



Note & Sketch Book

NAME SEA GULL PATROL LOG
DATE EASTER CAMP 1964

see the name • it's the mark of value
winfield

EPSON Software

SEAGULL PATROL LOG

Copied verbatim from the log. Additional comments added by the compiler are in italics



Figure 1 Lesser Black-Backed Gull.

70th Renfrewshire Scouts
Easter Camp 1964
Friday 3rd April-Wednesday 8th April

Oakfield
Dunfallandy Estate
Pitlochry
Perthshire

Seagull Patrol
Michael Nisbet
Gifford Lind
Andrew Pearson
Peter Robertson
John Martin

Friday 3rd April 1964

We all met in Gourrock station and after loading on the gear we got on the train ourselves, which, by the way, was the 8.5 am train. We got to Glasgow Central where we got a BR truck, which took the gear to the Buchanan Street station¹, where we caught the train to Pitlochry (*Figure 2*), where we got a lorry² to take us to our campsite³, where we put up our tents. We had the new Icelandic tent which has three poles, one at each end and one in the middle. We also put up our kitchens in which we soon had tea made⁴. We had a game of some football after which we had some cocoa made on Bob's⁵ altar fire⁶. After that we turned in.

Signed John Martin

Well done John and Peter⁷ – an excellent O.E.⁸ Keep it up - A.B. Cram⁹
ASM 4/4/64

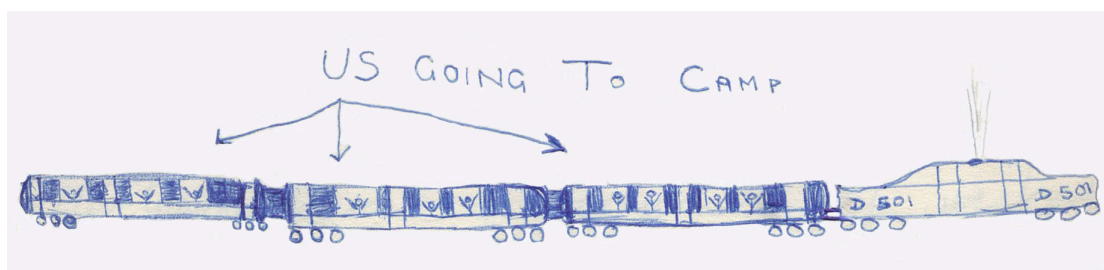


Figure 2 Train to Pitlochry (Us going to camp)



Figure 3 At camp (Us at camp).

Editorial notes for 3rd April 1964

1. Buchanan Street Railway station was constructed in 1849 by the Caledonian Railway Company as its main terminus in Glasgow with services to Aberdeen, Perth and Stirling. The station closed in 1966 as a result of the Beeching Plan and the buildings were demolished in 1967.
2. In the 1960s, it was acceptable for Scouts to ride in the back of a lorry along with the equipment.

3. *The same campsite was used as in 1961 and in 1977. The campsite was south of Pitlochry and on the west side of Loch Tummel, between the road to Balinluig and the River Tummell*
4. *At 70th Summer and Easter Camps, each Patrol set up its own patrol site and cooked all its meals over wood fires.*
5. *Scout Master Bob Miller*
6. *An altar fire involved a building a wooden platform that would allow a fire to be built at waist height. This made it easier to cook meals and to keep the fire going. It was important to put a layer of mud or overturned turf on the platform to prevent the platform itself catching fire. Bob Miller may have been responsible for introducing the concept of altar fires to the 70th.*
7. *John Martin wrote the log entry. Peter Robertson provided a couple of diagrams*
8. *Meaning unclear*
9. *ASM Alastair Cram was one of the Scouters at the camp. Scoutmaster Bob Miller was also present. Photographs also indicate that John Nisbet was present, as well as Troop Leader Ian Fraser.*

Saturday 4th April 1964

We lined up at three whistles¹⁰ and as we were duty patrol¹¹ Y.N.¹² broke the flag after which we fell-out for inspection¹³. After the inspection of everyone's tents, we had a game of hoop-stick¹⁴ (*Figure 4*), which shortly was abandoned and a game of football was started.¹⁵

The Scouters had made an oven for to bake in (*Figure 5*)¹⁵ and Herring¹⁶ made a cake, but the oven was too hot and the cake was left too long ... result ... one burnt cake.

Next, Gifford¹⁷, our second, tried his luck at the cake baking and succeeded, I think.

All this time, there was a transporter¹⁸ being built (*Figure 6*), but it was too slack at first and, when you got to the middle, you stopped. We fixed size¹⁹ onto the chair so that you could pull it across and back.

After tea, we walked to the pictures²⁰ to see 'The Fast Lady'²¹ - an extra favourite²² film. When we came back along that dark lonely road²³, we walked faster than we would have, had it been daytime. When I got into pit²⁴, I did not stay awake long.

Signed A. Pearson²⁵

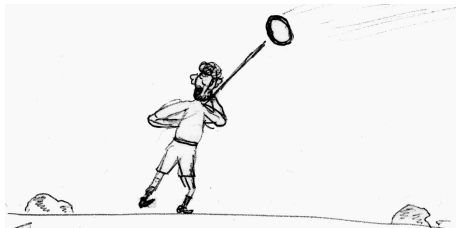


Figure 4 Ringstick (hoopstick)¹⁴



Figure 5 The Oven¹⁵

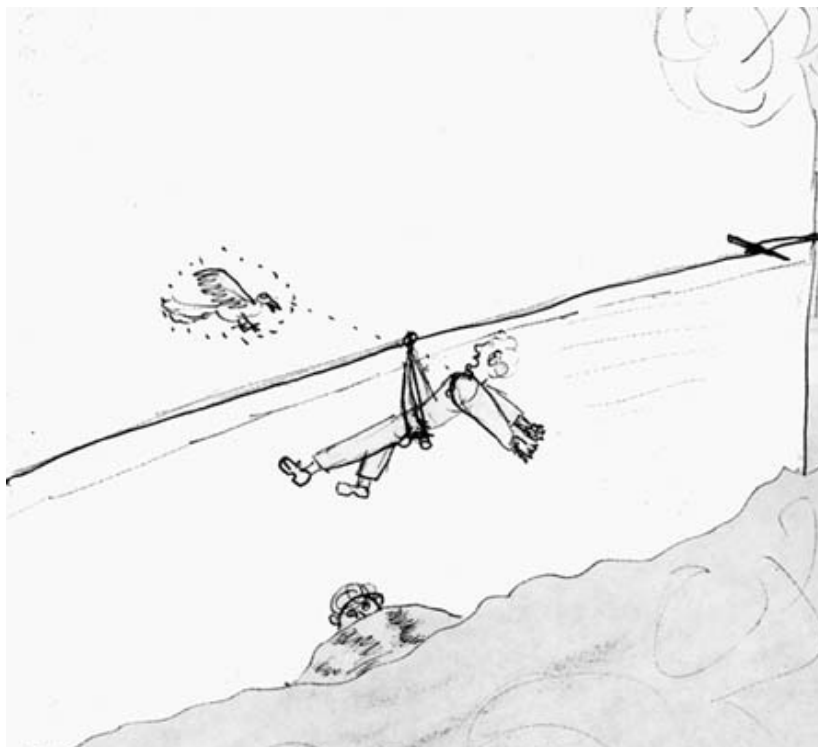


Figure 6 The Transporter.¹⁸

Xtra brilliant

A.B. Cram⁹ ASM 5/4/64

Editorial notes for 4th April 1964

10. *Three whistles were the recognized signal for the patrols to line up at the flagpole.*
11. *The duty patrol was responsible for breaking the flag in the morning and lowering it at night. There were also general camp duties to be carried out.*
12. *Michael Nisbet's nickname was Niz or Nizzy or Young Niz (YN), to distinguish him from his older brother John who was also called Niz. Michael was PL of the Seagull Patrol in camp and in the troop.*
13. *Inspection was held each morning after flagbreak, by which time the patrols should have finished breakfast and tidied up. The patrol tent and contents were inspected for tidiness, while the kitchen shelter was inspected to ensure that dishes and cooking utensils have been properly washed up. Points were also awarded for any gadgets that had been constructed. It is possible that the Scouts themselves were inspected to ensure that they had washed (especially hands).*
14. *Hoopstick was also called ringstick. It was played between two teams. Each team had a 'catcher' at opposite ends of the pitch. The catcher had a stick and the aim was for his team to throw a rubber ring onto the stick. The catcher could move the stick to catch the ring, but was not allowed to handle the ring or put it on the stick himself.*
15. *This involved a metal cake tin being used as the oven. The cake tin was set on its side and covered in earth and mud (apart from the lid which acted as the oven door). A trench was dug underneath the oven for the fire, and empty food tins were used to fashion a chimney at the back of the fire, thus allowing a flow of air to keep the fire alight.*
16. *Herring was the nickname for Gordon Paterson, who would have been aged about 13 when he was at the Pitlochry Easter camp. It is believed that he might have been 1st Scout of the Fox Patrol during the 1963-64 session, and so it seems likely that he was in Alan Jeyes' patrol at Pitlochry. Alan was promoted to PL of the Fox Patrol at the start of the 1963-64 session. Herring probably gained his nickname as his older brother (Ian) had been nicknamed Kipper or Kippar.*
17. *Gifford Lind was aged about 14 in 1964. During the 1963-64 session he was was Second of the Seagull Patrol.*
18. *In later years, a transporter came to be known as an aerial runway. In the 1960s, the regulations were more relaxed in what was required in terms of safety features.*
19. *Sizal rope*
20. *The Pitlochry picture house is no longer in operation. It used to be near the T junction where the road east towards Bridge of Cally leaves the main road through Pitlochry. Possibly, a fitness club called 'Live Active Atholl' occupies the original building.*
21. *A 1962 British comedy film where the 'fast lady' was a vintage Bentley car. It starred Stanley Baxter, James Robertson Justice, Leslie Phillips and Julie Christie, with cameos by Dick Emery, Clive Dunn, Gerald Champion, Frankie Howerd, Bernard Cribbins, Bill Fraser, Eddie Gray, Fred Emney, John Surtees, Graham Hill and Raymond Baxter.*
22. *An expression that was commonly used on the 1960s when referring to something that was excellent.*
23. *This refers to the minor road leading south from Pitlochry to the campsite on the west side of the River Tummel.*
24. *The word 'pit' referred to bed or sleeping bag.*
25. *Andrew Pearson gained his nickname of 'Auck' at the Pitlochry Easter Camp. He was aged about 13 at the time and was a member of the Seagull Patrol during the 1963-1964 session.*

Sunday 5th April 1964

We lined up as usual at three whistles¹⁰ for inspection (uniform only), and we got 9. After that, we went to church (*Figure 7*), although it wasn't a very good service; we enjoyed the walk there and back²⁶. When we got back from church we had tent inspection for which we got 10²⁷.

For lunch, we had cold mutton and chits²⁸ and it wasn't very nice.

After that, we had a game of football. During the afternoon, I.F.²⁹ honked³⁰, and the Scouters thought it was something in the water that caused it.

For dinner at night, we had cold boiled beef, potatoes, carrots, onions, and soup (vegetable).

After that, we had another game of football, after which Gifford¹⁷ and Wiffel³¹ set a trail³² for Y.N.¹² and the rest (except me³³, Herring¹⁶ and Robert Morrison³⁴) to follow.

Wiffel and his friend³⁵ got back first and were followed closely by Y.N. and co.

Signed Peter Robertson³³

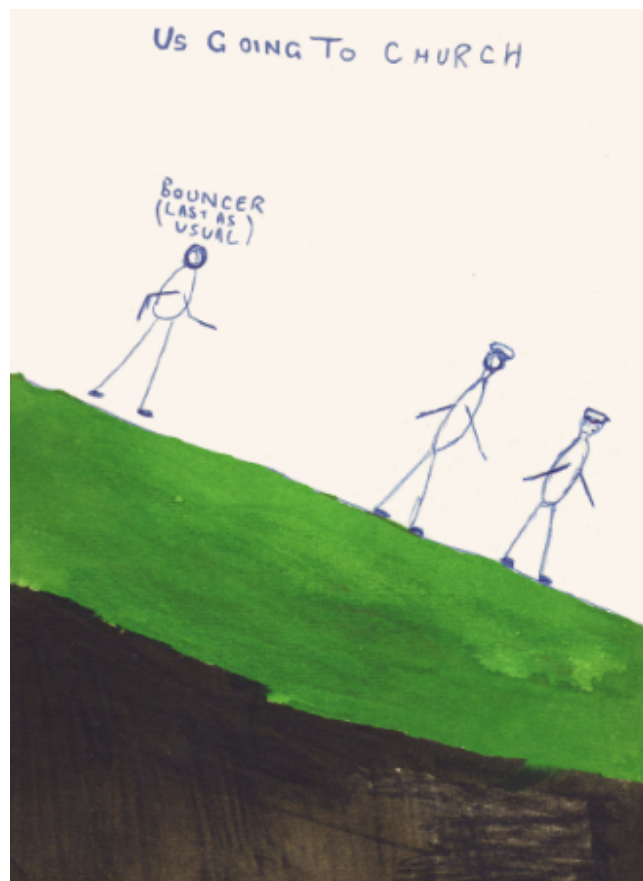


Figure7 Walking to church.

If you had stayed awake you would have enjoyed the service – it was xtra good

A.B. Cram⁹

ASM

6/4/64

Editorial notes for 5th April 1964

26. The actual church attended was not identified. One possibility is the church at Moulin just to the north of Pitlochry on the A924. There is a photograph on the web site that might be of the Scouts either walking to or from the church.

27. Tent inspection would probably have involved checking that the tent was properly pitched with the pegs of the side guys all neatly in line, the side walls vertical and the main guys not touching the roof. Inside, the kit would have been laid out neatly at one side of the tent with rucsacs at the top, then rolled up sleeping bags, and possibly wash kits and towel on top. The groundsheet at the other side of the tent would have been partially folded back and boots lined up on the grass. If it had been a good day, the side walls of the tent might have been brailed to allow air to circulate.

28. Chits referred to sandwiches or pieces of bread. The word is defined in the Scots National dictionary as a labourer's packed lunch.

29. Ian Fraser (I.F.) was Troop Leader (TL) and PL of the Falcon Patrol at the time of Easter camp. There is no evidence of him leading a patrol at Easter Camp and it is assumed that he was part of the Leader team at camp. Ian eventually resigned as TL and PL in June 1964 to join the ranks of the Scouters.

30. Vomited.

31. 'Wiffel' was the nickname for Billy Phillips (derived from **William Phillips**). He was PL of the Kingfisher Patrol and led one of the Patrols at the Pitlochry Easter Camp (possibly jointly with Alan Conway).

32. A trail was normally marked by using natural materials such as twigs leaves and stones in such a way that it was only obvious to those trying to follow it.

33. Peter Robertson was in the Seagull Patrol both at camp and in the troop. He would have been about 12 at the time of the camp

34. Robert Morrison was aged about 12 at the time and a member of the Kingfisher Patrol in the troop. He was in Billy Phillip's patrol at the Pitlochry Easter Camp..

35. Billy Phillip's 'friend' was probably John Foot, who was mentioned later in the log book. He may have lived close to Stirling, but nothing else is known about him.

Monday 6th April 1964

As usual, we got up in the morning and had a 'turdy'³⁶ rush to get ready for inspection¹³. During the 'turdy' rush, we managed to gulp down a breakfast of porridge, followed by boiled eggs and baked beans with the accompaniment of 'Ocky'³⁷ making Ocky-doodle-doo noises (*Figure 8*)³⁸. Ocky, of course, is the new name for Andrew Pearson which was officially announced yesterday.



*Figure 8 Andrew Pearson on his favourite perch*³⁸.

At inspection, we managed to scrape up 8 for uniform, 9 for the kitchen and 10 for the tent.

After inspection, we put on the steak to cook and had a game of football which was extra favourite²² for heating us up after the cold morning frost. The 'turdy' team won. The rest of the morning was devoted to Scouting activities.



Figure 9 Possibly relates to the visit to the dam.

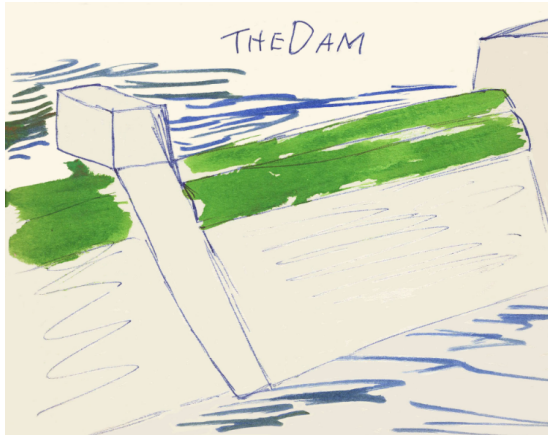


Figure 10 The Dam.

favourite watching bits of wood and other grobbles³⁹ being thrown about by the current (Figure 9 and 10).

When we arrived back from Pitlochry, we had our tea of sausages and tomatoes, tea and chits²⁸. After tea, we had a short game of football to heat us up for an extra long hike up the hill behind the camp site⁴⁰ where we had a favourite snow-fight. When we got back, there was a favourite fire on in our kitchen and the cocoa was all ready. As the cocoa was being dished out, Herring¹⁶ came rushing across with a favourite apple tart (Figure 11)⁴¹. I thought that it was the favourite⁴² but we could have done with tons more.



Figure 11 Herring's tart. ⁴¹

After campfire, we all got to pit²⁴ and dozed off immediately.

Author: Gifford Lind 2nd

I prefer 'Ocky' spelt Aucky'. The best camp log I have ever read – well done Gi(f)²
A.B.Cram ASM 7/4/64⁴³

Editorial notes for 6th April 1964

³⁶. Presumably this was used to mean 'unpleasant' or 'grotty'. It does not appear to have been commonly used in log reports.

³⁷. The preferred spelling for Andrew Pearson's nickname was actually 'Auck'.

³⁸. Andrew Pearson seemed to spend a lot of his time perched up a tree next to the Scouters kitchen [as specified on the sketch map of the campsite (Figure 16)], from which he made bird-like calls. A photograph of him on his perch is also on the website.

³⁹. Presumably means 'rubbish'. However, the word does not appear in other log reports covering the 50s or 60s and it was probably unique to the scribe (Gifford Lind).

⁴⁰. This would have been Dunfallandy Hill. The hillside was open ground during the 1960s and so the ascent would have been straightforward. Since then it has been forested.

⁴¹. This was presumably made in the camp oven.

⁴². It is clear that 'favourite' was an extra 'favourite' word as far as Gifford was concerned.

⁴³. Comment added by ASM Alastair Cram on checking the log book.

Tuesday 7th April 1964

We were all wakened at 7 AM by Nizzy⁴⁴ who told us all to get up. Peter³³ and Aucky²⁵ got up and lit the fire and cooked the porridge to pass their fire lighting and their cooking⁴⁵.

For breakfast, we had Peter's and Aucky's porridge with fried eggs and chits²⁸ and, of course, a cup of tea

At 10 a.m., the flag was broken by YN¹² as we were duty patrol¹¹. After inspection¹³, for which we got extra favourite²² marks, but we were not told them, there was the inevitable game of football which was the favourite to heat us all up. When the game was finished, we were all felled out to either do a pioneering stunt or pass tests. The A. Con.⁴⁶ led a pioneering⁴⁷ stunt and made a favourite commando bridge (*Figure 13*).

After the commando bridge was completed, we went and had our dinner of mince and potatoes and beans, followed by egg custard, and, of course, chits²⁸ and a cup of tea.

After dinner was all cleared up, we were felled in and felled out again for another game of football which was again extra favourite.

After the football, there was another pioneering stunt where YN and A. Con and a few others built a transporter¹⁸ (*Figure 13*), and John Foot³⁵ and me¹⁷ tried to make a catapult (*Figure 14*), which was not very successful. The transporter was the extra favourite up to a point. Wiffel³¹, unfortunately, being Wiffel, went down it and got stuck in the middle. Just as all the rest were ready to pull him up, there was a large twang and Wiffel landed in the mud (*Figure 15*). Unfortunately, the wee men had pulled him off the stream so he only got muddy and not wet.

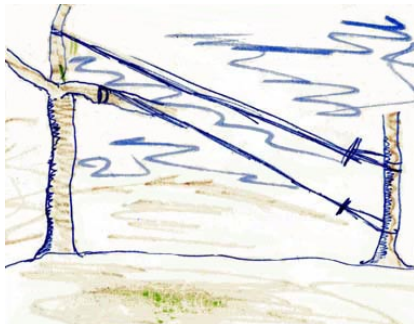


Figure 12 Commando Bridge



Figure 13 The Transporter¹⁸



Figure 14 Catapult



Figure 15 Wiffil in the mud

By that time, it was time for tea so we all went and had it. We were dished out with fish, but, unfortunately, only Nizzy¹² in our patrol liked it. So not to let the wee men and me starve, I went over and asked Big Niz⁴⁴, if we could have anything else and he gave us a tin of spiugge⁵⁰ which was scooped down immediately while Nizzy sat and stuffed himself with five herrings (fishy type)⁵¹. When tea was over, there came the task of clearing up everything in our campsite except the tent. When this was all finished, there was a short campfire and then we all got to pit²⁴.

G. Lind¹⁷

PS Map in middle (Figure 16)⁵²

Well done the Seagulls! How about a scale and N-S direction on your map (Figure 16). Nevertheless a first-class log.⁴³

A.B. Cram 8/4/64



Figure 16 Map of the campsite by John Martin^{52, 53}

Editorial notes for 7th April 1964

44. Niz or Nizzy was the nickname for ASM John Nisbet. He was sometimes called Big Niz to distinguish him from his younger brother Michael Nisbet who was often called Young Niz or YN. John was probably QM at the Pitlochry camp.

45. Fire lighting and cooking were tests that counted towards the 2nd Class badge. In the firelighting test, you were limited to two matches and were not allowed to use paper. Instead kindling such as small twigs and bark were used. The cooking normally involved making porridge or frying sausages.

46. Alan Conway would have been about 17 at the time of Easter camp and was PL of the Seal Patrol in the troop. At Pitlochry, he may well have helped Billy Phillips run a patrol.

49. Pioneering involved making structures such as gateways, towers, bridges and transporters using wooden spars tied together with rope.

50. There is no way of knowing what that was, but it seemed to be favourably received.

51. As distinct from Gordon Paterson whose nickname was Herring.

52. The sketch map provides evidence that the PLs present in camp were Michael Nisbet (YN), Alan Jeyes, Billy Phillips (Wiffil), and Alan Conway. There was no mention of a kitchen shelter for Alan Conway and a photograph suggests that Alan may have co-led a patrol with Billy Phillips. Ian Fraser was also present in camp as Troop Leader, but he probably camped with the Scouters as part of the Leader team which included Bob Miller, John Nisbet and Alastair Cram.

Other Scouts known to be present from the log book and photographs were Robert Morrison and Alex Aitkenhead in the patrol led by Billy Phillips and Alan Conway, and Gifford Lind, Andrew Pearson, Peter Robertson and John Martin in the Seagull Patrol led by Michael Nisbet. Alan Jeyes' patrol may have included George Conway, David Flockhart, Gordon Paterson and John Foot.

53. John Martin was about 12 years old in 1964. He was in the Seagull Patrol in camp but was normally in the Curlew Patrol.

Wednesday 8th April

As it was the last day of camp, the Scouters entertained the rest of the troop to breakfast at their kitchen. This meant that we had a long lie until 7:45 AM. We had our breakfast at 8 o'clock – cornflakes, egg and bacon chits²⁸, bread and jam and tea.

After a wash en masse or something, we went back to the tent, packed and then took the tent down. Unfortunately, some of the wee men were still packing when the tent descended on them (*Figure 17*).⁵⁴



*Figure 17 Striking the tent with the 'wee men' inside*⁵⁴.



Figure 18 Train journey home

Meanwhile, all the troop gear was being packed. The whole lot was packed and over at the gate at 11:30 exactly – as planned – and we ceremonially lowered the flag for the last time. While the flagpole was being dismantled, lunch was prepared of Yugoslavian corned mutton (or pork) and Hand Protector Sauce⁵⁵ – followed by jammy chits²⁸ and tins of fruit – with only one spoon; so that part of the operation took approximately 10 minutes. All the debris was buried⁵⁶ and extra food distributed.

The lorry⁵⁷ arrived at 12 o'clock as planned and all the gear loaded on. Meanwhile, a last site inspection was made and all bits of sweetie papers removed (including the one Bob picked up on Saturday morning and put down again)⁵⁸.

We didn't get such a good view on the way back⁵⁹ because we travelled in an official covered wagon. Anything lost in observation was made up for in 60^{co}.⁶⁰ We got to the station at 12:15 with half an hour to wait. When the train arrived, the guard announced that he couldn't carry all the gear because the engine would break down. But he took ours and refused to take someone else's. The train left on time and everyone was extra subdued at leaving Pitt⁶¹ for the last time. The engine didn't break down and we got to Perth on time (*Figure 18*). Again, we manhandled the gear onto a cart and got a porter to take it up in a lift for us. We arrived about half an hour later on the next platform and everyone pushed and shoved the gear out of the station across an extra unlevel crossing and onto Platform 1. When the train arrived, we had all fed our faces at the cafeteria and so we set to work once more to get the gear into the guards van. Al⁹ pronounced that the Seagulls (*Figure 19*) had won the Patrol Champs⁶² and so four of us had afternoon tea. (John Martin⁵³ unfortunately had to leave at Stirling and so could not join us)⁶³. John Foot³⁵ also took leave of us at Stirling. We arrived at Buchanan Street¹ at 4 PM, but the lorry didn't arrive until 4.50 to take us and the gear to Central Station. It was a pretty old lorry too, but, fortunately, it was an open wagon so the troop declared its support for the 'Ton⁶⁴ all the way down Renfield St. We arrived in time for the 5.20 and most of the troop got a compartment to itself & sang all the way home. Bob was at the station to meet us at 6 o'clock to carry the gear home.⁶⁵ It was unanimously agreed that it had been one of the best camps ever.

Signed M.J. Nisbet P.L.¹²

And one of the best logs ever. Especially the illustrations! Well done Nizzy, Giff, Aucky and John and Peter.^{66,67}

RK Miller SM
24/4/64



Figure 19 The Patrol Flag.

Editorial notes for 8th April 1964

54. Quite possibly this might have been done deliberately!

55. Possibly called as such to make it sound revolting?

56. *In the 60s, the camping rule regarding rubbish was BBB – Burn, Bash and Bury. This was later changed to Burn, Bash and Bin.*
57. *This was probably the same lorry that was used to get to camp.*
58. *Perhaps Bob placed a distinctive piece of paper on the ground to test whether the litter sweep was carried out efficiently.*
59. *This would refer to the lorry, which would have been an open lorry on the way to camp, but covered on the way back.*
60. *Meaning unclear*
61. *Presumably meaning Pitlochry*
62. *Championship*
63. *It was not revealed why John Martin left at Stirling. Perhaps he was being picked up by his parents for a family holiday.*
64. *Morton*
65. *A photograph of the camp showed a car, which was probably Bob Miller's. He would have driven back home and possibly carried some kit and or personnel.*
66. *Michael Nisbet, Gifford Lind, Andrew Pearson, John Martin and Peter Robertson.*
67. *Comment added by Bob Miller on reading the log book*