

annual review 2010 – 2011



THE BOYS'
BRIGADE
> the adventure begins here



The Boys' Brigade continues to play a significant role in the mission and outreach of 1500 churches throughout the British Isles. Each week dedicated adult volunteers work with over 50,000 children and young people building positive relationships seeking to share the Gospel in a relevant and meaningful way.



The Boys' Brigade at the Queen's Garden Party, Buckingham Palace

This Annual Review shares just a small amount of that ongoing work. To see the BB in action, visit your local Company.

The President reflects...

The 2010/11 session saw the retirement of Sir Kenneth Calman KCB as Brigade President. Sir Kenneth had served with distinction for four years and here he reflects on his time in office.

"The adventure starts here! That was the message that greeted me when I became President a few years ago. What I didn't realise was that it was about me too! And what an adventure it has been. As well as being both an honour and a privilege, it has been great fun and a real adventure. I have met wonderful officers and young people, with their friends and families who continue to work for The Boys' Brigade across the world.

I was born (a long time ago!) within a few miles of where William Alexander Smith set up the first BB company in 1883. My father, uncle, cousins, and my son have all been involved, as has been my wife. She was the leader of a Junior Section in Glasgow and a National Training Officer. I suppose it's in my genes.

Over the last few years I have seen how the Brigade has changed and developed, and it's not for the first time that the Uniform has changed. I still have my pill box and haversack. There is so much more for members to do, yet it still retains its purpose; the promotion of habits of obedience reverence, discipline and self-respect, and all that tends towards true Christian manliness."

Kenneth Calman



"The Boys' Brigade remains an organisation with a purpose. It is still needed more than 125 years on to promote Christ's Kingdom amongst Boys. Let the adventure continue!"

The highlights of the last few years have been many, and here are just a few to illustrate just how exciting it has been.

- Attendance at Queen's Badge ceremonies. What a remarkable range of young men. The ceremonies took me back to my own Queen's Badge award evening many years before.
- Personally presenting the President's Badge to an outstanding group of boys and being involved in the approval of President's Commendations to young people who have made such a difference or faced real personal difficulties which they have overcome.
- Being part of the 125th Anniversary celebrations. What a year! From the opening of the BB National Memorial Garden in Lichfield to the service in Glasgow Cathedral, the dinner in the House of Lords and the amazing Tattoo in Glasgow.
- The King George VI courses for young people looking for leadership roles. My attendance at a Firm Foundations event at Felden Lodge, though someone should have told me to bring wellies! And of course the National Indoor Bowling Competition in Dunstable, how could I forget that.
- My last event as President was to attend the 125th BB camp with the 1st Glasgow Company in Tighnabruich. Camps are so much part of the BB giving young people the chance to do different things and build up confidence and make lifelong friends.
- More than anything it has been meeting leaders and members in Companies and seeing how much work goes into every evening and event. Our staff are volunteers, and though it may not help to say it- volunteering improves your health! Millions of boys across the years have been grateful to the help and support of such dedicated staff and helpers. Like me this has often been a family affair, and I would like to pay tribute to all those hard working relatives and friends. I hope that those coming through the BB will continue to want to become officers to help future generations.

The Year in Pictures



Scottish Seniors' Activities

Seniors in Scotland had the opportunity to take part in a variety of activities including a visit to Berlin and a sailing adventure with the Ocean Youth Trust.

Cooking Bus

Boys from Hamilton and District Battalion and 2/4 Motherwell made good use of the Scottish Government's Cooking Bus as part of a project partnering the BB with NHS Scotland.



Royal Yacht Britannia Dinner

A very successful fundraising dinner was held on board the Royal Yacht Britannia and over £10,000 was raised to support development work in Scotland.

Remembrance Sunday

Members from across the UK and R of I paraded at the National Service of Remembrance in Whitehall in November



125th anniversary of Camping

2011 marks the 125th anniversary of the first BB Camp in 1886 when the Founder took the boys of 1st Glasgow to Tighnabruich. Companies throughout the Brigade have been celebrating the event with camps and residentials and each member attending could receive the special souvenir badge.



Get up and Go 2011

During the year the Brigade launched opportunities for Companies to become involved in the work of three national charities – Asthma UK, WWF and Barnardo's. The aims of Get Up and Go are to raise awareness, raise money and to get involved.

Cashback for Communities

Companies across Scotland have been able to benefit from small grants of up to £2,000 made available from the Government's Cashback scheme which reinvests money from the proceeds of crime into volunteer-led youth organisations.



Firm Foundations

Around 750 young people and leaders attended the festival at Felden Lodge in May. The event focussed on how Jesus, through the Bible, has relevant things to say on current issues and encouraged young people to explore their Bibles regularly. As well as worship and seminars there was a wide range of activity and entertainment.

Turning Point

In its fifth year of ministry, Turning Point at Belfast Battalion's activity centre at Ganaway was a fantastic weekend of worship, activities and challenge for young people and their leaders. The theme explored "stepping out of the boat" and encouraged all to take that step of faith in trusting Jesus.



Prime Minister's Visit

The Prime Minister was the Guest of Honour at the Annual Display of the 1st Witney Company. Mr Cameron is the local MP and spoke of the BB as an organisation that gives hope and confidence to its members.

The Royal Wedding

250 members from across the Regions joined in the celebrations in London in April. There were some very early starts on the day, whilst others made it into a weekend to remember.



National Competitions

National competitions are held each session to add to Company programmes and give members a picture of the wider Brigade.



Badminton Winners - 1st Letterkenny



Masterteam Winners - 2nd Bracknell



Junior 5-A-Side Winners - 1st Ardstraw



Table Tennis Final Winners 44th Glasgow

Chess Winners 1st Knocknamuckley

National Band competitions were held in Scotland and England and showcased the very talented young people of the Brigade.



Each year around 50 young people commit to further leadership within the BB by attending the King George VI Scheme held at Felden (England), Carronvale (Scotland) and Rathmore (Northern Ireland). Here one young man reflects on his time in the BB and why he wants to continue to serve.



KGVI Course at Rathmore House (Northern Ireland Region) 2011

I joined BB at the age of four. At the time I really didn't know what was going on, I'd just begun Primary School and this was yet another new thing that terrified me. I vaguely remember my first night, but one thing that still sticks with



KGVI Course at Carronvale House (Scotland Region) 2011

me is not being able to wait for my next night of BB - I was hooked, even from the beginning. I went through the three sections, progressing and gaining essential life skills along the way. As I came to the end of my time as a boy in the company I gained my Queen's Badge, which has been my proudest achievement in life. More importantly, the award gave me the realisation that I wanted to give something back to the BB for all that it has given me.

This is where the KGVI Course came in and, having recently completed the two weeks I can say that the two weeks spent were the most enjoyable I have ever had. The people

I met, the skills I gained and the laughs along the way made the two weeks for me. I cannot recommend the course enough as it has equipped me in so many ways, both in working with young people and finding out who I am as a person. Throughout my life I've experienced many changes and BB has stood by me the entire time and without it I know I wouldn't have become the person I am today. As a Christian, BB is a vital part of my spiritual life. By going through from the age of four, it has played a major role in me becoming a Christian and without it there I would have found it very difficult to take that extra step. The words in the object have become real for me and I am truly thankful that I have been involved in BB, but much more thankful for what it has given me in return.

Andrew McNeill 1st Spa Company



Patron:
HM THE QUEEN
Vice Patron:
THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

President:
Professor Sir Kenneth Calman KCB

Brigade Secretary / Chief Executive:
Mr Steve Dickinson

Object:
THE ADVANCEMENT OF CHRIST'S
KINGDOM AMONG BOYS AND THE
PROMOTION OF HABITS OF
OBEDIENCE, REVERENCE,
DISCIPLINE, SELF-RESPECT
AND ALL THAT TENDS TOWARDS
A TRUE CHRISTIAN MANLINESS

Motto:
SURE & STEADFAST
Hebrews, Chapter 6 v19

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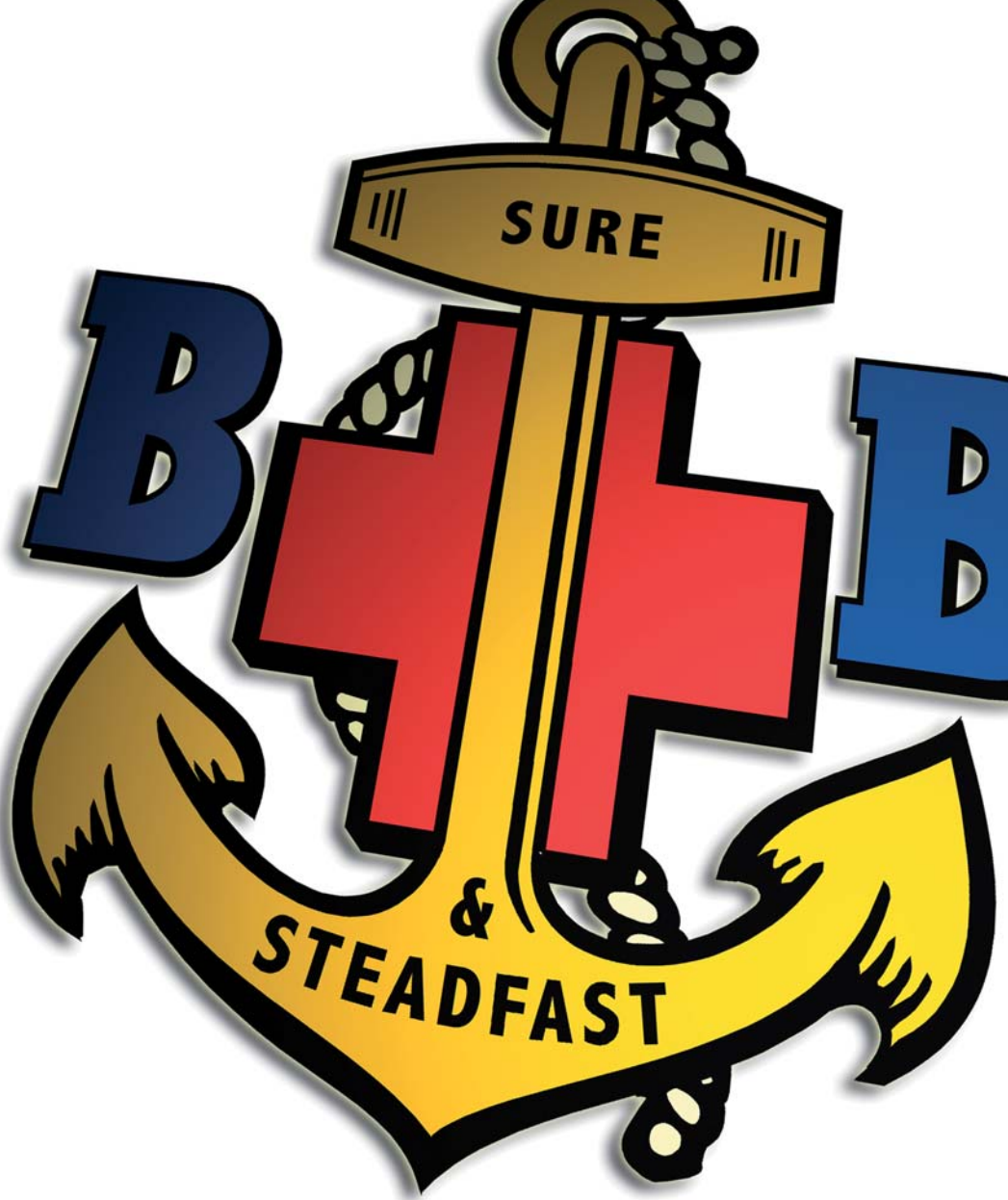
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