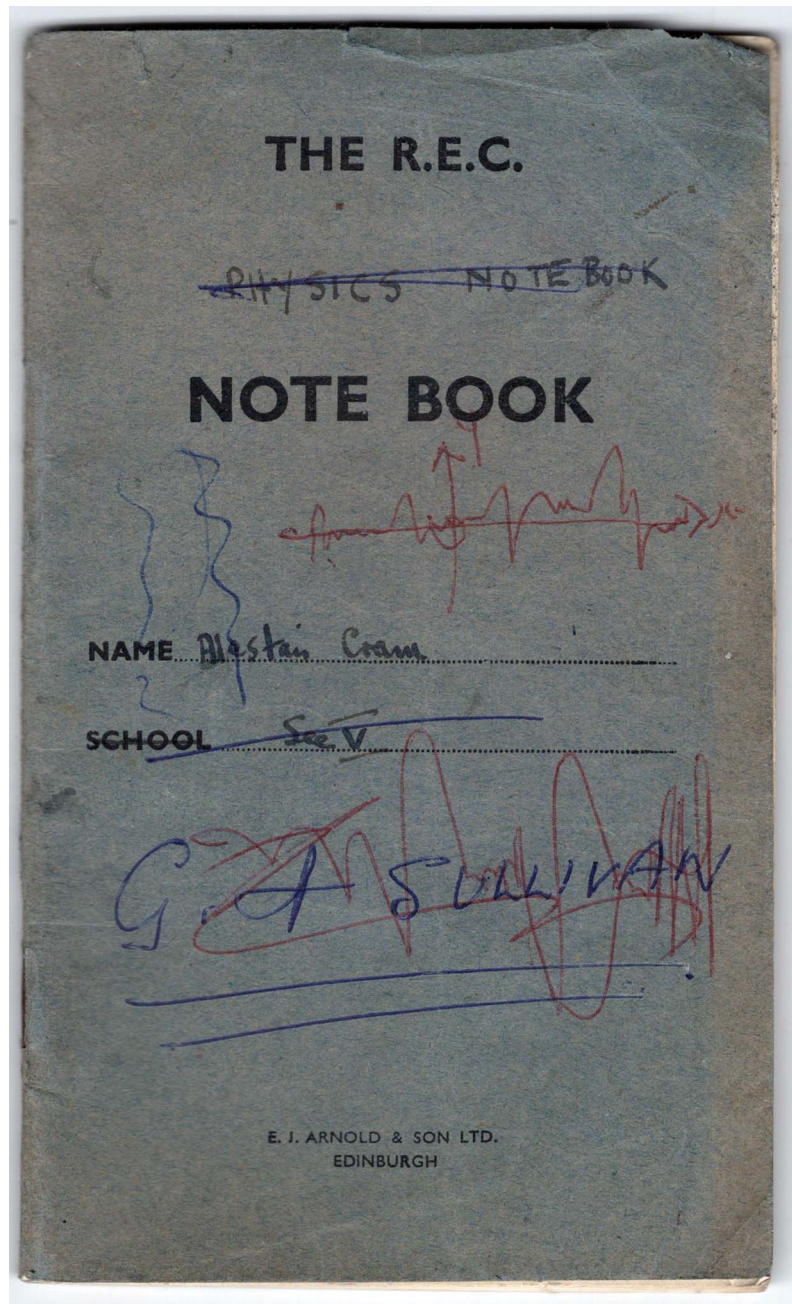


Alistair Cram's Notebook



Editorial Introduction

The following transcript is of a personal diary or notebook that was kept by Alastair B. Cram (ABC) on Scout activities, covering the period January to April 1966. This is of particular value as it covers a period from February to April 1966. The Troop log covering the period February 1966 to August 1968 is no longer in the Troop's possession, and the only other information for this period comes from the Kingfisher Patrol Log covering 1964-1967. However, the Kingfisher Patrol Log does not cover all the meetings and Scouting activities identified in ABC's notebook. The contents of the notebook provide detailed programmes of Troop meetings during the first few months of 1966 and also identify when Alastair Cram took over the role of Scout Master from Bob Millar (RKM). A brief mention of Easter Camp 1966 is made as well as the fund-raising fete organised by the Parents Committee to raise funds towards a new Scout HQ.

The notebook used by ABC was an old school notebook that Alastair used for Physics in Secondary V at Greenock Academy. There are several pages at the start of the notebook which have been removed, and these presumably contained the Physics notes that Alastair originally wrote in the notebook.

The vast majority of the transcript is a word for word copy of what is in the notebook. However, there are occasional words that are hard to decipher. Such words are in italics, as are words where spelling corrections have been made, or words that have been added to help in the understanding of the notes.

Red-coloured numbers in superscript have also been added to the original text and indicated Editorial comments provided at the end of each entry. These comments provide additional information regarding the content.

Abbreviations

A large number of abbreviations are provided in the text. The following identify the most commonly used of these.

General Abbreviation

B.B.: British Bulldog.

C.F.: Crab Football

C.O.H.: Court of Honour*.

C.P.L.: Campfire Patrol Leader*.

D.P.: Duty Patrol*.

F.A. First Aid.

G.S.M.: Group Scout Master.*

P.C.: Patrol Corners*.

P.L.: Patrol Leader*.

R.S.L.: Rover Scout Leader.*

Sg.: Seagull Patrol.

S.M.: Scout Master*.

T.L.: Troop Leader*

Personal Abbreviations (Initials and nicknames)²

A.A. Alex Aitkenhead.

A.B.C. Alistair B. Cram.

A.R.: Albert Runcie

B². Billy Gunn.

I.F.: Ian R. Fraser.

I.R.F.: Ian R. Fraser

Oz: Albert Runcie.

R.C.: Robin Crawford.

R.McC: T.L.Robert McCallum.

R.K.M.: Robert K. Miller.

Note: Terms marked with an asterisk (*) are described in Appendix 1.

Scouting Biographies

Short summaries of the individuals mentioned in the diary are provided in Appendix 2 at the end of this transcript.

Scout Games

Descriptions of the various games are identified in appendix 3.

Friday, 28th January 1966

D.P. Seal.

Scouts - 9 (Flu epidemic)¹.

Scouters - 4² + T.L.³

7.30 Flagbreak, Inspection.⁴

7.35 Due to small numbers, Crab Football⁵ was played for 20 minutes (4-5) men.

8.00 Scouts divided into groups for various activities - mapping, lashings⁶, badge work etc.

8.30 Followed a series of exp^t games:-

Tunnel Ball.⁵ ✓⁷

Dick Turpin's Ride.⁵ ✓⁷

Dribble Relay.⁵

Staff Relay.⁵

Ships in the Fog⁵ ?⁸

9.25 Announcements and Dismiss.

Comments: A most enjoyable evening!

Editorial notes for 28th January 1966

1. *The flu epidemic of 1966 was pretty dramatic. The editor was in primary 7R of Greenock Academy at the time and remembers that, at one point, only about half a dozen pupils were present.*

2. *There were five Scouters in the Troop at this time;- SM Bob Miller, ASM A.B. Cram, ASM Robin Crawford, ASM Albert Runcie (A.R. or Oz), and ASM Ian Fraser (see also Appendix 2).*

3. *Bobby McCallum was promoted to Troop Leader without Patrol on the 28th January 1966. He took over from Robin Crawford (see also Appendix 2).*

4. *The programme for each troop meeting started with three whistles to summon everyone to form up in patrols around the perimeter of the hall. (The relative position of each Patrol around the hall was determined by the monthly patrol competition, where each patrol earned points from the weekly inspection, interpatrol game, tests and badges passed, stunts and activities, log books, patrol meetings and activities etc.) Each Patrol Leader stood in front of his Patrol holding a Scout Staff with the Patrol Flag. The Patrol behind him stood in a line with the Assistant Patrol Leader at the left and the rest of the Scouts standing in line in order of seniority such that the newest Scout was at the right of the line. The Scout Leader brought the Troop to the Alert, then flagbreak was carried out by the PL of the Duty Patrol. This was usually followed by inspection, during which the Scouters inspected each patrol and points were awarded which went towards the monthly Patrol Competition.*

5. *See Appendix 3 regarding Scout Games.*

6. *Lashings refer to the manner in which wooden spars are tied together using rope to form various structures – an activity known as pioneering. There were various types of lashings which Scouts were expected to know, namely, Square Lashing, Diagonal Lashing, Sheer Lashing (two versions), and Figure of Eight Lashing. An ability to secure lashings counted to both the 2nd Class Badge and the 1st Class Badge.*

7. *The tick might indicate that the game worked well.*

8. *The question mark may suggest an 'open verdict' on whether the game worked or not.*

Friday, 4th February 1966.

D.P. Curlew.

Scouts 27. Scouters 5 + TL.¹

7.30 Flagbreak and inspection.²

7.35 Patrol Game - C. football³

8.05 P.C.s - an unusually large no. of tests were passed.

8.35 British Bulldog.

8.50 Campfire led by P.L. B². Michael and Pick a Bale of Cotton introduced to Scouts.⁴

Campfires are *coming* along.

9.15 Investiture.⁵ I Notman (Sg) invested.

9.25 Announcement⁶, Dismissal, Flagdown.

A very successful evening.⁷

Editorial notes for 4th February 1966

1. See notes 2 and 3 for the 28th January 1966 regarding the Scouters and Troop Leader at this time.

2. See note 4 for the 28th January 1966 regarding flagbreak and inspection.

3. Crab Football (See Appendix 3).

4. It is assumed that this refers to the songs 'Michael Row the Boat Ashore' and 'Pick a Bale of Cotton'.

5. The Investiture ceremony has probably changed very little during the history of the troop. In preparation, 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 not known when exactly the practice was introduced or whether it occurred during the 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.

6. The announcements covered a forthcoming games night, Easter camp, rifle club, pen money, and a plea for troop equipment to be returned (Troop Log).

7. The Kingfisher Patrol Log reports that Alastair Cram took photographs of the Curlew, Falcon and Kingfisher Patrols after the meeting. These may have been included in the troop log covering 1966-68. Unfortunately, this log has gone missing.

Sunday 6th February 1966

Scouters Meeting (34 FF)¹

RKM, ABC, AR, IRF, R.C., RMcC.²

Subjects discussed included

Method of Scoring.

Easter Camp.³

Fete.⁴

“Adventure” 1966.⁵

Attendance.

Editorial notes for 6th February 1966

1. *This indicates the address where the meeting took place, which was Ian Fraser's home at 34 Fancy Farm Road.*

2. *See notes 2 and 3 for the 28th January 1966 regarding the Scouters and Troop Leader at this time.*

3. *Easter Camp took place at Pitlochry during the 8th-13th April 1966 and was a joint camp with the 5th Renfrewshire Scouts. It was reported to be very successful but no written or photographic account of the camp has been discovered.*

4. *The Scout Fete was organized by the Parents Committee as part of the Fund Raising efforts towards the building of a new Scout HQ for the Group. It took place on the 5th March 1966 at the Martyrs and North Church Halls and made a profit of £180 (equivalent to £3255 today as of 2024). The Scouts were involved in running some of the games that took place.*

5. *No information has been found regarding “Adventure” 1966.*

Monday 11th February 1966

D.P. Falcon.

Scouts 32 Scouters 5 + T.L.¹

7.30 Flagbreak, Inspection.²

7.35 Game. (CF).³

8.10 Patrol Corners - Tonight we reverted to the "book" method of applying for testing.⁴

As last week, many tests were passed.

8.40 BB.

8.50 Lem and crisps on sale.

9.00 PL's and Seconds got talk from Skipper⁵ on choosing a campsite⁶. IF showed the wee men how to pack a rucksack⁷.

9.20. Investiture⁸. J. Tait of the Falcons.

9.35 Announcements and Flagdown.

A very successful evening!

Editorial notes for 11th February 1966

1. See notes 2 and 3 for the 28th January 1966 regarding the Scouters and Troop Leader at this time.

2. See note 4 for the 28th January 1966 regarding flagbreak and inspection.

3. C.F. stood for Crab Football.

4. Scouts wrote down the 2nd Class or 1st Class test that they wanted to attempt. Leaders would then use the book to select which Scouts they would test. It meant that several Scouts could be tested at the same time by a single leader if they had applied for the same test.

5. At this point, 'Skipper' was Scout Master Bob Miller (see also Appendix 2).

6. 'Choosing a campsite' was one of the new tests that had been introduced in the new Scout Training System. It counted towards the Advanced Scout Standard. At this point, most if not all of the Scouts who had gained their 2nd Class Badge were still working towards their 1st Class Badge and so it is possible that Bob Miller was bringing everyone up to speed on the requirements.

7. 'Packing a Rucksack' was one of the new tests that had been introduced in the new Scout Training System. It counted towards the Scout Standard. It seems unlikely that any of the Scouts would have transferred over to the new training scheme at this stage, but it's possible that the Scouters thought it worth while covering it.

8. 'See note 5 for the 4th February 1966 regarding Investitures.

Friday 18th February. 1966

D.P. Fox.

Scouts 34. Scouters 5 + T.L.¹ - RKM!²

- 7.35 Flagbreak, Inspection.³
Swimmers Badge to White, Patrick.⁴
- 7.40 Patrol Game - CF.⁵
- 8.10 Patrol Corners - the book system appears to be working⁶ - again large no. of tests.
- 8.40 BB + lem selling.
- 8.50 Stunt. Each patrol had to
- (1) Do an eye splice.⁷
 - (2) Do a West Country whipping.⁸
 - (3) Tie shoelaces Scout style.⁹
 - (4) How old would BP be on 22.¹⁰
 - (5) What is top ten.¹¹
- Seemed to be successful.
- 9.15. Investiture¹² - R. Reid invested.
- 9.25. Announcements. Swimmer presented to G. Morris.⁴
- 9.40 Flagdown.

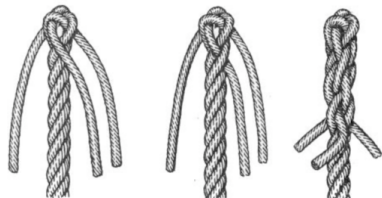
- excellent meeting. - I think!

Editorial notes for 18th February 1966

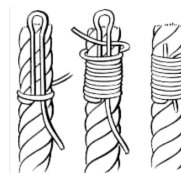
1. See notes 2 and 3 for the 28th January 1966 regarding the Scouters and Troop Leader at this time.
2. This is a bit ambiguous. It could mean that 5 Scouters were present with Bob Miller absent, or it could mean that of the 5 Scouters that would normally be there, Bob Miller was absent.
3. See note 4 for the 28th January 1966 regarding flagbreak and inspection.
4. The Swimmers Badge was a Proficiency Badge. The recipients were David White. Graham Patrick and Gordon Morris (see also Appendix 2). To gain the Swimmer Badge, a Scout had to swim 50 yards with clothes on, then remove clothes while treading water. In addition, the Scout had to swim 30 yards breaststroke, 30 yards on his back with hands clasped, and 30 yards in any other style, making 90 yards in total. It was also necessary to perform a surface dive and recover an object from the bottom of the pool. Finally, the Scout had to perform a neat dive from the side of the pool (Scout Collecting website).
5. See Appendix 3 on Scout Games.
6. See note 4 for the 11th February 1966 regarding the 'book' system for tests.



77. Splicing a rope was one of the tests that had to be passed for the 1st Class Badge under the old Scout Training Scheme. Splicing a rope involved using the three strands of rope at the frayed end of the rope to tie a crown knot. The free strands were then tucked back under the existing strands. It was not an easy skill to master. The eye splice did not require the crown knot. Instead, the rope was turned back on itself and then the free ends were tucked into the existing strands such that an eye was created..



8. A whipping was a test in the Tenderfoot Badge, and involved using thin twine to secure the end of a rope that had frayed. It was no longer tested in the new progressive training scheme introduced after 1966.



9. The Scout style of tying shoe laces involved lacing the shoe differently from normal. A thumb knot was tied to one end of the lace and then the lace was passed through one of the bottom eyeholes until the thumb knot secured that end of the lace. The lace was then threaded through the other eyelets, but in such a way that the last eyelet was one of the middle ones. The end of the lace was then tucked into the shoe beside the foot. As a result, there was no visible knot once the operation was complete. A description of the process was provided in the 1947 version of *Scouting for Boys* under Camp Fire Yarn No. 9 on Camping, subsection Tidiness. Once the shoe had been laced in this fashion, there was no need to tie a knot once the shoe was put on.

10. Possibly, the Scouts were asked to identify Baden Powell's age on the 22nd February. As Baden Powell was born on the 22nd February 1857, he would have turned 109 on that date.

11. This might have referred to *Top of the Pops* which was shown at 7.30pm each Thursday evening on BBC 1 and was watched avidly by teenagers of the time. The programme shown on the 17th February 1966 was introduced by Alan Freeman. The top ten on that date were 1) 'These boots are made for walking' by Nancy Sinatra, 2) 'Nineteenth nervous breakdown' by the Rolling Stones, 3) 'You were on my mind' by Crispian St. Peters, 4) 'Spanish Flea' by Herb Albert and the Tijuana Brass, 5) 'Michelle' by the Overlanders, 6) 'Groovy kind of love', by the Mindbenders, 7) 'Love's just a broken heart' by Cilla Black, 8) 'Keep on Running' by the Spencer Davis Group, 9) 'Tomorrow' by Sandie Shaw and 10) 'Mirror Mirror' by Pinkerton's Assorted Colours.

12. 'See note 5 for the 4th February 1966 regarding Investitures.

Sunday 20th February. 1966

Afternoon.

Expedition to Everton.¹

Scouts Lyle, Flockhart, Robertson, White, Martin, Malcolm.²

Scouters. ABC, OZ, RC.

Due to dreaded slushy weather, bad turnout.

Programme. Snow (R') type football, tracking³, tree identification⁴ + hot soup!

Note. To obtain Everton Hut, see Bertie⁵ ~ one week in advance.

Evening. Scouters Meeting.

5 DR⁶

Present ABC, OZ, IRF, RC, RMcC

Subjects. Easter Camp.⁷

A 7th Patrol.⁸

Summer programme.⁹

Editorial notes for 20th February 1966

- 1. The Everton Scout campsite was developed on the site of an old disused stone quarry on Ardgowan Estate land east of Inverkip. It remains the main campsite for local Scouting covering Greenock and surrounding Districts. In 1970, the campsite had limited resources. There was an old wooden hut built on a small hillock which provided accommodation for the Camp Skipper, and back up accommodation for the Scouts should they have to abandon their tents due to bad weather. Water was available from the stream that flowed past the entrance to the camp and there was a rudimentary toilet block in a corrugated iron shelter.*
- 2. John Lyle, David Flockhart, Peter Robertson, David White, John Martin and Duncan Malcolm (see Appendix 2).*
- 3. Tracking was one of the core skills that was tested under the old Scout training System, and so a snowfall provided good opportunities for a number of tracking activities. However, this was one of the Scouting skills that was dropped when the new training scheme was introduced in 1966.*
- 4. Scouts were expected to identify 6 common trees for their 2nd Class Badge and 12 common trees for their 1st Class Badge. This was usually done during the summer by identifying the different leaves. In winter, it was more challenging.*
- 5. Bertie Morrison was a long-established Greenock Scouter who served as Everton Camp Skipper for many years. He died on the 25th January 1970 and the Greenock Telegraph published an obituary.*
- 6. This suggests that the meeting took place at Bobby McCallum's house in Duthie Road, Gourock. However, Bobby lived at Number 2 Duthie Road, suggesting that an error was made in identifying the number.*
- 7. See note 3 for the 6th February 1966 regarding Easter Camp for 1966.*
- 8. The existing Patrols at the beginning of 1966 were Curlew, Falcon, Fox, Kingfisher, Seagull and Seal. The fact that an additional patrol was being considered demonstrates that the Troop was growing substantially, boosted in particular by sizeable intakes of Wolf Cubs during 1965. A seventh patrol was indeed introduced in September 1966 and was called the Tiger Patrol. This only served to increase the need for the 70th to have a property of their own. However, that did not prove possible until the Spring of 1969. As it was, the Troop had to make do with a Church Hall which had long been considered too small for more than four patrols.*
- 9. A number of non-uniform meetings were held over the Summer months of 1966. Although these were deemed successful, the attendance was not high and there was a question mark over repeating the programme during the summer of 1967 (COH minutes – 2nd October 1966).*

Friday 25th February. 1966

D.P. Kingfisher.

Scouts 33. Scouters 5 + T.L.¹

7.30. Flagbreak, Inspection.²

7.35. Patrol Game (CF).³

8.10 Patrol Corners - using small hall⁴ for three patrols. Seems to be working.⁵

8.40. BB.³

Dodgeball.³

8.55. Lem/crisps on sale.

9.10. Knotting Relay.⁶

Showed lack of knowledge of Bowline on Bight!⁷

9.25 Investiture.⁸

A. Loch.⁹

9.35. Announcements.

Flagdown.

Dismissal.

Readers badge presented to G. Patrick.¹⁰

Editorial notes for 25th February 1966

1. See notes 2 and 3 for the 28th January 1966 regarding the Scouters and Troop Leader at this time.

2. See note 4 for the 28th January 1966 regarding flagbreak and inspection.

3. See Appendix 3 regarding Scout Games.

4. The small hall was downstairs from the main corridor and was carpeted. It was more of a room than a hall, but it was sufficiently large for the Church Youth Group to play table tennis in it.

5. Splitting the patrols between the main hall and the small hall probably reduced distractions and the volume of noise, thus allowing more focus on 'work'. This involved learning Scouting skills in order to pass tests towards the Tenderfoot, 2nd Class and 1st Class badges.

6. Knotting relays usually involved the patrols lining up in relay formation at the Madeira Street end of the hall. Scouters would be at the other end of the hall and when the whistle blew, the Scout at the front of his patrol would run up to tie whatever knot he needed to do and get it checked by a Scouter. If successful, he then returned to the rear of the patrol and the next Scout would come up. The winning patrol was the one that finished first and sat down on the floor.

7. A Bowline on the Bight was tied like a normal bowline but was tied using a bight (or loop) rather than the end of the rope. As a result, one ended up with two loops instead of one.

8. See note 5 for the 4th February 1966 regarding Investitures.

9. Alistair Loch (see Appendix 2).

10. To gain the Book Reader Proficiency Badge a Scout had to provide the examiner in advance with a list of 12 books that he had read during the last 12 months. The test then involved discussing the books with the examiner and explaining the choice of books read. Questions were also asked on the contents of the books and how one should take care of books



Friday 4th March. 1966

D.P. Seagull.

Scouts 35. Scouters 4.

PLs + Scouters (- ABC) to M & N. Church for fete preparations¹. Rest of troop under ASM

A. Cram:-

7.35 Flagbreak, Inspection.²

7.50 Patrol Game (CF).³

8.20. Patrol Corners.

8.40. BB.³

Relays- Bowline across river.³

Backward hopping.³

Wheelbarrow.³

Dodgeball.³

9.10 Lem crisps.

9.20 Investiture.⁴

J. Kirk and S. Anderson.⁵

9.30. Flagdown and Dismissal.

Rather hectic evening!

Editorial notes for 4th March 1966

1. See note 4 for the 6th February 1966 regarding the Scout Fete at Martyrs and North Church Halls.

2. See note 4 for the 28th January 1966 regarding flagbreak and inspection.

3. See Appendix 3 regarding Scout Games.

4. See note 5 for the 4th February 1966 regarding Investitures.

5. John Kirk and Stanley Anderson (see appendix 2).

Saturday 5th March. 1966

Fete at Martyrs and North Church.¹

Income ~ £203.

Expenditure ~ £30.

Profit ~ £170.²

- Games³
- P² balls in jars.⁴
 - Darts at card.⁵
 - Move a penny.⁶
 - Golf ball in buckets.⁷
 - Washer along wire in electric circuit.⁸
 - Cover a florin in bucket of water.⁹
 - Bran tub.¹⁰

Editorial notes for 5th March 1966

1. See note 4 for the 6th February 1966 regarding the Scout Fete at Martyrs and North Church Halls.

2. The minutes of the Parents Committee Meeting held on the 30th March 1966 stated that the profit was closer to £180, which would be equivalent to about £3446 today (as of 2024).

3. Fetes were fairly common during the 1960 and were often used by churches to raise money. At this fete, the parents set up a baking/confections stall, a soft goods stall, a White Elephant stall, a groceries stall, and a bottle stall. There was also a tea room. The Scouts were responsible for running several games which also raised money. There was an entry fee to the fete of 6^d (sixpence), which would be equivalent in value to about 50p today. Visitors would also spend money at the various stalls and games on offer. In truth, the amount of money raised from the games was much less than that raised from the stalls manned by parents, but the games were an added attraction, especially for parents with children.

4. 'Ping Pong balls in jars' involved trying to bounce ping-pong balls into glass jars. It's not known what sort of prizes were available or how many ping balls had to be bounced into the jars to get a prize. Different sizes of glass jars may have been used with the bigger prizes awarded for successfully bouncing the ball into the smaller jars.

5. 'Darts at Card' involved a playing card being placed on a board. Players then had to throw a dart at the card in an attempt to hit a diamond, club, spade or heart depending on the target card. Details of how much a player had to pay for each attempt are known. Similarly, It is not known what prizes could be won. Another version of the game involves several cards being placed on the board and the thrower only having to hit the card to win a prize. The board would be further away though.

6. 'Move a Penny' probably involved rolling an old penny down a ramp with a coin sized groove cut into it, such that the penny landed on a playing area containing several small squares. Each square would have a number or colour representing a certain reward. The reward would be gained if the penny finally came to rest within a specific square without touching any of the lines making up the square. The reward would then correspond to the number of the square. Old pennies would have been used for this game in 1966 as decimalisation did not take place until 1971.

7. A bit like the ping pong game (note 4) but this time trying to throw or bounce golf balls into buckets.

8. Players were challenged to move a washer along the length of a twisted wire without touching the wire. If the washer touched the wire then a circuit was activated that caused a buzzer to go off. It was possible to achieve this challenge but it needed a very steady hand and quite a bit of practice. The



washer was attached to a wooden handle and the manner in which you held the handle was crucial to whether you succeeded or not as you had to move your wrist this way and that to negotiate the various bends. It is not known whether the apparatus used at the fete was purchased or made by one of the parents, but it is likely that it remained in the Troop's possession for many years after. The editor certainly remembers it being present in the new Scout HQ. The picture shown here shows an apparatus that is similar to the one that was used at the fete.

9. A florin was a silver coin worth 2/- (2 shillings) and had the equivalent value to about £2 today (as of 2024). The game involved placing the florin in a bucket of water and players dropped another coin (e.g. an old penny) into the bucket in an attempt to land it on top of the florin such that the florin was fully covered. If they succeeded they won the florin. If they failed, they lost the coins that they used in their various attempts.

10. The 'bran tub' was a large barrel containing sawdust, shavings or straw. Various prizes were wrapped up and hidden inside. Each player paid a certain sum then searched within the tub to find a parcel. It was pot luck whether the prize was worth more or less than the sum paid to obtain it. Obviously, the odds would be weighted to ensure that a profit was made.

Sunday 6th March.
Scouters Meeting.

18 Johnston St.¹

RKM, ABC, IRF, RC, RMcC.²

Summer Camp,³ Easter Camp,⁴ fund raising, new Cubs⁵ etc.

Editorial notes for 6th March 1966

1. *This was the address of Bob Miller's home.*
2. *Robert K. Miller, Alistair B. Cram, Ian R. Fraser, Robin Crawford and Troop Leader Bobby McCallum.*
3. *Summer Camp in 1966 was held at Achnacarnan, West Loch Tarbert for the second year running. It was organized and run by Bob Miller, and this was his last Summer Camp with the Troop.*
4. *See note 3 for the 6th February 1966 regarding Easter Camp for 1966.*
5. *The new Cubs were those about to move up from the pack to join the Troop. These would have included John McCallum, Peter Bennett, David Gibb, Andrew Lyon, and Ian Lyall, all of whom joined on the 3rd June 1966.*

Friday 11th March, 1966

D.P. Seal.

Scouts 36. Scouters 4.

- 7.30. Flagbreak, Inspection¹
- 7.35. Patrol Game (CF)².
- 8.05. Patrol Corners.
- 8.35. BB.²
- 8.40. Lem and Crisps.
- 8.50. Stunt. Musical instrument with *straws*³.
- 9.00. PLs meeting⁴.
Port and Starboard.²
- 9.10. Campfire. CPL - B².
- 9.25 Announcements.
Flagdown.
Dismissal.

Editorial notes for 11th March 1966

1. See note 4 for the 28th January 1966 regarding flagbreak and inspection.
2. See Appendix 3 regarding Scout Games.
3. Each Patrol was given 10 straws with which to make a whistle. The Seagull Patrol was the only Patrol to have much success (Kingfisher Patrol Log).
4. This might have been a Court of Honour. Alternatively, it might have been a meeting to identify a time and place for the COH meeting held on the 13th March 1966.

Sunday 13th March. 1966

COH.

Editorial notes for 13th March 1966

No information was provided regarding this Court of Honour (COH) meeting.

Friday 18th March. 1966

D.P. Curlew.

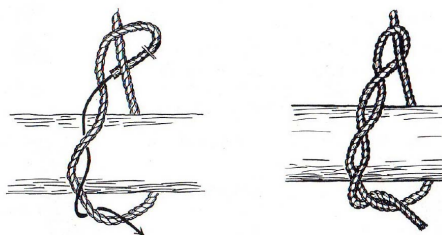
Scouts 33. Scouters 4 + TL - RKM.^{1,2}

- 7.30. Flagbreak, Inspection.³
- 7.35 Patrol Game (CF).⁴
- 8.10. Patrol Corners.
- 8.35. BB.⁴
- 8.55. Lem on sale.
- 9.00- Stunt- A B² variety - treasure hunt, coded clues. Quite good.⁵
- 9.5 Lem & crisps.
- 9.15. Timber hitch relay.⁶
- 9.25. Drill.⁷
- 9.30. Announcements⁸, Flagdown. Dismissal.

Editorial notes for 18th March 1966

1. This is a bit ambiguous. It could mean that 4 Scouters were present with Bob Miller absent, or it could mean that 3 Scouters were actually present as a result of Bob Miller being absent.
2. Robert Morrison joined the Kingfisher patrol for this meeting (Kingfisher Patrol Log). He had been 1st Scout of the Kingfisher Patrol but had to leave the Troop on the 10th September 1965 because he was moving to Keil School. However, he remained registered with the 70th as a lone Scout. Presumably he was back for the Easter holidays. Robert also attended the Troop's summer camps at West Loch Tarbert (1966) and Northern Ireland (1967).
3. See note 4 for the 28th January 1966 regarding flagbreak and inspection.
4. See Appendix 3 regarding Scout Games.
5. Billy Gunn organized the Treasure Hunt and gave each Patrol the first clue which stated where the next clue was to be found. However, the clue was not complete. For example, the second clue was to be found behind the piano and the first clue provided was 'B_H_I_N_P_I_O_'. The game was sabotaged by Ronnie McKnight of the Curlew Patrol. Billy had placed separate tins for each Patrol behind the piano, but Ronnie was first there and took the lot. See Kingfisher Patrol Log.
6. A Timber Hitch was one of the knots that had to be known for the 1st Class Badge. It was used to drag logs and also to start off a diagonal lashing when two spires had to be pulled together.

Timber Hitch



7. Drill was rarely practiced in the 70th. When it was, it usually meant that a Church Parade was in the offing. On this occasion, it was stated in the Kingfisher Patrol that it only lasted 5 minutes (Kingfisher Patrol Log) and so it probably only involved commands such as 'Alert', 'Left Turn', 'Right Turn', 'About Turn' and 'Stand at Ease'.
8. The announcements included the following (Kingfisher Patrol Log);
*Each Scout was to collect at least 27/- for Bob-a-Job Week.

**Information was given regarding the Drummond Vase Competition on First Aid and a signalling course. However, it is more likely that this was the District Signalling Competition.*

Sunday 20th March. 1966

District Scouters Meeting (Evening).

Easter Camp Meeting (Afternoon).

Editorial notes for 20th March 1966

See note 3 for the 6th February 1966 regarding Easter Camp for 1966.

Tuesday 22nd March. 1966

Drummond Vase Competition.

Last and second last!

Time for rethinking at high speed.

Editorial notes for 22nd March 1966

The Drummond Vase Competition was a District Scout Competition that focused on first aid skills. Considering that the 70th had won the Drummond Vase in 1965, the results in 1966 were a major disappointment. Whatever rethink took place seemed to work as the 70th came 1st and 3rd in 1967.

Friday 25th March. 1966

D.P. Falcon.

Scouts 35.

Scouters 6.¹

7.30. Flagbreak; Inspection.²

7.35. Patrol Game. CF.³

8.10. Patrol Corners.

8.30. BB.³

8.40. Game - Relay. PL out in front; men run out, stand on head, and tie reef knot.

8.50. Lem and Crisp.

9.00. Instruction by Scouters in pioneering⁴ and mapping.

9.20. Investiture⁵. A. Watson.

9.30. Flagdown.

Editorial notes for 25th March 1966

1. It is possible that Troop Leader Bobby McCallum was counted as a Scouter here, suggesting that the full complement of 70th leaders was present i.e. R.K.Miller, A.B.Cram, A.Runcie, I.Fraser, R.Crawford and R.McCallum

2. See note 4 for the 28th January 1966 regarding flagbreak and inspection.

3. See Appendix 3 regarding Scout Games.

4. Pioneering involved building structures from wooden spars and rope or sizar. The spars were tied together using different types of lashings (e.g. square, diagonal, sheer, figure of eight). Pioneering projects could be large (eg. look out towers, flagpoles, camp gates, camp swings, monkey bridges, aerial runways etc) or small (e.g. patrol flagpoles, catapults, bazookas, camp dressers, basin holders, altar fires, patrol gates etc). Pioneering skills involving knots and lashings were tested in the Tenderfoot, 2nd Class and 1st Class Badges.

5. See note 5 for the 4th February 1966 regarding Investitures.

Sat 26th- Sun 27th March. 1966

RKM, ABC, Oz + B², TL, AA.¹

Summer Campsite Expedition.²

Camped night at Dunfallandy³. Possible site near Dunkeld? Or Blair Atholl?

Editorial notes for 26th-27th March 1966

1. Bob Miller, Alastair Cram, Albert Runcie, Billy Gunn, Bobby McCallum and Alex Aitkenhead

2. The aim of the Expedition was to identify a suitable Summer campsite for 1966.

3. Dunfallandy was situated south of Pitlochry on the west side of the River Tummell. It had been used previously for a summer camp in 1957 and for Easter camps in 1961 and 1964. However, it was a relatively small campsite and it is likely that it had already been discounted as a potential site for the 1966 camp when a lot more Scouts might have been expected to attend. Therefore, the campsite was used as a base to explore other campsites in the area. Although campsites near Dunkeld and Blair Atholl were considered, the final decision was to return to West Loch Tarbert. As it was the number of Scouts attending Summer Camp that year was less than expected. The next time that the 70th camped at Dunfallandy was in 1977 when a small Summer Camp was run for Scouts who had not wished to attend the larger Summer Camp held in Denmark that year.

Tuesday 29th March¹. 1966

Presented with Wood Badge² at Exec.³

Friday 1st April. 1966

D.P. Fox.

Scouts, 35.

Scouters 3 + 1 C.S.¹

(RKM at Gilwell).²

- 7.30. Flagbreak, Inspection.³
- 7.35. Patrol game CF.⁴
- 8.16. Singing practice for Sunday youth service.⁵
- 8.25. BB.⁴
- 8.30. Patrol Corners.
- 8.50. Tie up PLs stunt.⁶
- 9.00. Lem and crisps.
- 9.10. Swing the Sandshoe.⁴
- 9.20. Drill⁷ - terrible!⁸
- 9.30. Announcements.
- Flagdown.
- Dismissal.

FA Badge⁹ to White, Martin.¹⁰

Editorial notes for 1st April 1966

1. *It's not known for certain what C.S. stands for. However, it seems likely that it signifies the presence of a Cadet Scouter. Cadet Scouters were Patrol Leaders who were normally in their final year of Scouts and who were potential future Scouters. The District ran a Cadet Scouter's Course each year which included each Cadet Scouter visiting the Pack or Troop Meetings over a 6-week period. There was a stipulation that these visits had to be to a Scout Group other than their own. Therefore, if C.S. does stand for Cadet Scouter, he would have been a Patrol Leader from another Scout Troop in the District*

2. *It is likely that Bob Miller was on a training course in order to become a Group Scout Master and Rover Scout Leader. He took on those roles at the end of the month.*

3. *See note 4 for the 28th January 1966 regarding flagbreak and inspection.*

4. *See Appendix 3 regarding Scout Games.*

5. *Singing practice was not a common part of the programme and it is possible that somebody like Mrs. Bruce was asked to lead the practice. Mrs. Bruce was certainly involved in the preparations for the Scout Show held on 8th March 1968. However, one might have expected ABC to mention her presence in his notes.*

6. *This stunt was previously carried out on the 7th September 1964 (see the Troop Log). Each Patrol Leader was tied up by the Scouts from a different Patrol. The Scouts in each Patrol were then to free their own PL as quickly as possible. Points were gained by the patrol that freed its PL the quickest. Points were also awarded to the patrol who tied up another PL the most effectively.*

7. *Unlike Troops such as the 45th, the 70th did not regularly practice drill at troop meetings. If it was carried out, it was usually because a church parade was in the offing. The PLs were not usually involved as they usually formed the colour party. The rest of the troop formed a long line down the hall with tallest to the left and shortest to the right. Andrew Lyon was the tallest Scout and would be the marker, standing at the north end of the hall. The Scouts would then number off in 1s and 2s. This usually required 2 or 3 gos before it was carried out correctly. Following this, the Scouts would be brought to the alert and the number 2's instructed to take one*

step back and one step to their right. This now resulted in two lines. The next command was for the front tier to carry out a right turn and the rear tier to carry out a left turn. This also was not always achieved at the first attempt, but if done successfully, the front tier were now facing north while the rear tier were facing south. The order to form threes was now given. Andrew Lyon stayed where he was and the second and third Scouts behind him marched into position on his right to form a line of three Scouts. The next three Scouts would form a line of three behind them, and so it would go on until the whole troop now stood in parade formation. Having achieved all this, it is a curious fact that the 70th never actually checked to see whether the Scouts could keep in step once they started marching!

8. Considering how little the Troop practiced drill, this was hardly surprising.

9. The Ambulance or First Aid Badge was one of the compulsory proficiency badges that Scouts needed to earn towards their Queen's Scout Badge. It also took precedence over other proficiency badges when sewn on the uniform.

10. The badge was awarded to David White and John Martin.



Sunday 3rd April. 1966

Morning. Parade to Finnart (youth service¹). Children's address by IRF². Reader - D. White.³

Attendance. Scouts. 28.

Scouters 4.

Afternoon. Expedition to Lunderston⁴ by cars.

Scouts 21. Scouters 2.

Football, fire lighting, trees, axemanship, birds, 'scavenger hunt' and more football! V. successful.

8th - 13th April 1966 Easter Camp at Pitlochry.

Combined camp with 5th.

Editorial notes for 8th-13th April 1966

This is the only recorded time of the Troop having a joint camp with the 5th Renfrewshire. Later comments in the Court of Honour Minutes indicate that the camp was very successful and it was probably held at Dunfallandy – a site that had been used before. Unfortunately, not written or photographic account of the camp has been discovered to date.

Friday 22nd April, 1966

D.P. Curlew.

Scouts 33. Scouters 3 + C.S.¹

7.30. Flagbreak. Inspection.²

7.45. Game. CF.³

8.15. PCs.

8.45. BB.³

8.55. Drill⁴ + PLs meeting.

9.05. Campfire under W. Gunn.

9.25. Flagdown. Dismissal.

At COH during meeting, RKM informed PLs of his intention of becoming RSL and GSM. This was Bob's last Troop meeting as SM.⁵

Marksman badges⁶ presented (except for A. Barron)⁷.

Recruit - A. Christie.⁸

Editorial notes for 22nd April 1966

1. See note 1 for the 1st April 1966 regarding 'C.S.'.

2. See note 4 for the 28th January 1966 regarding flagbreak and inspection.

3. See Appendix 3 regarding Scout Games.

4. See note 7 for the 1st April 1966 regarding drill.

5. Bob Miller would have made his decision several weeks before informing the Patrol Leaders. He officially resigned as SM on the 24th April 1966.

6. The Marksman Proficiency Badge was gained by showing proficiency with an air rifle. The Scout had to produce two targets from the previous two weeks that had been duly witnessed and showed that the minimum score required had been achieved. He also had to show knowledge of the safety rules involved in shooting, the various parts of a rifle and how to maintain and clean a rifle.

7. Several Scouts were attending the local rifle Club during 1966 and it is possible that a specific night had been set aside for them. Unfortunately, the names of the Scouts involved were not recorded. It is assumed that Alistair Barron was one of them, but was not at Scouts on the 22nd April to get his badge.

8. The fact that Alex Christie was recruited signifies that he was not a member of the 70th Wolf Cub Pack. However, his record card shows that he was a Wolf Cub in the 1st Gourock Wolf Cub Pack for two years.



Sunday 24th April. 1966

Founders Day Parade¹ to Gaelic Parish².

Scouters. 3

Scouts. 27

30

Bob handed over as SM and became GSM.³

Absent.⁴

S. Lee

G. Morris

D. Flockhart.

M. Dale.

Papers.

I. Galt.

A. Barron.

R. Beattie.

Coxing.

A. Aitkenhead

✓

P. Robertson.

Papers.

D. Malcolm

✓

G. Paterson.

Papers.

Editorial notes for 24th April 1966

1. *Founders Day Parade was the main District Scout Parade of the year and was always held during April, close to St. George's Day. The Churches attended varied each year with Protestant Groups attending a Protestant Church and Catholic Groups attending a Catholic Church. The Protestant Groups tended to assemble at Ardgowan Square during the 1960s and a large turnout was expected from each Group. There was certainly quite a buzz with so many Scouts milling around and getting ready for the parade. The Parade itself usually involved at least one Band and there were always quite a number of spectators watching its progress.*

2. *This might have been St. Columba's Gaelic Church situated at the corner of Grey Place and Patrick Street. It was built around 1823. The Church amalgamated with the Old West Kirk in 1979. The building still survives and is used as a storeroom by a furniture company.*

3. *This was Bob Millers last day as Scout Master. He handed over to Alastair Cram. It's not known whether there was any presentation made to Bob on his resignation. He certainly deserved one.*

4. *All Scouts were expected to attend the Founders Day Parade unless they had an acceptable excuse. That was the case for Malcolm Dale, Peter Robertson and Gordon Paterson who all had paper rounds. The ticks also suggest that Alex Aitkenhead and Duncan Malcolm had good reasons for being absent. Robert Beattie may have been a member of the Royal West of Scotland Boat Club if he was coxing that day.*

Friday 29th April/1966

This meeting was rather chaotic! Trying to raise a pioneering team.

Sat 30th April - Sun 1st May 1966 Pioneering Compt.

| | |
|-----|-------|
| 1st | 70th. |
| 2nd | 33rd. |

Editorial notes

Unfortunately, it is not known who was in the 70th team to enter the Pioneering competition and no verbal or photographic accounts of the competition have been discovered to date.

The back page of the notebook

~~RKM~~ ✓
ABC ✓
OZ ✓
IRF ✓
~~MJN~~
RC ✓
RMcC.

5+1

Editorial note

On the back cover of the notebook, Alistair Cram jotted down the above list of Scouters, plus the Troop Leader Bobby McCallum (RMcC). Ticks were added against 5 Scouters, but not against the initials MJN (Michael J. Nisbet) Moreover those initials were scored. It is believed that this list was made during January 1966 once it was known that Bobby McCallum was to become Troop Leader (the +1 indicated above). Other records show that Michael Nisbet was still attending Troop meetings as part of the leader team in December 1965. The fact that Michael's initials were present suggest that Michael was still with the Troop at the beginning of January 1966 and that he resigned at some point during that month. Bob Miller's initials are also ruled out, but this was almost certainly done at a later date after Bob resigned as SM..

Appendix 1 Definitions of various terms

Court of Honour (COH).

The Court of Honour (COH) was the name given to the meetings that were held between the Patrol Leaders and their Scoutmaster. These meetings were usually chaired by the Troop Leader while another Patrol Leader recorded the minutes. The Court of Honour covered anything relating to the running of the Troop, including decisions on promotions, reshuffling of Patrols, Troop night programmes, camps, hikes, fund raising, equipment, finance, progress through badges etc. It was also a disciplinary body that could hold miscreant Scouts to account and decide what sanctions should be taken versus Scouts that misbehaved, showed poor attendance or did not pull their weight, especially when it came to Bob-a-Job Week. The COH worked best when the Scoutmaster paid attention to the wishes of his PLs and used persuasion or discussion to influence any decision making, rather than imposing his own will. By the same token, the system worked smoothly if the PLs paid due respect to the wishes and experience of the Scoutmaster and backed down from any decisions which the Scoutmaster thought inappropriate or unworkable. Essentially, the Scoutmaster had the right to veto any decisions taken, but this was only to be used in extremis.

As a result of the radical changes introduced into Scouting in 1966, the 'Court of Honour' was considered an outdated term. Consequently, the name was changed to the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC). However, the function and roles of the PLC were essentially the same as the Court of Honour. Each Troop had a five-year transition period in which to move from the 'old system' to the 'new system'. However, the 70th chose to convert to the new system at the start of the 1967-68 Scout Year.

Campfire Patrol Leader (C.P.L.).

The Campfire Patrol Leader was Billy Gunn (B²). He probably decided what songs and yells would take place during the campfire and would lead the Scouts from the centre of the circle. Anyone leading a campfire had to show enthusiasm and drive in order to inspire the Scouts to sing with gusto. He also had to be respected by the Scouts. Billy certainly had all those attributes.

Duty Patrol (D.P.).

A Duty Patrol was appointed at each Troop Meeting. The Duty Patrol was responsible for preparing the flag for flagbreak before the meeting started. In addition, the chairs in the Church Hall had to be taken out and stacked in the corridor. Once three whistles were blown, the Patrols lined up in formation and the PL of the Duty Patrol marched forward to 'break the flag'. The PL would take one step back and salute the flag, which was the signal for everyone else to salute. The PL would then return to his patrol and announce what the game would be for the inter Patrol Game at that meeting. At the end of the meeting, the Duty Patrol leader was responsible for lowering the flag, then ensuring that his Patrol tidied up the Church Hall and any other rooms that had been used. Finally, all the chairs that had been stacked up in the corridor had to be returned to the hall and laid out as they had been found.g.

Group Scout Master (GSM)

Prior to 1966, the Group Scout Master had overall responsibility for the running of the Scout Group, which included the Wolf Cub Pack, the Boy Scout Troop and the Rover Scout Crew. Following the changes made to Scouting in 1966, the GSM was replaced by the Group Scout Leader (GSL) and the names of the sections were changed to Cub Scout Pack, Scout Troop, and Venture Scout Unit.

Patrol Corners (PC)

Patrol Corners involved each patrol sitting together and working on the various Scouting skills that were required to pass tests for the Tenderfoot, 2nd Class and 1st Class Badges. This was directed by the Patrol Leader and patrol Second. Scouters were on hand to assess individual Scouts on specific tests relating to the 2nd Class and 1st Class Badges. The term Patrol Corners was first coined in the 1930s when the Troop

comprised of four patrols, each of which could meet at a different corner of the Hall. The name stuck, even when there were more patrols than corners.

Patrol Leader (PL)

The Patrol Leader was in charge of a Patrol of Scouts usually numbering 6 in total. However, the numbers in a Patrol could vary from 4-8 depending on circumstances. The maximum age for PLs was 17, but the Patrol Leaders in the 70th were typically aged 15-16 years old, and usually resigned when they reached their 17th birthday. At that point, some of the PLs left the Troop, while others stayed on in the role of Junior ASMs. Ideally, a Scout was expected to gain his 1st Class Badge before being considered for promotion to PL. However, there were periods (such as the mid 1950s) when the average age of the troop was very low and PLs were appointed when they were as young as 13 or 14. In such circumstances, promotion was dependent on the new PL gaining his 1st Class Badge as soon as possible. Patrol Leaders were usually chosen from the available Patrol Seconds. However, there were a handful of Scouts who were promoted to Patrol Leader without being promoted first to Patrol Second.

R.S.L.: Rover Scout Leader.

The Rover Scout Leader was in charge of the Rover 'Crew', which contained Rover Scouts aged between 18 and 25. It was quite common for younger Scouters to also be members of the Rover Scout Crew. Rover Scouts were disbanded as a result of the changes made to Scouting in 1966. A new Section called Venture Scouts was introduced catering for members aged between 16 and 19. Venture Scouts met as a 'Unit' and had its own badges and training scheme. There is a possibility that Bob Miller might have taken on the role of Venture Scout Leader and started up the 70th's Venture Scout Unit after the summer of 1966

S.M.: Scout Master.

The Scout Master was in charge of the Scout Troop, which catered for Scouts aged between 10.5 and 17. The title 'Scout Master' was dropped as a result of the changes to Scouting made in 1966. Instead, the title 'Scout Leader' was used.

T.L.: Troop Leader

The Troop Leader was a Patrol Leader typically aged 16 or 17. Troop Leaders were entitled to wear three white stripes on their shirt pocket instead of two. A Troop Leader had the option of remaining in charge of a Patrol or of being Troop Leader without a Patrol. In the latter case, the Troop Leader would join the Leader team and stand with the Scouters when the Patrols lined up. The Troop Leader was an important link between the PLs and the Scouters as he essentially had a foot in both camps. He also acted as Chairman of the Court of Honour and was generally given the honour of carrying the Union Jack on any formal parades. The Troop Leader during the period covered in this notebook was Bobby McCallum. Billy Gunn took over as Troop Leader during Summer Camp of that year. As a result of the changes in Scouting, the role of 'Troop Leader' was discontinued and replaced with the role of Senior Patrol Leader (SPL). At the same time the maximum age of a Scout was dropped to 16.5. As a result, an SPL did not have the same level of authority as the previous Troop Leaders and did not have the option of joining the leader team. He did, however, act as Chairman of the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) –the successor to the Court of Honour.

Appendix 2 Short Summaries of individuals mentioned in the notebook

Aitkenhead, Alex

Alex Aitkenhead (Mowgli) was probably born in 1951 and lived at 171 Newark Street. He was a 70th Wolf Cub and may have joined the Troop in 1962. He was a member of the Seagull Patrol and was promoted to Second in June 1964, then to PL in September 1965. By the summer of 1967, he was Chairman of the Court of Honour (PLC) – a position normally occupied the Troop Leader. Alex was clearly an active and proficient Scout as he was picked for 70th teams entering various District Competitions covering First Aid, football and camping skills. In particular, he was a member of the 70th Patrol to win the Shannon Cup in 1965. Alex attended the troop's summer camps held in 1964, 1966 and 1967, and left the Troop in August 1967 to join the Venture Scouts. During his spell in the Venture Scouts, he was on the Unit's expedition to the Austrian Alps in 1968 and then helped out the Leader team at Templars Park in 1969. On leaving school, Alex became a road engineer, then emigrated to Australia where he tried his hand at various ventures including a daffodil farm.

Anderson, Stanley

Stanley Anderson was born in December 1954 and lived at 71 Brisbane Street. He was a pupil at Greenock Academy and had been in the 70th Wolf Cubs for three years before moving up to the Troop in October 1965, when he joined the Seagull Patrol. Stanley was promoted to PL of the Seagull patrol at the start of the 1968-69 session and remained as such until October 1970 when he left the Troop. Stanley attended summer camps at Tarbert (1966), Larne (1967), Templars Park (1969) and Denmark (1970).

Barron, Alastair

Alastair Barron lived at 47 Union Street and was probably born in 1953. His father was Dr. Peter Barron. It is not known whether Alastair was a pupil at Greenock Academy or the 70th Wolf Cub Pack but both seem likely. He was first mentioned in the available Troop records as being 4th Scout of the Fox Patrol during the 1963-64 session with Alan Jeyes as his PL. Therefore, he may have joined after the summer of 1963. He was still a member of the Fox Patrol when the Patrol won the Patrol Championship of the Year under Robin Crawford in 1965. Alastair remained with the Fox Patrol with David Flockhart as PL for the 1965-66 session. There is evidence to show that he was promoted to Second of the Seagull Patrol after the summer of 1966 with Alex Aitkenhead as his PL. As far as the training scheme is concerned, it seems highly likely that he gained the 2nd Class Badge. However, it is not known whether he gained the 1st Class Badge. There is no evidence of Alastair attending any Summer Camp and it is likely that he left the Troop at the end of the 1966-67 session. It is not known what he did after leaving school.

Beattie, Robert

Robert Beattie lived at 1 Crown Street and was probably born in 1951. It is not known whether he was a pupil at Greenock Academy or the 70th Wolf Cub Pack. He was first mentioned in the available Troop records as being 3rd Scout of the Kingfisher Patrol during the 1963-64 session. He was promoted to Second in September 1965, but there is no record of him being promoted to PL. As far as the training scheme is concerned, he certainly gained the 2nd Class Badge in September 1965. However, it is not known for sure whether he gained the 1st Class Badge, although he certainly completed the hike for that badge in 1966. Robert attended Troop Summer Camps held in 1964, 1965 and 1966. He went on to join the 70th's Venture Scout Unit, probably after the summer of 1967, and participated in the Unit's expedition to the Austrian Alps in 1968. It is not known what he did after leaving school.

Bennett, Peter

Peter Bennett was born in January 1955 and lived at 22 Lyle Road. Peter was a pupil at Greenock Academy and went through the 70th Wolf Cub Pack before moving up to the troop in June 1966. He joined the Falcon Patrol and remained in the Patrol throughout his time in Scouts. He was promoted APL after the summer of 1968 with Ian Notman as PL, and that remained the case for the next two years. In September or October 1970,

Peter was promoted to PL and led the Patrol until September 1971 when he moved into the Venture Scouts. During his time in the Scouts, Peter gained his Tenderfoot and 2nd Class Badges under the old training scheme, then transferred to the new training scheme. Unfortunately, it is not known whether he gained his ASS and CSA badges under the new scheme. Peter continued Scouting after he left the Venture Unit and has been an Assistant Cub Scout Leader, Group Scout Leader and District Commissioner. He had a break from Scouting for several years when his family were growing up but returned after a break of about 8 years or so. As a result, he is one of the longest serving members of the 70th Group in its history. After leaving school, Peter became a successful Chartered Accountant and has continued to watch over the books of several charitable organisations on a voluntary basis since his retirement. Peter married Ruth Watker who has been in charge of the 70th Pathfinders (later renamed Beavers) since its inception.

Christie, Alex

Alexander Christie (Alex or Alec) was born on the 1st December 1954 and lived at 6 Madeira Street. He was a pupil at Greenock Academy and initially joined the Wolf Cub Pack of the 1st Gourock Group for 2 years. He joined the 70th Troop on the 22nd April 1966, having been introduced by John Kirk, and was placed in the Seal patrol. He gained his Tenderfoot Badge on the 17th June 1966, and his 2nd Class Badge in October 1967 before transferring to the new training scheme. However his record card covering the new training scheme has not survived and it is not known how far he got with his Advanced Scout Standard. It's also not known how many badges he ended up with but it is known that he gained the Swimmer badge in March 1967. He attended two summer camps. His first summer camp was at West Loch Tarbert in 1966 where he won the Cup for Best Camper. He also attended the following summer camp in Northern Ireland in 1967. He had probably reached the rank of 1st Scout before he departed the troop on 12th January 1968. It is likely that his family were moving away from Greenock as he was given a grand send off by the troop at his last troop meeting. This included the gift of a book, a traditional 'ducking' and a 'going over' at British Bulldog..

Cram, Alistair B.

Alistair Cram (Skipper) was born in 1945 and lived at 71 South Street. He was member of the 70th's Wolf Cub Pack during the 1950s, then moved up to the Troop (probably in 1956). In 1959, he was promoted to Second of the Fox Patrol. In April 1960 he became PL of the Seal Patrol, and by the summer he was Troop Leader. Alistair progressed through the entire Scout Training scheme and almost certainly earned his Queen's Scout Badge. During his time as a Scout, he attended summer camps at Pitlochry (1957), Benderloch (1958), Tarbert (1959 and 1960) and Arduaine (1961). Alistair was also picked for a number of 70th teams that entered District Competitions including the Shannon Cup, the Pioneering competition, and the Signalling trophy. The best result gained in these competitions was the winning of the signalling trophy in 1961. He resigned as Troop Leader in September 1961 when he was aged 16 and joined the leader team where he was junior ASM / ASM until 1966. In May or June of that year, He took over from Bob Miller as Scout Leader and was faced with the challenge of adapting the troop to a completely new era of Scouting following the Advance Party Report of 1966 which introduced radical changes to Scouting. Alistair rose to this challenge and successfully introduced the changes without losing the traditions, principles and spirit of pre-1966 Scouting. Over the next 15 years under Alistair's leadership, the 70th became stronger than it had ever been in its history without sacrificing the quality and standards of previous years. If anything, the quality of troop programmes, outdoor activities and Summer Camps increased substantially over those 15 years.

Crawford, Robin

Robin Crawford was born in 1950 and lived at 97 Brisbane Street. He moved up from the 70th Wolf Cubs to the Troop in March 1961 and joined the Fox Patrol. In August 1963, he was promoted to Second of the Fox Patrol, then became Patrol Leader in June 1964. At some point after that, Robin became Troop Leader. During his time in the Scouts, he worked his way through the Scout Training scheme and was awarded his Queen's Scout Badge in October 1965. He was also the PL in charge of the 70th Patrols that won the Drummond Vase and the Shannon Cup in 1965. In September 1965, he resigned as PL and TL and joined the ranks of the Scouters. Robin was very keen on astronomy and this is evident in some of the troop programmes run in 1968. Robin and Alan Riddell also played a crucial role in taking over the 70th Troop when Alastair Cram was on a scholarship

to Calgary University, Canada, during part of 1968 and 1969. In 1970. Robin and Alan were largely in charge of the Troop's Summer Camp to Denmark and did an amazing job of looking after the welfare of the Scouts on a particularly stormy North Sea Crossing back to the UK. Robin was well liked and highly respected by both Scouts and Scouters, and he epitomised the best attributes of Scouting. On leaving school, Robin went to Glasgow University and gained an LL.B, then switched to accountancy and qualified as a Chartered Accountant. He currently lives in Bearsden (as of 2024).

Dale, Malcolm

Malcolm Dale lived at 6 Fort Matilda Terrace and was the older brother of Ewan Dale. His father was Mr. Thomas Dale. Information regarding Malcolm is sparse as his record cards have not survived. Therefore, it is not known when he was born or when he joined the troop. It is known that he gained his 2nd Class Badge in June 1965 and that he was in the Fox Patrol at that point with Robin Crawford as his PL. Indeed, Malcolm was a member of the Fox Patrol that won the Patrol of the Year Competition for the 1964-65 session. He was also a member of the 70th team that won the District's Drummond Vase First Aid Competition in March 1965. The last mention of Malcolm in the available records was in March 1966 and it was stated that Malcolm was once more in one of the 70th's two teams entered for the Drummond Vase Competition. Unfortunately, the 70th came last and second last on that occasion. The Court of Honour minutes show that Malcolm was promoted to Second of the Fox Patrol in September 1966 with Robert Beattie as his PL. However, he clearly resigned from the Troop within the month. It's not known whether he joined the Venture Scout Unit at that point or not. It's also not known what he did on leaving school.

Flockhart, David

David Flockhart was probably born in 1951 and lived at 12 Lylefoot Crescent. David's father (John) was a lecturer at Paisley College of Technology and his mother, Irene (maiden name Zoller), had been an Assistant Cub Mistress before she was married. David's nickname (Bouncer) was derived from his rather 'large' physique, but he took this in good humour and was well liked by Scouts of all ages. It is likely that he joined the Troop in 1962 and was placed in the Fox Patrol. By the start of the 1963/64 session, he was 1st Scout with Alan Jeyes as his PL. He was then promoted to Second in June 1964 with Robin Crawford as PL, then to PL in September 1965. Unfortunately, his record card has not survived and so it is not known how far he got through the Scout Training scheme, although it seems likely that he had gained his 2nd Class badge by the summer of 1963. David attended Summer camps at Tayvallich (1963) and West Loch Tarbert (1964 & 1965), as well as Easter Camp at Pitlochry (1964) and several weekend camps, including Blairmore in 1965. He may well have been at other camps that were not reported in the available Troop records. In terms of competitions, David was a member of the successful 4-man team to win the District First Aid Competition (Drummond Vase) in March 1965. In addition, he was a member of the Fox Patrol to win the Patrol of the Year Competition for the 1964-65 session. David resigned from the Troop on the 1st September 1966 with the intention of joining the Venture Scout Unit when he reached the age of 16. However, it is not known whether he did so or not. It is not known what he did on leaving school, but he may have emigrated to New Zealand when he retired.

Fraser, Ian R.

Ian Fraser lived at 34 Fancy Farm Road and had been a 70th Wolf Cub and Boy Scout during the 1950s and 1960s. He was PL of the Falcon Patrol for almost four years (1960-1964), becoming Troop Leader in 1963. Ian was a very proficient Scout and was a member of the Shannon Cup team that came second in 1959, as well as the 4-man team that won the Signalling Trophy in 1961. He gained his Queen Scouts Badge in 1964 then, joined the ranks of the Scouters in June of that year, initially as a Junior ASM. He qualified as a fully warranted ASM/ASL and remained in post until he resigned at the end of the 1968 Summer Camp. His resignation was precipitated as he was moving to Birmingham (presumably because of work).

Galt, Ian

Ian Galt lived at 39 Cornhaddock Street and was probably born in 1952. It's not known which school he attended or whether he was in the 70th Wolf Cubs. It's also not known when he joined the Troop but it might

have been during the second half of 1964. It is also likely that he was initially placed in the Fox Patrol. He was certainly in that Patrol when the Patrol gained the Patrol Championship of the Year for the 1964-65 session. His record card has not survived and so it is not known how many badges he gained or camps he attended. However, he did attend the 1965 Summer Camp held at West Loch Tarbert. It's not known when he left the troop or whether he got promoted.

Gibb, David

David Gibb was born on the 22nd March 1955 and lived at 179 Finnart Street. He was a pupil at Greenock Academy, then Glasgow High School. David was a 70th Wolf Cub for three years before joining the Troop on the 3rd June 1966. He was then placed in the Seagull Patrol. He passed his Tenderfoot Badge on the 24th June 1966 and made some progress through his 2nd Class Badge. He was present at the 70th Summer Camp held in 1967 in Northern Ireland. However, he left the Troop on the 12th January 1968. This might have coincided with him starting to attend Glasgow High School. It is not known what he did on leaving school.

Gunn, Billy

William Gunn was better known as 'Billy', 'Bang-Bang', or B². There is some evidence to suggest that his birthday was close to the 18th March and that he was born in 1950. His father was Mr. John A. Gunn and the family lived at 138 Finnart Street until 1965, then moved to "Woodside", 68 Reservoir Road, Gourrock. It is assumed that Billy was a pupil at Greenock Academy. He was also a Wolf Cub in the 70th Pack and gained his Leaping Wolf before moving up to the troop at the beginning of October 1961. It is not known which Patrol he first joined but it might have been the Falcon Patrol. At the end of August 1963, Billy was promoted to Patrol Second of the Falcon Patrol with Ian Fraser as his PL. He was then promoted to PL in June 1964 and remained in charge for two years until August 1966 when he was promoted to Troop Leader during Summer Camp. However, he was only Troop Leader for a month as he left the Troop on the 1st September to join the newly formed Venture Scout Unit. Unfortunately, his record card has not survived and although it is known that he gained his 2nd Class Badge, it is not known whether he completed the 1st Class Badge and Queen's Scout Badge. In terms of Summer Camps, he attended those held at Tayvallich (1963) and Tarbert (1964, 1965 and 1966). It is likely that he remained with the 70th Venture Unit until he turned 20. He returned to the Troop as an ASM towards the end of 1970 or the start of 1971. However, it's not known how long he remained. It's also not known what he did on leaving school.

Kirk, John

John Kirk was probably born in 1954 or 1955 and was a pupil at Greenock Academy. It's thought that he might have stayed in Bedford Street. John was a member of the 70th Wolf Cub Pack and moved up to the troop in October 1965 along with 8 other Wolf Cubs, most of whom were classmates at school. He was placed in the Seal Patrol with George Conway as his PL. It is likely that he gained his Tenderfoot Badge, but it seems unlikely that he gained his 2nd Class Badge as he left the troop during the summer of 1966. No other information is known about his time on the Scouts.

Lee, Stewart

Stewart Lee was born on the 28th February 1953 and lived at 1 Lyle Road. His father was John Lee. Stewart was a pupil at Greenock Academy and initially joined the 1st Gourrock Scout Group. He was a Wolf Cub with the 1st Gourrock for 3 years then moved up to the 1st Gourrock Scout Troop at the beginning of October 1964. After six months, however, he transferred to the 70th Scouts on the 9th April 1965, having been introduced by David Shearer. This suggests that the pair of them were friends. Stewart was placed in the Curlew Patrol when he first joined. For some reason, Stewart took a relatively long time to complete his Tenderfoot badge and finally gained it on the 4th June 1965 one he was with the 70th. However, he progressed through his 2nd Class Badge far more swiftly and gained the badge on the 3rd February 1967. He made a start on the 1st Class Badge and complete his 1st Class Hike on the 29th September 1967 but then transferred to the new training scheme. However, it is not known whether he completed his Advanced Scout Standard or not as his record card under the new scheme has not survived. It is also not known how many proficiency badges he gained, other than the

Swimmer, Cyclist and Marksman. Similarly it is not known how many camps he attended, but he certainly attended Summer Camp in Northern Ireland during 1967. In terms of promotions, Stewart was promoted to Patrol Second on 3rd February 1967, then to Patrol Leader of the Tiger Patrol on the 1st September 1967. It is likely that he transferred from the Curlew to the Tiger Patrol as a result of getting promoted, but it is not known whether this followed on from his promotion to Patrol Second or to Patrol Leader. Stewart left the troop in June 1968 and it is not known whether he remained in Scouting after that date.

Loch, Alistair

Alastair Loch was born during 1954 and lived at 27 Newton Street. His father (Mr. G.C. Loch) may have been an accountant. Alastair had an older brother, Douglas, who was also in the Troop. Alastair was a pupil at Greenock Academy and a member of the 70th Wolf Cub pack. He moved up to the Troop on the 8th October 1965 to join the Falcon Patrol. Unfortunately, his record card has not survived and it is not known whether he succeeded in gaining his 2nd Class Badge before leaving the Troop. He was reported as being close to finishing the badge in October 1966, but it is not known when he left the Troop, other than that it was during the 1966-67 session. It seems likely that he left in 1967 rather than 1966 as his brother was still in the Troop in January 1967.

Lyll, Ian

Ian Lyll was born in April 1955 and lived at 49 Octavia Terrace. His father was the medical consultant, Mr. A. Lyll. Ian was a pupil at Greenock Academy and a 70th Wolf Cub for 2 years. He moved up to the troop in June 1966 at the age of 11 and was placed in the Fox patrol. He was promoted to APL of the Patrol after the summer of 1968, then was made PL after the summer of 1970. As far as the training scheme was concerned, he gained his Tenderfoot Badge in June 1966 and his 2nd Class Badge in April 1968. He then switched over to the new training scheme. However, his record card covering that had not survived and it is not known whether he gained the ASS and CSA badges. He certainly gained proficiency badges for photography and stamp collecting, but he may well have gained more; for example the lifesaving Proficiency Badge. Missing records make it difficult to identify what camps and hikes he attended. There is some evidence to suggest that he was at the Summer Camp held at Frylands Wood in 1968, and there is firm evidence of him attending the Summer Camp held at Inverness in 1971. Ian left the troop after the summer of 1971, but it is not known whether he joined the Venture Scouts or not.

Lyle, John

John Lyle was born on the 16th September 1950 and he lived at 73 Brisbane Street, then 35 Fox Street. He was a pupil at Greenock Academy and was a Wolf Cub with the 70th Pack for 4 years. He moved up to the Troop to join the Curlew Patrol. The exact date is not known, although it might have been the 5th October 1961. In June 1964, John was promoted to Second of the Curlew Patrol, and was then promoted to PL of the Kingfisher Patrol in January 1966. As far as the Scout training scheme is concerned, John gained his Tenderfoot Badge in January 1962, then his 2nd Class Badge in March 1965. It is not known whether he passed his 1st Class badge, but he passed the 2-day hike in October 1966 and only had knots and splices to pass in order to gain the badge. It seems likely that he did gain the badge but it is very unlikely that he would have had time to pass the Queen Scout's Badge. As far as camping is concerned, John attended Summer Camps at Tayvallich (1962 and 1963), Tarbert (1964 & 1966) and Northern Ireland (1967). He was also at the Easter camp at Pitlochry in April 1966. On the 6th January 1967, John resigned as PL and took on the role of Junior Scouter (Instructor). He still attended Court of Honour Meetings until 17th August 1967. It is likely that he left the Troop at that point to join the Venture Scout Unit. However, that remains to be confirmed.

Lyon, Andrew

Andrew Lyon (nickname 'Liggy') was born in February 1955 and lived at 45 Newark Street. His father was Dr. Lyon. Andrew was a pupil at Greenock Academy and a member of the 70th Wolf Cub Pack for three years before moving up to the troop on the 3rd June 1966. He was placed in the Kingfisher Patrol when John Lyle was PL. He gained his Tenderfoot Badge within the month. Unfortunately, his record cards are incomplete and so it is

not known when he switched to the new training system or how many badges he gained. Records on camps attended are also missing. However, it is known that he attended the Inverness Summer Camp held in 1971. As far as promotions are concerned, he moved to the Stag Patrol at the end of August 1969 after being promoted to APL. There is also evidence that he was promoted to PL of the Stag Patrol in August 1970. He left the Troop in September 1971, but it is not known whether he joined the Venture Scouts or not. Andrew was remarkably tall for his age and stood head and shoulders above everybody else at any parade. He is clearly visible in the cine film footage covering the opening of the New 70th HQ in April 1969. His nickname may have derived originally from 'Leggy'.

Malcolm, Duncan

Duncan Malcolm (Dunckling) was born in March 1954 and lived at 73 Forsyth Street. Curiously, Duncan was christened at Finnart Church on the same day as Graham Patrick, not that either have much memory of the event. Duncan was unusually small for his age, but had a huge personality. He was a pupil at Greenock Academy, then Glasgow High School. He had also been through the 70th Wolf Cubs before moving up to the troop in May 1965 (at the same time as Graham Patrick and Alan Anderson). He was placed in the Seagull Patrol and attended the Tarbert Summer Camp of 1965 for three days, where he had the unusual honour of being invested into the Troop while in camp. Duncan then spent four nights at the Tarbert camp of 1966, before attending the 1967 camp in Northern Ireland in its entirety. He did not attend the camp at Frylands Wood camp in 1968, but was present at Templars Park in 1969. By that stage he had been promoted to APL of the Seagull Patrol and had gained his 2nd Class badge. Other camps attended by Duncan included a week-long proficiency badge course at Fordell Firs in August 1968 and a water activities weekend at Lochgoilhead in June 1969. From October 1969 to January 1970, Duncan was Troop Scribe and seemed to delight in 'slagging off' one of the ASLs, Alan Urquart (Rusty). Duncan left the troop at the start of February 1970 as he was moving schools to Glasgow High.

Martin John

John Martin was born on the 20th March 1952 and lived at 23 Bentinck Street. His father was Dr. W.I. Martin and the family attended St. Paul's Church. John was a pupil at Greenock Academy and joined the 70th Wolf Cub Pack for 2 years before moving up to the troop in May 1963 to join the Curlew Patrol. John was promoted to Patrol Second in January 1966, then in January 1967, he was promoted to PL of the Kingfisher Patrol. At the beginning of March 1968, John was elected Senior Patrol Leader - the second 70th Scout to be so elected. During his time in the 70th, John made very good progress through the old Scout Training scheme, gaining his Tenderfoot badge in June 1963, his 2nd Class in February 1965 and his 1st Class in April 1967. He also gained several Proficiency Badges and was awarded the Cup for Best Scout during the 1964-65 session. It is almost certain that he would have gained his Queen's Scout Badge under the old training scheme if it had not been for the changes made to Scouting in 1966. As it is, it is not known whether John gained his Chief Scout's Award in the Troop or his Queen's Scout Award in the Venture Scout Unit. In terms of camps, John attended summer camps at Carsaig Bay (1963), Tarbert (1964, 1965 and 1966), Northern Ireland (1967) and Frylands Wood (1968). He also attended at least three Easter camps (1963, 1964 and 1966) and numerous weekend camps. John also had the honour of being one of the Scouts making up the 70th Patrol that won the Shannon Cup in 1965. He left the Troop to join the Venture Scout Unit on the 30th August 1968.

McCallum Robert

Robert (Bobby) McCallum lived at 2 Duthie Road and was the elder son of Daniel Walter McCallum who was a Clyde River Pilot. Bobby's younger brother (John) was also in the Troop. It's not known when Bobby was born or whether he was a pupil at Greenock Academy. It's also not known whether he was in the 70th Wolf Cubs. Similarly, it's not known when he joined the Troop but he must have joined before June 1960 and was probably placed in the Seal Patrol with Alastair Cram as his PL. In January 1961, he was transferred to the Kingfisher Patrol where he was promoted to Patrol Second in June 1962 with Albert Runcie as his PL, followed by Billy Phillips. In June 1964, Bobby was promoted to Patrol Leader of the Kingfisher Patrol and was then appointed as Troop Leader in September 1965. He remained Patrol Leader of the Kingfisher Patrol until January 1966 when he became a 'Troop Leader without Patrol' and joined the Leader team. Bobby's record card has not

survived and it is not possible to identify all the camps that he attended. However, it is known that he was present at the Summer Camps held at Arduaine (1961) and West Loch Tarbert (1964 and 1965). It seems highly likely that he was at the Summer Camps of 1962 and 1963, but no written records of those camps have been found to date. Bobby may also have attended several Easter Camps but the only one that he is known to have attended for certain was at Portavadie in 1962. Bobby was also a keen hiker and completed several hikes with Robin Crawford between 1963 and 1965, including his 1st Class Hike and Venturer Hike. The latter hike counted towards his Venturer Badge. He also completed three other hikes to gain the Hikers Proficiency Badge and Explorers Proficiency Badge. Unfortunately, it is not actually stated in any of the surviving records whether Bobby gained his Queen's Scout Badge or not. However, it seems highly likely that he did. It appears that Bobby resigned as Troop Leader prior to the Summer Camp of 1966, but it is not known whether he went on to join the Venture Scouts or not. He certainly did not join the 70th Leader team and it is not known what he did on leaving school.

McCallum John

John McCallum Mkl was the older of the two John McCallums in the troop and was born on the 1st March 1955. He lived at 2 Duthie Road, Gourrock and was the younger brother of Bobby McCallum who had been a 70th Patrol Leader and Troop Leader during the 1960s. Their father was a Clyde River Pilot. John was a pupil at Greenock Academy and was a 70th Wolf Cub for 3 years before moving up to the Troop on the 3rd June 1966. John was initially placed in the Curlew Patrol and was eventually promoted to APL. At the end of August 1969, he was promoted to become PL of the Kingfisher Patrol, taking over from Alan Crumlish who had taken on the new Stag Patrol. After the summer of 1970, John was the only 'surviving' PL and was duly elected Senior Patrol Leader. During his time in Scouts, John attended Summer camps in Northern Ireland (1967), Frylands Wood (1968), Denmark 1970, and Inverness 1971. He also attended a PLs Training Weekend at Peesweep (28th Feb-1st March, 1970). In terms of the progressive training scheme, he gained his Tenderfoot Badge and 2nd Class Badge under the old training scheme, then transferred to the new system to gain his Advanced Scout Standard in September 1969, and Chief Scouts Award in July 1971. He presumably gained several Proficiency Badges, but it is not known what these were. He left the troop in early September 1971 and joined the Venture Scouts.

Miller, Bob

Bob Miller was born in 1938 and lived at 18 Johnstone Street. His father was a Flesher (Butcher). It is likely that Bob attended Greenock Academy but it is not known whether he was a 70th Wolf Cub. It is likely that he joined the Troop in 1951 and was placed in the Curlew Patrol. In March 1954, he was promoted to PL of the Curlew Patrol. During his time as a Scout, Bob successfully gained his 2nd Class and 1st Class Badges, his Bushman's Thong and his Queen's Scout Badge. In June 1954, he was one of four 70th Scouts to receive his Queen's Scout Badge certificate from the Chief Scout. Bob was an enthusiastic camper and represented the Troop at the Blair Atholl Jamborette in 1954. He was also picked to represent the 70th in District Competitions on First Aid and Signalling. As a result, he was part of the team that won the signalling competition in 1953. In September 1954, he joined the ranks of the Scouters when Ian Blake was Scout Master. When Ian Blake was compelled to move to Trinidad for work in December 1959, Bob took over the role of Scout Master. His first few years were difficult as the Troop experienced a substantial drop in numbers following the departure of Ian Blake and the resignation of many older Scouts. However, he built up the Troop again and it was thriving once more when he resigned as Scout Master in 1966 and took over the roles of Rover Scout Leader and Group Scout Master. Due to the missing Log Book covering 1966 to 1968, it is not known how long Bob Miller remained in these new roles. However, he may have resigned at some point during 1968. Bob revisited the Troop on the 31st October 1969 to judge the fancy dress costumes at the Halloween Party.

Morris, Gordon

Gordon Morris was the son of Dr. J.B. Morris and was born in December 1952. He lived at 91 Octavia Terrace and attended Greenock Academy. He moved up from the Cub pack to the Scouts in May 1964 and joined the

Seagull Patrol. In September 1966, he was promoted to Second. A year later he was promoted to PL (possibly of the Seagull Patrol). Gordon successfully completed the 1st Class Badge and attended the Summer Camps held in 1964, 1966, 1967 and 1968.

Nisbet, Michael J. (MJN)

Michael Nisbet (known variously as Niz, Nizz, Nizzy, Young Nizzy or YN) was born in 1947 and lived at 6 Park Avenue. His father was a teacher. His older brother, John, was also in the Troop as both a Scout and Scouter. It seems likely that Michael was a pupil at Greenock Academy and he was certainly in the 70th Wolf Cub pack. He moved up to the Troop during October 1958 and joined the Fox Patrol before moving to the Curlew Patrol. At some point between May and September 1960, he was promoted to Patrol Second with Sandy Millar as PL. In September 1961, he was promoted to Patrol Leader of the Curlew Patrol and remained as PL for almost 3 years. During that time, he progressed successfully through the Scout Training Scheme and gained his Queen's Scout Badge in November 1963. In terms of camps he attended Summer Camps at Arduaine (1961), Tayvallich (1963) and Tarbert (1964 and 1965). He might also have been the Summer Camps of 1960 and 1962, but records are lacking for those two camps. Michael also attended Easter Camps at Blairmore (1960), Pitlochry (1961) and Portavadie (1962). He may also have attended the Easter Camps of 1963 and 1964 but records are lacking on these camps. Michael also participated in a number of competitions including the Shannon Cup of 1960 and the signalling competition of 1961. It's not known how the 70th did in the Shannon Cup but they won the signalling competition. In June 1964, he resigned to join the ranks of the Scouters as a 'Very Junior ASM'. The last reference to him in the available records was during December 1965 and it is believed to have resigned at some point during January 1966.

Notman, Ian

Ian Notman was born in October 1954 and lived at 98 Eldon Street. Ian was a pupil at Greenock Academy and had been a 70th Wolf Cub before joining the troop in October 1965. His hobbies at the time were swimming and cricket, but he later became more interested in golf. Ian was in the Seagull Patrol until he was promoted to APL in March 1968, at which point he joined the Falcon Patrol. After the 1968 Summer Camp, he took over the Falcon Patrol as PL for the next two years before joining the Venture Scouts in 1970. On leaving school, Ian qualified as a General Practitioner.

Paterson, Gordon

Gordon Paterson was probably born during 1951. He lived at 3 Stoneleigh Road and his older brother (Ian) had also been a 70th Scout. As Ian had earned himself the nickname of 'Kipper', Gordon was duly nicknamed 'Herring'. It is likely that Gordon was a pupil at Greenock Academy and had been through the 70th Wolf Cub Pack, but neither of these facts is known for certain. The date on which he joined the Troop is not known but it was probably during 1962. It is also likely that he was placed in the Fox Patrol as he was certainly in that Patrol at the start of the 1963-64 session with Alan Jeyes as his PL. In June 1964, Gordon was promoted to Second of the Seal Patrol with George Conway as PL. When George resigned on the 1st September 1966, Gordon was chosen to take over the Seal Patrol. Gordon's record card has not survived and so it has not been possible to identify whether he gained his 2nd and 1st Class badges or not. However, it is almost certain that he gained his 2nd Class Badge and highly likely that he gained his 1st Class Badge. In terms of Camps, Gordon attended Summer Camps at Tayvallich (1963), Tarbert (1965) and Northern Ireland (1967). He resigned after Summer Camp in Northern Ireland but it is not known whether he joined the Venture Scout Unit or not. It is also not known what he did after school.

Patrick, Graham

Graham Patrick (Glip) was born in March 1954 and lived at 2 Kincaid Street. He attended Ardgowan and Greenock Academy. He joined the 70th Wolf Cub pack and gained his Leaping Wolf before moving up to the troop in May 1965 to join the Seal Patrol. He was promoted to APL of the Fox patrol in November 1967, then to PL of the patrol in August 1968. Graham gained his Tenderfoot and 2nd Class Badges under the old training scheme, then transferred to the new training scheme to gain his Advanced Scout Standard, and Chief Scouts Award. He attended the 70th Summer Camps held in 1965 (3 days only), 1967, 1968, 1969 and 1970. He left the

troop in September 1970 to join the Venture Unit where he gained his Queen's Scout Badge and the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. In 1974, he returned to the 70th Troop as an Assistant Scout Leader and attended most of the Troop Summer Camps held between 1974 and the early 1990s. He also ran a number of "Everest Challenges" from 1979 to the early 1990s before resigning from the Troop. On leaving school, Graham went to Glasgow University to study Chemistry, then spent several years as a research chemist in a variety of Universities and pharmaceutical industries, before concentrating on lecturing and writing. Graham's younger brother (Slip) also joined the 70th during the 1970s.

Reid, Russell

Russell Reid was probably born in 1954. His Grandfather was the Rev. A.R. Reid who was minister of Finnart Church in the early 1930s and the man most responsible for founding the 70th in 1932. Russell was a pupil at Greenock Academy and a member of the 70th's Wolf Cub Pack. He moved up to the Troop on the 8th October 1965 and was placed in the Kingfisher Patrol. He passed his Tenderfoot Badge in February 1966 then attended Summer Camp at West Loch Tarbert where he was invited with other 'first timers' to the first ever 'GSL's Tea Party' organised by Bob Miller. Russell was very popular and everyone who knew him was disappointed when he left the Troop after the summer of 1966. This was because his family was emigrating to the other side of the world. Troop Records indicate that the family moved to Australia. On the other hand, Graham Patrick thought it was New Zealand.

Robertson, Peter

Peter Robertson lived at 75A Union Street and was probably born in 1952. It seems likely that he was a pupil of Greenock Academy and a member of the 70th's Wolf Cub pack. It is not known when he joined the Troop but it was probably during 1963 as he was reported to be in the Seagull Patrol at the start of the 1963-64 Scout session with D. Morrison as his PL. At the beginning of September 1965, Peter was promoted to Second of the Falcon Patrol. A year later on the 1st September 1966, he was promoted to Patrol Leader of the Falcon to replace David White. He remained Patrol Leader for two years before leaving the Troop on the 30th August 1968. Unfortunately, his record card has not survived and so information is lacking on how many badges he gained or which camps he attended. However, it is almost certain that he passed both his 2nd Class and 1st Class Badges. He was close to completing his 1st Class Badge in October 1966 and so he had sufficient time to go on to gain his Queen's Scout Badge. However, it is not known whether he succeeded or not. In terms of camping, Peter attended Summer Camps at West Loch Tarbert (1964, 1965 & 1966) and Northern Ireland (1967). Peter also performed in the Troop's Scout Show performed in December 1963 and this may have been a factor in proposing another Scout Show which was performed on the 8th March 1968. Peter might have joined the Venture Scout Unit when he resigned in 1968, but this cannot be stated with any certainty as no records of the Unit have survived.

Runcie, Albert

Albert Runcie (Oz) had been a 70th Scout during the late 1950s and was promoted to Patrol Leader of the Kingfisher Patrol in 1960. In 1962, he was promoted to Troop Leader until 1963 when he resigned and joined the ranks of the Scouters.. During his time as a Scout, he gained his Queen's Scout Badge, which was awarded in 1963. Oz was an Assistant Scout Master from 1963 until at least 1966. Unfortunately, the troop log for 1966-1968 has been mislaid and so it is not known when he resigned as ASM, but it was certainly before July 1968.

Tait, John

John Tait was born in August 1954 and lived at 145 Eldon Street. He attended Greenock Academy and was a Wolf Cub in the 70th's Wolf Cub Pack. He moved up to the troop in October 1965 and joined the Falcon Patrol. He was promoted to Second/APL in September 1967, then to PL of the Tiger Patrol at the start of the 1968-69 session. John gained his Tenderfoot and 2nd Class badges under the new training scheme, then transferred to the new training scheme to gain his Advanced Scout Standard. He may well have gained his Chief Scout's Award, but this remains to be confirmed. He certainly progressed through the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and gained his Gold Award. John was very active in Scouting and attended Summer Camps at West Loch Tarbert (1966), Ireland (1967), Frylands Wood (1968), Templar's Park (1969) and Denmark (1970). He left the Troop

after the summer of 1970 and joined the Venture Scouts for the next four years. At that point, he left Scouting but occasionally helped out on various hill climbs involving Scouts. On leaving school, John became a successful Chartered Accountant in Glasgow.

Watson, Andrew

Drew Watson was born on the 1st July 1953 and lived at 24 Caledonia Crescent. His father was a member of Ashton Church. Drew was a pupil at Greenock Academy and was a Wolf Cub in the 1st Gourock CDO Wolf Cub Pack for 2 years. However, he left the Group at some point without moving up to Scouts. Stewart Lee introduced him to the 70th Troop, which he joined on the 17th September 1965 when he was aged 12. He was placed in the Kingfisher Patrol. As far as badges are concerned, he gained his Tenderfoot Badge on the 25th March 1966 and his 2nd Class Badge on the 20th January 1967. He also made inroads into the 1st Class Badge but did not complete it. He also gained the Swimmer and Marksman Proficiency Badges. As far as camps are concerned, he attended a weekend camp at Everton in June 1966 and Summer Camp in Northern Ireland in 1967. He may well have attended other camps and hikes that were not reported in the Troop records. Drew left the Troop on 18th December 1967. It is not known whether he continued his Scouting elsewhere or not. On leaving school, Drew may have worked for the local authority. His son was later to join the 70th Scouts.

White, David

David White was born in 1952 and lived at 113 South Street then 16 Newark Street, His father was Chief Executive of the outdoor company, Blacks of Greenock. David was a pupil at Greenock Academy then Gordonstoun in Moray. It's not known whether David was a member of the 70th's Wolf Cub Pack or not. However, it is likely that he joined the Troop during 1963 and was placed in the Falcon Patrol. At the beginning of September 1965, he was promoted to Second of the Patrol, then on the 21st August 1966, he was promoted to Patrol Leader during Summer Camp at West Loch Tarbert. By the time he was 14, he had gained his Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, and 1st Class Badges as well as the Venturer Badge and his Scout Cords. He also had a clutch of Proficiency Badges which included the Explorer Badge which was awarded to him in camp. David was well on the way to gaining his Queen's Scout Badge and would almost certainly have gained it if he been able to remain with the troop. David was also an enthusiastic camper and attended the Summer Camps held at West Loch Tarbert (1964, 1965 & 1966) and Northern Ireland (1967). He also attended various hikes and weekend camps which were not recorded in the available records. As far as competitions are concerned, David was a member of the 70th team to win the Shannon Cup in 1965. After the summer of 1966, David moved school to Gordonstoun. As a result, he had to resign from the Troop. However, it is possible that he registered as a 'Lone Scout' with the 70th as he was present during the Summer Camp of 1967 and also attended some Court of Honour Meetings towards the end of that summer. On leaving school, David became an Investment Banker and moved to London. However, he still visits Greenock on a regular basis (as of 2024) and donated the Falcon Patrol Log covering the Summer Camp of 1966.

Appendix 3 Descriptions of Scout Games.

*Backward hopping (Relay).

The Patrols lined up in relay formation at the Madeira Street end of the hall. The lead Scout set off hopping backwards to the other end of the hall and back again, upon which the next Scout set off. The first patrol to finish and sit on the floor won the relay.

*Bowline across river (Relay).

The Patrols lined up in relay formation at the Madeira Street end of the hall. The lead Scout of each Patrol moved to the other end of the hall and the space in between was designated to be a river. The lead scout threw a rope across the 'river' and the first Scout in each Patrol tied a bowline round his waist and was pulled across the river. The rope was then thrown to the next Scout and the process was completed until all members of the Patrol were across the river. The first Patrol to have all of its members across the river was the winner..

* Crab Football (played at most Troop Meetings)

This was an inter-patrol game that was played like football, except the players had to remain sitting when kicking the ball. When moving, players moved crab like using their hands and feet; they were not allowed to crawl. Only the goalkeepers were allowed to stand, but they were not allowed to stop the ball with their hands or to move out of their goal. During the period when the Troop met in Finnart Church Hall, kicking the ball above waist height (as defined by the wooden partition lining the walls of the hall), meant that the offender was sent off. This version of the game made it less likely that windows or gas heaters would be broken. The goals were marked by chairs. Usually Scouts who were not playing in the game were told to sit on them. Otherwise, frantic goalmouth action could see the chairs flying off in all directions resulting in furious debate about whether a goal had been scored or not. Once the Troop moved to the Scout HQ, the risks to windows and heaters were significantly reduced and the waist-height limit was no longer as necessary. Crab football was by far the most popular interpatrol game played during the period covered in this log. A non-stop version of the game was sometimes played where the teams had to change as soon as the whistle blew for a change of patrols. The ball remained in play and the patrols which was quickest on the 'pitch' had a perfect opportunity to score.

Dick Turpin's Ride (28th Jan 1966)

Dick Turpin's Ride was rarely played in the troop. The game is included in the 'Book of Cub Scout Games' issued in 1968, but the rules are more appropriate for a wide game outside. A different version of the game is described as a relay game in a publication entitled 'Games for Scouts' by A.W.N. MacKenzie, which was first published in 1929 (the 3rd edition was published in 1955 and it was reprinted in 1962). The lightest Scout in each Patrol is appointed 'Dick Turpin'. When the signal goes to start, Dick Turpin in each Patrol jumps on the back of the PL who carries him piggy back up and down the hall. Dick Turpin is then transferred to the next horse who also runs up and down the length of the hall. This would continue until every Scout in the Patrol has carried Dick Turpin up and down the hall. The first patrol to finish and sit down would win.

*Dodge Ball (25th Feb 1966)

Dodge Ball involved Scouts trying to dodge being hit below the knee by a ball. Last man standing was the winner. This was often played as an interpatrol competition where the troop lined the sides of the hall to throw the ball, and each Patrol went into the middle in turn to see which member of the Patrol was last man standing. Once each Patrol had visited the centre, the winners from the patrols went into the centre to identify a Troop winner.

*Dribble Relay (28th Jan 1966)

Dribble Relay was a relay game in which each patrol stood in formation, one behind the other. The relay started with the P.L. dribbling a ball up and down the length of the hall around some obstacles. He would then

pass the ball to the next Scout and go to the back of the line. This would continue until the P.L. was back at the front of the line and the Patrol would sit down. The first Patrol to sit down would be the winners.

*Port and Starboard (11th March 1966)

This was a troop game that was played by both Cubs and Scouts at their meetings. The walls of the hall were defined as port, starboard, fore and aft. Scouts were to run to the relevant wall when it was called out and the last Scout to get there was out. Occasionally, the Scouter would call out the name of the wall that the Scouts were already at, and if any Scout moved away from that wall, they were also deemed to be out. Last Scout remaining was the winner.

The game evolved to include other commands such as 'Freeze', 'Man the Lifeboats', 'Boom coming over', 'Submarine', 'Man Overboard' etc. etc all of which required a suitable response. For example, 'Boom coming over' required the Scouts to dive to the floor, 'Freeze' meant keeping absolutely still, 'Man the lifeboats' required one Scout to jump on the back of another, 'Submarine' meant lying on the floor on your back with a leg in the air. However, it is not known when these extra instructions were introduced or whether they were part of the game during the period covered in this log book. 'Man Overboard' was certainly included during the 1960s and may have involved getting off the floor by any means possible. The game was played at least twice between 1968 and 1971 (e.g. 24th January and 6th June 1969).

*Ships in the Fog (28th January 1966)

This was an inter-patrol game where all the patrols were in action at the same time. Each Patrol took up its command post around the sides of the hall. One Scout from each patrol was blindfolded and represented a ship (SS Fox etc) that is sailing in the fog and can't see where it's going. Each 'ship' was placed at different positions within the hall such that he faced north. Because of the fog, each ship was stationary and could only move when its radar control called out instructions regarding the direction and number of paces to be taken. An important rule in this game was that everyone had to be silent except when a set of instructions were given. The number of paces could vary between 0 and 3. The directions were limited to compass directions N, NNE, NE, ENE, E etc. Each Patrol calls out its instructions in turn such that only one ship moved at a time. If a ship managed to 'ram' another ship, then the latter ship was sunk and had to retire from the game. Having issued its instructions, a patrol could not call out any further instructions or hints when its ship was moving. If it did, then the ship was disqualified and removed from the game. For added interest, a small number of chairs (representing reefs) or basins of water (representing whirlpools) could be positioned around the hall. If a moving ship hit one of these hazards, then it was sunk and removed from the game. The last vessel afloat was the winner. It should be noted that vessels sometimes got disorientated and lost track of where north was. The patrol command post then had to modify its commands to make allowance for that.

The above game was the version that was played the most. However, there was a different version of the game described in a publication entitled 'Games for Scouts' by A.W.N. MacKenzie, which was first published in 1929. The 3rd edition was published in 1955 and was reprinted in 1962. In this version, each PL stood at one end of the hall with his patrol at the other end, all blindfolded. The blindfolded Scouts in each patrol would form a 'ship' by linking arms, holding hands, clasping waists etc. When the start of the game was signalled, each PL would shout instructions at the same time in an effort to guide their ship across the hall to join him. The first Patrol to do so would be the winner. This version of the game certainly did not require silence and the biggest challenge for each patrol was to make out what their PL was shouting to them. It is likely that this was the version played on the 28th January.

*Staff Relay (28th Jan 1966)

The Staff relay game is described in a publication entitled 'Games for Scouts' by A.W.N. MacKenzie, which was first published in 1929 (the 3rd edition was published in 1955 and it was reprinted in 1962). There are several variations of the game. One possible approach would be for each Scout to carry a Scout staff round some kind of obstacle course then pass the staff to the next member of the patrol. This would continue until everyone in the Patrol had completed the course. The first patrol finished would be the winner.

*Swing the Sandshoe (1st April 1966)

This was a troop game in which everyone participated (at the beginning at least). The Scouts stood in a circle with a Scouter in the middle. The Scouter then swung a sandshoe tied to the end of a rope round the circle. The Scouts had to jump high enough to avoid being hit. If they were hit, they were out. Towards the end of the game, the Scouter would sometimes allow the sandshoe to rise slightly in the hope of catching a specific Scout that might have been making a nuisance of himself that evening. There were often some spectacular moments when the sandshoe and rope wrapped themselves round a victim's ankles and brought him crashing to the ground. Curiously, there appears to be no instances of Scouts being injured in the process. This was an energetic game not least for the Scouter in the middle, who frequently had to swing the sandshoe in the opposite direction to avoid getting dizzy. The game was one of the more popular games and was played quite frequently during this period.

* Tunnel Ball

This game might have involved each patrol forming a line, one behind each other, with legs astride. The PL would then run to the back and send a ball down the line between the legs of the scouts. The Scout at the front would collect the ball and repeat the manoeuvre. The process would continue until the PL was at the front of the line again. The patrol would then sit down. The winning Patrol would be the one sitting down first. Alternatively, the PL stayed where he was and sent the ball through the legs from the front to the back, The Scout at the back would then collect the ball and run to the front and repeat the process. Once again the winning patrol would be the Patrol to finish first and sit down.

Wheelbarrow (relay).

Patrols stood in relay formation at the Madeira Street end of the Hall. The PL and the Second of each Patrol paired up with the Second acting as the wheelbarrow. The PL took hold of the Second's feet and the Second had to make progress up and down the hall using his hands while the PL behind him held onto his feet. One back at the Patrol, the Second became the 'pusher' while the next Scout became the wheelbarrow. This would continue until all the Scouts had 'wheelbarrowed' up and down the Hall. First Patrol to finish and sit down was the winner.