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THE BOYS' BRIGADE PAISLEY & DISTRICT BATTALION ANNUAL REPORT SESSION 2016/2017



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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 Keddie
Vice Presidents: Georgy Rae, David Love
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: Vacant
Duke of Edinburgh Convener: Douglas Cunningham
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: John Stewart
Training Convener: Stewart Digney

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

HONORARY OFFICE BEARERS

Provost Anne Hall, Provost Alastair Carmichael,
Wendy Alexander, Baroness Goldie, George Adam MSP
Derek Mackay MSP, Jim Downie, Renfrewshire and
Inverclyde Divisional Commander Police Scotland,
John McDowell, Allan Steele, The Moderator of
Greenock and Paisley Presbytery, Gavin Newlands MP,
Kirsten Oswald MP, Honorary President: (BB)
Campbell McGregor, Honorary Vice Presidents: (BB)
W. Raymond Shaw, Anne Sellars, John Stewart,
Rev Arthur Sherratt.

Since my last report we have had improvements completed to the interior of our Headquarters in Northcroft Street, Paisley (p14). A complete revamp has left us with much improved office working conditions and supply area for our Headquarters staff. The new kitchen and toilet facilities have also enhanced the building tremendously. I would like to thank everyone involved in the work and those involved in the essential fundraising. Our aim must now be to improve the communications from Headquarters and to replace outdated computers and other equipment. My thanks to Headquarters staff for putting up with difficult conditions during the work, to all Battalion office bearers for their help and support throughout the year, and to all members of Council who tirelessly look after our Companies and Committees. My sincere thanks to Intu Braehead Shopping Centre and to the local churches for the use of their buildings for our meetings and competitions.

Presentation Day was on Sunday 5th June 2016 and took place at Oakshaw Trinity Church where our guest of honour was Mr Gavin Newlands MP, Paisley and Renfrewshire North. Also in attendance were Mr Craig Martin, Head of HR, Glasgow Airport and Mr Gary Turnbull, General Manager at Intu Braehead. The service was conducted by our Chaplain the Rev Gordon Armstrong, and music selection by Renfrew North Church Praise Band under the leadership of Ms Rhona McNeil. 34 young men received their President's Badge and 16 their Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

In September Renfrewshire Council again granted us a Civic Reception at Paisley Abbey for our 29 Queen's Men, and I would like to thank them for their continued support. Thanks also to Anne Hall who attended and presented the Queen's Badge Certificates, unfortunately for the last time as Provost. I wish her well for the future. I would also like to thank our Ambassadors for their attendance and for their continuing support. Euan Crombie from 1st/3rd Renfrew Company spoke to those present on the subject "What Lies Behind the Queen's Badge".

I also hosted an informal evening with some officers who had just completed training, including two officers from 1st Lochwinnoch Company which recently moved to the Battalion. The enthusiastic group had ideas about Senior activities and they agreed to consider for next session liaising through the P&R Committee to the Executive. I look forward to receiving and implementing their suggestions.



Foreword

There will be difficult times ahead as we seek to lead boys and young men in the Christian path and give them a solid foundation on which to build their lives. It is my hope and prayer that our Battalion will continue to prosper.



Bill Keddie
Battalion President.

Executive Report

Battalion Council

The Annual General Meeting of Battalion Council was held in Wallneuk North Church Hall on Monday 13th June 2016. Our Battalion Chaplain Rev Gordon Armstrong conducted the opening devotions. Mr Stewart Digney, Training Convener, invited Mr Bill Keddie, Battalion President, to present Youth Leader Training Certificates to ten Officers who had completed Youth Leader Training. Mr Paul Birch, Property Convener, updated Council on the refurbishment of our Headquarters. Two proposals, one amending the change of title of the Fund Raising Committee to Finance Support Committee and the other creating two additional posts on the Battalion Executive for Officers under age 26 were approved. Amendments were made to the Company Section Championship Rules. Mr F. Digney 3rd Johnstone and Mr J. Mitchell 1st Elderslie were appointed to the newly created positions for those under age 26.

The Autumn General Meeting of Battalion Council was held on Sunday 6th November 2016 in Martyrs' Sandyford Church Hall. The Rev Jonathan Fleming, Chaplain 1st Erskine Company, conducted the Service of Rededication. Mr David Love, Battalion Vice President, chaired the meeting. Mr Campbell McGregor was confirmed as Honorary President. Amendments to the Battalion Constitution were approved. Mr Stewart Digney invited Mrs Georgy Rae, Battalion Vice President, to present Youth Leader Training Certificates to new Officers who had completed Youth Leader Training recently. David Love, Battalion Vice President and West of Scotland Area Representative provided an update of events at national level. Mr Jim Auchincloss, Battalion Treasurer, provided a Finance Report. The Battalion Secretary presented a report prepared by Mr Paul Birch summarizing the latest details of the refurbishment of Headquarters. Discussion groups looked at a number of topics including Battalion Priorities, Committee Structure, and Battalion Improvements.

Civic Reception

Renfrewshire Council granted a Civic Reception to the Battalion on Monday 19th September 2016 in Paisley Abbey to acknowledge the achievements of the young men who gained their Queen's Badges. The continued support of Renfrewshire Council is appreciated greatly by the Battalion Executive. As the term of office of our current Provost draws to a close, we take this opportunity to thank Mrs Anne Hall for the patience and kindness which she has displayed at the Civic Receptions in recent years. Not only did she give the formal Civic Welcome but quite separately added her own personal message to our young men. The Battalion wishes her well. A full report appears on page 16.

Remembrance Sunday

The Annual Service of Remembrance was held at the Cenotaph, Paisley on Sunday 13th November 2016. The Battalion was represented by four boys from the 8th Paisley Company attached to Martyrs' Sandyford Church, Paisley. Alistair Henney and Hayden Chivers laid a wreath on behalf of the Company Section. Joe Chivers and Harry Chivers laid a wreath on behalf of the Junior Section. All were turned out immaculately.



On Line Brigade Management

The Boys' Brigade have introduced a new system providing Companies and Battalions with assistance in the administration of our work. At Company level it provides help with Company management, badge records, and programme planning. Battalions can access details of leaders who have been registered by their Companies. It will take time for all Officers to become fully familiar with all the benefits of the system.

1st Lochwinnoch Company

With effect from 1st January 2017, 1st Lochwinnoch Company was registered as a new member of the Battalion having transferred from Inverclyde Battalion. We welcome Mark Brown, Company Captain and his team of 11 Leaders together with 51 boys. This group will provide a formidable addition to the Battalion.

New Officers Social Evening

This new experimental item on our calendar was designed to bring together all the newly trained Officers in the Battalion; an informal gathering to alert them to the need of competing and sharing in the wider work of The Boys' Brigade. The event, attended by 10 new leaders in a local bar/restaurant, was a great success.

Armed Forces Day

Representatives of the Battalion attended the Armed Forces Day, Service of Thanksgiving in Paisley Abbey on Saturday morning 18th June 2016. The service was conducted by the Rev Alan Birss, Paisley Abbey and Father Stephen Baillie, St Charles Church, Paisley. The event was hosted by Renfrewshire Council and Inverclyde Council.

Headquarters Upgrade

The refurbishment of our Battalion Headquarters was the huge achievement of the year. Following a highly successful Buy a Brick campaign and serious fund raising, the work was virtually completed in a six week period. Our thanks to Paul Birch, Property Convener, who pushed forward the project at every opportunity until final completion. Paul's full report is on page 14.

Walter Smith 50 years Captain

At the Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday 17th December 2016, Bill Keddie, Battalion President, made a surprise presentation to Walter Smith to acknowledge his outstanding service as Captain of the 16th Paisley Company (St Columba, Foxbar) for over 50 years. It is a rare achievement in The Boys' Brigade. We add our congratulations to Walter, who responded in his customary unassuming manner.



Obituaries

Mrs Anna Jack

The death occurred on Monday 4th April 2016 of Mrs Anna Jack, widow of our late President Jimmy Jack. Anna completed her basic training in 1971 and enrolled in the 8th Paisley Company attached to Martyrs' Memorial Church (now Martyrs' Sandyford). Later she served as a Reserve Officer and latterly as a Friend of the Battalion. To Jim, Jean and the family we extend our condolences.

Bill Rinn

William (Bill) Rinn passed away on Tuesday 9th August 2016. Bill was a former Officer in the 24th Paisley Company and a former Captain of the 3rd Paisley Company. To Laraine and the family, we express our deep sympathy.

Malcolm Turner

On Wednesday 8th June 2016 Malcolm Turner passed away. Malcolm came up through the ranks of the 2nd Barrhead Company attached to Bourock Church. He attended KGVI training completing the course in 1959. Following twelve years as an Officer, he was appointed Captain in October 1971; a position he held for ten years. In 1982 he was appointed a Reserve Officer in the Battalion and became Convener of the Drill Committee. Malcolm was a regular Staff Officer at many Battalion Parades until his health prevented participation in the event. To Betty and his family we send our thoughts and share memories.

We shall remember

Gabriel Wilson a long serving Officer in the 8th Paisley Company known to generations of boys and Officers as "Gabriel of the 8th". Jim Gray a former Officer and Captain of the 2nd Barrhead Company and Stephen Cochrane of the 16th Paisley Company who only completed training in 2014/2015.

Staffing and Appointments

Following 36 years of service, 21 as Vice President of the Battalion, Mary Dempster resigned from The Boys' Brigade. I wish to place on record a big "thank you" for all her work not only in the 1st Renfrew Company but also in the many roles she fulfilled in the Battalion; most notably as an outstanding Christian Faith Convener.



There have been two changes of Captain in the last twelve months. Mrs Lesley Forsyth retired from 1st Neilston Company and Walter Smith retired after over 50 years from the 16th Paisley Company. I thank both for their services to their respective Companies. Andy Grant retired from his role as a Reserve of Officer. Fraser Digney 3rd Johnstone Company and Jack Mitchell 1st Elderslie Company were appointed to the two additional posts on the Battalion Executive for Officers under age 26. Campbell McGregor was appointed Honorary President of the Battalion. Mrs Jacqueline McKay and Mrs Nan Gill were appointed Honorary Reserve Officers.

In the course of the year, I ask many people to do many things. I am grateful for the positive response and support I receive all round. In particular, I thank our Battalion Administrator Mrs June Murdoch and our cleaner Mrs Christine Wilson for their co-operation particularly before and after the refurbishment of the premises.

Lawrence Napier
Battalion Secretary



Anchor Boys

This year we had two events, the first being P2 afternoon on 18th February at Martyrs' Sandyford Church Halls in King Street, Paisley. 46 boys from 9 companies took part in our "Senses" themed afternoon, which included playing blind football, and making some noise with shakers and paper bangers. We also enjoyed some musical activities such as 'head, shoulders, knees & toes'; during the interval the boys and helpers had some much needed juice and crisps.

On 4th March we were off to Gleniffer High School for our main event of the session - Anchors Afternoon. This year we had a "Space" themed event, with storytelling and planet balancing. The craft activity was to make a flying saucer and decorate it, whilst in the games hall the boys were trying to catch space balloons. In the social area colourful parachutes were out for 'space attack'. The afternoon was rounded off by all boys and staff strutting their stuff to the action song 'Star Trekking' and trying to catch the planets as they fell out of the sky. This event had an increase in numbers this year which was great to see, with 12 companies and some 130 boys and staff attending.

Unfortunately, due to lack of numbers it was not feasible to hold our usual P3 event. The Committee will look at this for next session and hope to have it back in the Calendar of Events at a more suitable date in order for the event to take place.

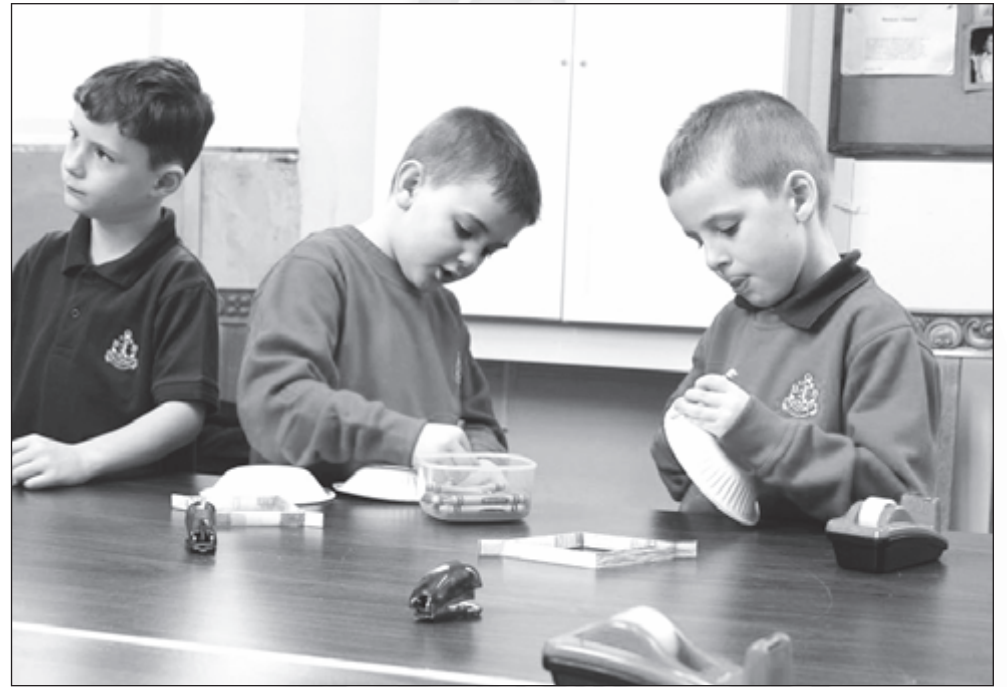
We could not hold the events each year without the help of churches and a huge thank you this year is sent from all involved with the Anchors to Martyrs' Sandyford Church for allowing us the use of their halls, also to Gleniffer High School and Southern Coaches for their patience and understanding.

As always, a huge thanks goes to the members of the Anchors Committee, BB leaders, helpers and parents, but most of all to the boys who come along, because without you there would be no events.



Ina Young
Anchor Boys Convenor





Junior Section

This session proved to be another busy year for Junior Section activities, with 15 sections taking part in at least one of the 6 Battalion events. I would like to thank all those who have played a part in making the events happen, including Stuart Willbond, Craig McLean, Susan Wylie, Colin Haney, Georgy Rae and David Love for their support and assistance throughout the year

The Football Cup provided an excellent opening to the year at its new venue, Ralston Sports Centre. A total of 16 teams entered this year from 10 different companies. After a closely contested final the event was won by 24th Paisley, beating 1st Bridge of Weir.

10-pin Bowling was held at SOAR, Braehead in November and proved to be as popular as ever! 99 boys from 13 sections enjoyed a great night of bowling, with some record high scores from the boys. The event was won by a combined 15th Paisley/2nd Johnstone team.

Team Games moved to a mid January slot this year, which proved successful with 11 teams from 8 sections participating at Renfrew North Church. Despite not having the official team game schedule this year, the alternative activities were very popular with the boys. The competition was won by 1st/3rd Renfrew on home ground. Second place went to 1st Lochwinnoch in their first event since joining the Battalion in the same month.

The Swimming Gala was held for the third year in Renfrew Victory Baths, with 13 sections participating. Individual and relay races formed part of a successful evening, with 24th Paisley/1st Barrhead composite team being crowned champions. This was the fourth consecutive year in which 24th Paisley's boys have lifted the Swimming Championship trophy.

Figure Marching was once again a closely fought competition, but sadly just 6 companies were represented. Despite low numbers the competition was closer than ever, with 1st Houston taking the crown this year. 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 our judges from 2nd Gourrock for giving up their time to assist with this event for a second year, and to David Syme of 22nd Paisley for running our tuckshop.

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. A bonus was a great weather forecast which gave us a lovely day. 1st Lochwinnoch took the Sports Day crown this year.

The Battalion Championship this year was closely contested and was won by 1st/3rd Renfrew. Second place went to 1st Bridge of Weir, and 1st Houston secured third. Congratulations to this year's top 3, and I look forward to seeing an even better turnout for next session with the Juniors 100 celebrations.

David Ashton
Convener, Junior Section Activities Committee



Competition Winners

Football Cup	24th Paisley
Bowling	2nd Johnstone/ 15th Paisley
Team Games	1st/3rd Renfrew
Swimming	24th Paisley/ 1st Barrhead
Figure Marching	1st Houston
Sports Day	1st Lochwinnoch

Championship Result

- 1 1st/3rd Renfrew
- 2 1st Bridge of Weir
- 3 1st Houston



Company Section Activities

The Company Section Activities Committee planned a full year of competitions as part of the Championship, which consisted of 23 competitions covering 13 different activities. Fourteen companies of the Battalion participated in at least one of these events. The competitions are selected to promote the Object of the Boys' Brigade within our Battalion. The boys who represented each company were a credit to their companies in the way that they applied themselves to the disciplines of each event.

The activities range from traditional Boys' Brigade events of Drill, Christian Faith, Physical Education, Recruit Games and First Aid, and cover the sports of Volleyball, Football, Cross Country, Basketball, Swimming, Badminton and the newest, Ten Pin Bowling. A General Quiz is the opening event of the year.

Recruit Games returned to be part of the Championship this year, with a revised format that allowed Junior Section boys in Primary 6 to take part. It is hoped that this can be used by companies as an introductory event for next year's recruits. The boys who took part had a great afternoon of fun, and we will continue this format in future years as the entry level increased significantly this year, which was great to see.

The Championship could not be run without the assistance given by many, both from BB staff and others from outside agencies. I would like to take this 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 Cross Country event was held at a new venue at Neilston Pad, land owned by Elderslie Estates and we thank them for allowing us to use their land for this event. Neilston Church halls were used for administration and changing facilities and the 1st Neilston company also provided hospitality for all after the race. I must also thank 1st Houston for allowing us use of their minibus to ferry boys to and from the race area. We hope in future years to make use of this facility.

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

The First Aid event was judged by Red Cross staff and lead by Ann Brogan who was assisted by Peter McColm, Jack Houlison, Jordan Robertson, John Thomson and Gary Watson. The Battalion are honoured to have the Red Cross as an Ambassador, supporting us in teaching this life-saving skill to the boys of the Battalion.

The P.E. competition was hosted by Neilston Parish Church in their halls. The event was judged by Mr Ken Cochran, a friend of the Battalion and a previous officer at 3rd Johnstone. An expert in BB P.E., he was highly impressed by the quality of the skills on display and has offered his services in future years.

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

Thanks also to Glasgow Battalion for supplying staff to judge our Drill Competitions, in particular Jim McVean, Battalion Secretary for organising the examiners who were Kenny Drummond and Craig Montgomery, both of 4th East Kilbride Company.

As always the Battalion are indebted to our Companies' Kirk Sessions for allowing us to use the church halls for many of our Championship venues; 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 Parish Church (Quiz, Recruit Games, and hosting our Committee meetings), Neilston Parish Church (P.E. and Cross Country) and Martyrs Paisley (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, from time keeping, refereeing, or even just bringing your team to the events; without this help 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 in any way please contact me or come along to any of our meetings.

Hugh Young
Company Section Activities Convenor



Company Section Competition Winners for session 2016/2017

Christian Education	Junior	1st Houston & 1st Neilston (Joint)
	Senior	15th Paisley
Drill	Squad	15th Paisley
	Elementary	1st Elderslie
Quiz	Junior	1st Houston
	Senior	15th Paisley
Basketball	Junior	1st Houston
	Senior	1st Houston
Cross Country	Junior	1st Bridge of Weir
	Senior	1st Erskine
Badminton	Junior	1st Neilston
	Senior	1st Houston
Volleyball	All ages	1st Houston
Physical Education	Junior	1st Neilston
	Senior	1st Neilston
Ten Pin Bowling	All ages	15th Paisley
Swimming	Junior	24th Paisley
	Senior	1st Erskine/2nd Barrhead (Composite)
First Aid	Junior	1st Neilston
	Senior	15th Paisley
Recruit Games	P7&S1	1st /3rd Renfrew
Five-a-side Football	Junior	8th Paisley
	Senior	1st Houston



Battalion Championship Results

1st	1st Houston	284 points
2nd	15th Paisley	278 points
3rd	1st /3rd Renfrew	257.75 points

Christian Faith Committee

THE ANNUAL CHRISTIAN FAITH COMPETITION was held on Sunday 20th November in Sherwood Greenlaw Church and proved as competitive as always. Seven companies entered Junior teams and five companies entered Senior teams. This year the Junior teams made it very exciting, as we had joint winners taking 1st place. They were 1st Houston and 1st Neilston with 99 points each, and chasing them was 1st/3rd Renfrew taking 3rd place with 98½ points. The Senior teams placing was not as close. The winners were the 15th Paisley taking 1st place with 106 points, 1st Houston taking 2nd place with 100 points and in 3rd place was 24th Paisley with 94 points.

The ANNUAL BATTALION PARADE went to St Paul's Church in Johnstone and we were very fortunate as the weather was mild for the time of year and dry for a change. It was wonderful to see so many parents and friends also there to encourage both officers and boys. The church was packed to capacity and some boys and officers, along with the parents and friends who came along to see them, required to listen to the service relayed into the church hall. The statistics on the day were boys 257, staff 92, making 349 on parade. This figure does not include the number of officers who were on duty in the church waiting for the boys to arrive, or the Reserve Officers who were marching with the boys. Compared to last year the numbers were up, which is a very healthy statistic.



Rev. Gordon Armstrong



Service for Others

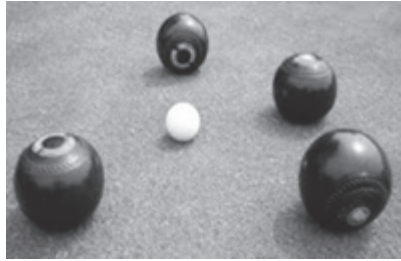
Each year 1st Barrhead Company attached to St Andrews Church, Barrhead chooses a community project which requires funding. This year the project is to donate Buddy Benches to local Primary Schools in Barrhead. The Buddy Bench is a simple idea to eliminate loneliness and foster friendship in the playground. The benches are supported with an education and awareness pack. The Company is working in partnership with the primary schools to deliver a bench to five schools. Each bench costs £300. The Company has raised £435 so far by sponsored events Big Hair Night, and leaflet delivery for Auchenback Active.

1st Erskine Company have donated £560 to Erskine Parish Church for the roof fund; this amount raised from overnight games. £150 has been donated to Erskine Hospital and £48.00 to Red Nose Day by selling roses.

The 15th Paisley Company collected over 100 Easter Eggs to donate to the local Food Bank for children less fortunate than themselves. The local Food Bank Manager came along to explain the work of the Food Bank and assured the boys that the eggs would be distributed to children who may not otherwise receive an Easter Egg.



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Presentation Day

Awards

The Battalion Presentation Day was held on Sunday 5th June 2016 in Oakshaw Trinity Church, Paisley. Our Guest of Honour was Gavin Newlands M P Paisley and Renfrewshire North and an Honorary Vice President of Paisley and District Battalion. During the evening he presented President's Badge Certificates to 34 Boys, Duke of Edinburgh Award Bronze Certificates to 4 Boys and Duke of Edinburgh Silver Certificates to 5 Boys. Cpl Jonathan Paris, 1st Houston Company, outlined the work he had undertaken to gain his Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Silver Awards. Mr Stewart Digney, Battalion Training Convener, encouraged the boys to go forward for their Queen's Badge and set out the work which lay ahead of them.

Battalion Championships

The Intu Braehead Company Section Championship Trophy and certificate were presented to the 15th Paisley Company by Mr Gary Turnbull, General Manager, Intu Braehead Shopping Centre. In addition, he presented 2nd and 3rd place certificates to 1st Neilston Company and 24th Paisley Company respectively. Mr Craig Martin, Head of H R, Glasgow Airport presented the Glasgow Airport Junior Section Championship Trophy and certificate to 1st Bridge of Weir Company. He presented 2nd and 3rd place certificates to 1st Houston Company and 24th Paisley Company respectively.



The Opening and Closing devotions were led by the Battalion Chaplain Rev Gordon Armstrong. We are grateful for the talents of Ms Rhona McNeill and the members of Renfrew North Church Parish Band for the musical entertainment.

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 our evening.



President's Badge Recipients

1st Bishopton	Euan Johnstone	Andrew McLelland	Calum Robb
1st Erskine	Kyle Bone Mark Nealis	Ethan Johnston Kyle Webb	Fraser McInnes
1st Houston	Cameron Baird Peter Dickson Ross McHarg Kyle Thomson	Reece Ballantyne Ewan Harvie Jonathan Paris Christopher Willbond	Mikey Benning Jordan Madden Ben Telfer Cameron Wright
2nd Johnstone	Scott Harrigan	Jamie MacPhee	Ross Thomson
3rd Johnstone	Justin Brolly Reece Leslie	Ross Dickie Matthew Tavendale	Arran Kaplan
1st Kilbarchan	Joe Barrett	Callum Carmichael	
15th Paisley	Matthew Nicol	Adam Salisbury	Craig Speirs
22nd Paisley	Jack Anderson		

Property Committee

I am pleased to report that the programme of repair and refurbishment to the Boys Brigade Headquarters which started in July 2015 was completed in February 2017. The first part of the programme was to meet a number of statutory health and safety requirements including an asbestos survey with register, water supply testing, testing of electric wiring, PAT testing of electrical appliances and upgrading of fire extinguishers. There were no issues arising from any of these checks.

Several repairs and improvements were dealt with using existing finances and several different contractors. Two smart new Boys Brigade signs, new outside lighting and repainting the outside of building blue and white probably made the biggest immediate impact. Repairs to gutters, fall-pipes and plumbing were essential maintenance although the new suspended ceiling with lighting created a good impression inside the building and reduced the heating bills.

The architect, Jim Allan of Allan Boyd and Associates Architects drew up and specified a proposal for a new internal layout including two new toilets (one DDA compliant), new kitchen, reconfigured office with two front windows, new shop layout and existing door with wheelchair ramp access. A building warrant application was submitted and approved on 12 February 2016 and a total of six contractors were invited to tender for the work. Four quotes were received with the lowest price from West of Scotland All Trades.

The proprietor of West of Scotland All Trades is a Boys Brigade officer, Ronnie Martin and he has done a great job for the Paisley Battalion. All work approved in the building warrant application is completed including: shop and office with new partition walls, main walls relined, built in storage shelves and cupboards in the shop and meeting room, two new windows, new gas boiler, fully fitted kitchen, DDA compliant/ladies toilet and separate gents toilet. Outside concrete plinths and steps were removed and replaced with new steps and a wheelchair access ramp. The free-standing wall outside the building was demolished completely, rubble cleared away and the ground made good.

Other work carried out by West of Scotland All Trades includes venting the roof void which seems to have cured a long standing condensation problem and renewing sections of rotted floor and walls. The rot was discovered when the stripping out started. Previously the electricity to Headquarters came via Wallneuk North Church although Boys Brigade was committed by its property purchase agreement to install a new mains power supply. SP Energy Networks provided the connection with the mains supply and West of Scotland All Trades did all other work. HQ now has its own mains supply and electricity meter.

In order to keep costs within the Battalion budget it was assumed that the work as described would have to be phased over a few years. In reality the quote from the appointed contractor was an attractive one and fundraising efforts were successful in raising the full amount needed. Between July 2015 and February 2017 the total cost of all work including fees was £52216.29. Included in this cost is an amount of £35368.47 paid to West of Scotland All Trades.

Paul Birch
Property Convenor.



Financial Support Committee

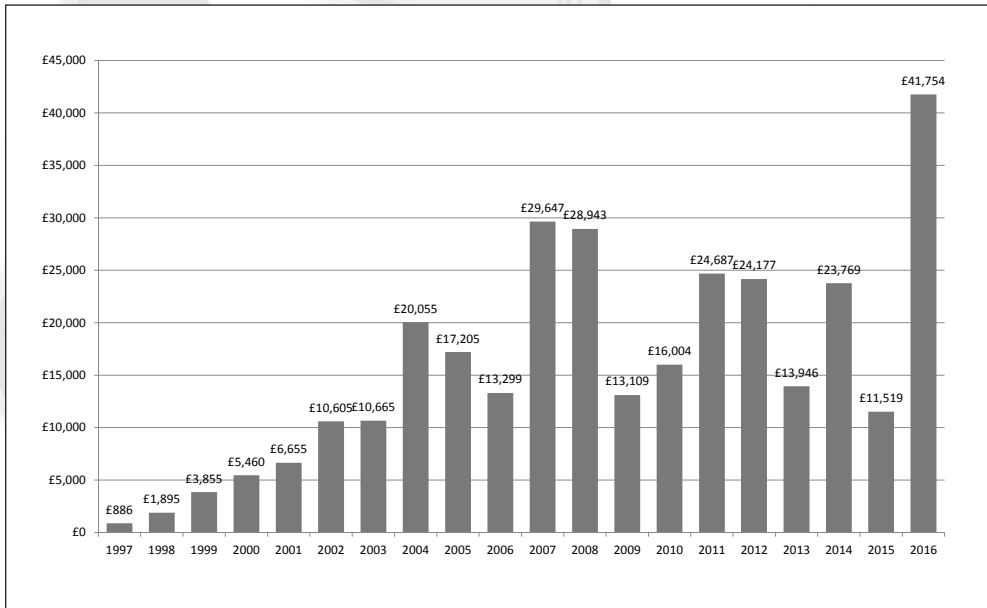
It has been agreed to change "Fundraising Committee" to Financial Support Committee which highlights the Committee's efforts of providing support to Companies in various ways.

The year that has passed was a busy, but fruitful one. We worked towards raising funds to help with the modernisation of headquarters which has now been successfully completed (see p14). Our major contributors included Renfrewshire Council and the Big Lottery Awards Scheme.

This year we lost the services of Mary Dempster and Stewart Gilchrist. My thanks to them for their supreme efforts and the search is now on for replacements.

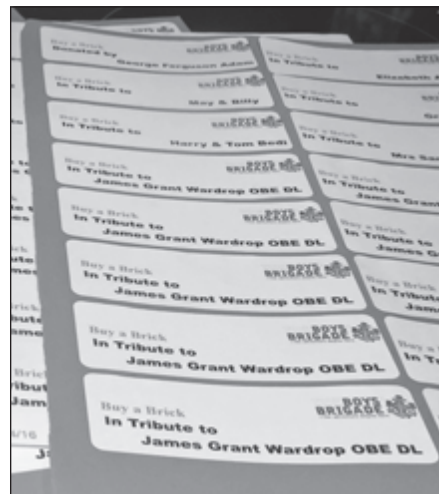
The Committee's ambition is to relieve Companies of the "per-capita" fees, and if realised will take us further along the road towards achieving "Christ's Kingdom among Boys"

W. Raymond Shaw. Convener, Financial Support Committee



Our BB Ambassadors

Alexis Trust, 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, James Christie, Christina Mary Hendrie Trust, Cruden Foundation, David Pickford Charitable Foundation, Dr Guthrie's Association, East Renfrewshire Council, Elizabeth Franklin Moore and Star Foundation, Engage Renfrewshire, 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 Symons Charitable Trust, Intu Braehead Shopping Centre, James Wood Bequest Fund, Jane Hodge Foundation, John Coldman Trust, J T H Charitable Trust, Kathleen Laurence Trust, Ernest Lang, Gordon Lawson, Lodge County Kilwinning, Lodge Houston St Johnstone, Looking Ltd, James McDonald, John McDowell, Nicol McKnight, Jim McLaren, Hamish McLean, Makerston Club, Matthew B Campbell Trust, Matthews Wrightson, Meikleriggs Bowling Club, Misses Barrie Charitable Trust, Peter Muchan, Patricia and Donald Shepherd Trust, 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, SMB Trust, Raymond Shaw, Robert Stevenson, Southern Coaches, Sylvia Aitken Trust, Talteg Ltd, The J S F Pollitzer Charitable Trust, Thomson Family, W A Cargill Fund, Western Recreation Trust, W M Mann Foundation, Wynd Centre, University of West of Scotland, Youthlink Scotland (Cashback).



"Buy a Brick"

The support for "Buy a Brick" campaign was extraordinary with many individuals and local Churches supporting the scheme which to date has raised £6,500. As there is insufficient wall space to record all the names, as was the original intention, alternative methods are being considered to permanently record the names of all those who contributed.

Queen's Badge Winners for Session 2015/2016

2nd Barrhead	Craig Lundie	Fraser Lundie	Stewart McKay
1st Bishopton	Euan Johnstone	Andrew McLellan	
1st Erskine	Scott Donaldson		
1st Houston	Gavin Hemphill		
1st Johnstone	Calum Clark	David Colton	Samuel Stevenson
3rd Johnstone	Ross MacMillan	Jonathan Reid	
1st Neilston	Christopher Kyle		
14th Paisley	Nathan Crawford	Jason Muirhead	
15th Paisley	Ross Lochhead		
16th Paisley	Nathan Craig Andrew Wade	Lawrence Lee	Liam McDonald
24th Paisley	Jordan Clark Dylan Strain	Craig McDonald	Allan McNicol
1st/ 3rd Renfrew	Ewan Carson	Conor Adam	Euan Crombie
	Ross Hunter	Scott Jeffrey	



Civic Reception

On Monday 19th September 2016, Renfrewshire Council granted a Civic Reception to recognize the young men who had gained their Queen's Badges during the session. This was held in the evening in Paisley Abbey.



The opening and closing devotions were conducted by the Rev Alan D. Birss, Minister, Paisley Abbey: praise was led by Mr Murray McDonald. Councillor Anne Hall, Provost Renfrewshire Council, inspected the three 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.

Euan Crombie, 1st/3rd Renfrew Company, outlined the work carried out to obtain his Queen's Badge. Provost Anne Hall presented the boys with their Queen's Badge Certificates and honoured a number of our Ambassadors with a certificate to acknowledge their support to the Battalion.

The 3rd Johnstone Brigade Band provided the musical entertainment. Mr Ian McPhee, 2nd Johnstone Company, commanded the boys and Mr Grant Mather, 1st Bishopton Company, took the official photographs on the evening.



Training

During this year, the Training committee delivered Youth Leader Training (YLT) with 18 new Officers and 3 new Helpers successfully completing the course. My thanks to all the YLT Trainers for their commitment and flexibility and also to the now fully trained new Officers & Helpers for making the whole weekend so enjoyable and worthwhile: Well done and God bless you in your BB career. In addition, we also supported training outwith our battalion with two Trainers presenting Youth Leader Training to new officers in others parts of Scotland and two Trainers participating in the prestigious King George VI (KGV1) officer Cadet course at Carronvale.

Our Queen's Badge Completion Course was the highlight of the training year with 27 young men from 2nd Barrhead, 1st Bridge of Weir, 1st/2nd Dumbarton, 1st Erskine, 1st Houston, 1st Kilbarchan, 2nd Larbert, 1st Law, 1st Old Kilpatrick, 22nd Paisley successfully completing the course after enthusiastically overcoming the many and varied challenges over the two days.

In summary, the committee delivered training to over 160 students throughout 2016/17: - Queen's Badge Candidates Meeting (27 students), Youth Leader Training (21 students), Skills for Queen's Badge (39 students), Captain's Course (4 students), Working with Challenging Behaviour (5 students) Holiday Leadership (5 Students) Building Your Skills (32 students) and a Queen's Badge Completion Course (27 students). My sincere thanks to Sherwood Greenlaw & Renfrew North Churches for again providing the use of their halls and facilities. We have one course to go, Campcraft (7 students enrolled so far) and then we start all over again next year. Finally, my thanks to all the members of the Training Committee for their continued support and commitment to the cause of advancing the BB message through training.



Stewart Digney
Training Convenor



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Other Convenors' Reports

Public Relations and Resource Committee

This past year Recruitment leaflets were distributed to all Primary schools in Paisley within the jurisdiction of Renfrewshire Council. Plans are in hand to extend this next session to schools outwith the Paisley Area. I would like to thank the local press for the coverage of Battalion Events and to those who support the Battalion through advertising in the Annual Report thereby keeping the cost to a reasonable level. Moira Bryan continues to do an excellent job in editing Update, the Battalion's newsheet. Last year we had the Christmas Card design competition which was a great success. It has been agreed that this will be undertaken again next session. Finally a word of thanks to my committee members whose hard work is often unseen, to Grant Mather for his photographic skills and to those Companies who have submitted photographs not all of which could be included in this report.

John Stewart
P and R Committee Convener

Supplies

In the past year sales amounted to very much the same as the previous year at £54000. We are grateful for continued support from Companies in the Battalion and also from those from other Battalions.

We are also grateful for those Officers who continue to work in Supplies during the week. I am particularly grateful to Alistair Boyd, Ian Gray and Bobby Stevenson who made up orders and other work when I was unable to attend.

I hope that we will continue to offer a good or even better service to Companies in the year ahead.

Alan Taylor
Supplies

Duke of Edinburgh's Awards

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

1st Elderslie	Craig Ross	Dylan Connelly	Callum Dunbar
1st Erskine	Ewan Colquhoun	Ross MacFadyen	Mark McNally
	Peter Duncan		
	Dyllan Shearer		
1st Houston	Cameron Baird	Peter Dickson	Ewan Harvie
	Ross McHarg	Jonathan Paris	Ben Telfer
	Christopher Willbond	Cameron Wright	

Douglas Cunningham
Duke of Edinburgh's Awards Convener

Finance

The draft accounts for year ended 31 December 2016 show that we have incurred a small deficit of around £220 (last year a deficit of £4,000). A copy of the accounts continues to be sent to the Scottish Charities Office.

The results are better than last year as we did not incur substantial repairs to our Headquarters. This year a complete renovation was carried out and this is reported elsewhere in the Annual Report.

This year there was an increase of over £1,000 in our income from Donations/Ambassadors. This continues to be a substantial figure and our thanks must go to all involved. This together with an increase in our supplies income and a slight decrease in company subscriptions has produced the almost break even situation.

Our other expenditure has been held at previous levels although the cost of events has increased due to a lack of sponsorship.

Abstract of Accounts

INCOME

Subscriptions	£ 7,000
Donations/ Ambassadors	£15,000
Supplies	£ 3,000

£25,000

EXPENDITURE

Headquarters	£6,000
Salaries	£8,000
Events	£3,000
Overheads	£6,000
Depreciation	£2,000

£25,000

I am grateful to all who have continued to contribute to our finances during the year especially our Ambassadors and those who gave to the cost of the renovation. Thanks are also due to Alan and 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.

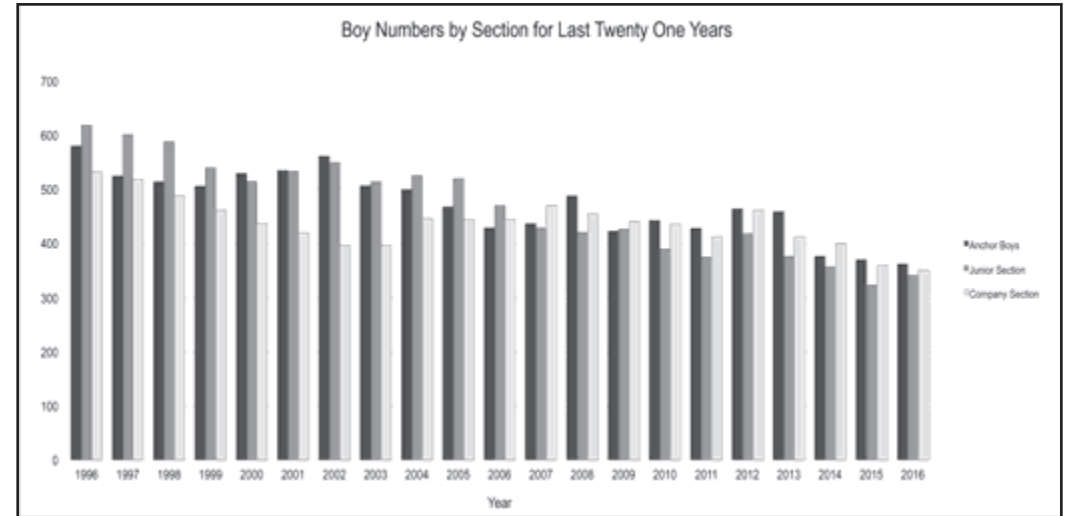
Jim Auchincloss
Battalion Treasurer

2018 National Cross Country Championships

The Battalion has accepted an invitation to host the 2018 National Cross Country Run for Scottish Battalions and the special Committee set up to steer the event under the leadership of Mrs Georgy Rae, Battalion Vice President has already started to plan and undertake the preplanning necessary.

Membership Session 2016-2017

It is pleasing to note that the Boy numbers of 1057 show a small increase over last year and that the number of Officers has also increased by 4 to 214, which excludes Helpers and Assistants who make a valued contribution to the work of Companies on a weekly basis. In addition, there are 23 Reserve officers who carry out visitations and support the Battalion in many ways.



Membership Statistics

Company	Church	Anchor Boy				Junior Section				Company Section				Total Company Strength			
		2016	2015	2014	2013	2016	2015	2014	2013	2016	2015	2014	2013	2016	2015	2014	2013
1st Houston	Houston and Killellan	15	28	27	30	33	25	26	31	41	46	51	44	89	99	104	105
1st Erskine	Erskine Parish	24	15	26	20	23	24	27	30	28	37	54	65	75	76	107	115
24th Paisley	St. Mark's	20	29	30	39	21	24	31	31	30	37	32	36	71	90	93	106
1st 3rd Renfrew	Renfrew North	31	31	19	25	24	21	19	23	13	17	23	30	68	69	61	78
1st Bridge of Weir	Freeland/St Machar's	22	21	25	25	23	23	20	22	17	13	13	14	62	57	58	61
8th Paisley	Martyrs' Sandyford	13	20	20	30	20	15	14	21	23	20	20	14	56	55	54	65
3rd Johnstone	St Andrews Trinity	22	20	15	10	14	14	14	15	20	19	16	15	56	53	45	40
15th Paisley	Stow Brae Kirk	23	17	11	15	20	18	11	10	12	11	13	15	55	46	35	40
2nd Barrhead	Bourock	19	17	20	28	12	18	24	27	22	22	29	20	53	57	73	75
1st Barrhead	St. Andrew's	11	18	20	26	29	19	17	26	11	11	12	8	51	48	49	60
1st Lochwinnoch	Calder UF/Lochwinnoch	17				11				23	0	0	0	51	0	0	0
22nd Paisley	Sherwood/Greenlaw	18	14	18	31	12	12	18	13	16	16	11	18	46	42	47	62
16th Paisley	St. Columba	12	13	19	24	19	13	14	17	11	15	19	15	42	41	52	56
1st Elderslie	Elderslie Kirk	10	30	23	17	12	16	20	18	18	16	16	16	40	62	59	51
1st Bishopton	Bishopton Parish	18	12	12	11	10	10	12	13	7	11	11	11	35	33	35	35
1st Neilston	Neilston Parish	8	16	14	21	12	12	15	15	12	15	12	16	32	43	41	52
11th Paisley	Lylesland	12	13	12	12	12	9	11	12	6	6	11	13	30	28	34	37
2nd Johnstone	St Paul's	15	18	20	26	6	8	9	6	8	9	9	12	29	35	38	44
1st Kilbarchan	Kilbarchan Parish	9	6	6	20	4	9	13	15	15	13	15	15	28	28	34	50
1st Johnstone	Johnstone High Parish	9	6	1	7	2	3	12	8	10	15	11	6	21	24	24	21
1st Beith	Beith Parish/United Reform	7	9	14	7	5	4	7	6	6	7	6	5	18	20	27	18
14th Paisley	Oakshaw Trinity	11	7	12	18	3	11	10	6	3	4	13	17	17	22	35	41
1st Inchinnan	Inchinnan Parish	8	5	8	11	9	10	10	7	0	0	2	3	17	15	20	21
2nd Paisley	Martyrs' Sandyford	9	6	5	5	6	6	4	5	0	0	0	3	15	12	9	13
TOTAL		363	371	377	458	342	324	358	377	352	360	399	411	1057	1055	1134	1246

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