

30th -31st May 1959 Shannon Cup 1959

Source:- Troop Log (1958-1960)

Team

PL *Trevor* Jones (PL)

PL *Kenneth* Conway (Second)

PL *Brian* Elliot

PL *Kenneth* Johnson

Second *Sandy* Miller

Second *Ian* Fraser

Robert Harvey

R. *Alan* Conway

The examiner was a Mr Foot of Port Glasgow who did this last year¹ and the camp was held at Everton.

Flagbreak was at 14.30 and following it was inspection. We pitched our tent, a Nigger, for which we had no pegs² and built kitchen gadgets and erected a shelter. Tea was then cooked after which we had a tracking³ game in which were the following incidents:-

*Half way, a fellow broke his femur and had to be carried the rest of the way on a litter.⁴

*We had to spot two mines⁵ and also to cross an electric wall⁶ without touching it, and note down all the signs seen⁷. We were successful in this.

When we returned to camp we had to split into three parties and do these:-

*Tie a trestle⁸ blindfolded

*Estimate the height of a tree using two methods.⁹

*Demonstrate the uses of a triangular bandage and make the pad used for a broken skull.

We did the following bandages:- broad arm sling, narrow arm sling, St John's sling, head bandage, hand bandage, foot bandage, knee bandage, and broken collarbone bandages, successfully and were even complimented

The estimation was complimented and the trestle torn to pieces.

After this, we had free time to cook dampers¹⁰ and send Mr Foot a sample. He told us it was good. We then had a campfire at which our sketch raised howls of laughter and was said by Mr Foot's assistant to have been the funniest. Cocoa having been drunk, we were sent to bed only to have our dreams shattered and be told to meet at the gate at 12:10 am.

We were given grid references, which we followed, and, perhaps owing to desire to return to beds, we completed the trip (in) an hour, a whole hour quicker than the next best. Unfortunately, I do not know who this was as I was sound asleep. One team did not arrive back till 3:30 am.

The examiners almost seemed to think we had cheated but I feel sure they were convinced as to the verity of it as we met another patrol where we were supposed to.¹¹

After breakfast, we had an hour to tidy up for the 10.30 inspection in which we were, I think, flawless, although our tent pegs were rather noticeable.¹²
We then had a service.¹³

Fortunately, it began to rain and the programme had to be altered. We were informed that we were to have pitched a Niger on the parade ground from the inside, remember we had no mallet, so thank goodness for the rain. The dinner¹⁴ having been cooked and eaten, the tent was taken down and the site owned by the 45th tidied so much that they could hardly have recognized it.¹⁵ Followed site inspection and we assembled on the Parade ground for inspection and presentation of trophy.

The results were:-

32nd A team 306 points

70th team 301 points¹⁶

32nd B team 299 points

The two 5th teams were not placed, nor was the 73rd team
K. Conway PL Seals

Will future 70th teams please note to take a watch, a logbook, torches and tent pegs. Also, teams do not need to consist of 8 men although I personally think that to be an ideal number. The trophy must be won next year.¹⁷

An excellent report on the Shannon Cup. A really good log. John R. Blake SM 70th¹⁸

Editorial notes for Shannon Cup 30th-31st May 1959

1. Mr. Foot was a well respected Scout Master in Port Glasgow. As well as examining the Shannon Cup competitions of 1958 and 1959, he also examined the Shannon Cup of 1960 and may well have examined the competition on other years. As examiner, Mr. Foot was also responsible for setting the programme and various challenges involved.

2. A surprising omission. Presumably, the 70th Scouts had to whittle their own tent pegs. Forgetting the pegs might have resulted in lost marks at inspection. If so, that might have been a crucial factor in determining the final winner of the competition.

3. Tracking (or following a trail) was an integral part of the Scout training scheme and was assessed in the Tenderfoot and 1st Class badges.

4. Presumably a Scouter was waiting half round the trail and informed the patrol that one of their number was to be treated as if he had a broken femur, and was then to be carried on a makeshift stretcher round the rest of the trail.

5. These might have been biscuit tin lids that had been buried and the Scouts had to identify recently disturbed ground

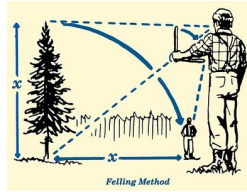
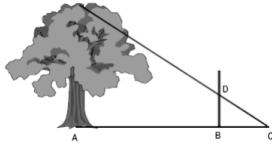
6. The wall was to be treated as if it was electrified

7. It's not clear what these 'signs' referred to.

8. A trestle consists of 6 staves tied together using 8 square lashings and 1 diagonal lashing



9. Estimation was part of the 1st Class Badge and required Scouts to estimate distances and heights. This could be done with the aid of a Scout staff, using the basics of trigonometry and equivalent triangles. An alternative method was stand some distance from the tree such that hold a finger up matched the height of the tree. If the finger was turned horizontal, one could estimate where the top of the tree would end up if it fell over. A Scout could be positioned at that point and then the height could be estimated by pacing the distance from the Scout to the base of the tree.



10. *Twists and Dampers were commonly cooked at camp during the 1950s and 1960s. Both were made by mixing flour and water into a dough. A twist involved winding the dough round the end of a stick and cooking over the fire. The damper was a flattened piece of dough cooked on a flat stone. Alternatively, a 'blob' of dough could be put on the end of a stick and cooked.*
11. *It's not clear whether this was part of the challenge, or whether it was a chance meeting.*
12. *See note 2.*
13. *This would have been a Scout's Own involving everyone in camp. It is likely that each team leader had a part to play in the service.*
14. *It was generally accepted at the time that dinner was the equivalent of lunch.*
15. *Normally, each troop had its own specified campsite at Everton, but the patrols competing for the Shannon Cup were allocated their sites on a lottery system.*
16. *Only 5 points separated 1st and 2nd and one has to wonder whether the 70th would have won if they had remembered to bring their tent pegs. Nevertheless, this was an excellent result.*
17. *Additional comment by Ken Conway*
18. *Additional comment by Ian Blake*