

## Summer Camp 1961 – Arduaine (by Oban) from Troop Log

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August

Those present were:-

### Hippopotamus Patrol

T.L. Alistair Cram (Seal)<sup>1</sup>  
Sec. Ronald Russell (Seal)<sup>1</sup>  
Michael Hodge (Seal)<sup>1</sup>  
Charles Davy (Curlew)<sup>1</sup>  
Raymond Berry (Kingfisher)<sup>1</sup>

### Cuckoo Patrol

P.L. Albert Runcie (Kingfisher)<sup>1</sup>  
Sec. John Moore (Curlew)<sup>1</sup>  
Bobby McCallum (Kingfisher)<sup>1</sup>  
Rhiddian McKelvie (Seagull)<sup>1</sup>  
Billy Phillips (Falcon)<sup>1</sup> (from Sat. 5<sup>th</sup> to end)

### Fox Patrol

P.L. Ronald Lind (Fox)<sup>1</sup>  
Sec. Michael Nisbet (Curlew)<sup>1</sup>  
Ian Paterson (Falcon)<sup>1</sup>  
Alan Jeyes (Fox)<sup>1</sup>  
Robin Crawford (Fox)<sup>1</sup>

S.M. R.K. Miller

A.S.M. John H. Nisbet (Quartermaster)

A.S.M. Ian McFarlane (from Sat 5<sup>th</sup> to end)

### *Editorial comments*

1. Each Scout's normal patrol is given in brackets

## Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August 1961

The main body of the troop arrived at the hall at 8.30 hours to find that most of the work and been done by the P.L.s and Scouters who had been there for the past hour. The Austin minibus (VS 7990)<sup>2</sup> from Mitchells<sup>3</sup> was loaded and the troop piled in. Slowly, we moved off gathering speed when Bob temporarily got the hang of the gears. After a short stop for air, we battered on to *the*<sup>4</sup> Erskine Ferry where we had a short wait of 20 minutes.<sup>5</sup> Passing through Dumbarton and Alexandria,<sup>6</sup> we arrived at Loch Lomond and soon passed Niz the Elder's<sup>7</sup> H.H.G<sup>8</sup> at Duck Bay.

Note. H.H.G is where all good honkers<sup>9</sup> go 600 seconds after the official warning.<sup>10</sup>

We left Loch Lomond side and stopped at the bottom of the Rest and be Thankful.<sup>11</sup> Gorman<sup>12</sup> performed a heroic act here by falling neatly across the burn and being defined as a bridge and also as first casualty. So with only two rests, we arrived at Inveraray where we fed our midday faces.

We reached the campsite<sup>13</sup> with only one more stop. First impressions were not favourable. Nothing could be seen for bracken. However, closer inspection showed that *there were*<sup>4</sup> several first-class campsites. The Hippo and Cuckoo went over the hill leaving the poor Fox to the mercy of the Scouters on the dreaded midgey side. After tents were pitched and kitchen shelters erected<sup>14</sup>, a rather late tea of sausages, bread and jam was made. After a rather lazy evening, we retired to bed at approximately 12.00 hours.

### Official Statistics

Left Finnart 09.10 hrs. Arrived campsite 15.00 hrs.

Weather: Showery – all tents etc up dry.

T.F.P.<sup>15</sup> 12.00 hrs

### *Editorial comments*

*2. This may be the first instance of the Troop hiring a minibus. The registration 'VS' indicates that the vehicle was registered in Renfrewshire. The coach hire was £25, insurance was £11, and petrol was £5-6-9, making a total of £41-6-9. This would be the equivalent in value of £1,176 today (2023).*

*3. John Mitchell of Greenock Ltd. specialized in Austin and commercial vehicles.*

*4. Added by editor*

*5. The Erskine Bridge did not exist in 1961. The Erskine Ferry was situated in much the same place and the slipways for the ferry are still visible on both banks. The original road leading to the ferry from the south is also still present. In the 1960s, markers were put on the road to indicate how long the wait would be before getting on the ferry. The ferry was attached to fixed chains and used these to cross the river.*

*6. The current A82 bypassing these towns did not exist in 1961. In addition, the original A82 up Loch Lomondside was narrow with many bends. That, along with the wait for the Erskine Ferry, probably doubled the amount of time it took to get to Arrochar compared to today.*

*7. A.S.M. John Nisbet*

*8. It is not indicated what H.H.G stands for, but this seems to indicate that John Nisbet was also driving up to Arduaine.*

*9. The writing style makes this word difficult to identify.*

*10. Meaning unclear*

*11. A photograph of the minibus parked at the bottom of the Rest and be Thankful is on the website.*

*12. Gorman or Gorm is the nickname for Ronald Russell.*

*13 The campsite was about a mile due west of Kames Farm, and was situated within a 'notch' between a small hill and the slopes of Beinn Chaorach. The Grid reference was 812113. The Scouters camped downhill from the notch on the east side, whereas the Hippo and Cuckoo patrols camped*

downhill on the west side. The Fox Patrol tent and kitchen shelter were located within the notch itself.

14 Each patrol was self sufficient in having its own patrol tent and kitchen shelter. All meals were cooked by the patrols themselves over wood fires. Each patrol was also expected to build camp gadgets for their kitchen shelter and patrol site.

15. Time for Pit



Figure 1 Thought to be from Arduaine. John Nisbet and possibly Michael Nisbet and Ronald Lind of the Fox Patrol



Figure 2 The Fox Patrol Michael Nisbet, Ronald Lind, Alan Jeyes, Robin Crawford, Ian Paterson



Figure 3 Ian Paterson, Michael Nisbet and Ronald Lind + unidentified Scout in the kitchen shelter (possibly the Fox Patrol kitchen shelter).

## Wednesday, 2nd August 1961

We rose at 7.15 hours and cooked a breakfast of porridge and slice.<sup>16</sup> Inspection<sup>17</sup> was at 10.15 hours and after all four sites had been inspected, a Scouts Own<sup>18</sup> was held. The Scout's Own was taken by Bob and took the form of a reading, ramble<sup>19</sup> and prayer. The talk was on the first Scout Law – a Scouts Honour is to be Trusted.<sup>20</sup> A series of talks has to be given each morning on the Scout Laws in turn by the Scouters and P.L.s.<sup>21</sup> After a short game of football, several jobs were to be done. The Cuckoo had to put up the flagpole<sup>22</sup>, the Hippo had to dig Jasper<sup>23</sup>, while the Fox had to do several odd jobs<sup>24</sup>.

While some of each patrol did these jobs, some cooked the face feed. After mince and custard came free time for all, but the author, Oz<sup>25</sup> and Moorey/Moori/Muri<sup>26</sup>, who put up the flagpole – height 25 feet.<sup>27</sup>

After a tea of eggs, an expedition was arranged up a hill (height 841 feet)<sup>28</sup> behind the campsite. When we got to the trig point, we saw a small lochain<sup>29</sup> which we immediately polluted and contaminated by paddling. A small burn runs out of this lochain to Kames farm<sup>30</sup> - and is used as a water supply.

Back to camp for dumpling – made by the S.M. in the afternoon<sup>31</sup> – and cocoa. At 23.00 hours, all but the Scouters and P.L.s retired to pit<sup>32</sup>. At 24.00 hours, after a ramble<sup>19</sup>, the last mentioned followed suit.

Weather: Wet morning. Dry and sunny (!?) in afternoon and evening.

### *Editorial comments*

*16. Slice Sausage – apparently non-existent south of the border*

*17. Inspection was held each morning after flagbreak, by which time the patrols should have finished breakfast and tidied up. The patrol tent and contents were inspected for tidiness, while the kitchen shelter was inspected to ensure that dishes and cooking utensils have been properly washed up. Points were also awarded for any gadgets that had been constructed. It is possible that the Scouts themselves were inspected to ensure that they had washed (especially hands).*

*18. A Scouts Own was a religious service that was organised and run by the Scouts and Scouters themselves. The Summer Camp of 1961 was perhaps unique in having a Scouts Own every morning with a different Scout Law covered at each one; there were 10 Scout Laws at the time. Each Scouts Own was led by a PL or a Scouter.*

*19. Ramble can mean a small talk/ discussion, or a small hike depending on context. The context here indicates a discussion.*

*20. In 1961, there were ten Scout Laws, all of which had to be memorized (and understood) before getting your Tenderfoot badge. Some of these were rather wordy to say the least, but then remembering things off by heart was fairly normal in school at the time.*

*21. As there were 10 Scout Laws at the time, it meant that a different Scout Law was covered on each of the days spent in camp.*

*22. This would have to be a substantial tree as the flagpole was the main flagpole for camp. It's not known whether a suitable tree was chopped down for the purpose or not. The flagpole at Arduaine was estimated to be 25' high and was built on top of the hillock overlooking the campsite.*

*23. The bog pit (or outdoor lavatory). It's not clear whether the Troop at the time used pit latrines or toilet tents. Either way, pits had to be dug for human waste. No doubt the vegetation in the area must have been remarkably lush for years afterwards. The term 'Jasper' was coined during a camp at Blairmore where a dog called Jasper made first use of the pit.*

*24. These included carrying a hamper from the minibus up to the campsite and putting up signposts that probably directed potential visitors from the road to the campsite.*

*25. Albert Runcie's nickname was Oz*

*26. John Moore*

*27. Decimalisation had not yet occurred in 1961.*

*28. Beinn Chaorach (841'), Grid Reference 811102.*

29. *Just to the east of the hill top. Grid reference 814101*

30. *Kames farm is roughly NE of Beinn Chaoraich at Grid ref. 819113. A different stream ran closer to the campsite and was probably used as the water supply in camp.*

31. *Bob Miller seemed to cook a dumpling at every Easter and Summer Camp. It is possible that Bob introduced the tradition, and Alastair Cram maintained the tradition for several years when he took over as Scout Master.*

32. *Pit = Sleeping bag or bed*

**Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1961**



Figure 4 Cooking fire

By 7.30 hours, the whole camp was up and cooking a breakfast of bacon and eggs (Figure 4). At approximately 10.07 hours, we had flagbreak, followed by inspection. The second Scouts Own was led by Nizz the Elder<sup>33</sup> and the theme was the second Scout Law 'A Scout is loyal to his Queen, his country, his Scouters, his parents, his employers and to those under him'. As it was pouring, for today's game, Shove halfpenny was played in the Scouters' kitchen (Figure 5) A dinner of stew, jelly and apricots was then consumed.

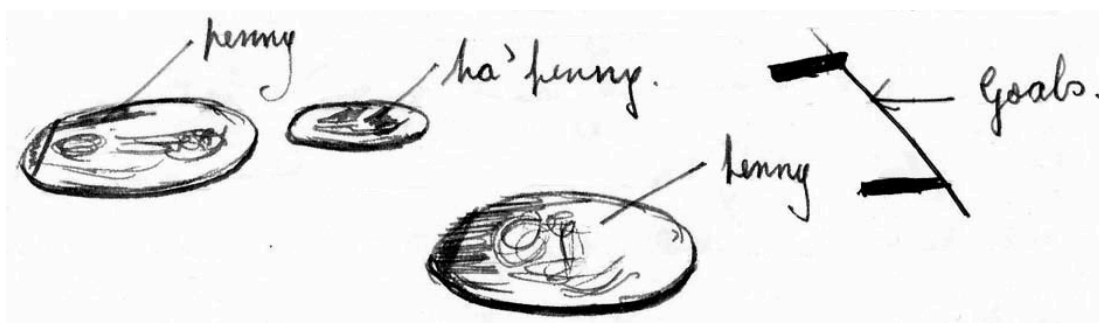


Figure 5 Shove ha'penny

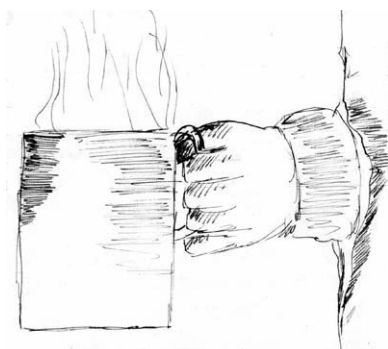


Figure 6 "Cocoa is served"  
by the PLs

In the afternoon, as it was still lashing, Bob took the 'wee men' for a run in the minibus<sup>34</sup> while the Seconds and PL's did pioneering<sup>35</sup> with Nizz<sup>33</sup> before going for a 3 mile walk in the direction of Kilmelford.<sup>36</sup> After a tea of macaroni and cheese and spaghetti, the 'wee men' went to pit.

The P.L.s rambled<sup>19</sup> and then made the cocoa and dished it out to the wee men in their pit. It has been raining almost continuously since camp started.<sup>37</sup>

After the nightly P.L.'s meeting with the Scouters, they retired to pit<sup>32</sup> at 21.00 hours.

Weather: Extra (XTRA) damp.

#### *Editorial comments*

<sup>33</sup> Niz, Nizz or Nizz the Elder was ASM John Nisbet

<sup>34</sup> This included time spent in Arduaine and Kilmelford

<sup>35</sup> It is not known what pioneering projects were completed in camp, other than an aerial runway into the loch.

<sup>36</sup> The patrol logs suggest that a sawmill was visited and that the 3 miles represented the walk both there and back.

<sup>37</sup> Seems a bit of an exaggeration based on the accounts given for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of August. However, there is no doubt that this was one of the wettest 70<sup>th</sup> Summer Camps, which might explain why the troop never returned to Arduaine in later years.

## Friday 4th August 1961

Today was the day of the grand O-Ban<sup>38</sup> expedition. After flag break and inspection came a Scout's Own on the Third Scout Law - 'A Scout's Duty is to be useful and to help others' - led by the S.M. As it was beyootifool weather, we played a game of baseball before cooking dinner of slice and spaghetti.

At 14.00 hours, we assembled at the minibus and piled in. We set off first of all to Arduaine to collect Niz'z<sup>33</sup> stores. While we were waiting outside 'Uncle Dicks'<sup>39</sup>, Bob met the Akela<sup>40</sup> who was with the D.E.<sup>41</sup> Troop. The last mentioned worthy informed us they had invited the C.C. - not even the D.C. - to visit them<sup>42</sup>. Panic stricken, the minibus was about turned and we belted back to the camp site at speed to clear up. Half an hour later, we at last set off for OBAN.

Arriving there, we wandered about for a while, coming back to the 'bus about 1700 hrs for (a) face-feed. After a meal of meat chits<sup>43</sup> and milk, we set off for the flicks to see Jack Hawkins in 'The League of Gentlemen'<sup>44</sup>. After watching this, the troop took over the local chip shop, and chips and ice-cold milk were consumed before departing for the campsite.

The minibus stopped at Kilmelford on the way back because the Scouters wanted to see the local 'mini'<sup>45</sup> about church on Sunday. The troop therefore had to do a Shanks's<sup>46</sup> to get back to the campsite. On arrival there, we found that the Scouters' kitchen was down - but only temporarily as it was only the pole that had fallen.

After cocoa, all but the P.L.s and Scouters retired to pit<sup>32</sup>.



*Figure 7 Flagdown after a day of great fun at the Grand O-BAN.*

Note. Scout W. Phillips (Wiffil) arrived tonight complete with Mum and Dad.

*Editorial comments*

38. *Oban. It's not clear what significance lay behind calling it O-Ban.*
39. *Presumably a store but it's not clear why it was called 'Uncle Dicks', unless the owner was called Richard. The receipts from the camp reveal that most of the groceries for the camp were purchased from Arduaine Stores and the invoices were prepared by R.C. Campbell.*
40. *The Cuckoo Patrol Log identifies the individual as the Scout Master. It is not known which account was the correct version.*
41. *Presumably 'Dreaded English'*
42. *Normally, the District Commissioner(D.C.) of the local area would visit the troops camping in his patch. As a County Commissioner (C.C.) is much higher up the seniority 'ladder', this caused a certain level of alarm. However, it's not reported whether the C.C. actually visited the 70<sup>th</sup> site or not.*
43. *Chits = sandwiches*
44. *This comedy film was released in 1960 starring Jack Hawkins, Nigel Patrick, Roger Livesey, Bryan Forbes and Richard Attenborough.*
45. *'Mini' or 'minni' refers to the church minister.*
46. *Shanks's Pony. In other words, walking. The distance from Kilmelford to the campsite is 3-4 miles, which would have taken about an hour.*



### Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August 1961

Rises at about 7.30 hours, a breakfast of black pud. and eggs was cooked. At 10.00 hours, flagbreak was followed by inspection. Then came the Scout's Own. This morning it was on the fourth Scout Law - 'A Scout is a friend to all, and a brother to every other Scout'<sup>47</sup>, no matter what country, class or creed he may belong' (Figure 8) - and was led by the T.L.<sup>48</sup> After this, although it was dreaded damp, we managed to have a game of baseball.



Figure 8 "Friend to all"

While the P.L.s were cooking dinner of mince, potatoes, custard and prunes, the wee men took part in a blindfold rope game arranged by the Scouters. At 15.00 hrs, A.S.M. J.S. McF<sup>49</sup> arrived. Half an hour later, a swimming expedition was arranged down to the loch, but when we got there, Bob<sup>50</sup> pronounced that Loch Melfort was too cold to swim in, so we wandered up a burn to a big deep pool (Figure 9). We spent the next hour playing in and out the pond.

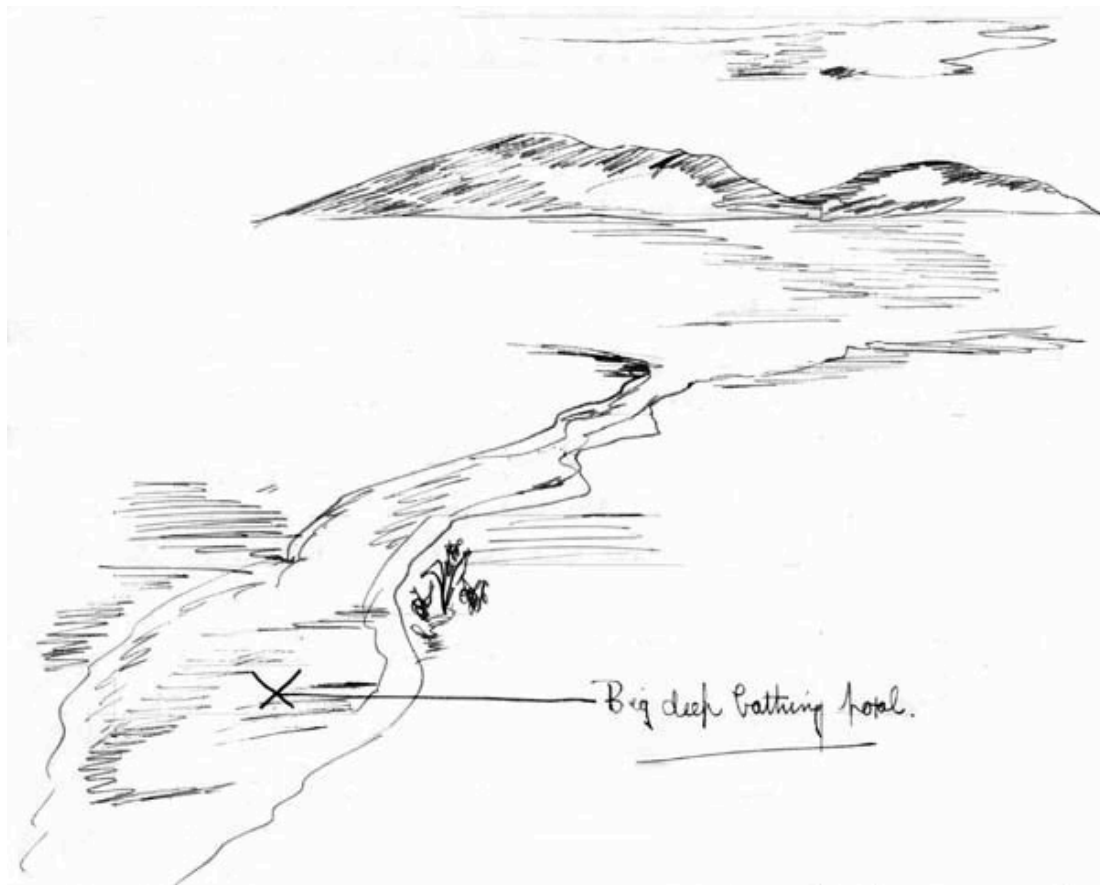


Figure 9 The pond used for swimming on 5<sup>th</sup> August.

Back to the campsite, the Scouters went to Uncle Dick's<sup>39</sup> to get the tea which was herring. After feeding our faces on fried herring, we went for a short ramble down the beach.

When we got back, we practiced at campfire the songs we were going to sing at the communal campfire with the D.E.<sup>41</sup> and Doune (Perthshire) (Scouts)<sup>51</sup> which we had been invited to the next night. After cocoa – T.F.P.<sup>15</sup>

XTRA damp (DAMP)

*Editorial comments*

*47. It was sometimes muttered unofficially that the expression 'every other Scout' could be used as a loophole to be less than friendly with those Scouts that you thought were objectionable.*

*48 The Troop Leader (T.L.) was Alastair Cram, P.L. of the Hippopotamus Patrol in camp.*

*49. ASM Ian McFarlane*

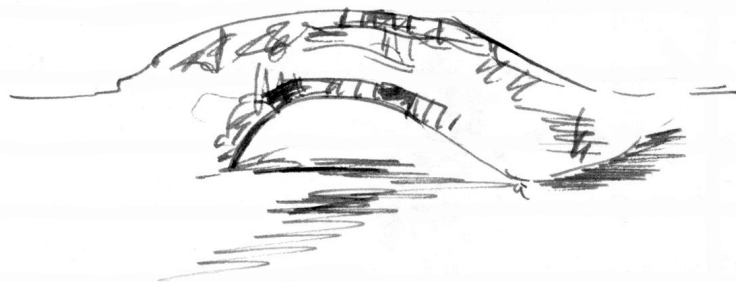
*50. Scout Master Bob Miller*

*51. The Doune Scouts from Perthshire were also camping in the Arduaine area.*

## Sunday 6th August 1961

The camp rose at about 7.30 hours and prepared a breakfast of cornflakes, slice and eggs. After inspection, we got ready for the parade to Kilmelford Church. Having eaten a snack of jam chits<sup>43</sup>, the troop set out to walk to Kilmelford – at least a quarter (of) a mile away from the actual church. At a bridge<sup>52</sup>, we met the Doune troop (Perthshire) who were camping at Arduaine and waited there (until) it was time to march to church (*Figure 10*).

The bridge where we met the Doune Troop



By the rude bridge that arched the flood,  
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,  
Here once embattled farmers stood  
And fired the shot heard round the world.

*Figure 10 The bridge where the 70<sup>th</sup> met the Doune Scouts prior to church.*

Meanwhile, the S.M. had caught up in the minibus and Scouters plus the two flagbearers – the T.L.<sup>48</sup> and P.L. Lind – went to see the minni<sup>45</sup> in his domain. After chaffing<sup>53</sup> the said worthy for a bit, the aforesaid worthy announced he wanted a Scout to read a lesson. The S.M. volunteered the T.L. who was led off at speed by the mini<sup>45</sup> to his wee room. The favourite<sup>54</sup> reader of lessons then discovered that the Rev. Mackinnon expected him to read two lessons, so he immediately suggested to the Rev. that the S.M. should do the other one. On this, the mini beetled out and came back with Bob in his wake.

All this arranged, the quintet went back to the rest of the troop and we paraded to the church. After church, the wee men went home in the mini(bus) while the rest had to walk part of the way. Back at camp, we had meat chits<sup>43</sup> to keep us going until teatime.

During the afternoon, nothing official was done<sup>55</sup> and at about 18.00 hours we fed our faces on stew.

After dinner, we went to Arduaine to join in with the D.E.s<sup>41</sup> and D.P.s<sup>56</sup> in a communal campfire which was greatly enjoyed by all. Back at camp, all except the Scouters and P.L.s went to pit while these six went on a midnight hike of about 10 miles.<sup>57</sup>

Weather: Best day so far: Dry and sunny. Very warm in evening.

*Editorial comments*

52. A sketch of the bridge was provided, but its location has not yet been identified. The quotation in the sketch is by Emerson. The artist/scribe for the patrol log apologized for the 'inappropriate last two lines of the poem but it's all one sentence'. 'April's' should also read 'August's'.

53. 'Chaffing' = Chatting to

54. An 'in' word for anything that was good or excellent

55. Sunday afternoon was when parents usually visited their offspring in camp and take them out for a meal, so it is likely that the campsite was quite quiet that afternoon.

56. The Doune Scouts from Perth

57. Route unknown, but it took about 5 hours to complete. It might seem odd that all three Scouters were involved as at least one Scouter might have been expected to stay in camp in case of any unforeseen circumstances. However, it's important not to be critical about such actions as attitudes towards risk assessment were substantially different in 1961 and it was not uncommon for Scouts to be unsupervised; for example on 2nd Class and 1<sup>st</sup> Class hikes.

## Monday 7th August 1961

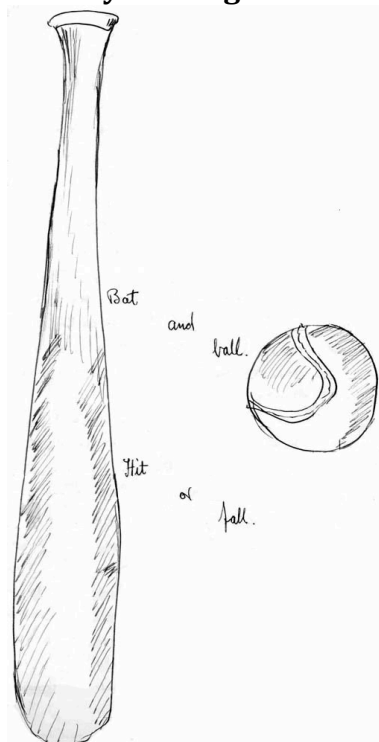


Figure 11  
'Bat and ball, Hit and fall'.

The first official event in the camp today was witnessed by very few. Only nature in fact saw six en-sus fatigues (extra tired) midnight hikers<sup>57</sup> (as they) crawled into pit at 5.00 hours to 'accompany sore labour in her bath' (See Macbeth Act II, Sc.II line 39).

At 8.30 hours, the rest of the camp rose and prepared breakfast of porridge, ham and eggs. The hikers rose at 9.59 hours and flagbreak followed by inspection was at 10.00 hours.

After inspection came a game of baseball (*Figure 11*) which was followed by a Scout's Own on the sixth Scout Law - 'A Scout is kind to animals' - led by J.S. McF<sup>49</sup>. After this came a swimming party in which everyone took part.<sup>58</sup>

After lunch of mince, onions, custard and prunes, we spent the afternoon doing mapping and other activities as well as passing tests. It was a beeyoatifoof day for once. For tea, we had a favourite tuna salad.

The P.L.s then set a rope game<sup>59</sup> for the Scouters at which they committed<sup>60</sup> themselves extra well. The rest of the evening was spent doing tests till camp fire at 21.00 hours when we sang the new songs we had learned the previous evening.<sup>61</sup> And so to pit<sup>32</sup> at 23.00 hours.

### *Editorial comments*

<sup>58</sup> This took place in Loch Melfort at a location identified in the Cuckoo Patrol Log (possibly Kames Bay).

<sup>59</sup> Presumably a blindfold rope trail.

<sup>60</sup> Presumably this was meant to be 'acquitted'.

<sup>61</sup> An example of one of these is given in the Cuckoo Patrol Log (entry of 6<sup>th</sup> August).

## Tuesday 8th August 1961

The whole camp was up by 7.30 hours and was preparing a breakfast of porridge, eggs, and beans. After flagbreak and inspection at the usual hour of 10.00, we had a Scouts Own on the seventh Scout Law – 'A Scout obeys the orders of his parents, Patrol Leader or Scout Master without question' - which was taken by P.L. Ronald Lind. After the Scouts' Own, an investiture<sup>62</sup> was held – that of Raymond Berry<sup>63</sup> (Figure 12). As it was raining hard, we played shove halfpenny in the Scouters' tent and I. McF.<sup>64</sup> took film of the game.<sup>65</sup>

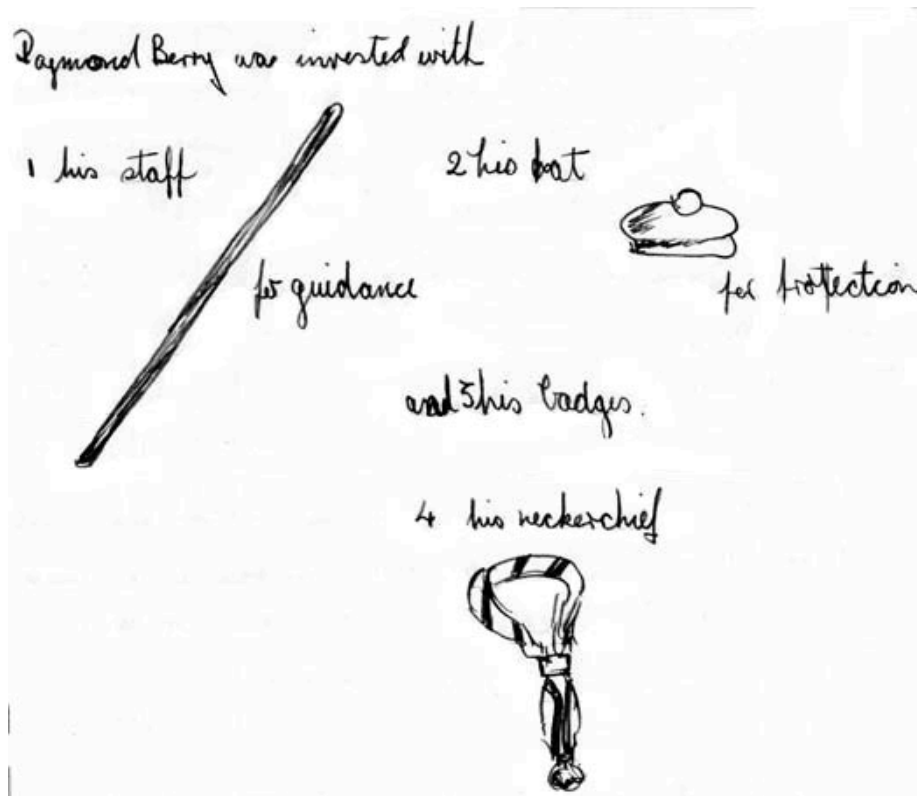
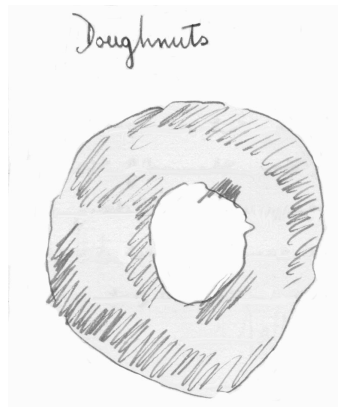


Figure 12. The items presented to a Scout during his investiture.

After the game, tests were passed while a dinner of stew and rice was been cooked. Wiffil<sup>66</sup> left for Oban to go and see the dentist<sup>67</sup>. Dinner over, most of the wee men retired to pit and a very dreary afternoon passed - and just<sup>68</sup>. The only event of the afternoon was the news that Wiffil<sup>66</sup> had missed the last bus from Oban and had started to walk.



Tea of macaroni over, Ian<sup>49</sup> set off with Gorman<sup>69</sup> to collect Wiffil<sup>66,70</sup>. At night, all the wee men went to pit while the T.L.<sup>48</sup> made doughnuts (Figure 13). At 21.00 hours, cocoa, doughnuts and cake was given to the wee men in their pits<sup>32</sup>. About an hour later, the rest followed suit.

Figure 13 Doughnuts

*Editorial comments*

62. *Once a boy had completed his Tenderfoot Badge in the early 1960s, he was formally invested as a Scout and was presented with his badges, neckerchief, hat and staff.*

63. *An investiture at summer camp was very rare and the only other time that it is known to have occurred was in 1965 when Duncan Malcolm was invested.*

64. *Ian McFarlane took cine film footage at several camps, including this one.*

65. *Unfortunately, it is not known whether the footage has survived.*

66. *Billy Phillip's nickname was Wiffil, based on his name **William Philips**.*

67. *It is thought that he might have caught a service bus from Arduaine to Oban. The Camp accounts include 5/3 travelling expenses for Billy Phillips.*

68. *In other words, the weather was awful.*

69. *Ronald Russell*

70. *It was 18-19 miles from Oban to the camp. The Cuckoo patrol log revealed that he was eventually picked up by the minibus having walked several miles and had become 'drookit'.*

## Wednesday 9th of August 1961

As usual, the general rising time was 07:00 hours and breakfast of cornflakes and eggs was soon underway. After flagbreak and inspection followed Scouts Own on the eighth Scout Law - 'A Scout smiles and whistles under all difficulties'<sup>71</sup> - led by Bob. Then, as it was raining heavily, we had a sing song in the Scouters' kitchen when we practiced songs for a C.C.<sup>72</sup> with the Doune Scouts the following night. Then the wee men cooked the dinner while the P.L.s and Scouters went for 'stores' - in reality laying a treasure trail for the wee men<sup>73</sup>.

After a dinner of corned beef and custard, the wee men<sup>73</sup> went off on their treasure trail. The clues were:-

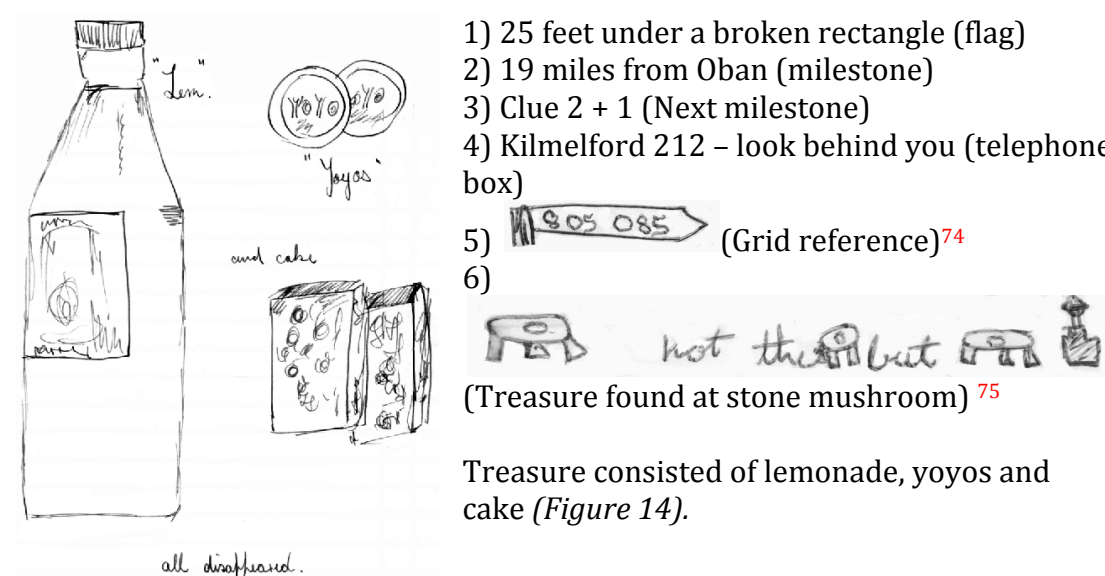


Figure 14 The treasure.

After a tea of herring, beans and sausages, we set off for the seaweed factory<sup>76</sup> - to see round it. A most interesting visit was made - one of the most interesting things being the frogs and the resultant frog races.<sup>77</sup>

Back at the camp, we had the usual cocoa followed by pit<sup>32</sup>.

Weather: Damp, dry at night.

### Editorial comments

<sup>71</sup>. Actually a physical impossibility, but it's the thought that counts

<sup>72</sup>. Presumably 'Communal Campfire'.

<sup>73</sup>. In fact all the Scouts, apart from the PLs, participated in the treasure trail.

<sup>74</sup>. This represented the grid reference of a road junction near Arduaine.

<sup>75</sup>. It is not clear what the symbols represent. One possibility might be that there was a cemetery with stone monuments..

<sup>76</sup>. A sketch map in the Cuckoo patrol log book showed that the seaweed factory was close to the campsite. The factory buildings still exist ((Grid ref 817113 as of 2023), but are now used to process fish from the local fish farm in Loch Melfort.

<sup>77</sup>. Presumably on the journey there or back, rather than in the factory itself.



Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> of August 1961

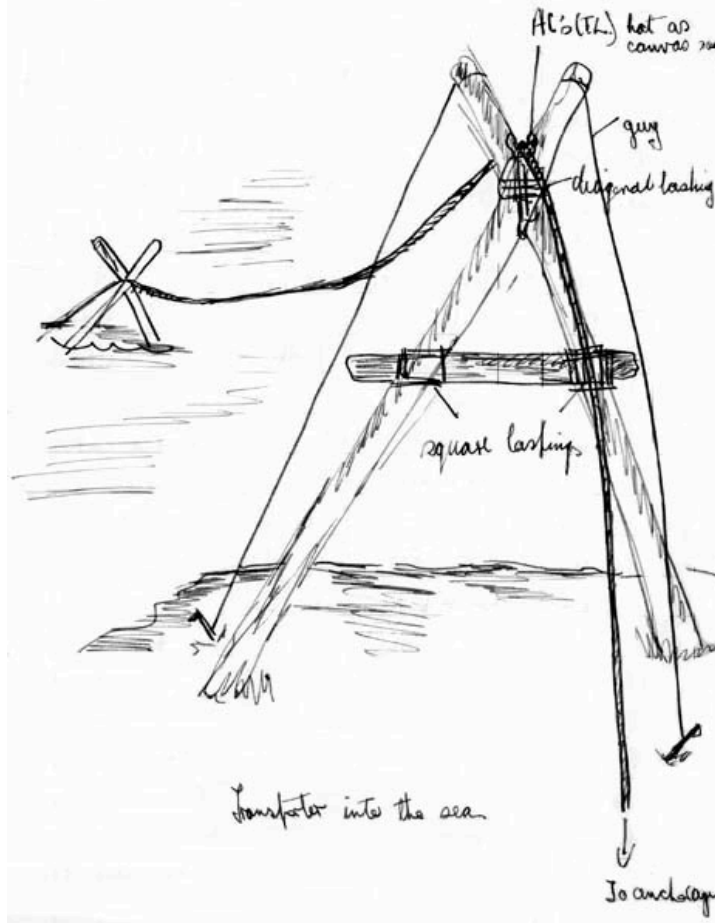


Figure 15 The Transporter into the sea.

The camp was up earlier than usual on this, the last full day of the camp. And true to style it was raining. A breakfast of ham and eggs was cooked and was followed by flagbreak and inspection at 10.00 hours. The rain eased off enough to allow us to hold the Scouts Own in the open. It was on the ninth Scout Law - 'A Scout is thrifty' - and was led by Niz the Elder<sup>33</sup>. We also managed to get a game of baseball. The rest of the morning before lunch was spent dismantling gadgets and the like.

After a dinner of mince and jelly, we went down to the beach to build a transporter Bridge into (the) sea (Figure 15).<sup>78</sup>

An early tea of herring was on the programme tonight as we were going to have a sing song with the Doune boys. The original intention was to have a combined campfire at our campsite, but as the Perthshire troop had been washed out and a couple of their boys were ill, we went to the wooden house where they were finishing off their camp. After a very enjoyable sing song at which a P.O.P<sup>79</sup> cake was presented to the Doune S.M. - he had a birthday a couple of days previously. Home and pit for the last time this camp.

*Editorial comments*

<sup>78</sup>. Essentially an Aerial Runway. The rules on pioneering were less stringent in the 1960s and Scouts could use a stick to hang off the rope as they slid down. The correct choice of stick was essential if one was to avoid rope burns. The exact location of where this was built has not been determined.

<sup>79</sup>. Meaning not known

## Friday, 11th August 1961

Up extra early this morning and il faut en sus beau – it was an extra beeyotafool morning. After breakfast and inspection, the wee men got into their uniform and packed their kit ready to move off. Before they departed came the last Scouts Own on the last Scout Law – ‘A Scout is clean in thought, word and deed.’ Then the Coronation cup for the best camper was presented to Second (Michael) Nisbet. The patrol champions were the Cuckoo Patrol –

Viz    Albert Runcie (Oz)  
       John Moore (Moori)  
       Robert McCallum (Bobby)  
       R. McKelvie (Rhiddian)  
       Billy Phillips - Wiffil (Part of the time)

The wee men departed leaving the P.L.s and Seconds to take down the shelters, tents, transporter, clean out the Scouters’ kitchen, and clean out the store tent while the Scouters took down Jasper, the Bell and their shelter. After a final inspection of campsite and the owner had been thanked, we went to the minibus where we sat while Bob and Ian went for a swim – Ils sont en sus simples. Eventually, we set off and called in on the Doune Scouts to bid them farewell.

We arrived back at Greenock at 20.00 hours. So ended another and rather wet summer camp.

Scribe - Alistair B. Cram

Further note: The wee men + A.S.M. J.H.H. Nisbet<sup>80</sup> were driven to Ardrishaig by A.S.M. J.S. McF<sup>49</sup>, and caught the “Loch Fyne” for Greenock (Figure 16). ETA 16.15 hrs.

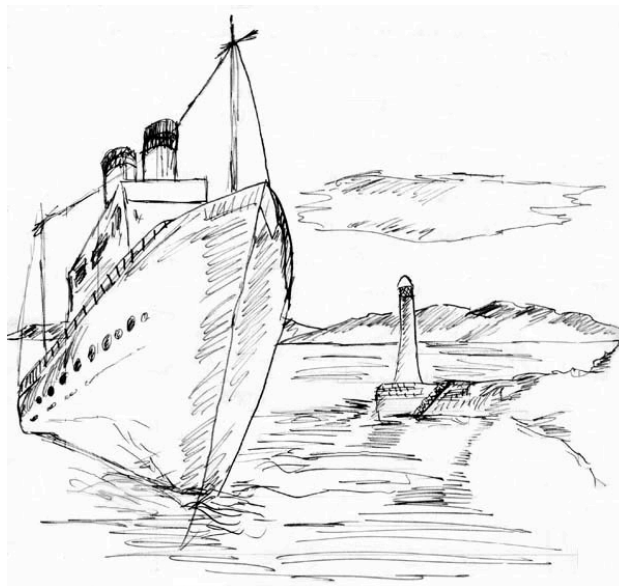


Figure 16 View while sailing home. Seen from the Lochfyne

### *Editorial comments*

<sup>80</sup> There are a couple of unanswered questions here. The log report for day 1 implied that John Nisbet drove to Arduaine, and yet he appears to have accompanied the ‘wee men’ back to Gourrock on the ‘MV Lochfyne’. Also there is no indication of the ‘wee men’ coming to camp by boat.

## Abbreviations

C.C = County Commissioner  
D.C. = District Commissioner  
S.M. = Scout Master  
A.S.M. = Assistant Scout Master  
T.L. = Troop Leader  
P.L. = Patrol Leader  
Sec. = Second  
T.F.P = Time for Pit  
D.E. = Dreaded English  
D.P = Doune (Perthshire)

### *Editorial comments*

- 1. Each Scout's normal patrol is given in brackets*
- 2. This may be the first instance of the Troop hiring a minibus. The registration 'VS' indicates that the vehicle was registered in Renfrewshire.*
- 3. John Mitchell of Greenock Ltd., 4 Grey Place, Greenock, specialized in Austin and commercial vehicles.*
- 4. Added by editor*
- 5. The Erskine Bridge did not exist in 1961. The Erskine Ferry was situated in much the same place and the slipways for the ferry are still visible on both banks. The original road leading to the ferry from the south is also still present. In the 1960s, markers were put on the road to indicate how long the wait would be before getting on the ferry. The ferry was attached to fixed chains and used these to cross the river.*
- 6. The current A82 bypassing these towns did not exist in 1961. In addition, the original A82 up Loch Lomondside was narrow with many bends. That, along with the wait for the Erskine Ferry, probably doubled the amount of time it took to get to Arrochar compared to today.*
- 7. ASM John Nisbet*
- 8. It is not indicated what H.H.G stands for, but this seems to indicate that John Nisbet was also driving up to Arduaine.*
- 9. The writing style makes this word difficult to identify.*
- 10. Meaning unclear*
- 11. A photograph of the minibus parked at the bottom of the Rest and be Thankful is on the website.*
- 12. Gorman or Gorm is the nickname for Ronald Russell.*
- 13. The campsite was on the small peninsula containing the hill An Cnap west of the village of Arduaine*
- 14. Each patrol was self sufficient in having its own patrol tent and kitchen shelter. All meals were cooked by the patrols themselves over wood fires. Each patrol was also expected to build camp gadgets for their kitchen shelter and patrol site.*
- 15. Time for Pit*
- 16. Slice Sausage – apparently non-existent south of the border*
- 17. Inspection was held each morning after flagbreak, by which time the patrols should have finished breakfast and tidied up. The patrol tent and contents were inspected for tidiness, while the kitchen shelter was inspected to ensure that dishes and cooking utensils have been properly washed up. Points were also awarded for any gadgets that had been constructed. It is possible that the Scouts themselves were inspected to ensure that they had washed (especially hands).*
- 18. A Scouts Own was a religious service that was organised and run by the Scouts and Scouters themselves. The Summer Camp of 1961 was perhaps unique in having a Scouts Own every morning with a different Scout Law covered at each one; there were 10 Scout Laws at the time. Each Scouts Own was led by a PL or a Scouter.*
- 19. Ramble can mean a small talk/discussion or a small hike depending on context*
- 20. In 1961, there were ten Scout Laws, all of which had to be memorized (and understood) before getting your Tenderfoot badge. Some of these were rather wordy to say the least, but then remembering things off by heart was fairly normal in school at the time.*
- 21. As there were 10 Scout Laws at the time, it meant that a different Scout Law was covered on each of the days spent in camp.*

22. *This would have to be a substantial tree as the flagpole was the main flagpole for camp. It's not known whether a suitable tree was chopped down for the purpose or not. The flagpole at Arduaine was estimated to be 25' high*
23. *The bog pit (or outdoor lavatory). It's not clear whether the Troop at the time used pit latrines or toilet tents. Either way, pits had to be dug for human waste. No doubt the vegetation in the area must have been remarkably lush for years afterwards. The term 'Jasper' was coined during a camp at Blairmore where a dog called Jasper made first use of the pit.*
24. *These included carrying a hamper from the minibus up to the campsite and putting up signposts that probably directed potential visitors from the road to the campsite.*
25. *Albert Runcie's nickname was Oz*
26. *John Moore*
27. *Decimalisation had not yet occurred in 1961.*
28. *Beinn Chaorach (841'), Grid Reference 811102.*
29. *Just to the east of the hill top. Grid reference 814101*
30. *Kames farm is roughly NE of Beinn Chaoraich at Grid ref. 819113*
31. *Bob Miller seemed to cook a dumpling at every Easter and Summer Camp. It is possible that Bob introduced the tradition, and Alastair Cram maintained the tradition for several years when he took over as Scout Master.*
32. *Pit = Sleeping bag or bed*
33. *Niz, Nizz or Nizz the Elder was ASM John Nisbet*
34. *This included time spent in Arduaine and Kilmelford*
35. *It is not known what pioneering projects were completed in camp, other than an aerial runway into the loch.*
36. *The patrol logs suggest that a sawmill was visited and that the 3 miles represented the walk both there and back.*
37. *Seems a bit of an exaggeration based on the accounts given for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of August. However, there is no doubt that this was one of the wettest 70<sup>th</sup> Summer Camps, which might explain why the troop never returned to Arduaine in later years.*
38. *Oban. It's not clear what significance lay behind calling it O-Ban.*
39. *Presumably a store but it's not clear why it was called 'Uncle Dicks' unless the owner was called Richard.*
40. *The Cuckoo Patrol Log identifies the individual as the Scout Master. It is not known which account was the correct version.*
41. *Presumably 'Dreaded English'*
42. *Normally, the District Commissioner(D.C.) of the local area would visit the troops camping in his patch. As a County Commissioner (C.C.) is much higher up the seniority 'ladder', this caused a certain level of alarm. However, it's not reported whether the C.C. actually visited the 70<sup>th</sup> site or not.*
43. *Chits = sandwiches*
44. *This comedy film was released in 1960 starring Jack Hawkins, Nigel Patrick, Roger Livesey, Bryan Forbes and Richard Attenborough*
45. *'Mini' or 'minni' refers to the church minister*
46. *Shanks's Pony. In other words, walking. The distance from Kilmelford to the campsite is 4.5 miles which would have taken over an hour.*
47. *It was sometimes muttered unofficially that the expression 'every other Scout' could be used as a loophole to be less than friendly with those Scouts that you thought were objectionable.*
48. *The Troop Leader (T.L.) was Alastair Cram, P.L. of the Hippopotamus Patrol in camp.*
49. *ASM Ian McFarlane*
50. *Scout Master Bob Miller*
51. *The Doune Scouts were also camping in the Arduaine area.*
52. *A sketch of the bridge was provided, but its location has not yet been identified. The quotation in the sketch is by Emerson. The artist/scribe for the patrol log apologized for the 'inappropriate last two lines of the poem but it's all one sentence'. 'April's' should also read 'August's'.*
53. *'Chaffing' = Chatting to*
54. *An 'in' word for anything that was good or excellent*
55. *Sunday afternoon was when parents usually visited their offspring in camp and take them out for a meal, so it is likely that the campsite was quite quiet that afternoon.*
56. *The Doune Scouts from Perth*
57. *Route unknown, but it took about 5 hours to complete. It might seem odd that all three Scouters were involved as at least one Scouter might have been expected to stay in camp in case of any*

unforeseen circumstances. However, it's important not to be critical about such actions as attitudes towards risk assessment were substantially different in 1961 and it was not uncommon for Scouts to be unsupervised; for example on 2nd Class and 1st Class hikes.

58. This took place in the loch at a location identified in the Cuckoo Patrol Log.

59. Presumably a blindfold rope trail.

60. Presumably this was meant to be 'acquitted'.

61. An example of one of these is given in the Cuckoo Patrol Log (entry of 6<sup>th</sup> August)

62. Once a boy had completed his Tenderfoot Badge in the early 1960s, he was formally invested as a Scout and was presented with his badges, neckerchief, hat and staff.

63. An investiture at summer camp was very rare and the only other time that it is known to have occurred was in 1965 when Duncan Malcolm was invested.

64. Ian McFarlane took cine film footage at several camps, including this one.

65. Unfortunately, it is not known whether the footage has survived.

66. Billy Phillip's nickname was Wiffil, based on his name **William Philips**.

67. It is thought that he might have caught a service bus from Arduaine to Oban.

68. In other words, the weather was awful.

69. Ronald Russell

70. It was 19 miles from Oban to the camp. The Cuckoo patrol log revealed that he was eventually picked up by the minibus having walked several miles and had become 'drookit'.

71. Actually a physical impossibility, but it's the thought that counts

72. Presumably 'Communal Campfire'.

73. In fact all the Scouts, apart from the PLs, participated in the treasure trail.

74. This represented the grid reference of a road junction near Arduaine.

75. It is not clear what the symbols represent. One possibility might be that there was a cemetery with stone monuments..

76. A sketch map in the Cuckoo patrol log book showed that the seaweed factory was close to the campsite. However, there is no evidence of the factory existing in 2022. There is a seaweed company at Hill farm, Arduaine but it was started in 2016.

77. Presumably on the journey there or back, rather than in the factory itself.

78. Essentially an Aerial Runway. The rules on pioneering were less stringent in the 1960s and Scouts could use a stick to hang off the rope as they slid down. The correct choice of stick was essential if one was to avoid rope burns.

79. Meaning not known

80. There are a couple of unanswered questions here. The log report for day 1 implied that John Nisbet drove to Arduaine, and yet he appears to have accompanied the 'wee men' back to Gourock on the 'MV Lochfyne'. Also there is no indication of the 'wee men' coming to camp by boat. The seating capacity of the mini bus was 12 including driver, and so it seems highly likely that the 'wee men' took the ferry both to and from the camp. The ferry fares were £3-1-4.