



The Boys' Brigade

Annual Review
2004-2005



Whilst this review tries to demonstrate the true work of the Brigade, any account can only reflect a small proportion of the activities of an organisation. The Brigade's strength lies in the work carried out week by week in churches around the UK by dedicated leaders, whose primary objective is to share the gospel with young people in their care.

As you read the following pages we hope you will agree that much is being achieved and we have continued to deliver quality children's and youth work to our membership.

Working in the local church

The Boys' Brigade is very much part of the mission and outreach of the local church. The Brigade works in partnership with 1700 churches of many denominations across the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. The Boys' Brigade is a bridge into the community and through its activities many thousands of young people who have no other connection with the church hear the gospel message each week. Many families are drawn into the life of the church through the connection of their son with The Boys' Brigade.



Youth Participation

At all levels the Brigade is seeking to promote the participation and empowerment of young people by developing the decision making infrastructure of the BB.

There are many positive examples of youth participation within the BB, giving benefit both to the young people themselves and to the company. Through recognised schemes such as the NCO system, Leadership Badges, Millennium Volunteers, Queen's Badge, Duke of Edinburgh' Award, young people are encouraged to contribute positively to their own programme and to that of younger members.

Some examples of youth participation:

The **Queen's Badge** is the highest award a member can gain. It involves undertaking a period of community service outside the company as well as helping within the company over a 12 month period. Young men also have to complete skills or physical based activities and an element of leadership training,



West Midland Queensmen

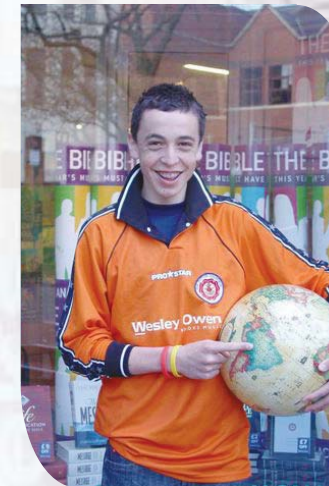
North West District Queensmen



Millennium Volunteers is a government-funded initiative, which encourages young people, aged 16-24 to volunteer within their local community and recognises the volunteering with a national award. The BB in England has a two-year contract with the DfES and since April 2004 nearly 600 young people from BB, GB, schools, colleges and churches have joined the scheme and are volunteering within their local community and making a real difference.

Overseas opportunity:

Matthew Watkin of 2nd Sutton Coldfield Company is preparing to take part in a month long expedition to the Sao Paulo area of Brazil. His group will trek through the Bocaina and the Serra do Cipo National Parks and participate in a project which will benefit the local community – repairing and decorating educational centres.



Music and Drama: the Brigade's music and drama group, KJC, gives opportunities for young people to express their faith. KJC lead worship at battalion services and events in England and Wales.

The Welsh Worship group 'Revival Cymri' has been busy during the year, leading church services and producing a video, which has been well received. It was a great encouragement when the group won the Cardiff & Vale of Glamorgan Endeavour Award for its Christian outreach work within churches in South Wales.

International Team continues in its quest to challenge ideas, promote awareness of global issues and



encourage BB members to make a difference. The recent project called Un:covered that focused on street children in Brazil, was designed, prepared and delivered by young leaders. Membership of the Team is open to all BB young leaders aged between 16 and 25 years.

Palace stewards: 23 young men, aged 18, selected from Districts to represent the Brigade are proud to undertake stewards' duties at a Buckingham Palace Garden party annually in July. The young men are commended for their smartness and efficiency in carrying out various duties.



Special Events



Companies enjoy taking part in various annual high profile events at UK level, which attract increasing numbers of young people each year.

'Firm Foundations' and 'Crossover' are favourites. Firm Foundations, held jointly with The Girls' Brigade, England & Wales, attracts around 1200 young people and leaders held over the May Bank Holiday at Felden Lodge in Hemel Hempstead. High profile speakers and worship leaders, including the Firm Foundations Worship Team,



consisting of young people from BB/GB, lead participants through the theme, which for this year was 'Wide Open'. Crossover was held at Broomlee Centre, West Linton, Scotland from 17-19 June, run by the Brigade in Scotland in partnership with



the Board of Parish Education of the Church of Scotland. The event attracted over 700 young people and was also led by well known worship leaders and included many outdoor activities and competitions.

The events continue to give clear evangelistic focus underlining and reinforcing the week by week Christian message communicated in BB companies.

BB/GB National Band Championships

Some 500 young people from BB and GB companies in Scotland and England enjoyed a great day of marching band music at Stoke on Trent in June. There was a good natured spirit of rivalry and support for each other's bands and much encouragement from parents, friends and leaders.



This year's winners:

- BB/GB Inspection (joint winners)**
 - 1st Tamworth BB/GB
 - 1st Windy Book GB/Methodist Youth
- Ketch Cup (for musical accuracy)**
 - 1st Moreton BB/2nd Moreton GB
- Beginners' Class**
 - 1st Saffron Walden BB/GB
- Novice Class**
 - 7th Airdrie BB/6th Airdrie GB
- Open Class (Indoor)**
 - 13th Bromley BB/1st St Mary Cray BB
- Contest Class**
 - 73rd Birmingham BB/2nd Solihull GB
- Championship Class**
 - 2nd Burntwood BB/2nd Burntwood GB
- Cadet Class**
 - 10th Wolverhampton BB/1st Lanesfield GB
- Open Class**
 - 13th Bromley BB/1st St Mary Cray BB



National Competitions

The competitions for Badminton, Chess, Table Tennis, Masterteam and Football continue to be a popular part of many companies' programmes and as ever, those who take part enjoy fellowship and sport together. The National Competitions provide an excellent opportunity for members to participate in activities beyond the local battalion. This year's winners:

| Badminton | Chess |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1st 1st Hillsborough | 1st/2nd Dreghorn |
| 2nd 1st Hjigham Ferrers | 7th Edinburgh |
| 3rd 3rd Gourrock | 17th Nottingham |
| Masterteam | Junior Football |
| 26th Stirling (Alloa) | 1st 4th Kirkaldy |
| 14th West Bromwich | 2nd 1st Overtown |
| 7th East Kilbride | 3rd 4th Londonderry |
| Senior Football | Table Tennis |
| 55th Manchester | 44th Glasgow |
| 1st Bluestone | 2nd Enniskillen |
| 1st Overtown | 128th Glasgow |



Masterteam winners – 26th Stirling

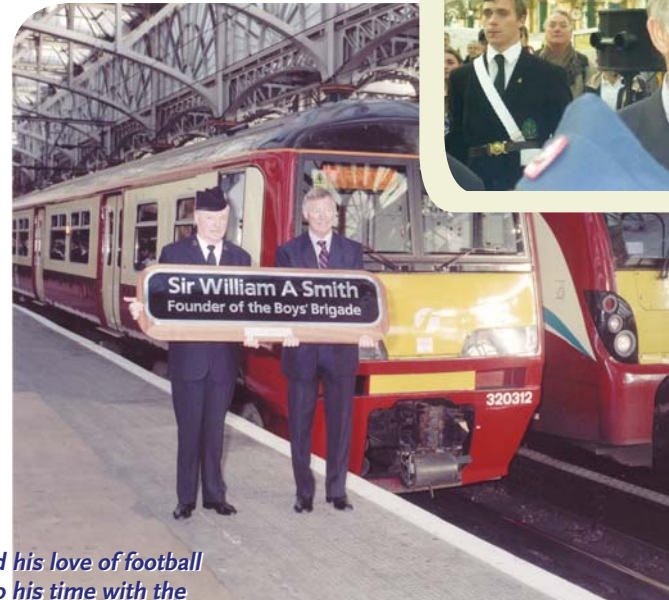


Badminton winners – 1st Hillborough

150th Anniversary

This year we celebrated the 150th anniversary of the birth of our founder, Sir William Smith, which has given opportunity to reflect on the debt we owe and to give recognition in public celebration of one man's contribution to the life of the nation. Events included a service in St Paul's Cathedral, and the naming of a Strathclyde Passenger Transport locomotive 'The Sir William A Smith, Founder of The Boys' Brigade' at Glasgow Central Station. The naming ceremony was performed by Sir Alex Ferguson CBE, Brigade Honorary Vice-President. A wreath was laid on the memorial at Pennyland House during a special weekend of the North Scottish Area Conference.

Sir Alex Ferguson CBE said he credited his love of football and his understanding of leadership to his time with the BB. The invaluable lessons and skills he learned while a member of the 129th Glasgow Company gave him the grounding he needed not just in his successful playing career but also his high profile life as a manager.



Train naming ceremony



Publicity has been targeted this year at the churches with new material being produced highlighting our supportive role in enabling the church to bridge into the community. Our aim is to build our relationship with the churches to enable us to market ourselves as a contemporary and high quality youth work organisation that is flexible enough to adapt to a range of local circumstances and needs. The Brigade has been present at a number of Christian Resource exhibitions throughout the regions.



Christian Resources Exhibition stand

Activities and Achievements

Work has been undertaken to widen the access to the organisation via our Disability Advice Network, comprising paid staff and key volunteers who are able to provide advice to those BB companies who work with children and young people with diagnosed impairments and disabilities. This initiative has been supported with a grant from BBC Children in Need and provides a training programme for volunteers, 'Working with Challenging Behaviour'.

In order to achieve our stated aim of delivering 'interesting, varied and challenging' programmes we have, this year, launched the entire programme and awards structure for the under 11's (Anchor and Junior Sections). Work has started on the new programme for the over 11's (Company and Senior Sections) which will be ready for Spring 2007.

The Moderator of the Church of Scotland paid her annual visit to Carronvale House. She received a cheque for £14,000 on behalf of the Church of Scotland/Boys' Brigade World Mission Fund at the presentation ceremony hosted by Dundee, Angus & District Battalion.

Moderator's visit.



Expedition

Members of 2nd Turriff Company pose on top of Ben Macdui during an expedition.

1st Troon Company Pipeband were winners of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Scottish Championships held in Dumbarton and second in the European Championships.



Band Championship

BB Bands from Central Scotland beat retreat at Edinburgh Castle before a large audience of BB supporters and tourists.



Beating Retreat

Membership Statistics 2004-2005

| | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| Total Boys | 58,267 |
| Total Leaders in companies | 11,662 |
| Boys | |
| Anchor | 19,073 |
| Junior Section | 19,759 |
| Company Section | 13,562 |
| Senior Section | 5,873 |

Leaders in Companies

| | |
|--|-------|
| Officers | 7,219 |
| Chaplains | 1,190 |
| Warrant Officers | 2,004 |
| Instructors/Helpers | 1,018 |
| District/Battalion Office Bearers & Reserve Officers | 612 |

Total All Ranks 69,929

Denominations

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| | No of Boys |
| Anglican | 195 |
| Baptist | 184 |
| Congregational | 25 |
| Methodist | 390 |
| Presbyterian | 682 |
| URC | 92 |
| Multi-denominational | 51 |
| Other | 28 |
| Undefined | 25 |
| Total | 1,672 |

Quotes

Queen's Badge

'Queen's Badge service does not just benefit the company but the individual as well. I have applied my leadership skills to other situations including applications to universities and my church youth group. It is a privilege to be a BB leader and being charged with the delivery of the BB's object'.

(Gareth Kerr, 1st Dromara Company)

Millennium Volunteers

'MV has benefited me in many ways. It has boosted my confidence in working with the younger people in my company. I have also made friends through participation in the BB International Team.'

(Timothy Dawson, 39th Nottingham Company).

(Youth Participation

'I am convinced that participation is one of the Brigade's greatest strengths and the challenge is there for boys and officers alike at all levels.'

(Duncan Hepburn, 1st Kirkliston Company).

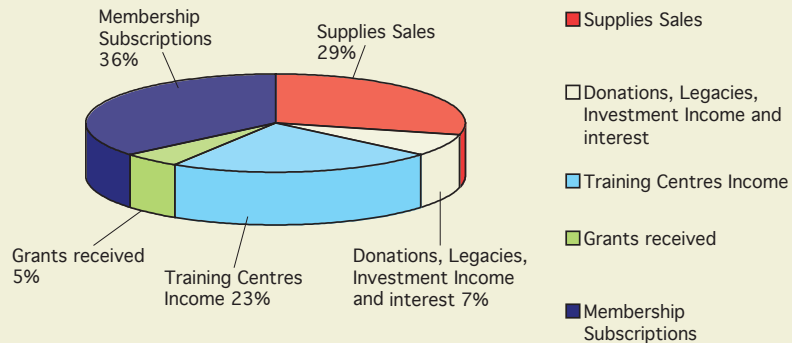
'At all levels boys enjoy the right to participate in decisions and express an opinion. Allowing them responsibility will ensure that we continue to offer a varied, relevant and enjoyable programme.'

(Alan Meikle, 41st Edinburgh Company)

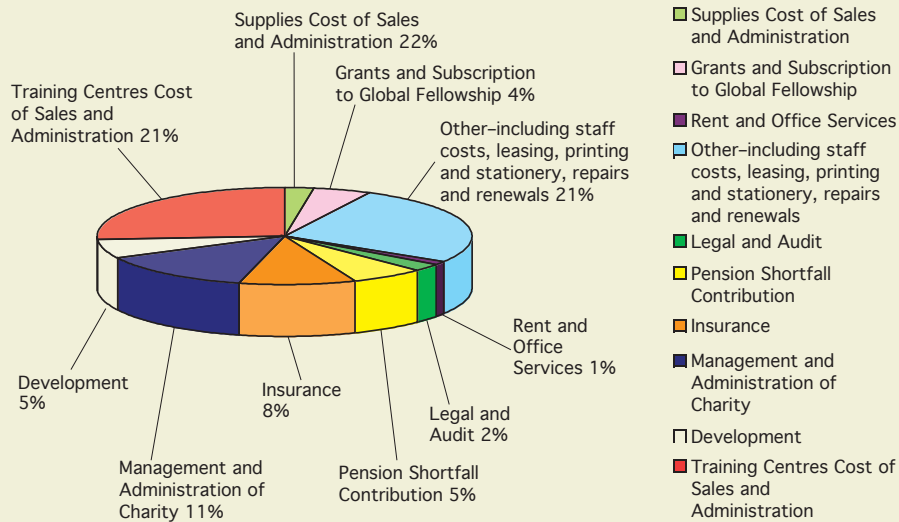


Can you help us?

Income 2004-2005



Expenditure 2004-2005



Practically

Each year companies close through lack of volunteer leaders. Boys are then lost to the Brigade and the wider church family. Have you some time you could share with your local company? The time commitment required will vary greatly – you may have a skill you could share with a group just for a few sessions. Full support and training is given to all of our volunteers. For details of a local group contact: 01442 231681 or enquiries@boys-brigade.org.uk

Prayerfully

Each week thousands of young people come into the church environment through the activities of The Boys' Brigade. Many have no other connection with the church. The support of prayer for leaders and members is vital in our ongoing commitment to advance Christ's Kingdom. There are also details of specific projects that you may wish to pray for on our website.

Financially

The Boys' Brigade is mainly dependent on raising finances through its membership. We do not feel that we can ask more of those that give so freely of their time week by week. With greater financial resources, the Brigade could offer more support to its companies and expand its work to attract more young people into the life of the church. Can you help by means of a single donation or through a regular financial giving? If you are able, please complete the form below. Details of our Associate membership are also available.

I would like to make a donation of £.....

(Cheques to be made payable to: The Boys' Brigade)

Name

Address

..... Postcode.....

Gift Aid declaration: I wish to treat as Gift Aid all donations, which I make from the date of this declaration. I confirm that I pay an amount of income tax or capital gains at least equal to that of the amount The Boys' Brigade reclaims on my donations. Please tick

Please return to The Boys' Brigade, Felden Lodge, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP3 OBL



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