



BARBADOS BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION **NATIONAL SCOUT COMMITTEE**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT **APRIL 2005 – MARCH 2006**

During the past year the National Scout Committee has worked towards our goal of rebuilding the Scout Section. Although we have made some progress, it was not the level that we anticipated. The main drawback in accomplishing the desired level of progress has been a shortage of available competent Leaders to assist us. Unfortunately most of the Leaders, who are qualified to assist the Committee with its objectives, already have more than one responsibility at District and Group levels and are unable to give their full energy to the Committee.

The Committee has set as one of its main priorities, the provision of "Career Oriented Programmes & Activities for Scouts". This was further advanced by participating again in the Barbados Fire Service's Fire Cadet Programme. Twelve Scouts successfully completed the Programme. Once again, we were able to fill all the places offered to us and those not filled by the Girl Guides. We held further discussions with the Fire Service on improving the current programme and developing a new programme to utilise the boys trained each year in a community outreach programme. The Committee is also looking into similar programmes with police (computer-fraud, anti-money-laundering, mounted unit), & public health department.

The Committee held a National Scout Leaders Roundtable in October 2005. 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. The long promised "Resource Information for Leaders CD" was distributed at the roundtable.

The "Readiness for Parades" programme has been further restructured. This year we trained Leaders instead of Scouts. A number of Leaders were trained by a drill instructor from the B.D.F. at our request. 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.

In addition to participating in the Remembrance Day and Independence Day Parades, members of the Section participated in the National Independence Service and Nurses Week Service. On both occasions they carried the Colours.

During the summer one of our Leaders participated in the International Camp Staff Program conducted by Boy Scouts of America. He was assigned as a member of the camp staff at Camp Bowers, Cape Fear Council in White Oak, North Carolina from

30th May to 3rd July 2005. From all report he proved to be a valuable member of the staff. This year three Leaders have successfully applied to the program and will be assigned to three different Camps across the US.

The Contingent to the 2005 American National Jamboree returned safely. The Contingent comprised of 13 boys and 4 Leaders – the largest Contingent we have sent. From all reports, the members had an exciting time at the Jamboree and afterwards. The Contingent should be commended for the preparation made and the exemplary behaviour exhibited during the trip. This was evident by the number of compliments received. The parents should also be complimented for coming together and raising the money necessary for a successful trip.

The National Scout Camporee scheduled for August 2005 had to be postponed as they were not enough Leaders available to be in Camp full-time. The Camporee was rescheduled for 29th March – 4th April 2006 and David Griffith DDC was appointed as the Camp Chief. The Camporee was held at Battaleys, Speightstown on the area adjacent to the Roland Edwards Primary School. A registration fee of \$60.00 per person was charged to cover the cost of site setup and the programme activities (Groups were responsible for their own meals). The Camporee was attended by 102 boys and 17 Leaders from two of the Districts (no one from the Southern District participated). A varied programme was offered which included Backwoodsman & Dutch Oven Cooking, Campfire, Obstacle Course, Skills Games, Swimming, Jet Skiing, Caving, and Horseback Riding. In addition to this the Sea Scouts participated in a training exercise with the Coast Guard. Despite a few minor incidences the Camporee was a success and provided a unique opportunity to evaluate a wide cross-section of the members of the Scout Section instead of small select few we see at parades and other activities.

Once again we were unable to schedule any joint meetings with the Cub Scout and Venture Scout Committees. It is hoped that a meeting will be scheduled soon.

The Contingent to the XIII Caribbean Jamboree is in the final stages of planning. The Jamboree will be held at Nature's Way, Portland, Jamaica from 8th to 16th August 2006. The Contingent will comprise 56 Scout, Venture Scouts and Leaders from the Bridgetown and Northern District. The Contingent has undertaken several fundraising activities to reduce the cost of the Jamboree and the four day tour of North-Western Jamaica after.

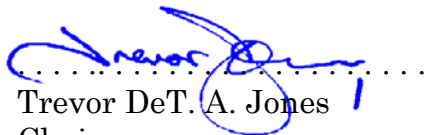
Plans for World Jamboree 2007 are in progress. The details will be announced shortly. Preliminary selection of boys for the Jamboree has already begun at District level. It is hoped that by the time the Committee launches this activity the Districts will be in the final stages of selection.

Due to the rescheduling of the National Camp it was necessary to postpone the National Youth Forum planned for February/March. The Forum will now be held in September and will be a consultation with the youth members on a wide range of topics in an environment where they will be free to speak their minds (no Leaders).

Each Troop will be invited to send three delegates each from a different age group. The information gathered will be used to improve the current programme and to plan future events.

The dissemination of information to the Leaders is still a major stumbling block for the Committee. It continues to be the main excuse for poor participation in activities. In my opinion it is merely an excuse. The Scout Section is small enough that if a Leader **really** wants information about an activity he can obtain it. Instead many of us have chosen to operate at a level where, if the information is not physically placed in our hands, we will not participate because “I was not informed” or “No one told me”. It is now beyond our means to call our District Scouter or A.D.C. and ask about an activity. We must do better than this. After all it is the boy that is disadvantaged by not participating in the activity – not the Leader.

The National Scout Committee is determined to overcome the obstacles experienced and to build on our successes. We will not stop until we have completed the task before us.



Trevor DeT. A. Jones
Chairman
National Scout Committee