th Paisley Company and the 1st/3rd Renfrew Company respectively.

Mr Craig Martin, Head of HR Glasgow Airport, presented the Glasgow Airport Junior Section Championship Trophy to 1st/3rd Renfrew Company. Mr Martin presented the 2nd place certificate to 1st Bridge of Weir Company and 3rd place certificate to 1st Houston Company.

The Battalion Chaplain, Rev Gordon Armstrong, conducted the Opening and Closing devotions. The musical entertainment was provided by Renfrew North Church Praise Band led by Ms Rhona McNeil; this was appreciated by all who were present.

The Battalion Executive thanks Rev Gordon Armstrong, Mr Robert Copleton Session Clerk and the Kirk Session of Oakshaw Trinity Church for the use of the Church and Halls for the evening.



President's Badge Recipients

2nd Barrhead	Reece McMahon		
1st Bishopton	Ross Guthrie	Lee Kelly	Callum Munro
1st Elderslie	Daniel Crawford	Craig Shedden	
1st Erskine	Andrew Corrigan	Scott Gilmour	Peter MacDonald
1st Houston	Justin Langan	Lewis Munro	
3rd Johnstone	Cameron Boyce	Aidan Hepburn	
1st Kilbarchan	Ben Cunningham		
1st Lochwinnoch	Jack Guthrie	Andrew Johnstone	Gregor McFadzean
8th Paisley	Adam Gordon	Matthew Gowans	Kieran Henderson
11th Paisley	Michael Higgins		
15th Paisley	Andrew Ash		
22nd Paisley	Thom Gibson	Jack MacKenzie	Liam McPake
	Glen Verney		
24th Paisley	Thomas Everett	Louis Fleming	Dillon Hutchison
	Andrew McLintock	Joshua Millan	Max Molyneaux
	Russell Murray	Adam Trelfa	
1st/3rd Renfrew	James Park	Reece Turner	



Property Committee

After all the activity with the refurbishment of the Headquarters building between July 2015 and February 2017 the last year has been a quiet one for Boy's Brigade property. The few minor repairs were easily dealt with and no significant work is anticipated in the coming year.

On Saturday 28 October 2017 the newly restored Headquarters was formally opened (or reopened) by the Provost of Renfrewshire before distinguished guests from public life and the Boy's Brigade. Many kind words were said and the Johnstone Company Band gave a stirring performance to make the morning go with a swing.

It is particularly pleasing that everyone using the refurbished HQ and particularly those working there are enjoying the experience.

**Paul Birch
Property Convenor.**



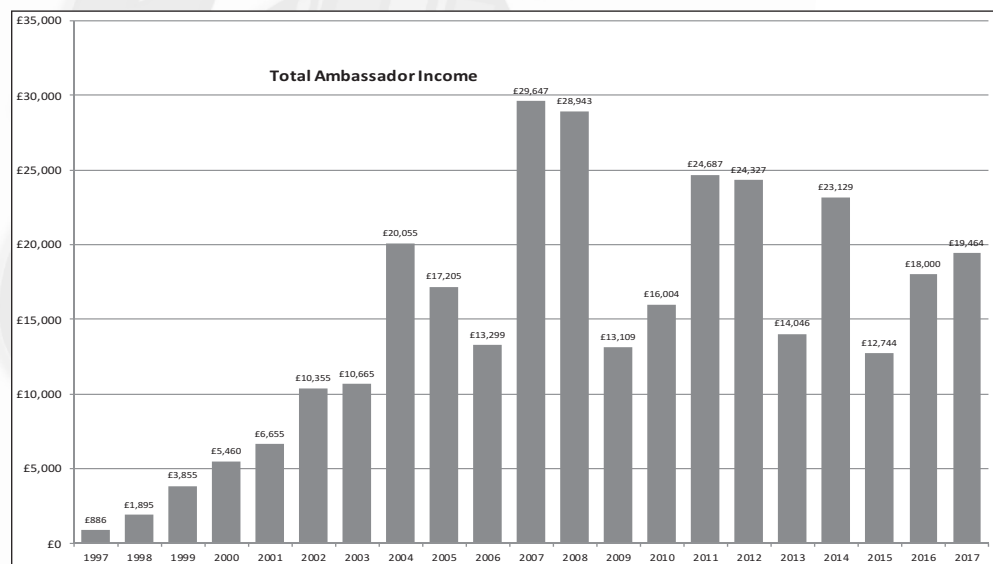
Financial Support Committee

What does a financial support committee do? Simply it concentrates its efforts on raising funds that are sufficient enough to allow the Battalion to meet its admin costs and to create an exciting programme of games and activities on which the individual company member can thrive and develop.

What about the committee members? All are dedicated BB officers and it is no lie to say that each has given a large part of his or her life to serving the movement. Successful approaches have been made to large bodies like district councils and to The Big Lottery Fund as well as to individuals who hold the BB in good esteem. A recent example of unselfish support came when we were given the honour of hosting and organising the BB Annual Scottish Cross Country Championships on 17th March. This type of activity costs money and we were delighted when Scottish Leather gave a one-off payment of £500 towards this event. In addition Providing for People in Paisley gave us a second amount of £500 to this event. These donations were most generous and confirmed our ability to welcome boys from all over Scotland. A great day was had by all. Providing for People in Paisley also donated £450 towards the Swimming Gala. We are eternally grateful for their support.

The work goes on. It is hoped that one day the committee will have built up sufficient funds to be able to say to each company "Thanks for all previous fees you have been faced with over the years but we don't need them anymore". All our supporters corporate or individual have seen to that. Thanks to them all.

W. Raymond Shaw. Convenors, Financial Support Committee



Our BB Ambassadors

Alexis Trust, Allan Steele, Amory's Charitable Trust, Jim Anderson, Angela Gallagher Memorial Trust, Annandale Charitable Trust, Awards for All, Jim Boal, British Red Cross, Buchanan & McPherson, CharitiesTrust, Charity of Stella Symons, Cruden Foundation, David Pickford Charitable Foundation, Dr Guthrie's Association, Elizabeth Franklin Moore and Star Foundation, Erskine Cunningham Hill Trust Edinburgh, Experience, Fitton Trust, Gannochy Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation, Gennaro, Gibbs Charitable Trust, Glasgow Airport, Grace Dieu Charitable Trust, Kyle Greer, H D H Wills 1965 Charitable Trust, Hope Trust, Hugh Stenhouse Foundation, Hugh Symons Charitable Trust, Intu Braehead Shopping Centre, James Wood Bequest Fund, J T H Charitable Trust, Lodge County Kilwinning, Lodge Houston St Johnstone, Looking Ltd, John McDowell, Jim McLaren, Hamish McLean, Makerston Club, Matthews Wrightson, Meikleriggs Bowling Club, Misses Barrie Charitable Trust, Peter Muchan, Peter Brough Bequest, Peter Coats Trust, Peter Storrs Charitable Trust, P F Charitable Trust, Preston Family Trust, Pro Life Fitness Centre, Providing for People in Paisley, Rainbow Technology, Renfrewshire Council, Renfrew Rotary Club, Resolute Financial Advisors, Robertson Trust, Roger Vere Foundation, Rosemount Asset Management Ltd, Russell Trust, Scottish Leather Group Ltd, Raymond Shaw, Robert Stevenson, Southern Coaches, Talteg Ltd, The J S F Pollitzer Charitable Trust, Thomson Family, W A Cargill Fund, Wynd Centre, University of West of Scotland, Youthlink Scotland (Cashback).

Queen's Badge Winners for Session 2016/2017

2nd Barrhead	Ewan Fennell	Iain MacCuish	Luke Wilson
1st Bridge of Weir	Calum Bell	Jonathan Gray	Ryan Ward
1st Erskine	Ewan Colquhoun	Dylan Connelly	Peter Duncan
	Liam Oldrey		
1st Houston	Cameron Baird	Euan Brown	Peter Dickson
	Ewan Harvie	Ross McHarg	Jonathan Paris
	Ben Telfer	Christopher Willbond	
22nd Paisley	Gregor Chau	David Mason	

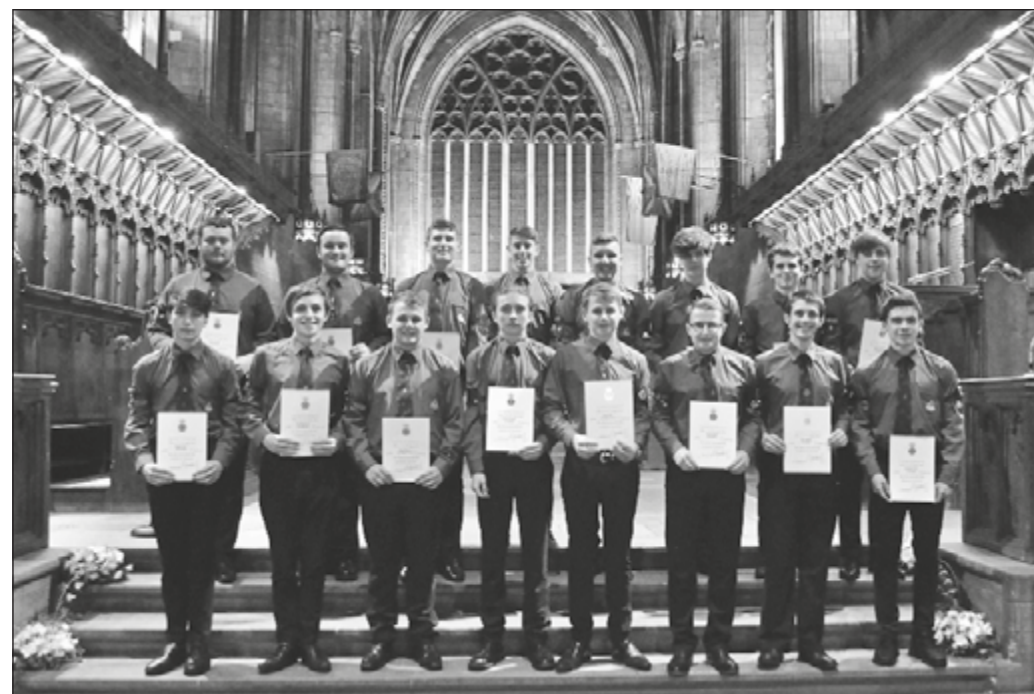
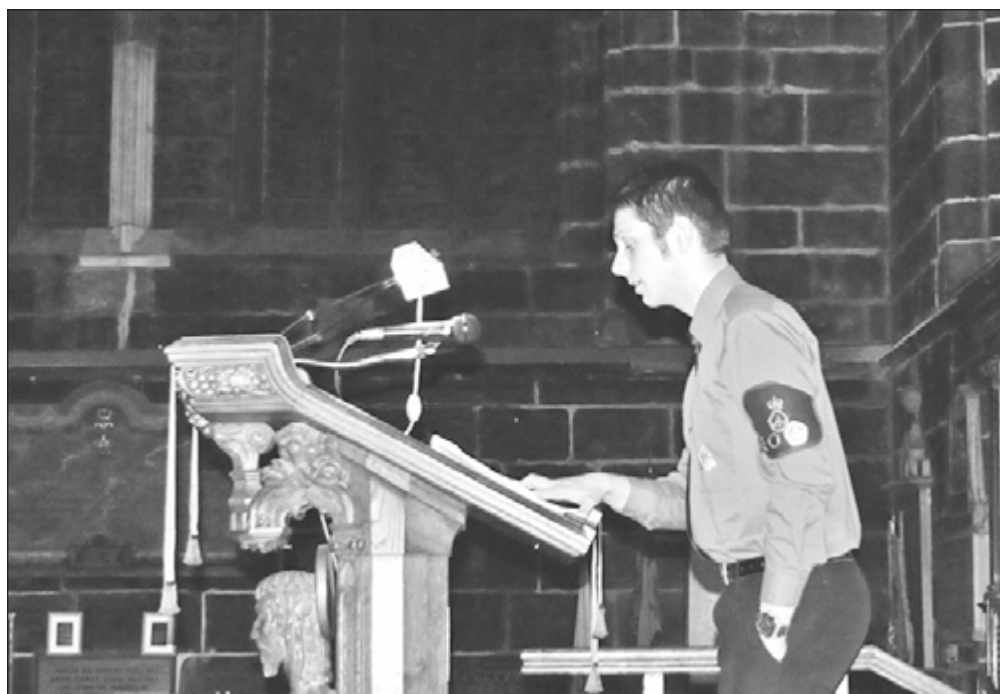
Civic Reception

Renfrewshire Council granted the Paisley and District Battalion a Civic Reception in Paisley Abbey in the evening of Monday 18th September 2017 to honour and recognize the young men who had gained their Queen's Badges during the session.



Our Battalion Chaplain Rev Gordon Armstrong conducted the opening and closing devotions. Councillor Lorraine Cameron, Provost Renfrewshire Council, inspected the ranks of young men and gave the Civic Welcome on behalf of Renfrewshire Council. Mr Bill Keddie, Battalion President, responded on behalf of the Battalion. Liam Oldrey 1st Erskine Company, provided a full and detailed account of the work carried out to obtain his Queen's Badge. Provost Lorraine Cameron presented the boys with their Queen's Badge Certificates. and went on to present certificates to our Ambassadors to acknowledge their support to the Battalion.

We are grateful to Mr Murray McDonald who led the praise, Mr Brent Dorey and Mr Ian Brackenridge who commanded the young men and Mr Grant Mather who took the official photographs on the evening.



Training

The Training Committee delivered a variety of courses for both Boys and Officers throughout 2017/18. For Officers we delivered Youth Leader Training (YLT) and we now have 19 new and enthusiastic BB officers & 5 new and equally enthusiastic BB Helpers – we wish them every blessing in their BB career advancing our object and leading their Boys towards the Good News.

We also held a Figure Marching & Drill Workshop which in reality was a highly enjoyable Master Class (Sincere thanks to Robin, David, Bill and Jim, from BB Lanarkshire District Fellowship, for running this event on our behalf, it was simply fantastic). For our Boys & Young Men, we have delivered 3 Building Your Skills courses (1 extra due to the snow) and look forward to the award of the President's Badges this course supports.

For Queen's Badge candidates we successfully ran a Queen's Badge Candidates Meeting, a Skills for Queen's Badge course and a Queen's Badge Completion Course which involved 35 young men from 17 companies across Scotland (2nd Barrhead, 1st Bearsden, 2nd Clydebank, 1st Condorrat, 1st Cumbernauld, 7th East Kilbride, 1st Erskine, 1st Houston, 2nd Johnstone, 3rd Johnstone, 1st Larbert, 1st Lenzie, 1st Lochwinnoch, 15th Paisley, 22nd Paisley, 1st Polmont, 2nd Port Glasgow & 167th Glasgow). As ever, this was the highlight of the year and all the Young Men involved in the serious sessions and the fun & mayhem were a credit to their families, companies and the Brigade.

Stewart Digney
Training Convenor



Duke of Edinburgh's Awards

Congratulations to the following boys who gained their Duke of Edinburgh's Awards.

Bronze

1st Beith	Kyle Campbell Craig Smith	Alan Hart	Thomas Judd
1st Elderslie	Daniel Crawford		
1st Erskine	Kyle Bone	Kyle Webb	
1st Houston	Reece Ballantyne	Christopher Harper	Justin Langan
	Lewis Munro	Jack Stewart	Christopher Torrance

Silver

1st Erskine	Ewan Colquhoun	Scott Donaldson	Dylan Connelly
		Peter Duncan	Lee Rush
1st Houston	Cameron Baird	Peter Dickson	Ewan Harvey
	Ross McHarg	Jonathan Paris	Ben Telfer
	Christopher Willbond		

2018 National Cross Country Championships

We had the privilege of hosting the Scottish National Boys Brigade Cross Country on 17th March 2018 at Thomas Shanks Park.

We had 14 Battalions entered from all over Scotland and one boy travelled from Buckie to compete.

On the day 102 boys took part. It was a very cold day but at least dry.

Kilbarchan Athletic Club set the course for us and it was excellent and we appreciated the help from them on the day.

There was a great atmosphere around both the course and in the McMaster Centre where the presentation took place.

Every boy went home with a Paisley & District drawstring bag with goodies and water.

The Scottish Committee were very impressed with the organisation of the event and it was down to the members of the Cross Country Committee that it was such a successful day.

My thanks to everyone involved.

Georgy Rae
Chairperson of Committee



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Other Convenors' Reports

Public Relations and Resource Committee

Last session saw Recruitment leaflets once again distributed to all Primary schools within our Battalion area. Thanks are due to all those who organised this mammoth task.

A big thank you to the Paisley Daily Express who continue to support the Battalion with coverage of all events notified to them, notably our hosting of the National Cross Country Championships. The photographs in the paper certainly showed our Battalion and the organising committee in a good light.



This year a few of our regular advertisers did not take up space, we are grateful to the firms who continue to support us.

I would once again like to thank Moira Bryan for her sterling work in editing and producing our Update, the Battalion news-sheet, informing Companies what is about to take place or has taken place.

The design a Christmas Card competition took place again last year, it was deemed to be successful and was judged by the Battalion President, who was very impressed by the entries.

Finally, to my committee, my eternal thanks for all the hard work put in throughout the session, to Grant Mather and Alan Young for your photographic knowledge and stepping in to take your pictures, sometimes with not too much notification. Unfortunately all of their photographs and the ones submitted by individual Companies could not be used. I would like to thank John Stewart for his assistance in producing this annual report.

Brent W. Dorey,
P&R Committee Convenor

Supplies

This year sales have declined for the first time. They fell £4500 to £42500. The reason for this is not clear, but the continued support for Companies in the Battalion and other Battalions is much appreciated.

We well continued to try to meet demands in the future.

Alan Taylor
Supplies

Finance

The draft accounts for year ended 31 December 2017 show that we have produced a surplus of around £7,000 (last year a deficit of £220).A copy of the accounts continues to be sent to the Scottish Charities Office.

The results are significantly better than last year. We received from the Gannochy Trust and the Garfield Weston Foundation approximately £6,000 towards our Administrator's salary. This funding is over a three year period and will be of great assistance to us over the next two years.

Our income from Donations/Ambassadors remains similar after allowing for the above donations. Our supplies income and company subscriptions show a small reduction but our expenditure has been held at last year's levels in total.

Abstract of Accounts

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Subscriptions	£ 7,000	Headquarters	£4,000
Donations/ Ambassadors	£21,000	Salaries	£8,000
Supplies	£ 3,000	Events	£1,000
		Overheads	£8,000
		Depreciation	£3,000
		Surplus	£7,000
	-----		-----
	£31,000		£31,000

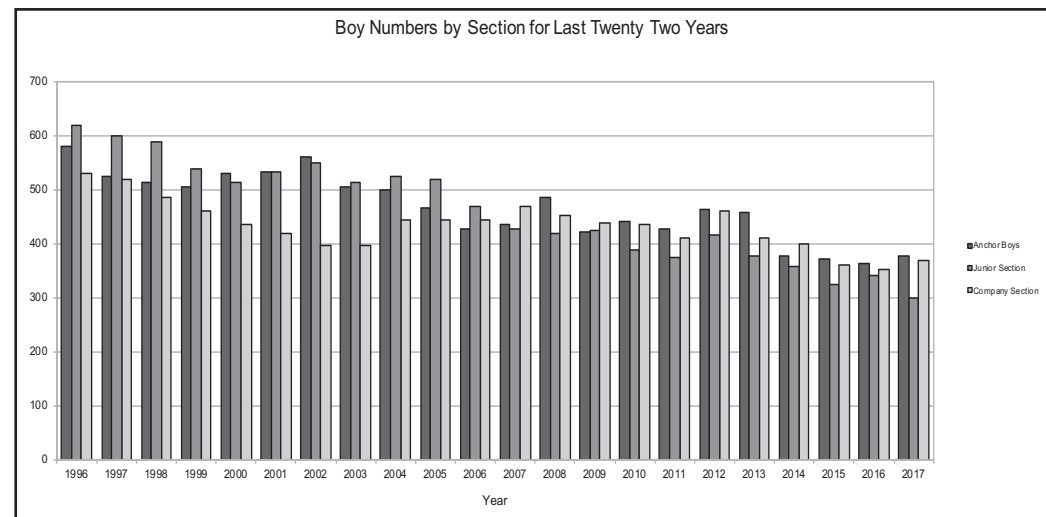
I am grateful to all who have continued to contribute to our finances during the year.They are listed elsewhere in the Report. Thanks are also due to Alan and all his team of volunteers in supplies.

I also wish to record my thanks to the Finance Committee,Financial Support Committee and our examiners Messrs Armstrongs

Jim Auchincloss
Battalion Treasurer

Membership Session 2017-2018

Total boy numbers are identical to last year. However, it is pleasing to note a small increase in the number of Officers from 214 to 219. This figure excludes Helpers and Instructors who assist The Boys' Brigade at Company level in many ways. There are 23 Reserve Officers appointed by the Battalion who assist The Boys' Brigade in a variety of roles.



Membership Statistics

Company	Church	Anchor Boy				Junior Section				Company Section				Total Company Strength			
		2017	2016	2015	2014	2017	2016	2015	2014	2017	2016	2015	2014	2017	2016	2015	2014
1st Houston	Houston and Killellan	18	15	28	27	35	33	25	26	41	41	46	51	94	89	99	104
1st 3rd Renfrew	Renfrew North	34	31	31	19	20	24	21	19	18	13	17	23	72	68	69	61
8th Paisley	Martyrs' Sandyford	21	13	20	20	20	20	15	14	25	23	20	20	66	56	55	54
3rd Johnstone	St Andrews Trinity	19	22	20	15	12	14	14	14	18	20	19	16	65	56	53	45
1st Bridge of Weir	Freeland/St Machar's	13	22	21	25	26	23	23	20	24	17	13	13	63	62	57	58
1st Erskine	Erskine Parish	21	24	15	26	20	23	24	27	21	28	37	54	62	75	76	107
24th Paisley	St. Mark's	18	20	29	30	12	21	24	31	31	30	37	32	61	71	90	93
15th Paisley	Stow Brae Kirk	21	23	17	11	17	20	18	11	17	12	11	13	55	55	46	35
2nd Barrhead	Bourock	21	19	17	20	9	12	18	24	23	22	22	29	53	53	57	73
1st Barrhead	St. Andrew's	25	11	18	20	22	29	19	17	20	11	11	12	51	51	48	49
1st Lochwinnoch	Calder UF/Lochwinnoch	13	17			17	11			21	23	0	0	51	51	0	0
22nd Paisley	Sherwood/Greenlaw	17	18	14	18	12	12	12	18	15	16	16	11	44	46	42	47
11th Paisley	Lylesland	22	12	13	12	10	12	9	11	10	6	6	11	42	30	28	34
1st Elderslie	Elderslie Kirk	8	10	30	23	15	12	16	20	15	18	16	16	38	40	62	59
1st Bishopton	Bishopton Parish	20	18	12	12	8	10	10	12	10	7	11	11	38	35	33	35
16th Paisley	St. Columba		12	13	19	15	19	13	14	10	11	15	19	34	42	41	52
1st Neilston	Neilston Parish	9	8	16	14	10	12	12	15	11	12	15	12	30	32	43	41
1st Kilbarchan	Kilbarchan Parish	13	9	6	6	3	4	9	13	13	15	13	15	29	28	28	34
14th Paisley	Oakshaw Trinity	14	11	7	12	7	3	11	10	5	3	4	13	26	17	22	35
2nd Johnstone	St Paul's	10	15	18	20	3	6	8	9	8	8	9	9	21	29	35	38
1st Beith	Beith Parish/United Reform	12	7	9	14	2	5	4	7	7	6	7	6	21	18	20	27
2nd Paisley	Martyrs' Sandyford	10	9	6	5	4	6	6	4	2	0	0	0	16	15	12	9
1st Johnstone	Johnstone High Parish	9	9	6	1	2	2	3	12	4	10	15	11	15	21	24	24
1st Inchinnan	Inchinnan Parish	10	8	5	8	0	9	10	10	0	0	0	2	10	17	15	20
TOTAL		378	363	371	377	301	342	324	358	369	352	360	399	1057	1057	1055	1134

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