

# London News



Sept 2008

## The Met meets the BB



Beating Retreat , held on Saturday 5th July, was at the Royal Hospital Chelsea with very surprisingly dry day. We were immensely pleased to have Sir Ian Blair as our special guest of honour and he was joined by Mayors and Representatives from over 20 London Boroughs , London Livery Companies. 100 Group and other distinguished Guests.



17 Boys were awarded their Queens Badge at the event. Presentations included the William Smoker Bible Quiz Trophy, and the new Company Section Bible Quiz Trophy which is sponsored by Richard Davies.

The displays included an interesting demonstration of fencing, the West London Gym Team, and a musical drill item from guests 11th Northampton.



It would not have been complete without old favourites such as the Pacemakers, 5th Croydon Pipers and London Massed Bugle Band. Thank you to all those who took part and helped organise and run the day.

The Planning for the 2009 Beating Retreat event has already started. We are looking for new items particularly from Companies not normally represented. Please contact Jan Longhurst at the London District Office for further information

# Competitions 2008/2009

The London District Competitions provide Companies with the opportunity to compete with other Companies in challenges

The following competitions have been arranged for the 2008-2009 session. For details contact the London District Office for more information. Please note where there are no details on a competition, it means the convenor has not yet organised the events, and would suggest you contact Derek Nicholls for queries on 020 8575 0236.

The competitions for session 2008/2009 are:

- |                              |                                  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Junior Section Bible Quiz  | Company based 8—22 March 2009    |
| • Company Section Bible Quiz | Company based 8—22 March 2009    |
| • PR Games                   | Company based 1 - 28 Feb 2009    |
| • Cross Country              | 7 February 2009 - Greenwich Park |
| • Ten Pin Bowling            | 29 April 2009 - Bromley          |
| • Band                       | Date/Venue TBA                   |
| • Drill                      | Date/Venue TBA                   |
| • Colours                    | Date/Venue TBA                   |

## New Company

We would like to welcome the 15th West Kent Company at Thamesmead who have recently started up. We would like, on behalf of the London District, to wish them all good luck with the company.



## YOU?



We are really pleased to tell you about an exciting new project that London District has become involved in. The project is called YOU – Youth Organisations Uniform. It is an initiative thought up by Sgt Curran in the Metropolitan Police who is himself a youth volunteer leader. The project was piloted in Croydon earlier in and the Battalion took part. The project aims are:

Provide an umbrella for all the youth organisations that wear a uniform by direct contact with schools though dialogue, presentations and promotional material.

Capture the imagination of young people through contact with dynamic uniformed organisations.

Engaging young people and diverting them from the Criminal Justice system.

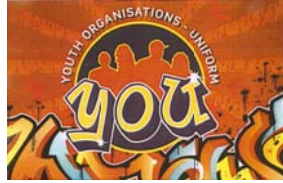
Provide sponsorship and advertising to all that are part of the scheme through a partnership approach, including businesses, the Mayors' Office, Local Councils and the MPS using the pilot scheme developed in Croydon.

Project YOU partners include; Air Training Corps, Army Cadet Force, Boys Brigade, Girl Guides, Scouts, Sea Cadet Corps, St John Ambulance and Volunteer Police Cadets. It will:

Provide publicity to this project by way of posters in schools, community groups, buses, other public transport, town centres, libraries and other strategic points identified by the Safer Neighbourhood Teams, also promoting them in faith groups, BME groups, parents, business and other strategic partners. The project will be actively promoting adult volunteering and going into colleges and universities, and will aim to organise promotional and fun events both in local areas and across London. One of the first things being proposed is a inter-organization competition day and a weekend camp.

### Contributions

Please send your contributions for this newsletter by post to London District Boys' Brigade, Felden Lodge, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP3 0BL or email [admin@london-districtbb.co.uk](mailto:admin@london-districtbb.co.uk). **NB:** The editor does reserve the right to amend or exclude articles



This project is potentially one of the most important things for us to get involved in for some years. The Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police will be signing the Agreement, and has provided some £4m funding to support the project, and is attracting corporate sponsorship from large multi national companies.

There is no financial cost to the organizations involved. All publicity materials and activities will be funded. We recently gave a presentation to all 32 London Borough Neighbourhood teams about the BB. We have all been invited to give a presentation to HRH the Prince of Wales in the Autumn and the London Assembly and are currently putting together a small group from London BB to do this. The Prince of Wales has pledged his support and is discussing a special event later in the session. There will be a formal media launch across London in 2009 and we will have some of our members there to take part in the launch.

**We are very excited about this project and the potential for us in London! This project will promote the work you do locally in all your local schools. Every secondary school attendee will receive a special card with London BB contact details on. There will also be talks and a film shown in the schools. It is expected it will be rolled out to Primary Schools late in 2009.**

**We need you to be willing to get to know your local Met Police co-ordinator for the project and get involved in any local events that are organized for your young people.**

**Your benefits will be raising the profile of your group, recruiting new members and potentially recruiting new leaders. Additionally the project aims to bring all our organizations together to work and have fun together and to share resources. There are some real opportunities to give our members the chance to experience new activities that are on offer such as those offered by the cadet forces, and to share training opportunities.**

**I am coming to all Battalions to give a talk on the project in the coming months and to answer your questions. If you want to know more about it - Let me know!**



Working together for a safer London

## LONDON DISTRICT CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2008-2009

<b>Sep-08</b>		Sat 29th Nov	Jack Petchey Awards Wesleys Chapel
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup>	Brigade Council (Edinburgh)	<b>Dec-08</b>	
Thu 18 <sup>th</sup>	Challenge Plus Launch North London		
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup>	President's Committee Wesley's Chapel		
Sat 27 <sup>th</sup>	Leadership 4 Hounslow		
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup>	Challenge Plus Launch South London	<b>Jan-09</b>	
<b>Oct-08</b>			
Sat 11 <sup>th</sup>	Programming Training Enfield		
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup>	YLT 6th West Kent		
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup>	Leadership 3 Croydon		
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup>	YLT 6th West Kent	<b>Feb-09</b>	
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	Founder's Day St Paul's	Sun 1st —28th Feb	P R Games in own HQ
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup>	YLT 6th West Kent	Sat 7th	Cross Country Competition Greenwich Park
<b>Nov-08</b>			
Tue 4 <sup>th</sup>	London Council		
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup>	Lord Mayor's Show		

PLEASE KEEP THIS CALENDAR FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

<b>Mar-09</b>		<b>May-09</b>	
	Newsletter	Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup>	Firm Foundations 2009
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup>	Team Building Day Bromley Battalion		
Sun 8th to 22nd	Junior Sections and Company Section Bible Quiz at own HQ		
		<b>Jun-09</b>	
			Newsletter
		Sat 27 <sup>th</sup>	Beating Retreat
		<b>Jul-09</b>	
<b>Apr-09</b>			
Fri 24-26 <sup>th</sup>	Queen's Badge Completion Course -Felden Lodge		
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup>	Ten Pin Bowling Orpington Super Bowl		

## Training Matters !!!

### General

We are enclosing with this issue a list of training dates arranged so far. We expect there to be other training events later in the session and will respond to any requests for specific types of training where required, including running Youth Leader Training locally.



### Queens Badge Completion

You will see we have booked the usual Queens Badge Completion weekend at Felden Lodge for the 24-26<sup>th</sup> April 2009. Could I encourage you to get your lads booked onto this early. We always have a waiting list for this course, as it is opened out to BB nationally, and is always full. Many lads really enjoy the bonus opportunity to receive certificates at Beating Retreat at Chelsea. I have this year had many comments from Queensmen who were presented by their local Battalion official saying they wish they could have come to Chelsea instead!

### KGVI

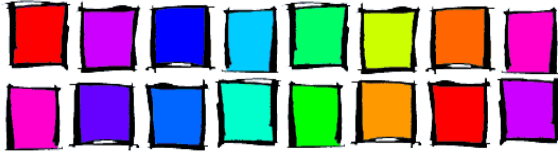
On the subject of training young men – why do young leaders from London not come on KGVI? I have had the immense privilege of being on the staff of KGVI the past 2 years and have only had one lad from London each year. You are missing giving your young leaders one of the greatest weeks of their lives. The lads get so much from spending a weeks residential together learning leadership skills, worshipping, taking on challenges, and building friendships that last for life. Our year group are now planning a weekend reunion camp next summer they enjoyed it so much. Come ON – tell your young leaders about it!

## Money Matters Too!!!

London District needs to raise funds to keep providing services to Companies and Battalions. We do not receive any funding from BB nationally and anything you send to BBHQ does not support the work we do in London. If we do not raise substantial funds over the coming year, we may not be able to continue. We are currently making applications to Trusts and Foundations, but this funding will be to provide development officers to support existing companies and to encourage the development of new companies, which is what you have told us you need. We need to raise an additional £30,000 in the coming year, just to keep the District office as it is without additional staff.

The work done by 1.5 paid people and 1 volunteer currently is as follows : Regular information by email, general mailing and Newsletters, Website, Telephone, email and visiting support and advice to Leaders, Developing new companies, Locally provided training , Events, Beating Retreat, Jack Petchey Award Scheme giving £75,000 to all London Companies, Competitions, Special BB events, liaison with National BB and Stedfast, Information provision to Parents and Carers, Promotion of the BB in London, Archive Queries.





## Jack Petchey Awards

This years award ceremony will take place on Sat 29th November at 3.30pm at Wesleys Chapel, 49 City Road, London EC1Y 1AU. If you would like to attend please apply for a ticket to the London District Office. The Brigade Secretary has kindly agreed to make the Presentations as part of our 125 celebrations.

Please note that all young people and leaders who have been nominated or received an award from session Sept 2007 to June 2008 must attend this ceremony as part of the conditions of the awards. No awards or medallions will be presented at any other time and if young people do not attend they will not receive their medallion, if nominated leaders do not attend they will not receive their cheque or medallion. These are the Foundation rules and we cannot do anything to make any exceptions.

## London Council 2008

The Boys' Brigade  
London Council meets  
on Tuesday 4th  
November 2008  
From 7pm at  
Wesleys Chapel  
Hope to see you there



### Money Matters Cont:

#### **Here is the challenge to Battalions, Companies and Individuals.**

If you are a **Company** :

Please consider the amount you give as your company donation this year, in relation to the benefits your company has received this year. If you have not had any benefit at all then fair enough – give what you can, and tell us what help you need. If you have benefited, just stop for a minute and consider how much that has cost, in time and resources, and make an appropriate donation.

If you are a **Battalion**:

Please consider how the Battalion as a whole has benefited from the activities of London District. Many Battalions have funds, but do not give a donation to us. Please consider this year providing us with some support. One London Battalion very recently agreed and gave us a donation of £500. If more Battalions helped in this way we would not be concerned about finances.

If you are an **Individual** :

**Please consider what you have had from BB. I know so many of you give back more than you have every received in time, energy, skills and money. The 100 Group is the best way individuals can help us. Give us a regular donation each year of £100 and wear the badge with pride! Show everyone how you are doing your bit to ensure that the BB is strong in London. There is a form inside to complete, fill in it and send it off and let us know you want us to go on giving young people the best time they can have.**

# Celebration Day Chatham Dockyard 31 May 2008

On a sunny day (yes—we did have one or two!) at the end of May 2008 the BB descended on Kent in their hundreds and celebrated the 125 in style.

The LSA provided an excellent day of celebrations and activities that all could enjoy and feel proud of. The Historic Dockyard in Chatham did us proud, welcoming everyone to their museum and exhibitions and supporting the planning process wholeheartedly over the previous 12 months.



We understand that there were in the region of 3500 people attending on that day, a major increase on their attendance on a normal Saturday. The BB and Stedfast Associations provided bands of all ages, abilities and styles to listen to, gymnastics displays and static displays, and had BB visitors and participants from as far away as Germany and Eire.

London District would like to publicly say well done and a huge thankyou to the LSA who organised the day and did a massive amount of work to make it a day to enjoy and be proud to be a member of the Boys' Brigade in our 125th year.



## Trooping the Colour

Once again The London District were invited to attend the Queens Trooping the Colour Ceremony in

Central London. Over 300 boys and leaders attended the event on Saturday 14th June. It was good to see the BB boys amongst the Scouts and



Guides at such a splendid pageant. We were fortunate on our 125th Anniversary of the BB that Tom Boorman and some lads from the 10th London were interviewed by the Claire Balding from BBC giving the BB some excellent national TV publicity. And to top it all the flypast over St James Park was brilliant!

## Contact us

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