



BARBADOS BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION **NATIONAL SCOUT COMMITTEE**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT **APRIL 2007 – MARCH 2008**

The National Scout Committee continues to work towards our goal of rebuilding the Scout Section. The continual shortage of available competent Leaders slowed the progress of the Committee and steps were taken to address this problem. During the year the Committee was reconstituted and now consist of a Chairman and one representative from each District. Also we are making more use of subcommittees for individual projects. These subcommittees will include some of the newer Leaders giving them the opportunity to gain experience by working with the older Leaders.

Once again we participated in the Barbados Fire Service's Fire Cadet Programme. As usual, we were able to fill all the places offered to us and our Scouts successfully completed the Programme. We continued our discussions with the Fire Service on improving the current programme as it continues to evolve. Progress has been made in developing a new programme to utilise the boys trained each year in a community outreach programme with the main drawback being budgeting and manpower on their part. We are hoping that this will be addressed in the next financial year.

The Committee held a National Scout Leaders Roundtable 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 Roundtable was held in October at Princess Margaret Secondary School. Even though there was a low turnout, several events and issues were discussed. One of the decisions made at the Roundtable was that a survey should be completed among the Leaders to determine the reasons for the low turnout at the Roundtables. The survey was completed and now the Committee has to analyse the responses received.

In addition to participating in the Remembrance Day and Independence Day Parades, members of the Section participated in the BWU May Day Parade and the British Commonwealth Society Service. At the Commonwealth Service they carried the Colours of the Caribbean countries of the British Commonwealth. After the service they were commended for their performance by several of those in attendance.

The Contingent to the XXI World Scout Jamboree returned safely. The Jamboree was held at Hylands Park, Chelmsford, Essex, England from 27th July to 8th August 2008. The Contingent comprised 18 Scouts, Venture Scouts and Leaders from all three Districts. We received 2 scholarships from the Region under Operation One World which allowed us to increase our numbers from 16 to 18. The Contingent undertook fundraising activities to reduce the cost of the Jamboree and for a four

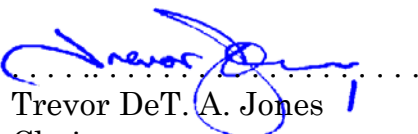
day tour of London after the Jamboree. From all reports, the members had an exciting time at the Jamboree and afterwards. A copy of the Contingent Report is available on the Committee's website in the Reports Archive.

One of the positive things to come out of the Jamboree was a National Scout Committee Website. The site was originally setup as a temporary measure to allow the Contingent to keep in contact with family and friends back at home. The site was a great success and it was decided to keep it up after the Contingent returned. The site, www.bbsascoutcommittee.org, was expanded and now includes information on Scout [Section] Activities, Other [Sections] Activities, Regional Activities, International Activities, Resource Materials [for Leaders], Reports Archive, and Photo Gallery. Further plans include the inclusion of a forum for Leaders to discuss problems and share programme ideas. Measures are also being put in place to ensure that the funding needed to operate the site will be available on an annual basis.

Once again, the scheduling of joint meetings with the Cub Scout and Venture Scout Committees eluded us. It is hoped that a meeting will be scheduled during the coming year.

Plans for the Contingent to the XIV Caribbean Scout Jamboree have already begun. The Jamboree is scheduled to be held in Guyana in August 2009. A Subcommittee has already been set and includes representatives from each District. We are planning for this Subcommittee to become a permanent one as there are three consecutive Jamborees scheduled in the three coming years. The Subcommittee will look at a continuous plan rolling over from one year into the next. This should be an improvement over our traditional method which would be three separate plans each starting after the previous one had ended.

The National Scout Committee is determined to continue to overcome the obstacles before us and to build on our successes. We will persevere towards the completion of our goals.


Trevor DeT. A. Jones
Chairman
National Scout Committee