

**MINUTE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BATTALION COUNCIL HELD AT
Battalion Headquarters, 67 Clifford Street, Glasgow, G51 1QH
On Wednesday 12 June 2019, at 7.30 pm**

1 Opening Devotions

Rev Neil Galbraith, led the opening devotions remembering those Leaders who had passed away over the preceding year

2 Present & Welcome

John Kelly, Battalion President welcomed all to the meeting;

33 Leaders, 4 Reserve Officers from the 26 Companies listed below were represented.

Cathkin 2nd EK, 4th EK, 83rd, 95th, 128th, 131st, 195th, 205th, 223rd & 229th Glasgow

Eastern 27th, 165th & 284th Glasgow

Eastwood 9th, 86th, 163rd & 208th Glasgow

Partick 1st, 44th, 93rd, 119th & 135th Glasgow

Springburn 25th, 125th, 200th & 268th Glasgow

14 members of Council from the Companies listed above had tendered their apologies and a further apology was received from 1 member from the 130th Glasgow.

A welcome was given to Callum Dewar, Under 26 Representative for the Glasgow & Dunbartonshire area of the Brigade Scotland Committee.

3 Minutes of Meeting held 28 February 2019

Approved

4 President's Report

The President reported on a successful year of events within the Battalion including:-

- The Queen's Badge Ceremony at Glasgow Cathedral on 6th June, where the Principal Guest, Timothy Frew of Youthlink Scotland gave the address to the Queen's Men.
- The Queen's Badge Completion Residential at Auchengillan Outdoor Centre
- The 50th Anniversary Kilbryde Hike.

5 Accounts

The Treasurer spoke to the independently examined accounts, copies of which had been circulated, and drew attention to the following:

- Our support costs are well controlled and have reduced slightly compared to 2017/2018. The net out-turn for training & events and supplies & resources activities produced a better contribution to costs than last year.
- We have some £88k of support costs to fund each year, principally made up of payroll and property. Investment income is fairly constant, even allowing for investments sold to cover running costs and are grateful for the contributions and subscriptions received from Reserve Officers.
- The Training Credit of £50 per Company had a good take up and will be available again in 2019/2020
- The amount received from donations and appeals is 44% better than last year, but there is still work to be done. We have also benefitted from £9k of legacy income.
- There are a number of grants in the pipeline for the current year and some more legacy funding. We continue to be dependent on investment realisations to support our activities and over the years since Brigade House was sold, investment performance has produced gains in excess of the realisations required in most years. The investment valuation at 31 March 2019 was higher than the value a year ago.
- The Board recognise that the level of deficit in recent years is not sustainable. We have taken action to enable us to make much more targeted applications for funding which will give some profile to the funder and that contributed to the better result. We will continue to build relationships with long term supporters as well as developing new relationships.

The Accounts were received by Council

The Treasurer reported that a decision was taken many years ago to set the Battalion capitation fee at NIL. The Board propose that the capitation fee for 2019/20 be set at NIL. Most Companies do pay a capitation fee to Districts and we are examining whether this can be recognised through

the Battalion accounts but still providing the same benefit to Districts. This would be beneficial in our approaches to funders as some expect to see a contribution from members. We will keep this matter on our agenda going forward.

Council approved that the Battalion Levy for 2019/2020 is set at NIL

6 **Board of Trustees Report**

Jim McVean referred to the Trustees Report within the Annual Accounts and the work of the Board since the last Council meeting, the following additional points are noted:-

- The Battalion Pantomime would continue in December 2019
- The Battalion Carol Service (or other agreed title) would be held on 8th December 2019 at Easterhouse Parish Church with bus transport options offered to Companies wishing to attend. Invitations will also be issued to neighbouring Battalions
- The Battalion will welcome members of 12th Singapore Boys' Brigade on 15th June 2019
- Support will be provided for the Cathkin District Carronvale Weekend for Leaders and Senior Boys in November 2019

7 **Activity Committee Reports**

Anchor Boys Section

- All participants in the colouring competitions had received a certificate

Junior Section

- 155 Boys took part in the Indoor Athletics at the Emirates Arena in January
- Figure Marching & Bible Knowledge competitions had been held.

Company & Senior Sections

- The Pipe Band assisted at the Queen's Badge Ceremony supported by members of the 1st Bearsden Company.
- 35 teams had participated in the 50th Anniversary Kilbride Hike over the weekend of 8/9th June. Senior winners: 7th East Kilbride, Junior: 25th Stirling (Dunblane), Expedition: 2nd East Kilbride, Explorer: 4th Carluke and Veterans: 1st Bellshill.
- Council noted the success of Glasgow Companies in National & Regional Competitions, the 44th Glasgow won the National & Regional Table Tennis with the 128th Glasgow winning the Regional Masterteam and finishing 4th in the National final.

8 **Training Team Report**

The Programme for Training for session 2019-20 has been issued to Companies along with the calling notice for the Battalion AGM. There are a number of items that Company Captains should note to avoid disappointment and grief in the new programme.

- The Captains' course will in future session take place in June, before new Captains' take on responsibility in a new session. To facilitate this change of timing it is proposed to run a Captains' course in June 2019 and then in June 2020 with a two part evening course early in session 2019-20.
- Having evaluated the new YLT programme launched at Brigade Council 2018 and piloted by us last session, this year's YLT will be over two days only and the venue will change to Battalion HQ. Attendance at a Safeguarding course since 2014 is a mandatory requirement for this course, and prior learning will be accepted provided proof of attendance at a safeguarding course since 2014 is available. The course will not be deemed to have been completed, until proof of attendance at a safeguarding course can be demonstrated.
- Having evaluated the Media course run by Brigade Scotland for us last session, it is proposed that the second Skills for Queen's Badge course on Sunday 17 November 2019 be a Media course, which will be capped at 16 participants.

As has been already intimated by Battalion correspondence, the decline in numbers eligible to attend the Queen's Badge Residential weekend has resulted in the decision to use only the Allander accommodation next session, with a subsequent drop in course capacity. Companies should be aware of this and book early to ensure a place at Auchengillan

9 **Scotland Report**

Ronnie Campbell provided a report for Council. The following points are noted.

- The Brigade is beginning to develop a new UK & ROI strategy for 2020 onwards. A survey of leaders had been sent out with a return date of 31st May.

- The Committee agreed that Battalions would be invited to be represented at the August Scotland Committee to work together on developing the new Scotland Workplan.
- Certificates were sent out in April to 111 Companies that had grown during the 2018/19 session. It is hoped to have four new Companies starting next session – Macduff, Calderbank, Maybole and Ullapool.
- Our first donation from the Guild partnership of £14,306.34 had been received. Feedback from the partnership continues to be very positive and we are currently the most supported partner (out of the six organisations). Using funds from the partnership a new Mini-Grants scheme to support Companies has recently been launched.
- Four ‘Raise the Bar’ Roadshows took place in Edinburgh, Perth, Banff and Paisley. Feedback from roadshows, which included training on mental health, faith development, STEM and working with young people with additional support needs was very positive. However the turnout at the roadshows was particularly disappointing.
- This year’s Cross Country event was postponed due to adverse weather conditions. A rearranged date has been agreed of 5th October, 2019 with next year’s event taking place on 21st March 2020.
- We now have 16 Battalions with STEM Ambassadors. The iDEA pilot has commenced with 11 companies across the UK & NI taking part.
- Four candidates stood for election to the Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP). The Committee raised concerns at the level of participation from Companies and it was noted that at least one of the candidates when trying to organise a visit to a Company to explain more about SYP were informed that the Company were not interested. The Committee offered their congratulations to Alastair Thomson from 1st Bearsden and Christopher Winters from 7th Wishaw on their election.
- The Battalion Chaplain’s conference was held at Carronvale in March with 9 Battalions represented.
- Following a complaint raised with SHQ it was agreed that there is a need to have a common understanding of the relationship between Company and Church. Discussions have already started with Church of Scotland on this matter. The Committee also agreed that it would be helpful to produce guidance for Captains and Battalions on resolving conflict and difficulties within a Company.
- An update was provided on two-tier capitation which would see the second/regional tier of capitation directly funding work in Scotland. This is aimed at increasing transparency within the Brigade on how and where capitation is used.

10 Appointments for Session 2019/2020: The following appointments were confirmed:

Honorary President Sir Alex Ferguson CBE

Honorary Vice-Presidents

Professor Sir Anton Muscatteli Lord Macfarlane of Bearsden

Lady Ann Calman Rev Mark Johnstone, Minister of Glasgow Cathedral

President Col John Kelly MBE **Vice-President** Ross Stewart, Lt. 182nd Glasgow

Board of Trustees Training Douglas Ellis, 163rd Glasgow

Committee Chair Posts

- **Anchor Boys Section Committee** Eleanor Hamilton, Lt, 4th East Kilbride
- **Junior Section Activities Committee** Kenny McKay, Lt, 4th East Kilbride
- **Company Section Activities Committee** Vacant
- **Seniors Activities Committee** Vacant

Chairman of Training Committee Douglas Ellis Capt. 163rd Glw

Appointment of Independent Examiner William Vernal, Milne Craig

11 Volunteer Recognition

As part of Volunteers Week certificates were presented to Companies in attendance at the meeting to recognise the cumulative years of service given by the current Leaders in those specific locations. Companies not present would have them sent on. In total 6,423 years of service have been given by current members. As part of the presentation the Secretary highlighted the value to society of the work carried out by Boys' Brigade Leaders. (Youthlink Scotland assess that every £1 spent on youth work is worth £7 to society. Based on an hourly rate for a youth worker in the public sector, £13 per hour, and an average of 60 hours of volunteer time per Leader per annum, the value of the cumulative service within Glasgow Battalion equates to a benefit to society of approx. £46m)

12 Battalion Q & A

Following a view of the Brigade UK Over 11's Recruitment video, Leaders discussed a number of items previously included within Board, Committee and Brigade Scotland updates. Feedback was provided to our Glasgow & West Dunbartonshire representatives on the Scotland Committee.

13 Any Other Business

The Secretary reported on the latest position with the new Under 11's programme material.

14 Closing Comments & Date of next meeting:

The President thanked all who had assisted with work for the Battalion during the past session. Thanks were expressed in advance for the hospitality provided by the 163rd Glasgow. The next meeting is provisionally scheduled for 12th November 2019 at 7:30pm

15 Closing Devotions

Rev Neil Galbraith closed the meeting with prayer.