



# **BARBADOS BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION** **NATIONAL SCOUT COMMITTEE**

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** **2003 - 2004**

The National Scout Committee was launched in October 2003. It comprises of one representative from each of the Districts. At the launching, the Chief Commissioner charged the Committee with the task of rebuilding the Scout Section. Over the past year the Committee has worked diligently towards this task with mixed results.

At its first meeting in November 2003, the Committee reviewed the Section and determined that to fulfil its charge it would have to accomplish 20 objectives in the short and long term. The objectives (in no specific order) are:

- National Scout Camp – July 2005
- Training and Retraining of Leaders
- Readiness for Parades
- Series of Pre-Jamboree Activities
- National Scout Leaders Roundtable
- Criteria for National Representation
- Increase Transfer Between Sections
- Promote Interaction at District and Group Level
- Promote “Duty to God”
- Guidelines for Starting New Troops
- “Information Pack” for Potential New Groups
- Resource Information for Leaders
- Career Oriented Programmes & Activities for Scouts
- National Scout Youth Forum
- Ensure the Section is the Primary Arm of The Association
- Continuous Recruitment of Adult Leaders
- Procedure for Problem Solving
- Promote the “Image” of Scouting
- Sporting Activities
- Special Activities

To date the Committee has successfully accomplished three of these Objectives and are actively working on five others.

As its first priority, the Committee held a National Scout Leaders Roundtable in January 2004. The objective of this exercise was to inform the Leaders of our plans and to solicit their opinions, suggestions and support. The Roundtable was a success as it provided us an opportunity to interact with Leaders from other Districts we would not usually see. It was agreed then that the Roundtable would be an annual event.

Also discussed at the Roundtable were the *Guidelines for Starting New Troops* and *Criteria for National Representation*. The Leaders agreed that the two regulations

were necessary for the proper functioning of the Section and a final draft of the documents was agreed to. The documents were then forwarded to the Chief Commissioner and District Commissioners for comments and implementation.

There were two Training sessions during the year for Scout Leaders. The first was a weekend course in January conducted by Mr. Delbrutto of the Regional Office. At that time he introduced the Regional Youth Programme for the Scout Section. The session was well attended and the introduction successful. The second session was a one-day seminar in July to review the Regional Youth Programme and to decide whether we would adopt it as our programme. The seminar was not well attended but the session was very productive. At the end of the seminar the decision was taken to adopt the Regional Programme. The Committee now has to meet with the ACC Training to determine a training schedule for the Scout Leaders so that they can properly implement the programme.

The Committee started a "Readiness for Parades" programme to ensure that our boys are always ready for parades and other ceremonial functions. The idea was to train the Leaders who would then train the boys. The start of the programme was delayed on more than one occasion though no fault of ours. Also the participation from Leaders was less than that expected. The programme is now being restructured to be more effective.

The Committee also started a programme to "Promote Interaction at District and Group Level". The objective of the programme is to bring the Leaders closer together as a group so that they can easier share ideas and learn from one another. This objective would be achieved by providing opportunities for the Leaders to meet socially. The first of these activities was held in August and although it was enjoyable it was not well attended.

The Committee has urged Groups to promote "Duty to God" in its activities. Although the suggestion was well received by the Leaders, to the best of my knowledge it has not been implemented. The implementation strategy for this activity will have to be revised.

The Committee has set as one of its main priorities, the provision of "Career Oriented Programmes & Activities for Scouts". This was initiated by participation in the Barbados Fire Service's Fire Cadet Programme. Thirteen Scouts successfully completed the Programme. In fact, we were able to fill all the places available in this years programme. This is only the beginning, we are determine to develop similar programmes in various fields so that our boys have the opportunity to learn first hand about the careers they are interested in or develop an interest in a career they had not considered.

The major problem facing the Committee is the dissemination of information to the Leaders. On more than one occasion poor attendance was attributed to Leaders not being informed in a timely manner. This will be addressed and corrected. The other problem which faced the Committee was the fact that the task at hand is too

big for three people to handle alone. At the seminar in July this was discussed and it was agreed that the Committee would delegate some of its task to reliable Leaders who are less burdened.

The National Scout Committee is determined to complete the task which it began. We will review our first year and use the experiences gained to ensure a more productive year. We are determined that we will not stop until we have completed the task before us.