

70TH RENFREWSHIRE

BOY SCOUT TROOP



MINUTES

OF THE

COURT OF HONOUR

70th RENFREWSHIRE
30th GREENOCK (FINNART)
BOY SCOUT GROUP

Editorial Introduction

These minutes cover Court of Honour meetings held between the 8th May 1959 to 11th January 1962. The Court of Honour was held on a regular basis and involved the Patrol Leaders (PLs) discussing the Troop's affairs with the Scout Master (SM). Some of the Assistant Scout Masters (ASMs) were often present and, occasionally, specific Scouts might be asked to attend (as on the 8th May 1959). The meetings were usually chaired by the Troop Leader (TL), and the minutes were taken by an appointed scribe (usually one of the Patrol Leaders). During the period covered in this minutes book, the Troop Leaders were John Nisbet, Kenneth Conway, Jim Blair and Alastair Cram. The Scribes were Trevor Jones, Tommy Dow, Albert Runcie, Ian Fraser, Peter Fraser

The meetings were often held in the Session Room of Finnart Church on a Friday night after the Troop Meeting. However, some COH meetings were held in private houses. Each COH Meeting began with everyone renewing the Scout Promise.

During this period, Ian Blake was in his final year as Scout Master (resigning in December 1959). Bob Miller was an ASM when he attended the COH meetings during 1959, and was then appointed Scout Master when Ian Blake resigned. Bob then remained Scout Master until the Spring of 1966.

Other members of the Court of Honour in May 1959 (the first meeting in this book) were as follows (the dates in brackets indicate the period that they held the specified rank).

Ian McFarlane (ASM, 1956-1963)

Jim Harvey (ASM, 1957-1960)

John Nisbet (PL, 1956-1958; TL, 1958-1959; ASM 1959-1966?)

Kenneth Conway (PL, 1956-1959; TL, 1959-1960)

Brian Elliot ('Bean') (PL, 1957-1960)

Kenneth Johnson (PL, 1957-1959; ASM, 1959-1963)

Hamish Rankin ('Tweetie') (PL, 1956-1960)

Trevor Jones (PL, 1956-1960)

It is noticeable that all the PLs identified must have been promoted at a relatively young age and were already 'battle hardened' by May 1959. On the debit side, it meant that they all resigned in 1959 or 1960, just at the time that Bob Miller took over the troop from Ian Blake. As a result, Bob's first two years as Scout Master were to prove quite challenging as the Troop experienced a slump in numbers caused by a combination of older Scouts leaving and a scarcity of new recruits from the Wolf Cub Pack. The minutes reported here reflect some of those difficulties and an indication of how Bob Miller managed to tackle and overcome them.

The following are Patrol Leaders who joined the Court of Honour during the period covered in this minutes book.

Jim Blair (PL, 1959-1960; TL, 1960)

Alastair Cram (PL, 1960-1961; TL 1960-61; ASM, 1961-66)

Albert Runcie (PL, 1960-63; TL, 1962-63; ASM 1963-66?)

Stuart Scott (PL, 1959-1960)

Sandy Miller (PL, 1960-61)

Robert Harvey (PL, 1960)

Tom Dow (PL, 1960)

Ian Fraser (PL, 1960-64, TL, 1963-64; ASM, 1964-66?)

Ronald Lind (PL, 1960-63?)

Peter Fraser (PL, 1960-63)

Michael Nisbet (PL, 1961-64, ASM, 1964-66?)

John Moore (PL, 1961-63)

8th May 1959

Finnart Church, Madeira Street

Those present were:-

SM Ian Blake

ASM Bob Miller

ASM Ian McFarlane

TL John Nisbet

PLs Ken Conway, Brian Elliot, Ken Johnson, Hamish Rankin and Trevor Jones

Bob-a-Job

Alistair Nicol¹ was brought before the court² to answer for his failure to return any money for Bob-a-job³. When asked by SM Blake if he had any reasons to offer to the court he replied, "Suppose it's just lack of money; my mother refused to give me any. I was away on holiday all the time and my parents were the only people I could get money from." The SM then explained to him that every boy is expected to do his bit. It wasn't fair to let one get away with it while all the others managed to get some money and for every boy who did not return any money the troop lost three shillings.⁴

Attendance

Alistair was also charged with having the worst attendance record out of the whole troop. 12 missed attendances out of 28 which is almost 50%. ASM McFarlane remarked that each boy is capable of 90% including illnesses. Asked if he had any reasons he replied, "Och, well nothing really except I definitely couldn't come last week." SM Blake then said, "Try and do something about it. You are a second and should attend and help your PL. Try your best; you are a Scout and have taken your promise and know the laws. Scribe, will you please note that Alistair is on reprimand!"

Shannon Cup⁵

There was a suggestion that two teams should enter for the Shannon Cup, but on taking a vote, the general opinion was that one really good team should be entered. It is to be composed of four of the PL's and four boys under 14.

Shannon Cup Team The competition is to be held during weekend of 30/31 May.

PL Trevor Jones (Patrol Leader)

PL Kenneth Conway (Second)

PL "Been"⁶ Elliot

PL Kenneth Johnson

Robert Harvey

Alan Conway

Ian Fraser

Sandy Miller

Minutes

The minutes were read by PL Jones and then handed to TL John Nisbet. Nis⁷ then said, "do I sign this now" to which SM Blake yes and loaned John his pen. Tweet⁸ said that "you want a wee stamp like".

General

Bob Miller then took official leave after which there was more argument about the Shannon Cup which soon became argument about anything. PL Jones then queried if there was any more competent business and TL Nisbet closed the court.

T. Jones (PL) Scribe to the Court of Honour
J. Nisbet T.L.

Editorial notes for 8th May 1959

- 1. Alastair Nicol joined the troop in January 1956 and probably transferred from another Scout Group as he was promoted to Second of the Falcon Patrol under Hamish Rankin during October 1956. Hamish and Alistair then continued to lead the patrol for the next 3 years. Alistair's Scouting skills must have been impressive as he was a member of the 70th Patrol that came second in the Shannon Cup Competition of 1957. It is likely that he gained his 1st Class Badge but he clearly lost interest during 1959 and left the Troop at the end of May 1959 (see COH minutes for 22nd May 1959).*
- 2. As well as discussing Troop affairs, the Court of Honour had the authority to reprimand Scouts who stepped out of line, or even terminate their membership of the troop.*
- 3. In the 1960s, Scouts went round the houses of their neighbourhood asking for jobs. The 'Bob' in 'Bob-a-Job' indicated that each completed job should be rewarded with a shilling. However, most house owners gave more than that. Scouts wore full uniform during the week and were supplied with yellow stickers showing a tick. A houseowner could stick that on a window or door to stop other Scouts asking for a job. The Scouts also were given a Bob-a-Job card in which the houseowner would identify the job done and the amount paid. The card and the money raised was handed in to the troop once Bob-a-Job week was over.*
- 4. Three shillings in 1959 had the equivalent value of about £4 in 2022. This was the sum that each troop had to send to National Scout HQ for each Scout on the troop role. Any excess funds raised during Bob-a-job week remained with the 70th. However, it is not known whether it went into Group funds or Troop funds.*
- 5. The Shannon Cup competition was the premier District Camping competition during the 1930s to the 1960s and was usually held in late May or early June. The 70th won it 3 times (in 1935, 1956 and 1965). The records do not normally identify how well the 70th performed on other occasions but it is known that they came second in 1957 and 1959 (see COH entry for the 5th June 1959).*
- 6. 'Been' (or more commonly 'Bean') was the nickname for PL Brian Elliot.*
- 7. Nis (or Niz) was the nickname for John Nisbet*
- 8. Tweet (or Tweety) was the nickname for PL Hamish Rankin*

22nd May 1959

Finnart Church, Madeira Street

Those present were:-

SM J.R. Blake

ASM R. Miller

ASM Ian McFarlane

TL John Nisbet

PLs Ken Conway, Brian Elliot, Ken Johnson, Hamish Rankin and Trevor Jones

Seconds

It was announced to the court by SM Blake that seconds Alistair Nicol¹ and Bobby Howison² had unofficially left. JR³ said he would prefer to leave the promotions over until the new session after the summer vacation. He was reminded that John Nisbet, Ken Conway, Ken Johnson and Tweet⁴ have to finish their Cadet Scouters⁵ which means that they will be away from the troop for six weeks approximately. Nis⁶ remarked that it means we will have to make a lot of PLs and seconds.⁷

Tents etc

It was reported by SM JR Blake that Blacks can supply us with a piece of tarpaulin canvas, 20' x 15' at a cost of £5/17/6⁸. This would be to replace the Scouters' cooking shelter which is beyond repair. A new tent is also needed and discussion was centred on the Niger, Icelandic and Stormhaven tents of Blacks manufacture. Decisions were held over until the next court meeting or until such time as is suitable, for, the SM or any member of the court, to obtain a Gourrock Ropework⁹ catalogue. Camp Gear in general was then taken up for discussion by the members, not to any relevant end and the court was officially closed. The troop is to buy new blades for the saws.

T. Jones (PL) Scribe to the Court of Honour

J. Nisbet T.L.

Editorial notes for 22nd May 1959

1. See entry for the 8th May 1959

2. Bobby Howison was promoted to Second of the Fox patrol during December 1957, with John Nisbet as his PL. Bobby remained as Second for almost 2 years and gained his 1st Class badge in February 1959. He also completed his 1st Class journey with John Nisbet in 1958. He attended the Pitlochry summer camp of 1957, as well as the Blairmore Easter Camp of 1958.

3. JR refer to Scout Master Ian Blake, whose initials were JRB.

4. Tweet (or Tweety) was the nickname for PL Hamish Rankin.

5. Scouter Cadet courses appear to have been aimed at Patrol Leaders during their final year in the Scout Troop. They lasted 6 weeks and included visits to other troops where they gained experience at leading games and activities.

6. Nis (or Niz) was the nickname for Troop Leader John Nisbet

7. See the general introduction regarding the patrol leaders of 1959. The PLs in 1959 had been PLs for at least 2 years and were all due to resign in 1959 and 1960. It is likely that many of the Seconds were of a similar age and also due to resign. This resulted in a substantial drop in troop numbers during 1960 and 1961.

8. This would be the equivalent of about £160 in 2022.

9. The Gourrock Ropeworks was situated at the eastern side of Port Glasgow. It was founded in the 18th century and closed in 1976. Many of the buildings were demolished, but the surviving multi storey building was converted to flats.

5th June 1959

Finnart Church, Madeira Street

Those present were:-

SM John R. Blake
ASM Robert Miller
ASM Ian McFarlane

TL John H. Nisbet
PLs Kenneth Conway, Brian Elliot,
Kenneth Johnson, and Trevor Jones

New tent

The troop, by a majority decision of the Court of Honour, is to buy a Stormhaven tent from Thomas Black and Sons (Greenock) Ltd.

Promotions

Two new seconds are needed to replace Alistair Nicol, formerly of Falcon Patrol, and Robert Howison, formerly of Fox Patrol¹. Nominations were:-

Philip Dry, Alistair Cram, Tommy Dow and Ian Fraser²

It was said that it would not be good to take two boys from the one patrol (Kingfisher) and leave PL Trevor³ with only three men. Eventually, ASM McFarlane suggested that A. Cram of the Kingfisher become Second of the Fox. I Fraser of the Falcons became Second of the Falcon.

This proposal was accepted by the court. PL Jones accepted it with reluctance⁴. This leaves the Kingfisher patrol with only four men, the lowest it has ever been. The promotions are to be held over until the new session when more promotions may be necessary if some of the present PLs become junior ASMs.⁵

General

Bob Miller appealed to the PLs to find out if any of their relations had large pressure cookers or cooking pots which they did not require as these would be very useful at troop camps.

A financial report on the Shannon Cup⁶ was tendered by Trevor Jones⁷. The cost was 27/1½.⁸ Bob gave PL Jones 30/- with which to pay off the boys. Been⁹ immediately asked for his six shillings¹⁰ (which he didn't get). PL Jones slandered him by saying, "You're the laziest curdie¹¹ in the Troop."

The Shannon Cup was won by the 32nd A team with 306 points. Our team was placed second with 301 points.

T. Jones (PL) Scribe to the Court of Honour

Editorial notes for 5th June 1959

- 1. See entries for the 8th and 22nd May 1959*
- 2. All four nominated Scouts were eventually promoted to PL in later years, with Alastair Cram and Ian Fraser becoming Troop Leaders.*
- 3. The writing is rather indistinct and could be read as 'Trevor' or 'Tweet' (Tweet being the nickname for PL Hamish Rankin). However, it is assumed that Trevor Jones was intended as he was PL of the Kingfisher Patrol.*
- 4. Clearly, he was not happy because of his patrol dropping to only 4 members.*
- 5. See note 7 for 22nd May 1959 regarding imminent resignations.*
- 6. See the COH entry for the 8th May 1959 regarding the Shannon Cup.*

7. Trevor Jones led the 70th patrol that came second in the Shannon Cup of 1959.
8. This was about the equivalent of £37 in 2022.
9. 'Been' (or more commonly 'Bean') was the nickname for PL Brian Elliot.
10. This is slightly puzzling as it suggests that only 5 Scouts were in the patrol, when, in fact, there were 8 scouts present.
11. The word is indistinct and may be something else. It is not known whether this was said in jest or not.

19th June 1959

Finnart Church, Madeira Street

Those present were:-

SM John R. Blake

ASM Robert Miller

ASM Ian McFarlane

PLs Kenneth Conway, Kenneth

Johnson, Hamish "Tweet" Rankin, and

Trevor Jones

Summer Camp

The business to be dealt with was the problem of tents for the summer camp¹.

As it stands, there will be

1 Stormhaven (new), 2 Karas, 1 Niger, 1 Kara (all per patrol).²

The SM said that we would have to buy another tent and suggested a Bungalow³ of Black's manufacture. Specifications were inserted in this log⁴. The purchase was approved.

General

John Nisbet is absent due to his being the Stage Manager of the Academy's production of the 'Mikado' at the Arts Guild theatre. By a unanimous agreement of all but PL Trevor "Sherpa"⁵ Jones, the Court of Honour hereby boldly, plainly and emphatically states that the above PL Trevor "Sherpa" Jones obeys their demands and visits a certain shop with a red and white pole above the door⁶ and has something done about the incredible mass of a mess which surmounts his cranium.

In other words, "Sun! Git yer 'air cu'!"⁷

T. Jones (PL) Scribe to the Court of Honour

J. Nisbet T.L.

Editorial notes for 19th June 1959

1. The Summer Camp of 1959 was held at West Loch Tarbert

2. The Stormhaven and Niger tents were patrol tents. The Kara tent was smaller and more suited to 3 or 4 campers. It's not clear why this list was bracketed as being per patrol. The Rattlesnake Patrol Log for the camp showed that there were 4 patrols in camp. One patrol used the Stormhaven, one used the Niger, one used the 2 Karas and the fourth patrol used the third Kara and the Bungalow tent that was purchased..

3. The bungalow tent was a 2-3 man hike tent that came with an optional fly sheet. The troop bought the tent without the flysheet.

4. The specifications are not present in the Minutes log. They were placed in the Troop log instead (see entry for 12th June 1959 in the Troop Log covering 1958-1960)

5. Trevor Jones' nickname was 'Sherpa' and he had the reputation of being the troop's camping and outdoors expert.

6. In other words, a barber's shop.

7. Son, Get your hair cut.

5th September 1959

Finnart Church, Madeira Street

Those present were:-

SM John R. Blake

ASM Robert Miller

ASM Ian McFarlane

T.L. John H. Nisbet

PLs Kenneth Conway, Trevor Jones

New Scouters

The court was officially opened. SM Blake stated that with the permission of the court TL John Nisbet and PL Kenneth Johnson would become junior assistant Scoutmasters; the appointments to date from next Friday. The court approved. These appointments mean that several vacancies have to be filled.

New TL

First on the list was the new TL. T. Jones proposed Ken Conway and John Nisbet agreed. Mr Blake said he was in agreement so Ken Conway is the troop leader.

New PLs

Secondly, we required two new PLs. Candidates were:-

Jim Blair, Stuart Scott, Sandy Miller, Ian Fraser, Al Cram.¹

Jim was elected PL of the Fox.

Stuart was elected PL of the Seagull.

New Seconds²

Thirdly:- three new Seconds were required.

Tom Dow is the new Second of Kingfisher patrol

Robert Harvey is the new Second of the Seagull patrol

Philip Dry is the new Second of the Seal patrol

As these promotions affected the numbers of the members of certain patrols, the Kingfisher patrol is to receive Ronnie Weir³ from the Fox and a new boy Dugal Urquhart⁴ so raising the membership of the Kingfisher patrol from 3 to 5 members.⁵

Administration

John Nisbet is to take over the job of troop badge secretary.

Ken Johnston is to become assistant to Ian McFarlane as assistant patrol championship scorer.⁶

Kenneth Conway, the new troop leader, is to do the attendances.

Ken Johnson and Nis⁷ are to handle the Christmas Card business⁸

Ken Conway is to remain as troop scribe⁹ until the post can be filled by some competent member of the troop. The log is to be written up for summer camp¹⁰ from the patrol logs¹¹. The best log for each day is to be transcribed spelling mistakes and all¹².

T. Jones is still the Scribe to the Court of Honour.

T. Jones is to get his first-class Badge.¹³

The court was then closed.

Editorial notes for 5th September 1959

- 1. All five of the nominated Seconds eventually became PLs, and three of them were future Troop Leaders (Jim Blair, Alastair Cram and Ian Fraser)*
- 2. Tom Dow and Robert Harvey were eventually promoted to PL. Philip Dry remained as Second of the Seal Patrol until he resigned about August 1960. He was appointed as one of the Troop librarian in January 1960, along with Ian Fraser (see entry for 15th January 1960).*
- 3. Ronnie Weir joined the troop in February 1959, but left at some point during the 1959-60 session.*
- 4. Dougal Urquhart (who was nicknamed 'Urth' or 'Urf') joined the troop just after the summer of 1959 and went on to win the GSM's Cup for best Scout at the end of the 1959-60 session. By December 1960, the Kingfisher Patrol was unofficially called the Oz+Urth Patrol as it only contained PL Albert Runcie and Dougal, who was promoted to Second in January 1961. Dougal was the scribe for the surviving Kingfisher Patrol Log for several weeks. He eventually resigned in February or March 1962.*
- 5. Unfortunately, the numbers in the Kingfisher Patrol dropped to an all time low of two Scouts in December 1960 (see note 4 above).*
- 6. There was a monthly patrol championship with points gained from activities, tests, badges, games, patrol activities, patrol log books etc. During the 1960s, a small sheath knife with strands of wool corresponding to the winning patrol of the month was worn by the Patrol Leader during the subsequent month. The patrol also took up the position closest to the door of the hall. It is not known whether this was the custom in 1959, though.*
- 7. Nis (or Niz) was the nickname for Junior ASM John Nisbet*
- 8. The Xmas card sale was a fund raising initiative that was probably instigated by Ian Blake. Ian Blake also requested the formation of a Parents Committee to coordinate Xmas card sales (see also entry for 25th September 1959). It proved so successful that it was decided to have a permanent committee, which proved crucial in making the Troop's vision of owning its own HQ a reality.*
- 9. The Troop Scribe was responsible for keeping the Troop Log Book up to date.*
- 10. Summer camp for 1959 was held at West Loch Tarbert.*
- 11. The Patrol logs written by the Mouse and Rattlesnake Patrols at the Summer camp of 1959 have survived and can be viewed on the website.*
- 12. The Troop Log covering 1958-1960 has survived but did not include an account of Summer Camp. Instead readers were directed to the Patrol Logs.*
- 13. The progressive Scout training scheme involved passing tests towards the Tenderfoot, 2nd Class and 1st Class Badges. The ultimate goal was to gain the Queen's Scout Badge. PLs were expected to have their 1st Class Badge, but were encouraged to gain their Queen's Scout Badge.*

11th September 1959

Finnart Church, Madeira Street

Those present were:-

SM John R. Blake

ASM Robert Miller

ASM Ian McFarlane

Junior ASM John Nisbet

Junior ASM Kenneth Johnstone

T.L. Kenneth Conway

PLs Jim Blair, Stuart Scott, Brian Elliot,

Hamish Rankin & Trevor Jones

The Court was opened by SM Ian Blake welcoming as members the PLs who were appointed last week. The principles and practices of the court were then explained. The minutes of the previous meeting were then explained and business proceeded in the prescribed manner.

Tests

Ian McFarlane suggested to the Court that when a boy came up to pass a test and quite obviously did not know the work to be covered in order to pass that test, he should lose the same number of points as he would have gained by knowing the work and passing the test.¹

The motion was rejected.

Finance

Bob stated that there was approximately £57² in the bank and approximately £5-6-0 at his home.

Patrol administration

Bob requested that there be a log keeper and a treasurer for each patrol, the treasurer to keep the attendance as well as the money. A financial statement will be required from each patrol next week. The court was then closed.

T. J. Jones (PL) (Scribe)

Kenneth D. Conway (TL)

Editorial notes for 11th September 1959

1. Although Patrol Leaders could train their Scouts for various tests leading to the Tenderfoot, 2nd Class and 1st Class badges, only Scouters could assess the Scouts. Passing a test gained the patrol points towards the patrol monthly championship and so there was a temptation to put Scouts forward for assessment before they were fully prepared.

2. This was equivalent in value to £1570 in 2022.

25th September 1959

Finnart Church, Madeira Street

Attendance

Chairman TL. Ken Conway

SM John R. Blake

ASM Robert Miller

ASM Ian McFarlane

Junior ASM John Nisbet

Junior ASM Kenneth Johnson

PLs Jim Blair, Stuart Scott, Brian Elliot,
& Trevor Jones

The court was opened by the TL and called on the scribe to read the last meeting log.

Parents Committee¹

The Court of Honour again desired the forming of a Parents committee. After a very full discussion on the subject, it was decided that the SM should be asked to speak to the Parents during a film show to be held in the hall on Thursday 1st of October.²

Outdoor Events

It was suggested to the court by PL Jones³ that an out-of-doors programme should be considered for the coming winter session; walks, hikes etc at the weekends. This was agreed on principle, but as so many boys are in football or rugby school teams, it would be difficult to get the numbers to make the project worthwhile.⁴

Party

A Halloween party⁵ was agreed to, possibly fancy dress. Arrangements should be left for a future meeting of the Court.

Signalling

A proposal was put forward that first-class signaling should be brought back and everyone that possessed a 1st Class badge and had not passed signalling would have to pass within a given time.⁶ After a very, very deep discussion on the subject, it was agreed that signalling should be brought back. Also, the number of points for passing the test should be given to the patrol.

The court was closed by TL Conway.

Remark

In the absence of PL. T. Jones on his last part of the Cadet Scouters⁷ course, the SM is to keep this log up-to-date.

John R. Blake SM 70th

Editorial notes for 25th September 1959

- 1. See note 8 for 5th September 1959*
- 2. The Troop log reveals that the film show was held on the 29th September 1959. Cine film footage and slides were shown to the parents of the summer camp held at West Loch Tarbert in 1959. It is not known whether those images survive. Films and slides of the summer camp held at Inveraray in 1955 were also shown. Again, it is not known whether these have survived.*
- 3. Trevor Jones' nickname was 'Sherpa' and he had the reputation for being the troop's camping and outdoors expert.*
- 4. This was a perennial problem in the 70th Troop, especially as so many of the Scouts were pupils at Greenock Academy, which expected their pupils to prioritise team sports on a Saturday morning over any other activity .*
- 5. It is not known when the first Halloween party was held by the Troop. The earliest known Halloween party as far as the Wolf Cub Pack was concerned was in the early 1950s*
- 6. The 70th were particularly good at semaphore and had dominated the District Signalling Competition during the 1950s. Signalling was introduced as part of the 2nd Class and 1st Class Badges in 1909 and was still an integral part of both badges in 1956. However, it appears to have been dropped from both badges at some point between 1957 and 1959. Clearly, this was not a popular move within the 70th and it is interesting to note that District Signalling competitions continued into the 1960s. (See also the COH entry for the 17th February 1961).*
- 7. See note 5 for the 22nd May 1959 regarding the Cadet Scouters course*

2nd October 1959

Lyle Park, Lyle Road

Attendance

Chairman TL Ken Conway

SM John R. Blake

ASM Robert Miller

ASM Ian McFarlane

ASM Harvey

Junior ASM John Nisbet

Junior ASM Kenneth Johnson

PLs Jim Blair, Stuart Scott, Brian Elliot,
Hamish Rankin & Trevor Jones

The court was opened by TL Conway.

Party

The Court agreed that the Halloween party¹ should be definitely 'Fancy Dress' and the PLs would be given further details at our next meeting.

Dance²

The Court proposed an Autumn dance should be held soon and, although it was agreed on principle, the SM took a dim view of the number of Friday nights that was been used for social occasions instead of Troop meetings.

The court was closed.

John R. Blake SM 70th

Editorial notes for 2nd October 1959

1. See note 5 for 25th September 1959 regarding Halloween parties

2. At least one dance was organized for the older Scouts by the PLs each year, and it was held in December or January. The dance was similar in format to those organized by the schools and focused on Scottish Country dances. A separate Xmas party prior to Xmas was organised for the younger Scouts. An Autumn dance was perhaps unusual, which is possibly why Scout Master Ian Blake took exception. Finally, there is no mention of an Autumn dance in the troop log and so there is some doubt over whether it was organised.

9th October 1959

Finnart Church, Madeira Street

Attendance

Chairman TL. Ken Conway

SM John R. Blake

ASM Robert Miller

ASM Ian McFarlane

ASM J. Harvey

ASM Whiteford

JASM John Nisbet

PLs Jim Blair, Stuart Scott, Hamish Rankin,

Party¹

Arrangements² were made for the party to be held on 30th October.

Hamish Rankin – Ice cream and Spoons

Jim Blair - Lemonade

J.R. Blake – Apples for the ‘dooking’ of

All PL’s were requested to supply one large jelly and donations of prizes for games.

Agenda

SM Blake decided that a written agenda should be available for discussion, and if PLs had not informed the troop leader by 9 PM of any subject he wished brought before the court, then it would not be discussed at that court. Also, the time limit of the Court should not exceed 10:15 PM.

The court was then closed.

S.M. John R. Blake

Editorial notes for 9th October 1959

1. See note 5 for 25th September 1959 regarding Halloween parties

2. The arrangements described were typical for most Halloween parties organized by the troop during the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, although it is not known how often PLs were asked to donate prizes for games

8th January 1960¹

Finnart Church, Madeira Street

Those present were
Acting SM Bob Miller
ASM Ian McFarlane
ASM Jim Harvey
JASM John Nisbet
JASM Ken Johnston

T.L. Ken Conway
P.L.s Stuart Scott, Sandy Miller, Trevor Jones.

Financial report

A financial report was issued by Ken Johnson stating that the Troop has £123/0/11d in the bank².

It was decided to renew the promise at the opening of each Court of Honour³.

Dance⁴

A dance is to be held on Friday, 29th January at 7:30 PM in the hall. Tickets will be printed by Tom Dow⁵, and Trevor Jones is to be dance treasurer. Tweet⁶ is to obtain ice cream and spoons, Ken Conway 7 dozen cakes, Jim Blair is to get 7 dozen bottles of lemonade, and all PLs and Seconds are to donate a jelly. Donations of biscuits and prizes will be gratefully accepted. The dance will cost 2/- per head⁷.

The court was then closed

P.L. Trevor J. Jones (Scribe to Court)
Kenneth D. Conway T.L.

Editorial notes for 8th January 1960

- 1. There is a substantial three month gap in the COH minutes and it is not known whether any Court of Honour meetings were held during that period. However, this may well have been the first Court of Honour Meeting to be held where Bob Miller was acting as Scout Master.*
- 2. This would be equivalent in value to £3382 in 2022.*
- 3. This would refer to the Scout Promise. However, it is not known whether this was reaffirming what was already being done, or whether it was a new initiative.*
- 4. At least one dance was organized for the older Scouts by the PLs each year, and it was held in December or January. The dance was similar in format to those organized by the schools and focused on Scottish Country dances. A separate Xmas party was organised for the younger Scouts prior to Xmas.*
- 5. Tom Dow's father was the Reverend James L. Dow of Cartburn Augustine Church. It is likely that the tickets were printed on the Church printer.*
- 6. 'Tweet' was the nickname for PL Hamish Rankin.*
- 7. The equivalent of £2.75 today (as of 2022)*

15th January 1960

Finnart Church, Madeira Street

Those present were
Acting SM Bob Miller
ASM Ian McFarlane
ASM Jim Harvey
JASM John Nisbet
JASM Ken Johnston

T.L. Ken Conway
P.L.s Stuart Scott, Sandy Miller, Trevor
Jones, Hamish Rankin.

Library¹

The court was opened by renewing the promise. The new librarians were admitted and they, Philip Dry and Ian Fraser², asked if they could have money for books. They were told to submit their requirements to the Court and a representative of the Court would find books for them³. A resolution that the library only be open on Friday evenings with either of the two librarians present was passed. The librarians were then dismissed.

New Tent

The troop has purchased a shop-soiled Niger from Blacks at a price of £21.10.00⁴. A groundsheet was also purchased for £1-10-00⁵. The court approved of the purchase although previous permission had not been granted.

7.30pm

The Troop meetings are to start at the existing time of 19:30 hours.

Campfire⁶

A campfire is to be obtained (nativity play one) and patrols are to make up programmes

New dice⁷

Sandy Miller is to make a new dice.⁸

Camp

Easter and summer camps to be decided upon next week.⁹

Discipline

Discipline is to be stricter

Party

The Guide party is to be held on February 12.¹⁰

The Court was closed.

P.L. Trevor J. Jones (scribe)
T.L. Kenneth D. Conway

Editorial notes for 15th January 1960

- 1. The troop library consisted of various Scouting books, many of which dealt with various Scouting skills required to pass the Tenderfoot, 2nd Class and 1st Class badges. Other books were available on various proficiency badges. Prior to the internet, information was only available through books and libraries.*
- 2. Philip Dry and Ian Fraser were Seconds (see entries for the 5th June and 5th September 1959).*
- 3. See the entry for 22nd January 1960*
- 4. The equivalent of £591 today (as of 2022)*
- 5. The equivalent of £41 today (as of 2022)*
- 6. Indoor campfires were held at several Friday night meetings and involved the Scouts sitting on the floor round an artificial campfire. They were probably much the same design involving a wooden pyramid surrounding an orange light bulb. It is not known whether the Troop acquired a campfire that had been used for a nativity play, or whether the intention was to make one based on the same design.*
- 7. A large wooden dice was used to decide which patrols would play each other during the patrol game. Each side of the dice was painted with the colours representing a patrol. The dice was rolled on the Church hall floor in front of the assembled patrols until the order of play had been determined.*
- 8. This suggests that Sandy Miller was proficient at woodwork.*
- 9. The venue for Easter Camp was decided as Blairmore, but there is no mention of the Summer Camp venue. Summer camp during 1960 was again held at West Loch Tarbert.*
- 10. Each year, the Finnart School Guides invited the 70th Scouts to a dance or a party. Although the Guides met at Finnart School, they shared the same affiliation to Finnart Church as the 70th.*

22nd January 1960

Finnart Church, Madeira Street

Those present were
Acting SM Bob Miller
ASM Jim Harvey
JASM John Nisbet
JASM Ken Johnston

T.L. Ken Conway
P.L.s Stuart Scott, Sandy Miller, Trevor
Jones, Hamish Rankin and Jim Blair.

The Court was opened by the renewal of the promise. The minutes of the last two meetings were then read. Business was as follows:-

Easter Camp

Easter camp will be held at Blairmore farm from Friday 8th of April until Tuesday 8th April or Wednesday 9th of April¹. The TL and other leaders of patrols are all to attend for the weekend.

Interruptions

There was an interruption in the proceedings at this stage owing to a disturbance on the premises caused by the Seconds. Philip Dry was apprehended and brought before the Court for immediate "trial". He was admonished with a severe reprimand.²

The proceedings having been resumed, TL Ken Conway asked if Brian Elliott and William Harkness could come to Easter camp³. The motion was dismissed⁴. However, William Harkness is to be asked if he wishes to rejoin the troop.⁵

Dance⁶

The dance programme is to be finalised in the session room on Wednesday next. The decorations will be put up on Thursday evening commencing 7:30 PM.

Library

The librarians⁷ submitted what in their opinions were the books they required. The Court debated this list, adding the names of books on the subjects specified and decided to leave the whole thing over until the next meeting of the Court. The list of books was as follows:- this was an exact copy. The Court's comments are in red.

New Books

An instruction book for at least 10 more badges. **State names!**⁸

A book on hiking. **First Class and Venturer!**⁹

A book on camping.

A book on patrol activities.

The Scout¹⁰ every week. **Get by self!**

A book on climbing. **?**

A book on woodcraft. **Got!**

The TL noted the following down:-

Camping Standards
Gilcraft Pioneering
First Class and Venturer's Hike
Climbing

As I said, the whole lot will be discussed next week.

The Court was thus closed.

P.L. Trevor J. Jones (Scribe to Court)

T.L. Kenneth D. Conway

Editorial notes for 22nd January 1960

- 1. The dates are incorrect. The camp actually ran from Friday 8th April until Wednesday 13th April and was well covered in the troop log.*
- 2. It is not known what actually happened but it would appear that Philip Dry may have been the main instigator of the 'disturbance'.*
- 3. Brian Elliot had been PL of the Curlew Patrol but resigned in January 1960. William Harkness joined the troop in 1954 or 1955 and was promoted to Second of the Seagull patrol in 1957. It is likely that he gained his 1st Class Badge, but he, too, resigned in January 1960. Permission to camp was presumably refused because both boys had resigned from the troop. Granting permission would have set a bad precedent. Moreover, they would not have been covered by Scout insurance.*
- 4. Originally, the text read 'flunged out on its ear 'ole', which was considered 'not humourous'.*
- 5. There is no evidence of William Harkness rejoining the troop as a result of such an offer.*
- 6. See note 4 for the 8th January 1960.*
- 7. Philip Dry and Ian Fraser.*
- 8. It is likely that this referred to specific Proficiency badges*
- 9. The Venturer hike was a 2-day hike that counted towards the Venturer's Badge, which was tackled once a Scout had gained his 1st Class badge. The Venturer badge was a stepping stone towards the Queen's Scout Badge and the hike involved was more demanding than the 1st Class hike.*
- 10. The 'Scout' was a weekly publication aimed specifically at Scouts. A separate monthly publication called 'The Scouter' was aimed at Scouters and came out once a month.*

5th February 1960

Finnart Church, Madeira Street

Those present were
Acting SM Bob Miller
ASM Jim Harvey
JASM John Nisbet
JASM Ken Johnston

T.L. Ken Conway
P.L.s Sandy Miller, Trevor Jones,
Hamish Rankin and Jim Blair.

The meeting was opened by renewing the promise. Business was as follows:-

Programme

The monotony of the programme was mentioned. Bob said he would try and do something about it.¹

Seniors Patrol²

It was considered by Ken Conway and Trevor Jones that the Troop should try a senior patrol composed of the older PLs (the old lags). It was found to be not feasible³. A Rover group was also mentioned, but turned down.⁴

Library

The library report was carried over for the next meeting owing to lack of time.

Meetings

The court has revoked its ruling to close its session at 10:15 PM. The new time was fixed at 10:30 PM.

The Court was then closed.

P.L. Trevor J. Jones (Scribe)

T.L. Kenneth D. Conway

Editorial notes for 5th February 1960

- 1. This was the first indication of dissatisfaction with the Friday night programme. It was a theme that lasted for some significant time and probably inspired many of the innovations that Bob Miller introduced over the next 2 years.*
- 2. Senior Scouts were Scouts aged 15 and over. Only Senior Scouts could work towards the Queen's Scout Badge and there were a number of proficiency Badges that were aimed specifically at Senior Scouts. These were square in shape compared to the other proficiency badges which were round.*
- 3. Although the suggestion of a Senior Patrol was dismissed at this meeting, the issue did not go away and a Senior Patrol was eventually formed (see COH minutes for 31st March 1960. The demand for a Senior Patrol may primarily have come from Kenneth Conway and Trevor Jones who had been PLs for several years and were looking for fresh challenges.*
- 4. None of the troop records provide much evidence of an active Rover Crew. Several individuals were known to be registered as Rovers with the 70th during the 1950s, but this was probably a formality that allowed them to occasionally help out at camps or fund-raising events.*

31st March 1960

Finnart Church, Madeira Street

Those present were

Acting SM Bob Miller

ASM Ian McFarlane

Junior ASM John Nisbet

Junior ASM Ken Johnston

T.L. Ken Conway

P.L.s Sandy Miller, Trevor Jones,

Hamish Rankin and Jim Blair.

Stuart Scott

A special irregular meeting of the Court of Honour was summoned for this evening by SM Bob Miller. The meeting opened at 9:30 PM. The business was the formation of the Senior Patrol.

Senior Patrol

Bob opened by saying that owing to the fact that no competent person was available as leader, a Rover Crew could not be formed. However, a Senior Patrol is to be formed in an official ceremony tomorrow evening, Friday 1st April, on the occasion of the DCs¹ visit. The patrol will have as its founder members.

T.L. Kenneth D. Conway

P.L. Trevor J. Jones

P.L. Stuart Scott

Q.S. Roy McFarlane²

Ex-members of the troop will be considered for membership by the Senior Patrol Council which will be officially constituted when the patrol is constituted. The patrol reserves the right to draw up their own constitution which will be ratified by the Scouters, that is warranted Scouters. The patrol will keep a record of activities in the form of a logbook³ and it will meet on an evening during the week which will be decided upon by the members. The activities of the patrol will be camping, hiking, pioneering, sailing and such outdoor activities as will be agreed upon by the members.⁴ A winter programme will be drawn up in the Autumn.⁵ Troop gear will be used by the patrol with the permission of the Q.M. Kenneth Johnston. The patrol members may attend Troop meetings, but will not take part in certain activities; these to be decided at the discretion of the S.M. The patrol will elect its own officers (i.e. P.L. and Second).

A meeting of the Court of Honour will be held tomorrow, Friday first April, to elect a new TL and new PLs. New Seconds will also be needed. The court will consist of PLs Sandy Miller and Jim Blair with the addition of the Scouters in an advisory capacity.

The court was closed.

Retiring P.L. Trevor J. Jones (Retiring Scribe)

Retiring T.L. Kenneth D. Conway

Retiring P.L. Stuart Scott

Retiring P.L. Hamish Rankin⁶

Editorial notes for 31st March 1960

1. The District Commissioner for many years during the 1950s and 1960s was J.J. Swan of the 45th Renfrewshire.

2. Not much is known about Roy Mcfarlane, other than that he came from Dumfries from another Troop and may have joined the 70th in late 1959 or early 1960. The Q.S. ascribed to him in the COH

minutes suggests that he had his Queen's Scout Badge. He may well have been a PL from his previous troop, but there is no evidence of him leading a patrol in the 70th and he did not attend COH meetings. It is not known what he did with Senior Scout Patrol and it is assumed that he left the Group during the summer of 1960.

3. Unfortunately this log book has not been traced.

4. There are no records of what activities the Senior Scout Patrol did, although the troop log does state that Scouts attending the Blairmore Easter camp in 1960 bumped into Ken Conway, Stuart Scott and Ritchie Muir in Ardentenny (see entry for 10th April 1960). The threesome were reported to be carrying a hike tent, which might suggest that they were about to hike to Carrick Castle. There is also a Greenock Telegraph report printed on the 16th June 1960 which stated that ASM Ian Mcfarlane owned a 30 foot cabin cruiser in which he took 70th Scouts to places such as Kilcreggan, Blairmore, Carrick Castle and Roseneath on water activities such as 'water skiing'. The Scouts concerned were not identified but it is possible that this may have referred to the Senior Scouts.

5. There is no evidence of the senior patrol surviving beyond the summer of 1960.

6. Hamish Rankin did not join the Senior Scout patrol and must have left the 70th at this point. Although he had completed a Cadet Scouters course, it is not known whether he became an ASM with a different troop.

1st April 1960

Tonight's Court of Honour was the first for the newly appointed PLs.

They were as follows:-

P.L. Alistair Cram (Seal)
P.L. Ian Fraser (Falcon)
P.L. Robert Harvey (Seagull)
P.L. Tom Dow (Kingfisher)
P.L. Sandy Miller (Curlew)

Scouters present were

Kenneth Johnston
Ian McFarlane
Jim Harvey
John Nisbet
Bob Miller (Skipper)

Chairman Jim Blair

Logs

Tonight, the first matter on the agenda was the various Scribes. After considerable argument, Al Cram and Sandy Miller were given the Troop log between them, and I¹ was given the Court of Honour log. After this was over, we appointed Jim Blair as T.L. and Chairman.

Summer Camp

T.L. Jim brought up the subject of the Scouters authority over the PLs i.e. the summer being arranged without the consent of the PLs.² Bob explained the position, and the matter was forgotten. The newly formed Senior Patrol retired until they were called for.³

It was also agreed that the Court of Honour should finish by 10.30, and not, as previously by 10.15. There is to be no smoking of any kind at the Court of Honour.⁴

The subject of the BP house fund⁵, mentioned by DC Swan earlier in the evening, was also considered a very worthwhile cause by the Chairman.⁶ The motion that each PL should ask his patrol for 1/6 a head⁷, the extra being paid by the patrol, was also carried.

Librarians report

Ian Fraser⁸ needs new books, for this very popular part of the curriculum⁹. Ian McFarlane then suggested that the librarian should send to the Scout Shop in Glasgow for a list of books useful for the library. A padlock was also voted necessary for the safety of the books.

P.L. Tom Dow (scribe to the Court)
James S. Blair (T.L.)

Editorial notes for 1st April 1960

1. Tommy Dow.

2. *This suggests that the decision to return to West Loch Tarbert that year had been taken without the knowledge of the PLs. Possibly it became urgent to book the site before losing it to another troop.*
3. *This suggests that the outgoing PLs attended the start of the COH, despite the fact that they were not identified at the start of the report.*
4. *It is not known what inspired this decision. It does not seem likely that any of the PLs would have been smoking, so perhaps it referred to Scouters. Smoking a pipe was considered rather fashionable during the 1950s and 1960s.*
5. *Baden-Powell House was built in London as a tribute to Baden Powell. Construction started in 1959 and BP House was opened by the Queen in 1961. The building was built for about £400,000, much of which was raised by the members of the Scout movement through the Baden-Powell Memorial Fund. The 70th troop contributed to the fund raising effort and received a certificate (No. 2471) that recognized the Troop's contribution, and stated that the '70th Renfrewshire (30th Greenock) Scout Group has been entered on the roll of Baden-Powell House Founder Groups'. This can be viewed in the Troop log entry for 10th November 1961. Sadly, the building was sold by the Scout Association in 2021. The building was valued at 46 million pounds, but it is not stated whether it was actually sold for that amount. Much of the Scouting memorabilia kept at BP House, including the statue of BP, were moved to Gilwell Park.*
6. *The Chairman of the Court of Honour was Troop Leader Jim Blair*
7. *In today's money (as of 2022), this corresponds to about £2.00*
8. *Ian Fraser was appointed as one of the librarians when he was a Second (see the entry for 15th January 1960)*
9. *It's not certain whether this was written in earnest or in jest.*

Tuesday 19th April 1960

At tonight's Court of Honour, the PL and Scouters were as follows:-

P.L Al Cram

P.L. Sandy Millar

P.L. Robert Harvey

P.L. Tom Dow

T.L. Jim Blair

S.M Bob Miller

J.A.S.M.¹ Ken Johnston

J.A.S.M. John H. Nisbet

The first matter on tonight's agenda was the allocation of flags i.e. the troop and the Union Jack flags. Jim Blair was given the Union Jack and Al Cram, troop flag.² Al was to go to the Mid Kirk for a flag rehearsal.³

The matter of patrol boxes was next brought up, and something was promised to be done about it.⁴ The patrol leaders were also asked to buy some rope for the patrols to pass tests with.⁵

The BP house project⁶ was also brought up, and was to be organized immediately. Jim was appointed to make skittles, he is also choosing his own patrol for the Shannon Cup.⁷

It was also decided to send a team for the Signalling Cup. The troop won it for six years in succession.⁸ The team was to be decided at the next Court of Honour.

The Fire Shield was also decided to be entered for. Pioneering was another worthwhile competition that was entered for.⁹

The Dixies¹⁰ were in a terrible mess from Easter¹¹, and we decided to distribute them on Friday.¹²

The wee men are going to have a firelighting and cooking course in McAuley's field¹³ on Friday nights.

All PLs who have not got their first class are to be taught possibly on a Friday night after the meeting.¹⁴

The summer camp is definitely at Tarbert, as we have got the site as we had last year. The court was adjourned.

T. Dow (scribe to court)

James S. Blair T.L.

Editorial notes for 19th April 1960

1. JASM stood for Junior Assistant Scout Master, but It's not clear whether JASM was a formal title or not. It was generally used for those members of the Scouter team who were still of Scout age and probably too young to qualify as an ASM.

2. In general, the Troop Leader carried the Union Jack, but there were exceptions to this rule.

3. This was probably in preparation for the annual District Parade that marked Founders Day and which was held on the Sunday closest to St. George's Day.

4. The patrol boxes were in a poor state and needed replaced or repaired (see the 22nd April 1960). The boxes were used by the patrols to store patrol books, rope, pens and pencils etc.

5. Ropes were needed to tests involving knots and lashings. The statement also suggests that each patrol had its own patrol funds, probably built up from weekly subscriptions brought by the Scouts.

6. See note 5 for the 1st April 1960 regarding BP House

7. See note 5 for the 8th May 1959 regarding the Shannon Cup. The 70th came 4th in the Shannon Cup of 1960 (see troop log for 28th-29th May 1960) and were a man short as Sandy Millar pulled a ligament prior to the camp
8. The competition was only introduced in the early 1950s and this statement indicates that the 70th dominated the competition for the first 8 years it was held.
9. There is no record of the 70th ever winning either of these District competitions.
10. Cooking pots used in camps and on hikes
11. This indicates that the dixies were not cleaned at the end of Easter Camp. This is understandable as it rained virtually non stop for the last two days and most of the Scouts were sent home a day early (see the troop log for 12th-13th April 1960).
12. It is not known whether the dixies were cleaned by the patrols during the troop meeting or taken home for cleaning.
13. McAuley's field was situated on the other side of Newton Street from the top of Madeira Street. It was occasionally used for grazing cattle before the beasts were sent to market. The field was frequently used by the 70th for outdoor meetings up until the 1960s. Many of the Troop and Pack photographs were taken there. The field was also used by local youngsters for football and all sorts of other activities. Housing was eventually built on McAuley's field during the early 1960s.
14. The expectation was that all PLs should have their 1st Class badge

Friday 22nd April 1960

At tonight's Court of Honour, the following were present:-

P.L Al Cram

P.L. Sandy Millar

P.L. Robert Harvey

P.L. Tom Dow

P.L. Ian Fraser

T.L. Jim Blair

S.M Bob Miller

ASM Ian McFarlane

ASM Jim Harvey

J.A.S.M. Ken Johnston

J.A.S.M. John H. Nisbet

The first subject of tonight's Court of Honour was Ian's¹ of the patrol boxes², which were falling to bits. Tonight's Court of Honour was recorded by Jim³. The Librarians⁴ list was then given by Ian Fraser; it is as follows:-

Training in Observation and Tracking.

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Exploring | Elementary Meteorology |
| Scouting Sketches | Codes and ciphers |
| The First Class Journey | Keeping Log Books |
| Outdoor Cooking | Knots, Ties and Splices |

The court was adjourned.

T. Dow (scribe to court)

James S. Blair (T.L.)

Editorial notes for 22nd April 1960

1. Probably Ian McFarlane

2. See note 4 for the 19th April 1960

3. Probably Jim Blair

4. See note 1 for 15th January 1960 regarding the library

Friday 20th May 1960

At tonight's Court of Honour, the following were present:-

P.L Al Cram

P.L. Sandy Millar

P.L. Robert Harvey

P.L. Tom Dow

P.L. Ian Fraser

T.L. Jim Blair

S.M Bob Miller

ASM Jim Harvey

V.J.A.S.M.¹ John H. Nisbet

Ian Fraser was the first speaker tonight, picking up the subject of patrol corners being a bit of a riot. PL Dow then stated that the reason for it being so was the lack of tests to be passed, therefore, new recruits were needed for the troop.² As there had been a meeting of the Shannon Cup³ team and JRs tape⁴ had to be finished, the court was adjourned.

T. Dow (scribe)

James S. Blair (T.L.)

Editorial notes for 20th May 1960

1. VJASM stood for Very Junior Assistant Scout Master. It seems unlikely that it was an official title and it was usually referred to PLs who had recently resigned to join the Scouter ranks. See also the note on JASMs (Note 1 for 19th April 1960).

2. This was another indication of the drop in numbers that occurred during 1959 and 1960 as a result of long-term members leaving the troop. It also implied that very few boys were joining the Troop from the Wolf Cub Pack during 1959-1960. The reasons for that are not known.

3. See note 5 for the 8th May 1959 regarding the Shannon Cup. The 70th came 4th in the Shannon Cup of 1960 (see troop log for 28th-29th May 1960) and were a man short as Sandy Millar pulled a ligament prior to the camp

4. After Ian Blake moved to Trinidad with his family, a two-way correspondence took place over the next year that involved letters and tape-recorded messages. The latter included recorded messages and at least one recording of a campfire. The tape recordings were made on a tape recorder owned by Jim Blair (or his parents). See also the troop log entry for 20th May 1960. The tape recording messages warranted a mention in the Greenock Telegraph's Youth Page for Thursday 2nd June 1960 (see troop log entry for 3rd June 1960).

Friday 10th June 1960

At tonight's Court of Honour, the following were present:-

P.L Al Cram

P.L. Tom Dow

P.L. Ian Fraser

T.L. Jim Blair

S.M Bob Miller

ASM Ian McFarlane

ASM Jim Harvey

V.J.A.S.M.¹ John H. Nisbet

V.J.A.S.M. Ken Johnston

The Court was open with the subject of attendance, which was very poor. Bob said that Akela was not expecting to give us any Cubs till October, even then there would only be about three². The attendances were as follows:-

Curlew:- All good except Neill Frazer³

Falcon:- J. Gatherer⁴, Peter Fraser⁵

Kingfisher:- P.L. T. Dow, D. Fairbairn⁶.

Ian Lee⁷ has very good attendance

Seagull:- J. Fisher⁸

Seal:- P. Dry⁹

The total in the troop at present is 26 plus three new Cubs which makes 29². We finished off by reading Boss's letter.¹⁰

T. Dow (scribe to court)

James S. Blair (T.L.)

Editorial notes for 10th June 1960

1. See note 1 on the 20th May 1960 regarding VJASM.

2. The numbers in the troop during 1959-1960 dropped significantly as a result of a batch of older, experienced Scouts resigning and a lack of new recruits from the Cub pack. It is not known why there were so few recruits from the Cub Pack at this time and it took a number of years for Troop numbers to build up again, despite efforts at recruiting more broadly. It was not until 1965 that numbers increased substantially as a result of new recruits from the Wolf Cub Pack and elsewhere.

3. Not much is known about Neil Fraser. It is thought that he joined the troop in 1958 and might have left during the summer of 1961. He participated in a visit to Rothesay Swimming baths and participated a stunt that was put on at Ian Blake's retiral 'do'.

4. John Gatherer may have joined the troop in 1957 and left during the latter half of 1960. It is believed that this is the John Gatherer who became a Clyde river pilot before emigrating to America. His son (James Gatherer) was in the 70th during the 1980s and participated in one of the 'Everest Challenges' during that period.

5. It is not known whether Peter Fraser was related to Neil Fraser or Ian Fraser, but he joined the Troop about the same time. Peter was promoted to Second in April 1960 and then to PL in October 1960. It is believed that he left the troop in the summer of 1963

6. Douglas Fairbairn joined the troop in November 1959, but probably left during the summer of 1960.

7. Ian Lee was in the Troop from 1958 to 1960, but not much else is known about him.

8. Jimmy Fisher probably joined the troop in 1959 and was still in the troop in June 1961. It is not known when he left due to a lack of records covering 1961-1963.

9. See note 2 for 5th September 1959 regarding Philip Dry.

10. It is assumed that this was a letter received from former Scout Master Ian Blake. The troop remained in correspondence with him for several months (see also note 4 for 20th May 1960).

18th September 1960

18 Johnstone St., Greenock¹

Those present were:-

S.M. Robert Miller, Junior A.S.M.² John Nisbet

PL Alastair Cram (seal patrol), Alexander Millar (curlew patrol), Robert Harvey (seagull patrol), Ian Fraser (falcon patrol), Ronald Lind (fox patrol), Albert Runcie (kingfisher patrol).³

The Court was opened after the promise had been recited.

Jumble Sale⁴

On a map of Greenock, the west end was divided up into six different areas. Each patrol was given an area to distribute jumble sale leaflets to.

Scribe⁵

Albert Runcie was appointed new scribe

Flag bearers

At the next parade, PLs Alistair Cram and Sandy Miller are to be the flag bearers. It was decided that the church cellar⁶ would have to be cleared out in the near future to accommodate jumble.

SM told PLs to bring a prospective Scout within the next three weeks.⁷

The SM suggested that an outing could be arranged to the Cloch lighthouse on a Saturday afternoon sometime soon and that stunts, tests and other occupations could also be carried out then. By a show of hands, this suggestion was agreed upon.⁸

The SM's next suggestion was *that* the winning summer camp⁹ patrol (the Chough's¹⁰) should think of something for their reward, e.g. pictures or social evening at the hall (at the expense of the Scouters and SM).

Song book

It was decided that a troop song book¹¹ should be made and PL R. Lind was voted to be the song book scribe, but the inventor of any song should have the privilege of writing it in himself.

SM. R. Miller said that the PLs should not be satisfied as first-class Scouts¹² but that their ambition should be to become a Queen's Scout.

The last item was about a PLs training course this weekend.¹³ It had been announced previously by the SM that it was to take place at Carrick Castle, but by a show of hands, it was unanimously agreed to hold it at Blairmore.

Arrangements were made.

The court was closed.

A. Runcie (scribe)

A.B. Cram (T.L.)¹⁴

Editorial notes for 18th September 1960

1. This was Bob Miller's home address.

2. See note 1 for 19th April 1960 regarding Junior ASM (JASM).

3. Patrol Leader Tommy Dow and Troop Leader Jim Blair resigned during the summer of 1960.

Ronald Lind and Albert Runcie were promoted to PL

4. *Jumble Sales were a common fund-raising activity during the 1960s. The 70th generally had one each year. A week or two was spent going round the houses collecting jumble, and the jumble sale would be held on a Saturday not long after that. The week before the jumble collection, the Scouts would distribute leaflets to house owners in the West End to alert them to the fact that the Scouts would come calling.*
5. *Scribe for the Court of Honour Minutes*
6. *The cellar was also known as the 'dunny'. The cellars underneath the church were quite extensive. During the 1960s, the troop stored camping equipment there and patrols set up patrol dens in various sections.*
7. *This was clearly a recruitment drive to try and boost numbers. Although the troop still had 6 patrols the troop role at the beginning of the 1960-61 session was only 24 which meant that on average each patrol only had 4 Scouts (see also note 2 for 10th June 1960 and the Troop log for 9th September 1960).*
8. *A series of Sat Aft activities took place during the 1960s and might have been one of Bob Miller's initiatives to encourage retention and recruitment.*
9. *The Summer Camp of 1960 was held at West Loch Tarbert at the same campsite used in 1959. There is no known log report on the camp and very few photographs. Therefore very little is known about it.*
10. *The word looks like Chough, but it might be something else.*
11. *The song book was to record campfire songs. A log book of campfire songs has survived, but it is not known for certain whether it is the one mentioned here.*
12. *To be more precise Scouts who had gained their 1st Class Badge. It was assumed that all PLs should have their 1st Class Badge. Any Scout promoted to PL was expected to gain the 1st Class Badge as soon as possible. The Queen's Scout Badge was the ultimate goal for any patrol leader though.*
13. *No record of the weekend is provided in the troop log so it is not known whether it took place or not.*
14. *Alastair Cram was appointed Troop Leader and Chairman of the Court of Honour to replace Jim Blair.*

14th October 1960

Finnart Church, Madeira St.

Those present were:-

S.M. Robert Miller, Junior A.S.Ms¹ John Nisbet and Kenneth Johnstone
PLs Alastair Cram (seal patrol), Alexander Millar (curlew patrol), Ian Fraser (falcon patrol), Ronald Lind (fox patrol), Albert Runcie (kingfisher patrol).

The court was opened after the promise had been recited.

New PL

Due to the abdication of R. Harvey from PL of the Seagull Patrol, another Scout had to be promoted. Out of the six seconds (A. Conway, P. Fraser, R. Russell, A. Robb, M. Nisbet, J. Scott)², four PLs supported A. Conway, 1 for J. Scott and one for P. Fraser. After some advice from the SM, stating that P. Fraser had been a Second for a much longer time than A. Conway (although A. Conway had his first class³) and so after another vote, it was decided P Fraser should become PL of the Seagull Patrol. As he had previously been second of the Falcon Patrol, a second for it had now to be appointed. All the PLs except I. Fraser voted for J. Moore who had just received his first-class³, but, I. Fraser is PL of the Falcon for whom the new second was to be appointed. Owing to this, there was some confusion and so the SM settled matters by choosing J. Moore⁴ much against the will of I. Fraser who wanted Billy Phillips⁵ as his second.

The subject of Halloween was brought up and as no original idea was brought up for the annual Halloween party⁶, it was decided just to have a fancy dress party. The court was closed.

A. Runcie (scribe)

A.B. Cram (T.L.)

Editorial notes for 14th October 1960

- 1. See note 1 for 19th April 1960 regarding Junior ASM (JASM).*
- 2. Alan Conway, Peter Fraser, Ronald Russell, Alistair Robb, Michael Nisbet, Jack Scott*
- 3. 1st Class Badge*
- 4. John Moore joined the troop in 1957 or 1958. In September 1961, he was promoted to PL and it is likely that he remained PL until the summer of 1963.*
- 5. Billy Phillips (Wiffel) was promoted to Second in September 1961, then to PL in August 1963. He resigned as PL during the summer of 1964.*
- 6. See note 5 for the 25th September 1959 and note 2 for the 9th October 1959 regarding Halloween parties.*

28th October 1960

Finnart Church, Madeira St.

Those present were:-

S.M. Robert Miller, ASM Ian McFarlane

PLs Alastair Cram (Seal patrol), Alexander Millar (Curlew patrol), Ian Fraser (Falcon patrol), Ronald Lind (Fox patrol), Albert Runcie (Kingfisher patrol), Peter Fraser (Seagull patrol).

The court was opened after the promise had been recited.

Party¹

The main feature tonight was about the Halloween party to be held next week. The SM decided (much against his will) to bring the apples as this was what the SM had brought for the past number of years. TL Al Cram ordered each PL to bring a jelly and six sandwiches but, on a suggestion that six cakes should be brought instead of the sandwiches, he agreed. After a vote, PL Ian Fraser “volunteered” to order 36 small bottles of lemonade at the Lawson’s² apothecary. Mrs Nisbet³ and Mrs. Johnstone⁴ “were volunteered” to bring two prizes each⁵ and it was decided that the parents committee should judge the fancy dress contest. Now came the question of ice cream. Ian McFarlane agreed to supply this but suddenly the SM had a brainwave (unusual). He knew an Italian who owned a café and who with a little flattery might be willing to donate the ice cream, but he then cunningly commented that if he managed to get the ice cream free, he would not also bring the apples. After an argument, Ian McFarlane “agreed” to take the apples, and so, although breaking the long tradition of the SM bringing the apples, it did not break the SM’s heart (in fact he rejoiced at not having to spend any money on the apples). The TL, Al Cram, was unanimously voted to bring the forks for apples dooking⁶; although he protested vehemently, it was to no avail. The suggestion that each patrol should do a stunt was met with an exceedingly hostile reception and was not accepted.

Training Course

The SM (and the SM only) decided that when no Court of Honour was being held, a PLs training course should be held instead.

The court was closed.

A. Runcie (scribe)

A.B. Cram (T.L.)

Editorial notes for 28th October 1960

1. See note 5 for the 25th September 1959 and note 2 for the 9th October 1959 regarding Halloween parties.

2. Lawson’s of Greenock sold lemonade and other soft drinks during the 1960s and 1970s. The labels, on the bottles showed local ferries

3. Mother of John and Michael Nisbet

4. Mother of Ken Johnson

5. This seems remarkably presumptuous, but it is possible that the two mothers might have volunteered to provide prizes in advance.

6. Dooking for apples at the 70th Halloween party involved kneeling on a chair and hanging over the back of it with the handle of a fork firmly held in your mouth. You then aimed for one of the apples floating in a basin on the floor, and let the fork go. If the fork stuck in the apple, you won the apple.

11th November 1960

Finnart Church, Madeira St.

Those present were:-

S.M. Robert Miller, ASM John Nisbet

TL Alastair Cram

PLs Alexander Millar, Ian Fraser, Ronald Lind, Peter Fraser.

The court was opened by the renewal of the promise.

Parent's night and Guide party

J. Nisbet wished to know if the Guide party¹ was to be before or after Christmas, and if there was to be a Parents night. It was decided that the party should be on 10th December² and the Parents night some time in February. The usual dance was to be held in January³.

Campfire⁴

Seemingly, the PLs show no spirit over campfires, so, in future, the campfire programme is to be made up by AI⁵ and the duty patrol. Also, songs can be censored.⁶

Who said it

Bob then made a speech concerning a lad who was told, after he had been absent 3 weeks, that he had forfeited his membership. The question is who told him this? The decision was to let sleeping dogs lie, with a caution.⁷

Visit

A visit to McKelvie's print shop⁸ (by invitation) was proposed and accepted.⁹

I. Fraser (acting scribe to C.O.H.)

Editorial notes for 11th November 1960

1. See note 10 for the 15th January 1960 regarding the Guide party or dance

2. It is not clear whether this related to the Guide party or the Scout party that was normally organized for the younger Scouts. The latter seems more likely.

3. It is presumed that this relates to the annual Scout dance (see also note 2 for the 2nd October 1959)

4. See note 6 for the 15th January 1960 regarding indoor campfires

5. Troop Leader Alastair Cram

6. This may have involved rugby songs known by the older Scouts.

7. All new members of the Court of Honour were told that all discussions and decisions made at the Court of Honour were confidential and were not to be shared with anyone outwith the Court. A discussion might have been held in the Court where it was proposed that Scouts should forfeit their membership if they were absent for three consecutive weeks. Therefore, it would have been a contravention of the rules to make this statement to a Scout if it had yet to be formally adopted as Troop policy. The implication is that it was one of the PLs that 'broke the rules'. It is likely that Bob knew who it was but chose to make a general warning rather than embarrass the PL concerned.

8. James McKelvie and Sons were printers and publishers, based at 4 West Blackhall Street, Greenock. However, nothing else is currently known about the business. A Rhiddian McKelvie was in the troop during 1960 and 1961, but it is not known whether he was related to the owner of the printing firm. See also entries for 12th January 1961.

9. Although the offer was accepted, it is not known when the visit actually took place.

2nd December 1960

Finnart Church, Madeira St.

Those present were:-

S.M. Robert Miller

T.L. Alastair Cram (Seal patrol)

PLs Alexander Millar (Curlew patrol), Ian Fraser (Falcon patrol), Ronald Lind (Fox patrol), Albert Runcie (Kingfisher patrol), Peter Fraser (Seagull patrol).

The court was opened after the promise had been recited.

Discipline

The SM decided that discipline would have to improve, even though it was not too bad, and it was up to the PLs to see that it improved.

After a ramble which started with someone saying that they could not pass their swimming test now that the local baths were closed¹, Bob commented that he went to "Shining" Whiteinch baths² in Glasgow every Tuesday evening or was it Thursday? Someone suggested that the troop should go (to) the Renfrew Baths on a Sat. Aft.³ (typical Finnart Scout dialect) in the near future. It was unanimously agreed upon. Then someone suggested that Rothesay Baths would be the favourite⁴ (more Finnart Scout dialect). A vote was taken on this and it was agreed to go to Rothesay Baths. The 17th December⁵ was made the date for this outing.

The SM suggested that there should be an outing to Kilcreggan in the new future. There was a general lack of enthusiasm for this, probably because it involved work and the 29th February 1961 was the only date suggested for it. The SM did not agree to this, but no date for it was fixed.

The court was closed.

A. Runcie (scribe)

A.B. Cram (T.L.)

Editorial notes for 2nd December 1960

1. It is likely that this relates to the closure of the outdoor pool at the Battery Park. However, the outdoor pool in Gourock should still have been available

2. The Shining Whiteinch baths were built in 1889 and contained a large swimming pool. However, it is believed that the building was demolished or converted into flats round about 2006.

3. This was the term used for Saturday afternoon Scouting activities (see also note 4 for the 25th September 1959)

4. An 'in word' that was used a lot during the 1960s to signify something that was very good.

5. The SatAft to Rothesay Baths actually took place on the 10th December 1960 (see the troop log book for 10th December 1960)

12th January 1961

Held at 71 South St., Greenock

Those present were:-

S.M. Robert Miller, A.S.M. Ian McFarlane

JASM¹s Kenneth Johnston and John Nisbet

T.L. Alastair Cram (seal patrol)

PLs Alexander Millar (curlew patrol), Ian Fraser (falcon patrol), Ronald Lind (fox patrol), Albert Runcie (Kingfisher patrol), Peter Fraser (Seagull patrol).

The court was opened after the promise had been said.

Easter camp

The first question discussed was the Easter camp to Pitlochry. J.A.S.M. K. Johnston made the announcement that it would cost £2.05/-, but as usual the SM disagreed and brought it down to £2.² (During the next half hour it was discussed to see whether a few pennies could be chopped off). Someone rambled that the farm was called Oaksomethinganotherfieldorsomething.³

Summer Camp⁴

The next item was summer camp. This is the list of the places put forward and reasons for objection.

Ailsa Craig⁵ (too difficult to get out of the pool when playing in and out the pond at 6AM or something).

Inverness (wetter than Greenock)⁶

Loch Ness⁷ (the Loch Ness monster might get ye)

Mallaig (No swimming pool)⁸

Aberdeen (Too far)⁹

North Berwick (No official objection because SM suggested it)¹⁰

Southend is hot on favourite.¹¹

New Second

Next item was a new Second for the Kingfisher patrol.

William Phillips¹², Michael Hodge¹³ and Dougal Urquhart¹⁴ were names nominated. They were all announced equally if not more than equally bad¹⁵ but as D. Urquhart was in the Kingfisher patrol and as the SM pronounced him to be the best of the worst he, poor fellow, was elected Second of the KF patrol. As the KF patrol had only two "bods" in it, and the Seal had six, Bobby McCallum¹⁶ was volunteered¹⁷ to become a member of the KF patrol.

Logs¹⁸

The SM made the announcement that as only one patrol log instead of six was been received each month, "six is to be had in future".

Macs

It was also announced by the SM that the troop was to pay a visit to McKelvie's printing works on a Sat Aft in the near future.¹⁹

Rothesay

On a vote of hands, Rothesay Baths was pronounced the favourites²⁰ for a Sat Morn²¹ soon.

It was stated that the troop Log had not been written for at least one or two or five weeks if not more or less forbye.

The Court was closed.

A. Runcie (scribe)

A.B. Cram (T.L.)

Editorial notes for 12th January 1961

- 1. See note 1 for 19th April 1960 regarding Junior ASM (JASM).*
- 2. This had the equivalent value to £55 today (as of 2022)*
- 3. The Easter camp was held at Dunfallandy just south of Pitlochry*
- 4. The discussion over the venue for Summer Camp rumbled on for several weeks with various locations identified. Curiously, there is no mention of Arduaine in any of these discussions and the decision to camp there must have been taken quite late on.*
- 5. Presumably proposed in jest, the 'pool being the River Clyde'*
- 6. This was a sensible suggestion that was seriously considered. The 70th camped near Inverness in the 1970s.*
- 7. This might have been a serious suggestion, but was not discussed further*
- 8. This might have been a serious suggestion. If so, the 'No swimming pool' might indicate that likely campsites were too far from a suitable loch. During the summer camps of the 1960s, the Scouts swam in lochs, rather than public swimming pools.*
- 9. This was a sensible suggestion as there was an good Scout campsite close to Aberdeen (Templar's Park). The 70th was to camp there on a number of occasions in later years.*
- 10. This was a serious suggestion, but was not pursued further. There is no record of the 70th ever camping in the North Berwick area.*
- 11. Southend is at the southern tip of the Mull of Kintyre. Although it was the 'hot on favourite', it was not discussed further. Possibly the intended campsite was booked by another troop.*
- 12. See note 5 for the 14th October 1960 regarding Billy Phillips*
- 13. Michael Hodge (Hoji) probably joined the Troop in 1958. He was promoted to Second in September 1961 and had a reputation for performing a 'war dance'. It is thought that he left the troop during the 1961-62 session.*
- 14. See note 4 for the 5th September 1959 regarding Dougal Urquhart*
- 15. This seems excessively critical as all three Scouts had positive inputs during their time in the 70th and left their mark. Possibly the Court of Honour was in a bad mood that night!*
- 16. Bobby McCallum probably joined the troop in 1960. He was promoted to Second in 1962, then to PL in 1964. In 1965, he was promoted to Troop Leader and gained the Queen's Scout Award that same year. He resigned from the troop about the summer of 1966.*
- 17. In other words, Bobby had no say in the matter. He eventually became PL of the Kingfisher Patrol.*
- 18. Each Patrol was meant to maintain a patrol log summarizing the activities and meetings of the patrol. This was to include any Patrol meetings, patrol hikes or patrol camps in addition to troop activities. The logs were checked about once a month and points were awarded that went towards the Patrol Championship. Only the Kingfisher Patrol Logs have survive from the 1960s.*
- 19. See note 8 for the 11th November 1960 regarding the visit to McKelvie and Son printers.*
- 20. An 'in word' that was used a lot during the 1960s to signify something that was very good.*
- 21. Probably written in error as the activity took place on the Saturday afternoon of the 28th January 1961 (see the troop log).*

25th January 1961

Those present were:-

S.M. Robert Miller, A.S.M. Ian McFarlane, JASMs¹ John Nisbet and Ken Johnstone
T.L. Alastair Cram

PLs Alexander Millar, Ian Fraser, Ronald Lind, Albert Runcie, Peter Fraser.

The court was opened after the promise had been renewed.

Dance²

The one and only item tonight was the dance. The PLs were asked to bring six cakes and a jelly each. The cost of the tickets is to be 4/- a pair³ (no half returns or singles and only on tic if desperate). I. Fraser was given the job of printing the tickets on the church's printing machine if he wished.

The Court was closed.

A. Runcie (scribe)

A.B. Cram (T.L.)

Editorial notes for 25th January 1961

1. See note 1 for 19th April 1960 regarding Junior ASM (JASM).

2. See note 4 for 8th January 1960 regarding the annual Scout dance

3. This would be the equivalent of £5 today (as of 2022)

3rd February 1961

Finnart Church, Madeira St.

Those present were:-

S.M. Robert Miller, A.S.M. Ian McFarlane, JASM¹s Ken Johnston and John Nisbet

T.L. Alastair Cram (seal)

PLs Alexander Millar (curlew), Ian Fraser (falcon), Ronald Lind (fox), Albert Runcie (Kingfisher), Peter Fraser (Seagull).

The court was opened after the promise had been said.

Dance²

The main item tonight was the dance. It was decided that PLs should meet at 7:30 PM on Thursday the 16th to put up the decorations in the hall for the dance and that the PLs are to bring decorations for the hall. TL A. Cram volunteered to bring a record player plus records plus amplifier if A.S.M. Ian McFarlane supplied the troop car³ to take them to the hall and take them back to the TLs house afterwards. The ASM sort of agreed.

Summer Camp⁴

JASM K. Johnston suggested Inverness as a suitable place for a summer camp as he had heard it favourably spoken of by another troop. It was decided to consider the suggestion.

McKelvie⁵

The question as to whether or not we should continue to propose to go to McKelvie's printing works still on a Sat Aft was brought up by the SM. On a vote of what of hands, it was decided that we should.

The court was closed.

A. Runcie (scribe)

A.B. Cram (T.L.)

Editorial notes for 3rd February 1961

1. See note 1 for 19th April 1960 regarding Junior ASM (JASM).

2. See note 4 for 8th January 1960 regarding the annual Scout dance

3. In other words, Ian McFarlane's car.

4. See note 4 for the 12th January 1961 regarding summer camp venues for 1961.

5. See note 8 for the 11th November 1960 regarding the visit to McKelvie and Son printers. There is no firm evidence that the troop ever did make the visit.

17th February 1961

Finnart Church, Madeira St.

Those present were:-

S.M. Robert Miller, JASM¹s Ken Johnston and John Nisbet

T.L. Alastair Cram (seal)

PLs Alexander Millar (curlew), Ian Fraser (falcon), Ronald Lind (fox), Albert Runcie (Kingfisher), Peter Fraser (Seagull).

The court was opened after the promise had been recited.

Pitlochry Easter Camp²

After a general ramble for some time, The SM said he had no idea what the name of the farm was to whom the site belonged. Here, a typical JASM ramble commenced.

“Ye know the farm beginning with T just up that road from Pitlochry. Well that isn’t where the site is.”

Sun Aft

It was decided to have a Sun Aft on the 26th February³. Only PLs Alistair Cram and Albert Runcie showed any enthusiasm however (mainly because they can’t go).

Football

The following letter was received. The Court Scribe was announced as writing to the Convenor and to say that the troop was interested but would like more details such as when the games were to be played etc

Letter sent by the convener, Arthur Ferguson of 17, Old Inverkip Road, Greenock on 24th January 1961

“Dear Scouter,

The Scout Football Shield

It has been suggested that, instead of the above competition being run on a ‘knockout’ basis, it be run experimentally as a league competition.

The rules for this new venture are at present being drawn up and will require to be ratified by the Scouters Council, but, in the meantime, it would help considerably if it was known how many teams would like to take part.

I should be obliged, therefore, if you would let me know if your troop are likely to enter a team.

An early reply will oblige.

Yours sincerely, Arthur Ferguson”

Signalling⁴

As the officials of last year’s signalling competition recognize our troop as the winners of the shield⁵, it was decided that if we did not enter this year they might take the shield ‘off us’.⁶ How we were to learn was the next problem. Several proposals were put forward, but the idea that the whole troop should learn it was announced ‘the favourite’⁷ with points been deducted or added at the end of

a month. In the month, the troop is to learn signalling well enough or at least bad enough to pass the old second-class test.

Pitlochry again

The subject of Easter Camp was brought up again now. The JASMs refused to be responsible for more than eight bods⁸ and as 10 wanted to go, there was almost a Civil War. There was a suggestion that Easter Camp to Pitlochry should be given up. The SM and ASM saved the ???⁹ by volunteering to take flu for the Easter Camp period¹⁰.

A. Runcie (scribe)

A.B. Cram (T.L.)

Editorial notes for 17th February 1961

1. See note 1 for 19th April 1960 regarding Junior ASM (JASM).
2. The Easter camp was held at Dunfallandy just south of Pitlochry
3. The SunAft was postponed from the 26th February 1961 to the 5th March 1961. It involved a hike over the "Right of Way" (see relevant entry on the Troop Log). The "Right of Way" was a hike route that had been used by the 70th ever since the 1930s and involved hiking over the hills from Flatterton Road to Lunderston Bay via the 'Curling Pond'. It is not known whether Alastair Cram or Albert Runcie participated or not.
4. See note 6 for the 25th September 1959 regarding the signalling competition.
5. This indicates that the 70th won the District Signalling Competition in 1960. Unfortunately, there is no report on the competition in the troop log and it is not known who was in the 70th's team.
6. Probably an indication that the 70th felt as if they owned the shield having had it so long.
7. An 'in word' that was used a lot during the 1960s to signify something that was very good.
8. This suggests that neither Bob Miller nor a warranted ASM was available to attend the camp. John Nisbet and Ken Johnston were the JASMs who were originally going to run the camp.
9. The word is indistinct.
10. In other words, ASM Ian McFarlane and Bob Miller would attend the camp for at least part of the time. Ironically, Bob Miller actually did catch the flu and had to stay overnight at the Fishers Hotel in Pitlochry and visit the camp during the day (see the full account of the camp in the troop log).

3rd March 1961

Finnart Church, Madeira St.

Those present were:-

S.M. Robert Miller ASM Ian McFarlane

T.L. Alastair Cram

PLs Alexander Millar, Ian Fraser, Ronald Lind, Albert Runcie, Peter Fraser.

The court was opened after the promise had been recited.

Milk bottles

At the beginning of the Court of Honour, SM Bob Miller and ASM Ian McFarlane were not there, but they came in solemnly carrying a shovel on which there were broken pieces of glass which had previously been one whole milk bottle. An unbroken bottle was also carried. This, they said, they had taken from a garden after the owners had complained that Scouts had thrown them there. It was decided that the culprit must be found, but no definite idea of how this was to be done was thought of. Ian Paterson¹ and Michael Nisbet² were eliminated from the list of those present plus all the PLs.

Summer Camp³

The TL announced that the summer camp situation was becoming serious as we should have booked a site before last summer camp. As it is, we have not yet thought of a site. Dunbar was suggested by the SM.

Gang Show⁴

A letter received recently by the SM was read out. This stated that the Alhambra Theatre wanted to know if any of our troop are going to the gang show to be held there and if so how many. It was decided to ask the troop next Friday to see how many want to go.

The court was closed.

A. Runcie (scribe)

A.B. Cram (T.L.)

Editorial notes for 3rd March 1961

- 1. Ian Paterson's nickname was 'Kipper' or 'Kippar' due to his tendency to get up late. He probably joined the Troop during the latter half of 1959. He attended several camps but not much is known about his progress through Scouts. It is believed that he left the troop during the 1962-63 session.*
- 2. Michael Nisbet was John Nisbet's younger brother. He joined the Troop in October 1958 and was promoted to Second during 1960. In September 1961, he was promoted to PL and remained as such until June 1964 when he became a junior ASM.*
- 3. The debate over the venue for summer camp had been going on for a couple of months (see 12th January 1961). The eventual campsite was chosen as Arduaine, but it is not known when the decision was made or why Arduaine was chosen.*
- 4. The Alhambra Theatre in Glasgow opened in 1910 and closed in 1969. It was demolished in 1971. The Gang Show would have been the Glasgow Gang Show.*

17th March 1961

Finnart Church, Madeira St.

Those present were:-

S.M. Robert Miller, JASM¹s Ken Johnston and John Nisbet

T.L. Alastair Cram (seal)

PLs Ian Fraser, Ronald Lind, Albert Runcie, Peter Fraser.

The court was opened after the promise had been renewed.

Summer Camp²

The question was asked whether or not anything was been done towards getting a site for the summer camp. The SM replied that feelings³ were being put out.

New Tent

The SM announced that he had found out from Blacks that they had a second-hand 'good companion's' tent for sale at a reasonable price and they had asked if the troop wanted to purchase it. A list of the tents we possess was given by JASM Ken Johnson; it was as follows;

1 bell, 1 icelandic, 2 nigers, 1 stormhaven, 3 Karas, 1 Bungalow, 1 ???⁴ (mislayed) and 1 good companion's (minus poles). It was decided that as the troop had a general lack of hike tents, we would purchase it as JASM J. Nisbet put it if it was "Subject to favourable inspection".

Macs

It was decided to continue with the expedition to McKelvie's printing works. Note this was first announced on the 12th January.⁵

Gang Show

Asked whether or not we would be going to the gang show en masse, the SM replied that it was no longer possible to obtain block bookings through Scout auspices, that he hoped we would be able to go in individual scourses⁶.

Spy

The SM stated that some Scout or Scouts other than those of the Court of Honour have told others of the troop that only 8 were being allowed to go to Easter camp and due to this information leaking into the troop, some boys had decided not to go to the camp. Nobody admitted telling any other Scouts.⁷

Another announcement

The SM announced that the troop logbook was now almost written up to date.

The court was closed.

A. Runcie (scribe)

A.B. Cram (T.L.)

Editorial notes for 17th March 1961

1. See note 1 for 19th April 1960 regarding Junior ASM (JASM).

2. See note 3 for 10th March 1961 regarding summer camp

3. Presumably the Scribe meant to write 'feelers'.

4. The word is indistinct and looks like 'roadster'

5. The proposed visit was actually first mentioned on 11th November 1960

6. Presumably this was meant to state that individuals would be able to source tickets if they wished to go.

7. This was the second occasion in recent weeks when information was found to 'leak' from a Court of Honour meeting (see also note 7 for the 11th November 1960).

21st April 1961

Those present were:-

S.M. Robert Miller, ASM Ian McFarlane, JASM¹s Ken Johnston and John Nisbet

T.L. Alastair Cram (seal)

PLs Ian Fraser, Ronald Lind, Albert Runcie, Peter Fraser.

The court was opened after the promise had been renewed.

The minutes of the previous COH were read & signed.

Signalling²

The SM stated that all previous methods of learning semaphore had been failures. The court agreed after discussion.³ The court decided that the opportunity would be taken to learn it at Easter Camp.

Patrol Logs⁴

The SM complained that the Seal and Falcon were the only patrols to produce a logbook every month and demanded to know why. After much discussion, the court was closed.

A. Runcie (scribe to court)

A.B. Cram (T.L.)

Editorial notes for 21st April 1961

1. See note 1 for 19th April 1960 regarding Junior ASM (JASM).

2. See note 6 for the 25th September 1959 regarding the signalling competition.

3. Presumably this indicated that recent attempts at teaching semaphore had been relatively unsuccessful.

4. See note 18 for the 12th January 1961

5th May 1961

Finnart Church, Madeira St.

The following were present:-

S.M. Robert Miller, ASM Ian McFarlane, JASM¹s Ken Johnston and John Nisbet
T.L. Alastair Cram (seal)
PLs Ian Fraser, Ronald Lind, A. Miller.

The court was opened by the renewal of the promise.

Signalling²

The main item of discussion was the signalling team³. The following were conscripted:- A. Cram, I. Fraser, P. Fraser⁴, M. Nisbet and R. Russell⁵.

Departure

Ian McFarlane announced his forthcoming absence, due to commitments in Sassenach land, an absence of one month commencing 14th of May 1961. A. Cram, therefore, takes over as badge secretary (permanently), John Nisbet as treasurer, from K. Johnson and the score will be kept by a combined effort.

Entertainments

Entertainments for Parents at the summer camp meeting were discussed but nothing conclusive concluded.

The court then adjourned

I. Fraser (Temporary scribe to Court).

Editorial notes for 5th May 1961

- 1. See note 1 for 19th April 1960 regarding Junior ASM (JASM).*
- 2. See note 6 for the 25th September 1959 regarding the signalling competition.*
- 3. The team prove successful and won the Signalling competition held on the 8th June 1961 (see the troop log)*
- 4. Peter Fraser was reserve.*
- 5. Ronald Russell (Gorm or Gorman) joined the troop in October 1958 and was promoted to Second in September 1960. He may have left the troop after the summer of 1961.*

12th May 1961

Finnart Church, Madeira St.

Those present were:-

S.M. Robert Miller,

T.L. Alastair Cram

PLs Ian Fraser, Ronald Lind, P. Fraser

The court was opened renewing the promise.

Shannon Cup¹

The Shannon Team is:

A. Cram, A. Runcie, R. Lind, M. Nisbet, W. Phillips, R. Russell.²

Subject to final confirmation as the dates clash with the academy sports³

Treasurers Report

£186-12-4 in bank

£18-15-9 - £2-10-2 in cash

Total £202-17-11⁴

What is a COH

Is a COH 50% or 60% of PLs defined as 60%⁵

Where is Alex?⁶

Some concern has arisen as to why PL A. Miller is absent so often from Scouts (11 absences since Sept last). Reported to be three weeks unfit, but seen at other times in female company.

Question answer

Where is anywhere? Anywhere but here (see "Where is Alex").

I. Fraser (Temporary scribe to Court).

Editorial notes for 12th May 1961

1. See note 5 for the 8th May 1959 regarding the Shannon Cup

2. In previous years there had been 8 Scouts in the Shannon Cup team

3. It seems unlikely that the Scouts would be allowed to miss the Greenock Academy Sports Day. Indeed, the troop log report for the 26th May 1961 stated that a decision was taken that night to scratch from the competition. The Shannon Cup Competition was usually held on the last weekend of May, while the Greenock Academy Sports day was usually held on the first Saturday of June. It is probable that the Shannon Cup competition was held during the first weekend in June that year, especially as several Scouts went camping to Inverreck on the last weekend of May.

4. This was equivalent in value to £5339 today (as of 2022)

5. It's not entirely clear what was being asked here. Presumably, the question was asking whether the Court of Honour had to have a certain percentage of PLs present to be valid, such that they were not outvoted by ASMs and JASMs.

6. Sandy Miller's absences coincided with him showing less interest in Scouting. Indeed, he was to resign over the summer of 1961. His resignation caused a lot of soul searching in the COH over the quality of the programme, implying that his resignation was viewed as a big loss.

19th May 1961

Those present were:-

S.M. Robert Miller, K. Johnston, J. Nisbet

T.L. Alastair Cram

PLs Ian Fraser, Ronald Lind, P. Fraser, A. Runcie

The court was opened after the promise had been renewed.

The minutes of the last Court of Honour were read.

Missing PL¹

The first matter dealt with tonight was the absence of PL A. Miller of the Curlew patrol who, out of the last 34 meetings was absent 12 times. The TL announced that the said PL had told him that he would come tonight complete with excuses for his absences. He had not turned up. Each PL was asked what he thought should be done about PL Miller. After several suggestions, the TL suggested that the SM should make a personal visit to PL Miller's house. The SM then suggested that the TL, being chairman of the Court of Honour should go. After much argument, it was decided that the TL would go and the SM accompany him for moral support and supper! It was decided that on the visit they would ask PL Miller what he did not enjoy on Friday nights. The TL here stated that it was no wonder he didn't enjoy them. The SM started to query this when PL I Fraser demanded to know why there had been no stunt tonight when it had been written on the evening's official programme that there was to be a stunt. The SMs only excuse was that there had been no time for it, and suggested that if a specimen program be made up by the PLs, it would be carried out in a week or two. The PLs agreed to this and decided there would be a Court of Honour next Thursday to discuss it.

The court was closed.

A. Runcie (scribe to court).

Editorial notes for 19th May 1961

1. See note 6 for the 12th May 1961.

25th May 1961

Finnart Church, Madeira St.

Those present were:-

T.L. Alastair Cram

PLs Ian Fraser, Ronald Lind, P. Fraser.

Business

To make up the programme of 26.5.61.

At a previous Court of Honour¹, the PLs had said that the programme made up by the Scouters may have been a cause for PL Millers prolonged absence². The SM, asked what was wrong with the programmes *and* was told there was never any variation in them. The PLs were then given the chance to make up the following week's programme. It was agreed at this Court of Honour that the following night's programme was to take the form of a wide game. The troop was to be divided into three patrols and each to be given a message in semaphore; two of which were grid references. After decoding this, they would be asked to do various things.

Parents Night

The question was raised as to what form the Parents night would take. Would it be

- A) a normal troop meeting
- B) a troop effort
- C) a patrol effort
- D) Something entirely different.

This business was left over to another Court of Honour.

A. Runcie (scribe to court).

Editorial notes for 25th May 1961

1. See entry for 19th May 1961

2. See note 6 for the 12th May 1961 regarding Sandy Miller.

2nd June 1961

Finnart Church, Madeira St.

Those present were:-

Scouters: K. Johnston, J. Nisbet, ASM I McFarlane, SM R. Miller

T.L. Alastair Cram

PLs Ian Fraser, Ronald Lind, P. Fraser, A. Runcie

The court was opened after the honour had been renewed¹.

A. Miller^{2,3}

As Alexander Scott Miller (PL of the Curlew) had stated that he would turn up this week complete with excuses, it was decided, owing to his absence, to write him a letter. This letter was worded as follow(s):-

“Following your non appearance on the 2nd Inst, the Court of Honour has therefore decided that unless you’re prepared to play a full part in troop activities, the court will require your resignation.”

The job of writing and posting was given to the scribe, A. Runcie.

The Court was closed.

A. Runcie (scribe to court).

Editorial notes for 2nd June 1961

1. *In other words, the Scout promise was retaken.*
2. *See entry for 19th May 1961*
3. *See note 6 for the 12th May 1961 regarding Sandy Miller.*

9th June 1961

Finnart Church, Madeira St.

Those present were:-

Scouters: K. Johnston, J. Nisbet, ASM I McFarlane, SM R. Miller

T.L. Alastair Cram

PLs Ian Fraser, Ronald Lind, P. Fraser, A. Runcie

The court was opened after the promise had been renewed.

The minutes of the previous two Courts of Honour were read.

Subscriptions

K. Johnstone. Treasurer, announced that all patrols except the Falcon were owing the troop money. The Curlew 3/-, Fox 2/6d, Kingfisher 2/6d, Seal 1/-, Seagull 2/6d.¹

Attendance

From the problem of subscriptions followed the problem of attendance. The chairman gave a list of all poor attenders. In Curlew, PL A. Miller (extra poor)^{2,3}, Neil Fraser⁴ (poor) but PL I. Fraser announced he had left. The second of the Curlew being still around was asked to find out as soon as possible if N. Fraser had left. All the Falcon and Kingfisher patrol attendances were all right. In the Fox, only J. Scott could not attend regularly but he has a good excuse⁵. The attendance of J. Fisher⁶ of the Seagull was announced to be pretty horrible and A. Conway's⁷ was also nothing to be proud of. In the Seal, only I Mackinnon's⁸ attendance was said to be not very favourable.

Money

The treasurer, on being asked how much money the troop had, replied that there was £202 2/4d⁹ in the bank on the 31st May, and £8 19/1d ready cash.

Trek Cart

J. Nisbet brought up the subject of the broken down trek cart¹⁰. It was asked whether it could be renovated without too great a cost or whether it would be cheaper to buy a new one. I Fraser was given the job of finding out from Blair¹¹, the joiner which would be cheaper. It was also asked whether a trek cart was necessary. After a discussion, it was decided that it was.¹²

A. Runcie (scribe to court)

Editorial notes for 9th June 1961

1. These debts would correspond in value to £1.30 to £3.90 today (as of 2022)

2. See entry for 19th May 1961

3. See note 6 for the 12th May 1961 regarding Sandy Miller.

4. See note 3 for the 10th June 1960 regarding Neil Fraser

5. Not much is known about Jack Scott. It is thought that he joined the troop towards the end of 1957 and he was promoted Second in April 1960. He probably left the troop during the 1961-62 session. It is also not known why Jack could not always attend on Friday nights.

6. Jimmy Fisher probably joined the troop in 1959 and was still with the troop in August 1961.

However, the lack of records covering 1961-1963 means that it is not known when he left the troop.

7. Alan Conway was the middle brother of the three Conways, all of whom joined the troop. Alan joined the troop in 1958 and was promoted to Second in 1960. At some point between 1961 to 1963 he was promoted to PL. Alan gained his Queen's Scout Badge and was the first 70th Scout to attend a World Jamboree overseas (Greece). He resigned from the troop in June 1964.
8. It is not known when Ian McKinnon joined the troop, but it may have been the latter half of 1960. He gained the GSMs Cup for making the most progress during the 1960-61 session. It is likely that he left the troop during the first half of 1962.
9. This corresponds in value to £5313 today (as of 2022).
10. This was the same trek cart that was originally purchased on the 15th December 1939 (see relevant troop log)
11. Jim Blair's father
12. During the 1940s, the trek cart proved very important in the collection of waste paper from houses in the neighbourhood. During the 1950s, when several camps were held at Inverreck, it was used to push camping equipment from Dunoon pier to Inverreck campsite – a distance of about 4 miles. It probably saw service at other times in the collection of jumble from houses in the neighbourhood.

18th August 1961

Those present were:-

Scouters: J. Nisbet, ASM I McFarlane, SM R. Miller

T.L. Alastair Cram

PLs Ronald Lind, P. Fraser, A. Runcie

The court was opened after the promise had been renewed.

The minutes of the last two Court of Honour were read.

Proposal regarding the Court of Honour

The SM proposed that each month there should be a Court of Honour. In it would be included reports from the PLs on the progress of their patrols, discussions on previous month's programme, remarks from the scorer, quartermaster, badge secretary, librarian, the SM and anyone else who wished. The SM here quoted from the book the "Court of Honour"¹ as follows²:

The SM's proposal was approved. It was decided to hold it on the first Thursday of each month at the hall, allowing a month to gather remarks together. SM R. Miller made a few remarks on various subjects.

1. This first was that he thought the summer camp³ had been a great success. The reason for this being the PLs meeting held each night.
2. The SM stated that it would be the job of QM R. Lind to locate and scribe all troop gear taken to summer camp and to report things missing. He would also be responsible for the lending of troop gear and it's unimpaired return.
3. The song scribe R. Lind was asked to write the songs, learnt by the troop from the Doune and Liverpool troops⁴ at summer camp, in the troop song book⁵.
4. The SM stated that the pioneering team⁶ was capable of winning, but the PL and second of the team should have a practice before the event.⁷
5. A Parents meeting has been arranged for the 13th of September at which a new parents committee would be elected⁸. Slides and film of summer camp also being shown.⁹ No Scouts are to attend.
6. It was suggested by the SM that before winter sets in, there should be a weekend camp to bring back memories of the summer camp. It was agreed that this would be a good idea but no site was decided upon. The dates of the camp to be the 16th and 17th of September.¹⁰
7. The SM proposed that the parents night should not be held too near the November exams so as to allow time for studying¹¹.
8. The next proposal by the SM was that there should be troop training on Friday nights in particular subjects, with a certain time put aside for this purpose. This idea was put to the vote and approved of. For the first six weeks, it was decided that tracking¹² would be instructed.
9. The SM has arranged with the minister¹³ to have a Scouts Own¹⁴ in the church on a Sunday evening in the near future to which parents etc would be invited.
10. PLs R. Lind and A. Runcie were asked how many badges each needed before they would be eligible for their Queens Scout Badge¹⁵. R. Lind said that he needed five and A. Runcie 3. The SM stated his desire that they should try and get

them presented by the Chief Scout in October¹⁶. Both PLs agreed to attempt to obtain the required badges by then.

11. The next point was the appointment of two new PLs, one for the Curlew Patrol due to the resignation of Alexander Miller, the second for the Seal patrol as their PL Alistair Cram is becoming a Scouter. The list of Seconds from whom the new PLs would to be picked were as follows:- Conway, Urquhart, Russell, Nisbet, Scott, Moore. The SM stated that he would choose Seconds Nisbet¹⁷ and Moore¹⁸. These suggestions were put to the vote and unanimously agreed to. Thus second Michael Nisbet of the Curlew becomes PL of the Curlew, and Second John Moore of the Falcon becomes PL of the Seal. The new Seconds were to be picked from 1st Scouts: Phillips¹⁹, Ballantyne²⁰, Grey²¹, Fisher²², Hodge²³ and McCallum²⁴. It was decided that the only first Scouts capable of being promoted to seconds were William Phillips and Michael Hodge. Thus William Phillips of the Falcon patrol become second of the Falcon and Michael Hodge of the Seal becomes second of the Curlew.

The court was closed.

A. Runcie (scribe)

Editorial notes for 18th August 1961

1. 'The Court of Honour' was no. 2 of a series of books called *The Scouter's Books* published by the Boy Scouts Association. It was written by John Thurman.
2. It does not look as if the quote was provided.
3. This refers to the summer camp held at Arduaine in 1961. Three composite patrols of Scouts were present.
4. Both troops were also camping in the vicinity of Arduaine. There was a joint campfire involving all 3 Troops and another campfire involving the Perthshire troop and the 70th. The latter campfire was changed to a song-song in a barn due to the inclement weather. Log reports on the camp have survived, but there are very few photographs.
5. See the entry for the 18th September 1960
6. The 70th entered a patrol consisting of Alastair Cram, Albert Runcie, Ronald Lind, Michael Nisbet, Billy Philips and Michael Hodge for the District Pioneering Competition which was held on the 26th-27th August 1961. They came third (three marks behind second place) but only three troops entered. The 70th patrol was one man short which proved a disadvantage. The pioneering projects included the building of a 30 foot look out tower, a ropeless bridge and a trestle.
7. It is not known what that practice involved. The PL and Second involved were Alastair Cram and Albert Runcie.
8. The Parents meeting almost certainly went ahead but there was no report on it in the troop log.
9. Unfortunately, the slides and film footage of the Arduaine summer camp have not been traced.
10. It is not known whether the camp went ahead. There is no mention of it in the troop log.
11. It is assumed that the Parents night was separate from the parents meeting, and that the former was an opportunity for the Scouts to put on demonstrations. It took place on the 13th October 1961, but was only mentioned briefly in the troop log.
12. Tracking was one of the skills required for the Tenderfoot badge and involved following a trail marked with natural materials. Ideally, the signposting was only visible to those actively looking for the signs.
13. The Reverend Stewart
14. A Scouts Own was a religious service or meeting that was directed specifically to the Scouts and was organized and delivered by the Scouts and Scouters themselves. There were at least two Scouts Owns held in Finnart Church on a Sunday evening each year, as well as smaller Scouts Owns held in camp. Parents and friends were recorded as being present at a Scouts Own in Finnart Church on one occasion, but it is not known whether this was typical. The minister (Rev. D.H. Stewart) normally gave the benediction. The Scouts Own in question took place on the 1st October 1961 (see troop log)

15. *The Queen Scouts Badge was the pinnacle of the progressive Scout training scheme. Ronald Lind and Albert Runcie both succeeded in gaining the badge, but not by October as requested. Realistically, this was rather a tall order.*
16. *There is a possibility that Jim Blair was presented with his Queen Scouts Badge from the Chief Scout in October 1961*
17. *See note 2 for the 3rd March 1961*
18. *See note 4 for the 14th October 1960*
19. *See note 5 for the 14th October 1960*
20. *Very little is known about Jim Ballantyne. He may have joined the troop in 1959 and was still with the troop at the end of the 1960-61 session. However, it is not known when he left the troop.*
21. *Not much is known about George Gray. He joined the troop in 1960 and was still with the troop in October 1961. However, it is not known when he left the troop due to a lack of records covering 1961 to 1963.*
22. *See note 8 for the 10th June 1960.*
23. *See note 13 for the 12th January 1961*
24. *See note 16 for the 12th January 1961*

1st September 1961

Finnart Church, Madeira Street

Those present were:-

Scouters: A. Cram¹, J. Nisbet, ASM I McFarlane, SM R. Miller
PLs P. Fraser, I. Fraser, M. Nisbet, A. Runcie

The court was opened after the promise had been renewed.

New Member²

The SM officially welcomed the new PL Michael Nisbet to the Court of Honour telling him he would probably know more about the work of the Court of Honour after he had heard the previous Court of Honour minutes. But, as they were rather long, the hour was late, and the other new PL J. Moore was absent, it was decided to withhold their reading until the next Court of Honour.

Now arose the question of when the next Court of Honour should be. As there would be a lot to discuss, it was proposed that it should be on some day other than a Friday. After much argument, it was agreed to have it on Wednesday, the 6th September at 7 PM p.m. at PL R. Lind's house.

The court was closed.

A. Runcie³ (scribe to court)

Editorial notes for 1st September 1961

- 1. This was the first Court of Honour meeting where Alastair Cram attended as a Scouter, having intimated his desire to resign as Troop Leader – presumably at the end of August after summer camp. His formal resignation occurred at some point between the 8th and 22nd September 1961*
- 2. As Sandy Miller had presumably resigned as PL in June, there were two vacancies for PLs, which were filled by Michael Nisbet and John Moore.*
- 3. The resignation of Alastair Cram as PL and Troop Leader left a vacancy for a new Troop Leader. Albert Runcie was eventually promoted to Troop leader, but not until January 1962. In the meantime. In the meantime, it is likely that Alastair continued as Chairman of the Court of Honour until the 8th September 1961 when Albert was appointed to take his place.*

6th September 1961

Those present were:-

Scouters: A. Cram, J. Nisbet, ASM I McFarlane, SM R. Miller

PLs R. Lind, P. Fraser, I. Fraser, A. Runcie

The court was opened after the promise had been reaffirmed.

The minutes of the last 2 Courts of Honour were read, but, as they were not in the Court of Honour log book it was decided that (they) could not be proposed or seconded even if they had been of the correct standard.

Parent Night

This is a list of the suggestions put forward for the Parents Night.

- 1) Three groups each doing some scouting activity
- 2) Pioneering
- 3) First aid
- 4) Getting a group of scouts from one end of the to the hall to the other
- 5) Semaphore
- 6) Quiz
- 7) Choir made up of young Scouts
- 8) Pa was Wild (a story heard at summer camp)
- 9) Novelty cooking
- 10) Law and promise
- 11) BP's last letter
- 12) Interpatrol game
- 13) Quiz on history of Scouting
- 14) Pressganging parents into patrols
- 15) That there should be a compere and his items should be in verse
- 16) Sketches produced by the troop
- 17) Small five-minute items e.g. Farmer Brown's cow
- 18) Showing of films
- 19) Welcome by SM
- 20) Welcome by Troop singing 'hello'. Song and yell learnt at summer camp
- 21) Benediction from Minister
- 22) Talk by SM on Scouts in Russia in Russian. But the SM objected to this mainly because there are no Scouts in Russia.

Note: In the original draft (also taped in the minutes book), there was a suggestion that a quiz at a previous Parents' night had failed.

8th September 1961

Finnart Church, Madeira St

Those present were:-

Scouters: A. Cram

PLs R. Lind, P. Fraser, I. Fraser, A. Runcie, J. Moore

The court was opened after the promise had been renewed.

Parents Night

Two more suggestions to add to the last Court of Honour's list were put forward. They were that I. Mackinnon¹ and M. Hodge² should play the piano and that William Phillips³ should do some conjuring tricks. Both these suggestions were approved. It was decided to pair off the patrols and each group so formed would be given one of the following stunts to perform – first aid, pioneering, cooking. The patrols were divided up as follows- Falcon and Seal, Curlew and Fox, Kingfisher and Seagull.

On drawing lots, the Falcon and Seal picked pioneering, Curlew and Fox, pioneering, Kingfisher and Seagull, cooking.

The chairman⁴ now asked for a volunteer as compere. J. Moore volunteered on condition that he would not have to say it in verse, or if verse was a necessity that he would not have to compose it.

After the tea, it was decided that the summer camp films⁵ should be shown.

Weekend Camp

It was decided by a vote that the troop would go to Roseneath for the weekend camp on the 17th and 18th of September.⁶

The Court was closed.

A. Runcie (scribe to Court)

A.B. Cram (retiring TL)

Editorial notes for 8th September 1961

1. See note 8 for the 9th June 1961 regarding Ian McKinnon.

2. See note 13 for the 12th January 1961 regarding Michael Hodge

3. See note 5 for the 14th October 1960 regarding Billy Phillips

4. It is assumed that this was Alastair Cram (see note 8 for 1st September 1961)

5. It is not known whether these films survive. The Summer Camp would have been the one held at Arduaine that year and possibly earlier summer camps as well.

6. There is no known report on this camp and so it is not known whether it took place or not.

22nd September 1961

Finnart Church, Madeira St

Those present were:-

Scouters: A. Cram, J. Nisbet, ASM I. Macfarlane, SM B. Miller

PLs R. Lind, I. Fraser, A. Runcie, J. Moore, M. Nisbet

The court was opened on the renewal of the promise.

Chairman

Because of A. Cram's promotion to Scouter, a new COH chairman had to be chosen. A new TL could not be had for none of the PLs could qualify for the above rank.¹ A. Runcie was unanimously chosen as chairman. The new scribe was not voted in yet.

Attendance

ASM Macfarlane said that there had only been 66% attendance for the past two weeks. The PLs were then told to make an effort and get all their bods out, and SM Millar suggested that they make a report next C.O.H.

Parents Night

Parents night in three weeks time² and no official programme³ yet.

Renewal of Promise

JASM Nisbet said that he thought the renewal of the promise at the C.O.H. is superfluous. Is it a good or bad idea? Does it mean anything to PLs? Another suggestion was that the flag should be brought in. (The idea of ceremony is to make it different from any other meeting, 18-1-60).

The C.O.H. on the Parents night is not the place for the above business, but hypocritically⁴ we asked what we would should replace the promise with. Find out what other troops do and leave it to next C.O.H.

Back to Parents Night

The programme is as follows:-

Huello⁵ – sung by troop

(Programme now left till next C.O.H.)

Star feature

Due to the construction of the hall, any Parent late is a star feature.⁶

The court was then closed.

I. Fraser

Remark

As no scribe has yet been appointed to C.O.H., PL Fraser is temporarily taking over the C.O.H. log.

I.Fraser (Temporary scribe to C.O.H.)

Editorial notes for 22nd September 1961

- 1. It is not known what the qualification referred to was. Possible reasons might have been age, period of time already served as PL, holder of the Queen Scout's Award or something else. Michael Runcie eventually became Troop Leader in January 1962.*
- 2. Parents night took place on the 13th October 1961, but was only mentioned briefly in the troop log.*
- 3. The programme included films, pioneering, first aid, cooking, stunts, songs and 'face feed'.*
- 4. Presumably, this was meant to be 'hypothetically'.*
- 5. Presumably, this was a campfire song of some sort.*
- 6. The significance of this statement is not entirely clear. One possible explanation is that the seats in the hall would have been positioned facing the end of the hall with the entrance doors. Once the programme started, the Scouts probably 'performed' at that end of the hall and so all eyes would be pointed that way should any parents arrive late.*

20th October 1961

Finnart Church, Madeira St

Those present were:-

Scouters: JASM A. Cram, ASM J. Nisbet, ASM I. Macfarlane

PLs R. Lind, I. Fraser, A. Runcie (Chairman), J. Moore, M. Nisbet

The court was opened on the renewal of the promise.

Second for Seal Patrol

J. Moore wanted a second. The C.O.H forwarded five names:-

1) I. Paterson¹

2) A. Jeyes²

3) B. McCallum³

4) D. Hamilton⁴

5) G. Grey⁵

This was reduced to two – A. Jeyes and D. Hamilton.

As the majority of PLs thought that D. Hamilton was the most 'competent', a member of the aforesaid patrol and was the 'bod' PL Moore wanted, he was announced Second of the Seal patrol.

Trek cart⁶

A report was given by PL Fraser on the trek cart. It would be costly to obtain a new one, and costly to have it renovated (£25-£30)⁷. The suggestion that we should renovate it ourselves was shelved when it was learned that the wheels weren't as good as we thought they were. PL Fraser was asked to *contact* Slingsby & co⁸ to obtain details of a new one. The C.O.H. then argued amongst itself as to whether a Trek cart is necessary or not. The majority thought it was, PL Nisbet didn't.⁹

Garden shed

PL Fraser intimated that a gentleman had a garden shed which he wished to have disposed. Would the Scouts like it for a bonfire? After much discussion, PL Fraser was asked to obtain details about its size etc.¹⁰

Halloween Party¹¹

The annual Halloween party is to be held on Friday, November 3rd.

Programme:- Fancy dress competition, Face feed

(Rest of the programme to be decided on November 3rd)

Face Feed:- Cakes, ice cream, jelly and lemonade.

Cakes – PLs mums (half a dozen each)

Lemonade – I. Fraser (Barrs 4 dozen)

Jellies – Seconds Mums (1 each)

Ice cream (Ozz¹²/West end café¹³) – 1 gallon.

The C.O.H. was then adjourned.

I. Fraser (Temporary scribe to C.O.H.)

Editorial notes for 20th October 1961

- 1. See note 1 for the 3rd March 1961 regarding Ian Paterson*
- 2. Alan Jeyes joined the troop at some point before September 1960 and might have transferred from another troop. At some point between October 1961 and January 1962, he was promoted to Second of the Fox Patrol, then became PL after the summer of 1963. He resigned in the summer of 1964 and was a JASM for a while before transferring to the 59th.*
- 3. See note 16 for the 12th January regarding Bobby McCallum*
- 4. Donald Hamilton joined the troop in 1959. He was promoted to Second of the Seal Patrol in October 1961. He attended several camps and activities. He left the troop at some point after January 1962, but a lack of records covering 1961-63 means that it is not possible to define when exactly.*
- 5. See note 21 for the 18th August 1961 regarding George Grey*
- 6. See notes 10 and 12 for the 9th June 1961 regarding the trek cart*
- 7. This would equate to £650-750 today (2022)*
- 8. Slingsby is still in operation today (2022) and specializes in commercial and industrial supplies*
- 9. It would have been interesting to know what the pros and cons were in this discussion (see also note 12 for the 9th June 1961)*
- 10. No further information regarding the garden shed was provided in the records.*
- 11. See note 5 for the 25th September 1959 and note 2 for the 9th October 1959 regarding Halloween parties.*
- 12. 'Ozz' or 'Oz' was the nickname for Albert Runcie.*
- 13. The West End Café at 9 Newton Street still exists near to the Greenock West railway station (as of 2022). It is now known as the West Station Café and claims to be Greenock's oldest family-owned Italian café.*

27th October 1961

Those present were:-

Scouters: SM Miller, JASM¹ A. Cram, ASM J. Nisbet, ASM I. Macfarlane, ASM Johnson

PLs R. Lind, I. Fraser, A. Runcie, J. Moore, M. Nisbet

The C.O.H was opened by the renewal of the promise.

Halloween party²

Apples are to be donated by SM. Face feed had been arranged by last C.O.H.

Seconds told (?)³.

The programme was to be made up, with reluctance by this C.O.H., and not by Scouters.

Programme

Treacle scones⁴ (after hearing the I Mac Farlane story⁵) - donated by Al⁶

Hopping Charlie⁷

Patrol party piece⁸

Musical chairs⁹

In and out of pond¹⁰

Parents committee to present prizes for fancy dress competition.

Trek cart¹¹

The reply from the Scout shop was unhelpful, but Slingsby's catalogue was quite helpful. There were plenty of pretty pictures but alas, no pretty prices. Because of the high-cost, I. Macfarlane volunteered to supervise the reconstruction of the existing Trek cart. When renovated, it must be taken care of.

Monthly C.O.H.

SM Miller then began to ramble about the proposed monthly C.O.H.¹² The C.O.H. then, if only to make the SM happy, agreed upon Wednesday at 7:30 in the church as time, date and place of the monthly C.O.H.

The Court was then adjourned.

I. Fraser (Temporary scribe to C.O.H.)

Editorial notes for 27th October 1961

1. See note 1 for 19th April 1960 regarding Junior ASM (JASM).

2. See minutes for the 20th October 1961 regarding the Halloween party

3. Presumably, this was a query as to whether the Seconds knew they were to bring a jelly (see minutes for the 20th October 1961)

4. Scones dripping with treacle were dangled from sizer such that the treacle would drip onto whoever attempted to eat them (no hands allowed). Note that a tarpaulin was laid underneath the line to protect the floor, but it is not known whether the tarpaulin was subsequently washed or not.

5. This might imply that treacle scones were either introduced for the first time at this Halloween Party, or had not been part of the programme for some time.

6. Alistair Cram

7. Hopping Charlie involved the Scouts hopping with arms folded and trying to unbalance their opponents by barging them. Last Scout hopping was the winner.

8. It's not known what this might have been. One possibility was that a patrol stunt or mini play was performed as might be performed at campfire.

9. *Two lines of chairs were set up back to back and the Scouts circled them until the music stopped. The worst place to be would be the ends as you turned from one row of chairs to the other row. Possibly, the Scouters chose to stop the music depending on who were at those positions.*
10. *A circle was marked to represent the pond. On the command 'In the pond', everyone jumped into the circle. On the command 'On the bank', everyone jumped out the circle. If the command 'In the pond' was given when everyone was already in the pond, anyone who jumped out the pond was eliminated. Similarly, you were out if you were on the bank and jumped in the pond when the command was 'On the bank'. Possibly more stringent rules were applied for the Scouts; for example, getting eliminated even if you made a move when you weren't meant to.*
11. *See the minutes for the 20th October 1961 regarding the trek cart*
12. *See the minutes for the 18th August 1961 regarding the monthly COH*

24th November 1961

Finnart Church, Madeira St

Those present were:-

Scouters: SM Miller, JASM¹ A. Cram, ASM J. Nisbet

PLs R. Lind, I. Fraser, P. Fraser A. Runcie, J. Moore, M. Nisbet

The court was opened on the renewal of the promise.

Scribe

PL P. Fraser was voted Scribe to COH as from 1-12-61.

Next C.O.H.

The agenda for the next few C.O.H. was to be handed to the chairman A. Runcie.

By a spin of the dice, PL P. Fraser was nominated to be the PL in whose house the next C.O.H. is to be held.

P. Fraser (Temporary scribe to C.O.H.)

Editorial notes for 24th November 1961

1. See note 1 for 19th April 1960 regarding Junior ASM (JASM).

3rd December 1961

Finnart Church, Madeira St

Those present were:-

Scouters: SM Miller, JASM¹ A. Cram, ASM J. Nisbet

PLs R. Lind, I. Fraser, P. Fraser A. Runcie, J. Moore, M. Nisbet

The court was opened after the promise had been renewed.

Tracking²

The SM said there was a lack of original thought about tracking and that it was unsuccessful as we have no tracking pit³ of our own, so PL J. Moore suggested we should have first aid as a subject for the next six weeks.⁴

Badges

The badge secretary⁵ reported that there was 1, 2 or 19 first aiders in the troop⁶.

The treasurer's⁷ report was that the troop had £212-2s-4d⁸ in the bank. He said he would like the patrols to pay their debts in lump sums and save a lot of calculation on his behalf.

Equipment

PL. R.Lind, the QM, was asked when his list of equipment was going to be written up. He replied by beginning of next year.

Books

The librarian⁹ said there was not a great demand for books as patrols were buying their own.

Troop Log

A volunteer was asked for to write the troop log, someone without a job in the Court of Honour. PL John Moore volunteered to write it.

The Badge Secretary's report was that 29 badges and three Scout Cords¹⁰ have been gained by the troop. Badge instruction classes were to be held every two weeks.¹¹

Trek Cart¹²

The trek cart was next subject. The SM said one would be needed if we were to have another jumble sale.

PLs report

PLs reports are as follows:-

PL Nisbet reported good attendance but not many tests.

PL I. Fraser reported good attendance. The 2 Cubs¹³ passed Tenderfoot, and Ian Paterson¹⁴ about to pass second class. Second W. Phillips¹⁵ gained the Scout Cords.

PL Lind reported good attendance. Ronald Robb¹⁶ suspected to have left.

PL. Moore reported good attendance. I. McKinnon¹⁷ gained a badge. Cubs¹⁸ keen but their work slowing down.

P.L. P. Fraser. Good attendance. Three badges gained. Cub¹⁹ about to get tenderfoot. Quite a few tests passed.

P.L. Runcie reported attendance grim. Two badges and two tests passed since August.

SM's report

The SM said that the reports were satisfactory, but no patrol activities²⁰ were included in any of them. He then asked how many members of the troop who were not in the C.O.H. knew what it was about. He also said that the troop should be informed of future activities and that the Scouts opinions should be expressed as well as the PLs.

Part 2²¹

The parents night²² and the Scouts Own²³ were said to (have) been successful. The troop meetings on Friday night stayed the same, so the SM said suggestions would be gratefully received.

Sat. Afts²⁴ was next subject, and as the troop had had invitations from McKelvie²⁵ the printers and Mr Crawford²⁶ who had quite a large telescope there was no need to worry about where to go.

It was proposed that there would be a night hike²⁷ for the troop and a Christmas camp for PLs, Seconds and 1st-Class Scouts only²⁸.

Games equipment

Games equipment was badly needed such as balls, skittles, etc and that a box should be had to keep the equipment in. The SM and PL Moore said they would look for some balls.

As the campfire programme is made by the duty patrol²⁹, the PL of the duty patrol was to take the campfire instead of one of the Scouters.

The court was closed.

P. Fraser (scribe to C.O.H.)

Editorial notes for 3rd December 1961

- 1. See note 1 for 19th April 1960 regarding Junior ASM (JASM).*
- 2. See note 12 for 18th August 1961 regarding tracking.*
- 3. This could involve a pit with damp sand or earth in which one could 'tell a story' by the prints added to it.*
- 4. It had been decided previously on the 18th August 1961 to focus on the training of a specific Scouting skill over 6 weeks*
- 5. Alastair Cram was appointed badge secretary on the 5th May 1961.*
- 6. Perhaps this meant he had no idea.*
- 7. John Nisbet was appointed treasurer on the 5th May 1961. However, Ken Johnson was reported to be treasurer on the 9th June 1961.*
- 8. This would be worth the same as approximately £5576 today (as of 2022).*
- 9. Ian Fraser was the librarian.*
- 10. It is not clear whether this refers to a particular time period or not, and the recipients were not identified. Two of the three Scouts known to have gained their Scout Cords at this time were John Moore and Alan Conway. Both Scouts were given their Scout Cords in September 1961. Alastair Cram gained his Scout Cords by February 1960, but, by December 1961, he was a Scouter and he might not have been included in the total. Ian Fraser might also have gained his Scout Cords, but it*

is not known for certain. Billy Phillips had completed the requirements for his Scout Cords by December 1961, but did not actually receive them until January 1962.

11. No further information of what that involved are known.
12. See the minutes for the 20th October 1961 regarding the trek cart
13. The following Scouts gained their Tenderfoot badges and were invested during November or December 1961 - Billy Gunn, Derek Phillips and Gifford Lind. Billy Gunn and Derek Phillips were the most likely of the three to be in Ian Fraser's Falcon patrol.
14. See note 1 for the 3rd March 1961 regarding Ian Paterson
15. See note 5 for the 14th October 1960 regarding Billy Phillips
16. This is the only reference to Ronald Robb in any of the troop records. No other information is known about him and it is not known if he was related to Alastair Robb.
17. See note 8 for the 9th June 1961 regarding Ian McKinnon.
18. George Conway was one of the 'Cubs' mentioned and passed his Tenderfoot in January 1962. It is not known who the other 'Cub' was.
19. Gifford Lind might have been the Cub mentioned. He passed his Tenderfoot and was invested in December 1961.
20. Patrols were meant to organize their own patrol activities, such as patrol meetings, outwith the normal Friday night troop meetings. Patrol meetings were occasionally held but were by no means a regular event.
21. It's not clear why this was entitled 'Part 2'. One possibility is that there was a break for refreshments
22. Parents night took place on the 13th October 1961, but was only mentioned briefly in the troop log (see also COH minute entries for 6th and 8th September 1961)
23. See the COH minutes for 18th August 1961 regarding the Scouts Own, as well as the associated note 14.
24. Sataft activities were introduced due to the difficulty many Scouts had in attending any activity that included Saturday morning. Most of the Scouts in the 70th were pupils at Greenock Academy, which placed a heavy emphasis on pupils participating in team sports such as rugby. A full fixture of games was organised that involved most Saturday mornings during the school term and pupils were expected to prioritise the school over any other activity.
25. A visit to McKelvies had been suggested over a year earlier (See note 8 for the 11th November 1960 regarding the visit to McKelvie and Son printers. There is no firm evidence that the troop ever did make the visit.)
26. Robin Crawford joined the troop in March 1961 and went on to become Patrol Leader, Troop leader and ASM over the next decade. His father had a telescope in his house at 97 Brisbane Street and, occasionally, some of the Scouts would be invited to go along to Robin's house to look at the stars through it. This was a popular activity through much of the 1960s.
27. The night hike became an annual event that was held instead of a normal Friday night meeting. It was organised for December or January so there was often snow on the ground. The Scouts were organised in 2 or 3 groups and the PLs were responsible for leading each group from the Church to the Cut, then on to Shielhill Farm. A wide game was then played before the younger Scouts returned home. The Scouters and the older Scouts would then continue on a midnight hike that ended in the small hours of the morning. The first of these hikes is thought to have taken place towards the end of December 1961 or early January 1962 and was reported in the troop log. The exact date was not identified.
28. There is no record of this camp taking place.
29. Each patrols took a turn to be duty patrol on a Friday night. Duties included clearing the hall of any furniture such as tables and chairs, hoisting and breaking the flag at the start of the evening, choosing the inter patrol game, lowering the flag at the end of the meeting, sweeping the hall floor, tidying up any other rooms that had been used (such as the kitchen, session room and hallways), and replacing the furniture into the hall.

13th December 1961

Rough comments suggesting a COH that was not fully transcribed

The astronomy¹ was suggested as the best excursion. It was proposed that there would be a Christmas camp² for PLs, Seconds and first-class Scouts, also a night hike³. The hike was suggested to go round 'the cut'.

Signalling⁴

It was suggested by I Fraser to have a morse team⁵.

Editorial notes for 13th December 1961

- 1. See entry for the 3rd December 1961, including note 26.*
- 2. There is no evidence that this took place.*
- 3. See Note 27 for the 3rd December 1961*
- 4. See note 6 for the 25th September 1959 regarding the signalling competition.*
- 5. The 70th's past success in signalling was based on semaphore skills. Ian Fraser's suggestion of training a morse team was presumably in addition to the semaphore team. However, there is no evidence of this suggestion being taken up.*

11th January 1962

Those present were:-

Scouters: SM Miller, ASM McFarlane

PLs R. Lind, I. Fraser, P. Fraser A. Runcie, J. Moore, M. Nisbet

The court was opened after the promise had been renewed.

Sat afts.¹

SM said he would arrange with Mr Crawford about going round to see the telescope.²

Night Hike³

It was suggested we should have another night hike as the other had been a great success.⁴ A hike that would last from 7 PM to 10 PM for wee men and from 7 PM till about midnight for bigger ones, so it was agreed to have it on Friday 19th of January⁵ instead of having a troop meeting. It was also suggested that a wide game should be arranged with another troop when the weather got better.

Trek Cart⁶

The trek cart had gone missing, but the SM assured us that Douglas Brown⁷ had taken it, so we hoped it would return repaired and shining bright.

Easter Camp

Pitlochry and Portavadie were the two campsites chosen for Easter Camp, but the SM said that Pitlochry should be rule out as it would not be worthwhile going for a few days. Therefore, Portavadie is the Easter campsite.⁸

Summer Camp

The campsites for summer camp are as following:-

Mallaig, Cairngorms, Inverness, and Galsbay⁹ near Dornoch¹⁰

Competition

PL I. Fraser suggested that two from each patrol should be volunteered for the signalling team, and that we should have a morse team as well.¹¹ The SM said we should enter for the Shannon Cup¹², the fire shield¹³, first aid competition¹⁴, and the pioneering competition¹⁵.

Scouts Own¹⁶

Mr Stewart¹⁷ said that the church would be vacant any Sunday night in February, but it was suggested that a Scout's Own should be held every six months.

Programme Ideas

PL A. Runcie suggested that the Scouters should swap places with the PLs and let the PLs take a troop meeting (All PLs agreed).

SMS Report

The SM reported that the night hike³ and the new game called Rodeo¹⁸ were both successes. He also said that there were minor faults in discipline at troop

meetings and that it was only the PLs that could put it right. He hoped for improvements. He finished up by telling us that PL Runcie was the new TL.

PLs Report

PL M. Nisbet reported that John Lyle¹⁹ would be invested at the next meeting. He also said that his wee men had introduced a game which they had learned in cubs. A varied version of horses and riders²⁰, so everybody looked forward to a demonstration from him at the next meeting.

PL R. Lind had nothing to say as he had not been at the last troop meeting.

PL A. Runcie reported better attendance, more tests past and that his Second²¹ would attend more regularly. No patrol meetings.

PL I. Fraser reported that I Paterson²² still hadn't got his 2nd class. There had been a patrol meeting in W Phillips²³ house which he could not attend. Usual Christmas attendance.

PL P. Fraser. Attendance poor. Cub had been invested²⁴, a few tests passed and A. Conway passed pipers badge²⁵.

PL J. Moore reported that George Conway²⁶ was going to leave but after he had seen his mother he came back.

ASM Macfarlane had not brought his books²⁷ with them. He said that the Patrol championship was just becoming a routine and that it needed revitalizing. It was suggested that points should be given for neatness of patrol box and the last one left in at BB²⁸. The court was closed.

P. Fraser (scribe to C.O.H.)

Editorial notes for 11th January 1962

- 1. See Note 24 for the 3rd December 1961 regarding SatAfts.*
- 2. See Note 26 for the 3rd December 1961 regarding the telescope.*
- 3. See Note 27 for the 3rd December 1961 regarding the night hike.*
- 4. See the report on the night hike in the troop log book. It was probably held towards the end of December 1961. Probably about 8-10 Scouts participated. Those known to be present included Billy Phillips, Ian Fraser, Michael Nisbet, and John Lyle. John Nisbet was amongst the Scouters who attended.*
- 5. The hike was reported in the troop log and involved two patrols of Scouts hiking up to the Cut and beyond. One patrol was led by Ronald Lind, the other by Billy Philips. A torch wide game was played before the younger Scouts returned home. The subsequent midnight hike to Corlic Hill and the Gryffe involved Alan Jeyes, Michael Nisbet, Ken Johnson, Bob Miller, Alastair Cram, Billy Phillips and Ian McKinnon.*
- 6. See the minutes for the 20th October 1961 regarding the trek cart*
- 7. Douglas Brown was a leading light in the 70th during the late 1940s and 1950s. He was Senior Sixer when the Wolf Cub Pack restarted in 1947. In the Scout Troop he rose to become Patrol Leader, Troop Leader and ASM before joining the 1st Renfrewshire a leader. Douglas also gained his Queen Scout's Badge. He probably borrowed the trek cart such that the 1st could collect jumble for a jumble sale.*
- 8. The Easter camp at Portavadie took place and was reported in a patrol log written by the Curlew Patrol. Two patrols of 4 Scouts each participated.*
- 9. Galsbay might have been written as a result of mishearing Golspie.*
- 10. The summer camp of 1962 actually took place at Carsaig Bay near Tayvallich, but virtually no information is known about it. There are no photographs or reports of the camp and only one Scout has been identified as being present (John Lyle).*
- 11. See note 5 for the 13th December 1961.*
- 12. See note 5 for the 8th May 1959.*
- 13. There is no record of the 70th ever winning this competition.*

14. *The First Aid Competition was also called the Drummond Vase. It was one of the competitions that the 70th took particularly seriously and usually did quite well at.*
15. *The 70th participated in the pioneering competition in 1961 (see note 6 for the 18th August 1961). However, there is no record of them entering the competition at any other time.*
16. *See the COH minutes for 18th August 1961 regarding the Scouts Own, as well as the associated note 14.*
17. *Mr. Stewart was the minister of Finnart Church and Troop chaplain. He played a crucial role in the survival of the troop throughout the Second World War.*
18. *Rodeo was played like British Bulldog. However, instead of lifting the captive off the floor for 3 seconds, the idea was to pin the victim's shoulders to the floor for three seconds.*
19. *John Lyle moved up to the troop on the 5th October 1961 and was invested in January 1962. He was promoted to Second in 1964, then to PL in January 1966. John attended several summer camps. However, it is not known when he resigned from the troop as the records covering 1966-1968 are missing.*
20. *It is not known for certain what this was, but the troop log describes a game which was a combination of horses and riders and 'ice hockey'. In other words, the horse and rider had to use a staff to direct a sandshoe into a goal, and stop his opponent from doing so.*
21. *Possibly Alastair Robb.*
22. *It is not known for certain whether Ian Paterson gained his 2nd Class Badge. However, if he was as close to gaining the badge as stated in the minutes for the 3rd December 1961, it seems highly likely that he eventually completed it as he was with the troop until at least September 1962.*
23. *Billy Philips was Second of the Falcon patrol at this point.*
24. *See note 19 for the 3rd December 1961*
25. *As far as is known, Alan Conway was the only 70th Scout to gain the Piper's Proficiency badge during the period 1932 to 1970.*
26. *George Conway passed his Tenderfoot badge not long after this and went on to become the PL of the Seal Patrol.*
27. *Presumably his score books*
28. *British Bulldog. It is not known whether this proposal was accepted or not.*