

**70th RENFREWSHIRE SCOUT
TROOP**

**MINUTES
of
THE COURT OF HONOUR**

Editorial Introduction

These minutes cover Court of Honour meetings held during the 1950s. The Court of Honour (COH) 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. 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). It should be noted that minutes were not always taken and that there were more COH meetings held than are identified here.

During the period covered in this minutes book, the Troop Leaders were Andrew Gunn (May - June 1951), John Cook (March-Sept. 1952), Andy Whiteford (1953-May 1954), Douglas Brown (May - Sept. 1954), Ian McFarlane (Sept. 1954 - Sept. 1955), Sandy Whiteford (Oct. 1955 - Oct. 1957), and John Nisbet (Nov. 1957- Sept. 1959).

The Scribes were George G. Crawford (1951- Aug. 1952), J. Brian Hodgson (Sept. 1952), Douglas Brown (Sept. 1952-Oct. 1953), Ian McFarlane (Nov. 1953 -June 1954, Neill Cook (Sept.1954-March 1955, James Harvey (Sept. 1955-Jan. 1957) and Trevor Jones (Feb. 1957 - May 1959).

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, Victor Clark, Brian Hodgson and Ian Blake were Scout Masters.

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

Andrew Gunn (PL, 1950-51; TL, 1951)

John W. Cook (PL, 1950-52; TL, 1952)

George G. Crawford (PL, 1950-52)

David Slater (PL, 1950-52; Acting ASM, 1952-55)

Alastair Duncan (PL, 1951- 53)

Andrew Whiteford (PL, 1952-54; TL, 1953-54; Acting ASM, 1954-55)

Douglas Brown (PL, 1951-54; TL, 1954; Acting ASM, 1954-55)

Douglas McNeill (PL, 1951-52)

Jim Whitefield (PL, 1952-54)

John Ross (PL, 1952-53)

John Heap (PL, 1953)

Ian Campbell (PL, 1953)

Sandy Whiteford (PL, 1953-55; TL, 1955-57; JASM, 1957-

Ian McFarlane (PL, 1953-54 ; TL, 1954-55; ASM, 1956-63)

Robert Miller (PL, 1954; JASM 1954-55; Acting ASM and ASM, 1955-59; SM, 1959-66)

Graham White (PL, 1954-55)

Neill Cook (PL, 1954-56)

Stephen Pearce (PL, 1954-55)

Neville Mort (PL, 1954-55)

Jim Harvey (PL, 1955-56, JASM, 1956-57, ASM, 1958-60)

Alistair Shearer (PL, 1955-56; JASM 1956-57, ASM 1958-59)

Robert McKinnon (PL, 1955)

Robin McGill (PL, 1955-56)

Ronald Gray (PL, 1955)

Ian McKenzie (1955-56)

Billy McEwing (PL, 1955-56)

David Graham (PL, 1956-57)

Scott Soutar (PL, 1956-57)

Hamish Rankin ('Twee'ie') (PL, 1956-60)

John Nisbet (PL, 1956-1958; TL, 1958-1959; ASM 1959-1966?)
Trevor Jones (PL, 1956-1960)
Kenneth Conway (PL, 1956-1959; TL, 1959-1960)

Kenneth Johnson (PL, 1957-1959; ASM, 1959-1963)
Brian Elliot ('Bean') (PL, 1957-1960)

It is noticeable that during the period 1950-55 most PLs remained in post for 1-2 years, which is indicative of a troop that is relatively balanced in terms of the age range of Scouts present. However, there is a marked difference for the period 1956-59. Many of the PLs appointed in 1956 and 1957 were clearly promoted at a relatively young age, as they remained 'in post' for 3-4 years. Indeed, no new PLs were appointed in either 1958 or 1959. This was also the case for most of the seconds that were appointed in 1956 and 1957. The fact that the Troop had a very young average age in 1955 and 1956 makes the achievements of that period all the more impressive. For example, the Troop won the Shannon Cup in 1956 and continued to dominate the District Signalling Competition, while substantial Summer Camps were introduced in 1955 and were increasingly ambitious in terms of where they were held. By 1959, the average age of the Troop had increased and the Troop now contained a strong contingent of highly experienced Scouts. On the debit side, it meant that many of those Scouts 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.

Wednesday ??¹

50 Brougham Street²

S.M. Victor J Clark³

A.S.M. J. Brian Hodgson⁴

T.L. Andrew Gunn⁵

P.L. John W. Cook⁶

P.L. George G. Crawford⁷

The S.M.³ informed those attending that Mr Douglas Parish⁸ had withdrawn from the post of Junior A.S.M.⁹ The reason, he said, were too deep to go into great detail.

The main item on the agenda was the Parents Night.¹⁰ The subject of what type of ticket to issue was now brought up. Several suggestions were put forward and finally a form of donation ticket was unanimously agreed upon. Entertainment was brought up and such forms as a mouth organ band¹¹, choir¹² and a play¹² were received with enthusiasm.

The more serious side of entertainment was forwarded and the S.M.³ had already a list and suggested that the six stages of scout life should be staged by several scouts¹³.

The annual parties were talked of and, as last year, there would be two parties. The date of the junior party was uncertain and either Tuesday the 18th or Thursday 20th December were suitable¹⁴. Partners were to be decided upon at the next scout meeting.¹⁵

Between the 21st and 28 December were the dates suggested for the senior scout party.¹⁶

The S.M.³ said our troop funds were very low and the question of raising money was quite an easy one with a little cooperation from the scouts. He then suggested a sale of work in March or thereabouts.¹⁷

Tickets for all scout functions in our troop would be printed by the S.M.³, who had his own home printing machine. The S.M. also suggested that membership cards should be issued to every scout in the troop.

Someone brought up the subject of kilts for the whole troop, but it was a very doubtful proposition.¹⁸

To equip the troop with a pipe-band¹⁹ would cost the troop about £80²⁰. The band would consist of four pipers and three drummers. To raise the required amount, loans would have to be received from some source.

On the next day, four chanters were to be obtained from Russels, West Blackhall Street²¹, and George Crawford⁷ offered to collect them. Mr Clark³ said that we would have to have coaches or a coach from the R.N.T.F²² pipe band to teach us how to play the chanters and drums.

A membership card for the members of the championship patrol was agreed upon and would be printed by the S.M.³

A certain hut²³ in Kerr Place²⁴, Margaret St. might be allotted to the scouts if and when the squatters in the huts were shifted. Mr Clark had been to see Mr. John Kerr²⁵ about the prospect of obtaining a hut, but it was clear that the scouts could not occupy a hut while there were squatters in the vicinity.

We were informed that the cub party was to be held on 26th November and the troop had been invited along to the Union Street Church troop²⁶ for the night.

It had been a very interesting night and two hours had passed swiftly by and some of us had homework to do, so we departed from Mr Clark's home with happy prospects for the future.

P.L. George G. Crawford⁷

Editorial Comments for COH Meeting (late September 1951 est.)

- 1. The month and year were not specified. However, there are several indications that this COH meeting took place in late September 1951. To begin with, Andrew Gunn was appointed T.L. at the start of May 1951, while Douglas Parish was still present as Junior A.S.M on the 14th September 1951. Parent's Night was held on the 13th December 1951 and there were frequent rehearsals throughout October and November 1951 involving the choir and the play (as proposed in the minutes). Therefore, it seems likely that this COH meeting took place during the last half of September 1951. One curiosity is the absence of the younger Patrol Leaders (Douglas Brown, Alistair Duncan, Douglas MacNeill and David Slater).*
- 2. Victor Clark's home address was 50 Brougham Street, Greenock.*
- 3. Victor J. Clark had been Scoutmaster (S.M.) since restarting the 70th Troop in 1947. He had also been a 70th Scout throughout most of the 1930s. It is estimated that he was aged about 29 or 30 in 1951.*
- 4. Brian Hodgson was identified as a P.L. at the start of 1950. However, he was not in charge of a patrol and it is believed that he was acting the role of Troop Leader. It is possible that he was not yet old enough to be promoted as such. He was officially promoted to Troop Leader in September 1950, then to A.S.M in January 1951. It is estimated that he was aged 17 in 1951.*
- 5. Andrew W. Gunn was present in the earliest surviving photograph of the revived 70th Troop taken in 1949 (2 years after it had restarted). At this point he was aged about 14 and could well have been present when the troop restarted. By 1950, he was P.L of the Wolf Patrol. He was then promoted to Troop Leader at the beginning of May 1951 (probably when he reached the age of 16).*
- 6. John Cook was present in the earliest surviving photograph of the revived 70th Troop taken in 1949 (2 years after it had restarted). At this point, he was aged 12. In January 1950, he was promoted to P.L of the Seal Patrol a few weeks before his 13th Birthday. He was then promoted to Troop Leader at the in March 1952 once he reached the age of 15).*
- 7. George Crawford was present in the earliest surviving photograph of the revived 70th Troop taken in 1949 (2 years after it had restarted). At this point, he was aged about 13 and so might have joined the Troop when it was restarted in 1947. It is likely that he was promoted to PL of the Curlew Patrol in September 1950. By 1951, he would have been aged about 15.*
- 8. As Douglas Parish was classed as a junior ASM, he was probably aged about 17 in 1951. Douglas was responsible for introducing the singing of 'The Lord's My Shepherd' at the end of campfires – a tradition that lasted for several decades. After he resigned from the Troop, he became a prominent youth worker in Greenock.*
- 9. It is not known whether the position of Junior A.S.M. was an official one or not. The title appears to have been used for boys that had resigned as Patrol Leaders and joined the Scouter team, but were still within the Scout age range. Presumably, it was not possible to apply for an ASM's warrant until you were no longer of Scout age.*
- 10. In the 1950s, a Parents Night appears to have been organized on an annual basis during the Autumn. The Parents Night in 1951 was held on Thursday 13th December. Rehearsals for the Parents Night were undertaken during most troop meetings throughout October and November 1951. These focused on choir practice and the play.*
- 11. It is not known whether this was included in the eventual programme or not.*
- 12. Several rehearsals were carried out for both the choir and those performing in the play throughout October and November 1951.*
- 13. It is not known for certain whether this was the topic for the play. However a play was certainly performed and it seems highly likely that this would have been the theme. However, it is not yet known what is represented by the 6 stages of Scout life.*
- 14. It ended up being on the Thursday 20th December.*
- 15. A vote was eventually held amongst the Scouts on the 19th October 1951. It was decided to invite partners to the senior scout party, which would be more like a dance. No partners would be invited to the junior party, which would be more like a party focusing on games.*
- 16. The eventual date was Thursday 27th December 1951.*

17. There is no evidence of a Sale of Work taking place in March 1952, but that does not mean it did not take place.

18. Presumably it was deemed too expensive to provide kilts for all the Scouts, or impolitic to insist that parents purchase kilts for their sons. The wearing of kilts did not become compulsory in the troop until the late 1960s when the uniform requirements were changed with the Advance Party Report.

19. Presumably, this had been an ongoing discussion at previous COH meetings. The proposition appears to have been a serious one, but there is no clear evidence that a pipe band was ever properly formed within the 70th.

20. £80 in 1951 would be the equivalent of about £3200 today (2023).

21. Hector Russells was a prestigious Greenock shop that sold Highland clothing, as well as School, Scout and Guide uniforms. It clearly sold bagpipes in the 1950s as well. It has not yet been established when the Greenock business closed down.

22. Royal Naval Torpedo Factory. The R.N.T.F. was established in 1907 and was fully closed in 1969. Only a few of the original building remain.

23. No details are known about the hut. One possibility is that it was a temporary hut built during the war to accommodate servicemen. Several of these were 'taken over' by squatters after the war due to the lack of available housing. Another possibility is that it was one of the temporary, prefabricated houses that were built after the war for civilians whilst rebuilding work was being carried out. This too might have become empty and taken over by squatters. The COH account indicates that several such huts were present. A third possibility is that it was a hut that was built for the territorial army (see notes 24 and 25).

24. There is no evidence of a Kerr Place close to Margaret Street in either current maps or maps of the time. Following a discussion involving Kenneth W. Paton and Tommy Boag in July 2023, it was concluded that Kerr Place might have been misinterpreted by the Scribe and that Victor Clark had been referring to Kerr's Place, meaning Kerr's property, in which case the location of the huts was part of the garden behind John Kerr's house on the east side of Margaret Street between the Esplanade and Eldon Street (see note 25). The house was requisitioned during the war and it is believed that the ground behind was used by the territorial army after the war.

25. John Kerr (1885-1972) was the wealthy owner of the property at the corner of the Esplanade and Margaret Street (Heywood, 1 Margaret Street). He was born at the address and his father was Daniel Kerr, a shipowner. John grew up to become an internationally renowned cricketer who played for Glenpark Cricket Club and Scotland; he represented Scotland for 26 years! His name was frequently to be found in the Sports columns of the Greenock Telegraph. He was also a philanthropist and funded Kerr Hall at St. George's Church, George Square for the use of young people. He also provided the money for the Margaret Street Trust to support Greenock Scouting. That money contributed to the purchase of the Everton Campsite. Furthermore, he was a member of St. George's Church and Captain of the 7th Greenock Company of the Boys Brigade for 40 years. His name is included in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography.

26. The Union Street Church was close to George Square. It was constituted in 1843, but demolished in 1992. Flats now stand on the original site. The 7th Renfrewshire Scouts met at the Church during the 1950s. There is no record in the Troop Log of a joint meeting taking place in November or December 1951. However, joint meetings did occasionally take place between the 7th and the 70th.

Friday, 4th September 1952

81 Newton Street¹

P/L George Crawford² has unfortunately neglected writing up this log³. This has been attended to.

Present at this meeting, the opening meeting of session 1952-53 were:

S.M. V. Clark⁴
A.S.M. B. Hodgson⁵
P.L. A. Duncan⁶
P.L. D. Slater⁷
P.L. A. Whiteford⁸
P.L. D. Brown⁹
P.L. D. MacNeill¹⁰

An announcement was made to the effect that T.L. John Cook¹¹ and P.L. G. Crawford¹² had left the Troop and these positions had to be filled. The appointment of a new T.L. was not considered and the S.M.⁴ intimated that it was being left over for reconsideration about Christmas.¹³

There were two proposals for the vacant positions of Patrol Leader of the Curlews.

- i) John Ross¹⁴ (second of the Wolf Patrol)
- ii) Jim Whitefield¹⁵ (second of the Curlew Patrol)

J. Whitefield was appointed P.L. by 3 votes to 2.

The S.M.⁴ and A.S.M.⁵ were both in agreement with the Court's decision so Whitefield was to be appointed.

A new second was now to be appointed and again two proposals were made:

Neill Cook¹⁶ and Willie Bain¹⁷.

After a short discussion, it was decided that N. Cook¹⁶ was the Scout for the job and W. Bain's¹⁷ nomination was withdrawn.

New patrols were decided on¹⁸ and are seen *below*.

Seagulls

P.L. David Slater.
Sec. Neill Cook.
Sct. Neill Gunn.
Sct. Graham White.
Sct. Stewart Robertson.

Wolves

P.L. Douglas MacNeill.
Sec. John Ross.
Sct. Willie Bain.
Sct. Neville Mort.
Sct. Milton Runcie.

Falcons

P.L. Douglas Brown.
Sec. Hamish Cawood.
Sct. Iain McFarlane.
Sct. Archie Robertson.
Sct. David Graham.

Fox

P.L. Alistair Duncan.
Sec. John Heap.
Sct. Ross McDonald.
Sct. Sandy Whiteford.
Sct. Robin McGill.

Curlews

P.L. James Whitefield.
Sec. John Finnie.
Sct. Stewart Tonner.
Sct. Alistair Shearer.

Seals

P.L. Andrew Whiteford.
Sec. Ian Campbell.
Sct. Sandy Jack.
Sct. Tommy Grant.

Sct. Stanley Bacon.
Sct. Robert Miller

Sct. David McKelvie
Sct. Ronald Gray

It was decided that as well as a monthly Patrol Champions, there would also be a Yearly Champions, who would receive a set of medallions¹⁹, one for each member.

The Champions of the Year were to be decided by awarding the following points at the end of each month:

Champions of the Month	: 6 pts.
Runners up	: 5 pts.
Third	: 5 pts.
Fourth	: 3 pts.
Fifth	: 2 pts.
Last	: 1 pt.

The Court was then closed by the S.M.³

J. Brian Hodgson (A.S.M.)⁴

Editorial Comments for COH Meeting (4th September 1952)

1. The Court of Honour was held at Brian Hodgson's parental home of 81 Newton St., Greenock.
2. See note 7 for September 1951 regarding George Crawford.
3. The log book lacked entries covering an 11 month period from October 1951 to August 1952.
4. See note 3 for September 1951 regarding Scout Master Victor Clark.
5. See note 4 for September 1951 regarding Assistant Scout Master Brian Hodgson.
6. Alistair Duncan is believed to have joined the 70th Troop in 1948, not long after it was restarted in 1947. He was promoted to Second in September 1950, then to PL of the Fox Patrol in June 1951 at the age of 13. He was Captain of the 70th Football Team which won the District Football Competition in 1951 and was also a successful participant in the District Ambulance and Signalling Competitions.
7. David Slater was John Slater's younger brother and probably joined the Troop in 1948. He was promoted to PL of the Seagull Patrol in September 1950 at the age of 13. It is thought that he resigned as PL in November 1952 at the age of 15 and joined the Scouter Team as an Acting ASM.
8. Andrew A. Whiteford initially joined the Scouts in Rothesay, then joined the 70th when the family moved to Greenock in late 1951 or early 1952. He was promoted to P.L. of the Seal Patrol in March 1952 when he would have been aged about 15. In 1953, he was promoted to Troop Leader and remained as T.L. and PL of the Seal until June 1954 when he resigned both positions and joined the Scouter team as an Acting ASM. There is evidence to suggest that he had gained his ASM's warrant by November 1955, by which time he would have been aged 18.
9. Douglas Brown was Senior Sixer in the 70th's Wolf Cub Pack and was 'head hunted' from the 59th by Betty Nelson when she restarted the Pack in 1947. Douglas moved up to the troop at the start of the 1949-50 session. He was promoted to PL of the Falcon Patrol in June 1951 at the age of 13 and remained PL for 3 years until May 1954.
10. It is not known when Douglas MacNeill joined the Troop, but it was probably during the second half of 1949. He was promoted to Second in June 1951, then to PL of the Wolf Patrol – possibly at the start of the 1951-52 session. He was probably aged 14 in 1951.
11. See note 6 for September 1951 regarding John Cook. After resigning he registered as a Rover Scout with the 70th.
12. See note 7 for September 1951 regarding George Crawford. After resigning he registered as a Rover Scout with the 70th.
13. The appointment of a new Troop Leader may well have been postponed for a year until the start of the 1953-54 session. Andrew Whiteford was certainly Troop Leader by November 1953, but it is known when he was appointed, other than it was after February 1953.
14. John Ross probably joined the Troop in April or May of 1950. He might have transferred from another Troop as he was speedily promoted to Second in June 1951. Although he missed out on promotion in September 1952, he was promoted to PL of the Seagull Patrol in November 1952.
15. It is believed that Jim Whitefield joined in April or May of 1950, and that he had been recruited without having been a Wolf Cub. He was promoted to PL of the Curlew Patrol in September 1952

and was possibly aged 14 at the time. He was a member of the football team that lifted the District trophy in 1952 and was a member of the 70ths B team for the Signalling Competition held in 1952.

16. Neill Cook was a member of the Douglas Brown's Six in the Wolf Cub Pack. He joined the troop in January 1951 and ended up in Douglas Brown's Patrol at one point. He was aged about 13 when he was appointed as Second of the Seagull Patrol, then became PL of that patrol in May 1954. At one point Neill had the most Proficiency Badges of any Scout in the Troop. As a result he was joint winner of the Coronation Cup for Best Scout for the 1953-54 session.

17. Willie Bain was a Sixer in the 70th's Wolf Cub pack and probably moved up to the Troop during September 1949. Although he missed out on promotion in September 1952, he was promoted to Second of the Wolf Patrol – possibly in November 1952. Willie was a member of the successful District team that won the Ambulance trophy in 1953.

18. Troop numbers were steadily rising during the early 1950s. At the end of 1949, there were only three patrols (Seagull, Seal and Wolf). At the start of 1950, the Curlew Patrol was reinstated to form four Patrols. In June 1951, a two further Patrols were added (Fox and Falcon) resulting in 6 Patrols for the first time since the Troop's 'rebirth' in 1947. At this stage there were 32 Scouts present in the Troop. The last time that 6 Patrols might have existed was during the 1930s. A Troop Photo taken in the late 1930s indicates at least 34 Scouts at that point.

19. It is not known what the medallions looked like or over how many years they were presented. None appear to have survived.

26th of September 1952

**Finnart church,
Madeira Street**

Present:- A.S.M. B. Hodgson¹
P.L. D. Slater²
P.L. A. Whiteford³
P.L. A. Duncan⁴
P.L. D. Brown⁵
P.L. J. Whitefield⁶

An election was held at this court to decide who was to get the job of:-

- (1) Writing Court of Honour log
- (2) Writing Troop log
- (3) Keeping troop box in good order

The results were as follows

- (1) Douglas Brown
- (2) David Slater
- (3) Andrew Whiteford

As that was all the business, the court then closed.

Douglas Brown (P.L.)⁵
J. B. Hodgson¹ (S.M.)⁷

Editorial Comments for COH Meeting (26th September 1952)

- 1. See note 4 for September 1951 regarding Assistant Scout Master Brian Hodgson.*
- 2. See note 7 for 4th September 1952 regarding David Slater.*
- 3. See note 8 for 4th September 1952 regarding Andrew Whiteford.*
- 4. See note 6 for 4th September 1952 regarding Alistair Duncan.*
- 5. See note 9 for 4th September 1952 regarding Douglas Brown.*
- 6. See note 15 for 4th September 1952 regarding Jim Whitefield.*
- 7. Brian Hodgson signed off this entry of the COH minutes as Scout Master, indicating that he must have waited until at least January 1953 before checking the entries.*

10th of October 1952

**Finnart church,
Madeira Street**

Present:- A.S.M. B. Hodgson¹
P.L. A. Duncan²
P.L. D. Slater³
P.L. A. Whiteford⁴
P.L. D. Brown⁵
P.L. J. Whitefield⁶

The Annual subscription (which is 5/- per scout⁷) was handed in to the A.S.M.¹ by each P.L. at the beginning of the court. Then the A.S.M. announced that S.M. Clark⁸ was to be married on 27th December⁹. The court then chose 12 members of the Troop to form a Guard of Honour at the wedding¹⁰. It was decided to buy the S.M. a wedding present¹¹ so P.L.s. D. Brown, A. Whiteford and A. Duncan were elected to form the wedding committee.

To raise funds for the troop, it was suggested to have a Beetle drive¹² in December but this was left aside at the moment as there was plenty of time to arrange something.¹³

Douglas Brown (P.L.)
J.B. Hodgson¹⁴

Editorial Comments for 10th October 1952

1. See note 4 for September 1951 regarding Assistant Scout Master Brian Hodgson.
2. See note 6 for 4th September 1952 regarding Alistair Duncan.
3. See note 7 for 4th September 1952 regarding David Slater.
4. See note 8 for 4th September 1952 regarding Andrew Whiteford.
5. See note 9 for 4th September 1952 regarding Douglas Brown.
6. See note 15 for 4th September 1952 regarding Jim Whitefield.
7. Five Shillings in 1952 would be worth nearly £10.00 today (as of 2023).
8. See note 3 for September 1951 regarding Scout Master Victor Clark.
9. Victor Clark married a German nurse called Hannelore Zinnerman. Apparently they met when Victor was recovering from a recurrence of tuberculosis (TB) which originally affected him at some point during the 1930s. Tuberculosis was an airborne transmission and was not unusual during the 1930s and 1940s. It was only in the late 1940s that effective treatments started to be discovered. Catching TB could be fatal and those that survived often suffered recurrences of the disease. The fact that Victor had caught TB meant that he was not called up during the 2nd World War.
10. The original 12 members chosen is not recorded. On the day, there were 11 present consisting of Sandy Jack, Sandy Whiteford, John Heap (Sec.), John Ross (P.L.), Alistair Duncan (P.L.), Willie Bain (Sec.), Douglas MacNeill (P.L.) Robert Miller, Douglas Brown (P.L.) Jim Whitefield (P.L.) and Andy Whitefield (P.L.)
11. The wedding present from the troop ended up being a 24-piece canteen of cutlery and a case of fruit spoons. Andrew Whiteford acted on behalf of the troop and presented the present to Victor and his future on the 17th December 1952. Victor and his wife showed their appreciation by laying on a party for the Scouts in January 1953.
12. Beetle Drives were a popular party event during the 1950s and 1960s. Each player had a card on which to draw a beetle made up of a body, head, two feelers, two eyes, two wings and six legs. The players sat at different tables, four players to each table, and the dice was continually passed round the table such that each player could throw. Each player had to first throw a 2 in order to roll a body, then a 1 to draw a head. After that, the body parts could be drawn in any order by throwing a 3 for each feeler, a 4 for each eye, a 5 for each wing and a 6 for each leg. The first person to complete the beetle shouted "Beetle" and that meant everyone had to stop. Everyone then added up their score depending on what they had managed to draw. A complete Beetle was worth 63 points, based on the values of each part of the body. There was room on each side of the Beetle card to have 12 games, and so the overall winner was the player with the highest score overall.
13. According to the Troop Log, a Beetle Drive was held on 6th March 1953 for parents and friends. Presumably, too much was going on in December to organize the Beetle Drive then.
14. P.L. Douglas Brown wrote up the minutes, and this was checked at a later date by Brian Hodgson.

23rd of January 1953

**Finnart church,
Madeira Street**

Present G.S.M. V. Clark¹
A.S.M. B. Hodgson²
P.L. A. Duncan³
P.L. A. Whiteford⁴
P.L. D. Brown⁵

The question of new headquarters was brought up again tonight⁶. A.S.M. Hodgson proposed that the troop should buy a hut and convert it into headquarters. It was decided to send away for prices of suitable huts. Next came the question of what to do with the stamps⁷ which Mr Stewart, the minister⁸, has generously given to the troop. After a short discussion, it was decided to make them up in packets of about thirty stamps and sell these packets among the troop. The court could not decide on the charge to be made for them, so this will be done later.

V. Clark¹ announced to the court that he had taken out a warrant as Group Scoutmaster, as, owing to pressure of business⁹, he would be unable to come to troop meetings every Friday night.

Douglas Brown (P.L.)
J.B. Hodgson (S.M.)¹⁰

Editorial Comments for 23rd January 1953

1. Victor J. Clark had been Scoutmaster (S.M.) since restarting the 70th Troop in 1947. He had also been a 70th Scout throughout most of the 1930s. After his marriage in December 1952, Victor resigned as Scout Master and took out a warrant as Group Scout Leader. It is estimated that he was aged about 32 or 33 in 1954. He occasionally dropped in at Troop Meetings to keep in touch with what was going on. Due to a lack of records during the mid 1950s, it's not known when Victor resigned from the Group, but it appears likely that it was in the summer of 1958.

2. See note 4 for September 1951 regarding Assistant Scout Master Brian Hodgson.

3. See note 6 for 4th September 1952 regarding Alistair Duncan

4. See note 8 for 4th September 1952 regarding Andrew Whiteford.

5. See note 9 for 4th September 1952 regarding Douglas Brown.

6. The topic of finding a hut as a Scout HQ had previously been discussed in September 1953. However, the huts discussed here appear to be different from those discussed on that occasion. As seen in the entry for 20th February 1953, the huts discussed on this occasion had to be erected on a suitable site.

7. It's not known whether these were The Rev Stewart's own stamps or whether a collection had been donated to the Church. Stamp Collecting was a much more popular hobby amongst boys during the 1950s than it is now as most Scouts had some kind of stamp collection. When Scouters filled in Scout Progress cards, it was almost standard to add 'Stamp Collecting' under the 'Hobbies' section.

8. The Reverend Stewart took over the ministry of Finnart Church in the mid 1930s and continued to be minister into the late 1960s. He played a key role in keeping the Group going during the War by carrying out essential administrative duties for the group, such that the available leaders could focus on running Scout programmes. After the war, he probably spent a fortune during the newly introduced Bob-a Job weeks providing gardening tasks for eager Boy Scouts who probably pulled out as many flowers as weeds.

9. Victor Clark was a timekeeper at one of the many Shipbuilding Firms that were in Greenock during the 1950s.

10. P.L. Douglas Brown wrote up the COH minutes, and this was checked at a later date by Brian Hodgson.

20th of February 1953

**Finnart church,
Madeira Street**

Present:- A.S.M. Brian Hodgson¹
P.L. A. Whiteford²
P.L. A. Duncan³
P.L. D. Brown⁴
P.L. J. Whitefield⁵
P.L. J. Ross⁶

A very short meeting of the court was held tonight after the weekly troop meeting. A.S.M. Hodgson stated that he had enquired about prices of huts⁷ as the troop is needing new headquarters and a reasonably sized one would cost approximately £300⁸ to buy initially without cost of ground, erection etc. To help raise funds, the troop is to run a Beetle Drive⁹ on Friday, 6th of March, 1953¹⁰. Tickets are to be printed, price 2/6^d¹¹ and tea will be served. Membership of the troop now totals 34 scouts.

Because some patrol flashes¹² are lost during games, to of these required by each patrol was taken by the A.S.M.¹³ and he will send away for them.

Planning ahead, the court decided that the troop would hold a Bring and Buy Sale¹⁴ in March¹⁵ and the Coronation Dance¹⁶ is to be held, provisionally on the night of Tuesday, June 1st.¹⁷

Douglas Brown (P.L.)
J.B. Hodgson (S.M.)¹⁸

Editorial Comments for 20th February 1953

1. See note 4 for September 1951 regarding Assistant Scout Master Brian Hodgson. Note that, although Brian was the de facto Scout Master, he could not officially claim that title until he had completed the necessary leader training and earned his 'Wood Beads'.
2. See note 8 for 4th September 1952 regarding Andrew Whiteford.
3. See note 6 for 4th September 1952 regarding Alistair Duncan
4. See note 9 for 4th September 1952 regarding Douglas Brown.
5. See note 15 for 4th September 1952 regarding Jim Whitefield.
6. See note 14 for the 4th September 1952 regarding John Ross.
7. See also the entry for the 23rd January 1953 regarding huts.
8. £300 in 1953 was equivalent in value to about £10,300 today (as of 2023).
9. See note 12 for the 10th October 1952 regarding Beetle Drives.
10. This event took place as scheduled. It also included a raffle for 6 eggs, which were rationed at the time.
11. 2/6^d in 1953 was equivalent in value to about £4-5 today (as of 2023).
12. Patrol flashes consisted of two woollen strips about 6" long that were attached by means of a safety pin to the top of the right sleeve. The flashes represented the colours of the Patrol.
13. It's not clear what is meant here. Possibly two samples of the flashes used by each Patrol were taken by the A.S.M. so that he could send these off to suppliers to indicate what colours were required.
14. It's not stated what was involved in a Bring and Buy Sale. Presumably, it involved selling goods and produce either made by or donated by friends and relations to the same social circle. It is likely that this would have included a used book stall, home baking, second hand toys, plants etc. Possible a 'Bring and Buy Sale' was similar to a 'Sale of Work', which was another event that was organized to raise funds. The advantage of a 'Bring and Buy' or a 'Sale of Work' over a Jumble Sale might have

been that it was easier to organize and required less preparation. However, less money was likely to be raised.

15. There is no record of a Bring and Buy Sale taking place in March 1953. However, that cannot be taken as evidence that it did not take place. Events outwith the normal Troop meeting were not always recorded.

16. The Coronation Dance was to be organized as part of Scout Week to celebrate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

17. The Coronation Dance did indeed take place in the Church Hall on the 1st June 1953. However, it was not judged a great success as only 10 or 11 couples were present (Troop Log). It was not stated whether the dance was for Scouts and Guides only, or for Scouts, Parents and Friends.

18. P.L. Douglas Brown wrote up the COH minutes, and this was checked at a later date by Brian Hodgson.

6th of November 1953

**Finnart Church,
Madeira Street**

The log has not been written up since February 1953.

Present:- S.M. B. Hodgson¹
A.S.M. D. Slater²
T.L. A. Whiteford³
P.L. D. Brown⁴
P.L. J. Whitefield⁵
P.L. S. Whiteford⁶
P.L. I. McFarlane⁷

Log Keeper

The first item on the agenda was the election of the new Log Keeper for the Court of Honour⁸ to take over from P.L. Campbell⁹ who has now left. P.L. McFarlane⁷ was proposed and he kindly agreed to take on the task. He took over immediately.

Investitures¹⁰

P.L. Brown⁴ suggested that a system should be arranged for investitures. The arrangement decided upon with this;- the P.L. holds the recruit's elbow and they walk forward without formality. After the investiture, the P.L. gives the 'about turn' and they walk back together as before.

Christmas Sale

The day of the Christmas sale was arranged as December 5th¹¹. Details were arranged, each P.L. being given instructions about his stall.

Second

A new second for the Fox Patrol was necessary after the transfer of Robert Miller¹² to the Falcon patrol. Neville Mort¹³ was found most suitable and was unanimously elected.

The court was then closed.¹⁴

Ian McFarlane (P.L.)
J.B. Hodgson (S.M.)¹⁵

Editorial Comments for 6th November 1953

- 1. See note 4 for September 1951 regarding Scout Master Brian Hodgson. Note that, Brian completed his Leader training over the summer and was duly appointed officially as Scout Master,*
- 2. See note 7 for 4th September 1952 regarding Acting A.S.M. David Slater.*
- 3. See note 8 for 4th September 1952 regarding Andrew Whiteford. Note that Andrew was promoted to Troop Leader at some point between 20th February and 6th November 1953*
- 4. See note 9 for 4th September 1952 regarding Douglas Brown.*
- 5. See note 15 for 4th September 1952 regarding Jim Whitefield.*
- 6. Sandy Whiteford started his Scouting in Rothesay, then transferred to the 70th when his family moved to Greenock in late 1951 or early 1952. He initially joined the Seal Patrol then moved to the Fox Patrol, before he was promoted to Patrol Leader of the Seagull Patrol in May 1953 – the only 70th Scout known to have been promoted to P.L. without previously being a Patrol Second. He is also the only 70th Scout known to have transferred to another Patrol as P.L., which he did when he took over the Falcon Patrol in May 1954. Sandy was promoted to Troop Leader in October 1955 at the age of 16 and remained as T.L. until October 1957, when he became an A.S.M. Sandy gained his Queen's Scout Badge and was awarded his certificate by the Chief Scout in June 1954, at the same time as his brother, Andy.*

7. Ian McFarlane was a member of the Wolf Cub Pack during the late 1940s and it is believed that he joined the Troop during the second half of 1949. He was placed in the Seal Patrol, then the Curlew Patrol, before he was promoted to Second of the Falcon Patrol in 1953. However, within a few months, he was promoted to Patrol Leader of the Fox Patrol at the age of 15, replacing Ian Campbell. In September 1954, Ian resigned as PL to become Troop Leader for the 1954-55 session. In 1954, Ian gained the Coronation Cup for 'Best Scout of the Year'. Ian eventually resigned as Troop Leader in the second part of 1955 when he would have been 17, then served as an ASM from 1956 to 1963.

8. Although the COH minutes were not written up from the end of February to the start of November, P.L. Ian Campbell is unlikely to have been responsible for most of those omissions as he was probably promoted in the summer of 1953.

9. It is thought that Ian Campbell might have transferred to the 70th from another Troop in 1950 or 1951 when he was 14 or 15. By September 1952 he was Second of the Fox Patrol and at some point during the summer of 1953, he took over from Alistair Duncan as PL of the Fox patrol. However, by November of 1953, he had left the troop to join the Rovers.

10. The Investiture ceremony has probably changed very little during the history of the troop. During the 1960s, a table was brought in to the hall and a Union Flag laid on top. Candles were lit and placed on the table and the main lights were put out such that the only light came from the candles. The boy who was due to be invested was then instructed to march to the table by his PL, who stood at the alert a few paces behind. The boy stood on one side of the table, while the Scout Master (SM) stood on the other side. The SM then asked the boy if he knew 'what it meant to be put on your honour', to which the boy replied something along the lines of 'A Scout is to be Trusted'. The SM then asked the boy to place his left hand on the flag and to make the Scout sign with his right hand. The SM then asked everyone else present to make the Scout sign before asking the boy to repeat the Scout Promise after him. Once this was over, everyone stopped showing the Scout sign and the boy was welcomed into the 'Worldwide Brotherhood of Scouting' and presented with his neckerchief and various badges. The SM shook the newly accepted Scout by the left hand and they both saluted. The Scout's PL then commanded the new Scout to 'about turn' and march back to the patrol. At some point during the years that this ceremony was carried out, the parents of those boys getting invested were invited along to witness the ceremony, but it is not known when exactly the practice was introduced or whether it occurred at all during the 1950s and 1960s. An interesting aspect of the ceremony involved the PL identifying the boy by name only when instructing him to march to the table. Once the ceremony was over, he added the title 'Scout' when ordering him back to the patrol. The ceremony may well have been slightly different in the early 1950s. For example, a Scout investiture described in November 1950 was carried out in the main church, rather than the Church Hall. As far as Wolf Cub investitures are concerned, they were held in the main church during the late 1940s, 1950s and 1960s.

11. This had to be postponed (see COH minutes for 29th November 1953).

12. Robert Millar joined the Troop before the summer of 1951 and might have transferred from another Troop. He was placed in the Curlew Patrol and remained in that Patrol until 1953 when he was promoted to Second of the Fox patrol. He was then transferred to become Second of the Falcon patrol. In March 1954, he was promoted to PL of the Curlew Patrol, but did not remain long as PL. In June of that year, he resigned to join a Bull Patrol that was meant to help lead the troop when Brian Hodgson resigned. However, when Brian eventually resigned, Bob became an Acting ASM. Bob successfully completed his Queen's Scout Badge in 1954 and received his certificate from the Chief Scout. He was also part of the team that won the District Signalling Competition in 1953. Bob remained with the Troop as ASM and SM until 1966, thus completing a distinguished 15 years with the 70th Troop as Scout, Patrol Leader, ASM and SM.

13. Neville Mort was the son of Greenock's police chief. He attended Greenock Academy and was in the 70th Wolf Cub Pack. He joined the troop in June 1951 and was placed in the Seagull Patrol. In September 1952, he moved to the Wolf Patrol, then in November 1953, he was promoted to Second of the Fox Patrol. In March 1954, it is believed that he transferred to the Falcon Patrol as Second, then in May 1954, he became P.L. of the Curlew Patrol at the age of 14. He was part of the 70th signalling team that won the District Signalling Competition for 1953. He also represented the 70th at the Scout Sports Day at Cappielow in 1953.

14. Note that the Wolf Patrol was disbanded at the beginning of September 1953, presumably coinciding with the resignation of P.L. John Heap.

15. P.L. Ian McFarlane wrote up the COH minutes, and this was checked at a later date by Brian Hodgson.

29th of November 1953

81 Newton Street¹

Present:- S.M. B. Hodgson²
A.S.M. D. Slater³
T.L. A. Whiteford⁴
P.L. D. Brown⁵
P.L. J. Whitefield⁶
P.L. S. Whiteford⁷
P.L. I. McFarlane⁸

Whist Drive

Unfortunately, Mrs. Stewart⁹ had requested that the troupe¹⁰ postpone their Christmas sale¹¹, as another was being held in the church shortly afterwards. Owing to this, another means of raising money had to be found. A whist drive was popular, but permission would need to be obtained from Mr. Stewart¹². It was decided that the parents should take a table, price 10/-¹³ and bring three other persons to make four per table. A pack of cards will be necessary for each table. It was suggested that a raffle be held also. Tickets would be sold before the whist drive and the draw would take place at the whist drive on Wednesday 16th December¹⁴. A committee was formed to arrange the whist drive, namely the A.S.M.³, T.L.⁴ and P.L. Brown⁵ while the other P.L.s along with the S.M.² were to take charge of the raffle. 300 tickets will be required and will be written out by the three P.L.s of the raffle committee.

Green Shirts¹⁵

Green shirts are now to be worn by all new recruits when they join the troupe¹⁰. This will smarten up the troupe a bit.

Patrol Meeting¹⁶

Each patrol is to hold a meeting among themselves, between now and Christmas to get on with some work. This will bring the patrols together and it will be recorded in the patrol logs.¹⁷

Hikes

There have to be two hikes during the Christmas holiday on the 28th-29th December and 4th-5th January¹⁸. Second class and first-class courses will be held on the hikes.¹⁹

Summer Camp

A summer camp is to be held. It was decided that near Perth would be suitable and it was arranged that a letter should be sent to the County Secretary of Perth enquiring about campsites. It will last ten days from the 16th - 25th July.²⁰

Good Turn

The court decided that the Christmas good turn by the troupe should be the giving of toys to the hospitals.²¹ Each P.L. will gather them from his patrol then report to the T.L.⁴

After this, the court was closed.

Ian McFarlane (P.L.)
J.B. Hodgson (S.M.)²²

Editorial Comments for 29th November 1953

1. *The Court of Honour was held at Brian Hodgson's parental home of 81 Newton St., Greenock.*
2. *Brian Hodgson was identified as a P.L. at the start of 1950. However, he was not in charge of a patrol and it is believed that he was acting the role of Troop Leader. It is possible that he was not yet old enough to be promoted as such. He was officially promoted to Troop Leader in September 1950, then to A.S.M in January 1951. It is estimated that he was aged 17 in 1951. He took over the Troop as de facto Scout Master at the beginning of 1953, but was not officially identified as Scout Master until he gained his warrant during the summer of 1953.*
3. *See note 7 for 4th September 1952 regarding Acting A.S.M. David Slater.*
4. *See note 8 for 4th September 1952 regarding Andrew Whiteford.*
5. *See note 9 for 4th September 1952 regarding Douglas Brown.*
6. *See note 15 for 4th September 1952 regarding Jim Whitefield.*
7. *See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding Sandy Whiteford.*
8. *See note 7 for 6th November 1953 regarding Ian McFarlane.*
9. *It is assumed that this was the Reverend Stewart's wife. She might well have been representing the Womens Guild.*
10. *The Scribes for both the Troop Log and the COH minutes tended to spell 'troop' as 'troup' during this period.*
11. *See the discussion on the Christmas Sale in the minutes for 6th November 1953*
12. *See note 8 for the 23rd January 1953 regarding the Reverend Stewart.*
13. *10/- in 1953 was the equivalent of £18 today (2023)*
14. *There is no record of the Whist Drive taking place on the 16th December in either the Troop Log or the Seal patrol Log. However, both logs focused mostly on troop evenings and so it is quite possible that the event took place and was not reported.*
15. *Khaki uniform shirts were also available. Troop photographs indicate that the troop wore green shirts in the 1930s and that a number of Scouts were wearing khaki shirts during the war years. It is possible that the Scouts concerned had moved to the local area during the war from other parts of the country. Alternatively, khaki shirts might have been easier to obtain at a time when uniform clothing was less available. The Troop Photo taken in December 1953 shows the variety of uniform shirts being worn at that time with about 13 Khaki shirts and 14 Green shirts.*
16. *Patrols were encouraged to have patrol meetings and activities, separate from the weekly troop meeting.*
17. *It is likely that most of the Patrol Logs written during the 1950s are either in the possession of ex Scouts or have been discarded. Only two Patrol log books have been identified to date. One is the Seal Patrol Log covering 1953-5 in the possession of Kenneth Conway. The other is the Fox patrol Log covering 1955-59.*
18. *The hike scheduled for the 28th-29th December 1953 took place and is described in the Troop Log. It involved three Senior scouts and included a hill climb over Ben Chaorach from Glen Luss. Possible participants were John Cook, David Slater and Andy Whiteford. There is no record of the hike scheduled for the 4th-5th January 1954 though..*
19. *It's not clear what is meant by 'Second class and first-class courses' being held on the hikes.*
20. *There is no record of a Summer Camp being held in the 8 years following the restoration of the 70th Troop (1947-54). This is not altogether surprising as Victor Clark was the only warranted leader present during most of this period and his health might have precluded him committing himself to a prolonged camp. There is a possibility that 70th Scouts might have attended Summer Camps with other Troops during this period, but there is only circumstantial evidence to back that up. Therefore, the proposed camp to Perth in July 1954 would have been a major step forward in terms of camping experience. Unfortunately, the camp did take place, possibly because Brian Hodgson was convinced by his parents in 1954 to take a step back from Scouting in order to focus on his academic studies. Therefore, the first major Summer Camp to take place since the Troop's revival was the Summer Camp to Inveraray in 1955.*
21. *The 70th's Christmas Good Turn was probably inspired by a similar Good Turn that was carried out by the Troop during Scout Week in May 1953 – see the entry in the Troop Log for 25th May 1953. The donation of books and toys to children in hospital as a Christmas Good Turn became an annual event that continued well into the 1960s and possibly beyond. See also the COH entry for the 5th November 1954.*
22. *P.L. Ian McFarlane wrote up the COH minutes, and this was checked at a later date by Brian Hodgson.*

15th of January 1954

**Finnart Church,
Madeira Street**

Present:- S.M. B. Hodgson¹
A.S.M. D. Slater²
T.L. A. Whiteford³
P.L. D. Brown⁴
P.L. J. Whitefield⁵
P.L. S. Whiteford⁶
P.L. I. McFarlane⁷

Patrol Leader

The first item was to elect a new P.L. for the Curlews to take the place of P.L. Whitefield who is to become an acting A.S.M. at Easter⁸. Several suggestions were made but, after a discussion, a vote was taken between Steven Pearce⁹ and Robert MacKinnin¹⁰. The result was three votes for Steven and four for Robert, but as the S.M.¹ and A.S.M.² voted, it was decided that both should be given a trial of four weeks in the Curlew Patrol. Steven will be first and Jimmy Miller¹¹ will be put in his place¹². P.L. Whitefield⁵ will report later on their ability as a P.L.

Dance

A dance was wanted by the P.L.s and the 2nd February was decided upon as the date.¹³ The T.L.³ will arrange it all, but will first ask the minister's¹⁴ permission.

The court was closed/

Ian McFarlane (P.L.)
J.B. Hodgson¹⁵

Editorial Comments for 15th January 1954

- 1. See Note 2 for the 29th November 1953 regarding Scout Master Brian Hodgson*
- 2. See note 7 for 4th September 1952 regarding Acting A.S.M. David Slater.*
- 3. See note 8 for 4th September 1952 regarding Troop Leader Andrew Whiteford.*
- 4. See note 9 for 4th September 1952 regarding P.L. Douglas Brown.*
- 5. See note 15 for 4th September 1952 regarding P.L. Jim Whitefield.*
- 6.. See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding P.L. Sandy Whiteford.*
- 7. See note 7 for 6th November 1953 regarding P.L. Ian McFarlane.*
- 8. Jim Whitefield resigned before Easter – possibly at the beginning of March 1954. There is no mention of him in the available records after January 1954 and so it does not seem likely that he became an Acting A.S.M.*
- 9. It is believed that Stephen Pearce transferred to the 70th from another Troop round about Easter 1953 and was approaching the age of 15 at that point. Although he was being considered as the next P.L. of the Curlew Patrol, that post went to Bob Miller at the beginning of March 1954. Stephen was possibly appointed as a Second at that point, although he may well have already gained his Second's stripe at his previous Troop. He joined a Bull Patrol of Senior Scouts in June 1954 at the age of 16, but was then promoted to be P.L of Fox Patrol in September 1954, replacing Ian McFarlane who had been appointed Troop Leader.*
- 10. Robert McKinnon was recruited in October 1953 and it seems highly likely that he transferred from another Scout Troop, possibly when he was aged 14. Although he and Stephen Pearce were considered likely candidates to take on the role of P.L. of the Curlew Patrol, that position went to Bob Miller in March 1954. It is thought that Robert may have been appointed as Second of the Fox Patrol at the same time, replacing the existing Second who moved to the Falcon Patrol to replace*

Stanley Bacon. In May 1954, Robert became Second of the Curlew Patrol. Note that there is a possibility that Robert may have had a Second's stripe from his previous Troop. Robert was promoted to PL of the Curlew Patrol, possibly at the end of June 1955.

11. Jimmy Miller was first mentioned in the available records as being a member of the Seagull Patrol round about the Spring of 1953. He was transferred to the Curlew Patrol, then to the Seal patrol, then to the Falcon Patrol. He was last mentioned in the records on the 5th November 1954 and it is assumed that he left fairly soon after that.

12. It's not entirely clear what is meant by this. Jimmy Miller was one of the younger Scouts in the Troop, so it is unlikely that he was replacing any role that Stephen might have had in his normal patrol. It is more likely that Stephen had to move out of his usual patrol to become Acting PL of the Curlew Patrol, and that Jimmy Miller was temporarily transferred to Stephen's normal Patrol to balance up patrol numbers.

13. It is not known whether this took place or not. There is no mention of it in either the Troop Log or the Seal Patrol Log.

14. See note 8 for the 23rd January 1953 regarding the Reverend Stewart.

15. P.L. Ian McFarlane wrote up the COH minutes, and this was checked at a later date by Brian Hodgson.

22nd January 1954

Finnart Church,
Madeira Street

Present:- S.M. B. Hodgson¹
A.S.M. D. Slater²
T.L. A. Whiteford³
P.L. D. Brown⁴
P.L. J. Whitefield⁵
P.L. S. Whitefield⁶
P.L. I. McFarlane⁷

Ambulance Competition⁸

A discussion was held on whether or not to enter for the Ambulance Competition this year. When a vote was taken, three voted against and two abstained.

Patrol Activities⁹

The S.M.¹ announced that he would make out five outdoor activities to be carried out by the patrols. They may be done any time in the near future.

County Flag¹⁰

He also announced that we, along with the Gourrock troupe^{11,12}, have to enter for the county Championship. The S.M. explained it to the P.Ls but further details will be issued later.

G.S.M.s Cup¹³

The S.M. took down the list of entries for the G.S.M. cup, which, this year, is for signalling.¹⁴ The competition will be held in two weeks time¹⁵.

Soap Box Derby¹⁶

The last item was about entering for the Soap Box Derby but it was decided that we wouldn't.

The T.L.³ then closed the court.

Ian McFarlane (P.L.)
J.B. Hodgson (S.M.)¹⁷

Editorial Comments for 22nd January 1954

- 1. See Note 2 for the 29th November 1953 regarding Scout Master Brian Hodgson*
- 2. See note 7 for 4th September 1952 regarding Acting A.S.M. David Slater.*
- 3. See note 8 for 4th September 1952 regarding Troop Leader Andrew Whiteford.*
- 4. See note 9 for 4th September 1952 regarding P.L. Douglas Brown.*
- 5. See note 15 for 4th September 1952 regarding P.L. Jim Whitefield. This COH meeting appears to be the last one that he attended and it is likely that he resigned before Easter, rather than at Easter.*
- 6.. See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding P.L. Sandy Whiteford.*
- 7. See note 7 for 6th November 1953 regarding P.L. Ian McFarlane.*
- 8. It seems odd that the COH chose not to enter the District Ambulance Competition covering First Aid, given that it had come second in 1952, then lifted the trophy in 1953. Possibly, it was thought that the troop had to concentrate on performing well in the County Flag Competition and so limit the number of Competitions which it took part in during 1954.*

9. Patrols were frequently encouraged to have patrol meetings and activities, separate from the weekly troop meeting. It's not recorded in any of the available records what the five outdoor activities were or whether they took place.
10. The County Flag Competition has been a major Scouting Competition for many years and still runs. The 70th was selected by the District to compete in it during the 1930s and had mixed fortunes. The troop performed very well in the first year that it entered, but in a subsequent competition, the examiners criticized the Church Hall for being too small for Troop Meetings. This was true but there was nothing that the Troop could do about it and so they opted out of the competition for the rest of the 1930s and 40s. In fact, 1954 appears to be the first time that the 70th agreed to compete again. The Competition involved District Commissioners selecting which Troops in the District would go forward for the Competition. Once chosen, each Troop would be visited by Area Commissioners, who would judge the quality of a 'typical' Troop meeting and interview the Scouts (see troop log for 26th February 1954). This, it appears, was a prelude to a further selection process that would identify which Troops would attend a camping weekend that would presumably assess the quality of camping, hiking and Scoutcraft in the Troop. Four Patrols from each Troop were asked to attend. In 1954, only 3 Troops were selected to attend the final weekend, and the 70th was one of the three selected. The troop performed extremely well and came second overall. Some details relating to the hike carried out during the final weekend assessment are included in the Troop Log (see 5th-6th June 1954).
11. The 6th Renfrewshire, 1st Gourock (Colonel Darroch's Own). The 70th had a historical relationship with the 6th as the 70th's first Summer Camp in 1933 was a joint one with the 6th at Ardrishaig. There was also a period when the Troop held occasional joint troop meetings with the 6th.
12. The Scribes for both the Troop Log and the COH minutes tended to spell 'troop' as 'troup' during this period.
13. The Group Scout Master's Cup was initiated in the 1930s by G.S.M. Ian Dunlop, who had been the Troop's second Scout Master, before becoming an active G.S.M. Ian Dunlop was invited to give the sermon at the Church service held to celebrate the Troop's 21st anniversary (see troop log 10th October 1954)
14. The competition focused on semaphore, which was a strong point in the 70th. The Troop won the District Signalling Competition 8 years in a row during the 1950s.
15. The 5th February 1954. Douglas Brown won on the night, with Sandy Whiteford second, and Neville Mort third.
16. Soap Box Derby's were very popular during the 1950s and 1960s and probably started in the US. At one time there was several Scout Soap Box Derbys. They initially involved home-made 'cars' made out of soap crates with four wheels attached. They contained no engine and they were raced downhill, letting gravity do its work. However, pedals and gears scavenged from old bikes could be included to provide pedal power. The races could attract large crowds. The Morecambe Guardian for the 6th September 1955 described a Scouts' Soap Box Derby that attracted 10,000 spectators. There were separate races for Wolf Cubs and Boy Scouts, with speeds of up to 20 m.p.h. being attained. Soap Box Derbys still take place but the designs of the machines are a bit more high tech.
17. P.L. Ian McFarlane wrote up the COH minutes, and this was checked at a later date by Brian Hodgson.

5th February 1954

Finnart Church,
Madeira Street

Present:- S.M. B. Hodgson¹
A.S.M. D. Slater²
T.L. A. Whiteford³
P.L. D. Brown⁴
P.L. S. Whitefield⁵
P.L. I. McFarlane⁶

Minutes

The minutes of the previous five meetings were read by P.L. McFarlane and a vote of thanks was proposed by P.L. Brown.

Patrol Activities⁷

A discussion was held about patrol activities. Among the suggestions made were:

- A party for the patrol⁸
- A visit to the cinema to see 'Mr Scoutmaster'^{8,9}
- A game of football between two patrols⁸
- A visit to the PLs house to see TV if possible⁸
- A financial report of the patrol subscriptions entered in the patrol log⁸
- A description of the patrol animal in the patrol log.¹⁰

The TL³ then closed the court

Ian McFarlane (P.L.)
J.B. Hodgson (S.M.)¹¹

Editorial Comments for 5th February 1954

1. See Note 2 for the 29th November 1953 regarding Scout Master Brian Hodgson
2. See note 7 for 4th September 1952 regarding Acting A.S.M. David Slater.
3. See note 8 for 4th September 1952 regarding Troop Leader Andrew Whiteford.
4. See note 9 for 4th September 1952 regarding P.L. Douglas Brown.
5. See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding P.L. Sandy Whiteford.
6. See note 7 for 6th November 1953 regarding P.L. Ian McFarlane.
7. Patrols were frequently encouraged to have patrol meetings and activities, separate from the weekly troop meeting (see also the COH minutes for 22nd January 1954..
8. There is no evidence of these suggestions being carried out. However, only one Patrol Log (Seal) survives that covers 1954 and so it is still perfectly possible that some of these suggestions were followed up on.
9. 'Mr. Scoutmaster' was an American comedy film that was released in 1953 and starred Clifton Webb, Edmund Gwenn and George Winslow. The plot revolved around an arrogant TV personality played by Clifton Webb whose career is threatened because he's accused of being out of touch with the younger generation. As a result, he agrees to take on the role of Scoutmaster. The film plot was based on a book written by Keith Monroe called 'Be Prepared!'
10. This suggestion was certainly followed up on by the Seal Patrol, who included a description of a Seal at the back of their Patrol Log covering 1953-55.
11. P.L. Ian McFarlane wrote up the COH minutes, and this was checked at a later date by Brian Hodgson.

19th February 1954

81 Newton Street¹

Present:-
S.M. B. Hodgson²
A.S.M. D. Slater³
T.L. A. Whiteford⁴
P.L. D. Brown⁵
P.L. S. Whitefield⁶
P.L. I. McFarlane⁷

Scout Hat?⁸

The S.M.² had received a form to be filled in by the T.L.⁴ as to whether the troop wants the scout hat to be kept in use and if not, what alternative head gear, if any, is wanted. Each P.L. submitted the voting for his patrol and the total was 8 to 19 against the hat. It was decided that a dark green beret should be the alternative, and one form of head gear should be used in all Scotland. After the T.L. had completed the form, the Court of Honour scribe⁷ added his signature.

Wide Game

The wide game⁹ which had been held earlier by the troop was discussed and suggestions were made to improve it but, on the whole, it was agreed that it had been very successful.

The court was then closed.

Ian McFarlane (P.L.)
J.B. Hodgson (S.M.)¹⁰

Editorial Comments for 19th February 1954

- 1. The Court of Honour Meeting was held at 81 Newton Street, where Brian Hodgson lived with his parents.*
- 2. See Note 2 for the 29th November 1953 regarding Scout Master Brian Hodgson*
- 3. See note 7 for 4th September 1952 regarding Acting A.S.M. David Slater.*
- 4. See note 8 for 4th September 1952 regarding Troop Leader Andrew Whiteford.*
- 5. See note 9 for 4th September 1952 regarding P.L. Douglas Brown.*
- 6. See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding P.L. Sandy Whiteford.*
- 7. See note 7 for 6th November 1953 regarding P.L. Ian McFarlane.*
- 8. There had been a lively debate during the 1930s as to whether Scottish Scouts should be allowed to wear the Glengarry instead of the traditional Scout hat, commonly referred to as the lemon squeezer. Baden Powell was against this proposal and pointed out that Scottish Scouts already had a distinctive uniform as they had been permitted to wear the kilt. As a result, no change was made in terms of headgear during the 1930s or the 1940s. However, it was clear that the issue had not gone away and it appears that in 1954 Scottish HQ was now canvassing Scottish Scouts for their opinion. As far as the 70th Scouts were concerned, there seemed to be a significant opposition to the traditional hat, possibly because it was unwieldy and difficult to keep in shape. This opinion seemed to be generally felt throughout Scotland as Scouts were allowed to wear berets in 1955. As far as the colour was concerned, the Scouts wore a light green beret, while the Scouters wore a black Glengarry. As a result of changing to a beret, the silver coloured metal badge that PLs wore on the front of their hat was changed to a cloth badge. Although most troops probably changed to the beret, there appeared to be some latitude in terms of the traditional hat, such that Troops that wished to keep it could do so. The 45th Renfrewshire was one such group and continued to wear the traditional hat well into the 1960s. It's not known whether a change in headgear took place in England at this time.*
- 9. The Wide Game that was played on the 19th February was explained in some detail in the entry for that night in the Troop Log. It involved each Patrol following a series of coded messages in order*

to visit a series of locations in the local Neighbourhood. The first Patrol back to the Hall after completing it was the winner.

10. *P.L. Ian McFarlane wrote up the COH minutes, and this was checked at a later date by Brian Hodgson.*

12th of March 1954

**Finnart Church,
Madeira Street**

Present:-
S.M. B. Hodgson¹
A.S.M. D. Slater²
T.L. A. Whiteford³
P.L. D. Brown⁴
P.L. S. Whitefield⁵
P.L. I. McFarlane⁶
P.L. R. Miller⁷

New Second

Owing to Stanely Bacon⁸ leaving the troupe⁹, it was necessary to elect a new second for the Falcon patrol. The two proposals were Robert McKinnon¹⁰ and Stewart Robertson¹¹. A vote was taken and the result was 3 for Robert and 2 for Stewart. The S.M.¹ said that he wanted Robert to remain in the Fox Patrol, which meant that the second of the Fox Patrol would be transferred to the Falcons.¹²

The T.L.³ then closed the court.

Ian McFarlane (P.L.)
J.B. Hodgson (S.M.)¹³

Editorial Comments for 12th March 1954

1. See Note 2 for the 29th November 1953 regarding Scout Master Brian Hodgson
2. See note 7 for 4th September 1952 regarding Acting A.S.M. David Slater.
3. See note 8 for 4th September 1952 regarding Troop Leader Andrew Whiteford.
4. See note 9 for 4th September 1952 regarding P.L. Douglas Brown.
5. See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding P.L. Sandy Whiteford.
6. See note 7 for 6th November 1953 regarding P.L. Ian McFarlane.
7. See note 12 for the 6th November 1953 regarding P.L. Bob Miller.
8. It is believed that Stanley Bacon (nickname 'Streaker') joined the Troop in the second half of 1950. He was placed in the Wolf Patrol, then the Curlew Patrol, then returned to the Wolf Patrol, before being promoted to Second of the Falcon Patrol. When he left the Troop in March 1954, he was probably aged 15.
9. The Scribes for both the Troop Log and the COH minutes tended to spell 'troop' as 'troupe' during this period.
10. See note 10 for the 15th January 1954 regarding Robert McKinnon.
11. Stuart Robertson probably joined the Scout Troop^h in May or June of 1951 at the age of 11, in which case he may well have been in the 70th's Wolf Cub Pack. He was in the Fox patrol for a year then joined the Seagull Patrol. He was promoted to Second of the Seagull Patrol in May 1954. Due to a lack of records covering 1955-1957, it is not known when he left the Troop. There are also no records of him being promoted to Patrol Leader.
12. From this it is concluded that Neville Mort, who was Second of the Fox Patrol at that time, was transferred to the Falcon Patrol as Second, allowing Stuart Robertson to be promoted to Second of the Fox Patrol at the age of 14. It is not known why Brian Hodgson wanted Robert to remain in the Fox Patrol.
13. P.L. Ian McFarlane wrote up the COH minutes, and this was checked at a later date by Brian Hodgson.

23rd of March 1954

81 Newton Street¹

Present:-
S.M. B. Hodgson²
A.S.M. D. Slater³
T.L. A. Whiteford⁴
P.L. D. Brown⁵
P.L. S. Whitefield⁶
P.L. I. McFarlane⁷
P.L. R. Miller⁸

Camp Equipment

The S.M.² told the P.Ls that they were to buy for the patrol certain articles of camping equipment. These were:-

- 1 Nest of billies
- 1 11" frying pan
- 1 Wash bowl
- 1 Tea infuser
- 1 entrenching tool

A financial grant was given to each P.L. to help them.

Whist Drive

A method of making money was asked for and a whist drive was decided upon. It was arranged for Monday, 5th April at 7.30 p.m.⁹

The T.L.⁴ then closed the court.

Ian McFarlane (P.L.)
J.B. Hodgson (S.M.)¹⁰

Editorial Comments for 23rd March 1954

1. *The Court of Honour Meeting was held at 81 Newton Street, the home of Brian Hodgson and his parents.*
2. *See Note 2 for the 29th November 1953 regarding Scout Master Brian Hodgson*
3. *See note 7 for 4th September 1952 regarding Acting A.S.M. David Slater.*
4. *See note 8 for 4th September 1952 regarding Troop Leader Andrew Whiteford.*
5. *See note 9 for 4th September 1952 regarding P.L. Douglas Brown.*
6. *See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding P.L. Sandy Whiteford.*
7. *See note 7 for 6th November 1953 regarding P.L. Ian McFarlane.*
8. *See note 12 for the 6th November 1953 regarding P.L. Bob Miller.*
9. *It is not known for certain whether this went ahead or not. It is not mentioned in either the Troop Log or the Seal Patrol Log. However, both logs focused on Friday night meetings and so it is perfectly possible that the Whist night went ahead, but was not mentioned.*
10. *P.L. Ian McFarlane wrote up the COH minutes, and this was checked at a later date by Brian Hodgson.*

30th of April 1954

Finnart Church,
Madeira Street

Present:- S.M. B. Hodgson¹
A.S.M. D. Slater²
T.L. A. Whiteford³
P.L. D. Brown⁴
P.L. S. Whitefield⁵
P.L. I. McFarlane⁶
P.L. R. Miller⁷

Minutes

The minutes of several previous meetings were read by the log-keeper.⁶

Financial Grant

A further financial grant was given to the P.Ls to help them buy camping equipment.⁸

Bob a Job⁹

Ian McKenzie¹⁰ and Robert Mackinnon¹¹ were reported to have obtained nothing for Bob-a-Job week and it was decided that they should be brought before the Court of Honour.¹²

Troop Magazine

The S.M.¹ suggested that the troupe¹³ should publish a magazine. He gave details of printing costs etc. and it was decided that it would be published quarterly at 6^d each¹⁴. The P.L.s were asked to write patrol articles of not more than a hundred words. The magazine is to be called "70th Review".¹⁵

The court was closed by the chairman³

Ian McFarlane (P.L.)
J.B. Hodgson (S.M.)¹⁶

Editorial Comments 30th April 1954

1. See Note 2 for the 29th November 1953 regarding Scout Master Brian Hodgson
2. See note 7 for 4th September 1952 regarding Acting A.S.M. David Slater.
3. See note 8 for 4th September 1952 regarding Troop Leader Andrew Whiteford.
4. See note 9 for 4th September 1952 regarding P.L. Douglas Brown.
5. See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding P.L. Sandy Whiteford.
6. See note 7 for 6th November 1953 regarding P.L. Ian McFarlane.
7. See note 12 for the 6th November 1953 regarding P.L. Bob Miller.
8. See also the COH minutes for 23rd March 1954.
9. Bob-a-Job week was introduced in 1949 and proved a huge success (especially during the 50s, 60s and 70s) both in terms of fund raising and Public Relations. . The 'Bob' referred to the shilling that was requested for each job carried out, and the name was changed to 'Scout Job Week' following decimalisation and the demise of the shilling. In 1949, a shilling was the equivalent of £2.25 today (as of 2023). Although each job was supposed to cost 1/-, many householders paid significantly more than that. During Bob-a-Job Week, it was normal for individual Scouts to go round as many houses in their neighbourhood as they could, regardless of whether they knew the householders or not. Scout Job Week eventually stopped in 1992. By that point, society had changed and it was considered unsafe for Scouts to fund raise unsupervised.
10. Ian McKenzie was recruited into the troop at the beginning 1953 and might have transferred from another troop. He remained in the troop until 1956 and was a member of the Fox, Seal and Falcon Patrols. In September 1955, he was promoted to Second of the Kingfisher Patrol but was

further promoted in November 1955 to PL of the Falcon patrol. He was still attending Court of Honour Meetings at the end of April 1956, and probably resigned over the summer of 1956.

11. See note 10 for the 15th January 1954 regarding Robert McKinnon.

12. Most of the work carried out at The Court of Honour involved discussions on programme, patrol organization, fund raising etc. However, the Court also had a disciplinary role and the P.L.s had the right to discipline any Scout that stepped out of line (as long as the Scout Master agreed with what had been decided).

13. The Scribes for both the Troop Log and the COH minutes tended to spell 'troop' as 'troup' during this period.

14. Before decimalisation, there were 12 pennies in a shilling and 20 shillings in a pound. 6d corresponded to sixpence (also called a tanner). In 1954, sixpence was the equivalent in value of £1 today (as of 2023).

15. One or two copies of "The Review" have survived and are possessed by Douglas Brown. The publication was basically a single A4 piece of paper.

16. P.L. Ian McFarlane wrote up the COH minutes, and this was checked at a later date by Brian Hodgson.

7th of May 1954

Finnart Church,
Madeira Street

Present:-
S.M. B. Hodgson¹
T.L. A. Whiteford²
P.L. D. Brown³
P.L. S. Whitefield⁴
P.L. I. McFarlane⁵
P.L. R. Miller⁶
Scout I. McKenzie⁷

Bob a Job⁸

Ian McKenzie⁷ was brought before the Court of Honour to be questioned on his failure to earn any money during Bob a Job week. The Chairman² asked him what sources he tried and was told "None". When asked the reason for this, he couldn't reply, then the Chairman said that because of this Ian would have to be omitted from any chance of promotion.⁹ Ian then left the court.

District Expenses

The S.M.¹ asked about giving a donation to the district as their expenses were becoming too heavy.¹⁰ It was decided to refer back to this at a later date.

The Court was then closed by the T.L.²

Ian McFarlane (P.L.)
J.B. Hodgson (S.M.)¹¹

Editorial Comments 7th May 1954

1. See Note 2 for the 29th November 1953 regarding Scout Master Brian Hodgson
2. See note 8 for 4th September 1952 regarding Troop Leader Andrew Whiteford.
3. See note 9 for 4th September 1952 regarding P.L. Douglas Brown.
4. See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding P.L. Sandy Whiteford.
5. See note 7 for 6th November 1953 regarding P.L. Ian McFarlane.
6. See note 12 for the 6th November 1953 regarding P.L. Bob Miller.
7. See note 10 for 30th April 1954 regarding Ian McKenzie.
8. See note 9 for the 30th April 1954 regarding Bob-a-Job Week.
9. This measure was not enacted on a permanent basis. Ian was eventually promoted to Second then to PL. It should also be noted that Ian had shown a high level of commitment to Bob-a Job Week in 1953.
10. It is not known what caused this financial difficulty at District level during 1954. The problem was raised again at the COH meeting of 21st May 1954.
11. P.L. Ian McFarlane wrote up the COH minutes, and this was checked at a later date by Brian Hodgson.

14th of May 1954

Finnart Church,
Madeira Street

Present:- S.M. B. Hodgson¹
A.S.M. D. Slater²
T.L. A. Whiteford³
P.L. D. Brown⁴
P.L. I. McFarlane⁵
P.L. R. Miller⁶
P.L. S. Whitefield⁷

Bull Patrol⁸

The S.M.¹ wanted to know whether the P.L.s wanted to become members of the Bull Patrol which is to be formed to run the troop if the S.M. leaves⁹. A secret ballot was held and the S.M. took charge of the voting papers.

He announced that C. Miller¹⁰ is taking out an A.S.M.'s warrant.

He also announced that the Bull Patrol would be formed at the end of the month and that each member would have his own special task.

The S.M. asked the P.L.s to give C. Miller their support as he will not manage without it.

Promotion

A meeting will be held later to decide the promotions which will be necessary owing to the formation of the Bull Patrol.¹¹

Ian McFarlane (P.L.)
J.B. Hodgson (S.M.)¹²

Editorial Comments 14th May 1954

1. See Note 2 for the 29th November 1953 regarding Scout Master Brian Hodgson

2. See note 7 for 4th September 1952 regarding Acting A.S.M. David Slater

3. See note 8 for 4th September 1952 regarding Troop Leader Andrew Whiteford.

4. See note 9 for 4th September 1952 regarding P.L. Douglas Brown

5. See note 7 for 6th November 1953 regarding P.L. Ian McFarlane.

6. See note 12 for the 6th November 1953 regarding P.L. Bob Miller

7. See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding P.L. Sandy Whiteford.

8. It is not known whether there was any significance in choosing the name of the Patrol as the Bull Patrol. However, it is noteworthy that in later years, the Bull Patrol was the unofficial term for the Scouter team.

9. According to Douglas Brown, Brian Hodgson's father was concerned that Brian was spending so much time on Scouting activities that he academic studies were suffering. As a result, there was pressure on Brian to step back from Scouting commitments until he had completed his studies.

10. Clark Miller joined the 70th Group in 1953 as an Assistant Cub Master. It is likely that he was persuaded to take out a warrant as an Assistant Scout Master, as the continued running of the Troop may well have depended on the presence of at least one warranted leader. The others on the leader team were more properly assigned as Acting A.S.M.s and were probably barred from taking out a warrant as they were presumably still within the Scout age range. In fact, Clark's services were not required as Ian Blake took over as Scout Master after the summer. It is assumed that Clark reverted back to helping out at the Wolf Cub Pack.

11. To be specific, replacements would be needed for Andrew Whiteford (Seal), Bob Miller (Curlew) and Douglas Brown (falcon), who would all be resigning as P.L.s.

12. P.L. Ian McFarlane wrote up the COH minutes, and this was checked at a later date by Brian Hodgson.

21st of May 1954

Finnart Church,
Madeira Street

Present:-
S.M. B. Hodgson¹
A.S.M. D. Slater²
T.L. A. Whiteford³
P.L. D. Brown⁴
P.L. S. Whitefield⁵
P.L. I. McFarlane⁶
P.L. R. Miller⁷

Queen Scouts⁸

Three⁹ of the five P.L.s were improperly dressed owing to the fact that they were ducked¹⁰ after receiving their Bushman's Thongs¹¹ to make them Queen Scouts.

County Flag¹²

It was announced that there would be only four patrols required for the County Flag competition¹³ which meant that one P.L. would have to be left out for the occasion.¹⁴ The P.L.s have to obtain at least four full sets of equipment¹⁵.

Reorganisation of Troop

After the 6th June, the troop will be as follows:-

Scouters S.M. B. Hodgson¹;
A.S.M. C. Miller¹⁶
Acting A.S.M.s D. Slater² and A. Whiteford³
Bull Patrol TL D. Brown⁴
R. Miller⁷ and S. Pearce¹⁷

New PLs

Two¹⁸ new P.L.s were required and it was unanimous that Neil Cook¹⁹ and Graham White²⁰ should be promoted. Another PL was still required and the proposals were

R. MacKinnon²¹ (proposed D. Slater², seconded I McF⁶)
N. Mort²² (proposed R. Miller⁷, sec. S. Whiteford⁵)

The voting was

R. McKinnon – 2 votes
N. Mort – 4 votes

Thus, N. Mort is the new P.L..²³

New Seconds

Four new seconds were also needed and those proposed were as follows

D. Graham²⁴ (A.W.³, D.B.⁴) – 3 votes rejected
A. Shearer²⁵ (S.W.⁵, R.M.⁷) – 5 votes elected
S. Robertson²⁶ (S.W.⁵, D.B.⁴) – 6 votes elected
R. McGill²⁷ (R.M.⁷, S.W.⁵) – 6 votes elected
J. Harvey²⁸ (B.H.¹, D.B.⁴) – 5 votes elected

New Patrols

The P.L. and second of the new patrols will be as follows

FOX

I. McFarlane⁶

R. McGill²⁷

FALCON

S. Whiteford⁵

A. Shearer²⁵

SEAGULL

N. Cook¹⁹

S. Robertson²⁶

SEALS

G. White²⁰

J. Harvey²⁸

CURLEWS

N. Mort²²

R. Mackinnon²¹

Donations

The S.M.¹ wanted to know if the troupe²⁹ was willing to donate to the District funds³⁰ or the Westminster Abbey fund³¹.

A. Whiteford³ proposed £1³² for district - 3 votes

D. Brown⁴ proposed 10/-³³ - 2 votes

£1 will be gifted to the District and it was decided not to donate to the Westminster Abbey fund. The S.M.¹ suggested that each section of the Group should give 6/- and the Scouters a shilling each³⁴. This was accepted.

Patrol Souvenirs

Suggestions were wanted for souvenirs to be given to members of the Championship Patrol of the year. Nothing was agreed on, but it was decided that the S.M.¹ would choose when visiting the Scout Shop.³⁵

The court was closed by the TL.³

Ian McFarlane (P.L.)

J.B. Hodgson (S.M.)³⁶

Editorial Comments 21st May 1954

1. See Note 2 for the 29th November 1953 regarding Scout Master Brian Hodgson

2. See note 7 for 4th September 1952 regarding Acting A.S.M. David Slater

3. See note 8 for 4th September 1952 regarding Troop Leader Andrew Whiteford.

4. See note 9 for 4th September 1952 regarding P.L. Douglas Brown

5. See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding P.L. Sandy Whiteford.

6. See note 7 for 6th November 1953 regarding P.L. Ian McFarlane.

7. See note 12 for the 6th November 1953 regarding P.L. Bob Miller

8. The Queen's Scout Badge was the highest award in the progressive Scout Training Scheme (Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, 1st Class, Queen's Scout Badge). To gain the Queen's Scout Badge, it was necessary to gain the Venturer's Badge, a certain number of Proficiency Badges, and the Bushman's Thong. As far as is known in terms of the 70th Troop, the Queen's Scout Badge was only ever gained by Patrol Leaders.

9. All five P.L.s gained their Queen's Scout Badge and were awarded with their certificates by the Chief Scout (Lord Rowallan) on 19th June 1954. It is known that Andrew Whiteford completed the Badge in December 1953. Therefore, the three PLs concerned on the 21st May 1954 must have been three of the remaining four PLs (Bob Miller, Ian McFarlane, Sandy Whiteford, Douglas Brown).

10. It was normal in the 70th during the 1950s and 1960s to celebrate any notable achievement by 'ducking' the Scout or Scouter concerned after the meeting was over. This could involve dragging the 'victim' into the kitchen and holding his head under the tap (or various variations thereof). The practice of ducking seemed to fade away once the Troop moved into the new Scout HQ in the late 1960s.

11. The Bushman's Thong was one of the requirements that needed to be earned before gaining the Queen's Scout Badge. It involved gaining three Senior Scout Proficiency Badges, as well as the Venturer Badge. The thong itself had to be made by the Scout and



was made from leather.

12. See Note 10 for the 22nd January 1954 regarding the County Flag Competition.

13. The final weekend of the competition was on the 5th-6th June 1954 (see Troop Log). The 70th was one of only three Troops invited to participate following a selection process that lasted 5 months. All three Troops were to send 4 Patrols for the final weekend. Full details of what took place are not known, but the hiking instructions that were provided are included in the Troop Log. The 70th performed well and came second.

14. It is not known which P.L. was left out. It's also not known whether 4 of the 5 normal Patrols took part or whether the Troop could make up 4 Patrols from the Scouts available in the Troop.

15. Presumably, this meant camping equipment. It also seems likely that the 70th would have had to borrow tents from other Troops as the troop probably only owned 2 Patrol Tents and 3 small hike tents at the time.

16. See note 10 for the 14th May 1954 regarding Clark Miller.

17. See note 9 for the 15th January 1954 regarding Stephen Pearce.

18. In fact, 3 PL's were needed to fill vacancies in the Seal, Falcon and Curlew Patrols.

19. See note 16 for the 4th September 1952 regarding Neill Cook.

20. Graham White was present in the Wolf Cub Pack photograph taken in 1949, and probably moved up to the troop in the Autumn of 1951 to join the Wolf Patrol. During the 1952-53, he was in the Seagull Patrol, and was then promoted in September 1953 to Second of the Seal Patrol. In May 1954, Graham became P.L. of the Seal Patrol at the age of 14. Graham gained an impressive 'clutch' of proficiency badges, with only Neill Cook earning more. As a result, Graham was a runner up for the Coronation Cup of 1954. Graham was a member of the 70th football team that won the District trophy in 1952, and he represented the troop in the Scout Sports Day held at Cappielow as part of 'Scout Week' held to celebrate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. He was also a member of the 70th teams that won the Ambulance (First Aid) Competition and Signalling competition in 1953.

21. See note 10 for the 15th January 1954 regarding Robert McKinnon.

22. See note 13 for the 6th November 1953 regarding Neville Mort.

23. Neville was the new P.L. for the Curlew Patrol, taking over from Bob Miller.

24. It is believed that David Graham joined the troop in May or June 1951. He was initially placed in the Seal Patrol, then moved to the Seagull, Falcon and Fox Patrols before returning to the Seal Patrol. There is some evidence that David was a bit of a handful when he was younger, which might explain the frequent transfers. He missed out on promotion in May 1954, and it is not known when he was eventually promoted to Second. One possibility is that he was promoted to Second of the Seal Patrol when Jim Harvey was promoted to PL of the Kingfisher Patrol. However, it is known that he was promoted to P.L. of the Seagull Patrol in January 1956. He resigned from the Troop in February 1957, possibly once he turned 17.

25. Alastair Shearer joined the Troop during the first half of 1951 and was promoted to Second of the Falcon Patrol in June 1954. He was promoted to P.L. of the Seal Patrol in mid 1955, replacing Graham White. He remained as P.L. until October 1956, then presumably became a Junior A.S.M. He completed his Queen's Scout Badge at the end of March 1957, and was also one of the 70th Scouts attending the World Jamboree at Sutton Coldfield that year. Alastair was a member of the 70th football team that lifted the District Football trophy in 1953. He was also a member of the 70th team that came second in the Shannon Cup in 1957. Alastair was with the troop as Scout, P.L. and A.S.M from 1951 to 1959.

27. Robin McGill was nicknamed Blondy because of his hair. He had been in the 70th's Wolf Cub Pack and probably moved up to the troop during 1951 where he was placed in the Seagull Patrol, then the Fox Patrol. He was promoted to Second of the Fox Patrol in May 1954, and was then promoted to PL of the Patrol in September 1955 at the age of 15. Robin was a highly popular PL amongst his Scouts and the Fox Patrol Log stated that his resignation in March 1956 was 'a very unhappy day'.

28. Jim Harvey joined the 70th troop during February 1953 and was probably aged 12 or 13 with no prior Scouting experience. It is believed that he initially joined the Seal Patrol, but was transferred to another patrol at the start of the 1953-54 session. However, he returned to the Seal Patrol as its Second in June 1954. In September 1955, Jim left the Seal Patrol to become P.L. of a new Patrol (the Kingfisher Patrol). It seems highly probable that Jim gained his 1st Class Badge, but it is not known whether he gained the Queen's Scout badge. He resigned in October 1956 to become a junior ASM but was still qualified to lead the 70th Patrol that came second in the Shannon Cup of 1957. Jim remained with the 70th as an A.S.M. until October 1960.

29. The Scribes for both the Troop Log and the COH minutes tended to spell 'troop' as 'troup' during this period.

30. See also the COH minutes for the 7th May 1954.
31. The fund was set up in 1953 to raise a million pounds in order to fund essential restoration work on Westminster Abbey. It attracted widespread publicity both within the UK and overseas. A commemorative stone to William Caxton was placed in the Abbey in 1954 to 'commemorate the great assistance rendered to the Abbey Fund by the English Speaking Press throughout the world'. It was predicted in 1954 that the necessary repairs would take 10 years to complete.
32. £1 in 1954 was the equivalent in value to £35 today (as of 2023).
33. 10/- (ten shillings) in 1954 was the equivalent in value to £17.5 today (as of 2023).
34. The sections would have been the Wolf Cub Pack, the Boy Scout Troop, and quite possibly the Rover Scout Crew making a total of 18/-. The remaining 2 shillings required to make up the £1 suggests that two warranted Scouters contributed (presumably Brian Hodgson and Clark Millar).
35. It is not known whether this refers to the Scout Shop in Elmbank, Glasgow, or to a more local Scout Shop in Greenock that might have existed at the time.
36. P.L. Ian McFarlane wrote up the COH minutes, and this was checked at a later date by Brian Hodgson.

31st of May 1954

81 Newton Street¹

Present:-
S.M. B. Hodgson²
T.L. D. Brown³
P.L. S. Whitefield⁴
P.L. I. McFarlane⁵
P.L. G. White⁶
P.L. N. Cook⁷

Chairman

A new chairman for the Court of Honour was required and D. Brown³ was proposed by S. Whiteford⁴, seconded I. McFarlane⁵. As this was the only proposal⁸, he was elected and it was arranged that he would also be treasurer.

Librarian⁹

Proposals for librarianship were

I. McFarlane⁵ (prop. G. White⁶, S. Whiteford⁴)
N. Cook⁷ (prop. B. Hodgson², D. Brown³)

The voting was 3 each, so it was decided that I. McFarlane would continue to write the Court of Honour log, thus N. Cook is librarian.

Troup¹⁰ Log Keeper

G. White⁶ was unanimously elected as Troop log keeper proposed by N. Cook⁷ and seconded by B. Hodgson².

Quartermaster

A. Whiteford¹¹ was *the* only proposal for this job (D. Brown, N. Cook)¹² and thus was elected.

Finance

The chairman³ wanted to know whether to proof *the Niger*¹³ ourselves or send to Black's. He will enquire about the price.

The trek cart¹⁴ has to be repaired.

The S.M.² suggested charging sixpence¹⁵ from each boy who camps at Everton¹⁶ and keeping the extra three pence for troupe¹⁰ funds.

The chairman asked the P.L.s to find out if the Coronation brochures¹⁷ were paid for.

The lettering on the G.S.M.'s cup¹⁸ has still to be paid for.

Court of Honour

The PLs have to inform the chairman³ of anything which has to be brought up at the Court of Honour before the meeting.

The Court of Honour will meet on Sunday afternoons when the chairman considers it necessary.

The general meeting¹⁹ will be held in May at the end of the session.

The chairman³ closed the court withdrawing the knife.²⁰

Ian McFarlane (P.L.)²¹

Extra Item

A list of equipment to be obtained by each patrol was issued to the P.L.s.²² This equipment must be obtained before 5th June, as that is the day of the County Flag competition.²³

Ian McFarlane (P.L.)²¹

Editorial Comments 31st May 1954

1. *The Court of Honour Meeting was held at 81 Newton Street, the home of Brian Hodgson and his parents.*
2. *See Note 2 for the 29th November 1953 regarding Scout Master Brian Hodgson*
3. *Douglas Brown was Senior Sixer in the 70th's Wolf Cub Pack and was 'head hunted' from the 59th by Betty Nelson when she restarted the Pack in 1947. Douglas moved up to the troop at the start of the 1949-50 session. He was promoted to PL of the Falcon Patrol in June 1951 at the age of 13 and remained PL for 3 years until May 1954. At that point, he resigned as P.L. and was appointed Troop Leader. However, he was only T.L for a few months as in September 1954, he resigned to become an Acting A.S.M.*
4. *See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding P.L. Sandy Whiteford.*
5. *See note 7 for 6th November 1953 regarding P.L. Ian McFarlane.*
6. *See note 20 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. Graham White.*
7. *See note 16 for the 4th September 1952 regarding P.L. Neill Cook.*
8. *This was probably just a formality as it was normal practice for the Troop Leader to be Chairman of the Court of Honour. Douglas had just taken over as Troop Leader from Andrew Whiteford, who was now an Acting A.S.M.*
9. *The 'Troop library' consisted of a number of Scouting books that were presumably kept in a box and lent out to Scouts. The books would have included ones that related to the passing of Tenderfoot, 2nd Class and 1st Class tests, as well as Proficiency Badges. In the 1950s, there was no internet or home computers and the only way one could obtain information was from books and libraries.*
10. *The Scribes for both the Troop Log and the COH minutes tended to spell 'troop' as 'troup' during this period.*
11. *See note 8 for 4th September 1952 regarding Troop Leader Andrew Whiteford.*
12. *Proposed by Douglas Brown and seconded by Neill Cook.*
13. *The Niger was a Patrol tent, but it leaked at the Inverreck Easter Camp of 1954*
14. *One of the wheels on the trek cart was buckled when the camping equipment was pushed the four miles from Gourock Pier to the Inverreck campsite.*
15. *Before decimalisation, there were 12 pennies in a shilling and 20 shillings in a pound. 6d corresponded to sixpence (also called a tanner). In 1954, sixpence was the equivalent in value of £1 today (as of 2023).*
16. *This suggests that it might have been fairly common for the Scouts to camp at Everton on weekends. Unfortunately, only a very few Everton Camps were described in the Troop Log.*
17. *This might refer to the Coronation Brochures that were printed in 1953 to give a summary of the Troop leading up to Coronation Day (2nd June 1953). It is not known when exactly those brochures were written, but it must have been before Scout week (20th May-2nd June) and after 19th April 1953 following Bob-a-Job week of Easter 1953. However, it is odd that the issue of payment was being discussed a year later, and so another possibility is that these were official Coronation Brochures that had been printed after the Coronation.*
18. *See note 13 for the 22nd January 1954 regarding the G.S.M.s Cup. The Cup was won by Douglas Brown on the 5th February 1954. Presumably, the lettering was the inscription of his name on the Cup.*
19. *This implies that this particular meeting was the general meeting. It also suggests that the end of May marked the end of the Scout year, which might explain why promotions were often made in June, rather than August or September.*
20. *It is not known what the 'knife' was or what it represented. The only ceremonial knife identified in the records was the small knife presented to the Patrol Leader of the winning Patrol of the Month Competition. It does not seem likely that this knife should double up as some kind of symbol for the Court of Honour.*
21. *Scribe for the Court of Honour Minutes.*
22. *See also the entry regarding the County Flag on the 21st May 1954.*
23. *The County Flag competition was held over a weekend (5th-6th June 1954), rather than a single day.*

25th of June 1954

Finnart Church,
Madeira Street

Present:-
S.M. B. Hodgson¹
A.S.M. D.G. Slater²
T.L. D. Brown³
A.S.M. A. Whiteford⁴
P.L. R. Miller⁵
P.L. I. McFarlane⁶
P.L. S. Whitefield⁷
P.L. G. White⁸
P.L. N. Cook⁹

Minutes

The minutes of the last few meetings were heard and after a few corrections had been made, they were proposed by A. Whiteford⁴ and seconded by R. Miller.⁵

Librarians Report

The librarian (Neil Cook⁹) stated that the books were either not been brought back at all or being brought back damaged. He said that there were only six books left out of the thirty - nine which the library originally contained. It was decided that the librarian should go round all the Scouts personally and retrieve the books that way. An estimate of 12/6¹⁰ was given for new books.

Finance

The treasurer reported that the cash at hand to date is 9/8½¹¹ + £3 - 6/4¹² in the bank, and that we owe £1 - 5/6¹³. The proofing of the Niger¹⁴ will cost £2 - 6/6.¹⁵ He proposes to put £1 - 5/-¹⁶ in the bank. Patrol funds will be restricted to 12/-¹⁷ and each patrol will pay 1/3¹⁸ per week. The Bull patrol¹⁹ will pay 6^d.²⁰

Trek Cart

The trek cart²¹ is to be brought into the church. The patrol chosen for this job was the Curlews.

Patrol Equipment

Patrol equipment is to include Gilcraft tenderfoot and second-class books.²² "Scouting for Boys"²³ is also compulsory.

Jobs for Scouters

Each Scouter was given a job for the next season. These were as follows

C. Miller ²⁴	- The records
B. Hodgson ¹	- General administration
A. Whiteford ⁴	- Look after equipment
D. Slater ²	- Camping and attendance
D. Brown ³	- Finance

21st Birthday

It was announced that next year²⁵ will be the 21st birthday of the troupe²⁶. S.M.¹ suggested holding a gang show to celebrate. More suggestions were asked for, but on the suggestion of a dance, it was decided that it could not be run at a profit. The matter was left undecided.

The court was then closed by the T.L.³

Ian McFarlane (P.L.)²⁷

Editorial Comments 25th June 1954

1. See Note 2 for the 29th November 1953 regarding Scout Master Brian Hodgson
2. See note 7 for 4th September 1952 regarding Acting A.S.M. David Slater
3. See note 3 for the 31st May 1954 regarding T.L. Douglas Brown.
4. See note 8 for 4th September 1952 regarding Acting ASM Andrew Whiteford
5. See note 12 for the 6th November 1953 regarding P.L. Bob Miller.
6. See note 7 for 6th November 1953 regarding P.L. Ian McFarlane.
7. See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding P.L. Sandy Whiteford.
8. See note 20 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. Graham White.
9. See note 16 for the 4th September 1952 regarding P.L. Neill Cook.
10. 12/6 in 1954 had the equivalent value of £16 today (2023)
11. 9/8½ in 1954 had the equivalent value of £12 today (2023)
12. £3 6/4 in 1954 had the equivalent value of £86 today (2023)
13. £1 5/6 in 1954 had the equivalent value of £36 today (2023)
14. See the entry and note 13 for the 31st May 1954 regarding the Niger.
15. £2 6/6 in 1954 had the equivalent value of £61 today (2023)
16. £1 5/- in 1954 had the equivalent value of £33 today (2023)
17. 12/-6 in 1954 had the equivalent value of £8 today (2023)
18. 1/3 in 1954 had the equivalent value of £1.60 today (2023)
19. The Bull Patrol was set up for Senior Scouts who would help run the Troop. It included Douglas Brown, Bob Miller and Stephen Pearce.
20. 6^p (Sixpence) in 1954 had the equivalent value of 65P today (2023)
21. The trek cart was originally purchased on the 15th December 1939 (see relevant troop log). During the war years, the trek cart was used to collect 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 also saw service during the 1950s and 1960s for the collection of jumble from houses in the neighbourhood.
22. The progressive Scout Training Scheme involved four main badges, all of which had several tests to complete. The four badges were the Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, 1st Class, and Queen's Scout Badge. Proficiency badges could also be earned for hobbies, skills and service.
23. The numerous editions of "Scouting for Boys" varied significantly over the years, but the numbering of the Camp Yarns remained consistent. The most relevant edition for 1954 was the 28th Edition published in September 1953.
24. See note 10 for the 14th May 1954 regarding Clark Miller.
25. This was an error (see the COH entry for the 9th September 1954). There appears to be some uncertainty as to whether the start date should be in 1932 or 1933. Some anniversaries such as the 60th anniversary marked the start date as 1932, while others such as the 21st and 25th anniversaries marked it as 1933.
26. The Scribes for both the Troop Log and the COH minutes tended to spell 'troop' as 'troup' during this period.
27. Scribe for the Court of Honour Minutes.

9th September 1954

**Finnart Church,
Madeira Street**

Present:-¹ S.M. B. Hodgson²
Acting A.S.M. D.G. Slater³
Acting A.S.M. A. Whiteford⁴
Acting A.S.M. D. Brown⁵
Acting A.S.M. R. Miller⁶
T.L. I. McFarlane⁷
P.L. G. White⁸
P.L. N. Cook⁹
P.L. S. Pearce¹⁰
P.L. N. Mort¹¹

Patrol equipment

The Quarter-master⁴ announced that he wanted a note of all the patrols equipment from the P/Ls in a fortnight's time.

Troop meetings

N. Cook⁵ wants the troop meeting on a Friday to end a little earlier so the meetings will now close at 9.30.

New log keeper

A new Court of Honour log-keeper was wanted¹² and N. Cook⁹ was unanimously voted.

Flags

Ian McFarlane⁷ and R. Miller⁶ have now to carry the flags on parade.

Stars¹³

The absence of year stars was pointed out but was quickly answered by the Quartermaster⁴ who said that there wasn't enough money.

Troop's Birthday¹⁴

An old log-book of the troop which dated 1933 told that we had missed the boat as regards the Troops 21st Birthday as the founding date was found to be 1st July 1933. But to celebrate this, it was suggested that the troop should ask Mr Dunlop¹⁵, an ex-scoutmaster of the troop, along to Dinner in the hall with a campfire and "full supporting programme".¹⁶

Camping

The Chairman⁵ then pointed out that there hadn't been much camping during the summer and he wasn't too pleased about it.¹⁷

The court was then closed at 10 o'clock.

Neil Cook (P/L)
John R. Blake (SM)¹⁸

Editorial Comments 9th September 1954

1. A lot had changed over the summer since the last COH meeting in terms of the future leadership of the troop. It is assumed that Ian Blake agreed to take on the role of Scout Master during the

summer. As a result, there was no longer any need for Clark Miller to take out a warrant as an A.S.M, and he presumably returned to the Wolf Cub Pack as an Assistant Cub Scout Master. It was also decided that the Bull Patrol was no longer required. Andrew Whiteford, Douglas Brown and Bob Miller were no designated as Acting A.S.M.s, while Stephen Pearce became Patrol Leader of the Fox Patrol to replace Ian McFarlane who now took on the role of Troop Leader from Douglas Brown.

2. See Note 2 for the 29th November 1953 regarding Scout Master Brian Hodgson

3. See note 7 for 4th September 1952 regarding Acting A.S.M. David Slater

4. See note 8 for 4th September 1952 regarding Acting ASM Andrew Whiteford

5. See note 3 for the 31st May 1954 regarding Acting A.S.M. Douglas Brown.

6. See note 12 for the 6th November 1953 regarding Acting A.S.M. Bob Miller.

7. See note 7 for 6th November 1953 regarding T.L. Ian McFarlane

8. See note 20 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. Graham White.

9. See note 16 for the 4th September 1952 regarding P.L. Neill Cook.

10. See note 9 for the 15th January 1954 regarding P.L. Stephen Pearce.

11. See note 13 for the 6th November 1953 regarding Neville Mort.

12. Ian McFarlane was the previous log-keeper.

13. Small silver-coloured metal stars could be worn above the left hand pocket on the Scout shirt to indicate how many years a Scout had been in the Troop. The star was on a circular green felt background to distinguish it from the stars used in the Wolf Cub Pack, which were on yellow felt. Stars could be obtained that had the number of years served in the middle. The felt backgrounds used for service stars in the Rover Crew and Scouters were red and khaki respectively. Rover Service stars were no longer presented when the new uniform was introduced in the late 1960s.



14. See also the COH minutes for the 25th June 1954.

15. Ian Dunlop was Scout Master, then Group Scout Master of the 70th Renfrewshire during much of the 1930s. He played a key role in establishing the Troop and initiated the GSM's Cup. In 1954, he was minister of St. Stephens Church Edinburgh.

16. This event took place on 8th October 1954 with a related Church Service on the 10th October 1954. Ian Dunlop was unable to attend on the 8th, but gave the sermon on the 10th.

17. T.L. Douglas Brown organized a camp at Everton for the 11th-14th August 1954 to make up for the lack of a Summer Camp that had been originally intended in Perthshire. Six Scouts, 2 PLs and Douglas himself attended and it is possible that Douglas expected more Scouts to attend.

18. Neill Cook wrote up the minutes for the Court of Honour. Scout Master John R. Blake checked the entries.

1st October 1954

**Finnart Church,
Madeira Street**

Present:- G.S.M. V. Clark^{1,2}
S.M. Blake³
Acting A.S.M. D. Slater⁴
Acting A.S.M. D. Brown⁵
T.L. I. McFarlane⁶
Acting A.S.M. R. Miller⁷
P.L. N. Cook⁸
P.L. G. White⁹
P.L. S. Pearce¹⁰

Patrol Kit

Graham White⁹ put up the question about the kit which was necessary for each patrol and was told to see the Court of Honour log where there was a list.¹¹

Library¹²

The librarian's³ report was that there were few books and others couldn't be bought as the troop had no money.

21st Birthday Programme¹³

The Programme for the Dinner was given by the S.M.³ but there were one or two snags. Mr. Stuart¹⁴ and Mr. Swan¹⁵ cannot stay all evening. So the Programme was to be as follows:-

- 1st Victor Clark¹ would welcome the guests.
 - 2nd Mr Stuart¹⁴ would speak.
 - 3rd Flag-break by a patrol of eight led by the T.L.⁶
 - 4th Mr Stuart¹⁴ says grace then "grub up".
 - 5th After meal, Mr. Swan¹⁵ would speak.
 - 6th Skipper³ would then speak
 - 7th Scout entertainment
- The Scout entertainment was to be as follows:-
Signalling¹⁶ led by A.S.M. D. Brown⁵

20 questions.¹⁷ Question master T/L I. McFarlane.⁶
A muddle patrol¹⁸ by Scouters. Featuring camping and Drill
Investiture^{19,20} by Skipper³
Campfire²¹
Skipper's presentation²²
Followed by the Flag down and Benediction²³
The Patrol for the flag break was to be:-

T/L I. McFarlane⁶
P/L G. White⁹
P/L N. Cook⁸
2nd P/L J. Harvey²⁴
2nd P/L R. McGill²⁵
Scout Hugh Kerr²⁶
And 2 others none decided yet²⁷

The cloakroom arrangements were then discussed and also that the caterer²⁸ supplied everything and came in the afternoon. It was then decided that the troop scribe²⁹ would write to Cubmaster Marjorie Gibson³⁰ to ask her to put off the cub meeting for that night. G.S.M. Victor Clark¹ was chosen to present the gift to ex S.M. Brian Hodgson³¹. This was to be a cheapies book³² with a token in an envelope. The Cups and Shields³³ which the troop had were to be engraved and put on show on the window sill. Details were also made for all troop logs³⁴ to be on show. Mr Dunlop³⁵, an Ex-Scoutmaster was to take the service in church on Sunday.³⁶

Neil Cook (P/L)
John R. Blake (SM)³⁷

Editorial Comments 1st October 1954

1. See note 1 for the 23rd January 1953 regarding Group Scout Master Victor Clark.
2. It was unusual for Victor Clark to attend a Court of Honour Meeting once he became Group Scout Master. There were two possible reasons for his presence on the 1st October 1954. Firstly, this was Ian Blake's first Court of Honour Meeting as Scout Master, and so Victor may have attended to lend support. Secondly, Victor was playing an important part in the upcoming 21st Birthday Event which was discussed in detail at this meeting. It is also possible that Victor was heavily involved in the planning of the programme.
3. Although Scout Master Blake always signed himself as John R. Blake, he was more commonly known as Ian. Ian was probably aged about 34 when he took over the Troop in September 1954, and had been one of the first Scouts to join the 70th when it was initially formed in the 1930s. Indeed, he attended the first two Summer Camps held in 1933 and 1934. However, he left the Troop when he was 14 and there is no evidence of him being involved in Scouting after that until he became the Troop's Scout Master. He remained as Scout Master until 1959 when resigned due to work commitments that required him to move to the West Indies.
4. See note 7 for 4th September 1952 regarding Acting A.S.M. David Slater.
5. See note 3 for the 31st May 1954 regarding Acting A.S.M. Douglas Brown.
6. See note 7 for 6th November 1953 regarding T.L. Ian McFarlane.
7. See note 12 for the 6th November 1953 regarding Acting A.S.M. Bob Miller.
8. See note 16 for the 4th September 1952 regarding P.L. Neill Cook.
9. See note 20 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. Graham White.
10. See note 9 for the 15th January 1954 regarding P.L. Stephen Pearce.
11. See the COH entries for 23rd March, 25th June and, 9th September 1954 regarding Patrol Equipment. None of these provided a definitive list of what equipment a Patrol should have.
12. See note 9 for the 31st May 1954 regarding the Troop Library.
13. This had been discussed previously at the COH meetings of 25th June and 9th September 1954. The event itself was to take place on the 8th October 1954.
14. See note 8 for the 23rd January 1953 regarding the Reverend Stewart.
15. Mr. J.J. Swan was District Commissioner for Greenock for three decades, retiring in 1970. He was also Cub Master and Scout Master of the 45th Renfrewshire Scout Troop. 'J.J.' had many contacts that proved useful to local Scouting either directly or indirectly. He was Company Secretary and a Director of the Greenock Dockyard Company, and training advisor with Scotts' Shipbuilding and Engineering Company. He was on the Board of Management of Quarriers Homes, and was also a Justice of the Peace and a Sheriff Substitute. Finally, he was also a member of Greenock Methodist Church and carried out missionary work in South Africa. Nobody was in the least surprised when he was awarded the Silver Acorn for distinguished service to Scouting.
16. This was a display of semaphore at which the 70th excelled, dominating the District signalling competition for many years.
17. Further details on '20 Questions' are provided in the Troop log for the 8th October 1954. 20 Questions was a popular panel game on the radio.
18. It is possible that the Scouters played the role of a patrol that got everything wrong. This is implied by the naming of a 'Muddle Patrol'. On the other hand, the Scribe of the Troop Log identified the Patrol as a 'Model Patrol'. However, he may have misheard what was said.

19. See Note 10 for the 6th November 1953 regarding investitures.
20. Edmund Thomson was the Scout that was invested on the night. However, very little is known about him..
21. This would have been an indoor campfire round an artificial fire made out of wood, coloured material and a light bulb.
22. This was the presentation made by Victor Clark of a book and book token to ex-Scout Master Brian Hodgson.
23. The Reverend Stewart gave the Benediction on the night, suggesting that he might have left the event after the beginning and returned at the end.
24. See Entry 28 for the 21st May 1954 regarding Second Jim Harvey. Although he was selected for the patrol, he was not actually present on the night.
25. See Entry 27 for the 21st May 1954 regarding Second Robin McGill.
26. Hugh Kerr joined the troop in 1954. It is not known why he was chosen for the 'special Patrol', and he did not actually attend on the night.
27. Second Robert McKinnon and Scout Hamish Rankin were part of the 'special Patrol on the night, presumably in place of Jim Harvey and Hugh Kerr respectively. Therefore, there were 6 members of the patrol on the night.
28. It is not known which caterer was used.
29. It is not clear whether this referred to Neill Cook (Minutes scribe for the Court of Honour) or Graham White (Troop Log Scribe). One might also have expected the Troop Leader (Ian McFarlane) to write the letter.
30. Marjorie Gibson had been in the Girl Guides and it is believed that she joined the 70th's Wolf Cub Pack as an assistant in 1950. When Betty Nelson resigned as Akela in 1953, Marjorie took over. Marjorie was still Akela in October 1954, but may have handed over to Isabel McBride fairly soon afterwards.
31. See Note 2 for the 29th November 1953 regarding Scout Master Brian Hodgson. He resigned in September 1954 as his father was insistent that he take a step back from Scouting in order to focus more on his academic studies.
32. It is not known whether there was some significance behind the 'cheapies' book or what it entailed.
33. An Honours List for 1954 was included in the Troop Log (possibly written in June) which showed that the Troop possessed the District's 'William Shearer Memorial Shield' for Signalling.. Presumably, all the 70th's own trophies such as the GSM's Cup and the Coronation Cup were also put on display.
34. These would have included the Troop Logs for the 1930s and 1940s, and possibly Patrol Logs. None of the troop logs for the 1930s have been tracked down, and only 1 of the Troop Logs from the 1940s has been recovered.
35. See note 15 for the 9th September 1954 regarding the Reverend Ian Dunlop.
36. This was on the 10th October 1954 – see the entry in the Troop Log for details.
37. Neill Cook wrote up the minutes for the Court of Honour. Scout Master John R. Blake checked the entries.

15 October 1954

Finnart Church,
Madeira Street

Present were:- S.M. Ian Blake¹
Acting A.S.M. D. Slater²
Acting A.S.M. A. Whiteford³
Acting A.S.M. D. Brown⁴
Acting A.S.M. R. Miller⁵
T/L. I. McFarlane⁶
P/L. N. Cook⁷
P/L. G. White⁸
P/L. S. Whiteford⁹
P/L. N. Mort¹⁰
P/L. S. Pearce¹¹

Letter from Brian^{12,13}

First, the T/L⁶ read a letter from Brian which had been sent to Skipper¹.

Uniform

Next, the A.S.M.s had something to say about uniform. Changing uniform¹⁴ during inspection was to stop and if anyone was found borrowing any piece of uniform, he loses two points instead of the normal 1.

Numbers

Dave² said that the troop was now 37 strong and in such a small hall¹⁵, the max. would have to be 40 and recruiting would have to stop. A vote was taken over whether the troop should, like the cubs, be divided in two¹⁶.

8 votes against this proposal.

1 for it.

Recruiting pts¹⁷

Sandy⁹ tonight brought up the question of himself getting no pts for a recruit. A vote was taken to decide whether, as the recruit was brought last month, the points should be carried on into this month.

1 for getting the points

2 against

2 abstentions

Socials

R. Millar⁵ brought up that it was discussed before that regular socials were to be held and nothing was done about it. It is now proposed to hold a regular whist drive on the first week of every month on a Wednesday. But this was to be gone into in fuller detail at the next court of Honour.¹⁸

Dinner's Finance¹⁹

It was also decided that the financial figures of the Dinner were to be brought up at the next Court of Honour.²⁰

Formation for inspection

The formation of the troop at inspection, as it was growing tremendously, was discussed. It was decided that the horseshoe was to be abolished and the cubs old way of forming was to be given a 3 weeks trial.²¹

Tests

Also, a new method of testing was devised and would be tried on Friday.²²

Noticeboard

Dave wanted to point out to the P/Ls that, for a while, the noticeboard was being forgotten and its presence was now to be had.²³

New Hall²⁴

A new hall was proposed, the one down in Cardwell Bay²⁵, but it was immediately turned down as was said to be no bigger than the Hall we now occupy¹⁵.

Uniform

The uniform was now, instead of being put on the window sills during the game, to be put on the pegs in the vestry. Also, it was suggested that the Scout neckerchief should be worn all through the meeting with the only exception the game. A vote was held on this point and went as follows;-

3 for. 2 abstentions.

Bad behaviour

Last week at the Dinner²⁶ when the Scouts had to be kept in the balcony²⁷, litter was found and the S.M. thought that this should be mentioned.

Neill Cook (P/L)

John R. Blake (SM)²⁸

Editorial Comments 15th October 1954

1. See note 3 for the 1st October 1954 regarding Scout Master Ian Blake.
2. See note 7 for 4th September 1952 regarding Acting A.S.M. David Slater.
3. See note 8 for 4th September 1952 regarding Acting ASM Andrew Whiteford.
4. See note 3 for the 31st May 1954 regarding Acting A.S.M. Douglas Brown.
5. See note 12 for the 6th November 1953 regarding Acting A.S.M. Bob Miller
6. See note 7 for 6th November 1953 regarding T.L. Ian McFarlane.
7. See note 16 for the 4th September 1952 regarding P.L. Neill Cook.
8. See note 20 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. Graham White.
9. See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding P.L. Sandy Whiteford.
10. See note 13 for the 6th November 1953 regarding Neville Mort.
11. See note 9 for the 15th January 1954 regarding P.L. Stephen Pearce.
12. See Note 2 for the 29th November 1953 regarding Scout Master Brian Hodgson. He resigned in September 1954.
13. It is assumed that the letter was thanking the troop for the gift which he received on the 8th October 1954 at the 21st Anniversary Dinner.
14. Presumably, this related to Scouts lending items of uniform to other Scouts once they had been inspected..
15. Finnart Church was converted to flats in the 1990s, but the church hall is still visible from Madeira Street. The width is still the same, but it looks as if it has been split into two separate rooms. Nevertheless, it is clear that it was pretty small for a troop of 30-40 Scouts.
16. During the early 1950s, there was a Thursday Pack and a Friday Pack.
17. The voting described suggests that Sandy failed to get his points, which seems rather harsh.

18. *The matter was discussed on the 29th October 1954 and a whist drive was organized on the 8th December 1954.*
19. *The Dinner was the one held on the 8th October 1954 to mark the 21st Anniversary of the Troop.*
20. *See the minutes for the COH held on the 29th October 1954.*
21. *The formation is shown more clearly in a sketch provided in the Troop Log for 22nd October 1954. This formation continued to be used throughout the 1950s and 1960s, and may still be in use today (2023)..*
22. *It's not known what this involved.*
23. *Presumably, the Duty Patrol was meant to bring in the notice board at the start of the meeting and return it to wherever it was stored after the meeting. If, so, this was clearly not being done and David Slater was insisting that it should.*
24. *Discussions on finding a bigger hall to meet occurred off and on from the 1930s. For example, the matter was discussed in September 1951, 23rd January 1953, and 20th February 1953.*
25. *The exact location of the hall at Cardwell Bay was not identified. However, it might have been on the left hand side of Manor Road just up from Cardwell Bay, before the bridge over the railway. There used to be a church mission hall on the left hand side there which the 70th occasionally used for jumble sales. It was eventually demolished and a garage was constructed on the site. It, too, was demolished and a set of flats are now on the site., which was knocked down.*
26. *The dinner concerned took place during the Social night held on the 8th October 1954, marking the 21st anniversary of the Troop.*
27. *The only balcony that this could have been was the balcony in the main body of the Church. The Scouts were probably placed there so that any noise they made would not be heard in the Church Hall.*
28. *Neill Cook wrote up the minutes for the Court of Honour. Scout Master John R. Blake checked the entries.*

29th of October 1954

Finnart Church,
Madeira Street

Present were:- S.M. I. Blake¹
Acting A.S.M. D. Slater²
Acting A.S.M. A. Whiteford³
Acting A.S.M. D. Brown⁴
Acting A.S.M. R. Miller⁵
T/L I. McFarlane⁶
P/L S. Whiteford⁷
P/L N. Cook⁸
P/L G. White⁹
P/L N. Mort¹⁰
P/L S. Pearce¹¹

First, the minutes of the previous meeting was read. And many objections were made.

The Social was decided to be held on the 1st of December as the exams would be a nuisance. The P/Ls and the T/L⁶ were to do all the work. but Dave² said he would be glad to help us if we needed it.¹²

R. Millar⁵, being the old printer, was asked to give S. Whiteford⁷, the new printer, a lesson and he said the plate was made up, and only the date needed to be changed. 40 was the number of tickets decided and the price was to be 2/6.¹³

The prizes were usually donated by the parents and this was to be made known to the troop. The patrol drawn to take the tables was the Curlews.

N. Cook⁸ was unanimously voted to be the man to see Mrs. Miller¹⁴ about the eating.

D. Brown⁴ read the bill from the caterer¹⁵ and the finance of the troop read as follows:-

Bill from Caterer	= £7 10
Income	= £5 7/6
Loss	= £2 2/6 ¹⁶

But Mr. Brown¹⁷ donated £2¹⁸ and Mr. Slater¹⁹ said he would donate enough to make it a gain.

The finance of the patrols was taken and Seals were asked to bring their subs²⁰ down from 19/- to the regulation 12/-. The patrols on an estimate by the P/Ls had Seagulls 7/- Seals 19/-, Fox 2/-, Falcon 3/-, Curlew 4/-.²¹

The T/L⁶ was asked to send Mr. Brown¹⁷ a letter of thanks for his £2.

A Second P/L²² brought a note from his doctor, which said his health disallowed him to swim until Summer. This meant he could not be allowed to get his Scout Cords as he was 15 before then.^{23,24} The court decided that he should be allowed to pass the alternative on condition that he passes his swimming when summer came.

The stamps²⁵ which were long ago gifted to the troop were sent to Wilsons.²⁶
N. Cook (P/L)²⁷

Editorial Comments 29th October 1954

1. See note 3 for the 1st October 1954 regarding Scout Master Ian Blake.
2. See note 7 for 4th September 1952 regarding Acting A.S.M. David Slater.
3. See note 8 for 4th September 1952 regarding Acting ASM Andrew Whiteford.
4. See note 3 for the 31st May 1954 regarding Acting A.S.M. Douglas Brown.
5. See note 12 for the 6th November 1953 regarding Acting A.S.M. Bob Miller
6. See note 7 for 6th November 1953 regarding T.L. Ian McFarlane.
7. See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding P.L. Sandy Whiteford.
8. See note 16 for the 4th September 1952 regarding P.L. Neill Cook.
9. See note 20 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. Graham White.
10. See note 13 for the 6th November 1953 regarding Neville Mort.
11. See note 9 for the 15th January 1954 regarding P.L. Stephen Pearce.
12. This was also discussed on the 15th October 1954. The 'social' ended up being a whist drive that occurred on the 8th December 1954.
13. 2/6 was the equivalent in value to £4-£5 in 2023.
14. It's not known who Mrs. Miller was in terms of the 'eating'.
15. Presumably, this is the cost of catering at the Anniversary Social evening on the 8th October 1954.
16. The sums of money quoted here had the equivalent values to the following sums today (2023); £263; £193; and £74/
17. Mr. Brown was Douglas Brown's father.
18. £2 in 1954 had the equivalent vale to £70 today (2023)
19. It is presumed that Mr. Slater was David Slater's father.
20. It's not stated what the subs represented and why the Seal Patrol 's subs were so high compared to the regulation sum.
21. A shilling (1/-) in 1954 had the equivalent value to £1.75 today. Thus, the sums of 19/- and 12/- correspond to £33 and £21 respectively.
22. The identify of the Second was not revealed.
23. The requirements for Scout Cords differed in the 1950s from the 1930s. In the 1950s, A Scout had to gain his Scout Cords before he reached the age of 15 and qualified as a Senior Scout. Scout Cords were awarded if the Scout gained 6 proficiency badges, two of which had to be from the following list (Backwoodsman, camper, cook, stalker, starman, weatherman woodcraftsman). If the Scout later gained the Bushman's Thong, then the Bushman's Thong replaced the Scout Cords.
24. It's not clear why the Scout's inability to swim should bar him from gaining his Scout Cords. There is no evidence to suggest that it was essential to earn the Swimmer's Proficiency Badge. Nor is there any evidence that the 1st Class Swimming test had to be passed in order to gain the Scout Cords.
25. Presumably these were the stamps provided by the Reverend Stewart (see the COH minutes for 23rd January 1953.
26. It's not known who 'Wilson's' refers to. The COH entry for the 5th November 1954 indicated that it referred to a stamp club.
27. Neill Cook wrote up the minutes for the Court of Honour.



5th November 1954

Finnart Church,
Madeira Street

Present were:- S.M. I. Blake¹
Acting A.S.M. D. Slater²
Acting A.S.M. A. Whiteford³
Acting A.S.M. D. Brown⁴
Acting A.S.M. R. Miller⁵
T/L I. McFarlane⁶
P/L S. Whiteford⁷
P/L N. Cook⁸
P/L G. White⁹
P/L N. Mort¹⁰
P/L S. Pearce¹¹

The Scribe⁸ was told off for not having the minutes up-to-date.

Revision of 2 months at a subject was suggested¹² and also that the tests should come first and the game afterward¹³, but these were to be left over awhile.

The troop Christmas good turn¹⁴ was brought up and a visit to Belaire¹⁵ suggested, but it was only a suggestion. More suggestions next week by the PLs.¹⁶

That the patrols should occasionally go an outing somewhere and the S.M.¹ or an A.S.M. would *be* willing to come to help.¹⁷

As J. Miller¹⁸ was again absent, it was decided that he should be seen in school and an agreement should be come to.

D. Brown⁴ asked if Harry Slater¹⁹ could be retested on his 2nd Class²⁰ by someone else than his elder brother.²

J. Lee's²¹ transfer was questioned and a vote taken on it.

4 for him staying with Sandy⁷ in the Falcons

0 against

1 abstention

Vote was taken on whether transfers in future should be brought up before the court and the A.S.M.s. It was unanimous.²²

Financial report by D. Brown⁴ for October. Loss of 19 shillings. 7/- from the stamp club he sent the stamps to²³. 12/6 for engraving and 35/- for badges and books.

Total cash 27/- . In the bank £3 6/4.²⁴

A night hike is to be held in about 3 weeks from now²⁵ and any interested should see Dave.²

The court was closed at 10.35.

N. Cook (P/L)
John R. Blake SM²⁶

Editorial Comments 5th November 1954

1. See note 3 for the 1st October 1954 regarding Scout Master Ian Blake.
2. See note 7 for 4th September 1952 regarding Acting A.S.M. David Slater.
3. See note 8 for 4th September 1952 regarding Acting ASM Andrew Whiteford.
4. See note 3 for the 31st May 1954 regarding Acting A.S.M. Douglas Brown.
5. See note 12 for the 6th November 1953 regarding Acting A.S.M. Bob Miller
6. See note 7 for 6th November 1953 regarding T.L. Ian McFarlane.
7. See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding P.L. Sandy Whiteford.
8. See note 16 for the 4th September 1952 regarding P.L. Neill Cook.
9. See note 20 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. Graham White.
10. See note 13 for the 6th November 1953 regarding Neville Mort.
11. See note 9 for the 15th January 1954 regarding P.L. Stephen Pearce.
12. It's not clear what this refers to. One possibility is that Scouts were asking to be assessed on 2nd Class and 1st Class tests which they had not fully prepared for, then, if they failed, asking to be reassessed the following week to be failed again. It might have been 'suggested' that the Scout would have to wait 2 months before being reassessed on any test that they failed.
13. Possibly, it was suggested that Patrol Corners be held before the inter-patrol game.
14. The 70th's Christmas Good Turn was probably inspired by a Good Turn that was carried out by the Troop during Scout Week in May 1953 – see the entry in the Troop Log for 25th May 1953. The donation of books and toys to children in hospital as a Christmas Good Turn became an annual event that continued well into the 1960s and possibly beyond. See also the entry for the 29th November 1953 and 26th November 1954.
15. This may refer to Belleaire Care Home, which may have opened in 1953, but this has still to be confirmed. No details are known about what was intended as far as Belleaire was concerned.
16. See the COH minutes for the 26th November 1954.
17. PLs were often encouraged to carry out Patrol activities outwith the normal troop evenings (see also COH minutes for 29th November 1953, 22nd January 1954, and 5th February 1954).
18. See note 11 for the 15th January 1954 regarding Jimmy Miller. It is believed that he may have left the Troop towards the end of 1954.
19. Harry Slater was the younger brother of John and David Slater. He moved up from the Cubs to the Troop in April 1954 to join the Seagull Patrol. He was not in the Troop for very long as the Slater family moved to Edinburgh in February 1955.
20. The 2nd Class Badge was the second main badge in the Progressive Scout Training Scheme (Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, 1st Class, Queen's Scout). It's not known whether the 'retest' was on a specific test towards the 2nd Class Badge or a more general retest before being awarded the 2nd Class Badge.
21. Jimmy Lee probably joined the Troop in mid 1953, and was a member of the Seagull Patrol in the Spring of 1954. The minutes indicate that he was transferred to the Falcon Patrol in October of November 1954, but it is not known why the transfer was questioned. It's also not known how long Jimmy stayed in the Troop after November 1954.
22. Unfortunately, it was not stated which way the vote went.
23. See the COH minutes for the 29th October 1954 regarding the stamps.
24. 27/- and £3 6/4 in 1954 had the equivalent value to £47 and £117 respectively in 2023.
25. There is no record of a night hike taking place at the end of November 1954 in either the Troop Log or the Seal Patrol Log. However, that cannot be taken as evidence that the night hike did not take place.
26. Neill Cook wrote up the minutes for the Court of Honour. Scout Master John R. Blake checked the entries.

26th November 1954

**Finnart Church,
Madeira Street**

Present were:-
S.M. I. Blake¹
T/L I. McFarlane²
P/L S. Whiteford³
P/L N. Cook⁴
P/L G. White⁵
P/L N. Mort⁶
P/L S. Pearce⁷

The Minutes were read and were proposed by G. White⁵ and seconded by N. Mort.⁶

The subject of the Scout Troop Christmas good turn came up and it was suggested and approved that gifts of tea should be given to deserving people and that the troop should collect toys and books and give them to a hospital.⁸

There were some complaints that the troop looked untidy on parade⁹ and the S.M.¹ asked the P.L.'s to alter this.

There was a vote taken whether or not a new patrol should be formed. It went as follows:- 4 for, 0 against, and 1 abstention.
The new patrol was to be called the wolves but this was to be left over.¹⁰

The state of the troop box¹¹ was pointed out and the Seals were drawn to tidy it.

It was decided that R. Gray¹² be brought before the court for impertinence and disobedience.¹³

The patrol drawn to bring along the tables for the whist drive was Falcons. Prizes were wanted for the whist drive¹⁴ and this was to be made known to the troop.

Neil Cook (P/L)
John R. Blake SM.¹⁵

Editorial Comments 26th November 1954

- 1. See note 3 for the 1st October 1954 regarding Scout Master Ian Blake.*
- 2. See note 7 for 6th November 1953 regarding T.L. Ian McFarlane.*
- 3. See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding P.L. Sandy Whiteford.*
- 4. See note 16 for the 4th September 1952 regarding P.L. Neill Cook.*
- 5. See note 20 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. Graham White.*
- 6. See note 13 for the 6th November 1953 regarding Neville Mort.*
- 7. See note 9 for the 15th January 1954 regarding P.L. Stephen Pearce.*
- 8. See also notes 14 and 15 for the 5th November 1954 regarding the Christmas Good Turn.*
- 9. This might relate to the Armistice Day Parade to Finnart Church on Sunday 7th November 1954.*
- 10. It made sense to call the new Patrol the Wolf Patrol as this had been one of the original Patrols when the troop started up in the 1930s, and had only recently been disbanded in September 1953. However, the final decision regarding the name of the Patrol was eventually left to the PL of the new patrol. This ended up being Jim Harvey and he elected to call the new Patrol the Kingfisher Patrol.*
- 11. No information is known about the Troop Box regarding its size or contents.*
- 12. Ronald Gray started his Scouting in a Glasgow troop and transferred to the 70th, possibly in May or June 1951. It is estimated that he was aged 11 or 12 at the time. He was a member of the Fox and*

Seal Patrols and became 1st Scout in the Seal Patrol. In December 1954, he resigned from the troop as his family was moving out of town, but his family must have returned to Greenock within 6 months as Ronald was back in the Seal Patrol at the start of the 1954-55 session. In September 1955, he was promoted to Second of the Fox Patrol, then a month later, he was promoted to P.L. of the Falcon Patrol. However, a month after that, Ronald had to resign as his family was moving back to Glasgow. He intended rejoining his previous Scout Troop.

13. It's not known what this involved, but It was related to his behaviour at campfire. It did not seem to affect his promotion prospects adversely though, as he was promoted to Second, then PL during 1955.

14. It had been decided previously that the PLs would organize and run monthly whist drives as a social and fund raising activity (see the COH minutes for 29th November 1953, 23rd March 1954, 15th October 1954, and 29th October 1954.

15. Neill Cook wrote up the minutes for the Court of Honour. Scout Master John R. Blake checked the entries.

10th December 1954

**Finnart Church,
Madeira Street**

Present were S.M. I. Blake¹
 T/L I. McFarlane²
 P/L S. Whiteford³
 P/L N. Cook⁴
 P/L G. White⁵
 P/L N. Mort⁶
 P/L S. Pearce⁷

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and were proposed by S. Whiteford³ and seconded by G. White.⁵

R. Gray⁸ was brought up before the court for disobedience at campfire and was severely reprimanded.⁹ It was suggested that D. Graham¹⁰ also be brought up and it was carried unanimously.¹¹

The T/L² thanked all the helpers in the whist drive^{12,13} which raised £5 8/-¹⁴ bringing the troop December's finance up to £6 -8-7.¹⁵

A dance for Scouts was brought up and Graham White⁵ was elected Chairman of the dance committee. The tickets for this function were to cost 3/-¹⁶ for 2 and Sandy³ was elected to print them. That dance was to be held on 28th December.¹⁷

A new patrol was suggested but this suggestion was to be carried on until next year.¹⁸

Neil Cook (P/L)
JRB. SM.¹⁹

Editorial Comments for the 10th December 1954

1. See note 3 for the 1st October 1954 regarding Scout Master Ian Blake.
2. See note 7 for 6th November 1953 regarding T.L. Ian McFarlane.
3. See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding P.L. Sandy Whiteford.
4. See note 16 for the 4th September 1952 regarding P.L. Neill Cook.
5. See note 20 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. Graham White.
6. See note 13 for the 6th November 1953 regarding Neville Mort.
7. See note 9 for the 15th January 1954 regarding P.L. Stephen Pearce.
8. See note 12 for the 26th November 1954 regarding Ronald Gray.
9. See note 13 for the 26th November 1954.
10. See note 24 for the 21st May 1954 regarding David Graham.
11. Presumably David Graham was also misbehaving during campfire. His behaviour probably saw him being initially passed over for promotion, but he was eventually promoted to Second then P.L.
12. See Note 14 for the 26th November regarding whist drives.
13. There was a short report on the whist drive included in the Troop Log for Wednesday 8th December 1954.
14. £5 8/- in 1954 had the equivalent value to £189 today (2023)
15. £6 8 7 in 1954 had the equivalent value to £224 today (2023)
16. 3/- in 1954 was equivalent in value to £5 today (2023)
17. The dance was the annual Xmas Dance for the older Scouts. It was actually held on the 29th December 1954 (see entry in the Troop Log Log).
18. See COH minutes for the 26th November 1954 regarding a new Patrol.
19. Neill Cook wrote up the minutes for the Court of Honour. Scout Master John R. Blake checked the entries.

18th of March 1955

**Finnart Church,
Madeira Street**

Present were T/L I. McFarlane¹
 P/L S. Whiteford²
 P/L N. Cook³
 P/L G. White⁴
 P/L N. Mort⁵
 P/L S. Pearce⁶

The minutes of the previous meeting, although rather out of date,⁷ were read.

The question was raised about asking the Church to donate a sum of money to the Troop funds. A vote was taken and went as follows:- 3 for. 1 ag. 1 abst.⁸

It has been decided that there should be some new original songs introduced into the campfire and Andy Whiteford, camp fire leader, said he would do something about it. There are also to be song sheets printed.

There is to be another Whist drive⁹ held after the camp¹⁰ to help to defray expenses.¹¹ The date arranged for this is to be Wednesday, 27th of April.¹²

Neill Cook (P/L)
JRB. SM^{13,14}

Editorial Comments for the 18th March 1955

- 1. See note 7 for 6th November 1953 regarding T.L. Ian McFarlane.*
- 2. See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding P.L. Sandy Whiteford.*
- 3. See note 16 for the 4th September 1952 regarding P.L. Neill Cook.*
- 4. See note 20 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. Graham White.*
- 5. See note 13 for the 6th November 1953 regarding Neville Mort.*
- 6. See note 9 for the 15th January 1954 regarding P.L. Stephen Pearce.*
- 7. This is in keeping with the previous minutes being dated for 10th December 1954.*
- 8. 3 for. 1 against, 1 abstention.*
- 9. See Note 14 for the 26th November regarding whist drives.*
- 10. Presumably this referred to the forthcoming Inverack Easter Camp held during 9th-15th April 1955.*
- 11. It is also assumed that this related to the expenses expected for Easter Camp.*
- 12. There are no log books covering this period and so it is not possible to state whether the whist drive took place as planned.*
- 13. Neill Cook wrote up the minutes for the Court of Honour. Scout Master John R. Blake checked the entries.*
- 14. As a postscript, Acting David Slater was no longer attending Court of Honour meetings as he had resigned from the Troop in February 1955 when his family moved to Edinburgh (see Seal Patrol Log for 18th February 1955.*

25th of March 1955

Finnart Church,
Madeira Street

Present were:- S.M. I. Blake¹
Acting A.S.M. A. Whiteford²
Acting A.S.M. D. Brown³
T/L I. McFarlane⁴
P/L S. Whiteford⁵
P/L N. Cook⁶
P/L G. White⁷
P/L N. Mort⁸
P/L S. Pearce⁹

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and were proposed by G. White⁷ and seconded by N. Mort.⁸

The Finance of the troop was given by D. Brown³ which really amounted to an Annual General Report. The troop funds stand at £16 8 8½¹⁰ and groundsheets and tents have been paid for.¹¹

D. Brown³ put forward the position that the G.S.M's cup¹² which was competed for each year by individuals should be competed for again this year and that as it was usually competed for at a different thing each year, what was it to be this year.¹³ The P/Ls were to give suggestions next week.

A support note is to be issued saying that the troop would like the presence of as many people as possible at the whist drive to be held on 27th April.¹⁴

P/Ls are to attend a P/Ls training course some two nights in May after the school exams, to be held in one of the A.S.M's houses.

The court was closed at 10.10.

Neill Cook (P/L)
JRB. SM¹⁵

Editorial Comments for the 25th March 1955

1. See note 3 for the 1st October 1954 regarding Scout Master Ian Blake.
2. See note 8 for 4th September 1952 regarding Acting ASM Andrew Whiteford.
3. See note 3 for the 31st May 1954 regarding Acting A.S.M. Douglas Brown.
4. See note 7 for 6th November 1953 regarding T.L. Ian McFarlane.
5. See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding P.L. Sandy Whiteford.
6. See note 16 for the 4th September 1952 regarding P.L. Neill Cook.
7. See note 20 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. Graham White.
8. See note 13 for the 6th November 1953 regarding Neville Mort.
9. See note 9 for the 15th January 1954 regarding P.L. Stephen Pearce.
10. £16-8-8½ in 1955 corresponded in value to £555 today (2023)
11. There are no records to identify what tent were purchased, but they were may have been used for the first time at the Summer Camp of 1955. The sketch of the camp site at Easter camp 1955 indicates that a Niger and an Icelandic tent were used on that occasion, just as in 1954 (Seal Patrol Log, 1953-55).
12. See note 13 for the 22nd January 1954 regarding the G.S.Ms Cup.
13. In 1954, the Scouts competed on signalling skills. Douglas Brown was the winner, with Sandy Whiteford and Neville Mort coming second and third respectively.

14. *There are no log books covering this period and so it is not possible to state whether the whist drive took place as planned. However, it seems highly likely that it did.*

15. *Neill Cook wrote up the minutes for the Court of Honour. Scout Master John R. Blake checked the entries*

9th September 1955

Finnart Church,
Madeira Street

Present were¹:-
S.M. I. Blake²
A.S.M. R. Miller³
T.L. I. McFarlane⁴
P.L. S. Whiteford⁵
P.L. N. Cook⁶
P.L. A. Shearer⁷
P.L. J. Harvey⁸

Promotions

As S. Pearce⁹ has left the troop, a new P.L. and two seconds had to be elected. Consequently, Sec. McGill¹⁰ was promoted to P.L. of the fox patrol with R. Gray¹¹ as a second. H. Rankin¹² is now second of the Seals.

Scribes

P.L. J. Harvey⁸ was voted unanimously as scribe for the Court of Honour, and P.L. McGill¹⁰ as troop scribe.¹³

Clearances

P.L. N. Cook⁶ suggested that there should be a general clearance of all troop boxes. We decided that it should be a troop effort.

New Patrol

P.L. J. Harvey⁸ put forward the name of his new patrol, which will be called the Kingfisher patrol. There were no objections to this name.¹⁴

Cooking

It was agreed that second-class cooking should be passed only in the open and notes or gas cooking will not be accepted.¹⁵

Cubs

Due to a request from Cub-mistress, I. McBryde,¹⁶ A.S.M.s, T.L.⁴, P.L.'s and seconds have been asked to attend the 'Going up' ceremony¹⁷ on Thursday 15th at 7.15.

P.L. Jas. H. Harvey
John R. Blake S.M.¹⁸

Editorial Comments for the 9th September 1955

1. This was the 1st COH meeting of the new Scout session (1955-56). It is likely that that this occurred a week before the 1st Troop meeting of the new session as no troop meeting for the 9th is mentioned in the Fox Patrol Log. Records are sparse from April-August 1955, and several changes had taken place by the start of September 1955. In particular, it had been decided that a new patrol was to be formed, taking the total number of patrols from 5 back up to 6, with Jim Harvey as the new Patrol Leader and Ian McKenzie as the Second. This took place on the 16th September 1955. Alistair Shearer was also promoted as P.L. the Seal Patrol following the resignation of Graham White, which must have occurred at the end of June 1955 or during the summer months. Neville Mort (P.L. of the Curlew Patrol) also resigned at some point between May and August 1955. The most likely time would have been towards the end of June 1955. His position as PL of the Curlew Patrol was taken over by Robert McKinnon.

2. See note 3 for the 1st October 1954 regarding Scout Master Ian Blake.

3. See note 12 for the 6th November 1953 regarding Acting A.S.M. Bob Miller.

4. See note 7 for 6th November 1953 regarding T.L. Ian McFarlane.

5. See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding P.L. Sandy Whiteford.

6. See note 16 for the 4th September 1952 regarding P.L. Neill Cook.
7. See note 25 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. Alistair Shearer.
8. See note 28 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. Jim Harvey.
9. See note 9 for the 15th January 1954 regarding ex. P.L. Stephen Pearce.
10. See Entry 27 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. Robin McGill.
11. See note 12 for the 26th November 1954 regarding Second Ronald Gray.
12. Hamish Rankin was aged about 12 in 1955. He joined the 70th in March 1954 and was placed in the Seal Patrol, having gained his Tenderfoot Badge at another Troop. He gained the nickname 'Sweetie' at Inverreck Easter Camp 1954, but this evolved to become 'Tweetie' and 'Tweet' in later years. Hamish was promoted to Second of the Seal Patrol in September 1955, before being promoted to PL of the Falcon Patrol in October 1956, which he led for the next 3 years. Hamish resigned as PL in April 1960, by which time he had gained a reputation as an outdoor enthusiast and camping expert. Hamish attended the World Jamboree at Sutton Coldfield in 1957, and was also involved in the Shannon Cup competitions held in 1956 and 1957. The teams came 1st and 2nd respectively.
13. This is evidence that a Troop Log was written for the period 1955-57. Unfortunately, that log book has not been traced.
14. It is not known why the Kingfisher name was chosen. In some respect, it would have been nice to have restored the Wolf Patrol as suggested at the Court of Honour held on the 26th November 1954 (see note 10 for that date).
15. Fire and cooking had long been tested as part of the 2nd Class Badge. A wood fire had to be lit without the aid of paper and with no more than 2 matches, and a simple meal was to be cooked on it, such as sausages or porridge. The reference to 'notes' is not clear. One possibility is that a parent had written a note to state that his or her son had cooked a meal at home.
16. This is the first indication in the available records of Isabel McBride as the 70th Akela. She was present at the 21st anniversary dinner on 8th October 1954, but Marjorie Gibson was the Akela at that point. There is a possibility that Isabel was invited to the Anniversary Dinner as she was expected to take over as Akela in the foreseeable future. However, this is no more than speculation and it is not known when Marjorie Gibson resigned as Akela. Isabel was certainly Akela in 1955 and remained so throughout the 1950s and 1960s, and well into the 1970s.
17. A going ceremony was held when Cubs moved up from the Wolf Cub pack to the Scout Troop. It is not known what the precise ceremony was like in the 1950s. In the 1960s, the Scouts formed up at the far end of the Church Hall and the Cubs formed up at the other end. A rope was stratched across the middle of the hall, with Akela standing on the Cub side and the Scout Master standing at the other. Each Cub would walk up to Akela who would introduce him to the Scout Master. The Scout Master would welcome the Cub into the Troop as he then stepped over the line. It is also possible that the Cub might have been introduced to his Patrol Leader who would then take him to his Patrol.
18. Jim Harvey wrote up the minutes for the Court of Honour. Scout Master John R. Blake checked the entries.

7th October 1955

Finnart Church,
Madeira Street

Present were:-
S.M. I. Blake¹
T.L. A. Whiteford^{2,3}
P.L. N. Cook⁴
P.L. A. Shearer⁵
P.L. J. Harvey⁶
P.L. R. McGill⁷

Promotions

Due to Sandy being made the troop leader⁸, a new P.L. for the falcons had to be found. It was decided that it would either be Billy McEwing⁹ or Ronald Gray¹⁰ and Gray was voted unanimously as P.L. of the Falcons, partly due to the fact that Billy is doing the work of P.L. in the Curlews¹¹. I Kirk¹² was put forward as Second of the Fox. There were no objections.

Signalling

It was decided that we would get ASM D. Brown¹³ to teach signalling during patrol corners as it takes the PLs so long to teach signalling and wastes valuable time.

Camping

The S.M.¹ suggested that we should look for a private campsite around Kilcreggan¹⁴ to introduce camping to the younger boys of the troop¹⁵. This would also improve the camping standards of the troop, which the S.M. stated, were not very good. He also stated that P.L.s and secs would be expected to attend these camps regularly.

J. Harvey (P.L.)
John R. Blake SM¹⁶

Editorial Comments for the 7th October 1955

1. See note 3 for the 1st October 1954 regarding Scout Master Ian Blake.
2. Troop Leader Alexander (Sandy) Whiteford
3. See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding T.L. Alexander (Sandy) Whiteford.
4. See note 16 for the 4th September 1952 regarding P.L. Neill Cook.
5. See note 25 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. Alistair Shearer.
6. See note 28 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. Jim Harvey.
7. See Entry 27 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. Robin McGill.
8. Ian McFarlane had resigned to join the ranks of the Scouters.
9. It is thought that William (Billy) McEwing might have transferred to the 70th from another Scout Troop during the first half of 1954 when he was aged about 12. He joined the Curlew Patrol and was probably promoted to Second of the Curlew Patrol over the summer of 1955. He was essentially acting as Patrol Leader of the Curlew Patrol from September to November before he was formally promoted to PL. He resigned in April 1956.
10. See note 12 for the 26th November 1954 regarding P.L. Ronald Gray.
11. P.L. Robert McKinnon had been promoted to PL of the Curlew, possibly in June 1955. However, he had only been present at one troop meeting since the start of the new 1955-56 session.
12. Ian Kirk was a Wolf Cub in the Thursday Pack, and gained his Leaping Wolf badge. He moved up to the Troop to join the Seal Patrol on the 1st April 1954 and was presumably aged 11 at that point. Ian probably remained with the Seal Patrol until October 1955 when he was promoted to Second of the Fox Patrol. At this stage he would have been aged about 12. He eventually left the troop, aged 14, at the end of November 1957.
13. See note 3 for the 31st May 1954 regarding Acting A.S.M. Douglas Brown.

14. *This presumably led to the discovery of the campsite at Clachan farm just south of Roseneath. An Easter Camp was spent here in 1957, and it is highly likely that there were weekend camps prior to that.*

15. *It's not clear why Everton was not considered suitable for this purpose. Brian Hodgson certainly had a dislike of Everton because of the camp rules that were in place at the time, and this dislike may well have been shared by the Acting ASMs.*

16. *Jim Harvey wrote up the minutes for the Court of Honour. Scout Master John R. Blake checked the entries.*

4th of November 1955

**Finnart Church,
Madeira Street**

Present were:-
S.M. Blake¹
T.L. Whiteford²
P.L. Cook³
P.L. Harvey⁴
P.L. McGill⁵
P.L. Gray⁶

PL McKinnon⁷

There was a discussion on what should happen to P.L. MacKinnon as he had only turned up once since the scouts started after the summer holidays. The Curlews, without their P.L., are falling to pieces and he will have to turn up more regularly or a new P.L. will be put in his place. By a vote of 3 to 2, it was decided to write him a letter putting forward the position. The letter will be compiled by the Court of Honour scribe⁴ and be signed by the members of the meeting.

Funds

We were told by the T.L.² that the troop was in need of money. Various methods of doing this work were proposed but we all thought that a jumble sale would be the most suitable and, later on, a whist drive. The sale is to be held on 25th Nov.⁸ and jumble will be collected on Saturdays with the trek cart.⁹

Guides Party

The T.L.² drew our attention that we were due to give the Finnart School Guides¹⁰ a party this year as they had given us a fine one last December¹¹.

J. Harvey (P.L.)
John R. Blake SM¹²

Editorial Comments for the 4th November 1955

- 1. See note 3 for the 1st October 1954 regarding Scout Master Ian Blake.*
- 2. See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding T.L. Alexander (Sandy) Whiteford.*
- 3. See note 16 for the 4th September 1952 regarding P.L. Neill Cook.*
- 4. See note 28 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. Jim Harvey.*
- 5. See Entry 27 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. Robin McGill.*
- 6. See note 12 for the 26th November 1954 regarding P.L. Ronald Gray.*
- 7. See note 10 for the 15th January 1954 regarding Robert McKinnon.*
- 8. In fact, the Jumble Sale took place on the 3rd December 1955 (see COH minutes for 18th November 1955 and Fox Patrol Log for 2nd December 1955).*
- 9. See note 21 for 25th June 1954 regarding the trek cart.*
- 10. The Guide company at Finnart School were affiliated to Finnart Church and usually paraded to the church with the Scouts on Remembrance Sunday. There had been annual parties and dances involving the 70th Scouts and the Finnart School Guides.*
- 11. See the Troop Log entry for 17th December 1954.*
- 12. Jim Harvey wrote up the minutes for the Court of Honour. Scout Master John R. Blake checked the entries.*

11th November 1955

**Finnart Church,
Madeira Street**

Present were:- G.S.M. Clark^{1,2}
S.M. Blake³
T.L. Whiteford⁴
P.L. Cook⁵
P.L. Shearer⁶
P.L. Harvey⁷
P.L. McGill⁸
P.L. Gray⁹

P.L. McKinnon¹⁰

Robert McKinnon, since the last Court of Honour, has decided to give up his P.L. ship and leave the troop completely.

Promotion

Due to this, it was necessary to elect a suitable P.L. for the Curlews and also a second for the same. Soutar¹¹, McEwing¹² and McKenzie¹³ were suggested, but McEwing was voted unanimously as Patrol Leader with Nisbet¹⁴ as his second.

Rearrangement of Patrols

Due to requests from various P.L.s, slight alterations will be made among the patrols, viz. from the Falcons Lyle¹⁵ and McQuat¹⁶ will join the Fox and Curlews respectively.

Silver paper

The troop leader⁴ stated that we were only getting 2^d per lb. for silver paper and that it would be a beneficial idea to send the paper to the "Blind Dogs Association". There were no objections.

Jumble sale

The jumble sale will be in aid of the Pipe Band mainly¹⁷. We have been offered the use of a set of drums, but chanters and drum sticks are still a problem.

J. Harvey (P.L.)¹⁸

Editorial Comments for the 11th November 1955

1. See note 1 for the 23rd January 1953 regarding Group Scout Master Victor Clark.
2. It is not known why G.S.M. Victor Clark was present at this Court of Honour Meeting. One possibility is that he happened to be visiting the Troop that night and was invited to sit in on the COH meeting. Another possibility is that he might have been invited to attend as one of the topics related to a proposed pipe band which had been discussed when he had been Scout Master.
3. See note 3 for the 1st October 1954 regarding Scout Master Ian Blake.
4. See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding T.L. Alexander (Sandy) Whiteford.
5. See note 16 for the 4th September 1952 regarding P.L. Neill Cook.
6. See note 25 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. Alistair Shearer.
7. See note 28 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. Jim Harvey.
8. See Entry 27 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. Robin McGill.
9. See note 12 for the 26th November 1954 regarding P.L. Ronald Gray.
10. See note 10 for the 15th January 1954 regarding Robert McKinnon. See also the COH minutes for the 4th November 1955.
11. Scott Soutar joined the Troop round about the summer of 1953 at the age of 11. He was in the Seagull Patrol and was probably promoted to Second at the start of the 1955-56 session. He was appointed P.L. of the Curlew Patrol in April 1956, but his promotion was not formalized until October of that year. He left the troop in February 1957 at the age of 14 or 15.
12. It is believed that William (Billy McEwing) might have transferred from another troop to the 70th during the first half of 1954, when he was aged 12. It is also possible that he was promoted to

Second of the Curlew Patrol during the summer of 1955, as he was promoted to PL in November 1955. He left the troop in April 1956.

13. See note 10 for 30th April 1954 regarding Ian McKenzie.

14. John Nisbet moved up from the Wolf Cubs to the Scouts in March 1954, and was in the Seagull Patrol, before being promoted to Second of the Curlew Patrol in November 1955 at the age of 12. In October 1956, he was promoted to P.L. of the Fox Patrol at the age of 13. In November 1957, he was promoted to Troop Leader, and chose to be Troop Leader, whilst retaining his position as P.L. of the Fox Patrol. He gained his Queen's Scout Badge in March 1959, and was a member of the 70th teams that entered the Shannon Cup in 1957 and 1958. The 70th Patrol came second in 1957 and third in 1958. He resigned as T.L. and P.L. in September 1959 when he was 16 to become a 'Very Junior Assistant Scout Master'. He eventually gained a warrant as an ASM and remained with the troop until at least 1965.

15. Cameron Lyle is thought to have joined the Troop from the Wolf Cubs during September 1955. He was a member of the Falcon and Fox Patrols and was with the troop in April 1957. However, it has not been possible to determine when he left the troop or what he achieved when he was with the troop.

16. Very little is known about D. McQuat. His full name might have been David Duncan McQuat, which suggests that he might have joined the Troop from Cubs either before or after the summer of 1955. He was a member of the Falcon and Curlew Patrols, and was considered for promotion to Second in January 1956. Unfortunately, it is not known when he left the troop or what he achieved when he was with the troop.

17. The last discussion in the Court of Honour regarding a 70th pipe band was in September 1951, but the topic was not raised again until this meeting on the 11th November 1955. There is also no clear evidence that a pipe band was ever formed. It is true that a pipe band was identified as being present on the parade to Finnart Church on the 10th October 1954 to mark the troop's 21st Anniversary. However, it is not stated which pipe band this was.

18. Jim Harvey wrote up the minutes for the Court of Honour.

18th of November 1955

**Finnart Church,
Madeira Street**

Present were:-
S.M. Blake¹
A.S.M. Whiteford²
A.A.S.M. Brown³
A.A.S.M. Miller⁴
P.L. Cook⁵
P.L. Shearer⁶
P.L. Harvey⁷
P.L. McGill⁸
P.L. Gray⁹
P.L. McEwing¹⁰

Promotion

P.L. Gray⁹ is moving with his family to Glasgow¹¹ and therefore will not be able to attend the troop. He hopes to carry on his Scouting in his old Glasgow troop. I. McKenzie¹² was elected P.L. of the Falcons in his place and T. Jones¹³ made Sec. of the Kingfishers in McKenzie's stead.

Jumble sale¹⁴

The Rovers will help in the Jumble Sale and will share in the profits. The stalls will be looked after as follows:-

1. Clothes Stalls and rags :- S. Whiteford¹⁵ and N. Cook⁵
2. Bookstalls :- J. Harvey⁷ and George Crawford¹⁶ (Rover)
3. Firewood stall¹⁷ :- D. Brown³ and B¹⁸
4. Cake and Candy :- R. McGill⁸ and B. McEwing^{10,19}
5. Odds and ends :- A. Shearer⁶ + A. Duncan²⁰

The admission will be 3^d²¹ and Miller⁴ and Mr. Blake¹ will collect it at the door. Notices will be printed and an advertisement put in the Telegraph or Gourock times or both.

Guides party²²

After quite a discussion, it was decided that the food should be brought along by the boys (enough for 2) and the Guides have said that they will provide the hall and tea etc.

J. Harvey (P.L.)
John R. Blake SM²³

Editorial Comments for the 18th November 1955

1. See note 3 for the 1st October 1954 regarding Scout Master Ian Blake
2. See note 8 for 4th September 1952 regarding ASM Andrew Whiteford.
3. See note 3 for the 31st May 1954 regarding Acting A.S.M. Douglas Brown.
4. See note 12 for the 6th November 1953 regarding Acting A.S.M. Bob Miller.
5. See note 16 for the 4th September 1952 regarding P.L. Neill Cook.
6. See note 25 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. Alistair Shearer.
7. See note 28 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. Jim Harvey.
8. See Entry 27 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. Robin McGill.
9. See note 12 for the 26th November 1954 regarding P.L. Ronald Gray.
10. See note 12 for the 11th November 1955 regarding P.L. Billy McEwing.
11. There is some evidence to suggest that the family had moved to Glasgow for about 6 months at the beginning of 1955.
12. See note 10 for 30th April 1954 regarding Ian McKenzie.
13. Trevor Jones moved up from Cubs to Scouts in April 1954. He was in the Falcon Patrol before being promoted to Second of the Kingfisher Patrol in November 1955. In October 1956, he was formally promoted to P.L. of the Kingfisher Patrol, by which time he would have been aged about 13.

He remained P.L. of the Kingfishers for close on 4 years. This is probably the longest spell anyone in the 70th has served as P.L. He gained his 1st Class Badge and led the 70th team that came second in the Shannon Cup competition of 1959. He was also keen on outdoor activities and participated in the District Kan-u-take-it events of the period. Trevor resigned as P.L. in March 1960 to join a Senior Scout Patrol, and left the Troop during the summer of 1960.

14. The Jumble Sale took place on the 3rd December 1955

15. See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding T.L. Alexander (Sandy) Whiteford.

16. See note 7 for September 1951 regarding George Crawford.

17. Firewood would have been in great demand in the 1950s. Most houses had coal fires in the 1950s and would need wood for kindling. Very few properties had central cooking.

18. A name was added in pencil but is indistinct. It might be Billy McEwing.

19. Billy McEwing's name was scored out and might have been moved such that he was on the Firewood stall.

20. See note 6 for 4th September 1952 regarding Rover Alistair Duncan

21. 3^d (threepence) in 1955 had the equivalent value to 43p today (2023).

22. See the COH minutes for the 4th November 1955. The party took place on the 16th December 1955, but was better described as a dance.

23. Jim Harvey wrote up the minutes for the Court of Honour. Scout Master John R. Blake checked the entries.

13th of January 1956

Finnart Church,
Madeira Street

Present¹ were:-
S.M. Blake²
A.S.M. Miller³
A.S.M. McFarlane⁴
T.L. Whiteford⁵
P.L. Shearer⁶
P.L. Harvey⁷
P.L. McGill⁸
P.L. Mc Kenzie⁹

Promotions

P.L. Cook¹⁰ is thought to be leaving the troop and so a new P.L. for the Seagulls, David Graham¹¹, was voted unanimously as P.L. Seconds were put forward to replace David¹². They were Kenny Johnston¹³, W. Harkness¹⁴, D. McQuot¹⁵, Eric¹⁶, K. Conway¹⁷. Kenny was voted 4-2.

Competitions

The P.L.s decided that troop should enter for the following competitions:-
Signalling¹⁸, Fire Shield¹⁹, Football Shield¹⁹, Shannon Cup²⁰,
Pioneering(?)²¹

Permission was granted to the S.M.² to spend money on repairing the hike tents.

Patrol Logs will be inspected every month and will count in the Patrol Championship²².

J. Harvey (P.L.)
John R. Blake SM²³

Editorial Comments for the 13th January 1956

- 1. At some point, possibly during December 1955, Andrew Whiteford and Douglas Brown resigned from the 70th and became A.S.Ms with the 1st Renfrewshire Scouts. However, they maintained contacts with the 70th and there were a number of joint weekend camps involving both the 1st and the 70th. Four Scouts from the 1st also participated in the 70th's summer camp to Tarbert in 1956.*
- 2. See note 3 for the 1st October 1954 regarding Scout Master Ian Blake*
- 3. See note 12 for the 6th November 1953 regarding A.S.M. Bob Miller.*
- 4. See note 7 for 6th September 1953 regarding A.S.M. Ian McFarlane.*
- 5. See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding Troop Leader Alexander (Sandy) Whiteford.*
- 6. See note 25 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. Alistair Shearer.*
- 7. See note 28 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. Jim Harvey.*
- 8. See Entry 27 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. Robin McGill.*
- 9. See note 10 for 30th April 1954 regarding P.L. Ian McKenzie.*
- 10. See note 16 for the 4th September 1952 regarding P.L. Neill Cook*
- 11. See note 24 for the 21st May 1954 regarding David Graham.*
- 12. It is not known for certain which Patrol David had been Second for, but the Seal Patrol is a strong possibility.*
- 13. Kenneth Johnson joined the troop during the summer of 1953 and was placed in the Seal Patrol. There is some ambiguity over who was promoted Second of the Seagull Patrol in January 1956 as this could have been Kenny Johnson or Ken Conway. The latter seems more likely, based on the list of PLs and seconds provided on the 19th October 1956. On the other hand the COH minutes for 27th April 1957 identify Ken Johnson as a Second, but not Ken Conway. It is known, however, that Ken Johnson was promoted to P.L. of the Seagull Patrol in February 1957. Kenny was a keen camper, and was a member of the 70th team that entered the Shannon Cup competition in 1959. He was also one of the 70th's representatives at the World Jamboree held at Sutton Coldfield in 1957. He also received his Queen's Scout Badge. Ken resigned as P.L. in September 1959, when he would have been*

aged about 17, and joined the ranks of the Scouters as a 'Very Junior A.S.M.' (V.J.A.S.M). It is believed that he resigned from the troop after the summer of 1963, by which time he was an A.S.M.

14. William Harkness probably joined the troop during 1954 or 1955, although there is no mention of him in the records until the 13th January 1956. Although he was not chosen as a Second on that date, he was chosen to be the Seagull Patrol's Second in October 1956, although the promotion did not take place until February 1957. William may have gained his 1st Class badge as he completed his 1st Class hike in April 1958. William was still Second of the Seagull Patrol when he resigned in January 1960.

15. See note 16 for the 11th November 1955 regarding D. McQuat.

16. It is believed that Eric Paterson joined the 70th in the latter half of 1953 at the age of 11. Eric was in the Seal Patrol and was tall for his age (see troop log entry for 29th October 1954). There are very few references to Eric in the available records and the last mention of him was in January 1957, when he was wrestled to the floor at British Bulldog. Other than that, it is not known how long he stayed in the troop or whether he was ever promoted to Second.

17. Kenneth Conway joined the troop in May or June of 1954 at the age of 11. It is possible that he was the 'Kenny' that was promoted to Second in January 1956, but there is some ambiguity over this and it seems more likely that the 'Kenny' was Kenneth Johnson. If so, it is not known when Ken Conway was promoted to Second. Kenneth was certainly promoted to P.L. of the Seal patrol in October 1956 at the age of 13, and remained its P.L. for the next 4 years. There were few instances of Scouts being P.L.s for that long, although Trevor Jones is one other example. Kenneth was promoted to Troop Leader in September 1959, but resigned in April 1960 to lead a Senior Scout Patrol. It is believed that he left the Group in the summer of 1960. Kenneth gained his Queen's Scout Badge in 1959. He also participated in the Shannon Cup Competitions of 1958 and 1959, leading the patrol that participated in 1958. The 70th came second in 1959. Kenneth's Patrol also won the Patrol of the Year Competition for the 1958-59 session.

18. It is stated somewhere that the 70th won the signalling competition 8 years in a row. If this is accurate, then they would have won the competition in 1956. However, this has yet to be confirmed.

19. It is not known whether the 70th entered these competitions or not.

20. The 70th won the Shannon Cup Competition held in 1956. Sadly, there is no record of who was in the team.

21. The question mark was included in the minutes, suggesting that the Court of Honour might have been in two minds about entering. Due to the missing troop log book covering 1956, it is not known whether the troop entered or not.

22. This refers to the monthly Patrol Championship, which also counted towards the Champion Patrol of the Year.

23. Jim Harvey wrote up the minutes for the Court of Honour. Scout Master John R. Blake checked the entries.

3rd of February 1956

Finnart Church,
Madeira Street

Present were:-

S.M.	Blake ¹
A.S.M.	Miller ²
A.S.M.	McFarlane ³
T.L.	Whiteford ⁴
P.L.	McGill ⁵
P.L.	Harvey ⁶
P.L.	Mc Kenzie ⁷
P.L.	Graham ⁸
P.L.	McEwing ⁹

Funds

Means of obtaining money were discussed because of a need for new tents and other camp equipment. The present tents are in a very bad condition as we have had most of them since before the war. Ways decided are as follows:-

- (1) Rags will be collected and sold by the troop. P.L. Harvey⁶ will be in charge of this.
- (2) A whist drive¹⁰ on Tuesday, March 13th. The Seagulls will collect the tables and it will be run in on the hostess system.¹¹
- (3) Another jumble sale¹² will be held at some time in September.
- (4) A "bring and buy" sale¹³ will be organized but no date or arrangements will be decided upon until after Easter. Articles bought or sold will cost at least 2/6^d.¹⁴ Profit per person = 5/-.¹⁵
- (5) Scrap metal on Brown's¹⁶ foreshore. Douglas Brown¹⁷ will be seen next week as he's attending the troop meeting.¹⁸

Order of meetings

The T.L.,⁴ after reading some previous minutes, suggested that it might be better to have work first on the programme followed by the game¹⁹. It was unanimously decided to keep it as it is.²⁰

Parents night

The S.M. declared that we should have a parents' night soon as we have not had one for a considerable time²¹. He will put a programme forward next week for our opinions.²²

Librarian

P.L. David Graham⁸ volunteered to take over the troop library in Neil Cook's²³ place.

Patrol boxes

It was decided that the troop should get an efficient first aid box and that each patrol should also have one. Patrol boxes²⁴ should be obtained and will be inspected for the Patrol Championship.²⁵

J. Harvey (P.L.)
John R. Blake SM.²⁶

Editorial Comments for the 3rd February 1956

1. See note 3 for the 1st October 1954 regarding Scout Master Ian Blake
2. See note 12 for the 6th November 1953 regarding A.S.M. Bob Miller.
3. See note 7 for 6th September 1953 regarding A.S.M. Ian McFarlane.
4. See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding Troop Leader Alexander (Sandy) Whiteford.
5. See Entry 27 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. Robin McGill.
6. See note 28 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. Jim Harvey.
7. See note 10 for 30th April 1954 regarding P.L. Ian McKenzie.
8. See note 24 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. David Graham.
9. See note 12 for the 11th November 1955 regarding P.L. Billy McEwing.
10. Whist drives were a social event as well as a successful method of fund-raising. Parents and friends paid for a table in the Church Hall to play whist and a raffle was often held as well (see the troop log entries for the 16th December 1953 and 8th December 1954, as well as the COH entries for 24th March 1954 and 18th March 1955).
11. It is not known what was involved in the 'hostess system'.
12. A jumble sale had last been held on the 3rd December 1955 (Fox Patrol Log). See also the COH minutes for 18th November 1955.
13. See note 14 for the 20th February 1953 regarding 'Bring and Buy' sales.
14. 2/6d (half a crown) in 1956 had the equivalent value to £4.00 today (2023).
15. It is not clear what is meant here, unless each person coming to the 'Bring and Buy' sale pays 5/- as an entrance fee, such that the profit refers to what is raised for the troop. If so, 5/- had the equivalent value in 1956 of £8.00 today (2023).
16. It is believed that this referred to the shipyard, owned and run by the Brown family.
17. See note 3 for the 31st May 1954 regarding A.S.M. Douglas Brown.
18. Douglas Brown and Andrew Whitefiled transferred to the 1st Renfrewshire as A.S.M.s, but they maintained a contact with the 70th.
19. This had previously been discussed at the COH meeting of 5th November 1954.
20. In the 1970s, it was generally felt that a troop meeting should start with an active game such that the Scouts could use up excess energy and be more amenable to training and testing afterwards. However, it's not known what arguments were used in debating this during the 1950s.
21. Parents' Nights are known to have occurred on 3rd November 1950, 13th December 1951, 4th May 1953 and the 8th October 1954 (Troop Log). However, there did not appear to be a Parents night during 1955.
22. The available records give no indication of what this programme consisted of, or whether a Parents Night was held during 1956 or not.
23. See note 16 for the 4th September 1952 regarding ex. P.L. Neill Cook
24. Patrol Boxes became a standard item and were used throughout the 1950s and subsequent decades. Initially, they were wooden boxes painted in the Patrol colours.
25. This refers to the Patrol of the Month Championship.
26. Jim Harvey wrote up the minutes for the Court of Honour. Scout Master John R. Blake checked the entries.

24 February 1956

Finnart Church,
Madeira Street

Present were:-

S.M.	Blake ¹
A.S.M.	Miller ²
A.S.M.	McFarlane ³
T.L.	Whiteford ⁴
P.L.	Harvey ⁵
P.L.	Shearer ⁶
P.L.	McEwing ⁷
P.L.	McGill ⁸
P.L.	Mc Kenzie ⁹

Whist Drive

There has been very little response to the appeal for tables for the whist¹⁰, and if no more are obtained by next week we will have to cancel it. It was decided that, in future, typed notes will be sent home with the boys announcing everything of this nature.¹¹

Camping

Skipper¹ announced that the Easter troop camp, which is also to be the end of the P.L.'s and seconds' training course, will be held at some place known only to the S.M.¹² etc, from Friday, 30th March to 5th April.¹³

J. Harvey (P.L.)¹⁴

Editorial Comments for the 24th February 1956

1. See note 3 for the 1st October 1954 regarding Scout Master Ian Blake
2. See note 12 for the 6th November 1953 regarding A.S.M. Bob Miller.
3. See note 7 for 6th September 1953 regarding A.S.M. Ian McFarlane.
4. See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding Troop Leader Alexander (Sandy) Whiteford.
5. See note 28 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. Jim Harvey.
6. See note 25 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. Alistair Shearer.
7. See note 12 for the 11th November 1955 regarding P.L. Billy McEwing.
8. See Entry 27 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. Robin McGill.
9. See note 10 for 30th April 1954 regarding P.L. Ian McKenzie.
10. Presumably, this appeal was for parents and friends to make up groups of 4 (i.e. a table), rather than an appeal for tables themselves. The whist drive was scheduled for Tuesday the 13th March as defined in the COH minutes of 3rd February 1956.
11. Asking the Scouts to pass on messages verbally has never been very satisfactory, partly because some Scouts pay no attention to notices, while others forget what they were told by the time they got home. This observation has had to be learnt by numerous generations of leaders.
12. The venue was a field just up the hill from Blairmore Farm owned by a Mr. McArthur. It is possible that this is the first time that the 70th used this site, and it continued to be used throughout the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. The field is still there, but has not been used by Scouts for a long time now. The land is still owned by the MacArthur family.
13. No written accounts or photographs survive of the Blairmore Easter Camp of 1956. However, the camp definitely took place as proven by surviving receipts for groceries, milk and transport. Unfortunately, it is not known which individuals were present.
14. Jim Harvey wrote up the minutes for the Court of Honour.

March¹ 1956

**Finnart Church,
Madeira Street**

Present were:-
S.M. Blake²
A.S.M. Miller³
A.S.M. McFarlane⁴
T.L. Whiteford⁵
P.L. Harvey⁶
P.L. Shearer⁷
P.L. McEwing⁸
P.L. Mc Kenzie⁹
P.L. McGill^{10,11}
P.L. Graham^{12,13}

Whist Drive

It was decided that we would have the whist drive as a few more tables had been sold¹⁴. This motion was proposed and seconded by P.L. McGill¹⁰ and PL Shearer⁷ respectively. The P.L.s to be present in uniform, are as follows

J. Harvey⁶, David Graham¹², Alistair Shearer⁷.

The Seagulls were reminded to collect the tables¹⁵. Ian McKenzie⁹ volunteered to bring the milk, tea and sugar. And Skipper² volunteered to bring the prizes.¹⁶

Library¹⁷

We were told to try and get all library books belonging to the troop in for next week. A new system will be introduced in which the librarian¹² will be the only person to hand out books, which must be signed for by the person using the same.

J. Harvey (P.L.)
John R. Blake SM¹⁸

Editorial Comments for March 1956

1. *The date and the month of this COH meeting were not identified. However, it was probably Friday 2nd March 1956 as the whist drive was scheduled for Tuesday 13th March 1956.*
2. *See note 3 for the 1st October 1954 regarding Scout Master Ian Blake*
3. *See note 12 for the 6th November 1953 regarding A.S.M. Bob Miller.*
4. *See note 7 for 6th September 1953 regarding A.S.M. Ian McFarlane.*
5. *See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding Troop Leader Alexander (Sandy) Whiteford.*
6. *See note 28 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. Jim Harvey.*
7. *See note 25 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. Alistair Shearer.*
8. *See note 12 for the 11th November 1955 regarding P.L. Billy McEwing.*
9. *See note 10 for 30th April 1954 regarding P.L. Ian McKenzie.*
10. *See Entry 27 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. Robin McGill.*
11. *Robin McGill's name was not included in the list of those present. However, must have been present if he proposed a motion.*
12. *See note 24 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. David Graham.*
13. *David Graham's name was not included in the list of those present. However, he might have been present and his name was accidentally missed out. If he was absent, it would mean that he was 'volunteered' to wear uniform.*
14. *See note 10 for the 24th February 1956.*
15. *It is not known where the tables were collected from.*
16. *It is not known what kind of prizes were awarded.*
17. *See note 9 for the 31st May 1954 regarding the Troop Library.*
18. *Jim Harvey wrote up the minutes for the Court of Honour. Scout Master John R. Blake checked the entries*

27th April 1956

**Finnart Church,
Madeira Street**

Present were:- S.M. Blake¹
A.S.M. Miller²
A.S.M. McFarlane³
T.L. Whiteford⁴
P.L. Harvey⁵
PL Shearer⁶
P.L. Mc Kenzie⁷

P.L. Curlews⁸

William McEwing⁹ has left the troop and so a new patrol leader for the Curlews had to be chosen. Those eligible were Seconds Nisbet¹⁰, Rankin¹¹, Soutar¹², Jones¹³, Johnson¹⁴, Kirk¹⁵. A vote was taken between Soutar¹² and Rankin¹¹. Soutar was elected unanimously patrol leader of the Curlews.

Novices Training Course

This course is being held on 6th-7th and 13th and 14th May¹⁶. It was decided to get the entire troop down to Everton on these weekends and hand the "novices" over to their course and, to the rest, it would be just an ordinary camp¹⁷. Tuesday at 7.30 was the time picked for the camp meeting and that the patrol leaders were asked to inform their patrols about this. The scouters will see about the Seagulls and the Curlews.¹⁸

Treasurers Report

The troop has now a total of £ / in funds¹⁹. We gained approximately £19²⁰ at Bob-a-Job²¹.

Tents

Skipper¹ asked if we thought it was necessary to buy a new Niger²². We decided not to as the three patrol tents²³ which we had were in fairly good condition. Permission was granted to buy a groundsheet for the bell tent, signalling flags and a new football.

J. Harvey (P.L.)
John R. Blake SM²⁴

Editorial Comments for 27th April 1956

- 1. See note 3 for the 1st October 1954 regarding Scout Master Ian Blake*
- 2. See note 12 for the 6th November 1953 regarding A.S.M. Bob Miller.*
- 3. See note 7 for 6th September 1953 regarding A.S.M. Ian McFarlane.*
- 4. See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding Troop Leader Alexander (Sandy) Whiteford.*
- 5. See note 28 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. Jim Harvey.*
- 6. See note 25 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. Alistair Shearer.*
- 7. See note 10 for 30th April 1954 regarding P.L. Ian McKenzie.*
- 8. It is also known that Robin McGill, P.L. of the Fox Patrol resigned on the 23rd March 1956. Ian Kirk (the existing Second) became Acting Patrol Leader until October 1956. It's not clear why a replacement P.L. was not appointed for the Fox Patrol on the 27th April 1956, if a new P.L. for the Curlew Patrol was appointed.*
- 9. See note 12 for the 11th November 1955 regarding P.L. Billy McEwing.*
- 10. See note 14 for the 11th November 1955 regarding Second John Nisbet.*
- 11. See note 12 for the 9th September 1955 regarding Second, Hamish Rankin.*
- 12. See note 11 for the 11th November 1955 regarding P.L. Scott Soutar.*
- 13. See note 13 for the 18th November 1955 regarding Second Trevor Jones.*

14. See note 13 for the 13th January 1956 regarding Second Kenneth Johnson.
15. See note 12 for the 7th October 1955 regarding Second Ian Kirk.
16. There are no available records covering April-June 1956. Therefore, there are no surviving accounts or photographs describing these camps.
17. The wording suggests that the Novices Training Course was being organized by District.
18. Scott Soutar had just been appointed P.L. of the Curlew Patrol and so he was not present at the Court of Honour Meeting. The P.L. of the Seagull Patrol was David Graham, who was also not present at the COH meeting.
19. A space was left to be filled in with the actual total, but it has remained empty.
20. £19 in 1956 had the equivalent value to £638 today (2023).
21. See note 9 for the 30th April 1954 regarding Bob-a-Job week.
22. A Niger tent was a Patrol Tent available from Blacks of Greenock.
23. It is known that the troop had an Icelandic Patrol Tent and a Niger Patrol Tent. It is not known what the third tent was. It is not known when the Bell tent was purchased.
24. Jim Harvey wrote up the minutes for the Court of Honour. Scout Master John R. Blake checked the entries

19th of October 1956

Finnart Church,
Madeira Street

Present¹ were:- S.M. Blake²
A.S.M. Miller³
A.S.M. McFarlane⁴
T.L. Whiteford⁵
P.L. Harvey⁶
P.L. Soutar⁷
P.L. Graham⁸

New Patrol Leaders and Seconds

Four patrols, the Falcons, Fox, Kingfisher and Curlews are at present under control of acting P.L.s.⁹ Consequently, four new P.L.s and seconds had to be made. The decisions were as follows:

	Patrol Leaders	Seconds
Falcons	- H. Rankin ¹⁰	- A. Nicol ¹¹
Foxes	- J. Nisbet ¹²	- I. Kirk ¹³
Kingfishers	- T. Jones ¹⁴	- J. Blair ¹⁵
Curlews	- S. Soutar ⁷	- B. Elliot ¹⁶
Seals	- K. Conway ¹⁷	-
Seagulls	- D. Graham ⁸	- Harkness ¹⁸

These promotions will be announced next week.¹⁹

Party

T.L. Whiteford⁵ suggested a party for the Scouts. It was decided to make it Halloween party on the 2nd or 9th of November.²⁰

J. Harvey²¹

Editorial Comments for 19th October 1956

1. There are no surviving records covering the months May-September 1956. During this period, a 70th patrol that included Hamish Rankin won the Shannon Cup Competition at Everton. There was also a very wet Summer Camp at West Loch Tarbert during the 3rd-18th August 1956. At one point, the camp had to be abandoned because of flooding. There were also changes in Patrol Leaders. Robin McGill, (Fox Patrol) resigned on the 23rd March 1956, and Ian Kirk (the existing Second) became Acting Patrol Leader until October 1956. Jim Harvey (Kingfisher) was still identified as P.L. at this Court of Honour Meeting and presumably resigned on the night to become a Junior ASM.. Alistair Shearer (Seal Patrol) probably resigned during the summer to become a Junior or Very Junior A.S.M.. Ian McKenzie (Falcon) probably resigned during the summer of 1956.

2. See note 3 for the 1st October 1954 regarding Scout Master Ian Blake

3. See note 12 for the 6th November 1953 regarding A.S.M. Bob Miller.

4. See note 7 for 6th September 1953 regarding A.S.M. Ian McFarlane.

5. See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding Troop Leader Alexander (Sandy) Whiteford.

6. See note 28 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. Jim Harvey.

7. See note 11 for the 11th November 1955 regarding P.L. Scott Soutar.

8. See note 24 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. David Graham.

9. There is some ambiguity regarding the term 'Acting P.Ls'. Were these Patrol Seconds who were running the Patrol in the absence of an appointed P.L, or were they 'provisional' PLs that had been appointed on a trial basis to see how they got on. There is some logic in that as several of those identified as P.L.s at this meeting were only aged 13. Or was it a mixture of both scenarios? For example, it is known that in October 1956, Ian Kirk (Fox Patrol Second) had been an acting as the

Fox Patrol P.L. since March. But had not actually been promoted. On the other hand, the 'Acting Patrol Leader' for the Curlew Patrol was Scott Soutar who had been appointed on the 27th April 1956. Another possible explanation is that the scribe made an error and that it should have been the Seal Patrol that had an acting PL instead of the Curlew Patrol. This seems the most likely explanation, such that Hamish Rankin, John Nisbet, Trevor Jones and Kenneth Conway were all promoted from Second to PL on the 19th October.

10. *See note 12 for the 9th September 1955 regarding P.L., Hamish Rankin. Hamish replaced Ian McKenzie as P.L. of the Falcon Patrol.*

11. *It is thought that Alistair Nicol transferred from another Troop to the 70th, especially as he joined the troop on January 1956 and was promoted to Second of the Falcon Patrol in October 1956. He remained as Hamish Rankin's Second for the next 3 years. It is likely that he gained his 1st Class Badge and he competed in the Shannon Cup Competition of 1957. He left the troop at the end of May 1959.*

12. *See note 14 for the 11th November 1955 regarding P.L. John Nisbet. John filled the vacancy for P.L. in the Fox Patrol resulting from Robin McGill's resignation the previous March.*

13. *See note 12 for the 7th October 1955 regarding Second Ian Kirk.*

14. *See note 13 for the 18th November 1955 regarding P.L. Trevor Jones. Trevor replaced Jim Harvey as P.L. of the Kingfisher Patrol.*

15. *Jim Blair probably moved up from the 70th Cubs to the Scouts in September 1955. In October 1956, he was promoted to Second of the Kingfisher Patrol at the age of 12. Trevor Jones was his P.L. and the two of them led the Kingfisher Patrol for the next 3 years. Jim was promoted to P.L. of the Fox patrol in September 1959, then to Troop Leader in April 1960. He also gained the Queen's Scout Badge and competed in the Shannon Cup Competitions of 1957, 1958 and 1960, coming second in 1957. He resigned from the troop during the summer of 1960.*

16. *Brian Elliot (Bean) moved up from the 70th Cubs to the Scouts in September 1955. In October 1956, he was promoted to Second of the Curlew Patrol when he would have been aged about 12. In February 1957, he was promoted to P.L. of the Curlew Patrol, probably still only aged 12. Brian gained his 1st Class Badge and Venturer Badge in 1959 and may well have gone on to get his Queen's Scout Badge. However, this needs to be confirmed. Brian also competed in the Shannon Cup of 1957, 1958 and 1959 (the 70th came second in both 1957 and 1959). He resigned in January 1960.*

17. *See note 17 for the 13th January 1956 regarding P.L. Kenneth Conway. Kenneth replaced Graham White as P.L. of the Seal Patrol.*

18. *See note 14 for the 13th January 1956 regarding Second William Harkness.*

19. *The list of P.L.s and Seconds provided indicate that the average age of the troop was extremely low at the start of the 1956=57 session. Most of the P.L.s were aged 13, while most of the Seconds were aged 12. It is not clear why this should have been the case.*

20. *The party took the form of a Tramps Party on the 9th November 1956. In other words, everyone dressed up as a tramp. See also the COH minutes for the 26th October 1956.*

21. *Jim Harvey wrote up the minutes for the Court of Honour.*

26th of October 1956

Finnart Church,
Madeira Street

Present were:-
S.M. Blake¹
A.S.M. Miller²
A.S.M. McFarlane³
A.A.S.M. Harvey⁴
P.L. Soutar⁵
P.L. Graham⁶
P.L. Conway⁷
P.L. Rankin⁸
P.L. Nisbet⁹

Halloween party

This party will be held on 9th of November at 7.30¹⁰. Each patrol was allocated¹¹ to obtain the following:-

1½ galls Ice Cream - Curlew
7 doz. Cakes - Seagulls + Fox
Lemonade - ¹²

It was suggested by Hamish Rankin⁸ that everyone should come as 'tramps' with a prize for the best¹³. It will be an all games night and the programme will be constructed next week.

J. Harvey¹⁴

Editorial Comments for 26th October 1956

1. See note 3 for the 1st October 1954 regarding Scout Master Ian Blake
2. See note 12 for the 6th November 1953 regarding A.S.M. Bob Miller.
3. See note 7 for 6th September 1953 regarding A.S.M. Ian McFarlane.
4. See note 28 for the 21st May 1954 regarding A.A.S.M. Jim Harvey.
5. See note 11 for the 11th November 1955 regarding P.L. Scott Soutar.
6. See note 24 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. David Graham.
7. See note 17 for the 13th January 1956 regarding P.L. Kenneth Conway.
8. See note 12 for the 9th September 1955 regarding P.L., Hamish Rankin.
9. See note 14 for the 11th November 1955 regarding P.L. John Nisbet.
10. A short account of the party was provided in the Fox Patrol Log.
11. The idea of patrols being allocated items to bring for a Haloween party continued throughout the 1950s and 1960s. Jellies were brought in later years.
12. This was left vacant. Possibly the scribe forgot which patrol had been allocated.
13. Alistair Cram won first prize with Cameron Lyall coming second.
14. Jim Harvey wrote up the minutes for the Court of Honour.

25th of January 1957

Finnart Church,
Madeira Street

Present were:- S.M. Blake¹
A.S.M. Miller²
A.S.M. McFarlane³
T.L. S. Whiteford⁴
J.A.S.M⁵. A. Shearer⁶
J.A.S.M⁵. Harvey⁷
P.L. Soutar⁸
P.L. Graham⁹
P.L. Nisbet¹⁰
P.L. Conway¹¹
P.L. Jones¹²

Dance

A suggestion was made by two patrol leaders to the S.M.¹ that the troop should hold a dance, and, previously, Mr. McFarlane¹³ (bible class supt.) asked the SM¹ if the troop would amalgamate *with* 'the youth of the church' for a dance.

We decided that we would amalgamate with them as, as it was pointed out by Sandy⁴, they most likely would pay and arrange most of it. Another point was that "A large percentage of the bible class are in the troop". Here, John Nis.¹⁰ interrupted and stated, "Of the boys anyway!"

It was unanimously voted that we would have *a dance*, amalgamated with the bible class, and it would be on a Friday.¹⁴

After a bit of discussion, we voted against a band and Sandy⁴ and Jim⁷ were made chief music-makers¹⁵ with Bob Miller² as M.C.¹⁶

Outsiders would be invited only if it was necessary to make up the numbers.

As a final word before going, the SM¹ pointed out that we would have to behave ourselves with the bible class, whereupon John Nis¹⁰ said, "Scouts should remember their manners at dances and not say 'Are ye fur up.' " J. Harvey¹⁷

Editorial Comments for 25th January 1957

1. See note 3 for the 1st October 1954 regarding Scout Master Ian Blake
2. See note 12 for the 6th November 1953 regarding A.S.M. Bob Miller.
3. See note 7 for 6th September 1953 regarding A.S.M. Ian McFarlane.
4. See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding Troop Leader Alexander (Sandy) Whiteford.
5. No title was stated, but it is likely to have been Junior Assistant Scout Master (J.A.S.M). It is not known whether this was an official title or not, but it was generally used for older boys that had joined the ranks of the Scouters but were still of Scout age. As such, they probably did not qualify to apply for an A.S.M.'s warrant.
6. See note 25 for the 21st May 1954 regarding J.A.S.M. Alistair Shearer.
7. See note 28 for the 21st May 1954 regarding A.A.S.M. Jim Harvey
8. See note 11 for the 11th November 1955 regarding P.L. Scott Soutar.
9. See note 24 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. David Graham.
10. See note 14 for the 11th November 1955 regarding P.L. John Nisbet.
11. See note 17 for the 13th January 1956 regarding P.L. Kenneth Conway.
12. See note 13 for the 18th November 1955 regarding P.L. Trevor Jones.
13. It is not known whether Mr. McFarlane was related to Ian McFarlane, although it seems a strong possibility.
14. The dance took place on Friday 1st March 1957 at a cost of 1/6 per person, and lasted from 7.30-11.00 p.m. (Fox patrol Log 1st March 1957).
15. It is not known what this involved. Possibly it meant bringing a record player and records.
16. Master of Ceremonies.
17. Jim Harvey wrote up the minutes for the Court of Honour.

8th February 1957

**Finnart Church,
Madeira Street**

Those present :- S.M. Blake¹
 A.S.M. Miller²
 A.S.M. McFarlane³
 Junior A.S.M. & T.L. Whiteford⁴
 J.A.S.M. Harvey⁵
 P.L. Nisbet⁶
 P.L. Soutar⁷
 P.L. Rankin⁸
 P.L. Conway⁹
 P.L. Jones¹⁰

Promotion

A new P.L. is required for the Seagull patrol on the resignation of Dave Graham¹¹. Those nominated were all the seconds, but it was decided to eliminate Kirk¹², for his lack of camping, and J. Blair¹³, lack of self-control and lack of years¹⁴. K. Johnstone¹⁵ was eventually elected and will be promoted next week.

Finance

Treasurer, Bob Miller², told us that troop funds were around £50¹⁶ + a little interest.

Dance

It is now fixed that a dance will be held in cooperation with the bible class and it will be held in March. It was also decided to bring your own partners.¹⁷

T. Jones (P.L.)¹⁸

Editorial Comments for 8th February 1957

1. See note 3 for the 1st October 1954 regarding Scout Master Ian Blake
2. See note 12 for the 6th November 1953 regarding A.S.M. Bob Miller.
3. See note 7 for 6th September 1953 regarding A.S.M. Ian McFarlane.
4. See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding Troop Leader Alexander (Sandy) Whiteford.
5. See note 28 for the 21st May 1954 regarding J.A.S.M. Jim Harvey
6. See note 14 for the 11th November 1955 regarding P.L. John Nisbet.
7. See note 11 for the 11th November 1955 regarding P.L. Scott Soutar
8. See note 12 for the 9th September 1955 regarding P.L., Hamish Rankin.
9. See note 17 for the 13th January 1956 regarding P.L. Kenneth Conway.
10. See note 13 for the 18th November 1955 regarding P.L. Trevor Jones.
11. See note 24 for the 21st May 1954 regarding P.L. David Graham.
12. See note 12 for the 7th October 1955 regarding Second Ian Kirk.
13. See note 15 for the 19th October 1956 regarding Second Jim Blair..
14. Jim Blair was aged about 12½ at this point.
15. See note 13 for the 13th January 1956 regarding Second Kenneth Johnson.
16. £50 in 1957 had the equivalent value of £1540 today (2023).
17. See also COH minutes for 25th January 1957.
18. Trevor Jones wrote up the minutes for the Court of Honour, having taken over the minutes from Jim Harvey..

22nd of February 57

Finnart Church,
Madeira Street

Those present :- S.M. Blake¹
A.S.M. Miller²
A.S.M. McFarlane³
Junior A.S.M. & T.L. Whiteford⁴
J.A.S.M. Harvey⁵
P.L. Nisbet⁶
P.L. Johnstone⁷
P.L. Rankin⁸
P.L. Conway⁹
P.L. Jones¹⁰

Promotion

S. Soutar¹¹ has left and a new patrol leader for the Curlews is required. B. Elliot¹² was elected and A¹³. Campbell¹⁴ was also elected to take his place as second of the Curlews. W. Harkness¹⁵ was elected second of Seagulls in place of K. Johnstone⁷ who is now the PL, and S. Scott¹⁶ is now second of the Seal.

T. Jones¹⁷

Editorial Comments for 22nd February 1957

1. See note 3 for the 1st October 1954 regarding Scout Master Ian Blake
2. See note 12 for the 6th November 1953 regarding A.S.M. Bob Miller.
3. See note 7 for 6th September 1953 regarding A.S.M. Ian McFarlane.
4. See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding Troop Leader Alexander (Sandy) Whiteford.
5. See note 28 for the 21st May 1954 regarding J.A.S.M. Jim Harvey
6. See note 14 for the 11th November 1955 regarding P.L. John Nisbet.
7. See note 13 for the 13th January 1956 regarding P.L. Kenneth Johnson.
8. See note 12 for the 9th September 1955 regarding P.L., Hamish Rankin.
9. See note 17 for the 13th January 1956 regarding P.L. Kenneth Conway.
10. See note 13 for the 18th November 1955 regarding P.L. Trevor Jones.
11. See note 11 for the 11th November 1955 regarding P.L. Scott Soutar
12. See note 16 for the 19th October 1956 regarding P.L. Brian Elliot.
13. The writing is indistinct, but it could conceivably be 'A'.
14. An Alasdair Campbell was present in the Troop during 1957 but very little is known about him and it is not known for certain whether this was the individual that was promoted to Second of the Curlew Patrol, or some other Campbell that might have been present in the troop at the time. It should also be noted that an A. Campbell was promoted to Second in January 1958 (Fox Patrol log).
15. See note 14 for the 13th January 1956 regarding Second William Harkness.
16. Stuart Scott moved up from the 70th Cub Pack to the Scouts in March 1954 and was in the Seal Patrol. In February 1957, he was selected to be Second of the Seal Patrol, but according to the Fox Patrol Log, this did not occur until June 1957. Stuart became P.L. of the Seagull Patrol in September 1959, then resigned in April 1960 to join a Senior Scout Patrol. He probably left the Troop during the summer of 1960.
17. Trevor Jones wrote up the minutes for the Court of Honour.

8th of March 1957

**Finnart Church,
Madeira Street**

Those present :- S.M. Blake¹
A.S.M. Miller²
A.S.M. McFarlane³
Junior A.S.M. & T.L. Whiteford⁴
Junior A.S.M. Harvey⁵
Junior A.S.M. Shearer⁶
P.L. Nisbet⁷
P.L. Elliot⁸
P.L. Conway⁹
P.L. Johnstone¹⁰
P.L. Rankin¹¹
P.L. Jones¹²

Bob-a-Job¹³

S.M. Blake¹ spoke to us about Troop equipment and that he wanted £40¹⁴ or more from Bob-a- Job, which means every boy must, at least, get £1¹⁵ in the week. The money, he said, would go to buy two new Kara tents¹⁶ and to have a new ridge on the Niger¹⁷ which has stretched 6". The Icelandic¹⁸ would go out of service except as a store tent.

Summer camp

Mr. Blake¹ told us that they are going (scouters) to inspect sites at Pitlochry for a Summer Camp in August.¹⁹

Easter camp

Easter camp will be held at Roseneath Farm for 4 days during Bob-a- job week.²⁰

T. Jones
John R. Blake SM²¹

Editorial Comments for 8th March 1957

1. See note 3 for the 1st October 1954 regarding Scout Master Ian Blake
2. See note 12 for the 6th November 1953 regarding A.S.M. Bob Miller.
3. See note 7 for 6th September 1953 regarding A.S.M. Ian McFarlane.
4. See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding Troop Leader Alexander (Sandy) Whiteford.
5. See note 28 for the 21st May 1954 regarding J.A.S.M. Jim Harvey
6. See note 25 for the 21st May 1954 regarding J.A.S.M. Alistair Shearer.
7. See note 14 for the 11th November 1955 regarding P.L. John Nisbet.
8. See note 16 for the 19th October 1956 regarding P.L. Brian Elliot.
9. See note 17 for the 13th January 1956 regarding P.L. Kenneth Conway.
10. See note 13 for the 13th January 1956 regarding P.L. Kenneth Johnson.
11. See note 12 for the 9th September 1955 regarding P.L., Hamish Rankin.
12. See note 13 for the 18th November 1955 regarding P.L. Trevor Jones.
13. See note 9 for the 30th April 1954 regarding Bob-a-Job week.
14. £40 in 1957 had the equivalent value of £1234 today (2023).
15. £1 in 1957 had the equivalent value of £31 today (2023).
16. Kara tents were fairly small Patrol tents that accommodated about 4 Scouts. Two such tents were purchased from Thomas Black and Sons in October 1957 at a cost of £13 each. Kara groundsheets were also purchased to make a grand total of £31 19 0 (the equivalent of £987 in 2023). A slightly soiled Kara tent and groundsheet were also purchased in March 1957.
17. The Niger tent was a proper Patrol tent capable of accommodating a full Patrol of Scouts. The repair to the ridge band cost £2.10. (£77 in today's money, as of 2023), paid in June 1957.
18. The Icelandic was another Patrol tent capable of accommodating a full patrol of Scouts.
19. The Pitlochry Summer Camp was held at Dunfallandy from the 6th-13th August 1957 with 5 Scouters and 12 Scouts attending. The site was used on another two occasions in later years.

20. *The Easter Camp to Roseneath took place from the 13th-16th April 1957 at Clachan Farm, just south of the village. At least 13 Scouts and Scouters were present.*
21. *Trevor Jones wrote up the minutes for the Court of Honour. Scout Master John R. Blake checked the entries.*

11th of October 1957

Finnart Church,
Madeira Street

Those present¹ :- S.M. Blake²
A.S.M. Miller³
A.S.M. McFarlane⁴
Junior A.S.M. Harvey⁵
P.L. Nisbet⁶
P.L. Conway⁷
P.L. Elliot⁸
P.L. Johnstone⁹
P.L. Rankin¹⁰
P.L. Jones¹¹

T.L.¹²

S.M. Blake² told us that Sandy¹³ was now an A.S.M. and that we would have to elect a new T.L. No decision was reached as everyone nominated everyone else.¹⁴

Finance

A.S.M. Miller³ when asked said that we had about £38 in bank, £6 pounds at his house¹⁵ and that £3 12/6 was made at the dance last session.¹⁶

Moneymaking

S.M. Blake² asked for suggestions for money making. A Jumble sale is the best idea but takes a lot of Saturday work. Further discussion on the subject will be held in 2 weeks time.¹⁷

Discipline

S.M. Blake² reminded us of our obligations. Discipline must be slightly stricter especially on the bigger boys.

P.L.'s Flags

P.L.'s are to have a staff with the Patrol Flag¹⁸ attached.

More tests¹⁹

More tests must be passed

Camp Fire²⁰

This must be held every two weeks and that patrols keep together²¹, also it was decided that a patrol should lead the singing.

Football

It was made an "Act of the Court of Honour" that football should be suspended until further notice.²²

T. Jones (P.L.)
John R. Blake SM²³

Editorial Comments for 11th October 1957

1. There are no entries in the Court of Honour Minutes between the 8th March and the 11th October 1957. Despite the passing of 6 months, and the start of a new Scout session the Patrol Leaders have remained the same – a consequence of them being promoted at a relatively young age. The Leader team had also remained unchanged. Alistair Shearer was not present at this meeting but was still with the troop as a Junior A.S.M.

2. See note 3 for the 1st October 1954 regarding Scout Master Ian Blake

3. See note 12 for the 6th November 1953 regarding A.S.M. Bob Miller.

4. See note 7 for 6th September 1953 regarding A.S.M. Ian McFarlane.

5. See note 28 for the 21st May 1954 regarding J.A.S.M. Jim Harvey

6. See note 14 for the 11th November 1955 regarding P.L. John Nisbet.

7. See note 17 for the 13th January 1956 regarding P.L. Kenneth Conway.

8. See note 16 for the 19th October 1956 regarding P.L. Brian Elliot.

9. See note 13 for the 13th January 1956 regarding P.L. Kenneth Johnson.
10. See note 12 for the 9th September 1955 regarding P.L., Hamish Rankin.
11. See note 13 for the 18th November 1955 regarding P.L. Trevor Jones
12. Troop Leader
13. See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding Junior A.S.M. Alexander (Sandy) Whiteford.
14. It took 2-3 weeks for a new Troop Leader to be appointed (see the COH minutes for 1st November 1957)..
15. The total funds of £44 (£38+£6) represent the equivalent £1357 today (2023).
16. £3 12/6 in 1957 had the same value as about £112 today (2023). The dance referred to might have been the joint dance held between the Scouts and the Fiinart Church Bible Class, held on the 1st March 1957.
17. See the COH Minutes for 25th October 1957.
18. The Patrol Flag was a small white-coloured cloth triangle containing the symbol of the Patrol animal or bird in red. It contained a long pocket that allowed it to be placed on top of a Scout staff. Older or cheaper versions lacked the pocket but had 4 cloth 'ties' that allowed you to tie the flag to the staff.



19. At the majority of Troop meetings, there was a session on Patrol Corners, where training and testing were carried out towards the various tests involved in gaining the Tenderfoot, 2nd Class and 1st Class badges.
20. This referred to the indoor campfires held within the Finnart Church Hall around an artificial campfire. Everyone sat on the floor, rather than on chairs.
21. The idea of staying in patrols was not only to maintain Patrol identity, but also to help in maintaining discipline. Otherwise, groups of like-minded individuals could make a nuisance of themselves.
22. Playing football within the Church Hall was always an issue as it could lead to a broken window or damage to the overhead gas heaters.
23. Trevor Jones wrote up the minutes for the Court of Honour. Scout Master John R. Blake checked the entries.

25th of October 1957

Finnart Church,
Madeira Street

Those present:- S.M. Blake¹
A.S.M. Miller²
A.S.M. McFarlane³
Junior A.S.M. Harvey⁴
Junior A.S.M. Shearer⁵
P.L. Johnstone⁶
P.L. Rankin⁷
P.L. Elliot⁸
P.L. Conway⁹
P.L. Jones¹⁰

Absentees

Junior ASM Whiteford¹¹ has broken a bone at Rugby and cannot attend. P.L. Nisbet has going to see a Shakespearean play in Glasgow¹².

TL¹³

Deadlock for the second week.¹⁴

Money

It was decided to leave this until after the Gang Show¹⁵ which is to be held from the 17th to the 21st Dec. A suggestion for a Spring Jumble Sale will be considered.

Duties of T.L.¹

Mr. Blake outlined them carefully.

Patrol Cash

The old rule about cash was reinstated and Patrols may not own more than 12/6 unless saving for equipment. P.L. Rankin⁷ asked what he could do with the money and was told to buy a saw or, like P.L. Jones¹⁰ of the Kingfishers, to buy books and especially maps as the O.S.¹⁶ has been revised.

Discipline

Discipline to be strict and no nonsense tolerated, but it was pointed out that boys like to carry on and that an iron discipline was not necessary.

S.M. Blake told us that certain boys must be watched and, if the worst came to the worst, they would go out the door quick. Mr. Blake¹ has his eye on Kirk¹⁷ and Tibbles¹⁸ in particular as they are the ring-leaders.

Tests

Not enough tests are being passed.¹⁹

T. Jones
John R. Blake SM²⁰

Editorial Comments for 25th October 1957

- 1. See note 3 for the 1st October 1954 regarding Scout Master Ian Blake*
- 2. See note 12 for the 6th November 1953 regarding A.S.M. Bob Miller.*
- 3. See note 7 for 6th September 1953 regarding A.S.M. Ian McFarlane.*
- 4. See note 28 for the 21st May 1954 regarding J.A.S.M. Jim Harvey*
- 5. See note 25 for the 21st May 1954 regarding J.A.S.M. Alistair Shearer.*
- 6. See note 13 for the 13th January 1956 regarding P.L. Kenneth Johnson.*
- 7. See note 12 for the 9th September 1955 regarding P.L., Hamish Rankin.*
- 8. See note 16 for the 19th October 1956 regarding P.L. Brian Elliot.*
- 9. See note 17 for the 13th January 1956 regarding P.L. Kenneth Conway.*
- 10. See note 13 for the 18th November 1955 regarding P.L. Trevor Jones*
- 11. See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding Junior A.S.M. Alexander (Sandy) Whiteford.*

12. See note 14 for the 11th November 1955 regarding P.L. John Nisbet. Presumably, this had been organized by the school (Greenock Academy).
13. Appointment of a new Troop Leader.
14. See COH entry for the 11th October 1957
15. Presumably this was the Greenock District Gang Show.
16. The seventh edition of the Ordnance Survey 1" to a mile maps was significantly different in style from the sixth edition. The various seventh-series maps were first released over a prolonged period between 1945 and 1957. For example, Sheet 59 covering the Firth of Clyde was first released in 1953, whereas Sheet 59 was first released in 1954. A comparison of various editions can be made online by accessing the National Library of Scotland (<https://maps.nls.uk/os/>).
17. See note 12 for the 7th October 1955 regarding Second Ian Kirk.
18. Colin Tibbles was recruited into the 70th Troop by Ronald Gray in October 1954. He joined the Seal Patrol and it is likely that he gained his 2nd Class Badge. Unfortunately, a lack of records covering 1955-57 means that it has not been possible to identify when he left the troop or what he achieved during the time he was with the troop.
19. See note 19 for the 11th October 1957.
20. Trevor Jones wrote up the minutes for the Court of Honour. Scout Master John R. Blake checked the entries.

1st of November 1957

**Finnart Church,
Madeira Street**

Those present:- S.M. Blake¹
A.S.M. Miller²
A.S.M. McFarlane³
Junior A.S.M. Whiteford⁴
Junior A.S.M. Harvey⁵
Junior A.S.M. Shearer⁶
P.L. Nisbet⁷
P.L. Conway⁸
P.L. Johnstone⁹
P.L. Rankin¹⁰
P.L. Elliot¹¹
P.L. Jones¹²

TL¹³

H. Rankin¹⁰, J. Nisbet⁷ and K. Conway⁸. A deadlock followed. Scouters brought into the elections. Result was

J. Nisbet⁷ received 5 votes
H. Rankin¹⁰ received 2 votes
K. Conway⁸ received 1 vote

P.L. Jones¹² abstained from voting.¹⁴

Dance¹⁵

A suggestion for a dance with the Bible Class was put forward, at the “back o’ Christmas” as S.M. Blake¹ put it.

General

A.S.M. Bob Miller² admitted that his brother Ian¹⁶ is a “little horror”.

A.S.M. McFarlane³ suggested that P.L. Jones¹² should “shut up” or stop breathing; otherwise, he hinted that P.L. Jones might get the “boot”. This suggestion was unanimously accepted by all except P.L. Jones.

T. Jones (P.L.)
John R. Blake SM¹⁷

Editorial Comments for 1st November 1957

- 1. See note 3 for the 1st October 1954 regarding Scout Master Ian Blake*
- 2. See note 12 for the 6th November 1953 regarding A.S.M. Bob Miller.*
- 3. See note 7 for 6th September 1953 regarding A.S.M. Ian McFarlane.*
- 4. See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding Junior A.S.M. Alexander (Sandy) Whiteford.*
- 5. See note 28 for the 21st May 1954 regarding J.A.S.M. Jim Harvey*
- 6. See note 25 for the 21st May 1954 regarding J.A.S.M. Alistair Shearer.*
- 7. See note 14 for the 11th November 1955 regarding P.L. John Nisbet.*
- 8. See note 17 for the 13th January 1956 regarding P.L. Kenneth Conway.*
- 9. See note 13 for the 13th January 1956 regarding P.L. Kenneth Johnson.*
- 10. See note 12 for the 9th September 1955 regarding P.L., Hamish Rankin.*
- 11. See note 16 for the 19th October 1956 regarding P.L. Brian Elliot.*
- 12. See note 13 for the 18th November 1955 regarding P.L. Trevor Jones*
- 13. Appointment of a new Troop Leader. The names put forward for election were Hamish Rankin, John Nisbet and Kenneth Conway.*
- 14. The number of votes cast suggest that the three warranted Scouters voted, but not the Junior A.S.Ms.*

15. A dance with the Bible Class members had taken place on the 1st March 1957. According to the Troop log for 1957, this had been the first dance for about 2 years (presumably the Guide dance on the 16th December 1955). Although a joint Scout/Guide dance had become something of an annual fixture, there was no Scout/Guide dance held during either 1956 or 1957. The next dance that was recorded in the available records was a 'Scout Dance' on 31st January 1958. However, it is not known whether this was with the Bible Class or the Guides.

16. Ian Miller was Bob Miller's younger brother. Very little is known about him or what he did when he was in the troop, largely due to the lack of records covering 1955-57. It is believed that he joined the Troop at some point during that period. He gained his 2nd Class Badge in November 1957 and was present at the Pitlochry Summer Camp of 1957. However, it is not known when he left the troop.

17. Trevor Jones wrote up the minutes for the Court of Honour. Scout Master John R. Blake checked the entries.

28th of February 1958

**Finnart Church,
Madeira Street**

Those present at tonight's meeting were:-

S.M. Blake ¹	T.L. Nisbet ⁵
A.S.M. Miller ²	P.L's Conway ⁶ , Elliot ⁷ , Rankin ⁸ , Johnstone ⁹
A.S.M. McFarlane ³	and Jones ¹⁰
A.S.M. Harvey ⁴	

Money-making

Several ways of making money were discussed, chief among them being Jumble Sales and Bring and Buy sales. Nothing definite was decided upon.

Discipline and attendance

The question of discipline was brought up by several of the P.L.s, and the S.M. gave some useful sound advice on how to deal with troublesome boys. The attendance problem was discussed and it was finally decided to let the S.M. deal with offenders.

General

The S.M. remarked that only 1 or 2 of the P.L.s were carrying staffs with patrol flags on them¹¹, or, for that matter, carrying staffs at all, and he told the offending P.L.s to get staffs and flags and use them.

The campfire¹¹ was discussed and it was decided that

- * patrols are to keep together at campfire
- * a patrol to lead singing and, if possible, patrols to make up programme on rotation basis
- * A campfire is to be held every two weeks

Football is banned until further notice of the court because of the continued monotony of the game – nothing but football week after week.¹²

T. Jones P.L.¹³

Editorial Comments for 28th February 1958

1. See note 3 for the 1st October 1954 regarding Scout Master Ian Blake
2. See note 12 for the 6th November 1953 regarding A.S.M. Bob Miller.
3. See note 7 for 6th September 1953 regarding A.S.M. Ian McFarlane
4. See note 28 for the 21st May 1954 regarding A.S.M. Jim Harvey
5. See note 14 for the 11th November 1955 regarding T.L. John Nisbet.
6. See note 17 for the 13th January 1956 regarding P.L. Kenneth Conway.
7. See note 16 for the 19th October 1956 regarding P.L. Brian Elliot.
8. See note 12 for the 9th September 1955 regarding P.L., Hamish Rankin.
9. See note 13 for the 13th January 1956 regarding P.L. Kenneth Johnson.
10. See note 13 for the 18th November 1955 regarding P.L. Trevor Jones
11. See also the COH minutes for the 11th October 1957.
12. Presumably, this relates to the inter-patrol game played at the start of the Friday night meeting.
13. Trevor Jones wrote up the minutes for the Court of Honour.

25th of April 1958

**Finnart Church,
Madeira Street**

Those present were:-

S.M. Blake ¹	T.L. Nisbet ⁷
A.S.M. Miller ²	P.L.'s Conway ⁸ , Rankin ⁹ ,
A.S.M. McFarlane ³	Elliot ¹⁰ , Johnson ¹¹ ,
A.S.M. Harvey ⁴	and Jones ¹²
"Uncertified" A.S.M. ⁵ Whiteford ⁶	

The meeting was called to receive P.L. Ken Con's⁸ nominations for a Shannon Cup team¹³. Since the regulations governing this competition have been slightly altered¹⁴, it was decided to put T.L. Nisbet⁷, P.L. Conway⁸ and P.L. Elliott¹⁰ in the team. Four boys under 14 were selected¹⁵ and, along with J. Blair¹⁶ and one or two others, we made up a team with a reserve which was acceptable to all. The meeting was then closed.

T. Jones P.L.¹⁷

Editorial Comments for 25th April 1958

- 1. See note 3 for the 1st October 1954 regarding Scout Master Ian Blake*
- 2. See note 12 for the 6th November 1953 regarding A.S.M. Bob Miller.*
- 3. See note 7 for 6th September 1953 regarding A.S.M. Ian McFarlane*
- 4. See note 28 for the 21st May 1954 regarding A.S.M. Jim Harvey*
- 5. Presumably Sandy Whiteford was waiting to receive his warrant as an A.S.M.*
- 6. See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding Junior A.S.M. Alexander (Sandy) Whiteford.*
- 7. See note 14 for the 11th November 1955 regarding T.L. John Nisbet.*
- 8. See note 17 for the 13th January 1956 regarding P.L. Kenneth Conway*
- 9. See note 12 for the 9th September 1955 regarding P.L., Hamish Rankin.*
- 10. See note 16 for the 19th October 1956 regarding P.L. Brian Elliot.*
- 11. See note 13 for the 13th January 1956 regarding P.L. Kenneth Johnson.*
- 12. See note 13 for the 18th November 1955 regarding P.L. Trevor Jones*
- 13. The Shannon Cup Competition was the District's Camping Competition and was perceived as the most prestigious of the District competitions. The 70th performed well during the second half of the 1950s, winning the trophy in 1956, and coming second in 1957 and 1959. Unfortunately, it is not known how well the team performed in 1958.*
- 14. It is likely that the modification was a requirement that at least 4 of the Scouts in the Patrol should be aged under 14.*
- 15. Unfortunately, their names have not been identified.*
- 16. See note 15 for the 19th October 1956 regarding Second Jim Blair.*
- 17. Trevor Jones wrote up the minutes for the Court of Honour.*

30th of May 1958

Finnart Church,
Madeira Street

Those present were:-

S.M. Blake ¹	T.L. Nisbet ⁷
A.S.M. Miller ²	P.L's Conway ⁸ , Johnson ⁹ ,
A.S.M. McFarlane ³	Elliot ¹⁰ , Rankin ¹¹ ,
A.S.M. Harvey ⁴	and Jones ¹²
"Uncertified" A.S.M. ⁵ Whiteford ⁶	

Camp At Benderloch¹³

The S.M.¹ reported to the meeting about the Summer Camp and his visit to Benderloch. The site seems to be very good although there are problems about wood and a neighbouring caravan site.¹⁴

Sittings of Court of Honour

It was decided that any business not worth bothering to have a Court of Honour about could be dispensed in an informal manner by the P.L.s and the S.M. This would mean that the Scouters could use the session room, and the scribe would not have to keep notes on the meeting and write up minutes, which is very agreeable to the scribe as he doesn't like writing up Minutes and logbooks and would prefer to be able to take a more active part in the discussion on hand.

T. Jones P.L.¹⁵

Editorial Comments for 30th May 1958

1. See note 3 for the 1st October 1954 regarding Scout Master Ian Blake
2. See note 12 for the 6th November 1953 regarding A.S.M. Bob Miller.
3. See note 7 for 6th September 1953 regarding A.S.M. Ian McFarlane
4. See note 28 for the 21st May 1954 regarding A.S.M. Jim Harvey
5. Presumably Sandy Whiteford was waiting to receive his warrant as an A.S.M.
6. See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding Junior A.S.M. Alexander (Sandy) Whiteford.
7. See note 14 for the 11th November 1955 regarding T.L. John Nisbet.
8. See note 17 for the 13th January 1956 regarding P.L. Kenneth Conway
9. See note 13 for the 13th January 1956 regarding P.L. Kenneth Johnson
10. See note 16 for the 19th October 1956 regarding P.L. Brian Elliot.
11. See note 12 for the 9th September 1955 regarding P.L., Hamish Rankin.
12. See note 13 for the 18th November 1955 regarding P.L. Trevor Jones
13. The Summer Camp at Benderloch was held during 5th - 18th July 1958, and involved 4 Scouters, 17 Scouts and 1 Wolf Cub (Ian Blake's son).
14. The exact location of the camp has still to be determined.
15. Trevor Jones wrote up the minutes for the Court of Honour.

19th September 1958

**Finnart Church,
Madeira Street**

Those present were:-

S.M. Blake ¹	T.L. Nisbet ⁷
A.S.M. Miller ²	P.L.'s ⁸ Conway ⁹ , Johnson ¹⁰ ,
A.S.M. McFarlane ³	Elliot ¹¹ , Rankin ¹² ,
A.S.M. Harvey ⁴	and Jones ¹³
A.S.M. ⁵ Shearer ⁶	

New Second

Bean¹¹ needs a new second and there were 2 nominations.

Ritchie Muir¹⁴ received 5 votes

Sandy Millar¹⁵ received 1 vote

P.L. Jones¹³ abstained until told by S.M. Blake¹ that he must take an active part in the meetings of the Court. The appointment will be announced next Friday.

Attendance

Methods of making boys attend were discussed and it was decided to use the Court's judicial powers¹⁶ again certain boys if and when necessary.

General

P.L. Jones¹³ brought up a point about books disappearing from patrol boxes despite the fact that, in his patrol, all books were stamped with a rubber stamp which marked them with the Kingfisher patrol bird in red indelible ink. It was decided to sort out the gear in patrol boxes and generally make them tidier.

It was proposed that a P.L.s meeting should be held in the kitchen after all competent business has been dispatched and the court closed.

Niz⁷ proposed the abolition of ducking for 2nd and 1st class and especially for Queen's Scouts¹⁷. Nothing was decided but there was a heated argument.¹⁸

Trevor Jones¹⁹

Editorial Comments for 19th September 1958

- 1. See note 3 for the 1st October 1954 regarding Scout Master Ian Blake.*
- 2. See note 12 for the 6th November 1953 regarding A.S.M. Bob Miller.*
- 3. See note 7 for 6th September 1953 regarding A.S.M. Ian McFarlane.*
- 4. See note 28 for the 21st May 1954 regarding A.S.M. Jim Harvey.*
- 5. The title A.S.M. was scored out, suggesting that Alistair Shearer had yet to receive a warrant as an A.S.M.*
- 6. See note 25 for the 21st May 1954 regarding Alistair Shearer.*
- 7. See note 14 for the 11th November 1955 regarding T.L. John Nisbet.*
- 8. For the second year running, a new session began without any change to the Patrol Leaders.*
- 9. See note 17 for the 13th January 1956 regarding P.L. Kenneth Conway*
- 10. See note 13 for the 13th January 1956 regarding P.L. Kenneth Johnson*
- 11. See note 16 for the 19th October 1956 regarding P.L. Brian Elliot.*
- 12. See note 12 for the 9th September 1955 regarding P.L., Hamish Rankin.*
- 13. See note 13 for the 18th November 1955 regarding P.L. Trevor Jones*
- 14. Ritchie Muir was recruited directly into the Troop in March 1957 and had no previous Scouting experience. It is believed that he might have been 14 years old at the time. He was promoted to Second of the Curlew Patrol in September 1958, and attended Easter Camp and Summer Camp of that year. He is perhaps the only Scout to have taken a gramophone to camp. Ritchie left the Troop in April 1959, but might have rejoined briefly as a Senior Scout in 1960.*

15. *It is thought that Sandy Millar might have joined the troop in 1956 at the age of 11 and was placed in the Curlew Patrol. He was considered for promotion to Second in September 1958, but was eventually promoted to Second of the Curlew Patrol in May 1959. In January 1960, Sandy became P.L. of the Curlew Patrol. Sandy was a member of the 70th team that came second in the Shannon Cup Competition of 1959. He was also picked for the Shannon Cup competition of 1960 but had to withdraw due to injury. He resigned in September 1961 at the age of 16.*

16. *The Court of Honour had the power to discipline Scouts who stepped out of line or did not attend. The P.Ls could decide what punishments should be meted out, as long as these were approved by the Scout Master as being fair and appropriate.*

17. *During the 1950s and 1960s, it was customary in the 70th to celebrate any notable achievement by 'ducking' the Scout or Scouter concerned after the meeting was over. This could involve dragging the 'victim' into the kitchen and holding his head under the tap (or various variations thereof). John Nisbet objected to this practice being carried out on Scouts gaining important badges such as the 2nd Class, 1st Class and Queen's Scout Badge. The practice of ducking seemed to fade away once the Troop moved into the new Scout HQ in the late 1960s.*

18. *This suggests that there was strong opposition to John Nisbet's proposal. Certainly, ducking continued throughout the 1960s.*

19. *Trevor Jones wrote up the minutes for the Court of Honour.*

26th of September 1958

**Finnart Church,
Madeira Street**

Those present were:-

S.M. Blake ¹	T.L. Nisbet ⁷
A.S.M. Miller ²	P.L's Conway ⁸ , Johnson ⁹ ,
A.S.M. McFarlane ³	Rankin ¹⁰ , Elliot ¹¹ ,
A.S.M. Harvey ⁴	and Jones ¹²
"Uncertified" A.S.M. ⁵ Whiteford ⁶	

Financial statement

Treasurer come A.S.M. come Q.M. Miller² tonight issued a grand financial statement to the effect that we have £40 - 6 - 6 in the bank and 7 pounds in cash at present in Treasurer Miller's home.¹³

Tentage

Sandy⁶ is to pay for the damage done by his bullet to the Scouters Bell¹⁴. P.L. Jones¹⁵ complained of *the* lack of hiking tents in the troop and *the* lack of outdoor activities in which boys were interested. The "Boss"¹ kindly donated his wee, proofing saturated, non-dew proof, but absolutely watertight, green, not big enough hike tent. It suffices! The patrol that damages it pays for its repair.

Hut

The proposed hut¹⁶ at the back of the church for storing gear was brought up; the space allows for one 12 x 15¹⁷.

Attendance

W. Harkness¹⁸ was mentioned in connection with absenteeism.

Dance

A dance will be held just after the New Year¹⁹ but the organization and running will be left to S.M. and P.Ls and interested seconds (+ Tommy Dow²⁰ who just wouldn't be left out)

T. Jones²¹

Editorial Comments for 26th September 1958

1. See note 3 for the 1st October 1954 regarding Scout Master Ian Blake.
2. See note 12 for the 6th November 1953 regarding A.S.M. Bob Miller.
3. See note 7 for 6th September 1953 regarding A.S.M. Ian McFarlane.
4. See note 28 for the 21st May 1954 regarding A.S.M. Jim Harvey
5. Presumably Sandy Whiteford was waiting to receive his warrant as an A.S.M.
6. See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding Junior A.S.M. Alexander (Sandy) Whiteford.
7. See note 14 for the 11th November 1955 regarding T.L. John Nisbet.
8. See note 17 for the 13th January 1956 regarding P.L. Kenneth Conway
9. See note 13 for the 13th January 1956 regarding P.L. Kenneth Johnson
10. See note 12 for the 9th September 1955 regarding P.L., Hamish Rankin.
11. See note 16 for the 19th October 1956 regarding P.L. Brian Elliot.
12. See note 13 for the 18th November 1955 regarding P.L. Trevor Jones
13. The total sum came to £47 - 6 - 6, which was equivalent in value to £1415 today (2023).
14. The damage occurred at the Benderloch Summer Camp when Sandy was hunting rabbits.

15. Trevor Jones was particularly interested in outdoor activities and participated in Kan-u-take-it activities organized by the District. These activities were specifically designed for outdoor enthusiasts.
16. There are no previous entries in the COH minutes relating to a storage hut. However, a hut was certainly obtained and remained in use throughout the 1960s.
17. Dimensions are in feet.
18. See note 14 for the 13th January 1956 regarding Second William Harkness.
19. The dance took place on the 23rd January 1959 from 7.30 p.m. until 10-12 (see Troop Log). Tickets were 4/- per couple.
20. A lack of records covering 1955-57 makes it impossible to tell when Tommy joined the troop, but there is some circumstantial evidence that Tommy might have joined in 1957 without previous Scouting experience when he would have been aged 13. Tommy completed his 1st Class Badge in April 1959, and was promoted to Second in January 1960 (possibly of the Seal Patrol). In April 1960, he was promoted to P.L. of the Kingfisher Patrol. Tommy was present at most if not all major camps between 1957 and 1960. He was also a member of the 70th team that participated in the Shannon Cup of 1960. He probably left the Troop at the end of August 1960 at the age of 16.
21. Trevor Jones wrote up the minutes for the Court of Honour.

27th of February 1959

Finnart Church,
Madeira Street

Present tonight were:-

S.M. Blake ¹	T.L. Nisbet ⁷
A.S.M. Miller ²	P.L's Conway ⁸ , Johnson ⁹ ,
A.S.M. McFarlane ³	Elliot ¹⁰ , Rankin ¹¹ ,
A.S.M. Harvey ⁴	and Jones ¹²
"Uncertified" A.S.M. ⁵ Whiteford ⁶	

A.S.M. Harvey⁴ will soon be leaving to spend six months in London for IBM.

Dance

After a lapse of a month since the dance was held (23rd Jan), P.L. Jones¹² was finally able to get all the ticket money *and* made a financial statement to the effect that the dance apart from being very entertaining raised £2 /16¹³ for the troop which was quite unexpected as tickets sold at 2/-¹⁴ each and cakes came to just over a £1¹⁵ and lemonade cost ? 16/7¹⁶. P.L. Jones was congratulated and unanimously elected treasurer for the next dance.

Hut

A proposal from the Church to convert the loft into a "den" has been accepted by all.¹⁷

T. Jones¹⁸

Editorial Comments for 27th February 1959

1. See note 3 for the 1st October 1954 regarding Scout Master Ian Blake.
2. See note 12 for the 6th November 1953 regarding A.S.M. Bob Miller.
3. See note 7 for 6th September 1953 regarding A.S.M. Ian McFarlane.
4. See note 28 for the 21st May 1954 regarding A.S.M. Jim Harvey
5. Presumably Sandy Whiteford was waiting to receive his warrant as an A.S.M.
6. See note 6 for 6th November 1953 regarding Junior A.S.M. Alexander (Sandy) Whiteford.
7. See note 14 for the 11th November 1955 regarding T.L. John Nisbet.
8. See note 17 for the 13th January 1956 regarding P.L. Kenneth Conway
9. See note 13 for the 13th January 1956 regarding P.L. Kenneth Johnson
10. See note 16 for the 19th October 1956 regarding P.L. Brian Elliot.
11. See note 12 for the 9th September 1955 regarding P.L., Hamish Rankin.
12. See note 13 for the 18th November 1955 regarding P.L. Trevor Jones
13. £2 /16 in 1959 had the equivalent value to £84 today (as of 2023).
14. 2/- in 1959 had the equivalent value to about £8.00 today (as of 2023).
15. £1 in 1959 had the equivalent value to about £30.00 today (as of 2023).
16. 16/7 in 1959 had the equivalent value to about £25.00 today (as of 2023).
17. It's presumed that the loft was within Finnart Church, but it is not whereabouts or whether the project went ahead. There were certainly 'patrol dens' in the Church cellars during the 1960s, but nothing in terms of a loft.
18. Trevor Jones wrote up the minutes for the Court of Honour.

24th of April 1959

**Finnart Church,
Madeira Street**

Those present were:-

S.M. Blake¹
A.S.M. Miller²
A.S.M. McFarlane³

T.L. Nisbet⁴
P.L's Conway⁵, Johnson⁶,
Rankin⁷, and Jones⁸

T.L. Nisbet and P.L.s Conway, Johnson and Jones gained the first half of their Cadet Scouter's⁹ on Monday the (20th).

Bob a Job¹⁰

Tonight was very important. Scout Robert Harvey¹¹ was brought before the Court on two charges, the first relating to attendance and the second relating to Bob-a-Job.

He had lost 6 out of 27 attendances¹²

He had not returned his Bob-a-Job card and had not done any jobs to earn any cash.

*(Three lines deleted)*¹³

Attendance

The S.M.¹ stated that he is going to come down hard on non-attenders.

Second¹⁴

Ritchie Muir¹⁵ has left and Bean Elliot¹⁶ wants a new second. I. Maclean¹⁷ has also left.

General

Bob² started telling funny stories again, so the court was closed and a general session of jokes and stories followed.

A Meeting will be held next Friday to elect a new second.

1st of May 1959

**Finnart Church,
Madeira Street**

Those present were:-

S.M. Blake¹
A.S.M. Miller²
A.S.M. McFarlane³

T.L. Nisbet⁴
P.L's Conway⁵, Johnson⁶,
Elliot⁷, Rankin⁸, and
Jones⁹

New Second

Sandy Miller¹⁰ was promoted within his patrol¹¹ and to make up numbers Neil Frazer¹² was transferred from the Seagulls to the Curlews.

Badges¹³

There was some discussion on the question of points for badges as the Kingfishers had returned 7 forms and would get 70 points. Eventually, it was decided that the present system is all right - 10 points a badge.

Finance

We now have £103 / 1 / 1 in the bank and Bob² holds about 30 shillings¹⁴. After receiving from I. McF³ a bill for badges this was made to read "less 8/9¹⁵ for badges".

Shannon Cup¹⁶

P.L. Jones⁹ asked if we were putting in a team for the Shannon Cup. The answer is yes and he is to forward to next week's meeting his proposed patrol. He is to be P.L.¹⁷

General

Bob² started telling funny stories so the court was closed and we had a session of jokes and funny stories. We eventually left the premises at 10.45 PM. The reading of previous meeting minutes is to be resumed as from next Friday.

To be intimated next Friday at the reading of the minutes

Minutes

P.L. Jones⁹ would wish it known to the Court of Honour of the 70th Renfrewshire Boy Scout Troop but he requires a new Minutes Book for the aforesaid Court of Honour for the aforesaid Scout Troop IMMEDIATELY.¹⁸

Trevor Jones
J. Nisbet. T.L.¹⁹

Editorial Comments for 1st May 1959

1. See note 3 for the 1st October 1954 regarding Scout Master Ian Blake.
2. See note 12 for the 6th November 1953 regarding A.S.M. Bob Miller.
3. See note 7 for 6th September 1953 regarding A.S.M. Ian McFarlane.
4. See note 14 for the 11th November 1955 regarding T.L. John Nisbet.
5. See note 17 for the 13th January 1956 regarding P.L. Kenneth Conway
6. See note 13 for the 13th January 1956 regarding P.L. Kenneth Johnson
7. See note 16 for the 19th October 1956 regarding P.L. Brian Elliot.
8. See note 12 for the 9th September 1955 regarding P.L., Hamish Rankin.
9. See note 13 for the 18th November 1955 regarding P.L. Trevor Jones

10. See note 15 for the 19th September 1958 regarding Second Sandy Millar.
11. The Curlew Patrol led by Brian Elliot.
12. Neil Frazer might conceivably have joined the troop during 1958. He participated in a stunt at the farewell social to Ian Blake in December 1959, and attended a number of activities. He was still with the Troop in June 1961, but it is not known when he left the troop due a lack of records covering 1961-63.
13. This would refer to proficiency badges. A form had to be completed if a Scout wished to be assessed for a Proficiency Badge, and that form was sent to the relevant District Examiner. Presumably, the examiner then returned the form to the Scout to certify whether he had passed or not. The points referred to counted towards the Patrol of the Month Championship. It was unusual for a patrol's members to accumulate as many as 7 Proficiency Badges in a single month and so the 70 points gained possibly ensured that the Kingfishers would win the Championship that month. The other Patrol Leaders were probably not amused!
14. The total in the bank and held by Bob comes to £104/11/1, which, in 1959, had the equivalent value to £3112 today (2023).
15. The writing is indistinct and the sum might be 8/9 or 18/9.
16. See Note 13 for the 25th April 1958 regarding the Shannon Cup Competition. The 70th came second in 1959, but it is not known how well they did in 1960.
17. In other words, Trevor would lead the Patrol during the Competition. However, the Patrol could have more than 1 P.L. included amongst the 8 boys selected..
18. Trevor got his wish and a new book was provided which starts with the minutes of the Court of Honour Meeting held on the 8th May 1959. That Minutes Book covers the period from 8th May 1959 to 11th January 1962 and a transcript is available on the website. A receipt survives to show that a book costing 4/8 was purchased on the 4th May 1959 from James McKelvie and Sons Ltd. This, presumably, was the next minutes book.
19. Trevor Jones wrote up the minutes for the Court of Honour. Troop Leader John Nisbet checked the entries.

