

## SHANNON CUP 1960

(28th to 29th May)

Patrol

T.L. James Blair (PL)  
P.L. Alastair Cram (Second)  
P.L. Thomas Dow  
Second Albert Runcie  
Alan Conway  
John Moore  
Michael Nisbet

Note:

P.L. Alex Miller of the Curlew was intended to be in the team as 2nd Scout, but unfortunately he tore a ligament (or something) and the troop was represented by 7 scouts instead of 8.

### Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> of May 1960

When the patrol met at Everton, around 1:45 PM, the sun was shining brilliantly. S.M. Miller had brought all the gear in his van<sup>1</sup>. About 2.15, all the patrols fell in for inspection on the parade ground. The examiner, for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year running, was a Mr. Foot<sup>2</sup>, Scout Master of a Port Glasgow troop. He had 3 of his A.S.M.s to assist. A patrol of Port Glasgow Scouts, same troop as S.M. Foot were going through the competition as a practice for the final of the County Flag which they had reached. This took place the next week.

Mr. Foot called together the P.L.s to allocate sites. The 70th got the same site as they had last year viz, 45ths. He said i.e. the examiner, that he was giving us two hours to pitch the tent, light fire etc. Only one small snag. Mr Foot said a curious disease had hit Everton by which everyone's right arm was paralysed. In other words, we had to put up the tent etc with our right-hand tied behind our backs. After the tent was pitched, we had to make tea and get it over by 5:45 PM. We had macaroni and spaghetti. Unfortunately, we also had to cook Mr Foot's tea of sausage and egg.

Assembling in the playground after cleaning up, the patrols were told they would have to go through various tests. We were given 20 minutes for each test and a whistle sounded for the start and end of each test. Originally, it was planned to give each patrol six tests, but, in the end, only five were given. The tests the 70th got were as follows (there were 8, out of which each patrol got five)

1. A dustbin was in gorge. It was meant to be a radioactive H-bomb and it was to be lifted by means of a vertical lift. The patrol was not very successful here.
2. We were sent up to the forest gate where we were told to dress up as local hula-hula girls as we were on an island with hostile natives about. This was accomplished fairly successfully with the aid of charcoal, ferns, grass and flowers.
3. We stayed in this area for the next stunt in which we had to camouflage ourselves so that we would be invisible from 20 yards. Most of us did this by lying in a hollow and covering ourselves up with ferns and grass. (The) result was rather unsuccessful.
4. We then had to pitch a tent from the inside – 'Nuff said.

5. Moving on to the First Aid stunt we found that the patient had a broken femur, collar bone and a cut artery. This was treated fairly successfully but also insects were descending at the rate of 3" per five minutes.<sup>3</sup>

At 8.40 p.m., we were called back to the parade ground and told we had free time till 9.45 at which time camp fire was to take place. The camp fire took place at 10:15, five minutes after flag down.

Bed at 11:30 p.m.

#### Editorial notes for 28<sup>th</sup> May 1960

1. To be more precise, the van would have belonged to Bob Miller's father who was a flesher.
2. Jim Foot was Scout Master of the Newark Scouts in Port Glasgow. Jim had an outgoing, rather eccentric personality and was well respected and admired in local Scouting. He was also the producer of the Greenock Gang Show prior to Arthur Ferguson's 'reign'.
3. Presumably it was getting midgy.

#### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> of May 1960

We got up at 7 a.m. and while some lit the fire and cooked the breakfast, which consisted of sliced sausage, eggs, tea, bread and jam, others made the all gadgetly gadget.<sup>4</sup>

Flagbreak at 10.00 was followed almost immediately by inspection. Then a Scout's Own.<sup>5</sup>

Dinner had to be over for 1 p.m. For dinner, we had steak, onions, carrots, potatoes, jelly and tea. For the examiner, we had to make a pie and soup.

At 1:15, we were called back to the parade ground and told in the next three quarters of an hour, each troop had three tasks to do. We got:-

1. To make a potato image of S.M. Foot
2. To compose a patrol song to "Davey Crockett"
3. To make a musical instrument

Then back to the parade ground and the patrols were paired off for competitions. These were four in number - :

1. Make a stretcher and carry the whole patrol round a part of Everton.
2. Races.
3. Hauling a drum up a gorge by means of ropes.
4. Kim's Game.

We finished these quite even.

We then had to 4:20 to clear up, take down tents for site inspection and results. The results were:-

- |                 |                                 |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | 5 <sup>th</sup> Renfrewshire    |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 32 <sup>nd</sup> A Renfrewshire |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 73 <sup>rd</sup> Renfrewshire   |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | 70 <sup>th</sup> Renfrewshire   |

Excellent Log R.K. Miller S.M.<sup>6</sup>

#### Editorial notes for 29<sup>th</sup> May 1960

4. It's not explained what this was or whether it was part of the competition.

5. *A Scout's Own was a short religious service run specifically for Scouts. Scouts and Scouters both participated in the Scout's Own and it is likely that the PLs of the competing patrols had an active role to play at the service.*
6. *Comment made by S.M. Bob Miller. The Scribe for the log report was not identified*