

FOX PATROL LOG 1955-1959

General Introduction to the Fox Patrol Log 1955-59

by the Editor, G.L. Patrick

Introduction

This document provides a transcript of the Fpx Patrol Log covering the period 1955-1959. The original text is provided, although some minor modifications have been made in terms of punctuation. Occasionally, a word has been added by the editor to clarify the meaning of a sentence. Such words are in italics. The sketches and photos provided are scans of the originals. Additional comments are also provided in italics after each week's entry in the log. These serve to provide additional information or an explanation regarding what has been written. A red superscript number in the original text identifies when an additional comment has been made.

Patrol Logs were very similar to Troop Logs in the way that they were written, but the focus was more on the relevant patrol than on the overall Troop. Therefore, Patrol logs could often provide detailed information on individual members of the patrol, which would not have been included in a Troop Log. Like the Troop Log, Patrol Logs were primarily written to record the events taking place at the weekly Friday-night troop meetings, but they occasionally provided information on other Scouting activities that the Patrol might have undertaken, such as patrol hikes, camps, and meetings. Occasionally, other events would be mentioned, such as fund raising events, Parents Meetings, Scouts Owns, Parades, Church Services, Going Up Ceremonies, Service Projects etc etc. However, most of these activities probably went unrecorded. The Fox Patrol Log is of particular value as it helps to cover a two-year period that is lacking a Troop Log.

As the focus of both Patrol and Troop Logs was very much on the regular Friday night Troop meetings, it is worth providing some general information on those meetings. During the period in question, the majority of Troop meetings were held in the Church Hall of Finnart Church. The programme started with three whistles to summon everyone into the hall to form up into their patrols. Flagbreak was then carried out by the Duty Patrol for that week. This was followed by inspection, during which the Scouters inspected each patrol for uniform. The inter-patrol game usually then ensued and was chosen by the duty patrol. The order of events after that could vary but usually included one or two sessions of Patrol Corners and a variety of troop games. 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 Second. Scouters were on hand to test individual Scouts on specific tests, but this was done away from the rest of the patrol and not necessarily during the time allocated for Patrol Corners. The progressive Scout Training system involved gaining the Tenderfoot, 2nd Class and 1st Class Badges in that order. The ultimate goal was the Queen's Scout Badge which involved gaining the Bushman's Thong, Venturer's Badge and a number of Proficiency Badges.

Stunts were often included in the programme and involved the Patrols having to complete some sort of challenge set by the Scouters. Campfires were frequently

held towards the end of the meeting. These were not real campfires but involved the Scouts sitting round a mock campfire that consisted of an orange light bulb surrounded by a thick plastic film and a pyramid of sticks. The typical campfire programme included songs and yells. Very occasionally, a patrol might perform a sketch. At the end of the meeting, the patrols would form up in full uniform and the Scout Master would make announcements before the final flagdown carried out by the Duty Patrol.

In terms of uniform, most Scouts wore shorts during the period covered in this log, so changing out of uniform merely involved removing hat, neckerchief, lanyard and smart shoes. The short-sleeved uniform shirt of the period was far sturdier than the one that was introduced in the late 1960s and usually survived games such as British Bulldog. Some Scouts wore kilts and so the process of removing and redonning uniform was more involved for those concerned. After the meeting, the Duty Patrol tidied up the hall and other rooms used during the evening and replaced any furniture that had been removed from the hall at the start of the meeting. Court of Honour meetings were often held once the Troop meeting was over. This involved the Patrol Leaders meeting with the Scout Master and some of the Scouters in the Session Room to discuss various troop matters. Finally, there was a monthly patrol competition and each patrol could earn points from the weekly inspection, interpatrol game, tests and badges passed, stunts and activities, log books, patrol meetings and activities etc.

Not all troop meetings were held indoors. If there was good weather, a wide game might be held up the Lyle Hill. During the 1950s, there was also a field called McAuley's Field at the top of Madeira Street where football could be played.

The following list describes the various interpatrol games that were played at the start of the meeting during this period.

*Football

The log book identifies football being played in the hall, but this was eventually banned when windows started to get broken. There was also a risk of damaging the overhead gas heaters which flared up spectacularly when they were hit by the ball. The game was played with a tennis ball on the 31st October 1958 probably to minimize the risk. It is not known when football was stopped, but it was certainly not played during the 1960s. During that decade, football was played outside on Madeira Street either before or after the meeting. If it was part of the programme, then it was played on McAuley's field or in the field near the top of the Lyle Hill. Several entries in this log book refer to football being played as the patrol game, it is known that crab football (see below) was often identified as football in some log book entries.

* Crab football.

The first mention of Crab Football in the Fox Patrol Log Book was on the 19th September 1958. However, as stated above, it is possible that the game might have been played prior to this and was identified as football. Crab football 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. If the ball was hit above waist height (as defined by the wooden partition lining the walls of the hall), 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.

* Ringstick

One member of each patrol stood on a chair at opposite ends of the hall, and the aim was to throw a rubber ring such that the Scout holding the stick could 'catch' it on the stick. It is not clear whether this was played as a non-contact game like basketball, or whether the rules were 'anything goes'. However, descriptions suggest the latter and there was one occasion when the ring was torn in two. Certainly, the ring could not be placed over the stick and had to be thrown. This involved quite a bit of skill from the Scout holding the stick in order to judge correctly the flight of the ring.

* Ice Hockey

Played with Scout staves and any object that could serve as a puck. Often a sandshoe or a gymshoe was used, but there were occasions in 1957 when a doorstep was used. Presumably this was a wooden wedge.

* Pick-a-Poo

This was a variation of ice hockey that was played once or twice in the 1960s, but there is no evidence of it being played in the 1950s.

* Skittles or Platters

Three skittles were set up at one end of the hall in the shape of a goal, and each member of the patrol threw a ball to try and knock them over. This probably involved each Scout throwing in turn from the other end of the hall. This game was called 'Platters' during the 1950s and was played a lot. It is not known why the game was called 'Platters', and the game eventually got called 'Skittles' instead.

* Gym Rugby

Gym rugby was played as the interpatrol game on the 24th October 1958. However, it is not known what was involved. It might have been a version of touch rugby or chalk rugby.

* Crocodiles

log book entry for the 1st April 1960 indicates that a game called crocodiles was played as an inter Patrol game at some point during the 1950s. However, it does not appear to have been played during the period covered in this log book

* Hash

The Troop must have occasionally played an inter-patrol game called Hash during the 1950s as it is mentioned on the 7th February 1958. However, it is not known what the game involved.

The following are descriptions of Troop games played later in the Friday night programme

* British Bulldog (BB).

This game was highly popular and was almost a rite of passage through which Scouts moved slowly over the years from being 'minnows' to 'pikes'. At the start of the game, one or more Scouts would be chosen to be 'in the middle' and to act as captors. The rest of the Troop then congregated at one end of the hall as the 'runners'. When the whistle blew, the runners had to get from one end of the hall to the other. The captors successfully captured somebody if they could prevent him reaching the other end of the hall and also lift him off the floor long enough to chant 'British Bulldog 1,2,3' (In the 1960s, this was briefly changed to 1,2,9, but reverted back to 1,2,3 eventually). The victim then hoped that he would be lowered to the floor rather than dropped, and would then join the team of captors. The game would continue and the winner was the last man to be caught. The length of these games could vary significantly. If a PL was chosen for the middle, the game was usually very short. If young Scouts were chosen, the game could last a long time. Games of BB were not infrequently associated with torn clothing and a variety of cuts, scrapes and bruises which were gleefully reported in the log book entries.

*Chalk Rugby

This game was played in the 1960s, but there is no record of it being played during the 1950s

*'Jump the Rope', 'Leap the Rope' 'Swing the Sandshoe', 'Sandshoe Game' 'Swing the Hoop', 'Swinging Ring'

It is believed that all these terms refer to the same game which was popular during the 1950s, 1960s and well beyond. The Scouts stood in a circle with a Scouter in the middle. The Scouter then swung a sandshoe or gymshoe 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 also played with a rubber ring at the end of the sizer instead of the sandshoe - 'Swing the Hoop' or 'Swinging Ring' (for example, 20th Feb. 1959).

The first mention of the game was made in the Fox Patrol Log covering the Troop meeting on the 7th March 1958.

*Port and Starboard

This might have been a game that was played by both Wolf 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 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. Certainly 'Boom Coming Over' was used on the 18th January 1957.

* Up one, down one (or the Staff game)

The Scouts stood in a circle with each Scout holding a staff vertically on the ground. On the command of 'Up one' each Scout had to abandon his own staff and grab the one on his left-hand side. The command 'Down one' meant moving in the opposite direction. Any Scout failing to grab the vacated staff before it fell to the ground was 'out'. However, if a Scout deliberately pushed his staff to the ground when he moved, he was dismissed from the game instead. The game might have been run with each Scout holding a finger on top of his staff before moving, in order to minimize cheating, but this needs to be confirmed. There is a possibility that this was first played on the 1st November 1957 as it appeared to be a new game.

* Dodgeball (or dodgy ball)

The aim of Dodgeball was to throw a ball such that it hit a Scout below the knee. Last person standing was the winner. During the period covered in this log, it appears that each patrol took a turn at being in the middle, and the winners from these 'heats' then competed against each other. It is not clear what kind of ball was used or whether it was the Scouters or Scouts that threw it.

* Hopping Charlie

Hopping Charlie involved Scouts hopping around the hall with arms crossed, and shoulder charging others to make their opponent lose balance. Last man still hopping was the winner. The game could be played with each patrol numbering off such that one representative from each patrol took part once his number was called. Alternatively, it could be played with everybody participating to create bedlam. The game was also played as the inter-patrol game in December 1956 and March 1958

* Horses and Riders or Horses and Knights

Horses and riders involved Scouts pairing up such that one Scout was the rider and the other was the horse. The horse provided a piggy back for the rider and the idea of the game was for each horse and rider to unseat their opponent (or

opponents). It made sense for the lighter Scout to be the rider, but the Scouters sometimes replayed the game such that the horse and rider had to swap round, which often meant that the new horse 'collapsed' before even entering the fray. The game could be played with representative horses and riders from each patrol entering the fray. This game was not without risk, and on one occasion during the 1960s a Scout dislocated his knee. In the 1950s, the game seemed to be called 'Horses and Knights' as well as 'Horses and Riders'. Kenneth Conway preferred to call it Horses and Knights in the Troop Log, while Robert Howison called it Horses and Riders in the Fox Patrol Log. The earliest mention of the game was on the 17th October 1958 in the Troop Log.

*In the Pond, Out the Pond

This game was only very occasionally played at troop nights, and might have been a game that was more commonly played in the Wolf Cub Pack. The rules are not known for certain, but presumably a circle was marked out to represent the pond and instructions were called out to jump in the pond or out of the pond. It is possible that the wording had to be exactly right and those who jumped at the wrong instruction were put out the game. Possibly more stringent rules were applied for the Scouts; for example, getting eliminated even if you started to make a move when you weren't meant to, or being eliminated for being the last to respond.

*Centipedes

This was introduced by a Cadet Scouter on the 1st April 1960. However, this is the only mention of the game in any of the log books reviewed and so it clearly did not take on.

*Grab the Sandshoe

In November 1956, Ian Blake introduced a new game, which was not named but was essentially as stated. Two teams lined up against the wall and each member of the team was numbered. Skipper threw a shoe up the centre of the hall and called a number. The corresponding number tries to get the shoe back to his wall. On the 15th January 1957, the game was modified such that the Scouts called had to balance two bottles on top of each other before they could grab the shoe.

Abbreviations

ADC	Assistant District Commissioner
ASM	Assistant Scout Master
BB	British Bulldog
COH	Court of Honour
DC	District Commissioner
GSM	Group Scout Master
JASM	Junior Assistant Scout Master
PC	Patrol Corners
PL	Patrol Leader
SM	Scout Master
TL	Troop Leader
VJASM	Very Junior Assistant Scout Master

Since the last Fox patrol log was too far behind to make up, we, the members of the Fox patrol of the 70th Renfrewshire Scout Troop, proudly present a new

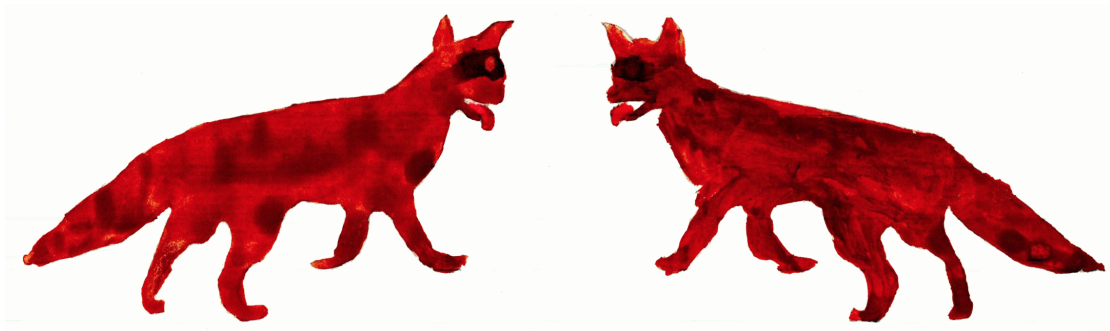
FOX

PATROL

LOG.

1955 - '56.

1956 - '57



The Fox

The fox is found in all parts of Europe. It is common throughout the British Isles except the Orkney and Shetland Islands and the Western Isles excluding Skye owing its survival in Britain to Fox Hunting.

The sexes are generally alike but the Vixen has a shorter greyer coat and is smaller than the Dog-Fox. The size varies from 2 ft. to 2ft. 8 ins plus the tail or brush of 1 ft. to 1 ½ ft. The male varies in weight from 15 lbs to 29 lbs and in height from 1 ft. to 1 ft 2ins. Mountain foxes are larger, longer legged and darker, while those of the lowlands are smaller, redder and whiter. The fox has a strong scented gland under the tail, which repels many animals and also enables hounds to follow it. The fore feet of the fox have five toes and the hind have four, both with non-retractable claws found between and sometimes the pads. The legs are similar to those of a dog.

The brain of a fox is very highly developed.

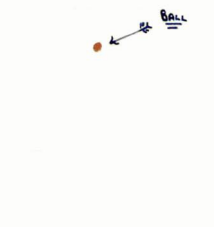
JUNE 1955

3rd June 1955

This evening, the attendance was five. Ian McKenzie and Hugh Patterson being absent.

The Patrol at present stands:-

Stephen Pearce	-	Patrol Leader
Robin McGill	-	Second
Ian McKenzie	-	1 st Scout
Hamish Rankin	-	2 nd Scout
Hugh Kerr	-	3 rd Scout
Jim McKenzie	-	4 th Scout
Hugh Patterson	-	5 th Scout



The general procedure¹ was changed this evening. Instead of meeting at the hall, each patrol met at a different corner in Greenock, our corner being the junction of Robertson Street and Union Street. Those of our patrol present at 7:30 were given a message to fulfill. When this was done, we reunited in McAuley's² field where a game of football was soon in progress. Our patrol was defeated 1-0 by the Seal Patrol but this was not surprising since the referee was one³ P.L. of the Seal patrol⁴ which made him very unbiased (*see sketch*)⁵.

Surprisingly enough, the Seals went on to win.

The troop then returned to the hall a bit bedraggled for flagbreak and inspection¹. Patrol Corners¹ followed and the usual amount of 'work' was done.

At dismissal, Mr Swan⁶ told us about a Jamboree to take place in two years time⁷. I⁸ received my Stamp Collector's badge.⁹ At the Court of Honour¹⁰, it was decided to change from the Scout hat to the Scout beret or "scone".¹¹

R.S. McGill (Second)

Editorial notes for 3rd June 1955

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log
2. McAuley's field was situated on the south side of the junction between Newton Street and Madeira Street. It was occasionally used for grazing cattle before the beasts were sent to market. The field was frequently used by the 70th for outdoor meetings up until the early 1960s. Many of the Troop and Pack photographs were taken there. The field was also used by local youngsters for football and all sorts of other activities. Housing was eventually built on McAuley's field during the early 1960s.
3. The Scribe might have intended to write 'once' instead of 'one' – see next note.
4. Andy Whiteford was the referee. He was an ASM by this stage having resigned as PL of the Seal and TL in June 1954. He was probably aged 19 or 20 by June 1955
5. The sketch shows a Seal Scout hitting a football miles over the head of the Fox Patrol's goalkeeper, and Andrew Whiteford awarding a goal. No doubt this was a massive exaggeration. The sketch was presumably drawn by Robin McGill who wrote the entry
6. Mr. Swan was James Swan, who was Greenock's District Commissioner from the 1930s to the 1960s. He made regular visits to the Troops in his District.

7. The Jamboree in question was the World Jamboree held in Sutton Coldfield England in August 1957 to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Scouting. Four 70th Scouts were selected to attend (Ken Conway, Hamish Rankin, Alastair Shearer and Ken Jhnston.)
8. Robin McGill (Second of the Fox Patrol)
9. This was a Proficiency Badge. Any Scouts wishing to earn a proficiency badge had to fill up a form, which was sent to the relevant District Examiner for the badge. The Scout then had to meet the District Examiner to get assessed. The troop's own Scouters were not permitted to assess Scouts for Proficiency Badges.
10. Court of Honour (COH) Meetings involved all the PLs, Scout Master and some of the ASMs. This usually met in the session room after the troop meeting and discussed all relevant matters affecting the troop. One of the roles of the Court of Honour was to maintain discipline and standards within the troop. Decisions were made by the Patrol Leaders, but the Scout Master could influence whatever decisions were made.
11. Each Troop in the District was given the choice of wearing the Scout BP hat or the beret, but all the Scouts in that troop had to then abide by the decision made. Most troops probably chose the beret in 1955, but some Troop retained the traditional Scout Hat. For example, the 45th Renfrewshire were still wearing the traditional hat in 1957 and for several years after that.

10th June 1955

Our meeting started as usual with flagbreak and inspection followed by a game¹. It might be said this evening that the Fox patrol could be compared with the powerful and victorious army of Napoleon. At football, we emerged victorious from a difficult struggle with the Seal patrol, winning 1-0. In the next round, we had a crushing defeat over the Falcon patrol again winning 1-0. Finally, we easily beat the three Curlew patrol members in an unequal match. We won 3-0 to win the patrols football competition² for the evening. Patrol Corners¹ followed as usual.

We assembled for campfire¹ this evening and a special song was sung in celebration of Stephen's birthday³.



The usual dismissal ceremony¹ brought our meeting to a close.

This week, Hamish Rankin passed his Designers' badge⁴ and Steven Pearce received a long overdue badge. Ian McKenzie was again absent, otherwise the attendance was perfect.

Our meeting was run by an ASM since our Scout Master was ill with chickenpox. We sent him a card to cheer him up (see sketch).⁵

	£	S	D
Patrol subs	-	2	0
Troop subs	-	1	3
Patrol gain	-	0	9

RS McGill (Second)

Editorial notes for 10th June 1955

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log
2. It is assumed that the football was played inside the hall, in which case there might have been a height limit set on how high one could hit the ball.
3. It is assumed that this was Stephen Pearce, PL of the Fox Patrol.
4. See note 9 for the 3rd June 1955 regarding Proficiency Badges
5. The sketch shows Ian Blake in his bed wearing his Scout Hat. Presumably drawn by Robin McGill.

17th June 1955

This week we were duty patrol¹.

Again the Scout Master was absent but the GSM² took his place.

At football, we were defeated 1-0 by the Seal patrol who went on to win the other rounds.



During patrol corners¹, an unnamed member of the Fox patrol put his PL's hat in the basin and turned on the water. When PL Pearce found out, the unnamed member of our patrol following the hat (see sketch)³.

Hamish Rankin and Ian McKenzie were both absent but Hamish was at a Scout camp⁴.

	£	S	D
Patrol subs		1	3
Troop subs		1	3
Patrol Gain	0	0	0

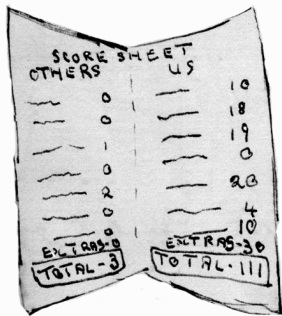
RS McGill (Second)

Editorial notes for 17th June 1955

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log
2. The Group Scout Master at the time was Victor Clark, who had restarted the troop in 1947 and had been its Scout Master until January 1953.
3. It is assumed that the 'unnamed member' was Second Robin McGill
4. Unfortunately, there are no details of what that camp might have been

24th June 1955

Tonight being the last meeting before breaking up for the summer we did no work. After inspection¹, the game chosen was football in McAuley's field², so the troop, nearly all the members thereof being present, infested the aforementioned



field only to discover that we had no football. An all-night sitting³ seemed to follow where the big five⁴ decided to play cricket⁵, so certain Scouts were sent home for equipment. Sides were picked by Sandy Whiteford and Graham White with about 20 on either side. I⁶ was on the latter's side. It was an easy victory⁷ for us since the non cricketers were bowled out easily and the good ones all ran each other out. When the game was over, we returned to the hall for dismissal and so ended another session of our scouts.

Robin McGill (Second)

Editorial notes for 24th June 1955

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log
2. See note 2 for the 3rd June 1955 regarding McAuley's field.
3. Presumably a reference to all-night sittings at parliament in Westminster.
4. The big five would have been the PLs, Stephen Pearce (Fox), Sandy Whiteford (Falcon), Graham White (Seal), Neill Cook (Seagull), Neville Mort (Curlew). Ian McFarlane was Troop Leader by this time and was probably not involved in the 'huddle'.
5. Most of the Scouts in the 70th went to Greenock Academy which made a point of encouraging team sports, especially rugby and cricket.

6. *Robin McGill*

7. *Although the scoresheet shown as the sketch was probably greatly exaggerated.*

September 1955

Thursday 15th September 1955

Note: The COH minutes for 9th September state that there was a request from Akela Isabel McBride that the 'Going Up Ceremony for Cubs on the 15th should be attended by ASMs, T.L. PLs and seconds. There was no entry in the Patrol Log for the Going Up ceremony

16th of September 1955

Tonight the new patrols came into force after our holiday session.¹

Some Cubs, indeed multitudes of Cubs, came up yesterday and today into the Scout troop.²

Due to the departure of Stephen Pearce, I³ was made Patrol Leader of the Fox patrol with Ronald Gray⁴ as my very able second in charge. At present, the Fox patrol is

Robin McGill	-	P.L.
Ronald Gray	-	Second
Hamish Rankin		
Hugh Kerr		
Jim McKenzie		
Hugh Patterson		
David Friedman		

This evening we were duty patrol⁵ and everything went well except for a poor attendance. We played football and lost 3-2 to the Seagulls, and Dodgeball. A new patrol came into force this evening called the Kingfisher patrol with PL Jim Harvey and Second Ian McKenzie.

RS McGill

Editorial notes for 16th September 1955

1. Details of the new patrols were not provided. However, the Court of Honour minutes show that Stephen Pearce and Neville Mort resigned as PL over the summer. The new PL and Second for the Fox Patrol were Robin McGill and Ronald Gray (formerly of the Seal Patrol) respectively. Hamish Rankin was soon to leave the Fox Patrol to become Second of the Seal Patrol, replacing Jim Harvey who became PL of a new Kingfisher Patrol with Ian McKenzie (formerly of the Fox Patrol) as his Second.

2. Unfortunately, the Cubs who had joined the Troop were not identified. David Friedman of the Fox Patrol was almost certainly one of them, however. Brian Elliot was another. The entry here is an indication that there were still 2 Wolf Cub Packs in operation. The one on Thursday was now being led by Isabel McBride, but it is not known when she took over the Pack.

3. Robin McGill

4. Ronald Gray, formerly of the Seal Patrol.

5. See the general introduction at the start of the log.

23rd September 1955

After flagbreak and inspection¹, in which we gained full marks, we played ring stick¹ and were runners up to the invincible Falcon patrol².

Patrol corners proceeded a film of our summer camp at Inveraray³.

David and Brian⁴ passed their law and promise and Ronald Grey and myself⁵ were appointed as Second and Patrol Leader officially.

There was a full turnout tonight. Kingfisher patrol were duty patrol.

Editorial notes for 23rd September 1955

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log
2. Sandy Whiteford was PL of the Falcon Patrol and would have been a force to reckon with.
3. Unfortunately, the film of the Troop's summer camp at Inveraray during 1955 has not been tracked down and may no longer exist.
4. David Friedman and Brian Elliott presumably joined from the Cubs on the 15th September 1955.
5. Robin McGill

30th September 1955



Tonight, we had no flag break or inspection as the hall was being used by 'First Communicants'. Instead, we met at the top of Madeira Street where it joins Newton Street. When we formed into patrols in the street, the game¹ was announced. We were to defend atomic stations from attack by spies. The 'stations' were in the form of rockets and were attacked by the Curlew patrol. It was agreed that we should have lives in the form of pieces of wool tied round our arms. If these strips were broken we had to go to Skipper and answer a question on Scouting. If answered correctly, you were issued with another 'life'.² After persistent attacks without success, ASM Brown³ at last came to the rescue of the Curlews and blew up our atomic station.

Ronald Gray (Second)⁴

Editorial notes for 30th September 1955

1. This was an example of a Wide Game. It's not certain whether the 'Rocket Game' was played for the first time on this date, but it proved popular and was played in future years as well.
2. This might have been the first occasion that wool loops round the wrist represented a life. If so, the idea of wool lives during various wide games continued for many more years.
3. Douglas Brown had been one of the original Wolf Cubs when the Group restarted in 1947. He rose to become PL of the Falcon and Troop Leader, then joined the leader team during September 1954 when he would have been 16.
4. The cartoon is of 'Blondie' on a rocket. 'Blondie' was Robin McGill's nickname as he had fair hair.

7th October 1955

Once again we resumed our scouting in the church hall. After flagbreak¹, we were inspected by ASM Andy Whiteford. We had full marks but we lost on a poor attendance as Hugh Patterson was out of town. Our other two budding tenderfoots^{2,3} agreed to have a go at passing their flags. We (Blondie and I)⁴ took one each and demonstrated how to fold the Union Jack.^{5,6} Andrew Whiteford⁷ took them and tested them and found that they were up to standard. We played ring stick¹ losing in the final heat. It was officially announced that patrol leader Sandy Whiteford was to be appointed as Troop Leader⁸. After dismissal, there was a Court of Honour.⁹



Ronald Gray

Editorial notes for 7th October 1955

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log
2. David Friedman and Brian Elliott. In the sketch, David is portrayed as being smothered under the flag.
3. The Tenderfoot Badge was the first badge in Scouting's progressive training scheme, and a boy had to pass the badge and become invested before they could be properly considered a Scout. In 1955, there were 8 tests involved – Law and Promise; Scout Salutes; Union Flag; Clean a Wound; Woodcraft Sign, Whipping, Knotting and Interview by S.M.
4. P.L. Robin McGill and Second Ronald Gray.
5. This involved 2 Scouts holding each end and folding it, concertina like, in threes. This was then repeated in the other direction with one Scout holding their end while the other brought his end to the other. The flag was then rolled from the 'far end' to the 'flagpole end' and the rolled up flag was secured by winding the short rope attachment once round the flag and tucking a loop of the rope underneath that. The rolled up flag was then attached to the lanyard on the flagpole. A toggle at the top of the flag was attached to a loop in the lanyard, while the rope at the bottom of the flag was attached to the other end of the lanyard. The flag was then carefully raised to the top of the flagpole in the hope that it would not break prematurely. When it was time to break the flag, the lanyard was given a tug to pull the loop free, which, in turn, would release the flag such that it would unfold. Securing the rolled up flag prior to raising it was the trickiest part. If the rope was wrapped too tightly round the flag, then it might not prove possible to release the loop. If it was wrapped too loosely, then it might break as it was being hoisted up the flagpole.
6. Although the flag is commonly called the 'Union Jack', it has been stated that this term should only be used when the flag is flown from the mast of a Royal Navy vessel, and that on all other occasions it should be called the 'Union Flag'. However, others disagree, see <https://www.flaginstitute.org/wp/uk-flags/the-union-jack-or-the-union-flag/>
7. ASM Andrew Whiteford. Only Scouters were allowed to assess and pass tests until the changes resulting from the Advance Party Report were enacted in the late 1960s.
8. Sandy Whiteford was PL of the Falcons and decided to resign as PL when he was appointed Troop Leader. The Troop Leader was the 'top of the tree' in terms of promotion and the Troop Leader had the option of retaining his patrol or not. If he chose to relinquish his patrol, he then stood with the Scouters. The Troop Leader could conceivably be viewed as the equivalent of a Sergeant Major.
9. See Note 10 for the 3rd June 1955 regarding the Court of Honour (COH).

14th October 1955

No entry in the Fox patrol Log, but a note was added the following week which stated that Ronald Gray (formerly Second of the Fox Patrol) was promoted to PL of the Falcon Patrol in place of Sandy Whiteford. Ian Kirk was promoted to Second of the Fox Patrol.

21st October 1955



Tonight was a successful evening for the Fox Patrol. In the game of platters¹ chosen by the Curlews as duty patrol¹, the Fox patrol came off with flying colours. At patrol corners¹, we were also successful for David Friedman passed his Knots and Lashings and First Aid which completes his Tenderfoot². Brian Elliott also passed his knots & lashings. Robin McGill passed his First Class³ trees and birds⁴. We also led in silver paper collections⁵ with 20 points to our credit. In the monthly patrol Championships, we are winning so far, with 74 points, a lead of nine over our nearest contestants. A game of dodgeball¹ was played after work corners and before a short campfire⁶.

Dismissal ended another happy meeting. There was a Court of Honour⁷ for all patrol leaders. Hugh Patterson was absent.

Note: Last week Ronald Gray was made a Patrol Leader and Ian Kirk was promoted to Second of the Fox patrol.⁸

Robin McGill (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 21st October 1955

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log
2. See note 3 for the 7th October 1955 regarding the Tenderfoot Badge
3. The 1st Class Badge was the 3rd badge in Scouting's progressive training scheme (Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, 1st Class and Queen's Scout badges). Patrol Leaders were expected to have their 1st Class Badge before they were appointed. At times, this was not feasible, in which case the Patrol Leader was encouraged to gain the Badge as quickly as possible.
4. The test involved identifying 12 common trees and 6 common birds.
5. This is the first mention of silver foil collections and it is assumed that this was a fund raising initiative by the Troop. It was decided to stop the collections on the 11th November 1955 as the money gained was not worth the effort involved (see COH minutes for 11th Nov 1955).
6. Indoor campfires were held on Friday nights with the Scouts sitting round an artificial campfire consisting of an orange light bulb within a pyramid of wooden sticks.
7. See Note 10 for the 3rd June 1955 regarding the Court of Honour (COH).
8. These promotions were necessary as Sandy Whiteford (previously PL of the Falcon Patrol) had been appointed as Troop Leader.

28th October 1955

Before the inspection¹ this evening, Skipper introduced a new and stricter timetable.

The game chosen by the Falcon patrol as duty patrol¹ was ring stick¹. We reached the final but alas we were beaten 14-0 by the Seals. Dooking for apples² was next and it provided lots of fun.

Patrol corners¹ as usual.

Dougie³ gave us a film on yachts and ships.

After campfire⁴, there were four investitures⁵ including David and Brian⁶. After dismissal there was a Court of Honour⁷. So ended another enjoyable evening.

Ian Kirk (Second)

Editorial notes for 28th October 1955

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log
2. In later years, the Troop generally had a fancy dress party on the Friday night closest to Halloween. On this occasion, dooking for apples appears to be the only event marking Halloween. It is not known how the dooking of apples was carried out. In the 1960s, it usually involved kneeling on a chair and hanging over the back of it with the handle of a fork firmly held in your mouth. You then aimed for one of the apples floating in a basin on the floor, and let the fork go. If the fork stuck in the apple, you won the apple. However, it is not known whether this was the method used during the 1950s.
3. ASM Douglas Brown
4. See note 6 for the 21st October 1955
5. The Investiture ceremony has probably changed very little during the history of the troop. During the 1960s, a table was brought in to the hall and a Union Flag laid on top. Candles were lit and placed on the table and the main lights were put out such that the only light came from the candles. The boy who was due to be invested was then instructed to march to the table by his PL, who stood

at the alert a few paces behind. The boy stood on one side of the table, while the Scout Master (SM) stood on the other side. The SM then asked the boy if he knew 'what it meant to be put on your honour', to which the boy replied something along the lines of 'A Scout is to be Trusted'. The SM then asked the boy to place his left hand on the flag and to make the Scout sign with his right hand. The SM then asked everyone else present to make the Scout sign before asking the boy to repeat the Scout Promise after him. Once this was over, everyone stopped showing the Scout sign and the boy was welcomed into the 'Worldwide Brotherhood of Scouting' and presented with his neckerchief and various badges. The SM shook the newly accepted Scout by the left hand and they both saluted. The Scout's PL then commanded the new Scout to 'about turn' and march back to the patrol. At some point during the years that this ceremony was carried out, the parents of those boys getting invested were invited along to witness the ceremony, but it not known when exactly the practice was introduced or whether it occurred during the 1950s. 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. David Friedman and Brian Elliot

7. See Note 10 for the 3rd June 1955 regarding the Court of Honour (COH).

Saturday 29th Oct 1955

This afternoon, Skipper took us for a walk up the Cut.¹ The Fox patrol had a perfect attendance except for Hugh Paterson. We met at the High School² at 2:15 PM. After reaching the Cut³, we walked for about an hour before stopping to pass a few tests⁴. We pushed on again for about three quarters of an hour before stopping again. We decided to make for the road and had to pass through a pen in the farmyard in which a ram was imprisoned. We reached the road about half a mile to the Largs side of IBM⁵.

Robin, David and I⁶ reached home at about 5:30 PM after a great day.⁷

Editorial notes for 29th October 1955

1. Hikes and camps were often left unrecorded in Troop and Patrol Logs. This is an exception
2. Greenock High School used to be located in Dunlop Street during the 1950s. The site might have been the one that is now occupied by Notre Dame High School (as of 2023)
3. Presumably the Scouts hiked from Dunlop Street to Overton where the Cut begins. The Cut is a path that follows a water channel that was constructed between 1825-27 to carry fresh water from the reservoirs located in the Renfrewshire Moors to Greenock.
4. Hikes were a good opportunity to practice or pass Scouting tests that focused on outdoor skills, such as 2nd Class Fire and Cooking.
5. It is assumed that the Scouts joined the single track road at Shielhill Farm, then followed that road down hill to Dunrod Farm and then to the main road between Greenock and Inverkip, half way between Bankfoot farm and Spango Valley. In 1955, there was no dual carriageway and the road was much quieter. IBM was situated in Spango Valley from 1951 to 2016, but would have been a much smaller affair in 1955 than it was in 2016.
6. Robin McGill, David Friedman and Ian Kirk. It is assumed that Brian Elliott was also present as only Hugh Paterson was reported as being missing.
7. The log entry was not signed, but the hand writing is Ian Kirk's.

4th November 1955



Flag break and inspection¹ as usual at 7:25 PM.

The game chosen by the Fox patrol who were duty patrol¹ was football. After beating the Curlews 4-2 we had to play the Seagulls in the final which we won 1-0. Patrol corners¹ as usual.

After patrol corners we had a stunt. Each patrol was given a length of cord and told to make a tripod stand,

after which Sandy and Bob² showed the troop the proper way to do it. At camp fire¹, Skipper asked us all to turn out on Sunday for an armistice parade.³ PL McGill lowered the flag ending another Scouting night.

Ian Kirk (second)

Editorial notes for 4th November 1955

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log
2. Sandy Whiteford and Bob Miller
3. This would have involved the Troop parading to Finnart Church with colours flying on the Sunday morning. After the service, the Scouts would have paraded away from the Church. The parade route might have been from Fox Street along Union Street then up Madeira Street to the Church. Afterwards, the route might have been up Madeira Street then along Finnart Street back to Fox Street. It is known that the Troop met at Fox Street in 1958 for a parade to Finnart Church.

Sunday 6th November 1955

Although this was no entry in the Patrol Log, it is assumed that the Troop paraded to Finnart Church on Sunday morning to commemorate Armistice Day (see entry for 4th November 1955).

11th November 1955

After Flagbreak and inspection¹, the Kingfisher patrol, who were duty patrol,¹ chose football as the game. We won our first-round against the Curlews, but lost in the next round to the Kingfisher after a terrific struggle.

At patrol corners¹, David and Brian² both passed their second-class³ compass and map. Hugh Paterson was taught whipping^{4,5}.

We had the tripod stunt again but again ours fell.

At camp fire¹, we had a stunt "Meet the Flies"⁶

Before dismissal, Skipper told us about a walk tomorrow afternoon exploring the Right of Way.⁷

PS The present Fox Patrol is

Robin McGill	-	PL
IanKirk	-	Second
Cameron Lyall, ⁸		
David Friedman,		
Hugh Paterson,		
Brian Elliot		
E. Macleod ⁹		

Ian Kirk (second)

Editorial notes for 11th November 1955

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log
2. David Friedman and Brian Elliott
3. The 2nd Class Badge was the second badge in Scouting's Progressive Training Scheme, which consisted of four main badges - the Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, 1st Class and Queen's Scout Badges.
4. Whipping was a test towards the Tenderfoot Badge. It involved using twine to secure the end of a frayed rope. Unlike splicing, it was a relatively simple procedure, but less sturdy.
5. Hugh Paterson joined the troop before the summer of 1955 and should have passed his Tenderfoot badge by November. However, he missed at least three Troop meetings between June and November and this might account for the fact that he was still to complete the badge.
6. It is not known what this Stunt involved.
7. The 'Right of Way' was a hike route that had been used by the 70th since it was first formed in the 1930s and involved hiking over the hills from Spango Valley to Lunderston Bay via the 'Curling

Pond'. It was probably a popular hiking trail at the time, but appears to have been forgotten nowadays (as of 2023).

8. A bit of a Troop reshuffle was carried out on the 11th, which saw Cameron Lyall transferred from the Falcons to the Fox (COH minutes for 11th November 1955).

9. This is the first mention of E. Macleod and it is assumed that he was transferred to the Fox Patrol from another Patrol on the 11th November. He might have been one of the Cubs that joined the troop on the 15th September 1955. Unfortunately, his Christian name is not known.

12th of November 1955



We met at 2:15 pm at Ravenscraig School¹ to explore the 'Right of Way'². At about 3 p.m., Skipper called a halt for tests to be passed. We carried on and at 4 pm, we stopped again for fire lighting³. David, Brian and Hugh⁴ passed.

The troop was divided into two sections. One section hid a staff⁵ and the other section tried to find it, I⁶ was pulled into a marsh⁷ defending the staff.

We came down to the road about 2 miles to the Largs side of the Cloch lighthouse⁸ and walked into Gourrock. Robin), David and I arrived home about 6:30 pm.

Ian Kirk (second)

18th of November 1955

After flagbreak and inspection¹, the Seagulls chose football as the game. We lost 1-0 to the Curlews in the final. Robin² taught Hugh³ signalling⁴ while I⁵ took David and Brian⁶ on knots and lashings⁷.

The Fox patrol had to produce a stunt for campfire¹ after which Skipper told us that we had to go out with the trek cart⁸ on Saturday. Before flagbreak, Hugh Paterson was invested⁹.

I Kirk (second)

Editorial notes for 18th November 1955

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log

2. Robin McGill (PL)

3. Hugh Paterson

4. Signalling was part of the 2nd Class Badge at the time. It is likely that the training focused on semaphore rather than morse given the Troop's past record in Signalling Competitions.

5. Ian Kirk (Second)

6. David Friedman and Brian Elliott

7. Knot and Lashings were part of the 2nd Class Badge. Lashings involved tying wooden spars together using rope or sizal. In 1955, Scouts had to build a trestle using square and diagonal lashings, which required an ability to tie clove hitches and timber hitches to start off the relevant lashing. The fisherman's knot was also part of the test.

8. The trek cart was originally purchased on the 15th December 1939 (see relevant troop log). During the war years, the trek cart was used to collect of waste paper from houses in the neighbourhood. During the 1950s, when several camps were held at Inverock, it was used to push camping equipment from Dunoon pier to Inverock campsite – a distance of about 4 miles. It also saw service during the 1950s and 1960s for the collection of jumble from houses in the neighbourhood. On this occasion, it must have been used to collect jumble for a jumble sale held in December.

9. See note 5 for the 28th October 1955 regarding investitures.

25th November 1955

Tonight, Skipper was not present. We lost one point at inspection¹ as Brian's² belt was untidy.

The game chosen by the Seal patrol as duty patrol¹ was ring stick¹. The Fox beat the Falcons 3-2, but lost to 'Big Al'³ of the Seals 7-2.

Andy Whiteford⁴ first gave us another game and then campfire¹. The stunt this week was done by J Harvey⁵ who gained five points for it.

Brian² passed six common trees⁶, David⁷ rules of health⁸, Cameron Lyall passed his Tenderfoot⁹ and is to be invested¹⁰ next week.

The Fox won the monthly championship, for the second month running by a lead of 29 points over our nearest rivals. We were dismissed as usual

I. Kirk (second)

Editorial notes for 25th November 1955

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log
2. Brian Elliott.
3. The writing is a bit indistinct, but it looks as if it was originally 'Big All' and then the second I was scored out. This would have been Alistair Shearer who was PL of the Seal (possibly promoted at the beginning of the 1955-56 session)
4. Andy Whiteford was an ASM by this stage
5. Jim Harvey, PL of the Kingfisher Patrol
6. This was a test towards the 2nd Class Badge
7. David Friedman
8. Rules of Health was one of the tests in the 2nd Class Badge.
9. See note 3 for the 7th October 1955 regarding the Tenderfoot Badge
10. See note 5 for the 28th October 1955 regarding investitures.

2nd December 1955

At inspection¹, we lost very few marks. The game chosen by the Curlews was ice hockey¹. We beat the Kingfisher patrol 4-3, but lost 5-1 to the Seals. The District Commissioner² came and gave us a talk about uniform, Jubilee Jamboree³.

After that, the PLs and I⁴ went down to a hall to prepare for the jumble sale.⁵

I Kirk (Second)

Editorial notes for 2nd December 1955

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log
2. The District Commissioner was James Swan
3. See note 7 for the 3rd June 1955 regarding the World Jamboree of 1957.
4. Ian Kirk (Second)
5. Jumble Sales were a popular fund raising exercise during the 1950s and 1960s, but involved a lot of work in the 2-3 weeks leading up to the event. Normally, a week was spent distributing leaflets round local houses to warn householders that the Scouts would be coming round to collect any clothing or items that householders wanted rid of. The jumble was then collected over the next week or two and stored in the church cellars (the dunny). All the jumble was transported to a big hall during the morning of the jumble sale or the evening before, probably with the aid of a coal lorry. The Court of Honour Minutes for the 11th November stated that the Jumble Sale was to raise funds towards a 70th Pipe Band. This was considered very seriously, but there is no evidence of it ever being formed.

3rd December 1955 Jumble Sale

There was no entry in the Patrol Log for the Jumble Sale held on the 3rd December. However, soe details of the planning are provided in the Court of Honour minutes for 18th November 1955

9th December 1955 Troop Meeting

There was no entry in the Patrol Log for the Troop Meeting held on the 9th December.

16th December 1955

Tonight was the Guide Dance¹. As neither P.L. McGill nor I² was there, none of us can write it up.

I. Kirk (Second)

Editorial notes for 16th December 1955

1. The Guide company that was linked to Finnart Church met at Finnart School rather than the Church Hall. They also organized an annual dance that was usually held in December or January. The Scouts were invited, but usually the Guides far outnumbered the Scouts. The programme of the Guide Dance (like the Scout Dance) was very similar to the school dances and focused on Scottish Country dancing as well as various waltzes, quicksteps and barn dances.

2. Ian Kirk

23rd December 1955



Tonight only about 18 turned up and, instead of having an interpatrol game, we split up into 2 sides. We played football¹, up-and-down², after which about six boys went into the session room for a talk by the drumming instructor.³

The rest of us had a game of ring stick², and another game of football. We had no campfire² but we were dismissed after the last game and told to come back on 13 January.

I. Kirk, Second

Editorial notes for 23rd December 1955

1. The Sandy in the sketch would be Sandy Whiteford.

2. 'Up and Down' might refer to the the known as 'Up One, Down One' – see the general introduction at the start of the log book.

3. The Court of Honour Minutes for the 11th November stated that a Jumble Sale was to raise funds towards a 70th Pipe Band. The possibility of forming such a band was considered very seriously for several years, and was raised at the Court of Honour as early as 1952. However, there is no evidence of it ever being formed.

1956

13th of January 1956

Tonight a new member joined - his name was Alister Nicol¹. After inspection², the game chosen by the Kingfisher patrol as duty patrol was football. The Fox beat the Seals 3-2 and went on to win the other game against the Seagulls by 3-1. Skipper told us briefly about camps and then we had dismissal.

Ian Kirk, Second

Editorial notes for 13th January 1956

- 1. It is believed that Alistair had prior Scouting experience before joining the 70th and may have transferred from another Troop at the age of 12 or 13. Alistair may have been born in Inverkip which suggests that he might have been in the Inverkip troop before joining the 70th.*
- 2. See the general introduction at the start of the log.*

20th January 1956

Tonight, Scott Soutar¹ carried out flagbreak² successfully in the absence of his PL Neill Cook.³

After inspection², the Seagull patrol chose for a change football in which the Curlews were victorious throughout after defeating us 3-0 in the first round.

At patrol corners², Cameron Lyle passed his six common trees⁴.

On Thursday, the 26th January there is to be a meeting of all PLs and Seconds.⁵

RS McGill

Editorial notes for 20th January 1956

- 1. It is highly probable that Scott Soutar was Second of the Seagull Patrol in January 1956. He would have been aged 13 or 14 at the time.*
- 2. See the general introduction at the start of the log.*
- 3. Neil Cook resigned as PL of the Seagull in January 1956 and was replaced by David Graham*
- 4. Identifying 6 common trees was one of the tests in the 2nd Class Badge.*
- 5. The reason for this meeting is not known*

26th January 1956 Meeting of PL and Seconds

No records of this meeting have been found.

27th January 1956

Alistair Shearer¹ hoisted the flag and after inspection² chose ice hockey² for the game. This was won by the Falcons. At patrol corners², Brian and Hugh³ passed their signalling⁴. We then played British Bulldog² and Port and Starboard². The Seal and Kingfisher each gained 10 points for their logs. This, however, made no difference to the monthly results

Fox – 98; Falcon – 95; Seal – 89; Kingfisher – 80; Seagull – 68;
Curlew – 65 1/2

RS McGill

Not enough detail. Try and keep it up-to-date. JRB⁵

Editorial notes for 27th January 1956

1. Alastair Shearer is believed to have been PL of the Seal Patrol
2. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
3. Brian Elliot and Hugh Paterson.
4. In 1956, signalling was one of the tests for the 2nd Class Badge
5. Comment made by Scout Master Ian Blake who reviewed the log books on a regular basis.

FEBRUARY



3rd February 1956

Robin McGill was sick so unable to attend the meeting. We beat the Seagulls 3-1 at football. The Kingfishers won. Brian and myself¹ passed observations² by Skipper. We had no stunt tonight.

Subs 2/-³

Notes Sandy⁴ asked anybody to play football⁵ at the Battery Park.

H.W. Paterson

Editorial notes for 3rd February 1956

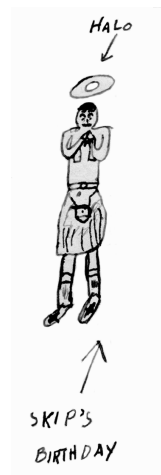
1. Brian Elliott and Hugh Paterson
2. 'Observations' was one of the tests for the 2nd Class Badge. The Scout could choose to pass Kim's Game (describing 16 items out of 24 after 1 minute's observation) or follow a half-mile trail containing at least 30 woodcraft signs in under 25 minutes.
3. Two shillings. There were 20 shillings in a £1.
4. Troop Leader Sandy Whiteford
5. It is possible that the Troop had entered the District Football Competition. It is not known whether the request was to practice or to take part in an actual match.

10th February 1956

No entry in the Patrol log

17th February 1956

We were duty patrol¹ and after inspection, we chose platters¹ and lost to the Falcons 17-19. The scores:



Curlew 24	Seagull 16	Kingfisher 21	Seal 14
Kingfisher 29	Curlew 14	Falcon 22	Kingfisher 23

After the exciting finish, we had time left so we played at Port and Starboard¹ and British Bulldog¹.

At patrol corners¹, Brian, Cameron and myself learned knots. The campfire¹, which, of course, would not light³. It was Skipper's⁴ birthday⁵, we sang happy birthday to him.

Notes: No football in the hall.⁶

HW. Paterson

Editorial notes for 17th February 1956

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. Brian Elliott, Cameron Lyall and Hugh Paterson
3. That was because it was an artificial one.
4. Scout Master Ian Blake
5. It is not clear whether this was the exact date of his birthday, especially as it was celebrated the following week too.
6. This suggests that an announcement was made that night banning football from being played in the Hall. However, football was played the following week. Therefore, the announcement might have referred to football being played in the hall once the meeting was over.

24th of February 1956



After getting full marks for inspection¹, we played at football against the Kingfishers by whom we were beaten 4-2. Cameron Lyle and myself² passed our Highway Code³. It was Skipper's birthday (Ian Blake)⁴.

W.B Elliott

Editorial notes for 24th February 1956

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. Cameron Lyall and Brian Elliott.
3. Highway Code was part of the Second Class Badge in 1956
4. However, it was stated that it was Ian Blake's birthday the previous week so this might suggest that Ian Blake's birthday was in the week between both Friday night meetings.

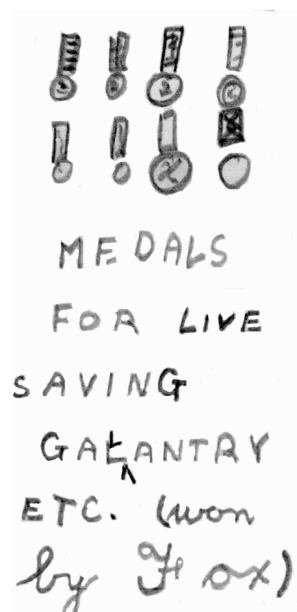
2nd March 1956

Today, we only got nine for inspection¹. Then we were beaten 2-0 by Kingfisher at football. Nobody passed tests. Ian Kirk (Second) was ill.

W.B Elliott

Editorial notes for 2nd March 1956

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.



9th March 1956

No entry provided in the Patrol Log

16 March 1956

Today we got full points at inspection¹ and 2/- subs². Then we had a game of ring stick¹ and lost to the Curlew 4-2.

W.B. Elliott

Editorial notes for 16th March 1956

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. Two shillings. There were 20 shillings in a £1.

23rd of March 1956

Robin McGill left Scouts a very unhappy day for us¹. We beat the Seagulls 3-1 at football but were beaten by the Curlew 2-0. Subs = 2/- . Points = 10.

W.B. Elliott

Editorial notes for 23rd March 1956

1. By implication, this represents a big compliment to Robin McGill and indicates the esteem with which he was held by the members of his Patrol. Robin was probably about 16 when he left the Troop.

30th March – 5th April 1956

At a Court of Honour meeting held in February 1956, Ian Blake stated that there would be an Easter Camp held between 30th March – 5th April 1956 at an undisclosed location, and that the camp would be the end of a Pls and Seconds training course. Unfortunately, no records of the camp have been discovered to date and so it cannot be stated with certainty whether the camp took place or not. There was certainly no reference to it in this Fox Patrol Log. However, it seems likely that the camp did go ahead considering the importance that Ian Blake placed on the training aspect.

Easter 1956

Easter weekend was over the 1st weekend of April 1956 and so there would have been a break of about a fortnight in terms of the Troop meetings which explains the lack of a report for the 30th March and 6th April. It seems likely that the Easter Camp identified above would have been held, but no accounts of the camp have been identified to date. There were certainly 'camps' at Everton as evidenced by Ian Blake's feedback in the log (see comment dated 14th May 1956.) However, these might relate to training camps held at Everton for the training of novices.



13th April 1956

Today we played at football¹; we were beaten by the Seagull 3-1. Sandy², Jim Harvey and William Harkness³ went away to see about the parade⁴ Subs 1/3⁵, full marks⁶

M.B. Elliott

Editorial notes for 13th April 1956

1. The sketch indicates that Sandy Whiteford's approach to football possibly lacked finesse and was more akin to rugby (see also the sketch for 23rd December 1955 and the entry for 23rd September 1955)

2. Sandy Whiteford was Troop Leader during the 1955-56 session.

3. Jim Harvey was PL of the Kingfisher and William Harkness was probably a 1st Scout. However, it is not known which patrol he was in.

4. This almost certainly was the annual District Founders Day Parade. There was usually a rehearsal for colour parties on the preceding Friday night, and this implies that Sandy Whiteford, Jim Harvey and William Harkness were the 70th's

colour party. Presumably Sandy and Jim were the flagbearers, with William being an escort.

5. 1 shilling and threepence

6. Full marks for inspection

Sunday 15th April

This may have been the date for the District Founders Day Parade in 1956. However, no account of it was made in the Patrol Log. Sunday 22nd April is another possibility though.

20th April 1956

Presumably there was a troop meeting on this date. However, it was not recorded in the Patrol Log

27th April 1956

Today, we went up to McAuley's field¹ to play football where we beat the Curlew 2-0 and went on to win the game by beating the Falcon 1-0. Donald Munro² passed his Law and Promise³.

Subs 1/3⁴ Points 10⁵

M.B. Elliott

John R Blake SM 14/5/56⁶

Don't forget to put in log of Camps @ Everton⁷

Editorial notes for 27th April 1956

- 1. See note 2 for the 3rd June 1955 regarding McAuley's field.*
- 2. Donald Munro was a member of the Fox Patrol and the fact that he was working on his Tenderfoot Badge indicates that he had recently joined the Troop. This, in turn, suggests that a number of Wolf Cubs moved up to the Troop after Easter. The exact date is not known.*
- 3. Scouts on their Tenderfoot Badge had to learn the Scout Promise and the 10 Scout Laws off by heart, and also understand what they all meant.*
- 4. 1 Shilling and 3 pence*
- 5. Full marks for inspection*
- 6. Countersigned by Scout Master Ian Blake to show that he had checked the Patrol Log on the 14th May 1956.*
- 7. This is an indication that camps were held at Everton prior to the 14th May 1956. The Court of Honour Minutes indicate that these would have been training camps planned for the first two weekends of May (see the following).*

6th-7th May 1956 and 13th-14th May 1956 Everton Camps

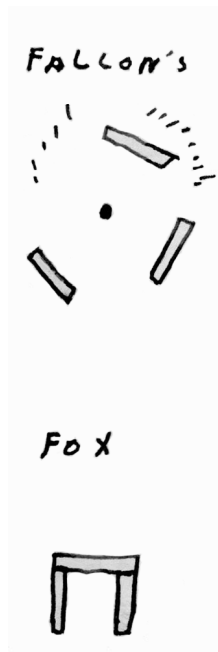
The Court of Honour Minutes for the 27th April 1956 state that two camping weekends were to be held at Everton to provide training for novices. However, Ian Blake's intention was for the whole Troop to camp on these weekends with two separate programmes. The novices would have their own training programme, while the rest of the Scouts would have a normal camp programme. Ian Blake's comment in the Fox Patrol Log indicates that these camps took place, but no accounts of the camps have been discovered.

May-September 1956

There is almost a 6-month gap in the Patrol Log. During this period, a 70th patrol led by Hamish Rankin won the Shannon Cup Competition at Everton during May or June. There was also a very wet Summer Camp at West Loch Tarbert during the 3rd-18th August 1956. At one point, the camp had to be abandoned because of flooding.

1956/1957

12th of October 1956



Opening our programme of events for our meeting¹ tonight, the Seagulls chose platters^{1,2}. We were soundly beaten by the Falcons 32 -18. The Seals won the game, but were beaten by the 'Senior Patrol'³.

Last year, the Fox patrol won the competition of the year for points and were presented with woggles.⁴

Particulars for the marksmanship badge⁵ were given out. A number of boys are going in for it. After patrol corners¹, we played at British Bulldog¹ and Port and Starboard¹.

The patrol⁶ stands P.L. ? (I. Kirk acting)

Second	I. Kirk
1 st Scout	B. Elliotte
2 nd Scout	H. Paterson
3 rd Scout	C. Lyle
4 th Scout	D. Munro
5 th Scout	R. Goodall
6 th Scout	A. Runcie

HW Paterson

Editorial notes for 12th October 1956

- 1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.*
- 2. The sketch shows the principles of platters. The target involved three skittles arranged in an archway arrangement. The idea was to throw a ball from the far end of the hall to knock them down. If you were successful like the Falcons, the arch was demolished. If you failed, like the Fox the arch remained intact.*
- 3. The term 'Senior Patrol' was probably used to represent the Scouters. On occasions, the Scouters would take on the patrol that won the Inter Patrol Game.*
- 4.. It's not known what kind of woggles were presented. It is also not known whether a woggle was sent to Robin McGill as he played a large part in the Fox gaining the Patrol of the Year Award, but resigned as Patrol Leader towards the end of March 1956.*
- 5.. See note 9 for the 3rd June 1955 regarding Proficiency Badges*
- 6.. The full names of the Scouts in the Patrol were Ian Kirk, Brian Elliott, Hugh Paterson, Cameron Lyall, Donald Munro, R. Goodall and Albert Runcie. The Christian name of R. Goodall is not known. Neither is it known whether he was transferred to the Fox Patrol from the another patrol, or joined from the Wolf Cub Pack. Albert Runcie certainly moved up from the Cub Pack either just before the summer or just after.*

19th of October 1956

Seals, who were duty patrol¹ chose platters¹ again. And, again, we were beaten by the Falcons 18-13. Seals won the game.²

At Patrol corners¹, D. Munro³ passed his rules of health⁴, R. Goodall and myself⁵ passed hand axe.⁶

HW Paterson

Editorial notes for 19th October 1956

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. Meaning that they came out top of all the Patrols.
3. Donald Munro
4. Rules of Health was a test towards the 2nd Class Badge
5. Hugh Paterson
6. Hand axe was a test towards the 2nd Class badge. Part of the test was to identify all the parts of the axe.

26th of October 1956

Again, the game was platters¹ chosen by the Falcons who were second². The Seal patrol won the game², thus earning a few well worth marks. We were beaten by the Falcons 21-15 in the first game.

At Patrol corners, R Goodall passed his map and compass³.

After Patrol corners, we played at British Bulldog and Port and Starboard.

John Nisbet⁴ was appointed PL of the Fox patrol and Brian Elliott was made Second of the Curlew Patrol⁵. A number of Scouts were promoted tonight.⁶

The patrol stands⁷

PL.	J. Nisbet
Second	I. Kirk
1 st Scout	H. Paterson
2 nd Scout	C. Lyall
3 rd Scut	D. Munro
4 th Scout	R. Goodall
5 th Scout	A. Runcie

HW Paterson

Editorial notes for 26th October 1956

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. This was the position gained overall after all the games were played
3. Map and Compass was a test towards the 2nd Class Badge
4. John Nisbet was Second of the Curlew Patrol before being promoted to PL of the Fox Patrol. He would have been aged about 13 in 1956, as were most of the other PLs - an indication of the relative young age of the Scouts at this time. Most of the PLs promoted in 1956 remained as PLs for 3-4 years.
5. Brian Elliott took over John Nisbet's previous position as Second of the Curlew Patrol. He was probably aged 12 when he was promoted to Second.
6. Other Scouts to be promoted included the following. Hamish Rankin (aged 13; PL of the Falcons), Trevor Jones (aged 13, PL of the Kingfishers), Scout Soutar (aged 14, PL of the Curlews), Ken Conway (aged 13, PL of the Seals), Alastair Nicol (aged 13, Second of the Falcons), Jim Blair (aged 12, Second of the Kingfishers), William Harkness (age ?, Second of the Seagulls).
7. The full names were John Nisbet, Ian Kirk, Hugh Paterson, Cameron Lyall, Donald Munro, R. Goodall and Albert Runcie.

2 November 1956



We were beaten at 'Ice Hockey'¹ by the Falcons 4-1, the one scored by Ian Kirk (Sec). Ian cut his elbow.

At patrol corners¹, Albert Runcie passed dress a wound (Tenderfoot²).

After that, we went out for the game on estimation³ of the flagpole⁴ at the Ardgowan bowling greens and the spire of St Paul's. There is no spire and we were all caught except the

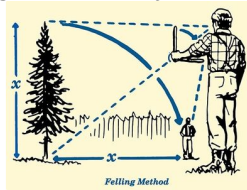
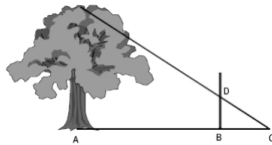
Curlews. The Curlews won the game.

After a game of Port and Starboard, we had dismissal.

H.W. Paterson

Editorial notes for 2nd November 1956

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. See note 3 for the 7th October 1955 regarding the Tenderfoot Badge
3. Estimation was part of the 1st Class Badge and required Scouts to estimate distances and heights. This could be done with the aid of a Scout staff, using the basics of trigonometry and equivalent triangles. An alternative method was stand some distance from the tree such that hold a finger up matched the height of the tree. If the finger was turned horizontal, one could estimate where the top of the tree would end up if it fell over. A Scout could be positioned at that point and then the height could be estimated by pacing the distance from the Scout to the base of the tree.



4. The flagpole at Ardgowan Bowling Club during 1956 was about twice the height of the current flagpole (as of 2023). The old flagpole was replaced round about 2010 (+ or - 5 years)

9th of November 1956

Instead of our usual meeting, we had a Tramps party¹. The best dressed tramp was Alister Cram², who won a prize. Second was C. Lyall³. After inspection, we played a British Bulldog. Then we had ice cream (two helpings for the lucky ones)⁴



Stunts were then performed, but the Fox did conjuring⁵. After this, we had cakes and lemonade.⁶ A game of dodgeball was next which we enjoyed. Next we had treacle scones and I⁷ got covered in the stuff.⁸

Alas, it was time to go home. The PLs stayed to wash up.

H.W. Paterson

Editorial notes for 9th November 1956

1. Sandy Whiteford proposed the idea of having a party (COH meeting on 19th Oct), then Hamish Rankin proposed that everyone dress up as Tramps (COH meeting on 26th Oct).
2. Alistair Cram was aged about 11 in 1956 and would have moved up from the Cubs round about the summer of 1956. He may have been in the Kingfisher Patrol at the time.
3. Cameron Lyall was 2nd Scout in the Fox patrol and was aged about 12 at the time
4. The Curlew Patrol provided the ice cream (COH minutes 26th October 1956)

5. It is not known what was involved in terms of the conjuring or who the conjuring expert in the Fox Patrol might have been.
6. The cakes were supplied by the Seagull and Fox Patrols (COH minutes 26th October 1956). It is not known who supplied the lemonade.
7. Hugh Paterson.
8. It is not known when the tradition of treacle scones started within the 70th, but it is assumed that the routine remained much the same over the years. During the 1960s, the procedure was to lay a tarpaulin over the floor and tie a rope across the hall above head height. Potato scones were dangled from the rope using sizal such that they were about head height. The scones were then liberally coated with treacle and the Scouts were to try and eat the treacle scone with their hands tucked securely behind their back. Occasionally, the rope might be 'shoogled' if the Scouters felt it was getting too easy.

16th November 1956

No report in the Patrol Log

23rd November 1956

No report in the Patrol Log

30th November 1956

Tonight, Seagulls (duty patrol¹) chose ring stick¹. We beat Kingfishers 5-0, but were beaten by Seals 3-2. The Seals went on to beat the Falcons 5-0.

At Patrol corners¹, John Nisbet (PL) passed first class estimation², but D. Munro and C. Lyall³ failed Kim's game⁴.

After patrol corners¹, we played at British Bulldog¹ and a new game (in) which two teams line up against the wall. Skipper throws a shoe up the centre of the hall and calls a number. The corresponding number tries to get the shoe back to his wall.

Alistair Nichol⁵ passed his second-class.⁶

H.W. Paterson

Editorial notes for 30th November 1956

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. See note 3 for the 2nd November 1956 regarding estimation.
3. Donald Munro and Cameron Lyall.
4. See note 2 for 3rd February 1956 regarding Kim's Game and observation
5. Alistair Nicol, Second of the Falcon Patrol, would have been aged about 13 at this point
6. The 2nd Class Badge was the second badge in Scouting's Progressive Training Scheme, which consisted of four main badges - the Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, 1st Class and Queen's Scout Badges.

7th December 1956

Seals, duty patrol¹, chose Hopping Charlie¹ for the game. We were beaten by the Kingfishers 7-6. We went on to beat the Curlews 5-1,

At patrol corners¹, John Nisbet passed first-class² mapping and compass and Albert Runcie Tenderfoot flags³.

Last week, Fox won the month and stand at the top of the hall⁴.

We had British Bulldog¹ and dodgeball¹. At dodgeball, the Seals won. At the new game (See last writing⁵) 1's beat the 2's 13-11.

Alastair Shearer⁶ passed his 'Met' badge⁷. The people who were going to the winter camp from 28 December to 1st January⁸ stayed behind for details.

H.W. Paterson

Editorial notes for 7th December 1956

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. The 1st Class Badge was the 3rd badge in Scouting's progressive training scheme (Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, 1st Class and Queen's Scout badges). Patrol Leaders were expected to have their 1st Class Badge before they were appointed. At times, this was not feasible, in which case the Patrol Leader was encouraged to gain the Badge as quickly as possible. This was particularly the case in 1956 when most of the PLs were aged 13.
3. See note 3 for the 7th October 1955 regarding the Tenderfoot Badge
4. There was a monthly patrol championship with points gained from activities, tests, badges, games, patrol activities, patrol log books etc. During the 1950s and 1960s, a small sheath knife with strands of wool corresponding to the winning patrol of the month was worn by the Patrol Leader during the subsequent month. The patrol also took up the position closest to the door of the hall with the other patrols lining the walls of the hall in the same order as they achieved in the latest competition. It is not known when exactly these customs were introduced though.
5. See entry for the 30th November 1956 regarding the 'new game' - retrieving the sandshoe in the middle.
6. Alistair Shearer was PL of the Seal Patrol, but must have resigned during the summer of 1956 to become a Junior Assistant Scout Master once he was aged 16. However, he was still of Scout age and could continue working towards his Queen's Scout Badge which he completed in March 1957
7. The Meteorology Proficiency Badge.
8. This is the only reference to a winter camp for the 28th December to 1st January in the available records. No account appears to have survived of what was involved.

1957

11th January 1957

The game was ring stick¹ and in the first round, we were beaten 1-0 by the Curlew patrol, who went on to be beaten in the final round by the Seal Patrol. At Patrol Corners¹, D. Munro² passed Kim's game³ and H. Paterson⁴ passed 2nd Class Knots and Lashings⁵. General work was carried out by the other members. After this, the usual British Bulldog¹ was played and after this was played, we fell in for dismissal.

The flag was brought down and we dismissed punctually.

John Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 11th January 1957

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. Donald Munro
3. Kim's game was one of the options for the Observation Test that was part of the 2nd Class Badge. It involved describing 16 out of 24 objects after they had been observed for a minute.
4. Hugh Paterson.
5. Knot and Lashings were part of the 2nd Class Badge. Lashings involved tying wooden spars together using rope or sizar. In 1957, Scouts had to build a trestle using square and diagonal lashings, which required an ability to tie clove hitches and timber hitches to start off the relevant lashing. The fisherman's knot was also part of the knotting test.

18th of January 1957



We started tonight with the flagbreak and inspection¹. We where the duty patrol¹ tonight and John Nis² picked football as the game. The curlw was against us and we were in the leed with 1-0, when the wistle blew for foul-time. After that, we had an estimation game. We were to go to St Paul's Church; there we were to met a stranger and he would give us a letter which said go to the West Renfrew garage³ a count how many petrol pumps there were and estimate the hight⁴. Our answer was 7'2", but we only got 5 ½ marks because we were meant to write in both answers on the letter and we only wrote one.

After that, we went to Patrol corners¹.

Tonight, I⁵ was the only one that past anything; it was cooking⁶. I had to make a bowl of porridge and a piece of toast with scrambled egg over the top. s_kipper said that my porrage wasn't very good but my egg was excellent.

After that, we had the usual game of British bulldog when the seconds had to go out and defend the others. We had just got big Eric⁷ to the ground and in the middle of a pile⁸ on when the minister⁹ walked in, so s_kipper stopped the game¹⁰ went on to something quieter; it was port and starboard¹. Then we brought the flage down; after that, we had intimations. The Patrol markes are 41.

Cameron Lyall 3rd¹¹

Spelling atrocious. A. Shearer¹²

Editorial notes for 18th January 1957

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. John Nisbet's nickname was 'Nis' or 'Niz'.
3. The West Renfrew Garage (West Renfrew Motors) was situated at 26-30 Brougham Street, Greenock
4. See note 3 for the 2nd November 1956 regarding the estimation of heights.
5. Cameron Lyall
6. This would have been the cooking test for the 2nd Class Badge. It was almost certainly carried out in the church kitchen, but the purists would have insisted that it should have been done over a wood fire lit by the Scout.
7. It is believed that this was Eric Paterson who would have been 16 or 17 at the time and was probably in the Seal Patrol. Very little is known about Eric or why he did not get promoted. It is also not known when he left the troop. This is the last mention of him in any of the available records.
8. When British Bulldog was in its final stages and only the bigger Scouts were left uncaught, the standard practice for the 'wee men' was to wait until older Scouts managed to haul down one of the 'giants'. Once that happened, the wee men would then fling themselves on top of the struggle to produce a pile of bodies which made escape impossible for the captured victim. It also made it impossible to lift him off the floor for the obligatory 'British Bulldog 1,2,3' and a strategy had to ne worked out for the final lift before the 'wee men' were peeled away.
9. The Reverend Stewart was the minister of Finnart Church and the Troop Chaplain.
10. It seems unlikely that the game was changed just because the Rev Stewart had turned up. After all, the Rev Stewart had been Troop chaplain since the 1930s and made frequent visits, so he must have been fully aware of the intricacies of British Bulldog. It probably more likely that Ian Blake

altered the game so that he could have a discussion with the minister in private without having to worry about the carnage getting out of control.

11. 3rd Scout, Cameron Lyall also did the little sketches, which reveal that 'Boom coming over' was used in Port and Starboard at least as far back as 1957. Moreover, the numbering for British Bulldog was 1,2,3, compared with 1,2,9 which was used at some point during the 1960s, before it reverted back to 1,2,3. Finally, 'Snowball' is presumably the nickname for somebody in the Fox Patrol, but it is not clear who. It might be Cameron Lyall himself.

12. A comment made by Alastair Shearer. Alistair was aged about 16 or 17 at this point and had joined the Scouter team the previous summer. He was probably asked to review the Patrol log books and he made corrections to the entries underlined. He could have been more complimentary in terms of the detail and length of the entry which were substantially better than the entries leading up to this one.

25th of January 1957

The game tonight football; tonight, first of all, we played the Seagull. The score was 3-0 for the Fox. After that, we played the Curlew and we were beaten 3-1. At Patrol corners¹, nobody passed anything. Then we had a new game. The Troop was separated into two sides and we were given a number up to 10, then Skipper shouted out two numbers and we ran and turned a bottle upside down and put another on top and then we ran into the middle where there was a slipper and we ran back to our team with the shoe.² Then we had dodgeball¹. And we ended another great night of Scouting

Cameron Lyall

Editorial notes for 25th January 1957

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. This was a modification of the game played on the 30th November 1956

1st February 1957

The Seagull Patrol, being Duty Patrol¹, had the privilege of choosing the game – football. The Fox Patrol had extraordinary luck right through to the Final as two of its members were put off in every game. In the Final round, however, we were beaten by the Curlew Patrol.

At Patrol Corners¹, only one test was passed in the whole troop - that being passed by the P.L. John Nisbet (Emergencies 1st Class)².

The usual troop games were played later – British Bulldog¹, Port and Starboard¹ etc.

Then, for the first time for months, the campfire¹ was brought out and the Troop let off steam with their favourite songs, yells etc.

We fell in, had notices (there was to be a meeting of PLs) and the flag was brought down. We dismissed punctually.

Signed John Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 1st February 1957

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. In 1957, the Emergencies test for the 1st Class Badge involved knowing how to deal with various emergencies such as fire, drowning, fainting, ice breaking and electric shock. First Aid was also included and it was necessary to know the position of the main arteries and how to stop external bleeding (a knowledge of suitable pressure points). In addition, the Scout had to know how to treat fractures of the collar bone, arm and forearm, and to use a triangular bandage for injuries to the knee, head and foot. Finally, it was necessary to know how to treat shock.

8th February 1957

The Seal Patrol, being on Duty¹, chose ice-hockey¹ for the inter-patrol game. The Fox, playing first, managed to beat the Seal patrol by 4 goals to 3. In the semi-final, they were beaten by the Falcon Patrol who went on to beat the Curlew Patrol in the final round.

At Patrol corners¹, not one test was passed in the whole troop, but a glance at the test book² at the end of the meeting would have shown anyone that the ASMs were going to have their hands full the next Friday³.

After the gear and chairs were put away, the boys heated themselves up in no less than THREE games of British Bulldog! This took a fair bit of time and the Troop then assembled round the campfire for quarter of an hour that always goes quickly around a campfire¹.

The Troop put on their uniform⁴, fell in for notices, flag-down, and dismissal. The Scoutmaster officially announced that the Court of Honour⁵ had decided that the Troop would hold a dance in the Church Hall on 1st March 1957. The Troop would amalgamate with "the Youth of the Church"⁶. Cost was 1/6^{D7} per head (Boys were to bring their own partners).

At the end of the second week of the Patrol Championship⁸, the Fox Patrol were third with 34 points.

Signed John Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 8th February 1957

- 1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.*
- 2. Scouts wishing to take a particular test would write their names in the test notebook, along with the test they wanted to be assessed on. The Scouters would then attempt to assess everyone who had entered their name during the evening, either on the night or the following week.*
- 3. Only Scouters were allowed to pass Scouts on tests associated with the Tenderfoot, 2nd Class and 1st Class Badge. Patrol Leaders and Seconds could train their Scouts for those tests during the sessions of Patrol Corners held each week.*
- 4. In the 1950s and most of the 1960s, the majority of Scouts wore shorts and only removed their neckerchief, lanyard, hat and smart shoes during Troop nights. The uniform shirt was pretty sturdy in those days and was rarely changed. Changing back into full uniform was relatively simple, except for those Scouts who wore kilts.*
- 5. Court of Honour (COH) Meetings involved all the PLs, Scout Master and some of the ASMs. This usually met in the session room after the troop meeting and discussed all relevant matters affecting the troop. One of the roles of the Court of Honour was to maintain discipline and standards within the troop. Decisions were made by the Patrol Leaders, but the Scout Master could influence whatever decisions were made.*
- 6. At a previous Court of Honour Meeting, it was pointed out that a large percentage of the boys in the "Youth of the Church" were Scouts in any case. Later, it transpired that the "Youth of the Church" was actually the Bible Class.*
- 7. One shilling and sixpence. There were 20 shillings in £1 and 12 pennies in each shilling.*
- 8. There was a monthly patrol championship with points gained from activities, tests, badges, games, patrol activities, patrol log books etc. During the 1950s and 1960s, a small sheath knife with strands of wool corresponding to the winning patrol of the month was worn by the Patrol Leader during the subsequent month. The patrol also took up the position closest to the door of the hall with the other patrols lining the walls of the hall in the same order as they achieved in the latest competition. It is not known when exactly these customs were first introduced though.*

Friday 15th of February 1957

Tonight, the Curlew Patrol were on duty¹ and, after flag break and inspection,¹ chose football for the inter patrol game.

In the 2nd round, the Fox Patrol – thanks mainly to Second Iain Kirk - beat the Falcon patrol 5-0. In the semi-final, however, they were beaten 2-1 by the Kingfisher Patrol who went on to win the final round by beating the Seal Patrol. At Patrol Corners¹, D. Munro² passed 2nd Class Knots and Lashings³, H. Paterson⁴ passed 2nd Class Map and Compass⁵. Albert Runcie received instruction in Tenderfoot knots⁶ from Skipper.

Following Patrol Corners, games were played, viz British Bulldog¹ (3 times), Port and Starboard¹ and inter-patrol Dodge Ball¹ – all firm favourites with the Troop.

There was no time for campfire¹ after the games, so the Troop fell in for dismissal. There was information about the Marksman's badge⁷ for those concerned. Skipper was organizing an expedition along "The Right of Way"⁸ on Saturday 16th of February.

Patrol championship⁹ (3rd week) – Fox 54 points (second).

John Nisbit (P.L.)¹⁰

A very good log. Try and get a good drawer in your Patrol to put in illustrations.

John R. Blake, S.M. 10/3/57¹¹

Editorial notes for 8th February 1957

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. Donald Munro.
3. See note 5 for the 11th January 1957 regarding 2nd Class Knot and Lashings.
4. Hugh Paterson.
5. In 1957, the 2nd Class Map and Compass test involved knowing the 16 points of the compass and how to set a map.
6. In 1957, the Tenderfoot knots that needed to be known were the reef knot, sheet bend, bowline, sheep shank, round turn and two half hitches and clove hitch.
7. See note 9 for the 3rd June 1955 regarding Proficiency Badges
8. See note 7 for the 11th November 1955 regarding the 'Right of Way'.
9. See note 8 for the 8th February 1957 regarding the Patrol Championship
10. As an additional note, Kenneth Johnstone (Formerly Second of the Seagull Patrol) was appointed PL of the Seagull Patrol in place of David Graham who had resigned. Kenneth was probably aged about 14 at that point.
11. Comment made by Ian Blake on checking the Patrol Log on 10th March 1957.

Saturday 16th of February 1957 The Right of Way Hike

It is assumed that his hike took place. However, there was no description of it provided in the Patrol Log

Friday 22nd of February 1957

After Flagbreak and Inspection¹, the Falcon Patrol, being Duty Patrol¹, chose Football for the inter-patrol game. In the second round, the Fox Patrol was beaten 3-2 by the Curlew Patrol.

At Patrol Corners¹, since no tests were passed, the members of the Patrol did general badge work. At 8.40 p.m., the gear was put away and the Troop warmed themselves up with British Bulldog¹ and other favourites.

Following this, there was a short campfire¹ with the usual campfire songs, rounds,² etc

The Troop then fell in for announcements and dismissal. Results of the Patrol Championship for the month of February were not known, ASM McFarlane³ being absent.

Skipper said he wanted every member of the Troop at the Founder's Day Parade⁴ on Sunday 24th of February. The troop was to meet at Dunrod Dairy, Ardgowan Square,⁵ at 10:15 am.

The Dance which was being held on 1 March would start at 7:30 p.m. and finish up at 11 p.m. (ministers request⁶),
The Troop dismissed punctually.⁷

Signed John Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 22nd February 1957

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. It is not known what was meant by 'rounds'.
3. ASM Ian McFarlane was responsible for keeping the scores for the monthly Patrol Championship
4. This was a District Parade and so it was important that the Troop turned up in good numbers.
5. Dunrod Dairy was at the corner of Union Street and Robertson Street, on the other side of Robertson Street from the Bowling Club entrance.
6. The Reverend Stewart
7. There was a Court of Honour meeting following on from the Troop meeting where the following promotions were agreed. Brian Elliott (formerly Second of the Curlew Patrol) was promoted to PL of the Curlew Patrol following the resignation of Scott Soutar. William Harkness was promoted to Second of the Seagull Patrol following Ken Johnston's promotion to PL the previous week. Stuart Scott was promoted to Second of the Seal Patrol. This position was declared vacant at a Court of Honour Meeting in October 1956 and may have remained unfilled until this appointment.

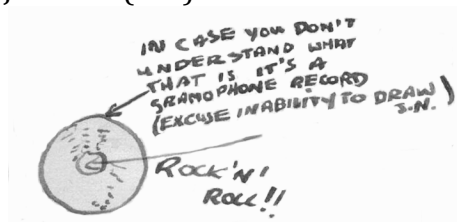
24th February 1957 Founder's Day Parade

No report was included within the Patrol Log on the parade. A short report is provide in the Troop log for 1957.

Friday 1st March 1957

This was the night of the dance (see above) and was thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

J. Nisbet (P.L.)¹



Editorial notes for 1st March 1957

1. See entries for the 8th and 22nd February 1957. Also, the Court of Honour minutes for 25th January 1957, stated that the 'music makers' for the dance would be Sandy Whiteford and Jim Harvey, with Bob Miller acting as 'Master of Ceremonies'. The Troop Log revealed that one mother arrived at midnight looking for her daughter.

Friday 8th March 1957

The Fox Patrol was Duty Patrol¹ and after the Flag had been broken and the Patrols inspected¹, chose football for the Patrol Game. In the 1st round, we were beaten 2-0 by the Falcon Patrol.

Again, no tests were passed, but a long list was entered² for the following week, 15th March.

The usual Troop games were played, these being followed by a campfire¹ and Dismissal.

At Campfire, Skipper gave the Troop a stern talk on **DISCIPLINE** and reminded them that there was still in the Troop such a thing as a **COURT OF HONOUR**.³

A meeting of P.L.s⁴ was called after the meeting.

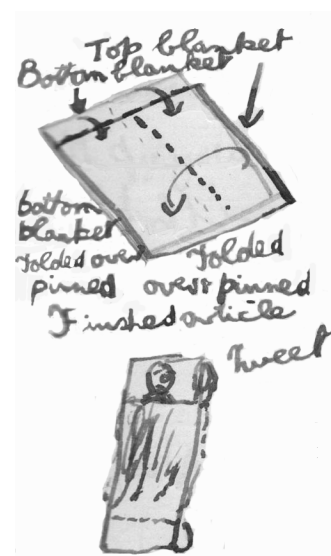
Signed John Nisbet (P.L.)⁵

Editorial notes for 8th March 1957

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. See note 2 for the 8th February 1957 regarding the test book
3. See Note 5 for the 8th February 1957 regarding the Court of Honour.
4. This was a meeting of the Court of Honour that discussed Bob-a-Job week, Summer Camp and Easter Camp.
5. The Troop log revealed that Robert Harvey and Ritchie Muir joined the Troop and that players were still 'being put off' for high balls when playing football.

Friday 15th of March 1957

The Kingfisher being Duty Patrol¹ chose football for the patrol game (after Flag-break and Inspection¹). The Fox was beaten 6-5 by the Kingfisher in the 1st round.



At Patrol Corners¹, A. Runcie² past Tenderfoot knots³ and was invested⁴ later in the evening.

Games were played after Patrol Corners.

Skipper then told us about the events during 1957⁵.

Parades, exhibitions, etc were talked about. There was then a demonstration by Skipper and "Al"⁶ on how to make a sleeping bag. (Tweed⁷, the camping expert, got a chance to have a rest in it).

Campfire followed this. Skipper had brought his banjo (?)⁸ and gave a very good solo.

The Troop then fell in for investitures⁹, announcements and dismissal.

Patrol championship – 33 [2nd bottom]¹⁰

There will be no meeting next week because there was going to be a Communion Preparatory Service in the

hall. Instead, the troop would meet at the bottom gate of the Lyle Park at 7:30 p.m. for a wide game.

A meeting of P.L.'s was called for after dismissal.

Signed John Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 15th March 1957

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. Albert Runcie
3. See note 6 for the 8th February 1957 regarding Tenderfoot Knots.
4. See note 5 for the 28th October 1955 regarding investitures.
5. 1957 was being celebrated as the 100th anniversary of Baden Powell's birth and the 50th (Golden) anniversary of the birth of Scouting.
6. Alastair Shearer was still of Scout age but was part of the Scouter team

7. Hamish Rankin's nickname was 'Tweet'.
8. It's not clear why a question mark was added. Ian Blake certainly had a banjo which he seemed to play well.
9. According to the Troop Log, H. Burniston and Albert Runcie were invested on the 15th March, but this is contradicted by the Fox Patrol Log which states that Albert was invested on the 29th March 1957. It should be noted that log book entries were often written up from memory some time after the event and so the exact details of events might not have been accurately recalled.
10. This would be the ongoing Patrol Championship of the month, this time for March.

Friday 22nd March 1957

Tonight was a wide game as there was a communion preparatory service in the hall. The patrols¹ were paired off (at the bottom gate of the Lyle Park), the first one in each pair setting off towards Madeira Street where they found a message hidden at the well.² They proceeded to the phone box at Fort Matilda³ where they got the number and counted the panes of glass. Halfway up the Lyle Road, they exchanged instructions with their opposite number.⁴

The troop dismissed at about 9:10 PM after a rammy⁵ in the park.

Signed John Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 22nd March 1957

1. There were only 15 Scouts present as most of the Scouts were visiting the annual "Schoolboys Exhibition" (possibly in Glasgow) (Source: Troop Log). Therefore, it seems likely that the Scouts present were split into two composite patrols.
2. The well was a Victorian style, metal, stand-alone well situated at the south end of the junction between Newton Street and Madeira Street. There were a number of these still functioning in the west end at the time.
3. Presumably, this was close to the railway station but the exact location has not yet been determined.
4. The other set of instructions involved going up to the flagpole at the top of the Lyle Hill (Craig's Top) – source Troop Log.. A flagpole used to be located at the top of the Lyle Hill until at least the 1960s. The base of the flagpole is still present on the site.
5. A rammy usually involved some kind of physical struggle, possibly with some obscure objective. However no further details of this particular rammy are known.

Friday 29th of March 1957

Tonight, the Seagull patrol was Duty Patrol¹ and after flagbreak, the Troop went to Patrol Corners¹ for 20 minutes. A Scouter visited each patrol, giving instruction in various badges. This was a new plan thought up by Skipper (Ian Blake). The 20 minutes went much quicker and there was much less noise.

The 20 minutes over, the gear was put away and the Troop fell in. The Curlew Patrol chose Football¹ and the Fox luckily won the first round. Unfortunately, they were beaten in the Semi-final.

The next 20 minutes of Patrol Corners¹ began and a Scouter came round for tests. Numerous tests were passed. Those who weren't passing anything went on with their own badge work.

Games were played after Patrol Corners. There was a short campfire¹.

The Troop fell in as there was to be an investiture² (A. Runcie³ of the Fox Patrol). Announcements were made.⁴

Signed John Nisbet (P.L.)

Patrol championship for March – Fox 55 points (bottom)

Editorial notes for 29th March 1957

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. The Investiture ceremony has probably changed very little during the history of the troop. During the 1960s, a table was brought in to the hall and a Union Flag laid on top. Candles were lit and placed on the table and the main lights were put out such that the only light came from the candles. The boy who was due to be invested was then instructed to march to the table by his PL, who stood at the alert a few paces behind. The boy stood on one side of the table, while the Scout Master (SM) stood on the other side. The SM then asked the boy if he knew 'what it meant to be put on your honour', to which the boy replied something along the lines of 'A Scout is to be Trusted'. The SM then asked the boy to place his left hand on the flag and to make the Scout sign with his right hand. The SM then asked everyone else present to make the Scout sign before asking the boy to repeat the Scout Promise after him. Once this was over, everyone stopped showing the Scout sign and the boy was welcomed into the 'Worldwide Brotherhood of Scouting' and presented with his neckerchief and various badges. The SM shook the newly accepted Scout by the left hand and they both saluted. The Scout's PL then commanded the new Scout to 'about turn' and march back to the patrol. At some point during the years that this ceremony was carried out, the parents of those boys getting invested were invited along to witness the ceremony, but it not known when exactly the practice was introduced or whether it occurred during the 1950s. 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.
3. Albert Runcie. However, the Troop Log stated that Albert was invested on the 15th March 1957. It is not known which of these dates was the actual date of the investiture.
4. The Troop log for the 29th March 1957 stated that Alastair Shearer completed his Queen's Scout Badge on this date.



Friday 5th April 1957

Tonight, the new arrangements for Patrol Corners¹ was again used. After Flagbreak and Inspection¹, the Troop went to Patrol Corners¹ for 20 minutes instruction with a Scouter.

Then came the inter patrol game¹. The Seal being Duty Patrol¹ chose Ringstick¹. The Fox were not playing till the third round. They won their game and then won the final 4-2 against the Seal patrol.

At the next session of Patrol Corners, various tests were passed. D. Munro and A. Runcie² passed 2nd class Handaxe³ and Cameron Lyall passed 1st class Estimation⁴.

The usual games were played.

There was no campfire¹ as there were to be a number of investitures⁵. These were C. Boyd and B. McGregor⁶, both of Kingfisher patrol.

Announcements – meeting of PLs

Patrol championship (1st week) Fox 21 pts (Top)

Signed John Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 5th April 1957

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. Donald Munro and Albert Runcie.

3. Hand axe was a test towards the 2nd Class badge. Part of the test was to identify all the parts of the axe.
4. See note 3 for the 2nd November 1956 regarding the estimation of heights.
5. See note 3 for the 29th March 1957 regarding investitures.
6. There is very little information about both boys, but it is assumed that they were class mates as they were invested on the same night. C. Boyd's Christian name is not known, but it is likely that B. McGregor's Christian name was Billy or William. It is not known how long they stayed in the Troop, but there are no other references to them in the available records.

Friday 12th of April 1957

This evening, the Duty Patrol¹ was Curlew.

For Attendance and Inspection¹, the Fox Patrol received 10 points apiece (Skipper inspecting officer).

After Flagbreak and Inspection, the Troop went to Patrol Corners¹ and an ASM visited each patrol, giving instruction where necessary.

The gear was put away after the 20 minutes was up and the Troop fell in. The Curlew Patrol chose football for the inter patrol game.

In the third round, the Fox Patrol played the Falcon, whom they beat. In the Final, the Fox were beaten 3-2 by the Kingfisher Patrol.

At the second session of Patrol Corners, Laird McFarlane² (a new member) passed Tenderfoot Promise and Flag³ and A. Runcie⁴ passed 2nd class Trees⁵. British Bulldog¹ and Port and Starboard¹ were played and there was a short campfire¹.

The Troop fell in and announcements⁶ were made.

A meeting of P.Ls was called

There would be a camp meeting next week.⁷

Money for the trip to Kelvin Hall was to be handed in.⁸

Patrol championship – 49 points (Top)

Signed John Nisbet (P.L.)

Well done John. John R. Blake SM⁹

Editorial notes for 12th April 1957

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. Very little is known about Laird McFarlane and whether he joined the troop direct or moved up from the Wolf Cub Pack. He stayed with the Troop for at least 2 years and participated in a Shannon Cup Team and several camps, but there is no evidence of him getting promoted.
3. The Scout Promise and Laws has to be known off by heart and Scouts also had to show that they understood them. The flag test included learning how to fold the flag and hoist it ready for breaking at the start of the meeting.
4. Albert Runcie
5. For the 2nd Class test, Scouts had to identify 6 common trees and their burning properties.
6. Neville Mort (a former 70th PL) visited the Troop that night and may have been introduced (Source Troop Log).
7. The camp meeting would have been related to Easter Camp, which was held near Roseneath during the 13th- 16th April 1957.
8. The trip was to visit a Scout Show/Display that was one of the events put on to celebrate the golden (50th) anniversary of Scouting. The exhibition (or show) lasted a week at the Kelvin Hall.
9. Comment added to the Patrol Log by Scout Master Ian Blake. Ian regularly checked the Patrols and Troop Logs to ensure that were being kept up to date and that standards were maintained.

Friday 19th April 1957

As this was the last night of the month (the 26th was the visit to Kelvin Hall), the meeting was declared “all games”.

The Falcon Patrol was on duty¹ and H. Rankin (PL) broke the flag successfully and decided upon football at McAuley’s Field². (Inspection¹ was held first).

Playing the Seal patrol in the 2nd round, the Fox patrol beat them 1-0. In the Final, they beat the Seagull Patrol 1-0.

Back in the hall, there was a short Patrol Corners.¹

Games were played. Ringstick¹ was chosen by the Scouters and they played the “rest” (the Troop) and needless to say, beat the “rest” handsomely.

The Troop fell in after the games.

Bob-a-Job cards³ were handed out. Skipper said he wanted each boy to have a target of £1.⁴

Those going to the Kelvin Hall⁵ were to be at Finnart Church at 6:15 p.m. (not 6:16 p.m.) or the bus would go with out them. ASM McFarlane didn’t have the results of the Patrol championship for April.⁶ We dismissed at 9:10 for the camp meeting.⁷

Signed John Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 12th April 1957

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.

2. See note 2 for the 3rd June 1955 regarding McAuley’s field.

3. In the 1950s and 1960s, Scout Bob-a-Job Week involved Scouts going round the houses of their neighbourhood asking for jobs. The ‘Bob’ in ‘Bob-a-Job’ indicated that each completed job should be rewarded with a shilling (12 shillings made up a £1). However, most house owners gave more than that. Scouts wore full uniform during the week and were supplied with yellow stickers showing a tick. A houseowner could stick that on a window or door to stop other Scouts asking for a job. The Scouts also were given a Bob-a-Job card in which the house owner would identify the job done and the amount paid. The card and the money raised were handed in to the troop once Bob-a-Job week was over. Some of the money raised went to Imperial Scout HQ, but the money left over was added to the troop coffers. During the Easter holidays of the 1950s and 1960s, Scouts were frequently seen wandering local streets in their quest for odd jobs.

4. £1 in 1957 was the equivalent of about £31 today (February 2023).

5. See note 8 for the 12th April 1957 regarding the Scout show at the Kelvin Hall.

6. ASM Ian McFarlane took responsibility for keeping note of the marks counting towards the Patrol Championship of the Month

7. This presumably refers to the Easter Camp at Roseneath during April 1957, but there is a disagreement over the dates during which this took place. The Fox patrol Log states that the dates were the 20th-23th April, whereas the Troop Log stated that it was the 13th-16th April. Easter Sunday, itself was on the 21st April in 1957.

20th-23rd April 1957¹ EASTER CAMP

The boys going to camp assembled on Saturday the 20th, a dull day with promise of rain later. That night and on Sunday night there were some heavy rain.

Monday and Tuesday, however, were good days with sunshine practically all the time. Jim², of course, had to fall in the water!!!!

Camp was struck on Tuesday morning and the campers arrived home for lunch

The general opinion of the camp? Not bad.

Signed John Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 20th-23rd April 1957

1. There is a disagreement between the Troop Log and the Fox Patrol Log over the dates of Easter Camp, with the Troop Log identifying the dates as the 13th-16th April 1957

2. Unfortunately, it is not known which 'Jim' this referred to. Possibilities are Jim Blair, Jim McKenzie, Jim Harvey, Jim Whitefield, Jimmy Lee, and Jimmy Miller. The two most likely candidates are Jim Blair or Jim Harvey.

Friday 26th of April 1957

This was the night of the visit to Kelvin Hall¹. The trip was enjoyed by S.M., A.S.Ms and Ss² alike.

The bus left Trinity Church at 6:15 p.m. prompt and arrived back about 11 p.m. The unfortunates who had some distance to go had to go on "shanks pony"³ as there were no buses at that time.⁴

Signed John Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 26th April 1957

1. See note 8 for the 12th April 1957 regarding the Scout show at the Kelvin Hall.

2. Scouts

3. On foot

4. By this time, the local buses had all stopped running, so everyone had to walk home. Relatively few people had their own cars in 1957.

Friday 3rd of May 1957

This was a fine night and, as a result of this, only about half the troop was present. (The Fox had 6 out of 7 present).

Tonight, the Fox Patrol was Duty Patrol¹ and chose football 'up McCauley's field'² after the first Patrol Corners¹.

The games took rather longer than usual but the Scouters wanted to play the Troop. There were lots of goals scored but the Troop won by a large margin³. By this time, it was just on nine o'clock, so, when we got back to the hall, there were no other Patrol Corners¹ and the usual games were played.

There was no campfire¹ and the Troop fell in for announcements, dismissal.

Announcements

* Founder's Day Parade on 12 May. Assemble on Gourock pierhead at 10:15 AM for parade to Ashton Church.⁴

*ASM Miller⁵ announced that so far not all the cards⁶ had been handed in.

*The Fox Patrol effort amounted to £5 1/6⁷ by 6 boys (average 16/11^{D8} per boy)

The Troop dismissed after a request by Skipper for a bigger turnout the next week 'and we'll start Scouting properly'.

Signed John Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 3rd May 1957

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.

2. See note 2 for the 3rd June 1955 regarding McAuley's field.

3. 4-1.

4. Ashton Church used to be the church to which the 6th Renfrewshire (1st Gourock) were affiliated. The church eventually had to be demolished and the congregation was merged with the Old Gourock congregation to form the Old Gourock and Ashton Congregation.

5. Bob Miller

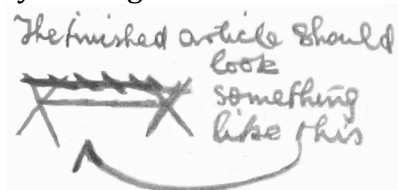
6. Bob-a-Job cards
7. This sum was the equivalent of £160 in Feb. 2023.
8. This was the equivalent of about £27 in Feb 2023

10th May 1957

Tonight was also fine and there was not a very large attendance.

Tonight the Kingfisher was Duty Patrol¹ and Trevor Jones² chose football for the inter-patrol game.

The first session of Patrol Corners¹ was held, the gear was put away and the troop went smartly up to McAuleys field³ to play the game. Tonight, two pitches were used, thus speeding up the game. The Curlew eventually won the final 1-0 by beating the Fox.



By the time we got back to the hall, Skipper decided to start making the camp gadgets for the 25th May⁴. The Fox cum Falcon Patrol was told off⁵ to make (with ASM Whiteford's⁶ help) a plate rack.

The Troop then fell in for announcements.

Announcements

*Founder's Day parade⁷ on Sunday 12th May. Meet at 10:30 p.m. Pierhead⁸.

*The Troop would meet on Thursday (16th) to complete the gadgets at 7:30 p.m. (no uniform).

No patrol championship

Signed John Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 10th May 1957

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. Trevor Jones was P.L. of the Kingfisher Patrol.
3. See note 2 for the 3rd June 1955 regarding McAuley's field.
4. This was for a District Scout event to be held at Rankin Park on the 25th May 1957. It was the main event organized by Greenock District Scouts to celebrate the centenary of Baden Powell's birth and the Golden anniversary of Scouting. Each Troop was asked to produce a display for the event, with the 70th tasked with producing typical Camp Gadgets made from wood and sizar.
5. This should have been 'told' rather than 'told off' – possibly a sign of a guilty conscience on the part of the Scribe!
6. Sandy Whiteford. Sandy's older brother (Andy) had moved to the 1st Renfrewshire Scout Group by this stage.
7. The Founder's Day Parade was an annual District Parade attended by all local Scout Groups. The service associated with the Parade in 1957 was held in Ashton Church.
8. Gouock pierhead.

Sunday, 12 May 1957 Founder's Day Parade

There was no entry for the parade in the Fox Patrol Log. A short entry was entered in the Troop Log.

Thursday 16th May 1957

Tonight most of the boys turned up at 7:30 PM to finish their camp gadgets for the 25th May.¹ Those who finished theirs earlier than the rest were 'roped in' by the other patrols to help with theirs.

Editorial notes for 16th May 1957

1. See note 4 for the 10th May 1957.

Friday 17th May 1957

Tonight there was a better attendance even though it was a fine evening. Ronald Lynd¹ for the Seagulls broke the flag and after that came inspection². The game was ice hockey². The puck was a castor from the piano (?) and was about 1 inch in diameter, much smaller than a size 10 gymshoe³. The Fox were eventually beaten 4-3 in the final round.

The Patrols who had finished their gadgets then went on with Patrol Corners, the other Patrols who had not, finished their gadgets.⁴

Skipper and ASM Miller who had been away, came back with a plan of Rankin Park and told the Troop that they were to meet at 2:15 p.m. at Drummond Street on the 25th May. Flagdown⁵ was at 5:15 p.m. and everyone had to be there for that. The Troop was expected to stay behind and help clear up.

There was no time for games as there was to be an investiture⁶ (R. Muir⁷, Seal Patrol).

The Troop fell in for announcements, flag down and dismissal.

Announcements

*Everyone was to come the next Friday to help carry along the gear to Rankin Park.⁸

*Everyone was to be at Drummond Street on Saturday 25th May

*Volunteers for County Jubilee Parade in Paisley on Sunday 19th of May. Meet at the Greenock West Station at 1:40 p.m.

There was NO patrol championship (4th week).⁹

The Troop dismissed at 9:47 p.m.

Signed John Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 17th May 1957

1. This is the first mention of Ronald Lind in the available records and he must have joined the Troop fairly recently. He was probably breaking the flag as part of his Tenderfoot badge

2. See the general introduction at the start of the log.

3. This indicates that a gymshoe was the normal 'puck' used in 'ice hockey'.

4. See note 4 for the 10th May 1957.

5. This referred to the future flagdown at Rankin Park on the 25th May.

6. See note 3 for the 29th March 1957 regarding investitures.

7. Ritchie Muir had joined the Troop on 8th March 1957.

8. Gadgets had to be carried across in preparation for the Scout Display on the 25th May, as well as a tent for the 'guards'. Possibly a kitchen shelter was also set up.

9. The emphatic 'NO' suggests that the PL of the Fox Patrol was not very happy about this!

Sunday 19th May 1957 County Jubilee Parade in Paisley

Although 9 boys volunteered¹, only 5 turned up : T. Jones. H. Burnieston, K. Conway, R. Lynd, J. Nisbet and ASM Miller.²

The train waited for an hour just out of Woodhall as a portion of the track was being relaid with the result that all the boys from Greenock and District missed the church service,

The boys assembled outside the station, marched to a park, marched past the saluting base, marched back to the station and fell out.³ The train went at 5:10 p.m.

As far as I know, everyone caught the train.

Signed John Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 19th May 1957

1. See entry for the 17th May 1957
2. Trevor Jones, H. Burnieston, Kenneth Conway, Ronald Lind, John Nisbet and ASM Bob Miller.
3. There are no details of which park they marched to but it must have been relatively close to Paisley Gilmour Street Railway Station. It is also not clear whether they met up with the Paisley Scouts for the march past the saluting station, or whether they did this as a separate march to 'show the flag'.

Friday 24th of May 1957

This was the eve of the display in the Rankin Park¹ and those who turned up went along to the park to help put in place the various things. Most of the boys went away about 9 p.m. except for Sandy, Jim, "Tweet" & "Bean"². The last two had been allowed to sleep with the first two named, along with two boys from 22nd Renfrewshire.

Editorial notes for 24th May 1957

1. See note 4 for the 10th May 1957.
2. Sandy Whiteford, Jim Harvey, Hamish Rankin and Brian Elliot stayed overnight, presumably to keep guard on the display.

Saturday 25th May 1957

The troop met at Drummond Street at 2:15 p.m. Very poor turn out! (2 from Fox patrol). The Scouts with the Dunrod Pipe band¹ marched into the arena about a quarter of an hour late (as usual) and after that, the boys were free to do what they pleased until 5:15 p.m. when flagdown was to be carried out. Needless to say, it was 10 minutes late. The boys stayed behind to help clear up and left at about 5:50 p.m.. It was a very good day and there was a large and appreciative crowd at the arena watching the displays by Scouts, Cubs, Guides and Brownies.²

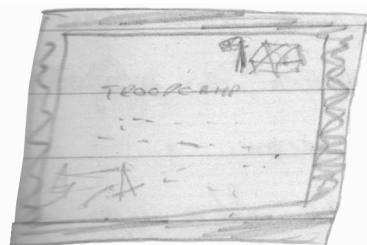
Signed John Nisbet (P.L. Fox)

Editorial notes for 24th May 1957

1. It is believed that the Dunrod Pipe band might have been Greenock District Scouts' Pipe Band
2. Further details and a programme are provided in the Troop Log for 1957.

Friday 31st May 1957

Tonight, the Seals were Duty Patrol¹. After flag break and inspection¹, K. Conway² announced that the game was platters¹ and, of course, would be played in the Hall. The Fox Patrol were beaten in the second round.



Before the game, the first session of Patrol Corners took place. No tests were passed. After the game, a number of tests were attempted. When the gear was put away, Skipper brought in his blackboard with the announcement of the summer camp and gave us some details and handed out forms.³

The usual games were played and the Troop fell in for announcements etc Volunteers for the Commonwealth Youth Service⁴ on Sunday 2nd. Meet at South Street/Kelly Street at 2:15 p.m.

Camp forms and £1 deposit to be in by 14th June.

The Troop dismissed after flagdown.

Signed John Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 31st May 1957

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. Kenneth Conway, P.L. of the Seal Patrol
3. Summer Camp was to be held in Pitlochry in 1957.
4. The Commonwealth Youth Service took place annually and was one of the events that marked Commonwealth Day (previously Empire Day). Commonwealth Day still exists but is much more of a low key event than it used to be. The Youth Service was aimed at all Youth Organisations who would send representatives.

Sunday 2nd June 1957 Commonwealth Youth Service¹

6 boys assembled at the appointed place and time (see above) but Skipper was not there. The parade left for the church at 2:35 p.m. and dismissed at 4:50 p.m. approximately.

Signed John Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 2nd June 1957

1. See Note 4 for the 31st May 1957.

Friday 7th June 1957

Tonight, the Curlew Patrol was Duty Patrol¹ and chose football for the inter-patrol game and this was played immediately after Flagbreak and Inspection¹. After the game, the members of the Shannon Cup team² went up to McCauley's Field³ to practice Tent Pitching (?)⁴ while the rest of the Troop went to Patrol Corners¹.

When Patrol Corners was over, Skipper⁵ brought out a leather bound notebook – an ordinary notebook with scrap leather stuck onto it. He said he had three 1 cwt sacks of scrap leather and if any boys were interested, he would bring some along next week and they could try their hand at binding notebooks. (NB bring notebook and scissors).

The Troop then put on their uniform⁶ and fell in. Skipper announced that as a result of the meeting held last Friday⁷, K. Johnston⁸ (Seal) was appointed PL of the Seagull Patrol and S. Scott⁹ appointed Second of his own patrol (Seal). All camp forms to be in by next Friday (14th).

All boys were to assemble at the corner of Bedford Street and Newark Street on Monday next (10th) at 7:10 p.m. for Dr Barnardos Home Collections¹⁰ (P.Ls bring envelopes and Certificate of Authority). No uniform.

The Troop dismissed punctually.

Signed J. Nisbet

Editorial notes for 7th June 1957

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. The Shannon Cup Competition was the premiere District camping competition during the period from the 1930s to the 1960s. In 1957, Jim Harvey and Alastair Shearer led the 70th's Patrol which came 2nd in the Competition. At the time, Alastair and Jim were junior ASMs and no longer Patrol Leaders. However, they were still of Scout age and, therefore, eligible to participate in the Shannon Cup Competition.

3. See note 2 for the 3rd June 1955 regarding McAuley's field.
4. It's not clear why the question mark was added. One possibility is that the Scribe (John Nisbet) was not entirely sure what the Shannon Cup team were doing that night. Another possibility is that he was questioning why the Shannon Cup Team needed to practice putting up a tent. John was part of the Shannon Cup team, so perhaps the latter theory is the more likely. On the other hand, the Troop Log stated that the Niger tent was pitched to ensure that it was all right before the competition.
5. Scout Master Ian Blake
6. In the 1950s and most of the 1960s, the majority of Scouts wore shorts and only removed their neckerchief, lanyard, hat and smart shoes during Troop nights. The uniform shirt was pretty sturdy in those days and was rarely changed. Changing back into full uniform was relatively simple, except for those Scouts who wore kilts.
7. There is no record of this meeting in the Court of Honour Minutes book.
8. Kenneth Johnston. This appears to be an error though. The Court of Honour minutes state that Kenneth Johnson was promoted to P.L. of the Seagull Patrol on the 8th February 1957, and he attended the COH meetings as a P.L. from that date on.
9. Stuart Scott. This entry may also be inaccurate. The COH minutes for the 22nd February state that Stuart Scott was selected as Second of the Seal Patrol on that date.
10. During the 1950s and 1960s, Scout Troops were often asked by other charitable organizations to help with collections or leaflet distributions.

Monday 10th of June 1957

A very small number of boys turned up (one from Fox Patrol) but the collection was made fairly quickly and the business was over by about 8:20 p.m.

Signed J. Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 10th June 1957

1. See note 9 for the 7th June 1957

14th June 1957

Tonight, Hamish Rankin, P.L. of the Falcon Patrol, chose football for the game to be played up at McAuley's Field.¹ In the final round, the Fox beat to the Seal patrol 1-0.

Then back at the Hall, came Patrol Corners² where J. Nisbet³ passed 1st-Class Trees.⁴

When the gear was put away, the table was brought in and the scrap leather, notebooks, scissors etc were brought out and Skipper showed us how to bind them with leather.

J. Harvey⁵ (Scouter) had brought his gramophone and played the Jamboree song⁶ (on one side of the record) with a voice of BP on the other.

The Troop fell in for announcements.

Announcements

*Parade on 23 June. Everyone meet at 10.15 a.m. at Fox Street/Brisbane Street.⁷

*The Shannon Cup Team⁸ was to wait behind.

*"Any more camp forms?"⁹ From ASM Miller

*The Fox Patrol was second at the end of the second week of the June Patrol Championship

Signed John Nisbet

Editorial notes for 14th June 1957

1. See note 2 for the 3rd June 1955 regarding McAuley's field.
2. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
3. John Nisbet, P.L. of the Fox Patrol
4. 1st Class Trees involved identifying 12 common trees and describing their burning qualities when used as firewood.
5. Jim Harvey was part of the Scouter team, but was still of Scout age.
6. It is assumed that this was the Jamboree song for the forthcoming Jamboree to be held at Sutton Coldfield, England. Four Scouts from the 70th were participating - Kenneth Johnston, Ken Conway, Hamish Rankin and Alastair Shearer.
7. It is not known what parade this was, but it might have been the 70th's own parade to Finnart Church.
8. See note 2 for the 7th June 1957 regarding the Shannon Cup.
9. The camp forms were for Summer Camp was to be held near Pitlochry in 1957.

15th to 16th June 1957 Shannon Cup competition¹

The Shannon Cup team² was as follows:-

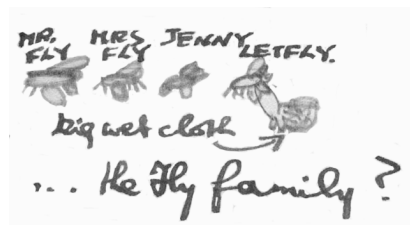
J. Harvey ³		(PL) ¹¹
A. Shearer ⁴		(Second) ¹¹
H. Rankin ⁵	-	1 st Scout ¹¹
J. Nisbet ⁶	-	2 nd Scout ¹¹
B. Elliott ⁷	-	3 rd Scout ¹¹
A. Campbell ⁸	-	4 th Scout ¹¹
A. Nicol ⁹	-	5 th Scout ¹¹
J. Blair ¹⁰	-	6 th Scout ¹¹

Saturday 15th June 1957

The Patrol met at 12:45 p.m. at George Square to get the 1 p.m. bus to Inverkip¹². Bus after bus passed and B. Elliott went to phone home for "Dad to bring his old bit bus" to take them to Inverkip¹³. This (phone) was done against the P.L.'s orders!!! The other four (A. Shearer had gone on alone) went to Hunter Place to get the bus which left at 1:50 p.m. (approx.). The other three were seen at George Square with "Dad's bus" but the misunderstanding was settled at Inverkip. The Patrol arrived at Everton with their kits and other gear¹⁴ about 2:30 p.m. and, at 3.00 p.m., there was an inspection by the examiners. Camp was then made, the "Niger" being pitched without the main guy ropes¹⁵. The Patrol then changed and the examiners came round to inspect the site briefly. Wood was then chopped for gadgets as well as for firewood, and the fire was lit, for the tea was to be made by 5.00 p.m. when the examiner came to see what it was like. Tea? – pies and beans (cooked by the P.L.) + bread, jam and camp 'tea'.

After tea, two blasts on a whistle sent the PLs of the 32nd, 45th and 70th (competing troops) over to the 5th hut.¹⁶ They were to collect 8 trees¹⁷ and 10 flowers and make a list of all birds and animals likely to be seen in the wood. There was then a trail to be followed¹⁸ and at the end of it a boy was sitting with a scalded hand (due to careless handling of a spirit stove).¹⁹ The hand was bandaged and the 'patient' was put on an improvised stretcher.²⁰ Games followed (mostly relay races).

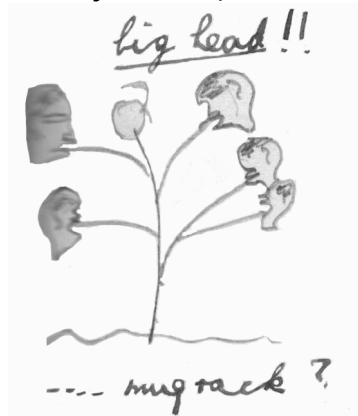
The Teams were then free until campfire for which wood had to be fetched.



At the campfire, each patrol did a stunt. The stunt *that the 70th did was the "Fly family"* (see sketch).²¹

The Patrols then turned in but no one got much sleep that night, not only because of the heat, but *also* because of the "wee beasties" (midges etc).

Sunday 16th of June 1957



We rose at 8 a.m. and had breakfast (cornflakes, ham & egg, bread, jam, tea) ready by 9.00 a.m. for the examiners' inspection.

The Patrol went on with camp gadgets²². The ones we made were towel rack; mug rack, cutlery rack, plate rack, table, basin stand.

At 11.00 a.m. came the Scouts Own²³ at which all three PLs read.²⁴

After that, the Patrol (four actually –four stayed to cook the dinner) went outside the camp to take compass bearings of four points viz:-

Toward Point
The Gantocks,
Quarry at Innellan,
Dunrod Hill.

Dinner was ready by 1 PM, which was fried sausage, potatoes and peas with two big tins of peaches for pudding.

There was an inspection at 2.00 p.m. and some boys went up to the pool²⁵ for a quick swim.

The Patrol was sent on a mission to find a band of lost explorers. We were given one clue. The course was S.S.E.²⁶ of the water tank along the bed of a river. The 'explorers' (boys roped in from other troops) were taken back to camp when the necessary first aid had been applied. A few minutes later, the whistle took J.

Harvey across to the hut to get more instructions: – 'find a good turn or make a model of a bridge in half-an-hour'. The job was completed a few minutes after the allotted time.

Tea was then started, the last meal of the camp, and was salad with fried potatoes, bread, jam and tea. Two of the examiners sampled the fried potatoes. While the dishes were done, the campsite was cleared up and then the kits were put away, and uniform put on. There was a final inspection at 6.00 p.m.

At 6.30 p.m., the three patrols assembled outside the hut²⁷ waiting in suspense for the result.

Mr "Bertie Morrison"²⁸ took the piece of paper and handed to him and read out the result

RESULT:-

1st 32nd Renfrewshire with 149 points out of a maximum of 185

2nd 70th Renfrewshire - 141 points

3rd 45th Renfrewshire - 122 points

To quote Bertie's words "So ends another Shannon Cup competition."

John R. Blake²⁹

Editorial notes for 15th-16th June 1957

- 1. The Shannon Cup Competition was the premiere District camping competition during the period from the 1930s to the 1960s. It was also the most prestigious of the various District Competitions and the 70th usually entered a team if it could.*
- 2. Each patrol could have a maximum of 8 Scouts and the rules regarding the Scouts chosen may well have varied over the years. In 1957, older Scouts who had resigned as PLs to join the leader team could be part of the team, and more than one existing PL could also be in the team. The make up of the 70th's team in 1957 suggests that there might have been a rule stating that each patrol could include 4 younger, non-promoted Scouts.*
- 3. JASM Jim Harvey was aged about 17 at the time. He had been PL of the Kingfisher Patrol until October 1956, then joined the Scouter team as a Junior ASM. He gained his 1st Class Badge, but it is not known whether he gained the Queen's Scout Badge. It is probable that he did, but that needs to be confirmed.*
- 4. JASM Alastair Shearer was aged 17 about at the time. He was promoted to P.L. in mid 1955, but it is not known of which Patrol. By January 1957, he had resigned as P.L. to join the Scouters team as a Junior ASM. Alastair had completed his Queen's Scout Badge by the time of the Shannon Cup Competition and had been chosen as one of the 70th's representatives at the forthcoming World Jamboree in the summer.*
- 5. P.L. Hamish Rankin of the Falcon Patrol was probably aged about 14 at the time and was P.L. of the Falcon for about 4 years. He had been a member of the 70th Patrol that had won the Shannon Cup the previous year. Unfortunately, there are no records to show how far through the Scout Training Scheme he got*
- 6. P.L. John Nisbet of the Fox patrol was aged about 14 at the time and was working towards his 1st Class Badge in June 1957. He was PL of the Fox Patrol for 3 years.*
- 7. P.L. Brian Elliott of the Curlew Patrol was aged about 13 at the time and had been promoted the previous February. He may well have gained his 2nd Class Badge by June 1957.*
- 8. Alasdair Campbell was unpromoted at the time, but it is not known which Patrol he was in or what age he was in June 1957. Very little is known about him, other than he was promoted to Second in 1958.*
- 9. Alastair Nicol of the Patrol was probably aged about 14 at the time, and was Second of the Falcon Patrol. He had gained his 2nd Class badge by June 195y, bu little else is known about him*
- 10. Jim Blair of the Patrol was probably the youngest member of the Patrol and would have been aged about 13 at the time. Nevertheless, he had gained promotion by this stage and was Second of the Kingfisher Patrol*
- 11. The ranking shown here were purely for the 70th's Shannon Cup Patrol*
- 12. Relatively few people owned cars in 1957 and so the majority of people relied on public transport to get anywhere.*
- 13. Very little is known about Brian Elliott's family background. However, this might suggest that Mr. Elliott ran a bus of some sort.*
- 14. It's not clear how the camping gear (e.g. the Niger) was transported.*
- 15. It's not known whether this was deliberate or not.*
- 16. Presumably this was the same hut as the once currently sitting at the entrance to the campsite (as of February 2023).*
- 17. To be more specific, the leaves from 8 trees. Not the trees themselves.*
- 18. Tracking was one of the Scout skills that was assessed during the 1950s, and involved following signs made from natural materials. In principle, the signs had to be subtle such that they would only be spotted by those looking for them. In practice, some of the signs may well have been probably fairly obvious, such as arrows made with wooden twigs.*
- 19. Of course, the hand wasn't really scaled. This was part of the activity.*
- 20. The Scouts might have been carrying Scout staves with them. These could have been threaded through the sleeves of spare clothing to create a makeshift stretcher.*
- 21. It is not known what exactly was involved, but the 70th Scouts presumably acted as members of the Fly family and may have 'buzzed' round the campfire. The last Scout to be introduced would have been 'Let Fly', at which point a big wet cloth was possibly thrown at those watching. Another possibility is that all the 70th Scouts had wet cloths which they threw at the audience.*
- 22. Ian Blake was particularly keen on the Scouts making camp gadgets from natural materials at camp, which is probably why the 70th were asked to do a display of them at the Scout Display held at Rankin Park on the 25th May. It is not known whether the examiners asked the Patrols to come up*

with gadgets or whether the 70th chose to do so in the hope that they would pick up extra points at site inspections.

23. A Scouts Own was a non-denominational religious service which was run and attended by the Scouts and their Leaders. The Everton Campsite had an Open-Air chapel overlooking the quarry that had been built purely for that purpose.

24. In other words, the PLs of the participating Patrols

25. The Everton Outdoor pool was built during the 1930s and was about 4 feet deep. It proved very useful in assessing the ability of Scouts to swim 50 yards (one of the tests within the 1st Class Badge). It was also the scene for various pioneering activities, including bridges built across the pool, or to test out rafts and coracles.

26. South, South East (half way between SE and S).

27. In the 1950s, the Everton was a wooden cabin built on top of a mound on the opposite side of the flat play area from the current hut. The old hut had a kitchen, main room and small bedroom, plus a store shed standing alongside that was sometimes used by Scouts to sleep in.

28. Bertie Morrison was the 'Camp Skipper' for Everton and it is unlikely that he was part of the Examining team.

29. Ian Blake added his signature at the end of the account, presumably to show that he had read the logbook to that point. It is not known who wrote the account of the Shannon Cup Competition, but it may well have been John Nisbet.

The image shows the date '1957-'58 written in a stylized, hand-drawn font. The numbers are thick and black, with some internal hatching or shading. The hyphen is a simple horizontal line. The overall appearance is that of a hand-drawn title or header.

Note: Since September is never a full month from the point of view of Scout meetings, the log is being started this session from October 1957.

Friday 4th October 1957

Tonight, since the church hall was been used for a Communion Preparatory Service, the troop met up at the Lyle Park and proceeded with a wide game. This was much enjoyed by all present, the game being played with rockets.¹

Signed John Nisbet (P.L)

Editorial notes for 4th October 1957

1. This Wide Game involved each Patrol defending its own rocket, while attempting to fire off the rockets of other patrols.

Friday 11 October 1957

Tonight, three cubs¹ - there should have been four - crossed the threshold² into the Scout Troop. They were duly allotted to their Patrols.

Flagbreak³ was carried out a little after 7:35 PM and the Interpatrol game followed inspection. This was football chosen by the Kingfisher as Duty Patrol.³ The Fox Patrol managed to win all their games including the final.

Patrol Corners followed³. Hugh Paterson and Donald Munro passed 1st-class Highway Code.⁴

British Bulldog³ followed Patrol corners but a further session of a quarter of an hour was ordered to enable the A.S.Ms to take tests (Tests should not have been taken at the first session, apparently)

Following this, as it was nearly half past nine, the uniforms were hastily put on and the Troop fell in.

Skipper⁵ announced a Court of Honour^{6,7} for all P.Ls. He also declared that if a boy was absent for two successive weeks and without no reasonable excuse, he would be asked to hand in his badges.

All passengers please note:

"I am not carrying any passengers or having any non-attendant members," Skipper said.

Patrol Championship⁸ - Fox 31 points (1st week)

The Fox patrol were 7 points behind the leaders, the Fox patrol being second.

The attendance tonight was J. Nisbet, Hugh Patterson, D. Munro, A. Runcie.

Note

The troop has 30 on the roll, 6 boys in every patrol except the Kingfisher with seven (very useful in games), the Curlew with only 5.

Sig. John Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 11th October 1957

1. *Wolf Cubs moved up to the Scout Troop once they were 11, but usually one batch of Cubs moved up round about Spring, and another batch in Autumn. Unfortunately, the Cubs who moved up on the 4th October were not identified. However, likely candidates include Michael(?) McGill of the Seal Patrol and Jack Scott of the Seagull Patrol.*
2. *There was a going up ceremony for Cubs moving up from the Pack to the Troop. In the 1960s, this involved the Wolf Cub Pack being at one end of the hall and the Scout Troop at the other end with a rope placed across the hall half way between. Each Wolf Cub that was due to 'cross the line' came up to the rope and was introduced to the Scout Master by Akela and would then step over the rope and be welcomed into the Troop by the Scout Master. It is assumed that the ceremony was much the same in the 1950s.*
3. *See the general introduction at the start of the log.*
4. *The Highway Code test could be taken as an alternative to signalling. The test required a thorough knowledge of the Highway Code, an understanding of how to control traffic, an ability to maintain a bicycle and repair a puncture, and a knowledge of the procedure involved in reporting an accident.*
5. *Scout Master Ian Blake*
6. *See Note 5 for the 8th February 1957 regarding the Court of Honour.*
7. *At that meeting it was decided to suspend football until further notice. Presumably, this concerned playing football in the hall for the inter-patrol game. Sandy Whiteford also resigned as Troop Leader as he was now a full A.S.M..*
8. *There was a monthly Patrol Competition, the results of which counted towards the Patrol of the Year Competition.*

Friday 18th October 1957

This evening, the Seagull Patrol was Duty Patrol¹. Inspection followed a rather belated flag-break.¹

The Seagull Patrol chose platters¹ for the inter-patrol game¹. The Fox Patrol beat the Seagull Patrol in the first round and went on to win the final round against the Curlew Patrol.

Patrol Corners¹ followed, when badge work was done.

When the gear was put away, the S.M.² announced a parade on Sunday 20th of October to Orangefield Baptist Church.³ Troop meet at Ardgowan Square at 10:30 a.m.

British Bulldog¹ followed while the S.M. took J. Nisbet and K. Conway⁴ along to Orangefield for a flag practice.⁵

Another session of patrol corners followed and tests were taken. The ones from the Fox patrol were L. McFarlane⁶ (Tenderfoot Knots⁷), A. Runcie⁸ (2nd-class 1st Aid⁹).

The Troop then fell in for announcements and dismissal.

Parade (see above).

Flagdown and dismissal followed the announcements.

Sig. John Nisbet (PL)

John R. Blake S.M. 31/10/57¹⁰

Editorial notes for 18th October 1957

1. *See the general introduction at the start of the log.*
2. *Scout Master John R. (Ian) Blake*
3. *The Orangefield Baptist Church was at the South Street/Nelson Street roundabout. The parade must have been a District Parade, but the reason for it was not disclosed in the available records.*
4. *John Nisbet and Kenneth Conway*
5. *A flag practice was usually required before a District Parade in order to get the logistics right when carrying the flags into the church at the start of the service and out again at the end. In*

addition, the Scouts carrying the flags had to be aware of any low-lying ceilings or doorways such that they did not clatter the top of the flags into them. Normally, the Troop Leader carried the Union Flag and another PL carried the Troop Flag.

6. Laird McFarlane

7. See note 6 for the 8th February 1957 regarding Tenderfoot Knots.

8. Albert Runcie

9. For 2nd Class First Aid, Scouts had to be able to treat cuts and scratches. sprains, bruises, nose bleeds, stings and bites. They also had to know how to prevent sunburn, put on an arm sling, treat for shock and summon help.

10. John R. Blake added his signature to show that he had read the log book entries up to that point.

Sunday 20th October 1957 District Parade

There was no entry in the Fox Patrol log on the parade

Friday 25th of October 1957

This evening, the Seal Patrol was duty Patrol¹. Inspection followed flagbreak¹.

This evening, the Troop were shown a film about the operations against the Malayan terrorists.² This took up most of the meeting, although a session of Patrol-corners¹ was squeezed in.

The Troop fell in for announcements and dismissal.

Patrol Championship (last week) of the month.

Fox – 51 points (last!!!!)

Sig. John Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 25th October 1957

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.

2. Malaya (a British colony since 1867) became an independent state within the British Commonwealth on the 31st August 1957. However, the 'Malayan Emergency' was a guerrilla war fought between 1948-1960 between communist forces and an alliance involving the Malayan government and British Commonwealth forces. Unlike Vietnam, the Communist insurgency in Malaya was quelled.

Friday 1st November 1957

This evening, the Curlew Patrol was duty Patrol.¹

After flag break and inspection¹, B. Elliott chose ice-hockey¹ for the inter patrol game.¹ In the third round, the Seal beat the Fox Patrol by a mistake on the part of A.S.M. Miller.² Score 6-5. Only 11 goals were scored instead of 12.

After the game, Patrol Corners¹ were held and badge work was done.

This went on for about half an hour and then a game was played – 'Up one down one'¹ - consisting of the troop standing in a circle with a staff each. When the person in charge shouts 'up one', the boys leave their one staff and grab the one on their left.³

The second part of Patrol corners¹ was taken and tests were attempted by 2 members of the patrol. L. McFarlane⁴ failed Kim's game⁵ and J. Nisbet⁶ did not have enough time to pass first-class first aid⁷.

An investiture⁸ then took place, that of R. Harvey⁹, Seagull patrol, younger brother of ASM Harvey¹⁰.

I. Miller¹¹, younger brother of ASM Miller², was presented with his 2nd-class badge.¹²

Announcements

As there was only one long session of Patrol Corners and the Inter-Patrol game did not finish till 8.30 instead of 8.15 p.m., there was no time for a second game and so the troop went to campfire.¹

As decided by the Court of Honour,⁸ the Troop sat in Patrols at the campfire and the singing was better than usual. J. Nisbet⁹ (P.L. Fox patrol) provided the words of the "Jamboree Song"¹⁰ and the rest of the Troop joined in heartily at the chorus.

The Troop fell in promptly after the campfire as there was to be a flag rehearsal with the Guides¹¹ for Armistice Sunday.¹²

Announcements

All P.L.'s please wait behind for flag rehearsal and collection rehearsal

All boys to be present at Remembrance Day parade¹² on Sunday 10th November.

Troop meets at the back of Glenpark¹³ at 10:15 a.m. at the latest.

No results of the progress of the Patrol Championship as A.S.M. McFarlane was not present.¹⁴

Rest of the magazine money¹⁵ to be handed in.

The troop dismissed promptly.

Sig. John Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 8th November 1957

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.

2. Scout Master John R. (Ian) Blake

3. Albert Runcie

4. See note 9 for the 18th October 1957 regarding 2nd Class First Aid

5. Laird McFarlane

6. See note 6 for the 8th February 1957 regarding Tenderfoot Knots.

7. Whipping was a test towards the Tenderfoot Badge. It involved using twine to secure the end of a frayed rope. Unlike splicing, it was a relatively simple procedure, but less sturdy.

8. See Note 5 for the 8th February 1957 regarding the Court of Honour.

9. John Nisbet

10. This would have been the Jamboree Song for the World Jamboree held at Sutton Coldfield, England during the summer of 1957. Four of the 70th Scouts attended.

11. The Guides affiliated to Finnart Church had their weekly meetings at Finnart School.

12. In the past, there had been a District Parade commemorating Remembrance Day, but it was decided during the 1940s that each Scout group should mark Remembrance Day by parading to the church to which it was affiliated. A flag rehearsal was held in order to practice bringing the flags in at the start of the service such that they could be received and placed in flag stands at the front of the Church, then to collect them at the end of the service for the National Anthem before taking them back out the church.

13. It is not clear which side of Glenpark was considered the 'back' during the 1950s. However, it was probably Fox Street as it is known that the Troop assembled at the junction of Fox Street and Union Street the following year.

14. ASM Ian McFarlane kept a record of the marks counting towards the Patrol Championship of the Month

15. It is not known what these magazines were.

Sunday 10th November 1957

The Troop met at Glenpark¹ at the appointed time. The total number present was 37 (incl. Scouters). The Fox patrol had a full attendance except for I. Kirk² (Second). J. Nisbet and K. Conway were the colour party with K. Johnson as escort.³

The S.M.⁴ was pleased with the turnout and thanked the boys for coming. The flag-party acquitted themselves well, said Skipper, and the P.L.s who took the collection did their job well. The Troop dismissed at Glenpark.⁵

Sig. John Nisbet (P/L)

Editorial notes for 10th November 1957

1. This might have been in Fox Street (see note 13 for the 8th November 1957).
2. Ian Kirk was appointed Second of the Fox Patrol in November 1955 when he would have been about 12.
3. John Nisbet, Kenneth Conway and Kenneth Johnson.
4. Scout Master John R. (Ian) Blake
5. It is safe to assume that the Troop paraded both to and from the Church with colours flying. The exact route was not specified, but may well have been along Union Street and up Madeira Street to the Church, then, after the service, up Madeira Street and back to Fox Street, either along Brisbane Street or Finnart Street.

Friday 15th November 1957

Tonight, J. Nisbet¹, P.L. of the Fox Patrol, broke the flag as the Fox were Duty Patrol².

Immediately after flag break, everyone got a chair and watched the film, 'Conquest of Everest'³, shown by Mr Scott⁴. The showing of the film lasted until approximately 8:45 p.m.

Patrol Corners² followed. There was one test⁵ – J. Nisbet¹ (Fox) - 1st class 1st aid.⁶

There was then a game of British Bulldog² in which all the boys present participated. The Troop then fell in for flag-down and dismissal.²

Announcements

Skipper⁷ was pleased with the turnout on Sunday and Mr Stewart⁸ was also. No Patrol Championship.⁹

Meeting of P.Ls requested by S.M.⁷

Flag-down and dismissal followed.

Sig. John Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 15th November 1957

1. John Nisbet
2. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
3. The 'Conquest of Everest' film was a British film produced in 1953 about various attempts on Everest, including the first successful ascent achieved by Hillary and Tenzing that year. The footage includes the moment when the expedition organizer (Sir John Hunt) first heard that his team had succeeded in their attempt. News of the successful ascent was delayed in Britain until the day of the Queen's Coronation.
4. Nothing is known about Mr. Jack Scott or what he did, but he may have been the father of Jack Scott who was probably one of the three Cubs that joined the troop in October 1957. He showed a second film to the troop on the 18th March 1958. Robin Scott and Stuart Scott were also in the Troop round about this period and may have been related.
5. It is possible that this meant that only one test was passed by a member of the Fox Patrol that night, rather than one test in total.
6. See note 2 for the 1st February 1957 regarding 1st Class emergencies and first aid.
7. Scout Master John R. (Ian) Blake
8. The Reverend Stewart of Finnart Church
9. Presumably, this meant that no scores were read out that night regarding the Patrol Championship.

Friday 22nd November 1957

This evening, T. Jones¹ broke the flag for the Kingfisher Patrol, as the Kingfisher Patrol were Duty Patrol.²

After inspection,² (9 points for the Fox), the Kingfisher Patrol chose ringstick² for the game. In the third round, the Fox beat the Falcon patrol by a handsome margin, but were beaten by the Seal Patrol in the final.

At the Patrol Corners², L. McFarlane and A. Runcie did badge work, assisted by J. Nisbet and D. Munro (?).³

Two games of British Bulldog² followed and a second session of Patrol Corners². Since A. Shearer and A. Miller⁴ had made up a programme of songs for a campfire, a campfire² was held.

The Troop fell in then for announcements and dismissal.



Announcements

Gang Show tickets⁵ – no tickets without money

Parade to Old West Kirk on December 8th. Meet at 10:15 at the corner of Fox Street and Esplanade. Flags would be carried.⁶

Patrol Championship - 45 points (5th)

⁷

The Troop dismissed a bit later than usual.

J. Nisbet

Editorial notes for 22nd November 1957

1. Trevor Jones was P.L. of the Kingfisher Patrol from October 1956 to May 1960
2. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
3. Laird McFarlane, Albert Runcie, John Nisbet and Donald Munro. The reason for the question mark is not known, unless it signified that Donald's 'assistance' was questionable.
4. Junior A.S.M. Alastair Shearer and Alexander Miller. It is assumed that the latter was Sandy Miller, in which case he would have been about 12 at the time. It's not clear why Sandy Miller would be involved in this and one has to wonder whether a mistake was made by the Scribe and that it was actually ASM Bob Miller who was involved.
5. The Gang Show took place from the 17th to 21st December 1957 (COH minutes for 25th October 1957) and was presumably a District Gang Show.
6. This was presumably a District Parade, but it is not known why one was being held in December.
7. The signature is of Victor J. Clark, Group Scout Master and former Scout Master. It is not clear why his signature is present. He did pop in to Troop Meetings on occasions and may have been asked to 'autograph' the Patrol Log on one such occasion.

Friday 29th of November 1957

Tonight, K. Johnston¹, PL the Seagull Patrol, broke the flag, his Patrol being Duty Patrol².

The game chosen was ice-hockey². In the third round, the Fox Patrol beat the Falcon Patrol 7-3 but were beaten 8-4 in the final round by the Seal Patrol.

At the first session of Patrol Corners², L. McFarlane³ passed Tenderfoot Law and Promise⁴ while A. Runcie⁵ went on with 2nd class knots.⁶

The game played between the sessions of Patrol corners² was British Bulldog² (twice).

The Troop fell in after this and fell out for Patrol corners.²

At the second session of Patrol Corners, L. McFarlane passed Woodcraft signs⁷ and A. Runcie passed 2nd class Knots.

The programme for the campfire² had been drawn up by the Duty Patrol - the Seagull and was much enjoyed by everybody.

Two investitures⁸ followed, R. Lynd⁹ of the Seagull Patrol and L. McFarlane³ of the Fox Patrol.

The announcements were as follows:-

1. Patrol Championship – Curlew 85 points (1st)
Fox 74 points (sec.)

This was the last month of the championship and it is some time since the Fox Patrol were anywhere near the top.

2. Parade on Sunday 8th December to Old West Kirk.¹⁰ Troop meet at corner of Fox Street and Esplanade at 10:15 a.m.

3. Meeting of P.Ls requested.

4. Gang Show tickets¹¹ were in sale after dismissal and any Jubilee booklet¹² money was to be handed in.

The troop dismissed at 9:45 p.m.

Sig, John Nisbet P.L.

Editorial notes for 29th November 1957

1. Kenneth Johnston was P.L. of the Seagull Patrol from February 1957 to September 1959.

2. See the general introduction at the start of the log.

3. Laird McFarlane

4. Scouts on their Tenderfoot Badge had to learn the Scout Promise and the 10 Scout Laws off by heart, and also understand what they all meant.

5. Albert Runcie

6. See note 5 for the 11th January 1957 regarding 2nd Class Knots and Lashings.

7. Scouts undertaking their Tenderfoot had to identify a number of woodcraft signs used to mark out a trail that would allow one Scout to track another. The signs had to be made out of natural materials and, ideally, only obvious to those deliberately searching for them.

8. See note 3 for the 29th March 1957 regarding investitures.

9. Ronald Lind

10. See note 6 for the 22nd November 1957 regarding the District Parade.

11. See note 5 for the 22nd November 1957 regarding the Gang Show.

12. The Jubilee booklet was to mark 1957 as the Golden Jubilee of Scouting.

Friday 6th December 1957

Tonight, the Seal Patrol were Duty Patrol¹ and Ken. Conway² chose Platters¹ for the game. In the third round, the Fox were beaten by the Falcon Patrol 45-34.

B. Howison³ was appointed second of the Fox Patrol in place of I. Kirk⁴.

At Patrol Corners¹, no tests were attempted from the Fox Patrol and the boys went on with badge work.

A game of British Bulldog¹ followed and a game of Dodge ball¹ was also played.

A second session of Patrol Corners¹ followed.

The campfire¹ programme this evening was provided by courtesy of Messrs.

Conway & co. of the Seal Patrol (N.B. several items suggested were scored out by Skipper⁵)

After campfire, the Troop fell in for announcements, flag down and dismissal.

Announcements

Gang show tickets would be on sale after the meeting⁶
Parade on Sunday, 8th December.⁷ Troop meet at corner of Fox Street and
Esplanade. Flags would be carried.
Patrol championship. 21 points⁸
Meeting of P.Ls requested by Skipper

NB The Fox Patrol⁹ stands:-

J. Nisbet	(P.L.)
B. Howison	(Sec.)
H. Paterson	(1 st Scout)
D. Munro	(2 nd Scout)
A. Runcie	(3 rd Scout)
L. McFarlane	(4 th Scout)

J. Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 6th December 1957

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. Kenneth Conway, P.L. of the Seal Patrol from October 1956 to April 1960
3. Robert (Bob) Howison probably joined the troop in 1955 and was promoted to Second of the Fox Patrol in December 1957. He attended the Pitlochry camp of 1957 and the Easter camp of 1958.
4. Ian Kirk was appointed Second of the Fox Patrol in November 1955 when he would have been about 12. He left the Troop towards the end of November 1957.
5. Scout Master John R. (Ian) Blake
6. See note 5 for the 22nd November 1957 regarding the Gang Show.
7. See note 6 for the 22nd November 1957 regarding the District Parade.
8. This was the ongoing Patrol Championship of the month. The 21 points were those gained by the Fox Patrol for that week.
9. John Nisbet, Robert Howison, Hugh Paterson, Donald Munro, Albert Runcie and Laird McFarlane.

Sunday 8th December 1957 **District Parade**

Not covered in the Patrol Log.

Friday 13th December 1957

Tonight, Skipper¹ was not present and J. Harvey² officiated until the arrival of A.S.M. Miller³.

B. Elliot⁴ chose football⁵ (Curlew duty Patrol⁵) but, as there were only a small number of boys present, the Troop was divided into four teams.

At Patrol Corners⁵, Badge work was done in the absence of Second B. Howison.⁶ British Bulldog⁵ and Dodgeball⁵ followed and, as there was not enough time for another session of Patrol corners, the campfire⁵ was brought in and boys arranged themselves in Patrols round it.

The Troop then fell in for flag-down and dismissal.⁵

Patrol championship⁷:- (by courtesy of A. Whiteford⁸)

Fox 31 points (3rd equal with Kingfisher)

A.S.M. Miller³ dismissed the troop punctually.

Sig. John Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 13th December 1957

1. Scout Master John R. (Ian) Blake

2. *Junior A.S.M. Jim Harvey*
3. *A.S.M. Bob Miller*
4. *P.L. Brian Elliott (formerly of the Fox Patrol) was P.L. of the Curlew Patrol from February 1957 to January 1960*
5. *See the general introduction at the start of the log.*
6. *Robert Howison*
7. *Patrol Championship of the month*
8. *Junior A.S.M. Alexander (Sandy) Whiteford*

Friday 20th of December 1957

This evening, there was not a very big turnout as it was the last meeting of the term and a number were at the Gang Show performance¹.

The Falcon Patrol were duty Patrol² and chose football², but as there were so few boys, the troop was divided up into two teams.

A number of games were played and a session of patrol corners² was put in to give the boys a rest and to relieve the monotony.

More games were played and a short campfire² followed.

The Troop dismissed about 9:15 p.m. with instructions to come back on 10th of January, 1958.

The Fox were second equal in the Patrol Championship.³

Signed John Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 20th December 1957

1. *See note 5 for the 22nd November 1957 regarding the Gang Show.*
2. *See the general introduction at the start of the log.*
3. *Patrol Championship of the month for December*

1958

Friday 10th January 1958

This evening, the Fox Patrol were duty Patrol¹ and J. Nisbet² broke the flag. After flagbreak and Inspection¹, we chose Ringstick¹ for the game and were beaten in the first round by the Seal Patrol.

Patrol Corners¹ followed the game.

After this, Dodgeball¹ was played.

A second session of patrol corners¹ followed and B. Howison³ (Sec.) passed 1st class Highway Code⁴.

Campfire¹ followed. The programme being provided by the Fox Patrol as they were Duty Patrol.

The Troop then fell in for announcements and dismissal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meeting of PLs requested after dismissal.

Dance⁵ would be held on 31st January.

Patrol Championship not available as the "official book" had been lost.⁶

Sig. John Nisbet.

Editorial notes for 10th January 1958

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.

2. John Nisbet was PL of the Fox Patrol from October 1956 until September 1959.

3. Robert Howison

4. See note 4 for the 11th October 1957 regarding 1st Class Highway Code.

5. At least one dance was organized for the older Scouts by the PLs each year during the 1950s and 1960s, and it was held in December or January. The dance was similar in format to those organized by the schools and focused on Scottish Country dances, barn dances and other formal dances. A separate Xmas party was usually organised for the younger Scouts prior to Xmas.

6. Presumably, it had been temporarily lost.

Friday 17th January 1958

This evening, T. Jones¹ broke the flag² for the Kingfisher Patrol.

Inspection² followed (S.M.³ inspecting officer) for which we received 8 points (10 points for attendance).

Skittles² was chosen by the Kingfisher Patrol. In the 3rd round, the Fox Patrol were beaten 50 to 48 by the Seagull Patrol.

Patrol corners² followed, but no tests were passed.

British Bulldog² (bis)⁴ followed the Patrol corners.

Another 20 minutes of Patrol corners² followed.

As the game had been 4 minutes late in finishing and, as there were two investitures⁵, there was no campfire².

Those being invested were M. McGill (Seal) and J. Scott (Seagull).⁶

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Dance⁷ tickets will be on sale after the meeting

2. Guide dance⁸ probably on 14 February. Show of hands for rough numbers.

Patrol championship⁹ Fri 18 (third).

The Troop dismissed fairly punctually.

Sig. John Nisbet. (P.L.)

Note. The last two investitures made all the members of the troop fully fledged Scouts.

Editorial notes for 17th January 1958

1. Trevor Jones was P.L. of the Kingfisher Patrol from October 1956 to May 1960
2. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
3. Scout Master John R. (Ian) Blake
4. This presumably meant that two games of British Bulldog were played.
5. See note 3 for the 29th March 1957 regarding investitures.
6. J. Scott was Jack Scott. M. McGill might have been Michael McGill.
7. See note 5 for the 10th January 1958 regarding the Scout Dance.
8. The Guide company that was linked to Finnart Church met at Finnart School rather than the Church Hall. They also organized an annual dance that was usually held in December or January. The Scouts were invited, but usually the Guides far outnumbered the Scouts. The programme of the Guide Dance (like the Scout Dance) was very similar to the school dances and focused on Scottish Country dancing as well as various waltzes, quicksteps and barn dances.
9. Patrol Championship of the month for January 1958

Friday 24th January 1958

The Seagull Patrol was on duty¹ this evening and K. Johnson² broke the flag. Inspection followed flag break¹.

The game chosen was football¹. The Fox were beaten in their 2nd game.

Patrol Corners¹ followed in which badge work was done.

The gear was left out and the transparencies taken at the Summer Camp (1957)³ were shown by Skipper⁴ (to the accompaniment of cheers etc)

The second session of Patrol Corners¹ followed.

After this, dance tickets⁵ were on sale.

There was no campfire¹.

The Troop fell in, and three stripes were presented:- A Campbell (Second), B. Howison (Second) and J. Nisbet (TL)⁶

The Tests were read out and announcements

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Meeting of P.L.s
2. Dance next Friday⁵
3. Guide party on February 14.⁷

The troop dismissed punctually

Sig. John Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 24th January 1958

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. Kenneth Johnston was P.L. of the Seagull Patrol from February 1957 to September 1959.
3. The Summer Camp of 1957 was held at Pitlochry. A small number of black and white prints survive from the camp, but it is not known what happened to the transparencies that were taken.
4. Scout Master John R. (Ian) Blake
5. See note 5 for the 10th January 1958 regarding the Scout Dance.
6. Alasdair Campbell and Robert Howison both became Seconds as signified by a single vertical white strip on the left-hand breast pocket of the uniform shirt. Robert was Second of the Fox Patrol, but it is not known which Patrol Alasdair became Second of. John Nisbet received a third stripe to

add to the two that he already had as Patrol Leader. The Troop Leader was the only Scout in the Troop who wore three vertical white stripes.

7. See note 8 for the 17th January 1958 regarding the Guide party/dance.

Friday 31st January 1958

This was the Scout Dance¹ which was much enjoyed by all present.

Sig. John Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 31st January 1958

1. See note 5 for the 10th January 1958 regarding the Scout Dance.

Friday 7th February 1958

This evening, the Seal Patrol were on duty¹, and the PL K. Conway² broke the flag. Inspection followed flag break.¹

The inter-patrol game chosen was hash³, but, as the necessary equipment could not be found, this was changed to 'platters'¹. The Fox Patrol was beaten in the second round by the Falcon Patrol.

Patrol corners¹ followed and badge-work was done.

Games (dodgeball¹, British Bulldog¹) followed.

The Second session of Patrol Corners¹ followed.

There was no campfire¹ and the troop dismissed promptly.

Signed John Nisbet

Editorial notes for 7th February 1958

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.

2. Kenneth Conway, P.L. of the Seal Patrol from October 1956 to April 1960

3. It is not known what was involved in terms of the game 'Hash'.

Friday 14th February 1958

This evening was the Finnart Guide party¹ which was enjoyed by all –not many boys!² – present.

John Nisbet

Editorial notes for 14th February 1958

1. See note 8 for the 17th January 1958 regarding the Guide party/dance.

2. This may not have been unusual and it is possible that the older Scouts were more likely to attend than the younger Scouts.

Friday 21st February 1958

On arriving at the hall¹, the boys saw a notice in the session room², ordering the boys to meet at the green-keepers hut³ at the Lyle Park at 7:45 p.m. On arrival there, the patrols were told that J. Harvey⁴ was waiting somewhere to the S.E. with instructions. Each patrol had to find

1) the diameter of the indicator at Craig's top⁵

2) The height of the Cross of Lorraine⁶

3) The diameter of the hole of the green on the Greenock Golf course.

After this, the boys were split into two teams. One team defended a light while the other team tried to capture it. This was repeated with the second-team defending.⁷

Back at the hall, B. Elliott⁸ broke the flag for the Curlew Patrol, they being Duty Patrol⁹ this evening.

There was no inspection and the boys went to Patrol Corners⁹.

British Bulldog⁹ was played.

The Troop then fell in for announcements etc and dismissal.

1. Only a few tests

2. P.L.s meeting requested

Patrol championship (3rd week) - 29 (3rd)¹⁰

The flag was lowered and the troop dismissed.

The G.S.M.¹¹ then came in to the session room and told the boys of an

arrangement to provide entertainment and hospitality for foreign Scouts.¹²

Names and addresses of those willing to undertake to entertain one of these for a short time were to be handed in to Skipper.¹³

The P.L. apologises for the wrong account of this week's meeting written two pages before.

Signed John Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 21st February 1958

1. *Finnart Church Hall*

2. *The session room was next to the kitchen and was used mainly by the Scouters. It was also used for Court of Honour Meetings and for interviews with Scouts, such as the interview that each Scout had with the Scout Master prior to gaining his Tenderfoot Badge on the Law and Promise.*

3. *This hut no longer exists (as of 2023) and it is not known where exactly it was situated during the 1950s.*

4. *A.S.M. Jim Harvey*

5. *This was at the top of the Lyle Hill next to the flagpole that used to be there*

6. *The height could be estimated using a number of methods involving equivalent triangles – See note 3 for the 2nd November 1956 regarding the estimation of heights.*

7. *The light game or the torch game was a popular wide game that was played throughout the 1950s and 1960s. It might also have been played earlier than that, but records are lacking.*

8. *P.L. Brian Elliott (formerly of the Fox Patrol) was P.L. of the Curlew Patrol from February 1957 to January 1960*

9. *See the general introduction at the start of the log.*

10. *Patrol Championship of the month for February 1958*

11. *Group Scout Master. It is assumed that this was still Victor Clark at the time, and that he remained GSM until the summer of 1958*

12. *It is not known who the foreign Scouts were or why they were visiting Scotland, but one possibility is that they were attending the Blair Atholl Jamborette.*

13. *Scout Master John R. (Ian) Blake*

Friday 28th of February 1958

The Falcon Patrol were duty Patrol¹ and Hamish Rankin² broke the flag. Inspection following flagbreak.¹

The game chosen was ice-hockey¹ and the Fox lost their game 6-5 after a close struggle.

Patrol Corners¹ followed at which test work was carried out by those present, British Bulldog¹ followed the first session of Patrol Corners¹.

At the second session, A. Runcie³ (Fox) passed 2nd class knots and lashings.⁴

Skipper⁵ then gave a talk to the Troop about discipline, badgework etc

The Troop then fell in for announcements, flag down and dismissal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Delivery of envelopes for U.N. Refugee Fund⁶ on Saturday 1st March. Those coming in the morning be at the Hall 10 a.m, those coming in the evening at 6 p.m.

2. Parade⁷ on Sunday, 30 March (with Guides).

3. Patrol Championship (last week) – Fox 37 pts. (2nd).⁸

4) Meeting of P.L.s requested

Sig. John Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 28th February 1958

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.

2. Hamish Rankin was PL of the Falcon Patrol from October 1956 to April 1960.

3. Albert Runcie

4. See note 5 for the 11th January 1957 regarding 2nd Class Knots and Lashings.

5. Scout Master John R. (Ian) Blake

6. It's not known whether the collection was for a specific refugee problem, but it may have been to do with the the resettlement of about 200,000 Hungarian refugees who had fled Hungary after the Hungarian revolution of 1956 and its suppression by the USSR.

7. The reason for this parade was not revealed.

8. Patrol Championship of the month for February 1958

Saturday 1st March Delivery of envelopes for U.N. Refugee Fund

No entry n the Patrol Log relating to this.

Friday 7th March 1958

This evening, the Fox Patrol were Duty Patrol¹ and J. Nisbet² broke the flag.

Inspection¹ followed (A. Shearer³).

The game chosen was platters¹. The Fox remained unbeaten till the final when they were beaten 26-17 by the Seagull Patrol.

Patrol corners¹ followed *and* badge work was carried on.

At the end of the first session, Skipper⁴ introduced a new game⁵. The troop stood in a circle while someone in the centre swung a gymshoe tied to a piece of sisal.

When the gym shoe came round, the boys had to jump to keep clear of it, and all those who were hit by the gym shoe were out of the game.

At the second session of Patrol Corners¹, H. Paterson⁶ passed 1st class Emergencies.⁷

It was now time to fall in and the troop put away the rope etc. and put on their uniform.⁸

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Tests – one passed in the whole troop (see above).

2. Attendance was not good enough, Skipper⁴ wanted better attendances.
3. Patrol Championship (1st week)⁹ – Fox 26 point (top) - lead of 8 points.

The troop dismissed punctually after flagbreak

Sig. John Nisbet

Editorial notes for 7th March 1958

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. John Nisbet was PL of the Fox Patrol from October 1956 until September 1959.
3. A.S.M. Alastair Shearer
4. Scout Master John R. (Ian) Blake
5. This game had various names such as 'Swing the Gymshoe/Sandshoe' and proved a popular game to the 1980s at least. The 7th March 1958 may have been the first time that it was played.
6. Hugh Paterson
7. See note 2 for the 1st February 1957 regarding 1st Class emergencies and first aid.
8. In the 1950s and most of the 1960s, the majority of Scouts wore shorts and only removed their neckerchief, lanyard, hat and smart shoes during Troop nights. The uniform shirt was pretty sturdy in those days and was rarely changed. Changing back into full uniform was relatively simple, except for those Scouts who wore kilts.
9. Patrol Championship of the month for March 1958

Friday 14th of March 1958

This evening, the Kingfisher were Duty Patrol¹ – Trevor Jones² broke the flag. Inspection¹ followed (10 pts).

The Kingfisher chose ice hockey¹ for the inter-patrol game. In the first round, the Kingfisher were beaten by the Seagull, and in the second, the Fox were beaten by the Seal. The semi final was won 4-3 by the Seal, who were in turn beaten 4-3 by the Curlew Patrol under B Elliott.³

Patrol Corners¹ followed and badge work was carried out.

After the first session, Skipper⁴ showed us how to make a 'Turk's Head'⁵. This, he said, was useful for woggles, buttons etc.

After this demonstration, the Sandshoe game¹ was played.

The second session of Patrol Corners¹ followed and L. McFarlane⁶ (Fox) passed 2nd class Knots.⁷

The Troop put away their gear and fell in for announcements, flag down and dismissal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Blairmore site had been secured for the Easter Camp.⁸
2. Meeting of P.Ls requested
3. Wide game next week as Preparatory Service was been held in the Hall. Troop meet at Lyle Park 7:45 p.m.
4. Tests – I. Fraser⁹ and L. McFarlane⁶ passed 2nd Class Knots⁷
5. Patrol Championships (2nd week)¹⁰
Fox 55¹/₂ points (lead of 16 points)

Note: J. Nisbet¹¹ passed Music maker's Badge¹²

Word was received of the disjunction of D. Munro (Fox).¹³

The Troop dismissed at 9:33 p.m.

John Nisbet.

Note

1. "Reach for the Sky"¹⁴ will be shown in the Hall on Tuesday 18th March at 7:30 p.m. (by courtesy of Mr. Jack Scott)¹⁵

2. Boys helping with Dr. Barnardo's Home collection¹⁶ meet at Hall on Wednesday at 4:15 p.m.

There has been no campfire since January 10th!¹⁷

Editorial notes for 14th March 1958

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. Trevor Jones was P.L. of the Kingfisher Patrol from October 1956 to May 1960
3. P.L. Brian Elliott (formerly of the Fox Patrol) was P.L. of the Curlew Patrol from February 1957 to January 1960
4. Scout Master John R. (Ian) Blake
5. The diagram shows what a Turk's Head woggle looks like.
6. Laird McFarlane



7. See note 5 for the 11th January 1957 regarding 2nd Class Knots and Lashings.
8. The Easter Camp of 1958 was held on the 2nd-7th April 1958
9. It is believed that this is a different Ian Fraser from the one that joined in June 1958. Nothing is known about him unfortunately.
10. Patrol Championship of the month for March 1958
11. John Nisbet was PL of the Fox Patrol from October 1956 until September 1959.
12. This was a Proficiency Badge. The requirements for the badge are not known for certain, but it is likely that the Scout had to understand a music score and show competence at singing and/or an instrument.
13. In other words, Donald Munro had left the Troop.
14. Reach for the Sky was a British movie that was released in 1956 and starred Kenneth More playing the part of Douglas Bader – the British fighter ace that lost both his legs prior to the war.
15. See also the entry for the 15th November 1957.
16. During the 1950s and 1960s, Scout Troops were often asked by other charitable organizations to assist in collections or leaflet distributions.
17. Clearly. P.L. John Nisbet was not amused.

Tuesday, 18th March 1958

This evening was the evening chosen for the showing of the Douglas Bader film, "Reach for the Sky".¹ Because of the number of reels and the total length of the film, the show did not end until 10 p.m. It was, nevertheless, much enjoyed by everybody present – not very many.

A warm "Bravo!"² was given for Mr Scott³ for his kindness in showing the film.
Sig. John Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 18th March 1958

1. See note 14 for the 14th March 1958
2. The Bravo yell was used during the 1950s and 1960s. It involved the Scouts shouting out the individual letters of Bravo, then following that up by shouting Bravo three times. At the same time, the rhythm was marked by each Scout hitting the palm of his left hand with the fist of his right hand. There was also a musical version which tended to be limited to campfires. It went as follows
'Bravo, Bravo, Bravo, Bravissimo
Bravo, Bravo. Extra Well done
Bravo Bravissimo, Bravo Bravissimo, Bravo Bravissimo.
Extra Well done.'
3. See also the entry for the 15th November 1957.

Wednesday 19th March 1958

At 4.15 p.m., the boys assembled for the collection for Dr Barnardo's Homes.¹ Although 12 boys had volunteered and the P.L.s were expected to turn up too, 5 boys turned up with three P.L.s. However, the collection was made in under half-an-hour.

John Nisbet P.L.

Editorial notes for 19th March 1958

1. See note 16 for the 14th March 1958.

Friday 21st March 1958

This evening, a Communion Preparatory service was held in the Hall¹ and the Troop met at the Lyle Park at 8 o'clock. Each Patrol was issued with instructions and told to be back by 8:45 p.m. The Fox Patrol was told estimate height and breadth² of Galt Fountain³ on the Esplanade.

When the Patrols reassembled, three patrols – the Fox, Kingfisher and Seagull – went onto the golf course and placed a torch and hid. The other three were to creep up and try to get away with the torch and carry it back to the Scouters. (This is known as the "torch game".) (Note: The attacking Patrols took a very long time to arrive and the defenders were slightly chilled on account of the coldness of the night).

When the game was over, the Troop fell in at the Lyle Park. Skipper⁴ gave announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Last Troop meeting next Friday and Camp meeting at 8:15 p.m.
 2. Parade on Sunday 30th March.⁵ Flags would be carried.
 3. Bob-a-Job week⁶ Monday 7th April till Saturday 12th April.
- The Troop dismissed at about 9:15 p.m.

Sig. John Nisbet P.L.
John R. Blake

Editorial notes for 21st March 1958

1. The Hall was the Finnart Church Hall, which is still visible from Madeira Street but is now part of a private flat.
2. Estimating heights and distances was one of the skills that Scouts were expected to master as part of the Scouting progressive training scheme (see also note 3, 2nd November 1956).
3. The John Galt Fountain still exists on the south side of the Esplanade. John Galt (1759-1859) was a Scottish novelist who was born in Irvine and died in Greenock.
4. Scout Master John R. (Ian) Blake
5. The reason for this parade was not revealed.
6. In the 1950s and 1960s, Scout Bob-a-Job Week involved Scouts going round the houses of their neighbourhood asking for jobs. The 'Bob' in 'Bob-a-Job' indicated that each completed job should be rewarded with a shilling (12 shillings made up a £1). However, most house owners gave more than that. Scouts wore full uniform during the week and were supplied with yellow stickers showing a tick. A houseowner could stick that on a window or door to stop other Scouts asking for a job. The Scouts also were given a Bob-a-Job card in which the house owner would identify the job done and the amount paid. The card and the money raised were handed in to the troop once Bob-a-Job week was over. Some of the money raised went to Imperial Scout HQ, but the money left over was added to the troop coffers. During the Easter holidays of the 1950s and 1960s, Scouts were frequently seen wandering local streets in their quest for odd jobs.

Friday 28th March 1958

This evening, the Seagull Patrol were Duty Patrol¹ and K. Johnson² broke the flag. Inspection followed flag break.¹

The inter-Patrol game¹ chosen by the Seagull was "Hopping Charlie"¹. Each boy in the Patrol was given a number. The patrols were paired off and each pair played a game. The game was played with enthusiasm as it was something quite new and a change from the usual football¹ and platters.¹

At 8.15 p.m., after the game, the boys going to camp³ went into the session room. The rest went to Patrol Corners.¹

After Patrol Corners, games were played and then drill followed in preparation for the parade on Sunday.⁴ The Troop practiced 'forming threes'.⁵

After drill, the boys put on uniform⁶ and fell in for announcements, flag break and dismissal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Saturday 29th of March (i.e. the next day) volunteers⁷ assemble for distribution of T.B. leaflets⁸ at 10 a.m. at Hall.

2. Parade⁴ on Sunday. Colour Party wait for practice.

3. Boys going to camp³ be at Gourock Pier at 10:15 a.m. on Wednesday 2nd April.

4. Commissioner's inspection⁹ on Friday 11th April. Good turnout requested.

5. Meeting of P.L.s requested.

Bob-a-Job cards were handed out.¹⁰

The Troop dismissed punctually

Signed John Nisbet P.L.

Editorial notes for 28th March 1958

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.

2. Kenneth Johnston was P.L. of the Seagull Patrol from February 1957 to September 1959.

3. The camp was the forthcoming Easter Camp to Blairmore. The meeting would have been a briefing to the Scouts going.

4. The reason for this parade was not revealed.

5. The 70th rarely did drill, and when it was done, it was usually in preparation for a forthcoming parade. Drill was carried out in the hall and involved forming a line tallest to the right, shortest to the left, then numbering off (1 or 2). The number 2s then took one pace back, then one pace to the right to form two lines. The front rank then did a right turn while the rear rank did a left turn. The Scouts then marched up to one end of the hall to form three columns. Curiously, actually marching in step did not seem to be practiced much, if at all.

6. See note 8 for the 7th March 1958 regarding uniform.

7. See Note 16 for the 14th March 1958 regarding collections and leaflet deliveries

8. T.B. stood for tuberculosis, which was a major health problem prior to the 1950s due to the lack of drugs capable of combating it. For example, it is claimed that the disease killed 25% of Europeans during the 19th century. Tuberculosis is caused by a bacterium (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*) which infects the lungs. Before effective drugs were discovered, contracting TB could lead to death and those that survived could take months to recover. Even then, they were prone to the disease recurring throughout their lifetime. Victor Clark who restarted the Troop after the war was one such sufferer, and this might be one of the reasons why Victor delegated camps and other outdoor activities to his assistant leaders. The first orally effective drug that was effective against TB was isoniazid discovered in 1952, but the widespread treatment of patients did not really get going until 1954. In the latter half of the 1950s, there was a UK wide campaign to combat TB. Mobile X-ray

vans visited towns and cities, and people were encouraged through leaflet campaigns to get X-rayed to see whether they had lung infections involving TB.

9. Every Troop in the District received an annual inspection involving a couple of Assistant District Commissioners.

10. See note 6 for the 21st March 1958.

Saturday 29th March 1958

Two P.L.s turned up with I. McFarlane¹ (Scouter) and Skipper² for the distribution of the leaflets³. Very poor!!!!

John Nisbet

Editorial notes for 29th March 1958

1. A.S.M. Ian McFarlane

2. Scout Master John R. (Ian) Blake

3. See Note 8 for the 28th March 1958 regarding the leaflets.

Sunday 30th March 1958

Despite poor weather, a good turn out of Scouts came to the parade.¹

Skipper² was very angry about the poor turn out on Saturday³ and the troop was to assemble the next day at 7:30 p.m. to finish the distribution of TB leaflets⁴.

There was a full turnout of the Fox patrol at the parade.

Sig. John Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 29th March 1958

1. It is not known what the parade was related to.

2. Scout Master John R. (Ian) Blake

3. See entry for the 29th March 1958

4. See Note 8 for the 28th March 1958 regarding the leaflets.

Monday 31st March 1958

Although the whole Troop did not turn up, enough boys came to do the distribution¹ and it was finished in about three quarters of an hour.

John Nisbet

Editorial notes for 31st March 1958

1. See entry for the 30th March 1958

2nd-7th April 1958

Easter Camp, Blairmore 1958¹
Wednesday 2nd April to Monday 7th April 1958

The patrols were

The Patrols² were

Panthers

John Nisbet
Kenneth Johnson
William Harkness
Robert Howison
Robert Harvey

Seal

Kenneth Conway
Trevor Jones
Stuart Scott
J. Dyer³
Ritchie Muir (came on Saturday afternoon)

Beaver

Hamish Rankin
Brian Elliott
Alistair Nicol
Jim Blair

Wednesday 2nd April 1958

The boys assembled at Gourock pier on Wednesday, a fine warm day. The boat left at 10:35 a.m. and arrived at Blairmore at 11.5 a.m. The tents etc were loaded on the waiting lorry⁴, which arrived at the camp at 11:20 a.m. The patrols fixed their kitchens and pitched their tents.⁵

Lunch was at 1 p.m. (a packed lunch). After dinner, the boys went to the wood to collect timber.⁶ Tea was at 5:30 p.m. and, after tea, a game of handball was played. At 7:45 p.m. the boys went up Blairmore Hill and arrived back at the camp at about 9 o'clock. Cocoa was at 9:30 but there was no campfire as it was rather cold.

Thursday 3rd April 1958

Thursday morning the boys got up at 7:30 a.m. (though some stayed in bed till 7.45!!!), After breakfast, the kitchens were tidied and, after flag break, J. Nisbet and B. Howison⁷ departed on their first 1st class Hike.⁸ (Marks for inspection – 3⁹).

In the afternoon, the boys went a walk up the valley and found an old mine¹⁰. Skipper¹¹ said they would explore it on Friday afternoon. Sandy Whiteford¹² arrived in the evening.

Friday 4th April 1958

Inspection – 0^{9,13}

Skipper¹¹ went home as it was his pay day. J. Nisbet and B Howieson returned from their hike and W. Harkness and A. Nicol left on theirs at about 12 .00 p.m. In the afternoon, the boys went with the Scouters to the old mine¹⁰. The Scouters took back some specimens of the stones inside the mine for examination. In the evening, we went a walk along the Forestry Commission Road¹⁴ – through the forest and returned via the main road.
Distance 6-7 miles.

Saturday 5th April 1958

On Saturday morning, the Scouters were first up at 8:30 a.m. Sandy¹⁵ came round the tents dragging us out of our sleeping bags. Inspection was at 10 a.m. as usual (4 points,⁹ but no patrol got good marks this morning).

After dinner, various tests were passed and S. Whiteford and J. Harvey¹⁶ laid a trail in the forest for those who wanted to pass tracking.¹⁷
After tea, a game of football was played and at 9:30, cocoa around the Scouters' fire and campfire. As it wasn't so cold, there was a ghost story told by Skipper.¹¹

Sunday, 6th April 1958

A fine warm day and the boys got up at 7:15 a.m. After breakfast, there was inspection (8 points)⁹ and the dinner¹⁸ was half prepared.

We didn't go to church¹⁹ as the service started at 12 o'clock.

After dinner, S. Whiteford, J. Harvey, I. McFarlane left to hike to Dunoon for the boat to Gourock.²⁰

Skipper¹¹ took us a climb up past the mine and up onto the ridge and from there, there was a magnificent view. We could see up the length of Loch Long, up past Dumbarton Rock and down to Largs.²¹ We arrived back at camp at 4:30 p.m..

After tea, we played the Sandshoe game²² and then under the direction of R. Miller A.S.M., we (J. Nisbet, B. Elliott, H. Rankin, J. Blair, K. Johnson) made pancakes on the campfire.

At camp fire, as there was no cocoa, we had rice and stewed apples with pancakes and syrup.

We turned in at 10:30 p.m..

Monday 7th April 1958

We got up in good time this morning and after breakfast cleared up our kitchens and washed. At 10:30, there was inspection of dixies and the kitchen.

After inspection, the kits were packed and the tents taken down and packed. The dixies, axes etc. etc. were packed and the heavy gear was carried up to the gate at the top of the site.

Dinner was at 12.30 and consisted (with cold meat and tinned fruit) of clearing up the extra stores that had not been eaten.

At 1:15, we formed a long line and walked through the camp and picked up any odd scraps of paper that were lying about.

At 1.40 p.m., the lorry came and we loaded onto it the gear.

We arrived at the Pier at 1:55 p.m. and unloaded the lorry. Most of us made a beeline for the cafe and sweet shop. The boat was late and didn't arrive until 2:35 p.m. and left at 2:45 p.m.

We arrived at Gourrock at 3.05 p.m. (approximately) and the heavy equipment was put in the left luggage office.²³ The boys then went home.

All those who had been at the camp thought – and said – that they had thoroughly enjoyed it.

Sig. John Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes

- 1. The campsite was near Blairmore Farm about a mile and a half north of Blairmore pier. The exact position was on open hillside below a cottage situated at grid reference 188832. The 70th used the campsite on a number of occasions throughout the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, but 1958 may have been the first time that it was used.*
- 2. Although the Scouters were not listed, the daily log book entries show that the following were present for at least part of the camp – Ian Blake, Sandy Whiteford, Jim Harvey, Ian McFarlane and Bob Millar.*
- 3. J. Dyer's Christian name has not been identified in the available Troop records, but it might have been John, based on the fact that a John Dyer was born in Gourrock in 1946 and would have been aged about 12 in 1958*
- 4. According to Douglas Brown, various pier masters had a lorry available for hire in order to transport goods and equipment arriving by ferry. It is not known for certain whether the lorry used here was hired out from the pier master, but it seems likely, especially as there is clear evidence that a lorry was hired from the pier master to transport gear to and from Blairmore Farm for the Easter Camp of 1960.*
- 5. Each Patrol in camp was self sufficient in terms of camping and cooking. It had its own tent and kitchen shelter and all meals were cooked over wood fires.*
- 6. As well as collecting firewood, wood have been collected in order to build camp gadgets such as plate racks, mug trees etc.*
- 7. John Nisbet and Robert (Bob) Howison.*
- 8. The 1st Class journey was a two-day hike with an overnight camp, which involved 2 Scouts covering about 18-20 miles. The hike was unsupervised and the Scouts only found out their route when they opened sealed instructions on their departure. The Scouts hiked in uniform and were responsible for finding their own campsite en route. All meals were to be cooked over a wood fire and there were a number of projects that had to be completed during the hike. Once the hike was over, each Scout had to write up a detailed account of the hike including information relating to the set projects. Diagrams and sketches were also expected and it was not unusual for Scouts to be asked to improve their log book before they were passed. A District Examiner set the route and the projects for the hike and issued the instructions, then assessed the log books once the hike was over. The hike was one of the last tests completed before gaining the 1st Class Badge. Scouting had a progressive training scheme that involved four principal badges – Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, 1st Class and Queen's Scout. In the 70th, PLs were expected to have their 1st Class Badge and were encouraged to gain their Queen's Scout Badge.*
- 9. As John Nisbet was P.L. of the Panther Patrol in camp, this mark relates to that patrol.*
- 10. The exact location of the mine and its former purpose have still to be determined. However, it is likely to be the mine identified on the Secretscotland website which can be accessed at <https://www.secretscotland.org.uk/index.php/Secrets/BlairmoreMine>
This indicates that the mine lies on the north bank of the Blairmore Burn, about half a mile above Blairmore Farm. It can be accessed by a horizontal tunnel (adit) that is about 100 feet long with a side branch leading off. It is believed locally that tin was mined here, but historical records identify it as a lead mine. There is also evidence of a narrow ditch and embankment running down the hill towards the road, as well as a small spoil heap. Four cottages used to be present near the mine. Two of these were renovated into one large cottage in the early 2000s. Oddly, the house still has two staircases. The other two cottages were also renovated and turned into a single property, and a large extension added at an unknown date. A date of 1876 is carved into a modern date stone set on one of the new buildings.*
- 11. Scout Master Ian Blake*
- 12. A.S.M. Sandy Whiteford was presumably at work on the first two days of camp.*

13. *This was underlined several times by John Nisbet who was not in camp that morning as he was on the second day of his 1st Class hike.*
14. *The exact route is not known, but it is likely that they took the forestry road just above the campsite that went south into the woods and followed that to reach the coats road at Kilmun, then returned by the coast road. This was certainly the route followed during a night hike at the 1959 Easter Camp at Blairmore.*
15. *A.S.M. Sandy Whiteford.*
16. *A.S.M. Jim Harvey*
17. *Tracking was one of the Scout skills that was assessed during the 1950s for both the Tenderfoot and 1st Class Badges, and involved following signs made from natural materials. In principle, the signs had to be subtle such that they would only be spotted by those looking for them. In practice, some of the signs may well have been probably fairly obvious, such as arrows made with wooden twigs.*
18. *During the 1950s, dinner was the equivalent of lunch, and was the main meal of the day. Tea was a lighter meal taken at the end of the afternoon.*
19. *It was standard practice for the Troop to attend a Sunday Church Service when in camp.*
20. *Sandy, Jim and Ian were all A.S.Ms and were probably returning because of work on the Monday. The hike back probably took a couple of hours.*
21. *The exact route was not specified, but it is likely that they climbed to the ridge above the campsite then travelled south to Kilmun Hill.*
22. *This may have been introduced to the troop for the first time on the 7th March 1958 and involved a Scouter swinging a sandshoe on the end of a rope round in a circle. The Scouts had to jump over it and were out if they were hit.*
23. *Presumably, this was collected later on and transported up to the Church.*

Friday 11th April 1958

This evening was the occasion of the visit of the Commissioners.¹

The Duty Patrol² were the Seal Patrol who chose ice-hockey² for the inter-patrol game. Flag break and inspection came before the game.

After the game, the troop went to Patrol Corners² and, during the first session, the Commissioners arrived in the shape of Mr J. J. Swan³, D.C. and Mr. J. M. MacElwee⁴, A.D.C. Mr Swan made a tour of the Patrol Corners. At the end of the Patrol Corners, Mr Swan talked to us about the Chief Scout's⁵ visit to Greenock and Mr. MacElwee gave us a talk on uniform.⁶

J. Nisbet was presented with his Music-Makers badge⁷ and Mr. Swan left shortly afterwards.

We had a short campfire (with no "campfire")⁸.

We fell in for dismissal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Founder's Day Parade on Sunday 20th April⁹

Seamen's Parade Sunday 27th April¹⁰

Bob-a-Job cards¹¹ to be handed in next Friday.

We dismissed punctually.

Signed John Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 11th April 1958

1. *Each troop was inspected once per year, usually by two Commissioners. The inspection was fairly informal and involved the Commissioners observing the meeting and chatting to both the Scouts and the Scouters.*

2. *See the general introduction at the start of the log.*

3. *James Swan took over as Greenock's District Commissioner at the start of the Second World War, and remained as D.C well into the 1960s. He was so respected in the District, that in later years after his death, Greenock adopted a District Badge showing a swan.*

4. Mr. MacElwee was an Assistant District Commissioner. He was also the District Examiner for First Class Hikes during part of the 1950s and may well have been the examiner for the 1st Class hikes that took place at Easter Camp that year.
5. The Chief Scout in 1958 was Lord Rowallan.
6. It's not clear whether this was a general talk on uniform or whether changes were in the offing
7. See Note 12 for the 14th March 1958 regarding the Music Maker Proficiency Badge
8. The "campfire" was presumably the model of a campfire that included an orange light bulb.
9. Founder's Day Parade was the most important District Parade of the year and a large turn out was expected.
10. A Seaman's Parade and Church Service appeared to be held annually during the 1950s and the Troop sent a few volunteers as representatives. Not much is known about the event though.
11. See note 6 for the 21st March 1958 regarding Bob-a-Job Week.

Friday 18th April 1958

This evening, the Curlew Patrol were Duty Patrol¹ and B. Elliot² broke the flag. Inspection followed¹. The game chosen was Skittles¹ and the Fox Patrol were narrowly beaten in the last round.

At Patrol Corners¹, A. Runcie³ failed his 1st Class Highway Code⁴.

There was a short game after the first session of Patrol Corners.

The second session followed, the boys continuing their badge work.

Drill followed, the troop practicing "forming threes" for Sunday's Parade.⁵

The Troop fell in after drill for announcements and dismissal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Bob-a-Job cards⁶, if any had not been brought to be brought on Sunday to the Parade, also those who were at the Jamboree film show⁷, to bring /1/-⁸ to Skipper.
2. Parade⁹ on Sunday, meet Ardgowan Square, 10:15 a.m. Flags would be carried.
3. Court of Honour¹⁰ requested.

We dismissed 10 minutes late.

Signed John Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 18th April 1958

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. P.L. Brian Elliott (formerly of the Fox Patrol) was P.L. of the Curlew Patrol from February 1957 to January 1960
3. Albert Runcie
4. See note 4 for the 11th October 1957 regarding 1st Class Highway Code.
5. See note 5 for the 28th March 1958 regarding drill.
6. See note 6 for the 21st March 1958 regarding Bob-a-Job Week.
7. This is the only mention of the Jamboree film show. It was presumably of the World Jamboree held at Sutton Coldfield, England during 1957, which was attended by four 70th Scouts. However, it is not known when or where the film show was given.
8. 1 Shilling. There were 20 shillings in £1.00 and so a shilling would be the equivalent of 5p. In 1958, a shilling had the same value as £1.50 today (as of 2023).
9. See note 9 for the 11th April 1958 regarding Founder's Day Parade.
10. See Note 5 for the 8th February 1957 regarding the Court of Honour.

Friday 25 April 1958

Tonight, the Falcon Patrol were Duty Patrol¹ and Hamish Rankin² broke the flag. Inspection followed flagbreak.¹

The game chosen was ice-hockey¹ and the Fox were drawn to play against the Seagull Patrol in the third round. Unfortunately, we were beaten 8-4. The final winners were the Curlew Patrol who beat the Seals in the last round. Patrol Corners¹ followed and badge work was done.

After the first session of Patrol Corners, we fell in and Skipper asked for a show of hands for the summer camp³ (20 approx).

British Bulldog¹ followed.

The second session of Patrol Corners followed.

A. Runcie⁴ passed 1st Class Highway Code⁵, R. Howison⁶ failing 1st Class Emergencies.⁷

The Troop then fell in for announcements, flagbreak and dismissal.¹

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Parade on Sunday⁸. Meet at Duff Street 10:30 a.m. – representative parade only.

2. Various tests had been passed

3. Patrol championship⁹ – Fox 57 points (third) Winners – Curlew (65 points)

4. Meeting of P.L.s requested¹⁰.

The flag was lowered and we were dismissed.

Signed John Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 25th April 1958

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.

2. Hamish Rankin was PL of the Falcon Patrol from October 1956 to April 1960.

3. Summer Camp in 1958 was held at Benderloch.

4. Albert Runcie.

5. See note 4 for the 11th October 1957 regarding 1st Class Highway Code.

6. Robert Howison

7. See note 2 for the 1st February 1957 regarding 1st Class emergencies and first aid.

8. See note 10 for the 11th April 1958 regarding the Seamen's Parade.

9. This was the monthly Patrol Championship for April.

10. This meeting was called to discuss the Shannon Cup team chosen by Ken Conway. It is possible that a new rule was introduced this year whereby there had to be at least 4 Scouts under the age of 14

Sunday 27th April 1958 Seamen's Parade

Not covered in the Fox Patrol Log. See Note 10 for the 11th April 1958

Friday 2nd May 1958

This evening, the Fox Patrol were duty Patrol¹ and John Nisbet² broke the flag. Inspection followed for which we received full marks (A.S.M. Miller³ inspecting).

The game chosen was skittles¹ and the Fox were beaten handsomely, as none of the patrol managed to hit the target, by the Kingfisher Patrol.

At Patrol Corners, B. Howison⁴ passed 1st Class Estimation⁵ and Emergencies⁶.

The game which followed was supervised by Hamish Ewing and Gavin Hart of the 22nd Renfrewshire who, this evening, commenced their five-week tour of duty with the troop as part of their Cadet Scouters' course.⁷

At the second session of Patrol Corners¹, badge work was done.

After Patrol Corners, the troop put on their uniform⁸ and fell in for an investiture⁹, announcements, flag down and dismissal.

T. Dow¹⁰ (Kingfisher Patrol) was invested.

Two proficiency badges were presented - J. Scott¹¹ (Seagull Patrol) received his Stamp Collector's badge¹² and J. Nisbet² (Fox Patrol) his Venturer's badge¹³.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Those wanting to camp at Everton when the Chief Scout¹⁴ visits it - 8 put up their hands.
2. Camp forms¹⁵ were handed out.
3. Patrol Championship¹⁶ - Fox 38 points (1st week) - 1st
4. Court of Honour¹⁷ requested

We dismissed at 9:42 ½ p.m.

Signed John Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 2nd May 1958

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. John Nisbet was PL of the Fox Patrol from October 1956 until September 1959.
3. A.S.M. Bob Miller
4. Robert Howison
5. See note 3 for the 2nd November 1956 regarding estimation.
6. See note 2 for the 1st February 1957 regarding 1st Class emergencies and first aid.
7. Information on the Cadet Scouters Course is limited, but it appears that it was taken by Patrol Leaders during their final year as Scouts. Those participating had to attend a different Scout Troop from their own and to gain experience of leading and organising activities. There may also have been training sessions for the Cadet Scouters themselves at District Scout HQ.
8. See note 8 for the 7th March 1958 regarding uniform.
9. See note 3 for the 29th March 1957 regarding investitures.
10. There is a bit of a mystery surrounding Tommy Dow's investiture in May 1958. He was born in 1944 and would have been about 14 in May 1958. He also attended the Pitlochry Summer Camp in 1957. Even if he joined just before the Pitlochry Summer Camp, there is a long time gap between then and May 1958. This suggests that he might have been a Scout with another Troop when he camped at Pitlochry, and may have been allowed to come along as a friend of one of the 70th Scouts. If so, he probably transferred to the 70th in April 1958 and was accepted into the Troop, rather than invested. This theory is backed up by the fact that he gained his 1st Class Badge in April 1959, which strongly suggests he had prior Scouting experience.
11. Jack Scott
12. A Proficiency Badge. As with all Proficiency Badges, it was assessed by a District Examiner.
13. The Venturer Badge and the Bushman's Thong were stepping stones between the 1st Class Badge and the Queen's Scout Badge. Scouts had to be Senior Scouts (aged over 15) in order to gain them. As far as the Bushman's thong was concerned, the Scout had to first gain the Venturer Badge and two special proficiency badges. They then had to make their own thong from leather twine. The Venturer Badge included a 2-day hike which was more demanding than the 1st Class hike, and which had various projects to complete en route. There were also other tests relating to physical fitness and hiking skills.
14. The Chief Scout in 1958 was Lord Rowallan.
15. It is not known whether these camp forms related to the Everton camp, the Troop's Summer Camp, or some other camp..
16. This was the monthly Patrol Championship for May.
17. See Note 5 for the 8th February 1957 regarding the Court of Honour.

Friday 9th of May 1958

This evening, the Kingfisher Patrol was duty Patrol¹ and T. Jones² (P.L.) broke the flag. Inspection followed flagbreak.¹

The game chosen was football¹ and the Fox Patrol who were actually all present won all their games up to the final round when we were beaten by the Curlew Patrol.

Patrol Corners¹ followed and A. Runcie³ passed 1st Class Highway Code⁴, the other members of the patrol carrying out badge work.

After the 1st session, we fell in and Skipper⁵ then told us to 'squat down' as he had a number of announcements to give out.

The second session of Patrol Corners followed and L. McFarlane⁶ attempted 2nd class lashings⁷ but there was not enough time for him to pass them.

The troop fell in and the tests were read out.

Patrol championship⁸ – 56 points (3rd) – 2nd week.

There was actually no Court of Honour⁹ of this week.

The troop dismissed fairly punctually.

Signed John Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 9th May 1958

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. Trevor Jones was P.L. of the Kingfisher Patrol from October 1956 to May 1960
3. Albert Runcie.
4. See note 4 for the 11th October 1957 regarding 1st Class Highway Code.
5. Scout Master John R. (Ian) Blake
6. Laird McFarlane
7. See note 5 for the 11th January 1957 regarding 2nd Class Knots and Lashings.
8. This was the monthly Patrol Championship for May.
9. See Note 5 for the 8th February 1957 regarding the Court of Honour.

Friday 16th May 1958

This evening, the Seagull Patrol were duty Patrol¹ and K. Johnson² broke the flag. Inspection followed.¹

As there were so few present, it was decided to go up to McAuley's field³ for a game and split up with two teams.

The game played was baseball

1. Between the two teams picked by K. Conway⁴ and John Nisbet and then
2. Between the Scouters and the troop.

When we got back to the hall at 8.45 p.m., we went to Patrol Corners.¹ It was discovered that the Fox Patrol had become the losers⁵ of a Sheet 65⁶ and a roll book.⁷

After Patrol Corners¹, Skipper asked for more camp forms⁸. There was a 'get well' card sent to Robert Harvey (Seagull) who was in hospital with appendicitis. A game of British Bulldog¹ followed.

The troop then fell in with campfire¹ for flagbreak and dismissal¹.

Patrol Championship⁹ – Fox 25 points (not added on to previous total as A.S.M McFarlane¹⁰ was absent)

John Nisbet was presented with his 1st Class Badge¹¹.

The troop dismissed punctually.
Signed John Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 16th May 1958

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. Kenneth Johnston was P.L. of the Seagull Patrol from February 1957 to September 1959.
3. See note 2 for the 3rd June 1955 regarding McAuley's field.
4. Kenneth Conway, P.L. of the Seal Patrol from October 1956 to April 1960
5. Presumably the items had been mislaid from the Patrol Box
6. Sheet 65 would have been the 1" to the mile map covering Dunoon and Loch Fyne, fully revised in 1924 with some updates. This map includes part of Gourock and Greenock along with the lochs and hills to the north. The Glasgow map (Sheet 72) contained Glasgow, Renfrewshire and all of Gourock and Greenock. These maps predated the 7th series, 1" to the mile maps where Greenock, Gourock and the Renfrewshire were on Sheet 59, and Glasgow was on Sheet 60.
7. Presumably an attendance book for the patrol
8. It is not known whether these camp forms related to the Troop's Summer Camp or some other camp..
9. This was the monthly Patrol Championship for May.
10. A.S.M. Ian McFarlane was responsible for keeping the scores of the monthly Patrol Championships.
11. The 1st Class Badge was the 3rd badge in Scouting's progressive training scheme (Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, 1st Class and Queen's Scout badges). Patrol Leaders were expected to have their 1st Class Badge before they were appointed. At times, this was not feasible, in which case the Patrol Leader was encouraged to gain the Badge as quickly as possible. This was particularly the case in 1956 when most of the PLs were aged 13.

Friday 23rd May 1958

This evening, the meeting was a little late in starting as Skipper¹ could not find a key to open the church door². The Seal Patrol was duty Patrol³ and Kenneth Conway⁴ broke the flag. Inspection followed Flagbreak, for which we received 8 points.³

The game chosen was ice-hockey³ and in the first round we beat the Seal Patrol by 7 goals to 5. Unfortunately, we were beaten 7-6 after extra time⁵.

At Patrol Corners³, badge work was done.

A game of British Bulldog³ followed the first session of patrol corners.

The second session of Patrol Corners³ followed the short game.

The troop then fell in for announcements, flag-down and dismissal.³

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Meeting of Shannon Cup⁶ teams⁷ after the meeting
2. PL's meeting requested
3. 4 tests were passed
4. Patrol Championship⁸ – Fox 107 (top equal with Curlew Patrol)

We then dismissed punctually

Signed John Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 23rd May 1958

1. Scout Master John R. (Ian) Blake
2. The Scouts used the side door (south side of the building) leading to the corridor that ran between the hall and the kitchen.
3. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
4. Kenneth Conway, P.L. of the Seal Patrol from October 1956 to April 1960
5. Presumably, this refers to the next round or the final itself.

6. The Shannon Cup Competition was the premiere District camping competition during the period from the 1930s to the 1960s. It was also the most prestigious of the various District Competitions and the 70th usually entered a team if it could.
7. Two teams were entered for the Shannon Cup in 1958 – possibly the only time that this occurred.
8. This was the monthly Patrol Championship for May.

Friday 30th May 1958

This evening, the Curlew Patrol being on duty¹, B. Elliott² broke the flag. Inspection¹ followed ('Al'³ being inspecting officer) – 8 points

The game chosen was football and the Fox won till the final round where their luck gave out.

At Patrol Corners¹, badgework was done which J. Nisbet⁴ left to pass his Despatch Rider's badge.⁵

A short game of British Bulldog¹ followed. The second session of Patrol Corners¹ followed the game.

There was no campfire¹ and the troop fell in.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Tests
 2. Meeting of P.L.s
 3. Meeting of Shannon Cup team⁶
- Patrol championship -133 (top) last week⁷

We dismissed punctually.

Sig. John Nisbet

Editorial notes for 30th May 1958

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. P.L. Brian Elliott (formerly of the Fox Patrol) was P.L. of the Curlew Patrol from February 1957 to January 1960
3. A.S.M. Alastair Shearer
4. John Nisbet was PL of the Fox Patrol from October 1956 until September 1959.
5. The requirements for the badge are not known for certain, but the Scout would have to have owned a bicycle and be able to carry out simple repairs. A good knowledge of the Highway Code was also essential. In addition to that, the Scout might have been asked to do the following



- *Witness a staged accident and provide an account of it that would be relevant to the emergency services
 - *Write a message from dictation and deliver it by cycle to a grid reference at least 8 kilometres away
 - * Carry a verbal message of not less than 40 words to a destination at least 8 km away, dealing with a staged accident en route.
6. See notes 6 and 7 for the 23rd May 2958
 7. This was the monthly Patrol Championship for May, which was won by the Fox Patrol. This probably explains why 'last week' is underlined twice.

Saturday – Sunday 31st May - 1st June 1958

SHANNON CUP¹

There were 8 teams competing in this annual competition². After a very enjoyable weekend, the competition closed and the winners were declared

1st 32nd Renfrewshire 'A' team³ 196 points

2nd 73rd Renfrewshire team 181 points

The 70th Renfrewshire 'A' team was third, and the 70th Renf. 'B' team⁴ was sixth (equal).

The Fox Patrol was represented by J. Nisbet and L. McFarlane.

Editorial notes for Shannon Cup Competition 1958

1. The Shannon Cup Competition was the premiere District camping competition during the period from the 1930s to the 1960s. It was also the most prestigious of the various District Competitions and the 70th usually entered a team if it could.

2. It is believed that a rule was introduced this year that required each 8-man Patrol to include 4 Scouts aged under 14.

3. The 'A' team was led by Kenneth Conway, but the other Scouts present have not yet fully been identified. It is believed that John Nisbet and Brian Elliott were included in the 'A' team, as well as Jim Blair.

4. It is not known who was in the 70th's 'B' team. Laird McFarlane was in one of the 70th teams, but it is not known which.

Friday 6th June 1958

Hamish Rankin¹ (P.L.) broke the flag this evening as the Falcon Patrol were duty Patrol.² The meeting was late in starting as the ceremony³ of "bringing up" Cubs had to be gone through. The cubs were;-

Ian Frazer, Peter Fraser, Roger Hardie⁴, Alan Conway (and two others⁵ whose names have slipped my memory). The cub allotted to the Fox Patrol was Alan Conway (brother of the P.L. of the Seal Patrol⁶)

The Inspection followed flagbreak.

The game chosen was football² and the Fox Patrol, playing in the third round, the semifinal and final rounds, won all their games.

At Patrol Corners,² Alan Conway passed Tenderfoot Union flag⁷.

A game of British Bulldog² and the "Sandshoe game"² followed.

The second session of Patrol Corners² followed and badge work was done.

L. McFarlane⁸ tried 2nd class lashings⁹ but had not enough time to finish.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Tests

2. Meeting of P.L.s

3. Parade¹⁰ Sunday 22nd June

4. Patrol Championship¹¹ – 13 points

The Troop dismissed punctually

Sig. John Nisbet (P.L.)

NOTE. The patrol¹² stands

J. Nisbet (PL & TL)
B. Howison (Second)
H. Paterson 1st Scout
A. Runcie 2nd Scout
L. McFarlane 3rd Scout
A. Conway 4th Scout

A patrol meeting¹³ was arranged for Wednesday 11th June at 7:30 p.m. approx.

Editorial notes for 6th June 1958

1. Hamish Rankin was PL of the Falcon Patrol from October 1956 to April 1960.
2. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
3. There was a going up ceremony for Cubs moving up from the Pack to the Troop. In the 1960s, this involved the Wolf Cub Pack being at one end of the hall and the Scout Troop at the other end with a rope placed across the hall half way between. Each Wolf Cub that was due to 'cross the line' came up to the rope and was introduced to the Scout Master by Akela and would then step over the rope and be welcomed into the Troop by the Scout Master. It is assumed that the ceremony was much the same in the 1950s.
4. Roger Hardie probably joined the Kingfisher Patrol, but it is not known which Patrols Ian Frazer and Peter Fraser joined
5. The identities of the 2 other Cubs have not been uncovered.
6. Kenneth Conway
7. The Tenderfoot test on the Union Flag involved knowing the composition of the flag, identifying when the flag was upside down or the right way up, folding the flag and rolling it up, hoisting it up the flagpole, and successfully breaking the flag.
8. Laird McFarlane
9. See note 5 for the 11th January 1957 regarding 2nd Class Knots and Lashings.
10. The purpose of the Parade was not stated
11. This was the monthly Patrol Championship for June.
12. John Nisbet, Bobby Howison, Hugh Paterson, Albert Runcie, Laird McFarlane and Alan Conway.
13. Patrol meetings are marked by their absence from the Fox Patrol Log. Is not certain whether they very rarely occurred or were just not reported in the log. Patrol Meetings were meant to be organized at a different time from the Troop Meetings.

Wednesday 11th June 1958

No account of the patrol meeting planned for the 11th June was included in the log book.

Friday 13th June 1958

This evening, the Fox were Duty Patrol¹ and John Nisbet² broke the flag. Inspection followed flagbreak.¹

The Troop went straight to Patrol Corners¹ as the S.M.³ and Scouter Whiteford⁴ were laying a trail⁵ on the Lyle Hill. When the Scoutmaster arrived, we were sent in Patrols to the Lyle Hill. There was a "treasure" at the end of the trail which would be shared among the Patrol which found it. The "treasure", which was found by the Kingfisher Patrol, was a bar of Toblerone.

Back at the hall, we had the second session of Patrol Corners.¹ A. Conway⁶ passed Dress a wound, Salutes, Law and Promise and Woodcraft Signs.⁷ British Bulldog¹ followed.

We dismissed early as there was to be a camp meeting.⁸

Patrol Championship⁹ - Fox 37 points (top)

Sig. John Nisbet

Editorial notes for 13th June 1958

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. John Nisbet was PL of the Fox Patrol from October 1956 until September 1959.
3. Scout Master John R. (Ian) Blake
4. A.S.M. Alexander (Sandy) Whiteford
5. Tracking (or following a trail) was an integral part of the Scout training scheme and was assessed in the Tenderfoot and 1st Class badges. The trail was marked by 'woodcraft signs' made of natural materials. These were meant to be subtle such that only those looking for them would spot them.
6. Alan Conway
7. These were all tests that had to be passed in order to gain the Tenderfoot Badge. It was unusual to pass so many of these in the one night – a sign of things to come as far as Alan was concerned.
8. Almost certainly, this meeting would have been to do with the forthcoming Summer Camp to be held at Benderloch near Oban.
9. This was the monthly Patrol Championship for June

Friday 20th June 1958

There was a poor attendance this evening owing to cricket¹ etc. (Only 1² member of the Patrol was present). During the game, the Fox Patrol was beaten 6-0 by their opponents.

No tests were passed.³

British Bulldog.⁴

At the second session of Patrol Corners¹, the one member present played (?).⁵

This evening, the Fox Patrol gained only 9 points.

Patrol champ. 46 points (3rd week)⁶

Note

Parade⁷ on Sunday.

Sig. John Nisbet (P.L.)Sec.⁸

Editorial notes for 13th June 1958

1. Scouts who played in the Glenpark junior team often missed Scouts because the games were on a Friday evening
2. This was underlined several times. It is likely that the 1 attendee was John Nisbet.
3. This was during the first session of Patrol Corners
4. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
5. It is not known what is meant by this. Perhaps, John Nisbet spent his time playing on the piano as he had nothing else to do.
6. This was the monthly Patrol Championship for June
7. It is not known what this Parade was for. One possibility is that it was a Scout's Own held on a Sunday evening at Finnart Church.
8. The word 'Sec' is indistinct and it is not clear why it is present.

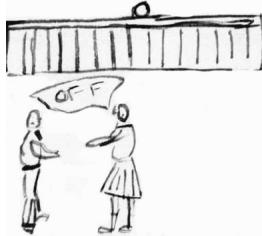
Sunday 22nd June Parade

There was no entry in the Log related to the parade scheduled for this date

1958-1959

Friday 12th September 1958

There was quite a good turnout of Scouts on this the first night of the new session.¹ All the Fox patrol were present except H. Paterson.²



The patrol was beaten miserably in the game³ owing to certain members of the patrol being put off because of kicking the ball too high.⁴ The Falcon won the game.

Next, followed patrol corners¹. Alan Conway⁵ passed his birds and trees⁶. Then there was dismissal.

The Fox are leading in the patrol championship⁷.

Note: The meeting finished at 9 o'clock

B. Howison⁸

Editorial notes for 12th September 1958

- 1. See the general introduction at the start of the log*
- 2. Hugh Paterson joined the Fox Patrol 1955 and gained his 2nd Class Badge in 1957. He wrote several entries for the surviving Fox Patrol during 1956. He probably left the Troop towards the end of 1958.*
- 3. The game was football (Troop Log).*
- 4. The shows the wooden partition that lined the walls of the hall. It consisted of wooden vertical slats with a horizontal wooden strip at the top. The partition was about 3 feet high.*
- 5. Alan Conway joined the Fox Patrol in June 1958 having moved up from the Cub Pack. He went on to become PL of the Seal Patrol and gained his Queen's Scout Badge, He was also the only 70th Scout to attend a World Jamboree overseas prior to the 1980s. His brothers (Kenneth and George) were also 70th Scouts.*
- 6. There was a test in the 1st Class Badge that required Scouts to identify 12 common trees and 6 common birds.*
- 7. There was a monthly patrol championship with points gained from activities, tests, badges, games, patrol activities, patrol log books etc. The marks gained also counted towards the yearly Patrol Championship. In the 1960s, the patrols took up positions around the hall indicative of their performance in the Patrol Championship with the top patrol closest to the door of the hall. However, it is not known whether this was the custom in the 1950s.*
- 8. Robert Howison possibly joined the Fox Patrol in 1955 and was promoted to Second of the Fox Patrol, in December 1957. He gained his 1st Class Badge in February 1959 and left the troop in May 1959.*

Friday 19th September 1958

Quite a good turnout of Scouts. The Fox patrol were all present except H. Paterson.¹

First, flagbreak² then game which was crab football^{2,3}.

The Fox were beaten in the first round by the Kingfisher who were beaten in the final by the Curlew.

The PL of the Fox⁴ played in goal as he had a sore foot.

Next patrol corners;² no tests were passed at the first session.

Next followed a very rough game of British Bulldog² but there were no casualties. Then another session of patrol corners² at which B. Howison⁵ and A. Conway⁶ passed tests.⁷

Then flagdown and dismissal.

B. Howison⁵

Editorial notes for 19th September 1958

1. See note 2 for the 12th September 1958 regarding Hugh Paterson.
2. See the general introduction at the start of the log
3. This is the first mention of Crab Football in the Fox Patrol Log.
4. John Nisbet was PL of the Fox Patrol from October 1956 until September 1959
5. See note 6 for the 12th September 1958 regarding Robert Howison (Second of the Fox Patrol)
6. See note 4 for the 12th September 1958 regarding Alan Conway who was about 11 at this time
7. The Troop Log stated that John Nisbet also passed his Tracker's Proficiency Badge on the 19th

Friday 26th September 1958

Duty Patrol - Fox

Attendance - 4 (out of 10) 2-5¹

Inspection - 9

Game - Ice hockey played with doorstep²

Tests - A. Conway³ - map and compass⁴

John Nisbet⁵

Editorial notes for 26th September 1958

1. It's not clear what the '2-5' symbolizes.
2. Usually, a gymshoe was used. The doorstep was presumably a wooden wedge.
3. Alan Conway was aged about 11 at this time (see note 5 for the 12th September 1958). Alan must have passed his Tenderfoot Badge by this time. He was probably invested at the end of June or the beginning of September, but this was not recorded in any of the log books.
4. The 2nd Class map and compass tests consisted of knowing the 16 points of the compass and being able to set a map.
5. Ritchie Muir was also promoted to Second of the Curlew Patrol (COH minutes)

Friday 3rd October 1958

The meeting was held out of doors this evening¹ since there was a Communion preparatory service in the Hall.

The troop met at 7:30 p.m. at the East Date of the Lyle Park (where it says "No Dogs"). The "rocket game"² followed with 4 patrols taking part (the other 2 being divided up among the 4). The weather and ground conditions were not ideal but this did not dampen the enthusiasm of the boys.

This was followed by the "torch game"³ (twice) and after that the troop dismissed at 8:45 p.m.

There was a reasonable attendance, generally, but there were only 3 present in the Fox patrol.

John Nisbet

Editorial notes for 3rd October 1958

1. The evening was spent playing 'wide games'. There was a purpose to these wide games, but the ones that appealed the most seemed to be those that involved a 'rammy' involving physical tussles.
2. Each patrol had a rocket. The aim of the game was to try and set off the rockets of other patrols, whilst preventing the other patrols setting off your own rocket. This was a popular wide game with the 70th during the 1950s.
3. The 'torch game' was another popular wide game that was played during the 1950s and 1960s and involved each Patrol having to defend a torch which had to be switched on. At the same time, each Patrol attempted to capture the torches of other patrols. This was a good game to play at night time.

Friday 10th October 1958

This evening, 4 cubs crossed the line (lit.) into the troop¹. They were Ronald Russell², Ian Lee³, Alvis Foster⁴, Michael Nisbet⁵.

The Duty Patrol⁶ was the Kingfisher and T. Jones⁷ (PL) made a mess of breaking the flag.⁸ Inspection⁶ followed - 8/10⁹

The game⁶ chosen was Crab football⁶ but after a long hunt no ball was found. Therefore, the game was changed to ice-hockey⁶. The Fox were beaten by the Seal 4-3 in the third round. The Seagull eventually won the final round. Patrol corners followed and the Cubs were allocated to their patrols, Michael Nisbet being put into our patrol.

British Bulldog⁶ followed.

In the second "installment" of Patrol Corners⁶, various tests were passed viz A. Conway and L. McFarlane¹⁰ on Kim's game.¹¹ (2nd Class)

M. Nisbet on Union Flag (Tenderfoot)¹²

A. Runcie¹³ on Trees and Birds¹⁴ (1st Class)

The "Sandshoe" game⁶ followed and, after this game, Roger Hardie¹⁵ of the Kingfisher Patrol was invested.¹⁶

The tests (millions of them) were read out and two badges were awarded

1. H. Rankin¹⁷ (Falcon) - Handicraft Badge¹⁸
2. J. Nisbet¹⁹ (Fox) - Bushman's Thong²⁰

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Patrol Championship²¹ – Fox 42 points (top)
2. Parade on Sunday 19th.²² Meet corner Union St. and Fox St. 10:15 a.m. flags.
3. Court of Honour²³

That troop dismissed latish

J. Nisbet (P.L.)²⁴

Editorial notes for 10th October 1958

1. See note 3 for the 6th June 1958 regarding the 'going-up' ceremony for Cubs joining the Scout Troop from the Wolf Cub Pack. According to the Troop Log. Alistair Robb also joined the Troop – the implication being that he was not one of the Cubs. Alistair remained with the Troop until 1960, reaching the rank of Patrol Second.
2. Ronald Russell joined the Seal Patrol and remained in the Troop until at least the Autumn of 1961, reaching the rank of Patrol Second.
3. Ian Lee may have joined the Seal or the Kingfisher Patrol and remained in the troop until 1960.
4. Alvis Foster was the older brother of Chris Foster who was the 70th's Venture Scout Leader in later years. It is not known which Patrol he joined and he did not remain long in the troop, departing at some point during the 1958-59 session.
5. Michael Nisbet was the younger brother of John Nisbet (P.L. of the Fox Patrol at the time). Michael was initially placed in the Fox Patrol, and remained in the troop until 1964, reaching the rank of P.L. for the Curlew Patrol. He then joined the Scouters team until at least 1966.
6. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
7. Trevor Jones was P.L. of the Kingfisher Patrol from October 1956 to May 1960
8. This usually involved the flag not breaking properly because it had been rolled up too tightly or the rope securing it had got snagged in some way.
9. The mark reflects the score gained by the Fox Patrol.
10. Alan Conway and Laird McFarlane
11. See note 2 for the 3rd February 1956 regarding Kim's Game –one of the tests in the 2nd Class Badge.

12. See note 7 for the 6th June 1958 regarding the Union Flag test – one of the tests in the Tenderfoot Badge.
13. Albert Runcie
14. 1st Class Trees involved identifying 12 common trees and describing their burning qualities when used as firewood. The test also included identifying 6 common birds.
15. Roger Hardie joined the Troop from the Wolf Cub Pack in June 1958.
16. See note 3 for the 29th March 1957 regarding investitures.
17. Hamish Rankin was PL of the Falcon Patrol from October 1956 to April 1960.
18. The Handicraft Badge was Proficiency Badge that would have been examined by a District Examiner. The requirements for this badge have not been identified, and it is not certain whether this was the same badge as the Handyman Badge. The latter was a Senior Scout Proficiency Badge that could only be earned by Scouts aged 15 or over and involved mastering 10 odd jobs such as cleaning and polishing a car, washing and ironing a scarf, whitewashing a ceiling, papering a room, renewing a sash cord, rehanging a door and repairing handles and locks, mixing and using concrete, repairing toys, laying crazy paving etc etc.
19. John Nisbet was PL of the Fox Patrol from October 1956 until September 1959.
20. The Venturer Badge and the Bushman's Thong were stepping stones between the 1st Class Badge and the Queen's Scout Badge. Scouts had to be Senior Scouts (aged over 15) in order to gain them. As far as the Bushman's thong was concerned, the Scout had to first gain the Venturer Badge and two special proficiency badges. They then had to make their own thong from leather twine. The Venturer Badge included a 2-day hike which was more demanding than the 1st Class hike, and which had various projects to complete en route. There were also other tests relating to physical fitness and hiking skills.
21. This was the monthly Patrol Championship for October
22. The reason for the parade was not given. It may have been a parade to Finnart Church though given the meeting point.
23. See Note 5 for the 8th February 1957 regarding the Court of Honour.
24. This was probably meant to be the last entry that John Nisbet wrote for the Fox patrol Log, having kept it going virtually himself from January 1957 to October 1958. However, he took it back over again on the 10th April 1959.

17th October 1958

Quite a good turnout of Scouts. First came inspection¹ followed by the game which was crab football¹. Next, came patrol corners¹ followed by game (British Bulldog)¹. Then patrol corners¹ then another short game (swinging the sandshoe¹). There was also drill².

Patrol championship. Fox lead.³

Tests B. Howison⁴ – Knots and lashings and splicings⁵

Note

Parade on Sunday – 25th anniversary 70th Renfrewshire troop⁶

Scribe⁷

Editorial notes for 17th October 1958

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. See note 5 for the 28th March 1958 regarding drill.
3. This was the monthly Patrol Championship for October
4. Robert Howison was Second of the Fox Patrol from December 1957 until May 1959
5. Splicing was a skill tested for the 1st Class badge. It involved repairing the frayed end of a rope by 'tucking' the loose strands back under the intact strands of the rope itself. Not an easy skill to master. The test also involved tying a sheer lashing, a fireman's chair knot, manharness knot, and a rolling hitch.
6. There was a short report of the parade in the Troop Log, which involved the Cubs and the Scouts and several ex members.
7. The scribe was not identified but was probably Robert Howison

Sunday 19th October 1858

Parade – 25th anniversary of the 70th Renfrewshire troop

This was not reported in the Patrol Log. The Troop Log stated that there was a good turnout with 27 Scouts, 5 Scouters, and ex members:- GSM Victor Clark, ASM Douglas Brown, Andrew Whiteford, and Alistair Duncan. There was also a good turnout of Cubs. No Guides were present. The Troop Log also mentioned that drill was held at the troop meeting on the 24th because the parade was described as 'awful'.

24th October 1958

Quite a good turn out of Scouts. First came inspection¹ (9 points), then game (gym rugby², a few casualties). This was followed by Patrol corners¹. Next, another game (Port and Starboard¹). The 2nd session of Patrol corners¹. Next game (In and out pond)^{1,3,4}

Patrol Championship. Fox lead.⁵

Tests B. Howison⁶ First Aid^{7,8}

Note Kan-U-take it⁹ on Saturday (Trevor going)¹⁰

Scribe¹¹

Editorial notes for 24th October 1958

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. It is not known what was involved in gym rugby. It might have been a version of touch rugby or chalk rugby (see the general introduction at the start of the log book).
3. This game was not played very often and might have been a game that was played more frequently in the Wolf Cub Pack
4. The Troop Log stated that drill was also carried out during the meeting
5. This was the monthly Patrol Championship for October
6. Robert Howison was Second of the Fox Patrol from December 1957 until May 1959
7. See note 2 for the 1st February 1957 regarding 1st Class emergencies and first aid.
8. The Troop Log stated that Robert Howison also gained his Athlete's Proficiency Badge.
9. The Kan-U-Take it events were adventurous activities such as hill walking, which were organised by the District and probably aimed at the older Scouts.
10. Trevor Jones was P.L. of the Kingfisher Patrol from October 1956 to May 1960. He was particularly interested in adventurous outdoor activities.
11. The scribe was not identified but was probably Robert Howison

31st of October 1958

Quite a good turnout of Scouts. First came inspection¹ 8 points. Then game of football.¹ The Fox were beaten miserably in the first round. Then patrol corners¹. After this, we had horses and riders¹. At the end of this game, only the Scouters were left on the floor.² Then we had a second session of Patrol corners.^{1,3}

Scribe⁴

Editorial notes for 31st October 1958

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. The Scouters occasionally joined in on particular games, but this was usually the exception rather than the rule.
3. The Troop Log stated that dooking for apples also took place during the meeting and that Ronald Russell of the Seal Patrol was invested. There was also a session of drill.
4. The scribe was not identified but was probably Robert Howison

7th November 1958

Not very many Scouts turned up. First we had inspection¹ (7pts)² in which the Fox as usual lost one point owing to Laird MacFarlane being without a belt. (He probably have one next week - reprimanded in a most threatening way by P.L. and Second). Game was football.¹

The Fox patrol was handicapped as the P.L. had a sore foot and was unable to play. They did, however under the brilliant leadership of their second³ manage to reach the semi-final, where, owing to several misunderstandings, three of their number were 'pit aff'.⁴

Next were Patrol corners.¹ Then "swinging the sandshoe".¹ Patrol Corners¹ again then flagdown and dismissal.^{1,5}

RLH⁶

Editorial notes for 7th November 1958

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. The score earned by the Fox Patrol at inspection.
3. Second Robert Howison.
4. This usually occurred because the ball was kicked too high.
5. The Troop Log revealed that Michael Nisbet was invested during this meeting and was moved to the Curlew Patrol.
6. The scribe signed himself RLH which is believed to stand for Robert Linton Howison (Fox Patrol Second).

Sunday 9th November 1958

Church Parade with the Guides for Remembrance Day

This was not covered in the Fox Patrol Log. A short description was provided in the Troop Log.

10th-13th November 1958 – Leaflet drop

This was not covered in the Fox Patrol Log. Leaflets were distributed round the West End that probably warned house owners that the Scouts were about to collect jumble for a forthcoming Jumble Sale (source Troop Log).

14th of November 1958

The Fox were duty patrol¹ (us) and we chose the game². Unfortunately, the Curlew won. This was followed by Patrol Corners¹. Then a game of British Bulldog¹ was played with no casualties whatsoever. Then a game of horses and riders¹, which started off as an organized game that ended up as a 'shambles'. Second session of Patrol Corners¹ then dismissal.

RLH³

Editorial notes for 14th November 1958

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. Ringstick according to the Troop Log
3. The scribe signed himself RLH which is believed to stand for Robert Linton Howison (Fox Patrol Second).

21st of November 1958

Quite a good turnout of Scouts. Duty patrol Kingfisher. The game was ring stick¹ (terribly rough). We won the game defeating the Curlews in the final.

Patrol corners¹ followed. Then a game of British Bulldog.¹ Followed by second session of Patrol corners¹ at which everyone was cooling down. The Curlew lead in the Patrol Championship. There was also a campfire.^{1,2}

RLH³

Editorial notes for 21st November 1958

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. The Troop Log stated that this included a duet by ASM Bob Miller and T.L. John Nisbet.
3. The scribe (RLH) was Robert Linton Howison (Second of the Fox Patrol).

22nd November 1958

Not reported in the Fox patrol Log. The Troop collected jumble with the aid of the trek cart (see Troop Log).

28th of November 1958

The troop night for the 28th November was not entered in the Fox Patol Log, but was reported in the Troop Log. Based on the account given, the meeting identified in the Patrol Log as occurring on the 5th December 1958 actually occurred on the 28th November 1958, while the meeting reported as occurring on the 12th December actually occurred on the 5th December.

28th November 1958 (Editor: This was reported as being the 5th December in the Fox Patol Log, but it is believed that the account was actually referring to the 28th November)

Seagull were duty patrol¹ and they chose the game of "Hopping Charlie".¹ This was followed by patrol corners¹ in which A. Conway² passed Kim's game.³ Then British Bulldog¹ (terribly rough) one casualty⁴. Again, British Bulldog then 2nd Patrol Corners¹ (to cool off) then dismissal.

R.L.H⁵

Editorial notes for 28th November

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. Alan Conway joined the Troop in June 1958 and made rapid progress through his tests
3. See note 2 for the 3rd February 1956 regarding Kim's Game –one of the tests in the 2nd Class Badge.
4. 'Casualties' appeared to be common in British Bulldog; the vast majority of these were probably bruises, grazes and torn shirts.
5. The scribe (RLH) was Robert Linton Howison (Second of the Fox Patrol).

29th November -5th December 1958

Jumble collection – see the Troop Log.

5th of December 1958 (Editor: This was reported as being the 12th December in the Fox Patol Log, but it is believed that the account was actually referring to the 5th December)

17 shopping days to Christmas.¹

Duty patrol² were the Seal. No patrol game tonight.

Then PLs departed into the basement of the church to sort out the junk for the Jumble Sale. Seconds went out with the trek cart to collect more junk.³

The meeting was mostly all games for those left in the Hall and when we arrived back it was time for dismissal.

RLH⁴

Editorial notes for 5th December 1958

- 1. Confirmation that the accounts identified as the 5th and 12th of December were actually the 28th November and 5th December respectively.*
- 2. See the general introduction at the start of the log.*
- 3. This matches with the account provided in the Troop Log for the 5th December.*
- 4. The scribe (RLH) was Robert Linton Howison (Second of the Fox Patrol).*

6th December 1958 Jumble Sale

Not reported in the Fox Patrol Log – see the Troop Log for a short report

1959

Happy New Year

9 January 1959

Duty patrol were the duty Patrol¹ were the Falcons who chose the game of 'Below the skirting² football'¹. Then came details of Dance³. Then Patrol corners¹. Then again British Bulldog¹ which was followed by 'Horses and Riders'¹. The troop then dismissed $\frac{1}{2}$ hour early. Jumble sale⁴ earnings £38 - 4-8d.⁵

RLH⁶

Editorial notes for 9th January 1959

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. The wooden skirting board round the Church Hall was used as the marker for whether a ball had been kicked too high. It was about 3 feet high and consisted of vertical wooden slats with a horizontal wooden strip above that (see the sketch for the 12th September 1958).
3. See note 5 for the 10th January 1958 regarding the Annual Scout Dance.
4. Jumble Sales were a popular fund raising exercise during the 1950s and 1960s, but involved a lot of work in the 2-3 weeks leading up to the event. Normally, a week was spent distributing leaflets round local houses to warn householders that the Scouts would be coming round to collect any clothing or items that householders wanted rid of. The jumble was then collected over the next week or two and stored in the church cellars (the dunny). All the jumble was transported to a big hall during the morning of the jumble sale or the evening before, probably with the aid of a coal lorry. The Court of Honour Minutes for the 11th November stated that the Jumble Sale was to raise funds towards a 70th Pipe Band. This was considered very eriously, but there is evidence of it ever being formed.
5. This sum would be the equivalent in value to £1140 today (February 2023).
6. The scribe (RLH) was Robert Linton Howison (Second of the Fox Patrol).

16th of January 1959

We were duty Patrol¹ and chose game of football. The Fox won (us). Then Patrol Corners¹, then British Bulldog¹ (terrible rough) followed by "dodge ball"¹ and we again dismissed early after Flag down.

P.S. We had to wait to bring in chairs and table.²

P.P.S (terrible, Hard Work).

RLH³

Editorial notes for 16th January 1959

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. One of the duties that had to be carried out by the Duty Patrol was to remove the chairs and other furniture from the Church Hall before the meeting started, then replace them once the meeting was over.
3. The scribe (RLH) was Robert Linton Howison (Second of the Fox Patrol).

23rd of January 1959

DANCE¹

RLH²

Editorial notes for 23rd January 1959

1. The report on the dance in the Fox Patrol Log book was about as brief as it could be! A slightly larger account was provided in the Troop Log.
2. The scribe (RLH) was Robert Linton Howison (Second of the Fox Patrol).

30th January 1959

Troop night. No report provided in the Patrol Log – see the Troop Log

6th February 1959 Guide Dance

No report provided in the Patrol Log. The Troop Log stated that it took place at Finnart School, which was the normal meeting place for the Guides affiliated to Finnart Church.

13th February 1959

Troop night. No report provided in the Patrol Log – see the Troop Log. Billy Phillips and Ronald Weir moved up from the Cubs to the Scouts at the start of the meeting.

20th of February 1959



After a period of “no Scouts”, we resumed.¹ Duty Patrol² were the Seal who also won the game. Then Patrol corners². Then British Bulldog² which is the “Time-honoured Favourite” of the Troop followed by second patrol corners². Then game of “swinging ring”³. Flag down and dismissal.

RLH⁴

Editorial notes for 20th February 1959

1. It is not known whether this relates to the two Dances in the last 4 weeks, or to that fact that the Scribe may have been absent over the last 4 weeks. The latter seems the more likely due to the gap in the Fox Patrol Log.
2. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
3. This was the same game as ‘Swing the Sandshoe,’ with a rubber ring at the end of the rope rather than a sandshoe. The sketch shows the principle and includes the mention of a ‘Ross’ or a ‘Ron’. This could have been Ronald Lind, Ronald Russell or Ronald Weir. Ronald Weir seems the most likely as he had oined the Fox Patrol the week before.
4. The scribe (RLH) was Robert Linton Howison (Second of the Fox Patrol).

27th February 1959

Our PL John Nisbet¹ did not attend owing to his Exams and the Second (me)² was late. Therefore, A. Conway³ was Acting P.L. for a time.

First came inspection.⁴ Then Second (me). Then game, which was football⁴ with the Fox being beaten in the 1st round by the Curlews. This was followed by Patrol Corners⁴. Then came British Bulldog⁴. Again Patrol Corners⁴. Then Flag down and Dismissal⁴.

Notes:-

B. Howison Second² was presented with his 1st Class badge^{5,6}. There are now 2 1st-Class Scouts in the Fox, PL and Second. Announcements were made about Easter Camp.⁷

Editorial notes for 27th February 1959

1. John Nisbet was PL of the Fox Patrol from October 1956 until September 1959. He would have been 15 or 16 during 1959.

2. Second Robert Howison would have been 14 or 15 in 1959
3. Alan Conway would have been aged 11 or 12 during 1959, and not yet spent a year in the Troop.
4. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
5. The 1st Class Badge was the 3rd badge in Scouting's progressive training scheme (Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, 1st Class and Queen's Scout badges). Patrol Leaders were expected to have their 1st Class Badge before they were appointed. At times, this was not feasible, in which case the Patrol Leader was encouraged to gain the Badge as quickly as possible. This was particularly the case in 1956 when most of the PLs were aged 13.
6. The Troop log stated that a 'ducking' took place after the Troop dismissed. It may well have been Robert Howison getting ducked for being presented with his 1st Class Badge.
7. Easter Camp in 1959 was at Blairmore from the 27th March to the 1st April

6th March 1959

PL John Nisbet was still absent¹ and the Second² was again late. But this time managed to arrive in time for Inspection³. After inspection, game was ice hockey³ tonight. Fox won their first game against Seal. But were beaten by the Seagull in the next round.

Patrol Corners³ followed. Then BB⁴. Then 2nd Session of Patrol Corners³. Then sandshoe game³.

Flag down and dismissal.³

Notes:-

A visit to a submarine⁵ had been arranged and 4 boys from *the* troop are to go; these will be decided next Friday. The visit is on Saturday.

More announcements about Easter camp⁶.

RLH⁷

Editorial notes for 6th March 1959

1. John Nisbet had missed the previous Troop Meeting due to exams, and was presumably absent this week for the same reason.
2. Second Robert Howison was aged 14 or 15 during 1959
3. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
4. British Bulldog (see the general introduction at the start of the log).
5. The submarine was the HMS Scotsman built by Scotts Shipbuilders in Greenock and commissioned in December 1944. By the time her trials were completed, the war in Europe was over and she sailed to the Far East as the war with Japan was still in progress. However, by the time she got there, the Pacific war had ended as well. She remained in service until 1964.
6. Easter Camp in 1959 was at Blairmore from the 27th March to the 1st April
7. The scribe (RLH) was Robert Linton Howison (Second of the Fox Patrol).

13th March 1959 Troop Meeting

This meeting was reported in the Troop Log, but not the Patrol Log. It is possible that the report entered for the 20th March was meant to be for the 13th March.

13th of March 1959 *(Editor: The following entry was identified as the 20th March, but is more likely to have been the 13th March)*

There was quite a good turnout of Scouts. Four boys¹ were selected to go to the Custom House Quay and see over "HMS SCOTSMAN".² First came inspection³. Then, the game followed by Patrol Corners³ then British Bulldog³. Then a second session of Patrol Corners³ then dismissal^{3,4}.

RLH⁵ (second)

Editorial notes for 13th March 1959

1. The four boys selected were Trevor Jones, Alan Conway, Billy Phillips and one other who was not identified.
2. See note 5 for the 6th March 1959.
3. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
4. The Troop Log stated that John Nisbet gained his Queen's Scout Badge this week.
5. The scribe (RLH) was Robert Linton Howison (Second of the Fox Patrol).

Saturday 14th March 1959 Visit to HMS Scotman

Editorial Comment: It is believed that the visit to the submarine HMS Scotsman took place on this date. A very short description of the visit is provided in the Troop Log.

20th March 1959

Editorial Comment: The Patrol Log has an entry for the 20th March, but it is believed that this described the meeting on the 13th March (see above). A Troop meeting did take place on the 20th and is described in the Troop Log.

Sunday, 22nd March 1959

The Troop log reported that there was a parade on the 22nd March involving the Guides, Cubs and Scouts. This was presumably to Finnart Church. It was not reported in the Fox patrol Log.

What about the Easter Camp? Some of your patrol was there. You are only giving a brief account of patrol record. A lot more happens then you have put down.

How about it!!!

John R. Blake S.M. 24/4/59

Bring your log up-to-date. Now.

Editorial Comment

The above comments were written by Scout Master Ian Blake following his reading of the log book up to this point. He was clearly not impressed!

N.B.: This was the last meeting before the Easter holidays.

Editorial Comment

This statement was presumably written by Robert Howison after Ian Blake returned the log book on the 24th April 1959. It refers to the meeting of the 20th March 1959. This was, indeed, the last meeting before the Easter holidays, but the account given looks as if it was for the 13th March rather than the 20th.

EASTER CAMP 1959

Dates – Friday 27th March – Wednesday 1st April 1959

(although for young boys it ended on Tuesday 31st March owing to a “slight shower” of rain)

Friday 27th March



The boys¹ met at Gourrock pier at 10 o'clock on Friday, March 27. It was a dullish morning though. We got the steamer² at 10.35 and arrived about 11 o'clock. The boys got the lorry³ to Blairmore farm⁴ where we pitched camp. After pitching camp, we had dinner, settled down and made a few gadgets⁵. After tea, we explored⁶, had cocoa, and so to bed.

Editorial comments

1. The boys are likely to have been Ken Conway, Brian Elliot, Jim Blair, Tommy Dow, Trevor Jones, Stuart Scott, Ian Fraser, John Moore, Alan Conway, Michael Hodge, Philip Dry, Roger Hardie, Ronald Weir and Laird McFarlane. As far as the Scouters were concerned, Bob Miller was present and possibly Sandy Whiteford and Jim Harvey.

2. Maid of Ashton

3. Believed to have been hired from the Pier master

4. About a mile north of Blairmore Pier and up the hill a bit.

5. Ian Blake was insistent that each Patrol should make gadgets that had some kind of purpose. These were usually made from wood and sizar. A very simple gadget was the mug tree or mug holder, which was just a small branch stuck in the ground (see sketch).

6. The exploration involved walking the forestry road to Kilmun, then back by the coast road (about 6 miles).

Saturday 28 March 1959



Skipper⁷ and Tweetie⁸ arrived. Ken Con.⁹ and Been¹⁰ went for stores.¹¹ Remainder chopped wood and played games. It was a grand day. S. Scott and P. Dry¹² went 1st class hike¹³.

Editorial comments

7. Scout Master Ian Blake was presumably working on the Friday and could not come until the Saturday

8. 'Tweetie' was the nickname for Hamish Rankin.

9. Kenneth Conway, P.L. of the Seal Patrol in camp

10. 'Been' was the nickname of Brian Elliott

11. Presumably, they walked into Blairmore to collect stores.

12. Stuart Scott and Phillip Dry

13. The First Class hike was a 2-day unsupervised hike of about 15-18 miles involving 2 Scouts. As part of the hike, the Scouts had to find their own campsite and cook all their meals over wood fires. They also had to hike in full uniform and complete a number of projects. The projects and the route involved were not revealed to the Scouts until they were ready to set off. At that point, they usually opened a sealed envelope to find out what they were required to do. After the hike was over, each Scout had to write a full log book of the route that included information on what had been observed en route, as well as information related to the set projects. All 1st Class hikes were set and assessed by a District Examiner.

Sunday, 29 March 1959

S. Scott and P. Dry¹² arrived back¹⁴ bringing some welcome Sunday papers. Skipper¹⁵ had a small service¹⁶.

Editorial comments

14. From their overnight 1st Class hike.

15. Scout Master Ian Blake

16. This was a Scout's Own to mark Easter Sunday. It may have involved a hymn, reading and a chat from Ian Blake. Some of the Scouts were probably involved in giving the reading or the prayer.

Monday 30th March 1959



Skipper¹⁵ and Tweetie⁸ left¹⁷ with Ronnie Weir and Trevor¹⁸. Mrs Conway and George¹⁹ came in time for camp fire when Eccles²⁰ made pancakes and Been¹⁰ cocoa. Roger Hardie and Michael Hodge passed 2nd class²¹. Thos. Dow²², who was swinging on rope, fell in burn²³. P.L.'s went owl hunting²⁴.

Editorial comments

17. To catch the ferry back from Blairmore to Gourock.

18. Trevor Jones

19. Mrs Conway was the mother of Ken, Alan and George Conway, all of whom were 70th Scouts. Kenneth and Alan were at Blairmore. George was still in the Wolf Cubs at this stage. George eventually became PL of the Seal Patrol during the 1960s.

20. 'Eccles' was the nickname for ASM Bob Miller.

21. The Second Class Badge followed on from the Tenderfoot Badge in the Scout progressive Training Scheme. Scouts usually gained it within a year or two of being in Scouts.

22. Thomas Dow was aged 14 or 15 during 1959 and probably transferred to the 70th from another Scout Troop. He was yet to get promoted.

23. Based on the sketch, this must have been the stream running down a small gorge to the north of the campsite.

24. This might have been a project dreamt up by Bob Miller who had a knack of coming up with quirky reasons for going on a hike. No owls were spotted, despite Bob's efforts to impersonate an owl.

Tuesday 31st March 1959

Lashed all day. Eccles²⁰ decided young Scouts better go home²⁵. Only 5 left²⁶, not counting Bob. One bright spot – I passed second class.²⁷

Editorial comments

25. This was in the afternoon. It was a wise decision as the rain continued to teem down for the rest of the camp

26. The five were Ken Conway, Brian Elliott, Jim Blair, Tommy Dow and Sandy Whiteford.

27. The scribe was Alan Conway. By gaining his 2nd Class Badge at the camp, he had passed both his Tenderfoot and Second Class Badges in under a year which was extremely fast. It is assumed that

Alan was one of the Scouts who returned to civilization on the Tuesday as he would have been aged about 12 at the time.

Wednesday 1st April 1959



Still raining. Trevor¹⁸ went back to assist breaking camp.²⁸

General opinion of camp. Pretty good

Alan Conway 3rd Scout²⁹

Patrol represented by	A. Conway	-	3 rd Scout
	R. Weir	-	4 th Scout
	L. McFarlane		2 nd Scout.

Editorial comments

28. Apparently, Trevor's young brother was also present to assist breaking camp.

29. Alan Conway appears to have written the account of the various days in camp.

10th April 1959

This was the first meeting after the Easter holidays, *with* the Seagull patrol being Duty Patrol¹. R. Harvey² broke the flag in the absence of his P.L. K. Johnson.³

This evening Bob-a-Job⁴ money was collected and the Fox's effort⁵ was this:-

J. Nisbet 10/-
R. Howison 5/-
A. Runcie 7/-
L. McFarlane 15/6
A. Conway 6/-
R. Weir 7/-

Total = £2 – 10- 6⁶

The total collected by the Troop amounted (after the L.A.⁷ and H.Q.⁸ had taken their share) was approximately £20.⁹

This being the first meeting of the term, no tests were passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Practice¹⁰ for colour party on Wednesday 15th April, 7:30 p.m. in St. John's Church, Union St. ¹¹

All Bob-a-Job⁴ cards to be handed to R. Miller¹² by Monday 13th at latest. The troop dismissed promptly.

N.B. Spring Holiday weekend – A. Runcie & R. Weir absent.

Signed J. Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 10th April 1959

- 1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.*
- 2. Robert Harvey joined the troop on the 8th March 1957 and was aged about 13 at this point. He was probably 1st Scout in the Seagull Patrol.*
- 3. Kenneth Johnston was P.L. of the Seagull Patrol from February 1957 to September 1959.*
- 4. See note 6 for the 21st March 1958 regarding Bob-a-Job Week.*
- 5. The Fox Patrol consisted of P.L. John Nisbet, Sec. Robert Howison, Albert Runcie, Laird McFarlane, Alan Conway and Ronald Weir.*
- 6. This would be the equivalent of £75 today (Feb. 2023)*
- 7. It is not known for sure what this represented, but it may have stood for the 'Local Association' responsible for Scouting in Greenock – the District.*
- 8. H.Q. would have referred to the National HQ of the Boy Scout Association based in London.*
- 9. This would be the equivalent of £600 today (Feb. 2023). The total raised by the group, which probably included the contribution to the District and National HQ, was £36-12s-1d. This would be the equivalent of about £1100 today.*
- 10. This was in preparation for the Founder's Day Parade to be held on Sunday 19th April, 1959 – the main District parade of the year.*
- 11. St. John's Episcopal Church in Union Street is still active (as of Feb 2023) and is situated west of Jamaica Street.*
- 12. A.S.M Robert (Bob) Miller.*

17th April 1959

Tonight, Kenneth Conway¹ broke the flag since the Seal Patrol was the Duty patrol.² The Seal Patrol chose Platters² for the game (very good for a patrol with only 3 men present). The “platters”³ in this case consisted of a book case and a small wooden plank. The Fox were beaten in the semi-final.

At Patrol corners², A. Conway⁴ failed various tests and L. McFarlane⁵ learned estimation⁶.

Followed British Bulldog² – the old faithful – during which H. Rankin⁷ (P.L. Falcon) received a severe gash in *the* chin. Departed in car to have stitches inserted.

At the second session of Patrol Corners², the Patrol continued with badge work. The “sandshoe game”² followed.

The Troop then fell in for dismissal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS⁸

1. Founder’s Day Parade⁹, Sunday the 19th to St John’s Church¹⁰.

For once there was no meeting of PL’s

The troop dismissed punctually

NB full attendance of Fox patrol this evening

John Nisbet

Editorial notes for 17th April 1959

1. Kenneth Conway, P.L. of the Seal Patrol from October 1956 to April 1960

2. See the general introduction at the start of the log.

3. The origin of the term “platters” is not known, but the object of the game was like skittles, where one threw a ball from one end of the Hall to knock over an object at the other end of the hall. Presumably the idea of the bookcase and plank was to knock the plank off the bookcase.

4. Alan Conway was 3rd Scout at this time.

5. Laird McFarlane was 2nd Scout at this time.

6. See note 3 for the 2nd November 1956 regarding estimation – a test towards the 1st Class Badge.

7. Hamish Rankin was PL of the Falcon Patrol from October 1956 to April 1960.

8. It was also announced that Tommy Dow of the Kingfisher Patrol gained his 1st Class Badge, while John Moore (possibly of the Curlew Patrol) gained his 2nd Class Badge.

9. Founder’s Day Parade was held annually on a Sunday close to St. George’s Day (23rd April). It was the most important of the District Parades and a good attendance was expected from every group.

10. See Note 11 for the 10th April 1959 regarding St. John’s Episcopal Church, Union Street, Geenock.

Founder’s Day Parade - Sunday 19th of April 1959

Editorial Comment: The parade was not mentioned in the Fox Patrol Log – see the Troop Log for a short description. Surprisingly, there also seemed to be a camp at Everton that weekend focusing on the Camp Cook’s Badge. Tommy Dow and Jim Blair both attended and passed the badge.

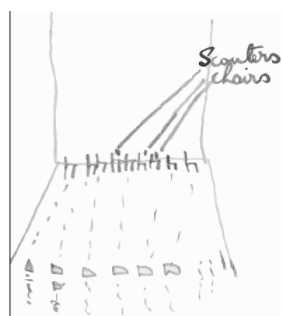
24th April 1959

This evening, the Curlew Patrol were Duty Patrol¹ and, in the absence of Bean², [reported to have a severe gumboil which, however, did not keep them off school) M. Nisbet³ broke the flag¹. Inspection¹ followed. Skipper⁴ inspecting officer.

The Curlews chose football¹ and the Fox were beaten 5-1 in the final round [owing to all but one being put off for kicking high].

At Patrol Corners,¹ again no tests were passed, but the boys continued to do badge work. Because of a slight misunderstanding⁵, A. Runcie⁶ was unable to pass 1st class knots and lashings.⁷

British Bulldog¹ followed.



A new instructional game on Tenderfoot knots⁸ followed.

Each patrol formed up in line at one end of the room and a chair for each was placed at the other end of the room.

Each patrol had to tie a certain number of tenderfoot knots. Scouters O.K.^D the efforts one by one.

The Fox finished second to the Seal Patrol.

The second session of Patrol Corners¹ followed after Skipper had 1 or 2 or 9 words to say about Patrol Logs⁹.

A. Conway¹⁰ failed his 1st-Class map and compass¹¹

After 2nd Patrol Corners, an investiture¹² followed – A. Taylor¹³ of Seagull patrol, ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Tests were read out – 3¹⁴
2. Patrol championship¹⁵ – Seal 49 pts
Fox 45 pts.
3. Seamen's parade¹⁶ Sunday 26th - 4 volunteers¹⁷
4. Court of Honour¹⁸ for P.L.s and R. Harvey¹⁹

The Troop dismissed 10 minutes late.

N.B. All but R. Howison²⁰ present tonight

Signed John Nisbet (P.L.)

NB The patrol²¹ now stands:-

J. Nisbet	P.L.
R. Howison	Sec.
A. Runcie	1 st Scout
L. McFarlane	2 nd Scout
A. Conway	3 rd Scout
R. Weir	4 th Scout

Well done. John R. Blake S.M. 70th²²

Editorial notes for 24th April 1959

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. 'Bean' or 'Been' was the nickname for the Patrol Leader Brian Elliot.
3. Michael Nisbet was John Nisbet's younger brother. He joined the Troop in October 1958 and would have been 11 or 12 at this point.
4. Scout Master John R. (Ian) Blake
5. The 'misunderstanding' was not explained. One possibility is that Michael entered his name in the test book, but the entry was either missed by the Scouters or each Scouter thought another Scouter would carry out the assessment.
6. Albert Runcie was 1st Scout in the Fox Patrol by this time and working towards his 1st Class Badge.
7. 1st Class Knots and Lashings involved tying a sheer lashing, a fireman's chair knot, manharness knot, and a rolling hitch. Complete a back splice and an eye splice. A back splice involved repairing the frayed end of a rope by 'tucking' the loose strands back under the intact strands of the rope itself. Not an easy skill to master. The eye splice involved splicing the rope back on itself to produce an eye or loop.
8. See note 6 for the 8th February 1957 regarding Tenderfoot Knots.

9. The comment that Ian Blake gave on the 24th April 1959 for the Fox Patrol Log was entered just before the entry for Easter Camp. It was not very complimentary and it would appear that the other Patrol Logs were not much better. The expression '1 or 2 or 9 words' in this context essentially implies a 'rant' or severe 'talking to'.
10. Alan Conway was 3rd Scout at this time.
11. The Map and Compass test for the 1st Class Badge involved reading and using a 1" to the mile Ordnance Survey Map, drawing a rough sketch map, using a compass, and being able to identify a compass direction by day and night without the aid of a compass.
12. See note 3 for the 29th March 1957 regarding investitures.
13. Very little is known about Alan (or Allan) Taylor. The entry regarding his investiture is the only reference to him in the available records and he presumably left the Troop fairly soon after he joined it.
14. This corresponds to the number of tests passed, rather than those attempted.
15. This relates to the Patrol of the Month Championship for April.
16. See note 10 for the 11th April 1958 regarding the Seamen's or Seaman's or Seafarer's Parade.
17. It is not known how willing volunteers were in the 1950s. It is possible that volunteers were asked for initially, and if the response was poor, various Scouts were then 'volunteered'. For example, it is highly likely that Robert Harvey was volunteered.
18. See Note 5 for the 8th February 1957 regarding the Court of Honour.
19. Robert Harvey joined the troop on the 8th March 1957 and was aged about 13 or 14 at this point. He was probably 1st Scout in the Seagull Patrol. He was summoned in front of the Court of Honour because of poor attendance and for not raising any money during Bob-a-Job week. The COH minutes do not state what was said to him he was certainly reprimanded and may even have been warned that he might lose his membership of the Troop. The fact that he was one of the 'volunteers' to attend the 'Seafarer's Service on the 26th April suggests that this was one of the conditions set for him remaining in the Troop. He presumably took the reprimand on board as he was promoted to Second in September 1959 and to PL in 1960. In addition, he was selected for the Shannon Cup team the following month.
20. Robert (Bob) Howison was Second of the Fox Patrol.
21. The full names were John Nisbet, Robert Howison, Albert Runcie, Laird McFarlane, Alan Conway and Ronald Weir.
22. A comment added by Scout Master Ian Blake following this entry.

26th April 1959 Seafarer's Service

Editorial comment Four 70th volunteers represented the Troop at the service, but there was no report on the service in the Fox Patrol Log. See the Troop Log for further details on the service.

1st May 1959

This evening, the Falcon Patrol were Duty Patrol¹ and H. Rankin² (PL) broke the flag at 7.33 p.m. Inspection¹ followed (Skipper³) – 10 points⁴

N.B. Attendance in Fox Patrol perfect this evening.

The Falcons now chose "crab football"¹ for the inter patrol game and, owing to a large number of the Fox patrol being put off, the Fox patrol were beaten 2- 1 by the Seals in the 3rd round.

Patrol Corners¹ followed and the Patrol did badge work. (Patrol means those others than the P.L. or second).

British Bulldog¹ followed – and a hard fight it was. Skipper commented "This is a game where you try to lift the boys up, not sit on them."⁵

At Patrol Corners¹ – two 1st class tests were passed-

A. Conway⁶ – 1st Class mapping⁷

L. McFarlane⁸ – Estimation⁹

Then - impossible though it may seem - we had a campfire.¹

Skipper said it was a good opportunity to teach the younger Scouts the Troop yells, songs etc.

This is the first campfire since the 10th JANUARY 1958.¹⁰

As usual, the time went far too quickly, but not before a few of the Troop favourites had been sung and yelled.¹¹

The Troop fell in and waited for announcements. These were

1. Tests (see above)
2. Court of Honour¹² for PLs
3. Log-books to be kept up to date
4. Patrol Championship Fox 28 pts (1st week)¹³
5. Helpers for Jumble Sale (1st Renf.) be at Mount Pleasant Church Hall at 2 p.m. on Saturday 2nd May.¹⁴

The Troop dismissed punctually after the flag had been lowered.

Signed J. Nisbet P.L.

Editorial notes for 1st May 1959

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. Hamish Rankin was PL of the Falcon Patrol from October 1956 to April 1960.
3. Scout Master John R. (Ian) Blake
4. These were the marks gained by the Fox Patrol at inspection.
5. As Ian Blake stated, the aim of the game was to catch someone and lift them off the ground for the time required to shout 'British Bulldog 1,2,3' This was straightforward at the start of the game when the smaller Scouts were being caught, but towards the end of the game, burly P.Ls had to be caught, which usually meant dragging them down to the floor and pinning them down so that they could not escape. That was usually the signal for the whole troop to pile on top of the victim to create a mountain of Scouts. A bit of planning had to then take place before peeling away that pile of bodies. Otherwise the captured 'victim' might yet still escape. This planning involved identifying which Scout or Scouts would hold on to which limb of the victim, so that 6-8 Scouts could then restrain and lift their struggling prey.
6. Alan Conway was 3rd Scout at this time.
7. See Note 11 for the 24th April 1959 regarding the 1st Class Map and Compass test.
8. Laird McFarlane was 2nd Scout at this time.
9. See note 3 for the 2nd November 1956 regarding estimation – a test towards the 1st Class Badge.
10. It was clear that P.L. John Nisbet was a bit 'peeved' that there had not been more campfires at the weekly troop meetings.
11. Unfortunately, there is very little evidence of what those songs and yells were.
12. See Note 5 for the 8th February 1957 regarding the Court of Honour.
13. This relates to the Patrol of the Month Championship for May.
14. The 70th Renfrewshire had a close relationship with the 1st Renfrewshire during the second half of the 1950s as two former 70th Scouts had transferred there as Assistant Scout Masters – Douglas Brown and Andrew Whiteford. This has resulted in a number of joint weekend camps and a joint summer camp. Therefore, it was not natural that the 1st Renfrewshire would approach the 70th for assistance in their Jumble Sale. Two Scouters and 5 Scouts volunteered to help, although the Troop Log suggests that some of these were probably 'volunteered'.

8th May 1959

This evening, J. Nisbet¹ broke the flag for the Fox patrol at 7.35 p.m. Inspection² followed (ASM Miller³ – 9¹/₂points⁴).

Since it was a fine evening, a wide game⁵ was arranged. To begin with, each patrol was given a written message (coded)⁶ which, when decoded, said : "Report to Scouter outside". The Fox Patrol were first out and were told to go to McAuley's farm.⁷ When all the patrols had assembled, a game based on B.P.'s 'Flag Raiding' (Scouting for Boys pp. 174 - 5)⁸. This, it may be noted, was not very well played although it was much enjoyed by all.

After the first game, the Troop was divided into two and the popular Torch Game was played (only the Torch was a staff⁹ with a Patrol flag)¹⁰.

By now, it was about 8.55 p.m. and the boys recovered their uniform¹¹ and patrol flags. By the time we arrived back at the Hall, it was nearly 9.20 p.m. and the Troop fell in for announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Volunteers required for, Commonwealth Youth Parade¹² on Sunday 10th May. Meet at Kelly Street, 2 p.m.
2. Court of Honour¹³ for P.L.'s and Alistair Nicol¹⁴ of Falcon patrol.

The troop dismissed fairly punctually after flagdown.

Signed John Nisbet. P.L.

Note: Only one member of the Patrol present besides P.L. viz A. Conway¹⁵.

Editorial notes for 8th May 1959

1. John Nisbet was PL of the Fox Patrol from October 1956 until September 1959. He would have been 15 or 16 during 1959.
2. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
3. A.S.M Robert (Bob) Miller.
4. The writing is not that clear and the mark for the Fox Patrol is either 8¹/₂ or 9¹/₂
5. Wide games were played outdoors and were often interpatrol in nature (though not always). Many of the most popular wide games were physical in nature allowing the Scouts to get stuck into each other. However, others were more cerebral and involved the Scouts making use of Scouting skills. This one was an example of the latter type which encouraged an ability to decode a message and then play a game of stealth.
6. This was probably in morse or semapore.
7. It is assumed that this was the farm on the left hand side of the road leading up the Lyle Hill.
8. There were several editions of Scouting for Boys over the years and it is not known which edition this page range applies to. The content varied from one edition to another. However, the game was also recorded on page 163 of the 1920 version of Scouting for Boys. The rules involved two teams with 2 or more patrols on each side. Each side had to protect three flags, which were planted about 20 yards apart. The defending team was not allowed within 200 yards of the flags but could set up a hidden outpost containing a group of Scouts or a series of hidden outposts, each one containing a pair of Scouts. Scouts at the outposts had to stay in position throughout the game, but their strength counted as double in any confrontation. The defenders were also allowed to send single messengers to their other outposts or to their attacking party. Each side also sent out an attacking party that tried to identify the locations of the opposition's flags and outposts. Having done this, the aim was to sneak past the enemy outposts unseen, capture the flags and bring them back to their own line. However, each Scout was only allowed to take 1 flag. Any Scout coming within 50 yards of a stronger party would be put out of action if seen by the enemy. A whistle was blown to mark time up. 5 points were gained for each flag captured and returned to friendly lines. Up to 5 points were awarded for each report or sketch regarding the position of enemy outposts. 2 points were awarded for each report involving the movement of enemy Scouting patrols. The game could also be played at night using lanterns instead of flags. The Lanterns had to be 2 feet above the ground, and the outposts had to be not less than 100 yards from the lanterns. An umpire also had to be present at each outpost and with each attacking party. This game encouraged stealth and there was no physical contact. It was probably very popular in the early days of Scouting as a board game of 'Flag Raiding' was actually produced by Roberts Bros (Glevum Games) which was dated 1909. However, only the board survives.
9. Scout staves varied in height between 5-6 feet and were lengths of ash wood with a reasonable constant diameter. The staff was marked off in feet and there were also inch markings near the top of the staff. They could be purchased from the Scout Shop in Glasgow. They were useful for pioneering, stunts, estimation, hiking and as flagpoles for the patrol flag..

10. Normally, the game described was called the Flag Game, but the rules were exactly the same as the torch game. In other words, defend your own flag and capture as many others as possible, by any means possible. Definitely, a contact game!

11. In the 1950s and 1960s, most Scouts wore shorts rather than kilts, while the uniform shirts were designed to be used for Scouting activities. Therefore, the only items of uniform that were likely to have been removed for a wide game would have been the beret and the neckerchief.

12. The Commonwealth Youth Service and Parade took place annually and was one of the events that marked Commonwealth Day (previously Empire Day). Commonwealth Day still exists but is a much lower key event than it used to be. The Youth Service was aimed at all Youth Organisations who would send representatives.

13. See Note 5 for the 8th February 1957 regarding the Court of Honour.

14. Alistair Nicol joined the Troop in January 1956, but appeared to have lost interest by May 1959. He was brought before the Court of Honour because of poor attendance and the fact that he had earned no money during Bob-a-Job Week. He was reprimanded, and decided to leave the Troop soon afterwards.

15. Alan Conway was 3rd Scout at this time

10th May 1959 Commonwealth Parade

Editorial comment Not mentioned in the Fox Patrol Log.

15th of May 1959

This evening, the Kingfisher Patrol were Duty Patrol¹ and T. Jones² broke the flag. Inspection¹ followed (S.M. Blake³ inspecting us).

Note:- Attendance this evening in the Fox patrol⁴:-

J. Nisbet

L. McFarlane

A. Conway

R. Weir

The game chosen was football⁵ and the Fox Patrol were not playing till the 3rd round against the Falcon Patrol whom they conquered easily but unfortunately were beaten 5-1 in the final by the Curlew Patrol.

At Patrol corners¹, (1st session), A. Conway⁶ passed his 1st class estimation⁷ while the rest of the patrol did badgework.

British Bulldog¹ followed.

At the second session of Patrol Corners¹, more badgework was done.

There had been representations by the P.L.⁸ for a campfire¹ – which was held after the second session of Patrol Corners¹.

Unfortunately, the campfire¹ was an “utter shambles” because

- a) Many of the P.Ls did not behave themselves
- b) Many of the younger boys did not know the songs and
- c) It was far too short

The Troop fell in after campfire for announcements and dismissal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Tests were read out

2. Patrol championship⁹ – the Kingfisher Patrol were first at the end of the 2nd week with 125 points – 70 of them gained by proficiency badges. Fox were 2nd in the queue.

3. Forms for summer camp¹⁰ were handed out.

4. NO¹¹ meeting of P.L.s after the Troop meeting

The troop dismissed 10 minutes late

Signed John Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 15th May 1959

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
2. Trevor Jones was P.L. of the Kingfisher Patrol from October 1956 to May 1960. He was particularly interested in adventurous outdoor activities.
3. Scout Master John R. (Ian) Blake
4. The full names were John Nisbet (P.L.), Laird McFarlane (2nd Scout), Alan Conway (3rd Scout and Ronnie Weir (4th Scout).
5. The Troop Log stated that it was crab football ("Again!"). This illustrates the point that when football was identified as the game, it may well have been crab football rather than actual football.
6. Alan Conway was 3rd Scout at this time
7. See note 3 for the 2nd November 1956 regarding estimation – a test towards the 1st Class Badge.
8. Presumably from P.L. John Nisbet.
9. Patrol of the Month Championship for May
10. Summer Camp was to be held at West Loch Tarbert.
11. Presumably the capital letters were to emphasise how unusual this was.

16th-18th May 1959 Inverreck Camp

Editorial Comment: It is believed that these were the dates of an Inverreck weekend camp during a long weekend in May. It was not reported in the Fox Patrol Log.

22nd May 1959

This evening, K. Johnson¹ broke the flag for the Seagull Patrol who were Duty Patrol². Inspection² follow-up (ASM Miller³ inspecting).

The Seagull Patrol chose "crab football"² for the game and in the second round the Fox Patrol were drawn to play against the Seal Patrol, who, led by K. Conway⁴ (P.L.) and S. Scott⁵ (Sec.) were unfortunately victorious over the Fox Patrol i.e. the Seals beat us.

The 1st session of Patrol Corners² followed during which badge work was done. Note:- Information was received this evening that R. Howison⁶ (Sec.) had left. This, however, did not make much difference to the P.L.!

Attendance in Fox Patrol this evening: J. Nisbet, A. Runcie, L. McFarlane. A. Conway, R. Weir.⁷

British Bulldog² followed with the Duty Patrol in the middle.

After the game, the Patrols were sent out to procure a number of things:⁸⁻

1. 6 common trees with identification⁹
2. Registration numbers of 4 moving cars¹⁰
3. Registration numbers of 4 buses¹¹
4. 3 different bus tickets
5. A bus conductress' "index number"¹²

Needless to see, the Fox Patrol were last back.

There was an investiture¹³ this evening – that of W. Phillips¹⁴ of the Falcon patrol (known as 'Will Phill'¹⁵ to the boys).

Announcements, flagdown and dismissal² followed the investiture.

One badge – a FIRST CLASS badge¹⁶ - was presented to A. Cram¹⁷ of the Kingfisher Patrol.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Tests were read out – not very many

2. Patrol championship¹⁸ – Second last week. Kingfisher leading with over 140 points. Fox still “second in the queue”
3. Shannon Cup team^{19,20} meet after the meeting in the Hall.
4. Meeting of PLs after the troop meeting

N.B. All the Fox Patrol present this evening

The Troop dismissed a little later than usual.

Signed John Nisbet (P.L.)

Editorial notes for 22nd May 1959

1. Kenneth Johnston was P.L. of the Seagull Patrol from February 1957 to September 1959.
2. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
3. A.S.M Robert (Bob) Miller.
4. Kenneth Conway, P.L. of the Seal Patrol from October 1956 to April 1960
5. Stuart Scott was aged 15 or 16 during 1959. He was Second of the Seal Patrol from June 1957 until September 1959, when he became P.L. of the Seagull Patrol.
6. Robert (Bob) Howison was Second of the Fox Patrol from December 1957 until May 1959. He was aged about 15 when he reigned from the Troop.
7. John Nisbet, Albert Runcie, Laird McFarlane, Alan Conway and Ronald Weir.
8. This was described as a Scavenger Hunt in later years.
9. To be more precise, the leaves of 6 common trees!
10. There were far fewer cars on the road in 1959 compared to today
11. By contrast, there were far more buses on the road.
12. During the 1950s and 1960s, all the buses on the road had a driver and conductor/conductress who provided the tickets. Bus conductresses must have been pestered on several occasions by Scouts wanting used bus tickets and her index number, as it is highly likely that Scouts from other Troops had very similar scavenger hunts. The index number was on a round metal badge on the uniform lapel.
13. See note 3 for the 29th March 1957 regarding investitures.
14. William (Billy) Phillips joined the Troop on the 13th February 1959 along with Ronald Weir.
15. This was derived from the first syllables of his name. In later years, this nickname was shortened to Wiffel, then Wiff.
16. The 1st Class Badge was the 3rd badge in Scouting's progressive training scheme (Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, 1st Class and Queen's Scout badges). Patrol Leaders were expected to have their 1st Class Badge before they were appointed. At times, this was not feasible, in which case the Patrol Leader was encouraged to gain the Badge as quickly as possible. This was particularly the case in 1956 when most of the PLs were aged 13.
17. Alistair Cram was aged about 14 in 1959, and it is likely that he was 1st Scout of the Kingfisher Patrol.
18. Patrol of the Month Championship for May
19. The Shannon Cup Competition was the premiere District camping competition during the period from the 1930s to the 1960s. It was also the most prestigious of the various District Competitions and the 70th usually entered a team if it could.
20. The 70th Patrol entered for the Shannon Cup consisted of P.L. Trevor Jones, P.L. Kenneth Conway, P.L. Brian Elliot, P.L. Kenneth Johnson, Robert Harvey, Alan Conway, Ian Frazer and Sandy Miller. Each Patrol that was entered could have a maximum of 8 Scouts. The only other stipulation was that at least 4 Scouts in the Patrol should be aged under 14.

23rd-24th May 1959

Editorial comment. Training camp for the Shannon Cup team at Roseneath. Not reported in the Fox Patrol Log.

29th May 1959

This evening, K. Conway¹ broke the flag² as the Seal Patrol were Duty Patrol.²

Inspection² followed (S.M.³ inspecting).

The game chosen by the Seal Patrol was skittles². The Fox patrol played in the 3rd round against the Falcon Patrol and were narrowly beaten.

Patrol Corners² followed where A. Runcie⁴ put his name down to pass 1st Class Knots and Lashings⁵ but unfortunately was not taken.

Since T. Jones⁶ and K. Conway¹ had gone to Everton with the equipment for the Shannon cup competition⁷, ASM Miller⁸ gave the Troop games - British Bulldog² and Horses and Riders². After this, we went back to Patrol Corners² where badge work was continued. (Laird McFarlane had left at 8:30 p.m. – he was going camping⁹).

After the second session of Patrol Corners, the Troop went to campfire² where some new songs were sung (“Oh! The lassie with the wee pug nose.”¹⁰ “Hold him down, ye Swazi Wallah”¹¹)

After this, the Troop put on uniform¹² and fell in for announcements, flag down and dismissal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. NO PATROL CHAMPIONSHIP. I. McFarlane absent (last meeting of the month).¹³
2. Shannon Cup Competition⁷ –meeting after the meeting
3. Those going to Roseneath for the weekend⁹ – ditto
4. Volunteers required for P.D.S.A.¹⁴ Collection
5. Meeting of PLs after the two camp meetings. The troop dismissed five minutes late

Signed J. Nisbet (P.L.)

Have the Fox Patrol not got an artist? John R Blake S.M. 70th 5-6-59¹⁵

Editorial notes for 29th May 1959

1. Kenneth Conway, P.L. of the Seal Patrol from October 1956 to April 1960
2. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
3. Scout Master John R. (Ian) Blake
4. Albert Runcie was 1st Scout in the Fox Patrol by this time and working towards his 1st Class Badge.
5. See Note 7 for the 24th April 1959 regarding 1st Class Knots and Lashings
6. Trevor Jones was P.L. of the Kingfisher Patrol from October 1956 to May 1960. He was particularly interested in adventurous outdoor activities.
7. See Note 19 for the 22nd May 1959 regarding the Shannon Cup competition.
8. A.S.M Robert (Bob) Miller.
9. This was a Fox Patrol camp held at Roseneath.
10. The words of this songs were not recorded and it is not known whether it continued to be sung at future campfires.
11. The words of this song were recorded in a campfire log that was probably written by Ronald Lind in the early 1960s. The words were as follows:
[Hold him down, you Swazi Wallah
Hold him down, you Swazi King] Repeat these two lines
Hi ziga zoomba, zoomba, zoomba
Hi ziga, zoomba, zoomba, zee.
Hoo! a! hooya! ha!
Hooya! hooya! hoy! ha!
12. See note 8 for the 7th March 1958 regarding uniform.
13. Ian McFarlane kept the score for the Patrol of the Month Competition so there was clearly great consternation that he was not present on the last week of the month to give the final scores for May

14. The P.D.S.A. organization (People's Dispensary for Sick Animals) is the UK's leading veterinary charity and was founded in 1917. This is the only recorded instance of the 70th making a collection for the organization.

15. Comment added by Ian Blake on reviewing the Patrol log on the 5th June 1959.

30th-31st May 1959 Shannon Cup Competition

Editorial comment: A report on the competition can be found in the Troop Log.

30th-31st May Weekend Camp – Roseneath.

Editorial comment: Unfortunately, no report on this camp has been traced, although there are a couple of black and white photos that might relate to it

5th June 1959

This evening, the Curlew Patrol were Duty Patrol¹ and B. Elliott² broke the flag. Inspection¹ followed (Skipper³ inspecting). The Curlew Patrol then chose football⁴ – much to the disgust of everyone, expressed in the usual manner– for the inter patrol game.

The Fox Patrol played the Falcon Patrol in the 3rd round, and were beaten in the final round by the Seal Patrol – owing to most of our men being 'pit aff'.⁵

At Patrol Corners¹, one or two tests were passed.

British Bulldog¹ and Horses & Riders¹ followed this.

At the second session of Patrol Corners¹, little or no work was done in our corner.

Campfire¹ followed (taken by A.S.M. Miller⁶).

After campfire, the Troop went to put on their uniform⁷ for announcements, flag-down and dismissal.¹

Attendance:-

J. Nisbet, A. Runcie, A. Conway, R. Weir (Absent L. McFarlane)⁸

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Tests. There were a few for the Fox Patrol carried forward from the weekend camp at Roseneath (30th-31st May 1959)⁹

2. The Shannon Cup Competition¹⁰ result

1st 32nd Renfrewshire A team

2nd 70th Renfrewshire (beaten by 6 points)¹¹

3rd 32nd Renfrewshire B team

3. Court of Honour¹² for PLs

4. Patrol championship for May

1st Kingfisher

2nd Fox (this is the second month running that the Fox patrol has been runners-up in the last month of the patrol championship.)

The flag was lowered and the troop dismissed 21:41 hours

Signed J. Nisbet P.L.

Editorial notes for 5th June 1959

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.

2. P.L. Brian Elliott (formerly of the Fox Patrol) was P.L. of the Curlew Patrol from February 1957 to January 1960

3. Scout Master John R. (Ian) Blake

4. *The Troop Log reveals that it was actually crab football. This emphasises the point that many of the games of 'football' described throughout the Patrol Log were actually crab football.*
5. *Usually this involved kicking the ball above the height of the skirting board (about 3 feet high). However, Scouts could also be 'pit aff' if they crawled on all fours or did not remain in the crab position.*
6. *A.S.M Robert (Bob) Miller.*
7. *See note 8 for the 7th March 1958 regarding uniform.*
8. *John Nisbet, Albert Runcie, Laird McFarlane, Alan Conway and Ronald Weir.*
9. *No information regarding this camp has been identified to date.*
10. *See Note 19 for the 22nd May 1959 regarding the Shannon Cup competition.*
11. *This continued a string of good results for the 70th spanning the period 1956-59.*
12. *See Note 5 for the 8th February 1957 regarding the Court of Honour.*

12th June 1959

This evening, the Falcon Patrol were Duty Patrol¹ and H. Rankin² broke the flag. Inspection¹ followed (A.S.M. Miller inspecting). The game chosen was football³ and the Fox Patrol had very good luck till the final round till they were beaten by the Curlew Patrol.

At Patrol Corners¹, the suggestion was made about a Patrol camp and was received with enthusiasm. All the boys wanted to go but A. Cram⁴ - our new second who was appointed this evening - was unable to join us.

With all the discussion, very little badge work was done at either of the two sessions of Patrol Corners this evening.

British Bulldog¹ followed the first session of Patrol Corners and the "Sandshoe game"¹ followed the second session.

There were a lot of announcements and so there was no campfire¹.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Tests
2. Patrol Championship⁵ 2nd week - Fox top of the list
3. Parade Sunday 28th June to Finnart Church.⁶
4. No Court of Honour.⁷

The Troop dismissed punctually.

After the meeting, we - the Fox Patrol plus P. Dry⁸ of the Seal Patrol met in the hall to make arrangements. Account of camp overleaf.

Editorial notes for 12th June 1959

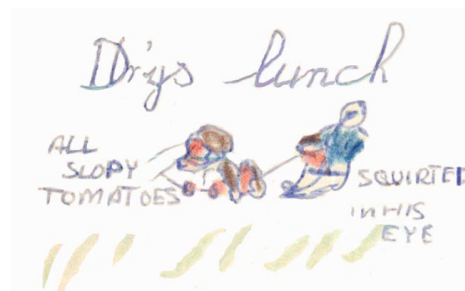
1. *See the general introduction at the start of the log.*
2. *Hamish Rankin was PL of the Falcon Patrol from October 1956 to April 1960.*
3. *However, the Troop Log stated that game was skittles.*
4. *Alistair Cram was 1st Scout of the Kingfisher Patrol and was promoted to Second of the Fox Patrol at the Troop Meeting. He would have been aged about 14. Ian Fraser was promoted to Second of the Falcon Patrol on the same night.*
5. *This was the Patrol of the Month Championship for June.*
6. *A Parade to Finnart Church probably took place in June each year, possibly to mark the end of the Scouting session.*
7. *See Note 5 for the 8th February 1957 regarding the Court of Honour.*
8. *Philip Dry was probably aged about 14 at the time.*

Saturday 13th – Sunday 14th June 1959 – Fox Patrol camp

On Saturday 13th June, John Nis¹, Alan Conway, Drip Dry?!², Albert Runcie and myself³ got the boat at the pier head⁴ at 11:05 a.m. ~~in the morning~~ to Kilcreggan.



We missed the bus and so (we decided) John decided to walk (2¹/₂ miles)! When we got there,⁵ the place was very hot and the cows⁶ greeted us. The fields were full of buttercups and daisies.



After pinching⁷ our tents⁸, we had a packed lunch⁹.

Some other Scouts from 59th troop came¹⁰. We went swimming¹¹ and Philip and I took the air bed.¹²

At tea time, we had sausages bangers¹³ and beans.



After tea, we had a game of rounders¹⁴ and we won 4-1. John got 3. I³ got 1.



In the morning¹⁵, we had our breakfast of bacon, eggs and cornflakes and tea. After breakfast, we laid a trail.¹⁶ Phil and I followed it. We laid one for them and it took them up a fallen tree and back down again, then home.¹⁷



The village was not far off. There was a policeman there¹⁸.

For dinner, we had stew and two jellies (I wasn't supposed to bring one¹⁹) and fruit cocktail.

In the afternoon, we took down the tents, cleared everything away if it wasn't for (John)²⁰ and had a swim²¹.



When we came back, a boy from the 59th burnt his hand because his banger burst and the fat spread all over the tent²².

We boarded the 5:45 p.m. bus and got the Granny Kempock²³ home at 7 o'clock.

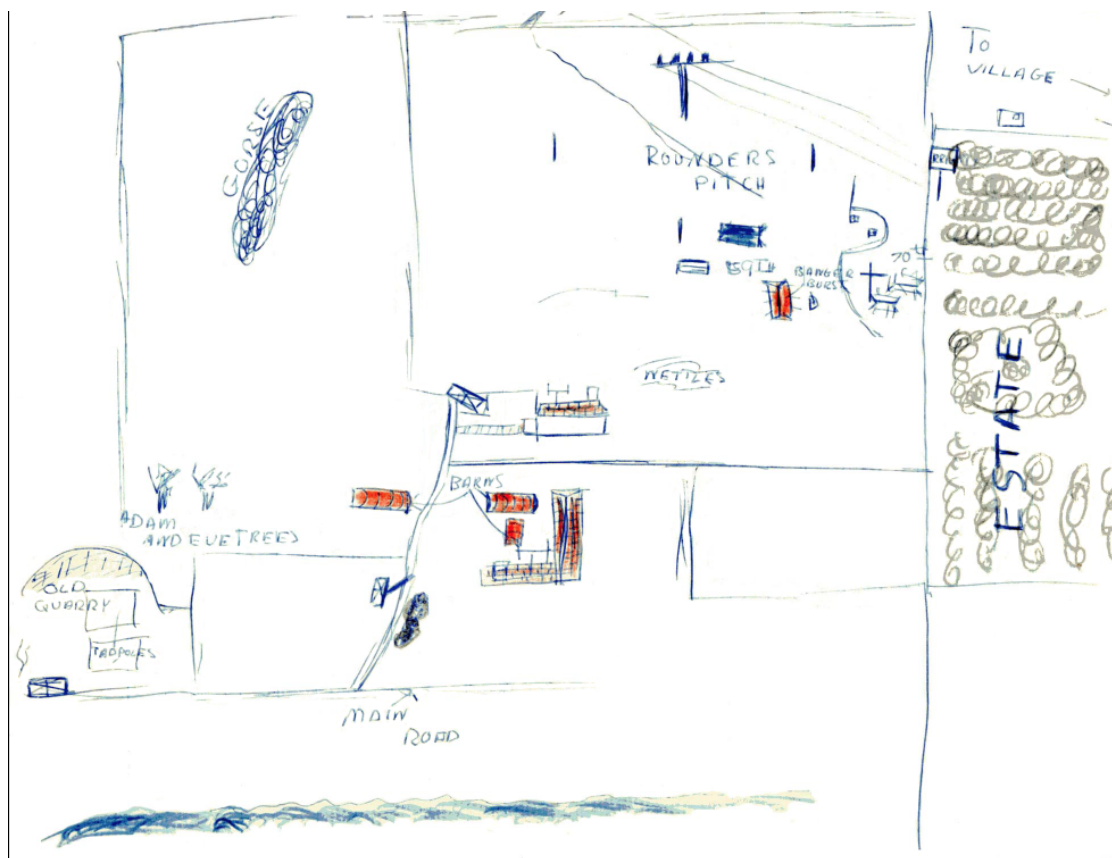


Figure Sketch map of the campsite²⁴

Laird McFarlane³

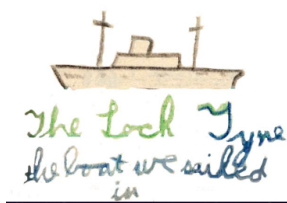
A Good Camp report. Well done, Laird. John R. Blake²⁵

Editorial notes for 13-14th June 1959

1. John Nisbet (P.L. of the Fox Patrol)
2. Philip Dry of the Seal Patrol. It is assumed that Philip was friendly with Laird Macfarlane and joined the camp since Alastair Cram was unable to go.
3. Laird Macfarlane (2nd Scout of the Fox Patrol and scribe for the camp report and sketches.)

4. *Gourock Pier to catch the Granny Kempock ferry.*
5. *It is assumed that the camp took place at Clachan Farm just south of Rosneath at the same site used previously by the 70th.*
6. *See sketch!*
7. *Should have been 'pitching'.*
8. *It is assumed that hike tents would have been used if the Troop had sufficient of them. The sketch map suggests that 2 tents were used.*
9. *The accompanying sketch shows Philip Dry being squirted in the eye by a tomato.*
10. *This suggests that the campsite was a frequently used campsite by Greenock Scout Groups in general.*
11. *It is assumed that this was in the Gareloch.*
12. *Presumably as a 'raft'.*
13. *See sketch below of Alan Conway and the menu for tea.*
14. *It is assumed that the rounders game was played between the 59th and the 70th. The sketch shows John Nisbet wielding the bat. Both the sketch and the sketch map indicate that telephone or electricity lines crossed the field and that one of the poles was used as the base.*
15. *Sunday morning*
16. *Following a trail was a common activity in the 1950s and 1960s and was part of the Scout training scheme, designed to test observation skills. The trail was marked by woodcraft signs made from natural materials. Ideally, the signs were meant to be observable only to those looking for them. It is assumed that John, Alan and Albert laid the first trail followed by Philip and Laird, after which Philip and Laird laid a trail for the others.*
17. *Home would infer returning to the start. The symbol for 'go home' was usually a circle of stones with a stone in the middle.*
18. *The sketch suggests that the policeman (Bobby) had a scar down his cheek. Whether this was the case or not, one cannot tell.*
19. *This suggests that Laird and another Scout both brought jellies with them.*
20. *It's not clear what is meant here*
21. *Presumably back in the Gareloch*
22. *See the sketch. During the 1950s and 1960s, the skin round sausages needed to be pierced with a fork when frying to prevent a build up of pressure that would eventually burst the skin and release water into the hot fat. The resulting 'mini explosion' resulted in sausages becoming known as bangers.*
23. *This was the name of the small passenger ferry that crossed the Clyde between Gourock and Kilcreggan. It was built during the war, then converted to a ferry and operated by Ritchies from about 1955 to 1979.*
24. *The sketch map fits with what might expect for the campsite at Clachan Farm, near Rosneath. The map does not show the direction of north, but it is assumed to be pointing to the right-hand side of the sketch as drawn. In that case, the blue wavy strip at the bottom represents the Gairloch where the Scouts presumably had their swim. The quarry at the bottom left of the sketch is present on current maps as a Quarry (dis) in Camsail Wood to the south of the farm on the west side of the B833. Whether the 'tadpoles' referred to in the sketch map are still there is less certain. At the top right, there is a direction arrow to the village, which would be Rosneath. This would have followed a gap between the trees during the 1950s. However, the current map shows that the gap has now been filled with trees. The area defined as 'Estate', is likely to be the Broom Plantation and the campsite used by the 70th is shown as being close to the edge of the trees. The campsite used by the 70th and 59th was possibly on the broad ridge running south from the Broom Plantation, between two contours at 50 m (as seen on the modern map). Clachan farm itself still exists. Five buildings are specified on the sketch map. The current map shows 9 buildings.*
25. *Comment added by Scout Master Ian Blake on reviewing the Patrol Log.*

SUMMER CAMP



The summer camp this year was at Tarbert, Loch Fyne¹, which was attended by all members of the Fox patrol².

The Troop met at 9:00 am on Gourock pier. It was a glorious sunny day and we were all looking forward to the camp. We had quite good weather all the way and the boat³ was not rocking much.

We had a packed lunch each on the boat. We arrived at Tarbert at about 2 o'clock where we got a lorry to the campsite.

Some folk brought their bicycles to the camp as well.

When the troop was all at the campsite we pitched our tents.

There was a forest a stone's throw away where we could get wood, and there was a large stream⁴ for water, and there was also a huge field where the troop could play games such as baseball.

The worst day was Sunday on which it poured with rain.

If you want to read a full account of the Summer camp, you can read the Mouse patrol log or else the rattlesnake logbook.⁵

Alan Conway.

Editorial notes for Summer Camp 1959

1. The camp took place from Wednesday 22nd until Friday 31st July 1959. The campsite itself was about 4 miles south of Tarbert on the east side of West Loch Tarbert. To be more specific it was on the east side of the main road and on the south side of the stream identified as Allt Tarsuinn.

2. This implies that John Nisbet, Albert Runcie, Alan Conway, Ronald Weir and Laird McFarlane were all present. The surviving Patrol logs indicate that the Scouts were camping in different patrols at camp. John Nisbet and Laird McFarlane were in a patrol that included Hamish Rankin, Michael Hodge and Billy Phillips. Albert Runcie was camping with a patrol led by Ken Johnson, which also included Allen Taylor, Ronald Lind and a Scout identified as SK. Alan Conway was in a patrol led by Ken Johnson. However, neither of the summer camp logs mention Ronald Weir being present.

3. The boat was the passenger ferry 'Lochfyne' as identified in the sketch.

4. The Allt Tarsuinn

5. Both logbooks have survived the years. Transcripts can be viewed on the website.

Friday 4th September 1959



Will Phill. playing hopping Charlie.

Tonight, the Curlew patrol was on duty¹. Bean² decided to play Hopping Charlie^{2,3}. The Fox patrol were knocked out in the first round and the Seal went on to win the game. There was an excellent turnout tonight considering it was the first night of the season.

We had two sessions of patrol corners² although no tests were passed.

Arthur Kit⁴ – a new boy - joined the Scouts.

Alan Conway⁵

Editorial notes for 4th September 1959

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.

2. P.L. Brian Elliott (formerly of the Fox Patrol) was P.L. of the Curlew Patrol from February 1957 to January 1960. His nickname was 'Bean'.
3. The sketch shows Billy Phillips (Will Phill) of the Falcon Patrol playing hopping Charlie. Billy's nickname evolved over the following years to Wiffil or Wif. He was aged about 12 by this time
4. Unfortunately, no other information is known about Arthur Kit and he is not mentioned again in the available records. It is likely that he left the Troop during the 1959-60 session.
5. Alan Conway was probably 2nd or 3rd Scout in the Fox Patrol at this time

Friday, 11th September 1959



This Friday, the patrols were changed a bit. John Nisbet¹ went beside the ASMs and Jim Blair² became our PL. Tommy³ is a second now with Ian Fraser⁴ and Robert Harvey⁵. Stuart Scott⁶ became a PL as well. The Falcon patrol was on duty tonight with Tweet⁷ choosing ice hockey⁸ as the game. The Fox patrol won the game and are winning with points this week, with Seal patrol following up.

Alan Conway⁹

Editorial notes for 11th September 1959

1. John Nisbet was PL of the Fox Patrol from October 1956 until September 1959. He would have been about 16 in September 1959. On the 5th September 1959, T.L. John Nisbet and P.L. Ken Johnson joined the ranks of the Scouters as Junior ASMs. Ken Conway of the Seal Patrol took over as Troop Leader.
2. Jim Blair was aged 12 when he was promoted to Second of the Kingfisher Patrol in 1956. The PLs in 1956 were mostly aged 13 and so it took 3 years before Jim was promoted to PL of the Fox Patrol at the age of 15.
3. Tommy Dow was almost certainly promoted to Second of the Seal Patrol. He was aged about 15 in 1959.
4. Ian Fraser was selected to be the Second of the Falcon Patrol on the 5th June 1959 but might not have been presented with his stripe until this meeting.
5. Robert Harvey was promoted to Second of the Seagull Patrol at the age of 13.
6. Stuart Scott was aged at about 16 at this point.. He was Second of the Seal Patrol from June 1957 until September 1959, when he became P.L. of the Seagull Patrol.
7. Hamish Rankin (Tweet) was PL of the Falcon Patrol from October 1956 to April 1960.
8. See the general introduction at the start of the log.
9. Alan Conway was probably 2nd or 3rd Scout in the Fox Patrol at this time

Friday 18th of September 1959



This time we were on duty¹ and we chose ice hockey again^{1,2}. We were knocked out in the second round by the Falcon patrol which carried on to win the game. Then we had patrol corners¹ at which quite a few tests were passed. After this, we had a good game of British Bulldog¹ while some others were away doing a quest emblem course³. Next, we had a second patrol corners¹ followed up by another Game of British Bulldog. There was no time for campfire¹ tonight.

Alan Conway⁴

Put in tests or badges passed each night. John R. Blake SM 24/9/59⁵

Editorial notes for 18th September 1959

- 1. See the general introduction at the start of the log.*
- 2. The hockey sticks were Scout staves (see sketch).*
- 3. The Quest Emblem had something to do with religious commitment / knowledge. Not much information is known about it. However, the Reverend Stewart of Finnart Church and Troop Chaplain may well have run the training for the Quest Emblem.*
- 4. Alan Conway was probably 2nd or 3rd Scout in the Fox Patrol at this time*
- 5. Additional comment made by Scout Master Ian Blake after checking the log book.*