



BARBADOS BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION **NATIONAL SCOUT COMMITTEE**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT **APRIL 2006 – MARCH 2007**

During the past year the National Scout Committee has worked towards our goal of rebuilding the Scout Section. Once again progress has been slower than anticipated. The main reason for this was the time devoted to back-to-back planning for the Caribbean and World Jamborees. The other major drawback continues to be the shortage of available competent Leaders to assist us. As stated before, 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.

Once again we participated in the Barbados Fire Service's Fire Cadet Programme. Ten Scouts successfully completed the Programme. Once again, we were able to fill all the places offered to us. The Best Fire Cadet was one of our Scouts, Dario Bowen from the Hazelwood Scout Group.

Further to our goal of providing "Career Oriented Programmes & Activities for Scouts", 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. We are hoping that this will be finalized in the coming year and implemented shortly thereafter. We are also in the process of preparing an outline of a similar programme with the Police Force (computer-fraud, anti-money-laundering, mounted unit). It is hoped that in the coming year we will be able to prepare one for the public health department.

A National Youth Forum was held in September 2006. It was a consultation with the youth members of the Section on a wide range of topics in an environment where they were free to speak their minds. Each Troop was invited to send three delegates, each from a different age group. The Forum was attended by 32 Scouts from 13 Troop from all 3 Districts. The information gathered was collated and analysed by the Committee. It was disseminated to all the Troops, District Commissioners and to Headquarters. It is hoped that it will be used to improve the current programme and to plan future events.

The Committee held two National Scout Leaders Roundtables during the past year. The objective of both exercises was to inform the Leaders of our plans and to solicit their opinions, suggestions and support. The first Roundtable was held in October 2006. Even though there was a low turnout, several events and issues were discussed. In an effort to solicit a wider opinion, it was decided to hold a second Roundtable. The second Roundtable was held in February 2007. The turnout was only marginally better than the first one. However we were still able to discuss plans for several activities.

The “Readiness for Parades” programme was further restructured after discussions at the Roundtables. The plan was to train a group of Scouts who would be used when boys are requested for special events (Colour Parties, etc.). This plan never got off the ground even though there were several attempts to start it.

In addition to participating in the Remembrance Day and Independence Day Parades, members of the Section participated in the National Independence Service and two Community Independence Parish Services. At all three services, they carried the Colours.

During the summer three of our Leaders participated in the 2006 International Camp Staff Program conducted by Boy Scouts of America. They each were assigned as members of the camp staff at three different camps. The camps were Camp Chamanakee in Fresno, California from 3rd June to 12th August; Lewis & Clark Scout Camp in Tabor, South Dakota from 1st June to 6th August; and Camp Tamarack in Jones, Michigan from 11th June to 13th August. From all reports they proved to be valuable members of the staff at their respective camps.

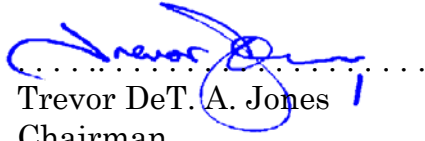
The Contingent to the XIII Caribbean Jamboree returned safely. The Jamboree was held at Nature’s Way, Portland, Jamaica from 8th to 16th August 2006. The Contingent comprised 54 Scouts, Venture Scouts and Leaders from the Bridgetown and Northern Districts and was the largest overseas contingent at the Jamboree. From all reports, the members had an exciting time at the Jamboree and afterwards. After the Jamboree, the Contingent spent four days touring different places in Jamaica.

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 XXI World Jamboree is in the final stages of planning. The Jamboree will be held in Essex, England from 27th July to 8th August 2007. The Contingent will comprise 17 Scouts, Venture Scouts and Leaders from the Bridgetown and Southern District. The Contingent has undertaken fundraising activities to reduce the cost of the Jamboree and the four day tour of London planned for after the Jamboree.

The dissemination of information to the Leaders continues to be a major stumbling block for the Committee. It continues to be the main excuse for poor participation in activities. As I stated last year, it is my opinion that 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 continued 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 continues to be beyond our means to call our District Scouter or A.D.C. and ask about an activity. We really 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.



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Trevor DeT. A. Jones
Chairman
National Scout Committee