



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

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** **APRIL 2004 – MARCH 2005**

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.

A one-day seminar was held 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 receive further training on implementing the programme. To date the material for the programme has been distributed to all of the Troops and the programme is being implemented.

The Committee held a National Scout Leaders Roundtable in September 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.

The Committee compiled a package of "Resource Information for Leaders" from the material of the individual Leaders. The material was scanned and placed on CD for easy distribution. It was hoped that the CD would have been distributed at the Roundtable but technical problems prevented this. The CD should be distributed shortly for a small fee to cover the cost of copying the CDs.

The "Readiness for Parades" programme was restructured and as a result was more successful. Scouts were trained by a drill instructor from the B.D.F. at our request. This training improved the performance of our boys on parade. It is hoped that in the coming year that we will have a few of our Leaders trained as instructors. This training will be done by the B.D.F. at one of their instructor courses. Once this is completed we will be able to do the training in-house.

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 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 Committee was able to put plans in place so that we could accept the invitation to the 2005 American National Jamboree. We were able to accept 17 of the 20 places offered for the Jamboree. This will be the most places that we have ever accepted. Mr John King ADC has been appointed Contingent Leader and plans for this activity are in the advanced stage.

Plans for the National Scout Camp to be held in August 2005 are in progress. A sub-committee has been set up to plan and execute this activity.

Joint meetings with the Cub Scout Committee and the ACC for Ventures did not materialise. It is hoped that a meeting will be scheduled soon.

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 the past 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.