

The Boys' Brigade

East Antrim Battalion

Minute of the Executive Meeting

5th October 2009 in 2nd Carrickfergus Church Halls

1. **Welcome & Opening Devotions.** The President, Mr. Drew Buchanan, M.B.E, occupied the chair, welcomed everyone and conducted our opening devotions.

2. **Attendance & Apologies.** Present were D. Buchanan. S. Lindsay, C. Bell, K. Hogg, A. McDowell, M.McAdoo, G. Armstrong and F. Picton. Apologies were received from Rev. C. McClure and D. Hoy.

3. **Minute of previous meeting.** The Minute of the previous meeting had been circulated with the notice of the meeting and the President asked if all was in order. The Minute was confirmed and signed.

4. **Section Matters.** (A) Anchor Section – There was nothing to report. (B) Junior Section. 1st Larne won the Quiz Kids on Friday night past. (C) The numbers entering the C.E.Exam had decreased and the process of a Battalion Exam needs to be reviewed. Agreed that this should be discussed by the C.S. Council in November.

5. **Company Visitations.** The following programme of visitations was proposed.
1st I'Magee - F.Picton and J.Brown:

4th Carrick - G. Armstrong and S. Lindsay 1st Carrick - D. Buchanan

1st Ballyclare - D. Hoy and M.MJcAdoo

8th Carrick - A. McDowell and K. Hogg

6. **Training Issues.** (a) **Battalion** S. Lindsay reported that the first Leadership Skills course will be held in Oct/Nov in Ballyclare and he was looking for a venue in Carrickfergus for the second course in the new year. Working with 4 yr olds can be done along with the YLT course. New changes to Queen's Badge

regulations. Course on these in Carrick on 13th November. NVQ are now available to the Boys' Brigade. Youth work levels 2 & 3, Playwork levels 2 & 3, Assessors/Verifiers levels 3 & 4. The NID would like churches to take the lead in getting people involved. (b) **NID** NID Training Committee want to find out which Companies are using the Discover and Challenge + schemes. BTO training – NID have no budget for this and Battalions are being asked to consider covering the cost of approx £60 per BTO. The D of E booklets are now going online. Colin Miller has produced some new material on disability which are now on the B.B. website.

7. **Discussion on “The way ahead for our Battalion”** We reviewed the answers received from the Captains questionnaire we sent out last session. The Captains seem happy to take what the Battalion is doing but we need to get feedback from the Companies regarding Battalion non-competitive events. Felt we could consider a Chaplain's breakfast to try to encourage the Chaplains to take a greater part in Company and Battalion events. If we want to look at a recruitment drive we need to have a special focus on each main geographical area.

8. **Any other business.** (a) Rathmore House – The Sandford Room needs to be painted but our money for this is tied up in the PMS. Secretary and Treasurer to see what help we can give. (b) The new Methodist Church is due to open next Summer and it was felt that it might be appropriate to ask 1st Carrick Company if they would consider hosting the Officers Dedication Service next September. (c) Website we should consider developing the resource side of the Battalion website. Ideas for displays etc could be put here for others to share. (d) The ezine has now 112 officers signed

9. **Benediction.** There being no further business the President conclude the meeting by inviting all to stand and say The Grace together.

Signed _____
date _____