

The Boys' Brigade East Antrim Battalion Executive Meeting

Held on Wednesday 02nd September 2015 at 8.00p.m.
in Raloo Church Halls.
(1st Raloo)

Present: - Mr Drew Buchanan MBE, Mr Philip Ross, Mr David Hoy, Mr Colin Bell, Mrs Clare Hull and Mr Alan Miles.

Apologies: - Dr John Cathcart, Mrs Lorraine Bell, Mrs Margaret McAdoo, Mr Andrew Wilson and Reverend Alan McCann.

Opening & Devotions: - Battalion President opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to Raloo. The opening Devotions were conducted by Mr Drew Buchanan, Battalion President who read from Romans Chapter 12 Verses 1-8.

Minutes: - The minutes of the previous meeting of 12th February 2015 had been circulated prior to the meeting via e-mail. These were agreed and proposed as accurate by Mr David Hoy and seconded by Mr Colin Bell.

BATTALION PARADE

The date for this year's Parade and Officer's Dedication Service is Sunday 4th October 2015. The Company hosting this year's parade is 1st Carrickfergus Company with the Service being held in the Methodist Church, Carrickfergus.

The Dedication of the Officers will be conducted by our new Battalion Chaplain, Reverend Doctor Alan McCann. It was agreed that Company Colours be brought to the Parade. It was also agreed that the collection from this year's Service be given to the Newport Appeal.

Section Matters: -

ANCHORS: - It was reported that the Anchor Games night will be held on 15th January 2016 in Ballylinney. This year's Colouring competition was of Noah's Ark and had to be submitted by 15th January 2016. It was mentioned that this year's recognised Charity was to be Disability NI. This year's Christmas Celebration was to take the form of Messy Christmas and will be held in Gardenmore Church on the 29th November 2015. Clare Hull was to check availability. The proposed time was 15:00 to 16:30.

JUNIORS: - Quiz Kids was to be held on 9th October 2015, however a venue was needed. Mr Drew Buchanan to issue an email seeking a venue. It was noted that there were no other dates for competitions as yet.

Figure Marching – Mr Philip Ross is to contact Wesley McGill for the patterns so that the information can go out early to Companies, to encourage more participation. If possible this information should be available for the Council Meeting in October.

A Spring competition is to be held but not until half-term in February 2016.

COMPANY: - Mr Colin Bell reported to the Executive on the 125th Anniversary of the 1st Carrickfergus Company as well as attending the last ever Display of the 4th Carrickfergus Company both of which were very enjoyable.

Mr Drew Buchanan reported that the Golf competition will be recommending with an Officer from 8th Carrickfergus Company running this competition. All other competitions were on the website.

Mr Drew Buchanan stated that an officer from 8th Carrickfergus Company had agreed to run the Golf competition this year. There had been a suggestion about running a Dodge Ball competition, so watch out for this on the website.

HONORARY VICE PRESIDENTS

Mr Drew Buchanan advised that Dr. Victor Lynas had passed away and a Memorial Service was to be held in Gardenmore Church at 15:00 on 20th September 2015. It was agreed that the Secretary send a sympathy card on behalf of the Executive.

Mr Drew Buchanan also mentioned that following the passing of Jonathan Simms the Battalion had received a donation of £1500.00 from his family.

Following the passing of these distinguished members it was agreed to appoint new Honorary Vice Presidents. Suggestions were put forward and the Secretary was asked to write to the following: Reverend Colin McClure, Mr Frank Picton and Mr Ken Hogg inviting them to become Honorary Vice Presidents and to attend the forthcoming Battalion Parade. This was agreed.

EVERY DOOR CHALLENGE

Mr Drew Buchanan gave an overview of the idea behind this proposed fund raising event in aid of Newport.

The idea was to visit every B.B. Company in Northern Ireland and have representatives from that Company meet the visitors, have a photograph taken and then hand over a cheque to the visitors. The Company was to carry out fund raising activities in advance or on the day e.g. a coffee morning, so that a cheque could be presented from the proceeds raised.

East Antrim Battalion had agreed to participate in this fund raising event by having a team of cyclists cycling round each Company within the Battalion, with the possibility of a fun evening afterwards. Senior boys can be included in the cycling teams.

FURTHER FUND RAISING EVENTS

Discussion took place regarding the possibility of organising a Concert involving Ballyclare Male Voice Choir and Major Sinclair Pipe Band. It was agreed to hold this Concert in Holy Trinity Church on Saturday 27th February 2016. The cost of each ticket was to be £5.00.

Each Company was to receive 10 tickets to sell. Each Executive Member was asked to sell between 20 – 40 tickets.

N. I. DISTRICT PRESIDENT

Mr Drew Buchanan informed the Executive that Mr David Blevins had been appointed as the new N. I. District President. With the Battalion celebrating it's 50th Anniversary in 2017, the suggestion was to invite Mr Blevins to our Anniversary Celebration.

50th ANNIVERSARY

Discussion took place regarding what we should do to celebrate the 50th Anniversary. A possible idea was to have a dinner similar to that arranged in 2014.

Mr Drew Buchanan stated that Mr Donald Blair had agreed to write a history of the Battalion. Mr Roger Skelton was to be approached in order to capture the knowledge of the Battalion as seen by the late Mr Jonathan Simms for inclusion in this history. Mr Colin Bell was to write a history of the B.B. in Raloo. The idea was to produce a booklet with photographs and have an exhibition in all three towns.

NEW BATTALION CHAPLAIN

Mr Drew Buchanan advised the Executive that the Reverend Doctor Alan McCann had agreed to being Battalion Chaplain. However, it would be nice of the Battalion to recognise the work of our former Chaplain the Reverend Colin McClure. It was proposed by Mr Drew Buchanan, seconded by Mr Colin Bell that we give the Reverend Colin McClure a gift voucher for £60.00 for Billy Andies restaurant. This was agreed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A concert was to be held in October at a cost of £12.00 with the proceeds going to Newport. Tickets are available from Mr Drew Buchanan. Members were asked to try and promote this concert.

Mr Drew Buchanan also informed the Executive that Mr Robin Mark had agreed to provide his services, free for a concert in February 2016 in Londonderry. The cost of these tickets were £17.00 and again the proceeds would be going to Newport.

Mr Drew Buchanan presented the projected Accounts up to 20th February 2016. Members were content with the information presented.

There being no other business the meeting was closed with the Grace.

Thanks was given to Mr Colin Bell, 1st Raloo for the use of the room and for supper.

Signed _____ Date _____