

70th RENFREWSHIRE  
30<sup>th</sup> GREENOCK (FINNART)  
BOY SCOUT GROUP

MINUTES

OF

COURT OF HONOUR

MEETINGS

30<sup>th</sup> GREENOCK (FINNART)  
70th RENFREWSHIRE  
BOY SCOUTS

MAY 1939- SEPTEMBER 1941

## Court of Honour Meetings

6<sup>th</sup>, October, 1939.

7.40 – 8.15 p.m.

96, Eldon St.<sup>1</sup>  
Greenock

Present:-	G.S.M.	A.I. Dunlop <sup>2</sup>
	A.S.M.	W. Hill <sup>3</sup>
	T.L.	R.W. Leggett <sup>4</sup>
	P.L.	J. Crawford <sup>5</sup>
	P.L.	H.T.A. Hastie <sup>6</sup>
	P.L.	I.T. Munro <sup>7</sup>
	S.P.L.	D. Woodward <sup>8</sup>
	S.P.L.	A. McGregor <sup>9</sup>
	S.P.L.	J.N. Smith <sup>10</sup>

The Court decided that this should not be its Annual General meeting.

### Minutes of Previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and formerly adopted without emendation, on the motion of P.L. Munro, seconded by S.P.L. McGregor.

### Cricket Competition<sup>11</sup>

With regard to the Cricket Competition mentioned in the previous minutes, it was announced that no such Competition had been held and consequently the Troop had not taken part, although attempts had been made by the Troop to arrange matches with other troops.

### S.M.'s Report<sup>12</sup>

The S.M.'s report was then read by G.S.M. Dunlop. It announced that there was an excellent turn out of 28, all ranks, to a Church Parade on 28th May<sup>13</sup>. With regard to Scout Week<sup>14</sup>, it stated that the Troop took part enthusiastically, S.P.L. Dennis Woodward lifting a principle award at the Cycle Parade and the troop attending two parades, to the Lady Alice Park and to the Battery Park. At the Gala<sup>15</sup> held during the Scout Week, the Victory Trophy<sup>16</sup> was won by a team consisting of P.L. R.W. Leggett, S.P.L. J. Curtiss<sup>17</sup>, Sc. J. Buchanan<sup>18</sup> and Sc. R. Mackay<sup>19</sup>. The Novice Cup was won by Sc. J. Menzies<sup>20</sup> and the Rover Cup by A.S.M. E. Steel<sup>21</sup>. At the conclusion of Scout Week, the troop attended the Annual District Parade to Rankin Park<sup>22</sup>. The report was adopted on the motion of P.L. J. Crawford, seconded P.L. H. Hastie.

### The Treasurer's<sup>23</sup> Report

Treasurer's report was then read. It announced that several annual subscriptions had been received and also 2d. from S.P.L. Smith, the receipts of the Football Committee<sup>24</sup>. The following expenses were ratified;-

For May

To Badge Secretary <sup>25</sup>	£0 – 2 - 7½
To Alan Hardie <sup>26</sup>	£0 – 2 – 6
To the Association <sup>27</sup>	£2 – 2 - 0
To Football Fees	£0 – 3 - 0
To Victory Trophy <sup>28</sup>	<u>£0 - 7 - 6</u>
	£2 –17 - 7 ½

For June;

To Joe Riddick <sup>29</sup>	<u>£0 - 1 - 6</u>
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	£2 -19 - 1½
For July;	<u>£0 - 0 - 0</u>
	£2 -19 - 1½
For August; To Badge Secretary <sup>25</sup>	<u>£0 - 0 - 8</u>
	£2 -19 - 9½
For September; To A.I. Dunlop	<u>£0 - 1 - 9</u>
	£3 - 1 - 6½

so that the total expenditure was £3 - 1 - 6½ and a balance of £4 - 4 - 4 was announced.<sup>30</sup>

### Cellar Committee<sup>31</sup>

The Cellar Committee, which has been in being since 9th, December, 1938, announced that they had made a move and that they would announce their decision in a short time.

### Blackout Arrangements<sup>32</sup>

G.S.M. Dunlop explained that the Troop was going to black-out the Hall and gave the Court a rough sketch of the methods he intended to employ. He also announced that until further notice Troop meetings would begin at 6 o'clock to economise on electricity.

### G.S.M. Dunlop 's successor

G.S.M. Dunlop also said that he would soon be leaving the Troop<sup>33</sup> and that he expected that the Rev. D.H. Stewart<sup>34</sup> would take out a G.S.M.'s warrant and take over the troop<sup>35</sup>.

### Troop Activities

It was decided that the present activities of the Troop must be turned to helping the country as far as possible. The Court agreed that the Troop should volunteer to collect waste-paper<sup>36</sup> and sphagnum moss<sup>37</sup>. It was added that this is an excellent opportunity to get badges<sup>38</sup>. The G.S.M. said he would try to get an outsider to take Ambulance classes.

### New Books

The Court authorised the purchase of a new Minute Book and a new Log Book.<sup>39</sup>

### New Tent Bags

A.S.M. Hill was requested to attempt to obtain two large sugar bags to be used as tent bags.

As there was no further relevant business, the Court was dissolved.

Signed; H.T.A. Hastie (Secy)<sup>40</sup>  
A. Ian Dunlop GSM<sup>41</sup>  
Chairman

### *Editorial comments for 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939.*

1. Ian Dunlop lived at 96 Eldon Street with his parents. Prior to 1936-7, this address was 52 Eldon Street. During 1936-7, there was a major renumbering of Greenock's streets.
2. Alexander Ian Dunlop was the son of the head teacher of mathematics at Greenock Academy and lived at 52 Eldon Street (renumbered to 96 in 1936-37) with his parents. In 1933, he started studying for an MA in Divinity at Glasgow University, where he met Ian Hardie who was doing the same course. In 1934, Ian joined the 70<sup>th</sup> as an A.S.M. at the age of 18. When Sam Faulds resigned, the two 'Ians' ran the Troop as A.S.M.s until March 1936. At that point, Ian Dunlop became G.S.M. and Ian Hastie became S.M., both now aged 20. Although Ian was G.S.M., he was still very active with the troop and 'Ian's talk' was a regular occurrence at camp fires. Ian remained as G.S.M. until November 1939 when he had to move to Lochgilphead on war service. Nevertheless, he remained in contact with the Group as a Rover Scout and Rover Scout Leader for several years. During the 1930s Ian also played an active role in District matters. He was the Secretary for the District Executive and served on numerous committees. Ian finished his MA degree in 1937 and his BD in 1938. It is believed that he

was a navy chaplain during the war and might have been mentioned in dispatches.. After the war, he served in a number of churches in London, Lochgilphead and Edinburgh. In 1954, he provided the address at the 70<sup>th</sup>'s 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary, and was also present at the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1992.

3. Wilson Hill was one of the most important individuals in the history of the 70<sup>th</sup> during the 1930s and 1940s. Wilson was born in 1920 and lived at 28 Forsyth Street. There is sufficient evidence to indicate that Wilson joined the Troop from its very start. In June 1935, he was promoted to Second of the Curlew Patrol under Eoin Steel, before becoming PL of the Curlew Patrol in November 1936. Wilson gained his Second All Round Cords in November 1937 and it is highly likely that he was one of the three 70<sup>th</sup> Scouts to gain his King's Scout Badge during the 1930s. In terms of camping, Wilson was probably a member of the 70<sup>th</sup> team that won the Shannon Cup in 1935. Curiously, though, there is no evidence of Wilson attending any of the summer camps held during the 1930s. He was promoted to Troop Leader in December 1937, but resigned to join the Rovers in February 1938. Nevertheless, it was clear that he was helping out at both the Pack and the Troop before he applied for an A.S.M's warrant in September 1938. At the beginning of 1940, Wilson was aged 19 and the only warranted leader remaining in the troop following the call up of other leaders; Wilson was in a reserved occupation as he was working in the research department of the Torpedo Factory. Throughout the war, Wilson played a pivotal role as Scout Master in keeping the 70<sup>th</sup> afloat. After the war, Wilson moved into teaching and became a technical teacher at Dunoon Grammar.

4. Richard (Dick) Leggett was probably born in 1922, being a year older than Jim Crawford. Therefore, he must have been aged about 14 when he joined the troop in April 1936. He might have transferred from another Troop as it is likely that he had previous Scouting experience. He attended the Troop's summer camps of 1936 and 1937, and was then promoted to S.P.L. of the Woodpigeon Patrol in 1938. Within 6 months he was promoted to P.L of the Woodpigeons and was also given responsibility for the Troop's equipment. He and took over the Chairmanship of the Court of Honour at the end of March 1939 and was then promoted to Troop Leader at the end of April 1939, whilst remaining P.L. of the Woodpigeon Patrol. However, he resigned as P.L. on 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939, and was appointed 'Troop leader without Patrol.' In November 1939, he took over the organisation of the Troop's waste paper collections for the war effort. In September 1940, he resigned from the troop to join the RAF and rose to become a Squadron Leader. It is not known what he did after the war.

5. Jim Crawford was born in 1924 and lived at 49 Finnart Street (renumbered to 107 in 1936-37). He was a pupil at Greenock Academy and featured strongly at the school's Sports Days. He probably joined the troop in 1934. He was promoted to S.P.L. of the Curlew Patrol in November 1935, then swapped patrols with Wilson Hill in September 1936 to become S.P.L. of the Wolf Patrol until September 1938. At that point he became P.L. of the Fox Patrol. In October 1939, he became P.L. of the Woodpigeon patrol. During the early years of the war he organised the troop's collection of waste paper. He eventually resigned from the troop in June 1941 when he went to University. In 1943, he was called up and served in in Burma during 1945. After the war he became a lawyer.

6. Harold Hastie was born in Glasgow during 1923, and stayed at Hillfoot, Lyle Road when the family moved to Greenock. Harold's father was an accountant and Secretary of Fleming Reid and co. Harold was a pupil at Greenock Academy and featured strongly at school prize givings and sports days. He probably joined the troop in 1934 with many of his classmates and was the first Scout to win the G.S.M.s Cup when it was instigated in 1937. He was in the Wolf Patrol then moved to the Fox Patrol when he was promoted to S.P.L. in May 1937. In October 1937, he became Secretary of the Court of Honour and remained so for the next four years. In September 1938, he was promoted to P.L. of the Wolf Patrol, then to Troop Leader in September 1940. He proved extremely energetic in all the roles he undertook and was always coming up with ideas and proposals, some of which were adopted, some which were not. Harold resigned in September 1941 to join the Rovers but remained a co-opted member of the Court of Honour. During the war, he joined the RAF but was not allowed to fly due to his eyesight. Instead, he appeared to have some role in terms of radar and served in Karachi. After the war he qualified as Chartered Accountant and worked with various industrial firms.

7. Ian Munro lived in Kelly Street and was probably born in 1923 or 1924. He attended Greenock Academy and featured in several school sports days and prize givings. He also won a William Millar Scholarship for academic studies. It is not known when he joined the Troop but he was present at the Summer Camps of 1935 and 1937. Unusually, he was not promoted to S.P.L. but was promoted from Scout to P.L. of the Curlew Patrol in September 1938. He then remained P.L. of the Curlews for the next 3 years. It is not known how far through the Scout Training Scheme he progressed, but he may well have gained his 1<sup>st</sup> Class Badge as he completed a 1<sup>st</sup> Class journey to Arrochar by bicycle with Nicol Smith in March 1940. He also gained a reputation as being an experienced 'camper'. He resigned from the Troop in September 1941 and was in the army Engineers during the war. After the war, he became a civil engineer and moved to Canada.

8. Dennis A. Woodward lived at 44 Brisbane Street and was probably born in 1924. He attended Greenock Academy and featured in school sports days and prize givings. He also won a William Millar Scholarship towards his school studies. It is thought that he might have joined the troop in 1934 and was promoted to S.P.L. of the Woodpigeon patrol in September 1938. He resigned in September 1940 and moved into accountancy on leaving school. He moved to South Africa after the war.

9. Alistair McGregor had red hair and was born in 1923 or 1924. He lived at 21 Newton Street at the corner of Newton Street and Kelly Street close to the original Greenock Academy, and his father was a timber measurer. Alistair attended Greenock Academy and it is likely that he joined the Troop in 1934 along with many of his classmates. After his promotion to S.P.L. of the Woodpigeon Patrol in May 1937, he was transferred to become S.P.L. of the Curlew Patrol in February 1938, then transferred again in September 1938 to become S.P.L. of the Wolf Patrol. He remained an S.P.L. until he left the Troop in September 1940, then served in Burma as a Captain in the King's African Army. After the War, he settled in Africa, then moved to Australia.

10. Nicol Smith was born in Glasgow during 1924. He lived in Brisbane Street when he was in the Scouts and his father was associated with Kennedy and Co. Monumental Sculptors. Nicol was a pupil in Greenock Academy, and did well at both sport and academic studies. He probably joined the Scouts in 1934 and attended the Summer camp of 1937. In September 1938 he was promoted to become SPL of the Curlew Patrol, replacing Alistair McGregor who had moved to the Wolf Patrol. Nicol may well have gained his 1<sup>st</sup> Class Badge as he completed the 1<sup>st</sup> Class journey with Ian Munro by cycling to Arrochar. He resigned in September 1940 and served in the Armoured Corps during the war. He fought in NW Europe and lost a foot and part of his leg when his mine triggered a mine. After the war, Nicol gained a degree in electrical engineering and worked with a firm called Lucas. However, he died quite young, possibly as a result of his wounds.

11. See the COH minutes for the 5<sup>th</sup> November 1937 regarding a proposed District Cricket Competition. No such competition seemed to be held, either in 1938 or 1939.

12. Scout Master's Report. At this stage, there was no Scout Master in position as Ian Hardie had resigned at the start of March 1939. It was not stated who prepared the S.M.'s Report, or who was the de facto S.M. However, it is probable that A.S.M. Eoin Steel was the de facto Scout at this stages.

13. It is likely that this was one of the Troop's Sunday morning Church Parades to Finnart Church.

14. Scout Week consisted of a series of Scouting activities, parades and displays lasting a week. It was a major Publicity Relations Exercise for local Scouting (see also the COH minutes for the 12th May 1939).

15. The Scout Swimming Gala itself was held annually at the West-End Baths in Campbell Street. This was a private swimming Club at the time. After the war, the building was converted into the Greenock Arts Guild in 1955 and remained in use as a theatre until 2012. The building then stood derelict until it was demolished in February 2021.



16. The Victory Trophy was considered the most important trophy in the annual Scout Swimming Gala. Each Troop entered a team of 4 Scouts and the teams competed in a relay, diving and lifesaving. During the 1930s, there was fierce competition for the trophy between the 70<sup>th</sup> and the 59<sup>th</sup>. The 59<sup>th</sup> won it in 1937 and 1938, while the 70<sup>th</sup> won it in 1935, 1936 and 1937 (coming second in 1937 and 1938). It's thought that the 70<sup>th</sup> might also have come second in 1934.

17. Ian Curtis may have been born abroad. He joined the troop in May 1937 and was promoted to S.P.L. of the Fox Patrol in September 1938, replacing Jim Crawford. In June 1938 he won a William Millar Scholarship as a pupil of Greenock Academy, and he was also good at sports. In 1939, he was a member of the 70<sup>th</sup> team that won the Victory Trophy. He resigned in October 1939 because he belonged to another youth organisation – possibly one of the pre-service cadet units.

18. Jim Buchanan was probably born in 1924 and was similar in age to Jim Crawford. His family may have recently returned from abroad when James joined the 70<sup>th</sup> in May 1937, and he might have been related to Ian Curtis. He was a member of the winning Victory Trophy team in 1939, and it seems highly likely that he won the novice swimming event in 1937. In October 1939, he was in the Woodpigeon Patrol and he gained his 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Badge in March 1940. He left the Troop in May 1940 since he was moving out of town. It is thought that he had an ironmongers shop in Dunblane after leaving school.

19. Ronald Reay MacKay was born in Broughty Ferry in 1924 and his father was the minister of St. Columba's Gaelic Church. Ronald lived at 39 Fox Street and attended Greenock Academy. There were four brothers in the family and this causes some confusion as each one was nicknamed 'Stourie' at one point or another. Ronald joined the troop in May 1937 and was a member of the team that won the Victory Trophy in 1939. He also won the novice race in 1938. He was in the Woodpigeon Patrol in October 1939 and he passed his Second Class

Badge in March 1940. He left the troop at some point during the summer of 1940, and served in the RAF during the war. After the war he was involved in agriculture and lived in Edinburgh.

20. John G. Menzies was probably born in 1925 and lived at 9 Newton Street, then 54 South Street. His father owned a dairy business. John was a pupil at Greenock Academy and performed well at the annual Sports Day.. Hw as a member of the 70<sup>th</sup> Wolf Cub pack and moved up to the Troop in September 1937. In 1939, he won the novices Cup at the Swimming Gala. In October 1939, he was in the Curlew Patrol, and was promoted to S.P.L. of the Patrol in September 1940. The following year he became P.L. of the Curlew Patrol, then in February 1942, he joined a patrol that had been formed for older scouts only. However, in March 1942, he was appointed P.L. of the reinstated Fox Patrol. Unfortunately, the Troop Log covering 1943 and beyond is missing and further details are sketchy. There is a possibility that he helped out with the running of the Troop during 1944 along with Robin McDougall. During the war, John was a volunteer on the Clyde River Patrol. After the war, he worked in the shipyards then moved to the USA where he managed a shipping company, then worked for Lockheed.

21. Eoin Steel lived at 39 Margaret Street and had four brothers and one daughter. The Steel family was a strong supporter of the early troop in a number of ways. Eoin, himself, may well have been one of the 'founder members' of the fledgling Troop, and probably had previous Scouting experience with another troop. He was a close friend of Alan Hardie, who played a key part in persuading Eoin to join the 70<sup>th</sup>. Since Alan had been in the 5<sup>th</sup> Scouts, this suggests that Eoin may also have been in the 5<sup>th</sup>. Eoin may well have been one of the first PLs to be appointed in the 70<sup>th</sup>. He remained PL of the Wolf Patrol then the Curlew Patrol until 1936, at which point he was appointed Troop Leader. During his time as a Scout, Eoin was a member of the 70<sup>th</sup> Patrol that won the Shannon Cup in 1935. He also led a patrol in the Country Flag of 1936, and was a member of the 70<sup>th</sup> team that won the Victory Trophy in the same year In September 1937, he resigned to join the Rovers, but returned to the troop as an A.S.M in early 1938. When Ian Dunlop resigned in November 1939, Eoin and Wilson Hill ran the troop until Eoin was called up in January 1940. Eoin served in the RAF as ground crew or administration. In 1954, he read a lesson at the church service marking the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the troop.

22. During the 1930s, there was an annual District Scout Parade led by pipe band(s), which marched from George Square to Pirrie Park for an outdoor service. It was called a Dru head service as the drums of the pipe band(s) were stacked up on the stage from which the service was conducted. Pirrie Park was the original name for the Rankin Park. It was named after William Pirrie, 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Pirrie, who was a director with Harland and Wolff Shipbuilders. The company used to have a yard in Greenock. Pirrie Park was renamed Rankin Park towards the end of the 1930s.



23. The Treasurer was Jim Crawford.

24. Nicol Smith was Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the 70<sup>th</sup>'s Football Committee (see minutes for 4<sup>th</sup> November 1938.) There is evidence of a clash of opinions between the Court of Honour and the rest of the Troop regarding the Football Shield during the 1930s, with the COH being less keen on participation (see also the minutes for 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 1936; 5<sup>th</sup> November 1937, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1937, 14<sup>th</sup> October 1938 and 4<sup>th</sup> November 1938). The vast majority of Scouts in the 70<sup>th</sup> attended Greenock Academy, where team sports focused on rugby and cricket. Having said that, the 70<sup>th</sup> participated in the District Football Competitions towards the end of the 1930s, and also during the 1950s and 1960s. Indeed, they actually proved very successful during the early 1950s.

25. The Badge Secretary was the District Badge Secretary, Mr. Colin Finnie, Senior. £0-2-7½<sup>D</sup> in 1939 had the equivalent value of about £11 today (2023).

26. Alan Hardie had recently resigned as A.S.M. on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 1939. He was Ian Hardie's younger brother, and was born in August 1919. He lived at 23 Union Street. Alan joined the 5<sup>th</sup> Renfrewshire Troop in 1930, then transferred to the 70<sup>th</sup> as one of its first members. Alan believed that he joined in 1932 and was promoted a year later to become PL of the Woodpigeon Patrol. It is quite possible that he was one of the first 70<sup>th</sup> PLs to be appointed as there may not have been any PL appointments during the first year of the troop's existence. In June 1935, Alan became Troop Leader and remained so until November 1936. During his time in the Scouts, Alan gained his King Scout's Badge, one of only three 70<sup>th</sup> Scouts to achieve this during the 1930s. He also attended most camps, and led the 70<sup>th</sup> Patrol that won the Shannon Cup in 1935. He was also an excellent swimmer and was a key member of the 70<sup>th</sup> swimming teams that dominated the Scout simming gala during the 1930s. Alan win the Scout Championship in 1935 and 1936, then the Rover Championship in 1937 and 1938. He also led the 70<sup>th</sup> team that won the Victory Trophy in 1935. In 1937, Alan became an A.S.M with the troop and by March 1939 was the longest serving member of the group at that point. Alan was also a member of the

territorial army's Royal Engineers and was among the first to be called up following the outbreak of war, serving in Norway, Iceland, Plymouth, North Africa, Italy and Austria until 1947. He became a civil engineer after the war and saw in the new millennium as the last surviving member of the initial 70th troop.

27. The Local Association referred to the District Scout Executive team of Scouters and Supporters.

28. See the minutes for the 4<sup>th</sup> June 1936 regarding training expenses for the Gala. The only indoor swimming pool available to the public during the 1930s was the Port Glasgow Pool. The West End Baths in Campbell Street was a private pool, and the only other pools were the outdoor pools in Gourrock and the Battery Park. Expenses were paid such that the swimming team could train up at the Port Glasgow Pool. Training expenses were also paid to the Victory Trophy team in 1937 and 1938. £0-7-6 in 1939 had the equivalent value to £32 in 2023.

29. The identity of Joe Riddock was not revealed in the minutes.

30. £3-1-6½ and £4-4-4 in 1939 had the equivalent value to £258 and £352 respectively in 2023.

31. The Cellar Committee was set up to investigate the feasibility of storing Troop camping equipment in the Church cellars (later to be called the dunny). See also the minutes for the 9<sup>th</sup> September 1938 (part 2) and 9<sup>th</sup> December (part 2) regarding the Church Cellar.

32. The United Kingdom declared war on Germany on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1939, about a month prior to this meeting. There were great concerns over the threat of German Bombers laying waste to British towns, especially in the light of what had been happening during the Spanish Civil War. Therefore, civil defence preparations had been made well in advance of the outbreak of war to try and minimise the threat. The blacking out of towns and cities meant that there would be no street lighting, and all properties had to ensure that any lights inside were not visible outside.

33. Ian Dunlop was called up to serve as a chaplain in the forces, not long after the declaration of war.

34. Donald H. Stewart was born in Inverary in 1899 and his father was minister of the UF church there. Donald followed his father into the ministry and was minister at Kelso before taking over Finnart Church in 1937. He remained as Finnart Church minister until 1968 and was a strong supporter of the Troop. During the war, he took over the role of Group Scout Master to relieve the young Wilson Hill of much of the administration and red tape involved in running a Scout Troop. He also made frequent visits at Troop meetings. When he retired he moved to Edinburgh.

35. The outbreak of war meant that many of the young men who were Scout Masters or Assistant Scout Masters were called up, resulting in a severe leadership problem for Scout Troops. The onus on leadership thus often landed on individuals who were in their late teens and too young to be officially recognised as Scouters. As far as the 70<sup>th</sup> was concerned, the onus of leading the troop now lay on Eoin Steel and Wilson Hill. The Rev. D.H. Stewart took over the role of G.S.M. to remove the added burden of troop administration, such that Eoin and Wilson could focus on running the troop programmes.

36. The collection of waste paper was carried out by Scout Troops throughout Britain. The 70<sup>th</sup> spent many hours collecting waste paper during the first year of the war, but it was not possible to sustain the level of commitment involved.

37. Sphagnum moss was collected from the Renfrewshire Moors during the war as a substitute for wound dressings. The moss contains an antiseptic which prevents the growth of micro-organisms, and it is also an absorbent. Although the 70<sup>th</sup> showed an initial interest in collecting moss to support the war, there is no evidence to indicate that they did so.

38. Indeed, a special civil defence badge was introduced for Scouts during the war years.

39. These books have survived. The minute book in question was used to cover October 1939 to September 1941, while the Troop Log Book was used to cover October 1939 to May 1943.

40. The Secretary was responsible for writing the minutes of the Court of Honour. In the early 1930s, A.S.M. Ian Hardie undertook the task, but by the late 1930s, an S.P.L or P.L. was appointed as Secretary.

41. Ian Dunlop signed off the minutes as being an accurate account of what had taken place.



13<sup>th</sup>, October, 1939.

Special Meeting

Finnart Church Hall.  
Greenock

6.20 – 6.35 p.m

Present:-	G.S.M.	A.I. Dunlop <sup>1</sup>
	A.S.M.	W. Hill <sup>2</sup>
	A.S.M.	E. Steel <sup>3</sup>
	T.L.	R.W. Leggett <sup>4</sup>
	P.L.	H.T.A. Hastie <sup>5</sup>
	P.L.	J. Crawford <sup>6</sup>
	P.L.	I.T. Munro <sup>7</sup>
	S.P.L.	A. McGregor <sup>8</sup>
	S.P.L.	J.N. Smith <sup>9</sup>
	S.P.L.	D. Woodward <sup>10</sup>
	Visitor	Rev. D.H. Stewart <sup>11</sup>

On behalf of the Court, G.S.M. Dunlop welcomed Rev. D.H. Stewart and introduced its members to him.

#### Special Meeting

it was announced that this was a special meeting of the Court called to consider some urgent business which had arisen since its last sitting. G.S.M. A.I. Dunlop was in the chair since the proper chairman T.L. Leggett had not arrived when the Court was constituted.<sup>12</sup>

#### Rearrangement of Patrols

The business arose from the promotion P.L. Leggett to T.L.<sup>13</sup> and the resignation of S.P.L. I. Curtiss<sup>14</sup> who belonged to another youth organisation<sup>15</sup> whose meeting night now unfortunately coincided with that of the Troop. It was obvious that the patrols would have to be re-arranged to fill the vacancies and it was decided that the number of patrols should be cut down from four to three<sup>16</sup>, the youngest patrol, the Fox, being dissolved<sup>17</sup> and its members distributed amongst the other three patrols.<sup>18</sup> T.L. R.W. Leggett thus became T.L. without patrol. The re-arrangement was therefore complete without any new members being brought into the Court. The patrols as now arranged are;-

	Curlew Patrol		Wolf Patrol		Woodpigeon Patrol <sup>19</sup>
P.L.	I.T. Munro	P.L.	H. Hastie	P.L.	J. Crawford
S.P.L.	J.N. Smith	S.P.L.	A. McGregor	S.P.L.	D. Woodward
and Scs.	M. McCreery <sup>20</sup>	and Scs.	A. Campbell <sup>21</sup>	and Scs.	R. McKay <sup>22</sup>
	J. Menzies <sup>23</sup>		A. Allan <sup>24</sup>		J. Buchanan <sup>25</sup>
	I Mitchell <sup>26</sup>		A. Macfadyen <sup>27</sup>		G. Brown <sup>28</sup>
	J. Tosh <sup>29</sup>		J. Davies <sup>30</sup>		H. Steel <sup>31</sup>
			G. Kinnell <sup>32</sup>		

#### New Recruits



G.S.M. Dunlop announced he would be pleased to consider applications from anyone wishing to join the Troop.

#### Waste paper left in A.S.M.'s Steel's hands

A.S.M. E. Steel said that he had offered to collect waste paper which Mr Taylor, the Rector of Greenock Academy had written the Local Association<sup>33</sup> about. After some little discussion, the matter was once more reverted to A.S.M. Steel's too capable hands.

This was all the business.

Signed; H.T.A. Hastie (Secy)<sup>33</sup>  
A. Ian Dunlop GSM<sup>34</sup>  
Chairman

#### *Editorial comments for 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939.*

1. See note 2 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Ian Dunlop.
2. See note 3 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Wilson Hill.
3. See note 21 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Eoin Steel.
4. See note 4 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Richard Leggett.
5. See note 6 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Harold Hastie.
6. See note 5 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Jim Crawford.
7. See note 7 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Ian Munro.
8. See note 9 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Alistair McGregor.
9. See note 10 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Nicol Smith.
10. See note 8 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Dennis Woodward.
11. See note 34 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding the Rev. Donald H. Stewart.
12. In other words, he was late in arriving.
13. Dick Leggett was actually promoted to Troop Leader at the end of April 1939 (see COH minutes for the 28<sup>th</sup> April 1939).
14. See note 17 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Ian Curtis.
15. It is likely that this was one of the cadet corps that sprung up about this time. The Royal Air Force Air Cadets were particular popular at the time and the belief was that anyone wishing to join the RAF was unlikely to be accepted unless they had been in the Air Cadets.
16. In fact, the number of Patrols fell from five to four. There was also an Owl Patrol, which was formed at the start of September 1938. It is believed that this Patrol was made up purely of older Scouts (see Court of Honour Minutes for 9<sup>th</sup> September 1938). It is possible that the name of the patrol reflected the members of the Patrol being 'wise owls'. The Patrol Leader in 1938 was Archie Brown, but the names of the other Scouts in the Patrol have not been identified. Possible members might have included Duncan McKenzie, and Victor Clark. The Owl Patrol remained unaffected by the changes made on the 13<sup>th</sup> October (see the entry for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 in the Troop Log.)
17. The Fox Patrol had only existed for about 2 years as it was formed in May 1937 (see the Court of Honour Minutes for the 28<sup>th</sup> May 1937.) It was decided to retain the names of the Patrols that had been in existence for the longest time.
18. In fact, the existing Fox Patrol under the leadership of Jim Crawford was renamed the Woodpigeon Patrol and it was the Scouts in the existing Woodpigeon Patrol that were distributed amongst the three remaining Patrols to even up the numbers (see the entry in the Troop Log for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939). Note that Dick Leggett had been P.L. of the existing Woodpigeon Patrol which is why this was the Patrol that was dissolved. The SPL of the existing Woodpigeon Patrol was Dennis Woodward and it is assumed that he joined the new Woodpigeon Patrol (the old Fox Patrol) as its S.P.L., replacing Ian Curtis who had resigned. Note also that there was an Owl Patrol that was unaffected by these changes (see note 16).
19. The former Fox Patrol
20. Harry Murray McCreery was born in 1925 and lived at 41 Finnart Street at the top of Patrick Street. Murray attended Greenock Academy and was in the 70<sup>th</sup>'s Wolf Cub Pack before joining the Troop in May 1937. It is believed he joined the Fox Patrol and was then transferred to the Curlew Patrol in November 1937. Murray left the troop at some point during 1940. After leaving school he worked for IBM.

21. Alexander Campbell (Wee Sandy) was born in 1924 and was in the troop from 1934 to 1939. His father was a marine engineer and he lived at 52 Fox Street. Sandy attended the summer camps held in 1935 and 1937, but was never promoted. He joined the British India Steam Navigation Company in 1940 as a cadet aged 16. However, his ship was torpedoed not long after he joined it. He survived the war and rose to become a Ship's Captain.
22. See note 19 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Ronald Reay MacKay.
23. See note 20 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding John G. Menzies.
24. Alistair Allan might have been born in 1924 if he was aged 11 when he joined in November 1935. He attended the 1936 Summer Camp and remained with the troop for 4 years without being promoted. In 1939, he was reported to be in the Wolf Patrol, but transferred to a Gourock Troop in the autumn of that year. This suggests that he might have lived in Gourock and transferred due to the difficulties in travelling to Troop meetings during the black out. He attended Greenock Academy and worked in the Gourock Ropeworks once he left school.
25. See note 18 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Jim Buchanan.
26. Ian Mitchell was in the same year at Greenock Academy as Jim Crawford, indicating that he was born in 1923 or 1924. He joined the 70<sup>th</sup> in December 1938 when he would have been aged about 14, transferring from another Scout Group. He joined the Fox Patrol, then moved to the Curlew Patrol. In September 1940, he was promoted directly from Scout to Patrol Leader of the Wolf Patrol, one of only three Scouts known to have been promoted to PL without being a Patrol Second (the others being Ian Munro in 1938, and Sandy Whiteford in the 1950s.). He resigned in September 1941, despite being offered the role of Troop Leader, and joined the Rovers. He was co-opted onto the Court of Honour and helped out at the Troop during 1942 and 1943. After the war, he became a railway engineer, then moved to Canada or the USA.
27. Alan McFadyen was nicknamed 'Red Arrow' when he was in the Troop. He was possibly born in 1924 and lived in Robertson Street. Alan was a pupil at Greenock Academy and joined the Troop in November 1936. He was placed in the Woodpigeon Patrol, but by 1939 he was in the Wolf Patrol. He resigned from the Troop in December 1939, but rejoined in October 1940, upon which he was promoted to be the Second of the Wolf Patrol. Apparently, Alan had a reputation of being a bit of a rough diamond and was involved in a spectacular argument at a Court of Honour meeting in December 1940. Nevertheless he was promoted to PL of the Woodpigeons in September 1941, and the following month he and Robin McDougall were in charge of the Church Parade to Finnart Church as no leaders were available.. In February 1942, he became PL of the Curlew Patrol, which was made up of older boys. He finally left the troop in May 1942. He was involved in the Civil Defence during the war, but it is not known what he did once he left the Troop.
28. George Brown was born in 1927 and lived at 25 Robertson Street, then 4 Academy Place. His family ran Brown's shipbuilding at Garvel Point. George joined the 70<sup>th</sup> Wolf Cubs, and might have been one of the Founder members when the Pack started in 1935. He moved up to the Scouts in May 1937 and was in the relatively new Fox patrol, before joining the Woodpigeon Patrol, where he became S.P.L. in September 1940. In June 1941, he was promoted to P.L. at the age of 14, and, in September 1941, he was made Troop Leader at the age of 15. George participated in most of the outdoor hikes and camps that took place during the time he was in the Scouts, and, once he was Troop Leader, he ran a number of camps at Everton. He remained Troop Leader until 1944, then volunteered for the RAF. He completed his basic training and completed a solo flight in a Tiger Moth. However, the war stopped finished at that point and that proved the end of his flying career. After the war, he ganed a degree in naval architecture, then moved to Montreal to work for Vickers. He then returned to Scotland as a shipyard manager before moving into management consultancy.
29. Jim Tosh was born in 1923 and lived at Fort Matilda Place. His father (Neil) owned a family Butcher's shop in Port Glasgow. Jim joined the troop in November 1935, and was reported to be in the Curlew Patrol in 1939. He resigned from the troop in December 1939 at the age of 16. During the war, he volunteered for the Clyde River Patrol, then joined the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders before transferring to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, serving in Kenya for a while. He attended veterinary College, but eventually took over the family business, by which time he lived in Jardine Terrace.
30. Jack Davis (or Davies) was probably born in 1927 and was in the same class at Greenock Academy as George Brown. Jack's father was Headmaster at Glebe School, and the family lived at Sentose, Cloch Road, Gourock. Jack joined the Troop in December 1938 and was a member of the Woodpigeon Patrol. In October 1939, he moved to the Wolf Patrol. However, he transferred to a Gourock Troop in December 1939. This might have been due to the introduction of the black out making it difficult to get from Gourock to Finnart Church and back. After the war. Jack worked as an accountant with Shell in the Pacific area.
31. Hamish Steel was born in 1924 and was one of Eoin Steel's younger brothers. He joined the troop in January 1936 and attended the Troop's Summer Camps of 1936 and 1937. By October 1939, he was in the Woodpigeon

Patrol, but left the troop in the following month. It is thought that he might have served in the navy during the war. After the war he went to university but suffered from depression. Sadly, he committed suicide in 1948, aged 23.

32. George Kinnell was born in 1925 and probably lived at 6 Brachelston Street. His family owned a dairy. George was a pupil at Greenock Academy and joined the troop in November 1936, to be placed in the Woodpigeon Patrol. He attended the summer camp of 1937 and by 1939 he was in the Wolf Patrol. The following year he was in the Curlew Patrol. It is not known when he left the troop but it is known that he joined the Merchant Navy as a cadet on the S.S. Denpark from 1941-42. Sadly, the ship was torpedoed in May 1942 and George was not amongst the survivors. He died at the age of 17 and his name used to be on the Roll of Honour at Greenock Academy.

33. The Local Association referred to the District Scout Executive team of Scouters and Supporters. See also the minutes for the 1<sup>st</sup> December 1939 regarding the collection of the school's waste paper.

34. The Secretary was responsible for writing the minutes of the Court of Honour.

35. Ian Dunlop signed off the minutes as being an accurate account of what had taken place.

3<sup>rd</sup> November, 1939.

Annual General Meeting

Finnart Church Hall.  
Madeira St.

8.10 – 8.50 p.m

Present:-	G.S.M.	A.I. Dunlop <sup>1</sup>
	A.S.M.	E. Steel <sup>2</sup>
	A.S.M.	W. Hill <sup>3</sup>
	T.L.	R.W. Leggett <sup>4</sup>
	P.L.	J. Crawford <sup>5</sup>
	P.L.	H.T.A. Hastie <sup>6</sup>
	P.L.	I.T. Munro <sup>7</sup>
	S.P.L.	A. McGregor <sup>8</sup>
	S.P.L.	D. Woodward <sup>9</sup>
	S.P.L.	J.N. Smith <sup>10</sup>

It was announced by G.S.M. A.I. Dunlop from the chair that this was the Annual General Meeting of the Court.

The minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the two previous meetings were read and formally adopted on the motion of S.P.L. Smith, seconded P.L. Munro.

Objection by member.

A slight disturbance by P.L. Munro was quelled and his objection, viz, that his name should not always end the list of P.L.'s was overruled.

Black-out.<sup>11</sup>

As matter arising from previous minutes, it was announced that the hall had been blacked out by a Greenock firm at the expense of the Church and also that meetings were now timed to start at 6.30 p.m. since 6 o'clock proved too early for many members.<sup>12</sup>

New books.

It was announced that new log and minute books had been purchased and were now in use.<sup>13</sup>

Sugar Bags.<sup>14</sup>

G.S.M. Dunlop said that A.S.M. Hill had succeeded in his endeavours to obtain sugar bags and that approximately twelve were now in the Cellar<sup>15</sup>.

Waste Paper<sup>16</sup>

The matter of waste paper collecting at Greenock Academy, which the Court at its last session left to A.S.M. Steel<sup>17</sup>, was reverted to the capable hands of T.L. Leggett.

S.M.'s Report.<sup>18</sup>

The S.M.'s Report written by A.S.M. Hill was then read by G.S.M. Dunlop. It announced that two new recruits, namely, Neil McDougall<sup>19</sup> and his brother Robin McDougall<sup>20</sup>, who had obtained a transfer from the 23rd troop<sup>21</sup>, had been received. A gentleman, Mr. Mills<sup>22</sup>, had been procured by a member of the troop<sup>23</sup> to teach Ambulance<sup>24</sup>, the report stated, and he delivered his first lecture at a troop meeting on 27th October, 1939.

Letters to Absentees.

It was decided letters should be sent to Scs.<sup>25</sup> Tosh<sup>26</sup>, Mackenzie<sup>27</sup>, MacFadyen<sup>28</sup> and Davies<sup>29</sup> to ascertain whether they intended to remain members of the Troop or not. These

letters were addressed to members of the Troop who had not attended meetings for some time.

Treasurer's Annual Report.<sup>30</sup>

The Treasurer's Annual Report was read by G.S.M. Dunlop. It had already been audited and, if passed by the Court, would go forward to Headquarters<sup>31</sup> to be finally audited and ratified as is done annually. It announced a balance of four pounds, 4 shillings and four pence (£4-4-4) at the end of the Scout Year<sup>32</sup>. Amongst the list of incomes were five pounds (£5)<sup>33</sup> received in annual subscriptions and two pence (2d) received per S.P.L. Smith from the Football Committee.<sup>34</sup> A loss of three shillings and threepence (3/3) was realised on the year.

Payments Authorised.

A payment of two shillings (2/-) for the new Minute Book was authorised, also two shillings and sixpence (2/6) return of Badge deposit<sup>35</sup> to G.S.M. I. Dunlop.

Rover accounts transferred.

It was decided to take over the entire financial resources of the Group Rovers, four shillings (4/-) and make a grant of five shillings and sixpence to wipe out their debts.<sup>36</sup>

Stove sold to G.S.M.

The G.S.M. A.I. Dunlop asked if he might buy one of the Troop's Primus Stoves.<sup>37</sup> The Court fixed the price of the stove at six shillings (6/-), its original price being 11 shillings (11/-).

G.S.M. Dunlop accepted this price and bought the stove.

Cellar Committee.<sup>38</sup>

The Cellar Committee gave its first report of actual activity. They said that a builder had visited the premises and given his advice and that the necessary repairs would be carried out by members of the Group. They also stated that they had removed all the rubbish from the cellar.

Collection of Waste Paper.<sup>16</sup>

It was announced that a quantity of waste paper had been collected by the two new members<sup>39</sup> of the troop and several members of the court loudly deplored the fact that these two members, less than a week in the troop, had had to go alone for the paper when some other members or members of the troop could have accompanied them.

G.S.M. Dunlop 's Resignation.

G.S.M. A.I. Dunlop then said that he was compelled to resign, much against his desire, as he had been posted Lochgilphead<sup>40</sup>. He added that he was very sorry to disconnect himself from troop after his long and happy association with it. He exhorted the Court to continue working hard for the Troop and to be careful to keep their records up to date. He announced the Rev. D.H. Stewart<sup>41</sup> would become G.S.M. with A.S.M.'s Steel and Hill to assist. The position of S.M. would remain vacant<sup>18</sup> until a suitable candidate was found. He concluded by wishing the troop all of the best.

Vote of Thanks.

A.S.M. E. Steel moved a sincere vote of thanks to G.S.M. Dunlop for his devoted work for the Troop, which was accorded. A.S.M. Steel said it was with the greatest reluctance that the court accepted G.S.M. A.I. Dunlop 's resignation.

Election of Office-bearers.

The Chairman, G.S.M. Dunlop, announced that the Court would now elect office-bearers for the coming year.

A.S.M. E. Steel was unanimously elected Chairman of the Court.

P.L. H. Hastie was unanimously re-elected Secretary of the Court.

P.L. J. Crawford was unanimously re-elected Treasurer of the Court.

S.P.L. D. Woodward was elected Warden of Troop Property on the motion of P.L. Hastie, seconded A.S.M. Steel.

A.S.M. W. Hill was elected unanimously on the suggestion of G.S.M. Dunlop to a new office, namely, Group Secretary.

It was decided to hold if possible a party in traditional style at Christmas. The Court left arrangements in the hands of A.S.M.s Steel and Hill whose mothers, it hoped, would again contribute to the eating side with some splendid specimens of their delightful cooking.<sup>42</sup>

In answer to a question from the Secretary, the Chairman announced that it was now quite definite that Sc. H. Steel<sup>43</sup> had left the Troop.

As this was all the business, the Court was dissolved.

H.T.A. Hastie (Secy)<sup>44</sup>  
E.S Steel<sup>45</sup>  
Chairman

*Editorial comments for 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1939.*

1. See note 2 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Ian Dunlop.
2. See note 21 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Eoin Steel.
3. See note 3 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Wilson Hill.
4. See note 4 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Richard Leggett.
5. See note 5 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Jim Crawford.
6. See note 6 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Harold Hastie.
7. See note 7 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Ian Munro.
8. See note 9 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Alistair McGregor.
9. See note 8 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Dennis Woodward.
10. See note 10 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Nicol Smith.
11. See note 32 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October regarding the Black-out.
12. See also the Minutes for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 and 1<sup>st</sup> December 1939 regarding the start time for the Troop Meeting.
13. The new Court of Honour Minutes Book eventually covered the period October 1939 to September 1941, while the new Troop log book eventually covered the period from October 1939 till May 1943. Both log books have survived.
14. See also the minutes for the 6<sup>th</sup> October regarding the use of sugar bags as tent bags.
15. The cellar referred to was the cellar under Finnart Church, which was to be used to store troop equipment. See also the COH minutes for 9<sup>th</sup> September 1938, part 2 and 9<sup>th</sup> December (part 2).
16. See also the minutes for 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding the collection of waste paper.
17. See the minutes for 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding the collection of waste paper from Greenock Academy.
18. Scout Master's Report. At this stage, there was no official Scout Master in position. Wilson Hill may have written the report but that does not necessarily mean that he was the de facto Scout Master.
19. Neil (or Neill) McDougall was born in June 1923 and attended Greenock Academy. He joined the 70<sup>th</sup> in October 1939 at the same time as his younger brother Robin, but had no previous Scouting experience. He gained his Tenderfoot Badge in October 1939 and his 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Badge in May 1940. By November 1940, he was in the Wolf Patrol. He resigned from the Troop to join the Rovers, probably during 1941, and helped out with the Troop until at least February 1942. It is not known when he resigned from the Group. He studied medicine at Glasgow University during the war, then did National Service in the RAMC in the Canal Zone and Greece. He then became a General Practitioner in Glasgow.
20. Robin McDougall was born in May 1926 and lived at 25 Denholm Terrace when he was in the Scouts. Robin was a pupil at Greenock Academy and a close friend of George Brown. He initially joined the 23<sup>rd</sup> Sea Scouts, but transferred to the 70<sup>th</sup> in October 1939 at the same time as his brother Neil. By November 1940, he was in the Woodpigeon Patrol, and by May 1940, he had gained his 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Badge. He was promoted to S.P.L of the

Woodpigeon Patrol in June 1941, then, three months later, he was promoted to PL of the Wolf Patrol. During November 1941, he and the other PLs ran the Troop as Wilson Hill was ill. In February 1942, Robin took over the Woodpigeon Patrol. Robin resigned as PL at some point during 1943, but remained with the Troop as an ASM until at least April 1945. During 1945, Robin joined the army, but the war ended before he finished training. After the war he served in the Black Watch in India and eventually left the forces in 1948. He then studied medicine and became a GP.

21. The 23<sup>rd</sup> was a Sea Scout Troop, but, according to Robin McDougall, were not that active in terms of water activities. Not much else is known about the Troop.

22. No information on Mr. Mills had been discovered. He might have been a member of one of the First Aid organisations.

23. It is not known who contacted Mr. Mills.

24. The term 'Ambulance' at this time essentially meant First Aid skills and a knowledge of what to do in a variety of emergencies or incidents.

25. Scouts

26. See Note 29 for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Jim Tosh.

27. It is believed that Duncan McKenzie was born in 1923 and was the son of a pawnbroker and auctioneer. The family lived at Janefield, High Inverkip Road. Duncan was a pupil of Greenock Academy and attended the 70<sup>th</sup>'s summer camp in 1937. He also won the G.S.M.s Cup in May 1939, at which point he was in the Woodpigeon Patrol. He briefly left the troop in the autumn of 1939, but returned to win the G.S.M.s Cup again in 1940. He finally resigned in October 1940 and went on to own a jeweller's shop.

28. See Note 27 for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Alan MacFadyen.

29. See Note 30 for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Jack Davies.

30. The Treasurer was Jim Crawford.

31. It is not made clear whether this referred to District Scout Headquarters, Scottish Scout Headquarters or UK Scout Headquarters.

32. £4-4-4 in 1939 was equivalent in value to £352 in 2023.

33. £5 in 1939 was equivalent in value to £418 in 2023.

34. See COH entry for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding the 70<sup>th</sup>'s Football Committee.

35. It is not known what the badge deposit related to.

36. The fact that financial resources existed for the Group's Rovers suggests that it had an active programme during the 1930s. Unfortunately, no records of any Rover activities have survived. The fact that these funds were taken over and outstanding debts were to be paid off suggest that the Rover Crew was ceasing as an active section. This may well have been a result of 70<sup>th</sup> Rovers being called up to the forces. Nevertheless, it is likely that several people (such as Ian Dunlop) remained registered as 70<sup>th</sup> Rovers in order to maintain a link with the group.

37. The Troop purchased two Primus stoves in 1935 (see the COH Minutes for 11<sup>th</sup> January 1935).

38. The Cellar Committee was set up to investigate the feasibility of storing Troop camping equipment in the Church cellars (later to be called the dunny). See also the minutes for the 9<sup>th</sup> September 1938 (part 2) and 9<sup>th</sup> December (part 2) regarding the Church Cellar.

39. Neil McDougall and Robin McDougall.

40. It is believed that Ian Dunlop was called up to serve as an army chaplain.

41. See note 34 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding the Rev. Donald H. Stewart.

42. This suggests that the Christmas Party planned at the end of 1938 in the Headquarters Hut in Robertson Street did indeed take place, with Mrs. Steel and Mrs. Hill providing delicacies. See the COH Minutes for the 9<sup>th</sup> December 1938 (part 1).

43. See note 31 for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Hamish Steel.

44. The Secretary was responsible for writing the minutes of the Court of Honour.

45. Eoin Steel signed off the minutes as being an accurate account of what had taken place.

1<sup>st</sup> December, 1939.

Finnart Church Hall.  
Madeira St.

8.05 – 9.10 p.m.

Present:-	A.S.M.	E. Steel <sup>1</sup>
	A.S.M.	W. Hill <sup>2</sup>
	T.L.	R. Leggett <sup>3</sup>
	P.L.	J. Crawford <sup>4</sup>
	P.L.	H. Hastie <sup>5</sup>
	P.L.	I. Munro <sup>6</sup>
	S.P.L.	A. McGregor <sup>7</sup>
	S.P.L.	D. Woodward <sup>8</sup>
	S.P.L.	J. Smith <sup>9</sup>

Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and formally adopted on the motion of P.L. Munro, seconded S.P.L. Smith.

Time for start of troop meetings changed.

A.S.M. Hill then proposed that the time at which Troop meetings were scheduled to start should be changed from six-thirty to six-forty five. He was seconded by P.L. Crawford.

P.L. Munro moved an amendment that the time at which Troop meetings were scheduled to start should remain at six-thirty. The amendment was seconded by S.P.L. Smith.

A division was taken and the proposal was carried by five votes to three.<sup>10</sup>

Resignations.

In connection with the letters sent to certain members of the troop<sup>11</sup>, it was announced that Scouts A. MacFadyen<sup>12</sup>, J. Tosh<sup>13</sup> and D. Mackenzie<sup>14</sup> had resigned and that Scs. A. Allan<sup>15</sup> and J. Davies<sup>16</sup> had been given transfers to other troops.<sup>17</sup>

G.S.M. A.I. Dunlop's<sup>18</sup> Resignation.

The Secretary then announced that he had before him G.S.M.'s A.I. Dunlop 's formal resignation which he intended read through. It is appended herewith.

96 Eldon St,  
Greenock.  
3rd November 1939

H.T.A. Hastie,  
Secretary of Court of Honour,  
70th Renf. Scout Troop

Dear Harold,

Will you please convey to the Court, notification of my resignation from the post of G.S.M. in 70th Renf. Troop? This I must do, in view of the fact that I have been appointed to duty in Lochgilphead, Argyll. I resign with great regret from this office which I have held since 1935, for, since I came to the Group in 1934 as A.S.M. I have become a close friend of many Scouts. Together, we have learned many things, and all the Camps and meetings which we have had together, I shall always remember wherever I may be.

Good wishes to all.



Your sincerely,  
Ian Dunlop.

Presentations to G.S.M. Dunlop.

It was stated the fund for a presentation to G.S.M. Dunlop was still not very high and various methods of increasing it were discussed.<sup>19</sup>

Waste paper at Academy.<sup>20</sup>

It was announced that the waste-paper at Greenock Academy had been collected by five members<sup>21</sup> of the Court.

The S.M.'s Report.<sup>22</sup>

The S.M.'s report was adopted without being read.

Treasurer's<sup>23</sup> Report

The Treasurer's report was read and adopted. It announced an expenditure for the month of November of £ - - and a balance of £ - -. <sup>24</sup>

New Recruit.

It was decided to accept the application of Ronald Herbert<sup>25</sup> to become a member of the Troop.

Cellar renovated.

The Cellar Committee<sup>26</sup> announced that the cellar had been renovated. By that statement, the Committee dissolved itself.

Stove Damaged.

It was announced that a complaint had been received to the effect that the stove in the cellar adjacent to the one in which waste paper is stored had been slightly damaged. A warning was given to the Court by A.S.M. Steel in connection with this.

Christmas Feast.<sup>27</sup>

It was decided to hold the Christmas feast on 15th December at 7 o'clock. The purveying will be done by a local Baker and paid for out of Troop funds. The Court will do all the skivvy work and the whole affair will be thoroughly informal. A short cinematograph show will be given and the Secretary was instructed to write the Rev. D.H. Stewart<sup>28</sup> and request the loan of a film of the Troop's camp at St. Catherines which was in his possession.<sup>29</sup>

Trek Cart for Troop.

It was announced that a Trek Cart<sup>30</sup> had been purchased for the Troop and was now in transit. The money to buy this cart had been raised primarily through the efforts of A.S.M. Hill's father<sup>31</sup> and a list of subscribers<sup>32</sup> is shown opposite (*below*).

Donations for Trek Cart

	£	S	D
Mr R.A. Alston	2	- 0	- 0
Mr M. Hill	2	- 0	- 0
Mr R.D. Cairns	1	- 0	- 0
Mr W. Steel	1	- 0	- 0
Mr M. Lang	1	- 0	- 0
Mr A.S.	1	- 0	- 0
Mr W.A. Hill	1	- 0	- 0
Mr David Paterson	1	- 0	- 0
Miss Henderson	1	- 0	- 0
Miss McDougall	0	- 10	- 0

Mrs Daniels

	0	-	2	-	6
Total	<u>12</u>	-	<u>12</u>	-	<u>6</u>

Amount required was £12 - 10.<sup>33</sup>

### Rearrangement of Patrols.

The Court decided that the Patrols required re-arrangement<sup>34</sup> and this was entrusted to A.S.M.'s Hill<sup>2</sup> and Steel<sup>1</sup>.

### Troop Management and Camp Fires

A lengthy discussion on troop management followed and it was emphasised that this rested now more than ever on the shoulders of the Patrol Leaders. The revival of Camp-Fires was encouraged. It was urged these should be run not on competitive but co-operative lines.

This was all the competent business.

Signed H.T.A. Hastie<sup>5</sup>  
Secretary  
W. Hill<sup>2</sup> acting chairman

### *Editorial comments for 1<sup>st</sup> December 1939.*

1. See note 21 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Eoin Steel.
2. See note 3 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Wilson Hill.
3. See note 4 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Richard Leggett.
4. See note 5 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Jim Crawford.
5. See note 6 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Harold Hastie.
6. See note 7 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Ian Munro.
7. See note 9 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Alistair McGregor.
8. See note 8 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Dennis Woodward.
9. See note 10 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Nicol Smith.
10. Presumably, the original proposal was adopted rather than the amendment. It had previously been decided to start Troop Meetings at 6 p.m. to save electricity and to make the most of the available daylight (see COH minutes for 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939). However, this soon proved impractical and the time was changed to 6.30 pm (see COH minutes for 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1939). Clearly, that was proving impractical as well.
11. See the minutes for the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1939.
12. See Note 27 for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Alan MacFadyen.
13. See Note 29 for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Jim Tosh.
14. See Note 27 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1939 regarding Duncan McKenzie.
15. See Note 24 for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Alistair Allan.
16. See Note 30 for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Jack Davies.
17. It is believed that both Scouts transferred to the 6<sup>th</sup> Renfrewshire (1<sup>st</sup> Gourock) Scouts who probably met at the Cardwell Bay Mission Hall in 1939. This would have been closer to where both Scouts lived in Gourock, and would have meant less distance to travel in the Black Out.
18. See note 2 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Ian Dunlop.
19. Ian Dunlop's resignation coincided with a sharp drop in Troop Membership which would have played a major part in the level of donations made towards the presentation. A book token to the value of 1 guinea was eventually sent to him (See COH minutes for 12<sup>th</sup> January 1940).
20. See the minutes for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding waste paper at Greenock Academy.
21. Identities unknown.
22. Scout Master's Report. At this stage, there was no official Scout Master in position. Eoin Steel may have taken on the role of de facto Scout Master.

23. *The Treasurer was Jim Crawford.*
24. *Spaces were left for the amounts to be added. However, the figures were never defined.*
25. *Ronald Herbert was born in 1927 and was big for his age. He stayed at Inverkip or Wemyss Bay and his father ran the Greenock Motor Services buses. Ronald joined the Troop on the 17th November 1939 at a time when the troop was experiencing a drastic drop in numbers. He was invested in May 1940, and by November 1940, he was in the Curlew Patrol. In September 1941, he was promoted to S.P.L. of the Wolf Patrol, then returned to the Curlew Patrol in February 1942. It is not known when he left the Troop or what he did on leaving school.*
26. *This Committee was originally set up to convert the Church cellar such that it could be used for the storage of troop equipment. During the war, the cellar was used to store waste paper collected from around the West End of Greenock. See also the COH minutes for 9<sup>th</sup> September 1938, part 2 and 9<sup>th</sup> December (part 2).*
27. *This topic had previously been raised at the COH for the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1939. At that meeting, it was anticipated that Mrs. Steel and Mrs. Wilson would provide the 'cooking', but it appears that a local bakery was used instead.*
28. *See note 34 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding the Rev. Donald H. Stewart.*
29. *The Summer Camp at St. Catherine's Loch Fyne took place during the summer of 1935 and was attended by the Rev. A.R.R. Reid, who took films at the camp (see troop log entry for the 15<sup>th</sup> December 1939). It is believed that the Rev. Stewart may have contacted the Rev Reid in order to borrow the films for show at the Christmas feast.*
30. *This is the first mention of the 70<sup>th</sup>'s trek cart. Presumably, it was originally purchased in order to assist in the collection of waste paper. It continued to be used over the next 30 years until the late 1960s for a variety of purposes such as transporting tents and heavy equipment to camp, collecting firewood at camp, and collecting jumble from houses in the local neighbourhood for jumble sales. See also the entry for the troop log Minutes for the 24<sup>th</sup> November 1939.*
31. *Wilson Hill's father was Mr. Matthew Hill. Mr. Hill was a grain merchant who ran his own firm (J & J Denholm) and did a lot to support the Troop. Mr. Hill owned a car, which was relatively rare at the time, and he used to help transport Scouts and equipment to hikes and camps.*
32. *Not much information has been obtained about the subscribers, other than that Matthew Hill (Wilson Hill's father) and William Steel (Eoin Steel's father) both contributed. Note that £1 in 1939 had the equivalent value of £84 today (as of 2023).*
33. *£12.10 in 1939 had the equivalent value of £1045 today (2023).*
34. *No detailed information regarding the rearrangement of Patrols has been found.*

12th January, 1940.

Finnart Church Hall.  
Madeira St.

9.05 – 10.10 p.m

Present:-	A.S.M.	W. Hill <sup>1</sup>
	T.L.	R. Leggett <sup>2</sup>
	P.L.	J. Crawford <sup>3</sup>
	P.L.	H. Hastie <sup>4</sup>
	P.L.	I. Munro <sup>5</sup>
	S.P.L.	A. McGregor <sup>6</sup>
	S.P.L.	D. Woodward <sup>7</sup>
	S.P.L.	J. Smith <sup>8</sup>

In the absence of A.S.M. E. Steel<sup>9</sup>, A.S.M. Hill was in the chair.

#### Minutes of previous Meetings

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and formally adopted on the proposal of S.P.L. Smith, seconded by P.L. Munro.

#### Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's<sup>10</sup> report gave a balance of £3-11<sup>11</sup> and stated that there was no expenditure for December.

#### S.M.'s Report<sup>12</sup>

The S.M.'s report stated that the Trek cart<sup>13</sup> had arrived and had been shown to the subscribers.<sup>14</sup>

#### G.S.M.'s Presentation

A lengthy discussion was held on what the presentation to former G.S.M. A.I. Dunlop<sup>15</sup> should be. It was decided to send a book token to the value of 1 guinea<sup>16</sup> and the Secretary<sup>17</sup> was instructed to write a suitable letter.

#### Interruptions.

At this moment, Sc. N. MacDougall<sup>18</sup> burst noisily into the Courtroom for the third or fourth time and the Court registered disapproval at these frequent interruptions.

#### Garage for trek cart<sup>13</sup>

it was announced that permission had been received to house the trek cart under cover in Scott's garages adjacent to the hall.<sup>19</sup>

#### Discussion.

A lengthy and long loud discussion was held on Patrol work.<sup>20</sup>

#### Waste Paper.<sup>21</sup>

Definite arrangements were reached about waste-paper and each of the patrol-leaders was allotted at district to finish up by the end of the next week.

#### Notice of Motion.

The Secretary<sup>17</sup> then gave notice of a motion to alter the Constitution<sup>22</sup>, the text of which is given opposite (*below*).

I hereby give notice, that I will bring before the Court of Honour in three months time the following motion, an emendation to article 9 of the Constitution – That the words court “an”

followed by the letters "A.S.M." and a comma be inserted between the words "which" and "the" thus making the article read:-

"A quorum shall consist of 5 members of which an A.S.M., the S.M. or G.S.M. must be one."

H.T.A. Hastie  
12/1/40

This was all the competent business.

P.L. H.T.A. Hastie. Secy.  
Wilson Hill Chairman

**Editorial comments for 12<sup>th</sup> January 1940.**

1. See note 3 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Wilson Hill.
2. See note 4 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Richard Leggett.
3. See note 5 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Jim Crawford.
4. See note 6 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Harold Hastie.
5. See note 7 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Ian Munro.
6. See note 9 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Alistair McGregor.
7. See note 8 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Dennis Woodward.
8. See note 10 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Nicol Smith.
9. See note 21 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Eoin Steel.
10. The Treasurer was Jim Crawford.
11. £3-11-0 in 1940 was equivalent in value to £254 in 2023.
12. Scout Master's Report. At this stage, there was no official Scout Master in position. Eoin Steel may have taken on the role of de facto Scout Master as he was the more senior A.S.M.
13. The trek cart was possibly purchased in order to assist in the collection of waste paper. It continued to be used over the next 30 years until the late 1960s for a variety of purposes such as transporting tents and heavy equipment to camp, collecting firewood at camp, and collecting jumble from houses in the local neighbourhood for jumble sales. See also the entries in the troop log for 24<sup>th</sup> November and 15<sup>th</sup> December 1939.
14. The subscribers were probably all members of Finnart Church. There were 11 subscribers in total, donating a total sum of £12-12-6 towards the purchase of the trek cart. This had the equivalent value in 1939 of £1056 today (2023). See also the COH minutes for the 1<sup>st</sup> December 1939.
15. See note 2 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Ian Dunlop.
16. £1-1-0 (1 guinea) in 1940 was equivalent in value to £88 today (2023).
17. The Secretary for the Court of Honour was Harold Hastie.
18. See Note 19 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1939 regarding Neil McDougall.
19. It is assumed that the garages in question were the property of the shipyard owner Mr. R.L. Scott who owned the large mansion Balclutha on the opposite side of Madeira Street from Finnart Church. The mansion was demolished in the 1950s
20. This was probably about Scout training carried out at 'Patrol in Corners' during Troop meetings.
21. See also the minutes for 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding the collection of waste paper.
22. This referred to the Constitution of the Court of Honour (see the COH minutes for 8<sup>th</sup> November 1935). The original constitution stated that a quorum of 5 members needed to be present, one of which had to be the Scout Master or Group Scout Master. However, this was not now possible following the resignations of S.M. Ian Hardie and G.S.M. Ian Dunlop. Therefore, the constitution had to be altered such that meetings were valid in the presence of an A.S.M.

23<sup>rd</sup> February, 1940.

Finnart Church Hall

8.55 – 9.30 p.m

Present:-	A.S.M.	W. Hill <sup>1</sup>
	P.L.	J. Crawford <sup>2</sup>
	P.L.	H. Hastie <sup>3</sup>
	P.L.	I. Munro <sup>4</sup>
	S.P.L.	A. McGregor <sup>5</sup>
	S.P.L.	D. Woodward <sup>6</sup>
	S.P.L.	N. Smith <sup>7</sup>

#### Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted on the motion of P.L. I. Munro, seconded S.P.L. N. Smith.

#### Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer<sup>8</sup> had no report to make as no pecuniary transactions had been carried out in ~~the past month~~ since his last report.

#### Wastepaper<sup>9</sup>

The acting-chairman A.S.M. W. Hill announced that from now on, paper would only be collected by request. The reason for this was, he said, that the Troop had been requested by the Church authorities to remove the wastepaper from the cellar<sup>10</sup>, which the Troop recently restored<sup>11</sup>, thus depriving the Troop of its only storage place.<sup>12</sup>

#### G.S.M.'s Cup.<sup>13</sup>

The Court agreed that it was time for the G.S.M.'s Cup to be recovered from ex Sc. D. Mackenzie.<sup>14</sup>

#### Gala.<sup>15</sup>

In reply to a question, A.S.M. W. Hill said that despite difficult circumstances and small membership<sup>16</sup>, the Troop would enter for the Scout Gala as usual<sup>17, 18</sup>. The Court approved this answer.

This was all the competent business.

signed H.T.A. Hastie. Secy.  
Wilson Hill Chairman

#### ***Editorial comments for 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1940.***

1. See note 3 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Wilson Hill.
2. See note 5 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Jim Crawford.
3. See note 6 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Harold Hastie.
4. See note 7 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Ian Munro.
5. See note 9 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Alistair McGregor.
6. See note 8 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Dennis Woodward.
7. See note 10 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Nicol Smith.
8. The Treasurer was Jim Crawford.
9. See also the minutes for 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding the collection of waste paper.
10. It is believed that this may have been inspired by complaints from the congregation about a disagreeable odour permeating the church as a result of the paper stored in the cellar.
11. The Scouts had initially obtained permission to convert the Church cellar such that it could be used for the storage of troop equipment. During the war, it was also used to store waste paper collected from around the West End of Greenock. See also the COH minutes for 9<sup>th</sup> September 1938, part 2 and 9<sup>th</sup> December (part 2).
12. The Troop could still store camping equipment in the Church cellar (see the entry in the Troop Log for 6<sup>th</sup> January 1940.)

13. See the Minutes for the 12<sup>th</sup> February 1937 regarding the G.S.M.'s Cup.
14. See Note 27 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1939 regarding Duncan McKenzie.
15. See note 15 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding the annual Scout Swimming Gala.
16. The difficulties faced by the Troop at this point were substantial. As a result of the outbreak of war, a large number of young men were being called up into the forces, which resulted in most Scout Groups losing experienced leaders. For example, by this point, the 19-year old Wilson Hill was the only warranted leader remaining and he was faced with running the 70th on his own. Moreover, the introduction of the blackout made travel to and from Troop meetings difficult, and several 70<sup>th</sup> Scouts had transferred to troops that were closer to where they stayed, especially those who stayed in Gourrock. There was also a substantial disruption to Troop programmes and activities that may have led to a drop in numbers. During the early months of the war, there was an understandable desire within Scout Troops to do something positive for the war effort. This led to a substantial focus on the collecting of waste paper from local houses and businesses. This was commendable, but it meant that Scouting during these early months must have felt like all work and no play.
17. One might have expected Wilson Hill to be rather pessimistic regarding the 70<sup>th</sup>'s future, especially considering the low attendance and disruption to troop meetings that had been experienced in the month leading up to this Court of Honour Meeting (see the Troop Log Book for January and February 1940). On the contrary, Wilson Hill's reply here seems to indicate a determination to continue come what may and this, almost certainly, was crucial in the 70<sup>th</sup> weathering the difficulties experienced during the first year of the war. This Court of Honour Meeting was probably crucial to the 70<sup>th</sup>'s survival. Any sign of pessimism from Wilson could well have led to suggestions that the Troop either suspend activities for a while or amalgamate with another troop. That might then have led to the 70<sup>th</sup> winding up for good.
18. There was another reason why Wilson and the rest of the Court felt strongly that they should still enter the Gala. Throughout the 1930s, the 70<sup>th</sup> had performed exceptionally well. Indeed, during the most recent Gala in 1939, they had won the Victory Trophy, Novice Cup and Rover Cup (see COH Minutes for 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939). Unfortunately, it is not known whether the Swimming Gala took place in 1940 or not.

8<sup>th</sup> March, 1940.

Finnart Church Hall.  
Madeira St.

**Special Meeting**  
8.55 – 9.30 p.m

Present:-	A.S.M.	W. Hill <sup>1</sup>
	P.L.	J. Crawford <sup>2</sup>
	P.L.	H. Hastie <sup>3</sup>
	P.L.	I. Munro <sup>4</sup>
	S.P.L.	N. Smith <sup>5</sup>

A.S.M. W. Hill summoned the meeting and took the chair.

A.S.M. Hill stated his reason for calling the meeting. It was that ex. Sc. D. Mackenzie<sup>6</sup>, who had been removed from the Troop roll, had turned *up* at the troop meeting that night in full uniform. He asked the Court for advice on what course he should pursue. In answers to questions, it was revealed that as a member of the Troop, D. Mackenzie had put in few appearances. At last, when he had not put in an appearance for many weeks, a letter was dispatched to him last year by order of the Court<sup>6</sup>, requesting him either to attend more regularly or resign from the Troop. The following Friday<sup>7</sup> he turned up, without uniform. He behaved very badly and finally after several warnings had been given him without result, he was forcibly ejected. He did not turn up thereafter and the Court deemed in his absence, that as he had neither replied to their previous letter nor attended meetings regularly, he had resigned. Accordingly, with the approval of the Court, his name was struck from the Troop roll. Tonight, he had said, without being asked, that he received no letter, from which statement, the Court deduced the obvious, viz, that he had received the letter. He had asked, moreover, for a badge form, but had been put off till next week.

P.L. H. Hastie suggested that the Court of Honour in their full capacity as a Court should try the offender.

P.L. Munro and S.P.L. Smith, later backed by P.L. J. Crawford, opposed this motion, despite the fact that the Chairman of the Court's sympathies were plainly with it.

There was an extended discussion on the matter.

P.L. H. Hastie suggested another solution that if D. Mackenzie turned up next week, A.S.M. W. Hill should tackle him on the question, if not, a very forcible letter should be dispatched, of which a copy would be kept for future reference. At the same time, P.L. Hastie deplored the fact that the Court could not agree to assert its full authority, as he considered it ought. That was all the business.

signed H.T.A. Hastie. Secy.  
Wilson Hill Chairman

**Editorial comments for 8<sup>th</sup> March 1940.**

1. See note 3 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Wilson Hill.
2. See note 5 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Jim Crawford.
3. See note 6 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Harold Hastie.
4. See note 7 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Ian Munro.
5. See note 10 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Nicol Smith.
6. See note 27 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1939 regarding Duncan McKenzie.
7. The 10<sup>th</sup> November 1939.



26<sup>th</sup> April, 1940.

Finnart Church Hall.  
Madeira St.

9.20 – 10.00 p.m

Present:-	A.S.M.	W. Hill <sup>1</sup>
	T.L.	R.W. Leggett <sup>2</sup>
	P.L.	H. Hastie <sup>3</sup>
	P.L.	I. Munro <sup>4</sup>
	S.P.L.	N. Smith <sup>5</sup>
	S.P.L.	D. Woodward <sup>6</sup>

#### Minutes of Previous Meetings.

The minutes of the previous meetings were read and adopted on the motion of S.P.L. Smith, seconded by P.L. Munro.

#### re D. Mackenzie.<sup>7</sup>

A.S.M. Hill reported that Sc. D Mackenzie had put in regular appearances at Troop Meetings, had assisted with waste-paper<sup>8</sup> and had behaved very well. The Court, thereupon, unanimously agreed to overlook recent events (see minutes 8.3.40) and give Sc. D. Mackenzie the benefit of any doubt there may have been regarding these. His name will, therefore, be reinserted in the Troop Roll.

#### Change to Constitution

P.L. Hastie now brought forward the motion of which he gave notice at the meeting on 12-12-39. The motion was passed by the Court and the Secretary authorised to make the necessary change to the Constitution.<sup>9</sup>

#### G.S.M.'s Cup.<sup>10</sup>

It was announced that the subject for the G.S.M.'s Cup this year would be Pioneering.

#### Recovery of G.S.M.'s Cup.

In answer to a question, the A.S.M. said that the Cup had not yet been recovered from Sc. D. Mackenzie<sup>7</sup>. The Court decided that it was not forthcoming soon, more active steps would have to be taken.

#### No Treasurer's Report.

There was no Treasurer's report as the Treasurer<sup>11</sup> was not present.

#### Subscriptions.

In the absence of the Treasurer, A.S.M. Hill announced that it was now time to collect annual subscriptions<sup>12</sup>. Postcards suitably printed would be dispatched to those members from whom subscriptions were not forthcoming.

#### Vote of Censure.

At the suggestion of P.L. I. Munro, who was unanimously seconded, a severe vote of censure was passed by the Court on those who were not present.

#### A.S.M.'s Report.

Amongst other items mentioned in the A.S.M.'s report were the following:-

On 16th March, several members of the troop went on a very enjoyable trek to Everton, in charge of A.S.M. Hill, where a considerable amount of Scout work was done<sup>13</sup>.

On 28th April, P.L. Munro and S.P.L. Smith went their First Class journey.<sup>14</sup> They enjoyed themselves thoroughly, although they encountered adverse weather conditions on the return journey.

#### Waste paper.<sup>15</sup>

A.S.M. Hill announced that the cellar<sup>16</sup> had been cleared and that a second lot of waste paper was now accumulating. This lot was being collected on Friday nights.  
County Flag Competition<sup>17</sup>.

The conditions for the County Flag Competition were read out first. It was decided not to enter for it, but that a rigorous attempt should be made to bring troop work up to the standard required.

This was all the business.

Signed H.T.A. Hastie  
Wilson Hill Chairman

**Editorial comments for 26<sup>th</sup> April 1940.**

1. See note 3 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Wilson Hill.
2. See note 4 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Richard Leggett.
3. See note 6 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Harold Hastie.
4. See note 7 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Ian Munro.
5. See note 10 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Nicol Smith.
6. See note 8 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Dennis Woodward.
7. See note 27 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1939 regarding Duncan McKenzie.
8. See the minutes for 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding the collection of waste paper.
9. The Constitution in question was the Constitution for the Court of Honour. The original Constitution stated that either the Scout Master or the Group Scout Master needed to be present if the Court's meetings were to be valid (see the COH Minutes for 8<sup>th</sup> November 1935). However, the recent resignations of Ian Hardie and Ian Dunlop meant that neither post was filled. As a result, the constitution was altered such that the Court's meetings were valid if an A.S.M. was present.
10. See the Minutes for the 12<sup>th</sup> February 1937 regarding the G.S.M.'s Cup. Only non-promoted Scouts could participate. The competition involved a different Scouting skill each year.
11. The Treasurer was Jim Crawford.
12. The annual subscription was £0-5-0 (5 shillings), which had the equivalent value in 1940 of £18 today (as of 2023).
13. This included firelighting, tracking and signalling.
14. The 1<sup>st</sup> Class Hike was usually carried out on foot over two days, camping overnight and covering a distance of about 15 miles. This is the only known incidence of such a hike being carried by 70<sup>th</sup> Scouts on bicycles. It is likely that they used the ferry to cross from Gourrock to Dunoon, then cycled north to Arrochar where they probably camped. They may well have returned by the same route. The required distance that needed to be covered on bicycles was 30 miles.
15. See also the minutes for 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding the collection of waste paper.
16. See note 11 for the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1940 regarding the use of the Church cellar by the Scouts.
17. The County Flag was an annual competition between the different Districts in Renfrewshire. Each District selected which Troops would take part in the competition and so it was a notable achievement for the 70<sup>th</sup> to be one of the troops selected, especially as it had only been formed in 1932/33. The Competition lasted several months with District examiners visiting each Troop to assess a typical Troop Meeting and the quality of Scouting on show. There was also a weekend camp involved which may well have been restricted to a smaller number of Troops based on the results of the Troop visits. The troop did very well initially, and it is thought that they might have come second in 1935 (see COH Minutes for 6<sup>th</sup> September 1935). However, the examiners were less complimentary in 1936 and criticised the Church Hall as being unsuitable for Troop Meetings. Consequently, the Troop decided not to participate in the County Flag during the rest of the 1930s. It is likely that the Troop was still wary of participating in 1940.

**31<sup>st</sup> May, 1940.**

7.25 – 7.50 p.m.

Finnart Church Hall.  
Madeira St.

Present:-	A.S.M.	W. Hill <sup>1</sup>
	P.L.	J. Crawford <sup>2</sup>
	P.L.	H. Hastie <sup>3</sup>
	P.L.	I. Munro <sup>4</sup>
	S.P.L.	D. Woodward <sup>5</sup>
	S.P.L.	J. Smith <sup>6</sup>

#### Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and formally adopted on the motion of P.L. Munro, seconded by S.P.L. Smith.

G.S.M.'s Cup.<sup>7</sup>

It was announced that the G.S.M.'s Cup had been recovered from its current custodian and that the test to decide its future custodian would be held that evening in pioneering<sup>8</sup>.

Subscriptions.<sup>9</sup>

It was also announced from the Chair that no subscriptions have yet been received from the Treasurer.<sup>10</sup> Each member of the Court was authorised to collect subscriptions before the following Friday.

#### No more meetings.

It was decided after some discussion that no more troop meetings should be held before September.

An announcement that the Troop would be on duty at the Waste Paper Depot<sup>11</sup> on 15th June closed this meeting of the Court.

Signed H.T.A. Hastie. Secy.  
Wilson Hill S.M.

#### ***Editorial comments for 31<sup>st</sup> May 1940.***

- 1. See note 3 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Wilson Hill.*
- 2. See note 5 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Jim Crawford.*
- 3. See note 6 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Harold Hastie.*
- 4. See note 7 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Ian Munro.*
- 5. See note 8 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Dennis Woodward.*
- 6. See note 10 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Nicol Smith.*
- 7. See the Minutes for the 12<sup>th</sup> February 1937 regarding the G.S.M.'s Cup. Only non-promoted Scouts could participate. The competition involved a different Scouting skill each year.*
- 8. Pioneering involved building structures with wooden spars, tied together with rope using lashings.*
- 9. The annual subscription was £0-5-0 (5 shillings), which had the equivalent value in 1940 of £18 today (as of 2023).*
- 10. The Treasurer was Jim Crawford.*
- 11. The Local Scout Association (i.e. the District Scout Executive and District Team) had a coordinating role in terms of waste paper collections from the various troops in the District. They presumably hired premises in High Street where bails of waste paper were produced before shipping them on for recycling. There was also a rota whereby each Troop took turns to work at the depot.*

13th September, 1940.

Finnart Church Hall.

8.25 – 9.00 p.m.

Present:-	A.S.M.	W. Hill <sup>1</sup>
	P.L.	J. Crawford <sup>2</sup>
	P.L.	H. Hastie <sup>3</sup>
	P.L.	I. Munro <sup>4</sup>
	S.P.L.	D. Woodward <sup>5</sup>

#### Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted on the motion of P.L. I. Munro, seconded by P.L. J. Crawford.

#### Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer<sup>6</sup> announced that the troops funds stood at £5-1-7½<sup>7</sup>, a fine total considering that several annual subscriptions were still due.

#### G.S.M.'s Cup.<sup>8</sup>

It was announced that Sc. D. McKenzie<sup>9</sup> had won the G.S.M.'s Cup. The subject was pioneering<sup>10</sup>. This is the second year in succession that Sc. McKenzie has won this Cup.

#### The Future of the Troop.

The Troop Meeting earlier in the evening had been almost entirely devoted to discussion on the future of the Troop. The salient points of this discussion were;

- (a) that, as the last year had shown, due to no fault of A.S.M. Hill, an S.M.<sup>11</sup> was necessary to the successful running of a Troop.
- (b) that the P.L.'s and S.P.L.'s would be unable to attend regularly due to their scholastic studies.
- (c) that many members of the Troop had left to join the Forces, the Merchant Service<sup>12</sup> and to start work. The Troop had announced its desire to carry on.

The Chairman<sup>13</sup> now asked for the Court's own opinion. A general discussion followed. A suggestion that the troop should amalgamate with another troop was strongly opposed. The general opinion of the Court was that though it strongly supported the theory of struggling on, it could not see that this course was practicable.

The final decision was that the Troop should carry on until the Annual General Meeting. *This* was due in the first week of October when the Troop's affairs would be wound up if necessary.<sup>14</sup>

During the discussion, many allusions were made to the splendid management of G.S.M. A.I. Dunlop<sup>15</sup> who had held the Troop together and led it so well before<sup>16</sup>.

This concluded the meeting.

Signed H.T.A. Hastie, Secy.

#### ***Editorial comments for 13<sup>th</sup> September 1940.***

1. See note 3 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Wilson Hill.
2. See note 5 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Jim Crawford.
3. See note 6 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Harold Hastie.

4. See note 7 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Ian Munro.
5. See note 8 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Dennis Woodward.
6. The Treasurer was Jim Crawford.
7. £5-1-7½ in 1940 had the equivalent value of £364 today (as of 2023).
8. See the Minutes for the 12<sup>th</sup> February 1937 regarding the G.S.M.'s Cup. Only non-promoted Scouts could participate. The competition involved a different Scouting skill each year.
9. See note 27 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1939 regarding Duncan McKenzie.
10. Pioneering involved building structures with wooden spars, tied together with rope using lashings.
11. Scout Master
12. Presumably the Merchant Navy.
13. The Chairman was A.S.M. Wilson Hill.
14. Fortunately, there was a substantial intake of new recruits during that period that was one factor in the decision to carry on. Indeed the question of whether to continue or not was not brought up at the Annual General Meeting.
15. See note 2 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Ian Dunlop.

**27th September, 1940.**

Finnart Church Hall.  
Madeira St.

9.00 – 9.50 p.m.

Present:	A.S.M.	W. Hill <sup>1</sup>
	P.L.	H. Hastie <sup>2</sup>
	P.L.	J. Crawford <sup>3</sup>
	P.L.	I. Munro <sup>4</sup>

#### Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and formally adopted on the motion of P.L. J. Crawford, seconded by P.L. Munro.

#### New Troop Leader.

A.S.M. W. Hill announced that he had appointed P.L. H. Hastie, Troop Leader. The Court congratulated the new Troop Leader.

#### Resignations.

T.L. H. Hastie succeeds T.L. R.W. Leggett<sup>5</sup>, who has left to join the Royal Air Force. S.P.L.'s A. McGregor<sup>6</sup>, N. Smith<sup>7</sup> and D. Woodward<sup>8</sup> have also had to resign due to business, Home Guard and other duties.

#### Interruption.

At this point, proceedings were suspended while a large beetle which persisted in advancing across the table was forced to withdraw and was drowned in an inkwell.

#### A.G.M. Date.

The Annual General Meeting was fixed for Friday 11th October and for this reason no Treasurer's or S.M.'s reports were presented.

#### Discussion.

The A.S.M. then began a discussion on the filling of vacancies in the Court. It was decided that in view of the large number of recruits who had promised to come forward<sup>9</sup>, three patrols would be kept going<sup>10</sup>. The two P.L.'s<sup>11</sup> now said that in view of their attendance possibly falling off, they did not think it would be fair to the other boys for them to carry on. Various solutions were discussed. In the end, it was decided that they should carry on as P.L.s. A further discussion was held at the end of which the following promotions were ratified.

#### Promotions to court.

Scout I. Mitchell<sup>12</sup> to be Patrol Leader of Wolf Patrol<sup>13</sup>.

Scout G. Brown<sup>14</sup> to be Second Patrol Leader of Woodpigeon Patrol<sup>15</sup>.

Scout J. Menzies<sup>16</sup> to be Second Patrol Leader of Curlew Patrol.<sup>17</sup>

It was decided that P.L. I. Mitchell should be consulted before an S.P.L. was appointed to his patrol<sup>18</sup>, as there were some dissension in the Court on this matter.

T.L. H. Hastie moved that a resolution be sent to the Church complaining that blackout arrangements were not satisfactory. The troop had twice been brought into none too pleasant contact with the Police over this point already<sup>19</sup>. They had been forced to make an efficient screen for the cellar window, themselves. The police that night had complained

that the Hall lights showed very plainly in the streets. A.S.M. W. Hill said he would get in touch with the Church concerning this matter.

This was all the competent business brought before the Court.

Signed H.T.A. Hastie Hon Secy.  
Wilson Hill. Chairman.

**Editorial comments for 27<sup>th</sup> September 1940.**

1. See note 3 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Wilson Hill.
2. See note 6 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Harold Hastie.
3. See note 5 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Jim Crawford.
4. See note 7 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Ian Munro.
5. See note 4 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Richard Leggett.
6. See note 9 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Alistair McGregor.
7. See note 10 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Nicol Smith.
8. See note 8 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Dennis Woodward.
9. *It is interesting to note that the slight pessimism evident in the Court of Honour Meeting of the 13<sup>th</sup> September 1940 is no longer apparent a fortnight later. The prospect of a substantial intake of new recruits may well have raised spirits, and it is noticeable that there were no discussions regarding the possibility of the Troop closing down . Many of these recruits were probably moving up from the Wolf Cub Pack, but others might have been recruited by other Scouts.*
10. *The Curlew, Woodpigeon and Wolf Patrols.*
11. *Jim Crawford (PL of the Woodpigeon Patrol) and Ian Munro (PL of the Curlew Patrol)*
12. *See note 26 for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Ian Mitchell.*
13. *Harold Hastie had been P.L. of the Wolf Patrol, but resigned that position when he became Troop Leader.*
14. *See note 28 for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding George Brown.*
15. *The previous SPL of the Woodpigeon Patrol had been Dennis Woodward.*
16. *See Note 20 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding John Menzies.*
17. *The previous SPL of the Curlew Patrol had been Nicol Smith.*
18. *The previous SPL of the Wolf Patrol had been Alistair McGregor. A. McFadyen was eventually chosen as the new SPL.*
19. *See troop log entries for 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> September 1940.*

11<sup>th</sup> October, 1940

Annual General Meeting of the  
Court of Honour

Church Hall,  
Madeira St.

8.40 – 9.30 p.m

Present:-	A.S.M.	W. Hill <sup>1</sup>
	T.L.	H. Hastie <sup>2</sup>
	P.L.	I. Munro <sup>3</sup>
	P.L.	I. Mitchell <sup>4</sup>
	S.P.L.	G. Brown <sup>5</sup>
	S.P.L.	A. McFadyen <sup>6</sup>
	S.P.L.	J. Menzies <sup>7</sup>

A.G.M.

The Chairman, A.S.M. Hill announced that this would be the Annual General Meeting.

New Members

The Chairman welcomed the new members<sup>8</sup> of the Court and explained their duties to them. The Court congratulated the new members of the Court on their appointment.

Minutes of Last Meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and formally adopted on the motion of P.L. I. Munro, seconded by P.L. I. Mitchell.

Black-Out.

A.S.M. W. Hill announced that the Church had efficiently blacked-out the Hall.<sup>9</sup>

Treasurer's Annual Statement.

The Treasurer's<sup>10</sup> annual statement concerning the Troop's finances for the year was read. The Balance at the beginning of the year was £4-4-4<sup>11</sup> (four pounds, four shillings and fourpence).

Income in October was £0-10-0: expenditure was £0- 7-8

Income in November was £0-10-0: expenditure was £1- 8-0.

Income in December was £0-0-0: expenditure was £0- 0-0.

Income in January was £0-0-0: expenditure was £0-0-0.

Income in February was £0-0-0: expenditure was £0-0-4½

Income in March was £0-0-0: expenditure was £0-0-0.

Income in April was £0-1-0: expenditure was £0-0-0.

Income in May was £0-2-4: expenditure was £0-0-0.

Income in June was £0-10-0: expenditure was £0-0-0.

Income in July was £0-0-0: expenditure was £0-0-0.

Income in August was £0-0-0: expenditure was £0-0-0.

Income in September was £1-15-0: expenditure was £0-1-6.

Income for year being £3-8-4: expenditure £1-17-6½.

Therefore, accounts show a profit of £1-10-9½ and a balance of £5-15-1½<sup>12</sup> at the end of the financial year October 1939- October 1940.

Of the balance, £3-7-11 is in the custody of the bank.

The statement was ratified on the motion of T.L. Hastie, seconded by P.L. Munro.

Changes in Roll.



A.S.M. Hill said that the troop had got two new recruits since the last meeting, Andrew Webster<sup>13</sup> and Fraser MacLeod<sup>14</sup> both late of the Cubs. Another boy, Johnstone Paterson<sup>15</sup> had given his name and had been enrolled though he had not been able to attend a Troop Meeting yet. A former member of the Troop, Alan McFadyen<sup>6</sup>, had presented himself for re-enrollment and had been accepted<sup>16</sup>. Duncan McKenzie<sup>17</sup> had handed in his resignation that night and had promised to return the GSM's Cup<sup>18</sup> of which he was the present custodian.

#### S.P.L. McFadyen<sup>6</sup>

S.P.L. McFadyen offered to pay his annual subscription (5/-)<sup>19</sup>, but the Court decided to accept only half of the sum (2/6) since S.P.L. McFadyen had not been in the troop for the full year.

#### New Signalling Flags.

A.S.M. W. Hill asked the Court's sanction to buy bunting with which to make signalling flags<sup>20</sup>. P.L. I. Munro proposed that the flags should be composed of blue and white bunting. He was seconded by P.L. Mitchell. On the motion of T.L. Hastie, seconded by P.L. Munro, A.S.M. Hill was authorised to draw on funds to the extent of five shillings (5/-) for this purpose.

#### Rearrangement of Patrols.

A.S.M. Hill announced that the Court must now consider the reformation of patrols. He said that since the last meeting of the Court, it had been decided to appoint Sc. A. McFadyen<sup>6</sup>, S.P.L. of the Wolf Patrol (cf minute 27-9-40). This completed the Court but it was necessary to rearrange the Patrols. S.P.L. J. Menzies proposed that the Troop should be formed up in "tallest to right, shortest to the left" formation and be made to number in threes. Then they would be divided into 3 sections, each constituting a patrol. He was seconded by S.P.L. A. McFadyen. P.L. I. Munro proposed an amendment that the Patrols should be picked by the Court of Honour. He was seconded by P.L. I. Mitchell. Debate was opened. S.P.L. Menzies said that his method would divide the troop evenly and would avoid favouritism and prevent friends sticking together too much. P.L. Munro said the Patrols could be picked just as evenly by the Court, that the P.L.'s had a right to some say in who they got and that there was no reason for changing the immemorial custom. A paper ballot was held over which the Chairman officiated. S.P.L. Menzie's motion was passed, the result of the poll being four (4) to two (2) in its favour.<sup>21</sup>

#### S.M.'s Report<sup>22</sup>

The S.M.'s report on troop activities for the year was then read. It had been compiled by the Acting S.M. A.S.M. Hill<sup>1</sup>. It announced another successful year<sup>23</sup>. The Roll stood at the moment at thirteen (13) Cubs, twenty one (21) Scouts and 12 Rovers<sup>24</sup>. It recalled the loss of GSM I. Dunlop<sup>25</sup> describing it as a great blow<sup>26</sup>. It stated that the Troop had taken part in the Scout Week in June and had won the Victory Trophy and the Novice Cup of the Scout Gala. The Rovers had won the Rover swimming trophy<sup>27</sup>. The group also took part in the annual parade to Rankin Park<sup>28</sup>. There was no summer camp<sup>29</sup>. During the winter, especially during the Christmas holidays, the Troop took a very active part in waste paper collecting<sup>30</sup>, using a trek cart<sup>31</sup> which had been purchased with money kindly subscribed by friends of the troop<sup>32</sup>. A successful party was held at Christmas<sup>33</sup>. In January, A.S.M. E. Steel<sup>34</sup> was called up, leaving A.S.M. Hill<sup>1</sup> in sole charge, though the minister, the Reverend Stewart<sup>35</sup>, had offered to take upon himself the office of G.S.M. The report was ratified on the motion of P.L. Mitchell, seconded by P.L. Munro.

### Convoys for Younger Members in Black-Out.

T.L. H. Hastie<sup>2</sup> proposed that all members of the troop of thirteen (13) years of age and under should be convoyed home by older boys as long as they had to go home during the blackout. This motion was greeted with general approval and was passed without further comment.<sup>36</sup>

### Election of Office Bearers.

The Chairman<sup>37</sup> announced that the Office Bearers for the coming year would now be elected. He explained the various offices and the duties attached to them to the Court. The following appointments were ratified.

A.S.M. W. Hill unanimously elected Chairman of Court of Honour.

P.L. I. Munro unanimously elected Vice Chairman of Court of Honour.

T.L. H. Hastie unanimously re-elected Secretary to the Court of Honour.

P.L. J. Crawford unanimously re-elected Treasurer to the Court of Honour.

P.L. I. Mitchell unanimously elected Warden of Troop Property.

### Overhaul of Tents.

P.L. I. Mitchell announced that he would like the tents belonging to the Troop overhauled to make sure they were intact<sup>38</sup>. On the motion of P.L. I. Munro, seconded by T.L. H. Hastie, it was decided that this should be done next Friday during the Troop Meeting<sup>39</sup>.

This concluded the business and the Court was dissolved.

Signed: H.T.A. Hastie, Secretary  
Wilson Hill Chairman.

### **Editorial comments for 11<sup>th</sup> October 1940.**

1. See note 3 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Wilson Hill.
2. See note 6 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Harold Hastie.
3. See note 7 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Ian Munro.
4. See note 26 for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Ian Mitchell.
5. See note 28 for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding George Brown.
6. See Note 27 for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Alan MacFadyen.
7. See Note 20 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding John Menzies
8. The new members were Ian Mitchell, George Brown, Alan MacFadyen, and John Menzies
9. This followed complaints from the police that the hall lights could be seen from outside (see COH minutes and troop log for 27<sup>th</sup> September 1940).
10. The Treasurer was Jim Crawford.
11. £4-4-4 in 1940 had the equivalent value of £304 today (2023).
12. £5-15-1½ in 1940 had the equivalent value of £412 today (2023).
13. Andrew Webster was born in 1929 and lived in Newton Street when he was in the Troop. His father owned a garage at the corner of Union Street and Forsyth Street. Andrew attended Greenock Academy and joined the troop in September 1940. His nickname was 'Webfoot'. By November 1940, he was in the Wolf Patrol. He was promoted to S.P.L. of the Curlew Patrol in September 1941, then moved to the Curlew Patrol in February 1942. He gained his 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Badge in March 1942 and was a constant presence at various Scouting activities, gaining a reputation as being a bit 'harum scarum'. It is not known when Andrew left the troop, but he did National Service after the war with the REME. He trained in engineering and eventually joined the family business (Webster Motors).
14. Fraser Macleod was probably born in 1929. His parent were Quakers. Fraser joined the Troop in September 1940. Not much is known about Fraser's experiences in the troop although he was present at some of the outdoor activities carried out during the war. He was still with the troop in April 1942, but it is not known when he eventually left, or what he did after leaving school.
15. Johnson Patterson lived in Johnstone Street and was probably born in 1927 as he was in the same class as George Brown at Greenock Academy. He joined the Troop in October 1940 and was put into the Woodpigeon

patrol. He remained with the troop until at least May 1942, but it is not known when he eventually left the troop. Johnson was not called up during the war as he had suffered from tuberculosis and had recurring episodes. He may have picked up the disease when he was working with 'Rapidex' – a dry cleaning business in West Blackhall Street. No further definite information is known about him though.

16. He had also been promoted to S.P.L. of the Wolf Patrol

17. See note 27 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1939 regarding Duncan McKenzie.

18. See the Minutes for the 12<sup>th</sup> February 1937 regarding the G.S.M.'s Cup.

19. £0-5-0 (five shillings) in 1940 had the equivalent value of £18 today (2023).

20. The flags were to be used for practicing semaphore which was a core Scouting skill at the time.

21. The Troop was duly reorganised on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 1940 using the method proposed by S.P.L. Menzies. This is the only known occurrence of patrols being decided in this manner. The voting also indicates that Harold Hastie must have sided with the S.P.L.s.

22. Scout Master's Report. At this stage, there was no official Scout Master in position. However, Wilson Hill was the de facto Scout Master.

23. This does seem a rather over-optimistic statement considering the difficulties faced and the resignations of so many Scouts and Scouters. On the other hand, the numbers of Scouts had increased significantly since the summer.

24. The number of Rovers identified is surprising. There is no information on who these were or how many of them were 'active'. For example, Ian Dunlop was registered as a Rover with the 70<sup>th</sup> but was away on active service by this time.

25. See note 2 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Ian Dunlop.

26. Ian Dunlop resigned in Autumn 1939, with his last troop meeting being the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1939. He was called up to serve as an army chaplain at Lochgilphead.

27. The events described here actually took place in June 1939, and were not really relevant to a report covering the period October 1939-1940. Scout week in June 1939 involved a series of Scouting events that finished off with the annual Swimming Gala at the West-End Baths (see the Court of Honour Minutes for 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939). There was no Scout Week during June 1940, and no evidence of a Scout Swimming Gala that year either.

28. This may also refer to the annual parade held in 1939, rather than 1940. Indeed, there is no evidence that a District Parade to Rankin Park took place in 1940.

29. No Summer camps were organised for either 1939 or 1940.

30. See the minutes for 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding the collection of waste paper.

31. The trek cart was possibly purchased in order to assist in the collection of waste paper. It continued to be used over the next 30 years until the late 1960s for a variety of purposes such as transporting tents and heavy equipment to camp, collecting firewood at camp, and collecting jumble from houses in the local neighbourhood for jumble sales.

32. See the entries in the troop log for 24<sup>th</sup> November and 15<sup>th</sup> December 1939.

33. See the Troop Log for the 15<sup>th</sup> December 1939 regarding the Xmas Party.

34. See note 21 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Eoin Steel.

35. See note 34 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding the Rev. Donald H. Stewart.

36. George Brown remembered being 'convoyed' home by Victor Clark on one occasion, and by Ian Curtis on another.

37. The Chairman of the Court of Honour was Wilson Hill.

38. This might be evidence that some tents had not been used for a substantial time. Indeed, it is possible that the Bell tent had not been used since the Summer Camp of 1937, a period of over 3 years.

39. In fact, it was carried out on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 1940 (see Troop Log for that date).

1<sup>st</sup> November, 1940

Finnart Church Hall.  
Madeira St.

9.10 – 9.40 p.m

Present;	A.S.M.	W. Hill <sup>1</sup>
	T.L.	H. Hastie <sup>2</sup>
	P.L.	J. Crawford <sup>3</sup>
	P.L.	I. Munro <sup>4</sup>
	S.P.L.	G. Brown <sup>5</sup>
	S.P.L.	J. Menzies <sup>6</sup>
	S.P.L.	A. McFadyen <sup>7</sup>

#### Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and formally adopted on the motion of P.L. Crawford, seconded by S.P.L. McFadyen.

#### Troop Roll.

A.S.M. W. Hill announced that since the last meeting of the Court, seven more boys had joined the Troop. The boys were Collin Reid<sup>8</sup>, Neil McGill<sup>9</sup>, Jim Morton<sup>10</sup>, Alastair Maclaine<sup>11</sup>, Alan Mackay<sup>12</sup>, Alexander McKechnie<sup>13</sup> and Johnston Paterson<sup>14</sup>.

#### Bunting.<sup>15</sup>

A.S.M. Hill announced that the bunting for signalling flags had been bought well within the price limit and had been handed out for making up into flags<sup>16</sup>.

#### Rearrangement of Patrols.

It had it was announced that the patrols had been rearranged as decided at the last meeting. They are now arranged as follows;-

#### Woodpigeon Patrol

P.L. J. Crawford<sup>3</sup>  
S.P.L. G. Brown<sup>5</sup>  
R. MacDougall<sup>18</sup>  
J. Patterson<sup>14</sup>  
F. MacLeod<sup>22</sup>  
C. Reid<sup>8</sup>

#### Wolf Patrol

P.L. I. Mitchell<sup>17</sup>  
S.P.L. A. MacFadyen<sup>7</sup>  
G. Kinnell<sup>19</sup>  
A. McKechnie<sup>13</sup>  
A. Webster<sup>23</sup>  
J. Morton<sup>10</sup>

#### Curlew Patrol

P.L. I. Munro<sup>4</sup>  
S.P.L. J. Menzies<sup>6</sup>  
N. MacDougall<sup>20</sup>  
R. Herbert<sup>21</sup>  
N. McGill<sup>9</sup>  
A. Maclaine<sup>11</sup>  
A. Mackay<sup>12</sup>

#### Convoys.<sup>24</sup>

A.S.M. Hill announced that the 'Convoy System' (cf. 11-10-40) had not been kept to strictly. It was decided that efforts would be made to keep it more strictly.

#### Tent overhaul.

A.S.M. Hill announced that the overhaul of the tents had been unavoidably delayed. It was decided that this would be seen to next Friday<sup>25</sup>.

#### Treasurers Report.

There was no Treasurer's Report<sup>26</sup> since A.S.M. Hill had kept the account book.

#### S.M.'s Report.<sup>27</sup>

The S.M.'s Report showed some good results for the past month. The troop was at the Paper Depot<sup>28</sup> on the 26th of October.

Exhortation by Chairman<sup>29</sup>.

The Chairman exhorted the Court to assert their authority at Troop Meetings<sup>30</sup>.

Work going to be difficult.

A.S.M. Hill announced that under present conditions, badge work would be difficult and more would have to be done at home<sup>31</sup>.

Cubs.

T.L. H. Hastie then said that he wished to bring some facts about the Group Cubs to the notice of the Court. He told the Court that a young boy from England<sup>32</sup> had volunteered to help with the Cubs. The boy had been accepted on the understanding that he would join the Troop. T.L. Hastie had found out that the boy, while assisting with the Cubs, had joined the 1st Gourrock Scouts (C.D.O.)<sup>33</sup> Troop. The Court agreed that this situation was most unsuitable. A.S.M. Hill said he would investigate the matter personally.

Badges and the Badge Secretary.<sup>34</sup>

A.S.M. Hill announced the Court that he had paid three visits to the Badge Secretary during the previous week and he had paid out 10 shillings and had good reason to believe results would be forthcoming soon.<sup>35</sup> It was revealed that the Badge Secretary was a female<sup>34</sup>.

Waste paper.<sup>36</sup>

It was announced that the Association<sup>37</sup> had ceased to collect recent waste paper in the Borough. This statement was greeted with general approval.<sup>38</sup>

A.R.P.<sup>39</sup> for Troop.

T.L. H. Hastie raised the question of procedure in the event of an air raid warning<sup>40</sup>. He proposed that on the sounding of the alert, all activities should be dropped, coats and hats got, and the Troop formed up in the Hall. Then when all lights had been put off, they should march to the nearby public air raid shelter<sup>41</sup>. This procedure was agreed upon<sup>42</sup>.

Patrol Competition.

It was announced that the Patrol Competition had been won by the Curlew Patrol mainly on the strength of games<sup>43</sup>.

This was all the business.

Signed H.T.A. Hastie  
Hon Secretary  
Wilson Hill Chairman

**Editorial comments for 1<sup>st</sup> November 1940.**

1. See note 3 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Wilson Hill.
2. See note 6 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Harold Hastie
3. See note 5 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Jim Crawford.
4. See note 7 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Ian Munro.
5. See note 28 for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding George Brown.
6. See Note 20 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding John Menzies
7. See Note 27 for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Alan MacFadyen.
8. Colin Reid was probably Colin Guthrie Reid who was born in 1930. He joined the Troop in October 1940 and was placed in the Woodpigeon patrol. He left the troop in December 1940 due to him moving house, but rejoined in April 1941. He remained with the Troop until at least July 1942 and took part in several outdoor activities, but it is not known when he eventually left the troop or what he did afterwards.
9. Neil MacGill was born in 1926 and may have lived in Johnston Street or Glen Street. He joined the troop in October 1940 and was placed in the Curlew Patrol. He remained with the troop until at least October 1941, but probably left the Troop at some point during the 1941-42 session. It is believed that he might have become a draughtsman for Hasties and died at quite a young age (possibly aged 50).

10. James Morton was born in 1928 or 1929, and his father was a tax inspector. Jim joined the troop in October 1940 and was placed in the Wolf Patrol. He was promoted to SPL of Woodpigeon Patrol in February 1942 and probably gained his 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Badge. He remained in the Troop until at least April 1943 when he participated in a Troop Easter 'Camp' to Edinburgh. Unfortunately, records are lacking after that so it is not known whether he was promoted to PL or when he left the troop. It is not known what he did on leaving school.
11. Alasdair (or Alastair) Maclaine was in Bill Smyth's year at Greenock Academy, and lived either in Finnart Street or the corner of Brougham Street and Margaret Street. His father was an official in the local authority and may have been a Justice of the Poor. Alastair had two brothers and one sister. He joined the troop in October 1940 and was placed in the Curlew Patrol, then moved to the Woodpigeon Patrol in February 1942. Alasdair participated in many of the Troop's outdoor activities during the war and remained with the Troop until at least May 1943. Unfortunately, records are lacking after that and it is not known whether he got promoted or when he eventually resigned from the Troop. On leaving school, he obtained a degree in engineering and may have been responsible for designing some of Greenock's lighting standards.
12. Alan Forsyth MacKay was nicknamed 'Stourie' when he was in the 70<sup>th</sup>. He was born during 1930 in Broughty Ferry where his father was a minister. The family moved to Greenock when the Rev. MacKay became minister of St. Columba's Gaelic Church, which no longer exists. The family lived at 39 Fox Street. Alan was the youngest of four brothers and he joined the Troop in October 1940, just as his older brother Ronald departed. Alan was placed in the Curlew Patrol, and was then transferred to the Woodpigeon patrol in February 1942. In May 1942, he was promoted to SPL of the Fox Patrol, and it seems likely that he gained his 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Badge. He remained in the Troop until at least April 1943 when he participated in a Troop Easter 'Camp' to Edinburgh. Unfortunately, records are lacking after that so it is not known whether he was promoted to PL or when he left the troop. It is believed that he was employed by the Forestry Commission on leaving school.
13. Alexander (Sandy) McKechnie was born in 1927 or 1928 and was a pupil at Greenock Academy. His father owned a coppersmiths or brass works in the East end of the town, but the family lived in the west end. Sandy joined the troop in October 1940 and was placed in the Wolf Patrol. He was promoted to SPL of the Woodpigeon Patrol in February 1941, and then joined the Curlew Patrol in February 1942; this was a Patrol that had been formed which was made up of older Scouts. It is believed that he left the troop not long after this as he was no longer a member of the patrol in March 1942. Sandy joined the Clyde River Patrol during the war. After the war he became a Chartered Accountant and a member of the board for a couple of firms. He retired to live in Inverkip eventually.
14. Johnson Patterson lived in Johnstone Street and was probably born in 1927 as he was in the same class as George Brown at Greenock Academy. He joined the Troop in October 1940 and was put into the Woodpigeon patrol. He remained with the troop until at least May 1942, but it is not known when he eventually left the troop. Johnson was not called up during the war as he had suffered from tuberculosis and had recurring episodes. He may have picked up the disease when he was working with 'Rapidex' – a dry cleaning business in West Blackhall Street. No further definite information is known about him though.
15. See also the minutes for the 11<sup>th</sup> October 1940.
16. The bunting was handed out to Scouts, but it is not known whether every Scout was involved or just a select few.
17. See note 26 for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Ian Mitchell.
18. See Note 20 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1939 regarding Robin McDougall.
19. See Note 32 for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding George Kinnell.
20. See Note 19 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1939 regarding Neil McDougall.
21. See Note 25 for the 1<sup>st</sup> December 1939 regarding Ronald Herbert.
22. See Note 14 for the 11<sup>th</sup> October 1940 regarding Fraser MacLeod.
23. See Note 13 for the 11<sup>th</sup> October 1940 regarding Andrew Webster.
24. The Convoy System was set up such that older Scouts accompanied Scouts aged 13 or younger through the Black Out to and from Troop Meetings (see COH Minutes for 11<sup>th</sup> October 1940).
25. In fact, it was carried out on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 1940 (see Troop Log for that date).
26. The Treasurer was Jim Crawford.
27. Scout Master's Report. At this stage, there was no official Scout Master in position. However, Wilson Hill was the de facto Scout Master.
28. The Paper Depot was in High Street, Greenock. The exact address is not known but the premises had been leased out by the District Scout Executive in order to collect and make bails of the waste paper that had been collected by the Troops in the District. Each Troop took turns to man the premises.
29. The Chairman of the Court of Honour was Wilson Hill.
30. In other words, the P.L.s and S.P.L.s were being urged to keep control of their Patrols.

31. The Troop had recently gained a large number of Scouts which was good news. However, it would be difficult getting the new recruits through their badge work with only 1 Scouter available. Wilson may also have been encouraging the Patrol Leaders to organise Patrol Meetings outwith the Troop Night in order to train their Scouts.
32. *The identity of the boy concerned was not revealed. It is probable that his family was one of the many that moved to Greenock during the War years, as part of the war effort. Greenock became an particularly important port as it was less susceptible to air raids than London and other English ports.*
33. *Colonel Darroch's Own. There had been a close relationship between the 70<sup>th</sup> and the 1<sup>st</sup> Gourock (6<sup>th</sup> Renfrewshire) Troop during the 1930s. The 70<sup>th</sup>'s first Summer Camp in 1933 was a joint camp with the Gourock Troop.*
34. *The Badge Secretary referred to here was the District Badge Secretary, Miss McEacheran.*
35. *It is possible that there was a shortage of badges available because of the war. For example, badges could not be provided at the investitures carried out the 13<sup>th</sup> December 1940 (see Troop log entry).*
36. *See the minutes for 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding the collection of waste paper.*
37. *The District Scout Executive was known as the Local Association at this time.*
38. *The waste paper collections carried out by Greenock Scouts had lasted over a year. A huge amount of effort had gone into it, but it is not surprising that the Scouts were relieved to see an end to it.*
39. *Air Raid Precautions.*
40. *This was no doubt prompted by the sounding of an Air Raid Siren during the Troop Meeting that evening (see Troop log entry for 1<sup>st</sup> November 1940).*
41. *This was situated in the middle of Madeira Street, slightly downhill from Newark Street.*
42. *However, the Troop chose to ignore the Air Raid Siren on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 1940 when they were in the middle of a Xmas Party. Possibly, by that time, there had been several air raid sirens with no resultant attack taking place.*
43. *During the 1930s and the first half of the 1940s, a Patrol Competition was held on the first Friday Troop meeting of each month. Patrol competitions were taking place as early as October 1935 (see COH minutes for 6<sup>th</sup> October 1935). However, the monthly Patrol Competition was more substantial and was first introduced in September 1936 in response to criticisms received during the Country Flag Competition of that year (see the COH minutes for 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1936). During the 1950s and the 1960s, the Patrol of the Month Competition was extended such that points could be gained at every Troop Meeting, and not just the first meeting of the month.*

6<sup>th</sup> December, 1940

Finnart Church Hall.  
Madeira St.

9.05 – 9.40 p.m

Present;	A.S.M.	W. Hill <sup>1</sup>
	T.L.	H. Hastie <sup>2</sup>
	P.L.	I. Mitchell <sup>3</sup>
	S.P.L.	J. Menzies <sup>4</sup>
	S.P.L.	A. McFadyen <sup>5</sup>
Visitor:-		ex S.P.L. D. Woodward. <sup>6</sup>

Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The Secretary<sup>7</sup> had not completed the minutes of the previous meeting. He offered an explanation which was accepted by the Court.

Treasurer's report.

There was no Treasurer's<sup>8</sup> report.

S.M.'s Report.<sup>9</sup>

There was no S.M.'s report.

A.S.M. Hill to take out S.M.'s Warrant.

A.S.M. W. Hill announced that he wished to take out an S.M.'s Warrant and asked the Court's permission to do so. It was immediately granted.

Code of Regulations.

A.S.M. Hill said that he proposed that the Troop should wear their Scout hats at flag-break and lowering. T.L. H. Hastie immediately proposed that a system of regulations governing Troop Meetings, etc., should be drawn up. A.S.M. Hill pointed out that the Court's primary purpose was to ensure and enforce discipline. T.L. Hastie added that since the Court was the Troop's legislative body, it should draw up a code of rules such as he had already envisaged, and see that they were obeyed. The Court unanimously agreed that this proposal should be put into effect, but decided that an extraordinary meeting of the Court of Honour should be held to formulate the code as this would ensure its getting befitting care, time, and consideration.<sup>10</sup>

Church Parade.<sup>11</sup>

A.S.M. W. Hill announced that there would be a Christmas Church Parade on Sunday, 22nd December. He added that a good turn-out was expected.

Troop Roll.

A.S.M. Hill also said that recruit Collin Reid<sup>12</sup>, owing to a change of address, had been forced to leave the Troop<sup>13</sup>. He had in his possession 1 sample semaphore signalling flag and some of the new bunting<sup>14</sup>. Strenuous efforts were being made to trace and recover these.

Irregular Attendance.

The Chairman<sup>15</sup> commented on the fewness of the Court. Reference was made to P.L. Crawford's<sup>16</sup> prolonged absence. A.S.M. Hill reminded the court that the absence of the above mentioned P.L. had been the object of considerable derision during the meeting. It was clear that to maintain the dignity and authority of the Court, some action would have to be taken. T.L. H. Hastie said he hoped such questions would be dealt with in the forthcoming code of regulations. It was decided to temporarily defer action.



### Cardwell Bay Incident.

With regard to certain statements made about the boy who is assisting with the Cubs<sup>17</sup>, A.S.M. Hill said that he had discovered that the boy joined the Gourock Troop in the belief that it was this troop. A.S.M. Hill said he was going to see Mr. Butter about this. Mr. Butter is District Commissioner and G.S.M. of the 1<sup>st</sup> Gourock Troop<sup>18</sup>.

### Secretary to write ex Sc. D. Mackenzie

It was announced that the G.S.M.'s Cup<sup>19</sup> had not yet been recovered from ex Sc. D. McKenzie.<sup>20</sup> The Secretary<sup>7</sup> was requested to write the offender a letter requesting the return of the Cup. The Court expressed a desire to hear a copy of the text of this letter at the next meeting.

### Troop Property.

T.L. H. Hastie asked if the Curator had completed his survey of Troop property yet. The answer was in the negative. The Curator, P.L. I. Mitchell, however, assured the Court that the work was progressing well and that, on its completion, he would present a report.

### Christmas Party.

A.S.M. Hill said he proposed to have a Troop party at Christmas. This statement was met with general approval. There was a short discussion. It was decided to make a charge of sixpence<sup>21</sup>. It was observed that the traditional banquet would not, owing to present conditions, be up to standard<sup>22</sup>. Ex S.P.L. Woodward<sup>6</sup> offered to bring along device for showing photographs which he called by a big name. The possibilities of a cinema show were discussed. In the end, it was decided that a complete programme should be drafted from available resources and then be presented to the Court for criticism.

This concluded the business of the Court.

Signed H.T.A. Hastie  
Hon. Secretary  
Wilson Hill (chairman)

### ***Editorial comments for 6<sup>th</sup> December 1940.***

1. See note 3 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Wilson Hill.
2. See note 6 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Harold Hastie
3. See note 26 for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Ian Mitchell.
4. See Note 20 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding John Menzies
5. See Note 27 for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Alan MacFadyen
6. See note 8 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Dennis Woodward.
7. The Secretary for the Court of Honour was Harold Hastie.
8. The Treasurer was Jim Crawford.
9. Scout Master's Report. At this stage, there was no official Scout Master in position. However, Wilson Hill was the de facto Scout Master.
10. This entry indicates that a bit of a power struggle was developing between Harold Hastie and Wilson Hill.
11. The Church Parade discussed involved the 70<sup>th</sup> Wolf Cubs and Scouts marching to Finnart Church for the morning service with colours flying, then marching off from the Church after the service before getting dismissed. When the Troop started in the 1930s, one such parade took place each month, but the number had decreased by the 1940s.
12. See note 8 for the 1<sup>st</sup> November 1940 regarding Colin Reid.
13. However, he rejoined the 70<sup>th</sup> in April 1941.
14. See the COH minutes for 1<sup>st</sup> November 1940 regarding Bunting and semaphore flags.
15. The Chairman of the Court of Honour was Wilson Hill.
16. See note 5 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Jim Crawford.
17. See the entry relating to Cubs in the COH Minutes for 1<sup>st</sup> November 1940.
18. The 1<sup>st</sup> Gourock Troop was also the 6<sup>th</sup> Renfrewshire.

19. See the Minutes for the 12<sup>th</sup> February 1937 regarding the G.S.M.'s Cup. Only non-promoted Scouts could participate. The competition involved a different Scouting skill each year.
20. See note 27 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1939 regarding Duncan McKenzie.
21. £0-0-6 (sixpence) in 1940 had the equivalent value of £2 today (2023).
22. Food rationing started on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 1940.

13<sup>th</sup> December, 1940

Finnart Church Hall.  
Madeira Street

8.40 – 10.00 p.m

Present;	A.S.M.	W. Hill <sup>1</sup>
	T.L.	H. Hastie <sup>2</sup>
	P.L.	J. Crawford <sup>3</sup>
	P.L.	I. Munro <sup>4</sup>
	P.L.	I. Mitchell <sup>5</sup>
	S.P.L.	G. Brown <sup>6</sup>
	S.P.L.	A. MacFadyen <sup>7</sup>
	S.P.L.	J. Menzies <sup>8</sup>

#### Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st November, 1940 was read. S.P.L. MacFadyen proposed an emendation. His proposal was rejected. The minute was adopted on the motion of P.L. Munro, seconded by P.L. Crawford. The minute of the meeting dated 6th December 1940 was read and formally adopted on the motion of P.L. Crawford, seconded by P.L. Munro.

#### Flags.<sup>9</sup>

It was announced that one set of flags for semaphore signalling<sup>10</sup> had been completed.

#### Overhaul of Tents.

It was announced that one bell tent had been overhauled. It was found to be in fairly good condition.<sup>11</sup>

#### Flag Bunting.

S.P.L. MacFadyen said he had visited ex rec.<sup>12</sup> Colin Reid<sup>13</sup>'s house to enquire about the material for signalling flags (cf. minute 6-12-40). He had solicited a promise from Mr. Reid to ask his son about the material.

#### Cubs.

A.S.M.<sup>14</sup> said he had no further developments to report with regard to the mix up at the Cubs (cf. minute 6-12-40). He had not seen Mr. Butter<sup>15</sup> yet.

#### GSM's Cup.<sup>16</sup>

The Secretary<sup>17</sup> read a draft of the letter he proposed to send ex Sc. D. Mackenzie<sup>18</sup> concerning the return of the GSM's cup. It was approved.

#### Troop Property.

The Curator said he had not completed his inventory of Troop property. It was agreed that A.S.M. Hill and P.L. Mitchell, the Curator, should do this on the following afternoon.

#### Property missing.

A.S.M. Hill announced that one Primus stove<sup>19</sup> and the tent poles belonging to the Niger tent<sup>20</sup> were missing. He gained no further information. Inquiries continued.<sup>21</sup>

#### Ambulance Box.

It was proposed that the Troop Ambulance Box should be refurnished. It was agreed to give A.S.M. Hill a 'carte blanche' on this matter.

#### Christmas Party.

With regard to the forthcoming Christmas party, it was decided to leave the matter of food in A.S.M. Hill's hands and that there would be a cinema show.

#### Scout Council.

A.S.M.<sup>14</sup> proposed to set up a Scout Council within the Troop. This, he said, would consist of all persons in the Troop who did not belong to the Court. They would meet and discuss matters of interest concerning the Troop. The recommendations would then be forwarded to the Court for consideration.<sup>22</sup>

#### Opposition.

T.L. Hastie said he intended to oppose this strongly. He gave his reasons. His strongest argument was that this Court was constituted primarily to give the boys a share in running the Troop. In it were incorporated the P.L.s and S.P.L.'s by a special section of the Constitution. This, he pointed out, was not a fixed rule and it was a special privilege which, therefore, need not have been granted. He averred that this privilege had been granted so the P.L.s and S.P.L.'s might represent their patrols at the Court. Therefore, he said, any other assembly called together in order to present the Troop's opinions to the Court was not only a contempt of the Court but also a setting at naught of the Court's Constitution.

#### Defence.

A.S.M. W. Hill questioned whether the system described by T.L. Hastie had worked in practice.

#### Opposition.

P.L. I. Munro swept into the argument backing up T.L. Hastie. He said it would lower if not destroy the Court's authority.

#### Defence.

A.S.M. Hill doubted whether the Court's authority could be lowered.<sup>23</sup>

#### Discussion.

A discussion followed. P.L. J. Crawford and P.L. Mitchell lent their eloquence to the debate. The Court seemed evenly divided on the issue though there seemed more unity amongst the opposition.

#### Settlement.

T.L. Hastie proposed that the proposal should be rejected and the old system tried again.

A.S.M. Hill agreed to suspend action.<sup>24</sup>

#### Ejection of S.P.L. Menzies.

The Chairman, A.S.M. Hill, requested S.P.L. Menzies to leave the room. He did so. P.L. Munro requested the reason for this. A.S.M. Hill replied that S.P.L. Menzies had misbehaved. T.L. Hastie proposed the ejection of S.P.L. MacFadyen on similar grounds. He was seconded by P.L. Munro. Though the majority of the Court were obviously in favour of the motion, the Chairman refused to act on *it*. It was pointed out that MacFadyen had been much rowdier than Menzies and that for a much longer time. Again, the ejection of S.P.L. MacFadyen was moved and passed without a dissentient voice being heard. Again, it was refused.

#### Discussion.

There was a heated discussion on the powers of the Chairman. T.L. Hastie pointed out that the only effective action the Court could take was to break up the meeting. P.L. Munro rose to leave the room.

#### Compromise.

A.S.M. Hill agreed to a compromise. S.P.L. Menzies was reinstated and S.P.L. MacFadyen was reprimanded.

#### Discussion on Powers of S.M.

A great discussion now broke out concerning the relative powers of Court and S.M. A.S.M. Hill questioned what the Court could do if he set up a Scout Council in defiance of it. T.L. Hastie said the Court would take an appropriate action to prevent its formation. A.S.M. Hill said he could, in his official status as senior officer of the Troop, take action without considering the Court. T.L. Hastie said A.S.M. Hill was mistaken. P.L. Munro again came ably to T.L. Hastie's assistance. P.L. Crawford entered on A.S.M. Hill's side and P.L. Mitchell got a more or less neutral word in edgeways now and then. Constant references were made to the Constitution which the Secretary confirmed as necessary.

A matter of principle.

T.L. Hastie and P.L. Munro both affirmed that it was the principle of the matter they disputed. They did not doubt A.S.M. Hill's capabilities, but, since any decision on the question, which was the relative powers of a Court of Honour of a Troop and its S.M., would be minuted, they did not wish any decision in the least contrary to the principles of democracy on which the Court was founded to be inscribed in its records. Many points were brought forward on each side. Several attempts to break up the meeting were stopped through the efforts of T.L. H. Hastie and his colleague P.L. Munro. After much discussion, A.S.M. Hill presented the following motion;

Compromising motion.

'That if the Court is unanimously against an action of the S.M., the S.M. will refrain from pressing the issue; if there is a discussion, the S.M. will consider the matter and has the authority to act on his own discretion.'

Proposed amendment.

T.L. H. Hastie and P.L. Munro announced that they intended to present an amendment to this motion. Before they could properly formulate and present the emendation, the meeting broke up in some disorder.<sup>25</sup>

(Signed) H.T.A. Hastie  
Hon. Secretary  
Wilson Hill ASM

**Editorial comments for 13<sup>th</sup> December 1940.**

1. See note 3 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Wilson Hill.
2. See note 6 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Harold Hastie.
3. See note 5 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Jim Crawford.
4. See note 7 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Ian Munro.
5. See note 26 for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Ian Mitchell.
6. See note 28 for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding George Brown.
7. See Note 27 for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Alan MacFadyen.
8. See Note 20 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding John Menzies.
9. See the COH minutes for 1<sup>st</sup> November 1940 regarding Bunting and semaphore flags.
10. Semaphore was a core Scouting skill until the late 1960s, and there were tests associated with it in both the 2<sup>nd</sup> Class and 1<sup>st</sup> Class Badges. The 70<sup>th</sup> were highly successful in the District Signalling Competitions held during the 1950s and 1960s.
11. See the troop log entry for the 8<sup>th</sup> November 1940.
12. Presumably this stands for recruit.
13. See note 8 for the 1<sup>st</sup> November 1940 regarding Colin Reid.
14. A.S.M. Wilson Hill.
15. Mr. H. Waller Butter was District Commissioner (D.C.) and Group Scout Leader of the 6<sup>th</sup> Renfrewshire (1<sup>st</sup> Gourock) Group. He was D.C. from 1933 until 1946, although he was called up to serve in the RNVR between 1941 and 1945. During that period James Swan was Acting D.C. Mr. Butter was largely responsible for placing the District on a firm financial and administrative footing.

16. See the COH minutes for 6<sup>th</sup> December 1940 regarding the G.S.M.s Cup.
17. The Secretary for the Court of Honour was Harold Hastie.
18. See note 27 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1939 regarding Duncan McKenzie.
19. The Troop purchased two Primus stoves in 1935 (see the COH Minutes for 11<sup>th</sup> January 1935). One of these was sold to Ian Dunlop on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1939.
20. The Niger tent was a Patrol tent purchased from Thomas Blacks in 1937 (see the COH minutes for 12<sup>th</sup> February and 17<sup>th</sup> September 1937).
21. There is a possibility that the Bell tent and Niger tent had not been used since the Summer Camp of 1937. There were no Summer camps held during 1938, 1939 or 1940.
22. It is not known whether this was Wilson Hill's own idea or whether it was an idea that was being used in other Troops. It is also not known whether Wilson anticipated the vehement reaction that this proposal would spark in the Court of Honour.
23. Wilson Hill's responses suggest that he might have been taken aback by these responses to his proposal. In fact, Harold Hastie and Ian Munro were in the right when they said that the P.L's and S.P.Ls represented the views of their Scouts at the Court of Honour. On the other hand, Wilson was justified in questioning whether this happened in practice. For example, during the late 1930s, the Court of Honour was very reluctant to take part in the District Football Competition, whereas the rest of the Scouts were enthusiastic.
24. Wilson Hill backed down on his proposal, but it is clear from the subsequent discussions that feelings were running high and that the meeting was in danger of breaking up in disarray, with the P.L.s challenging Wilson Hill's authority.
25. This was probably inevitable as the description of events appeared to show that no agreement was ever going to be reached that night. The COH meeting of the 6<sup>th</sup> December 1940 comes across as the most controversial and bad tempered meeting in the 70<sup>th</sup>'s history, with an unprecedented level of disagreement between its members. Feelings certainly ran high and what seemed like a good idea to Wilson Hill certainly backfired by raising the hackles of Harold Hastie and Ian Munro in particular, leading to what seemed to be a power struggle between Wilson and Harold. Some caution should be exercised in reading too much into this meeting, however. For a start, the minutes were written by Harold Hastie and cannot be viewed as a neutral, unbiased account of what took place. In particular, it is not that clear what the rest of the Court felt about the matters discussed. It was perhaps fortunate that the next meeting of the Court of Honour did not take place until February by which time tempers had cooled.

7<sup>th</sup> February, 1941

Finnart Church Hall.  
Madeira Street

8.50 – 10.05 p.m

Present;	A.S.M.	W. Hill <sup>1</sup>
	T.L.	H. Hastie <sup>2</sup>
	P.L.	J. Crawford <sup>3</sup>
	P.L.	I. Munro <sup>4</sup>
	P.L.	I. Mitchell <sup>5</sup>
	S.P.L.	G. Brown <sup>6</sup>
	S.P.L.	A. MacFadyen <sup>7</sup>
	S.P.L.	J. Menzies <sup>8</sup>

#### Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and formally adopted on the motion of P.L. I. Munro, seconded by P.L. J. Crawford.

#### G.S.M.'s Cup.<sup>9</sup>

It was announced that the G.S.M.'s Cup had not been returned<sup>10</sup>. There was, however, some news of its holder, S.P.L. J. Menzies announcing that ex Sc. Mackenzie<sup>11</sup> thought the letter very cheeky. At the request of the Chairman<sup>12</sup>, the Secretary<sup>13</sup> read a copy of the letter. The Court did not consider the letter in the least cheeky. A.S.M. Hill said he would go for the Cup personally.

#### Troop Property.

The Curator, P.L. Mitchell, and A.S.M. Hill issued a joint Statement. They had gone over all the Troop property. The ambulance box had not yet been fitted out. The property already reported missing was still missing.<sup>14</sup>

#### Christmas Party.

It was announced that the Christmas Party was held on 23rd December in the Church Hall<sup>15</sup>. Features were food, games and a cine show. Sirens sounded during the cine show, but the show continued by popular demand while some of the older boys went out roof-spotting<sup>16</sup>. A good time was had by all.

#### Finance.

The party, it was stated, was profitable. Its cost was covered by five shillings<sup>17</sup> donated by Sandy Campbell<sup>18</sup>. Sandy left the troop a few months ago as he expected to go to sea<sup>19</sup>. While waiting for a ship, he attended troop meetings and helped as an unofficial A.S.M. His donation was in place of his annual subscription which the Court had refused to accept.

#### Scout Council.<sup>20</sup>

A.S.M. Hill announced that he had given up all idea of forming a Scout Council.

Further discussion on previous trouble.

This brought the Court back to the point which it was arguing at the previous meeting.<sup>21</sup>

A.S.M. Hill cleared the air slightly by reference to P.O.R.<sup>22</sup> where the status of a Court of Honour is defined. T.L. H. Hastie argued the need for a new constitution pointing out the present one<sup>23</sup> was wholly unsatisfactory, misleading and likely to cause the same trouble later. He moved the reconstitution of the Court. The decision was unanimous. It was decided to do so as quickly as possible, to devote a complete meeting to it and to hold such

a meeting on other than a Friday night so that plenty time would be available. The Chairman<sup>12</sup> said he would inform the Court later of the date<sup>24</sup>.

Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer's<sup>25</sup> report was read and adopted. It showed a balance of £5-18-1½.<sup>26</sup> The sum of 5/- had been paid out as registration fee.<sup>27</sup>

Code of Regulations.

The long-promised Code of Troop Regulations was then discussed. The final text is shown opposite (*below*). It was decided to display a copy of the notice on the Troop Noticeboard.

### **Special Troop Rules<sup>28</sup>**

#### **being effective as from 7th February, 1941.**

1. Neckerchiefs must be secured at the throat by a woggle. The loose ends of the neckerchief must be tied in a single neat knot. The neckerchief must be twisted between the woggle and the knot.<sup>29</sup>
2. Woggles must be of the approved Troop pattern.<sup>30</sup>
3. Lanyards must pass under shoulder straps of shirt and over the peak of the neckerchief. Lanyards must be crossed in front of the neckerchief and the loose end tucked into the left-hand breast pocket.<sup>31</sup>
4. All ranks must wear their hats at Flag-break and Inspection.
5. All ranks must wear their hats during Dismissal Parade.
6. All Patrol Leaders must carry their staves, flying patrol flag, at Flag-break and Inspection.
7. All Patrol Leaders must carry their staves flying patrol flag, during Dismissal Parade.
8. The Troop Leader must carry his stave at Flag-break and Inspection.
9. The Troop Leader must carry his stave during Dismissal Parade.
10. On all occasions when the Troop parades facing the Flag, as at Flag-break, Inspection and Dismissal Parade, the Patrol Leaders stand in line down the middle of the hall, each a few paces in front of his Patrol and with his back to it.<sup>32</sup>
11. On all occasions when the Troop parades facing the Flag as at Flag-break, Inspection and dismissal parade, the Second Patrol Leaders shall each stand in line with their patrol and on its right-hand side, facing with the patrol.<sup>32</sup>
12. On all occasions when the Troop parades facing the Flag as at Flag-break, Inspection and Dismissal Parade, the Troop Leader shall stand on the right-hand side of the officer in charge, facing the Troop.
13. Rules 10, 11 and 12 do not apply to any Dismissal Parade held in the form of a Horse-shoe as it is occasionally done.
14. Sheath knives must not be carried by any member of the troop to private Church Parades.<sup>33</sup>
15. Sheath knives must not be carried by any member of the Troop other than the Warrant Officers (G.S.M., S.M., A.S.M.'s) to Troop Meetings.
16. Sheath knives should be carried (if possessed) to all Association Parades.<sup>34</sup>
17. Clasp knives may be carried by all ranks at all times.
18. The Patrol Leader whose Patrol holds the Patrol Competition Pennant will fly it on his Stave immediately below his Patrol flag.<sup>35</sup>

H. Hastie Secy.

Behaviour.



The A.S.M.<sup>36</sup> said that the Court, especially the S.P.L.'s, must behave better at Troop Meetings.<sup>37</sup>

#### Camps.

The subject of camps was brought up. It was announced that Everton was closed<sup>38</sup>. On further consideration of rationing, transport, and camouflage difficulties<sup>39</sup>, it was decided that would be no troop camps this year. It was, however, decided to have more outdoor work.

T.L. Hastie then said he had a few suggestions to make<sup>40</sup>.

#### Magazine Scheme.

First, he said, the waste paper scheme had fallen through due to its almost interminable nature. Yet it had been at first an excellent and interesting outlet. He then gave a few details of a magazine scheme, which, he thought, would circumvent the difficulties<sup>41</sup>.

The Court agreed to give the scheme consideration at a later date<sup>42</sup>.

#### Badges.

A suggestion from the same agency that former Scouts should be asked to return their badges to help compensate for the war-time shortage was defeated.<sup>43</sup>

#### Letter to Lord Somers

Another suggestion that a letter of congratulations should be sent from the Troop to the new Chief Lord Somers<sup>44</sup> was also vetoed.

#### Film Shows.

T.L. Hastie's last suggestion that topical films such as those on fire fighting should be obtained from the local library and shown to the troop and any interested parents was also relegated to a later date for consideration.

This was all the business.

(Signed) H.T.A. Hastie  
Secy

W. Hill.

#### **Editorial comments for 7<sup>th</sup> February 1941**

1. See note 3 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Wilson Hill.
2. See note 6 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Harold Hastie.
3. See note 5 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Jim Crawford.
4. See note 7 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Ian Munro.
5. See note 26 for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Ian Mitchell.
6. See note 28 for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding George Brown.
7. See Note 27 for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Alan MacFadyen.
8. See Note 20 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding John Menzies.
9. See the Minutes for the 12<sup>th</sup> February 1937 regarding the G.S.M.'s Cup. Only non-promoted Scouts could participate. The competition involved a different Scouting skill each year.
10. See the Minutes for the 6<sup>th</sup> December 1940.
11. See note 27 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1939 regarding Duncan McKenzie.
12. The Chairman of the Court of Honour was Wilson Hill.
13. The Secretary for the Court of Honour was Harold Hastie.
14. See the COH Minutes for 13<sup>th</sup> December 1940 regarding ambulance box and missing property..
15. See also the Troop Log entry for 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1940.
16. During the war several older Scouts around Britain were involved in roof-spotting, in which they found a vantage point from where they could spot whether incendiaries dropped during a bombing raid had set light to any roofs. It's not known which 70<sup>th</sup> Scouts were involved in this or whether the roof spotting that night was official or not.
17. Five shillings (£0-5-0) in 1941 had the equivalent value of £16 today (2023).

18. See note 21 for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Sandy Campbell.
19. Sandy joined the merchant navy as a cadet, aged 16. When he eventually got a ship, he took all his going-away presents with him because he was so delighted with them. However, he lost them all when his ship was torpedoed. He survived the war though.
20. See the COH minutes for the 13<sup>th</sup> December 1940 regarding the Scout Council.
21. This revolved around the relative authorities of the Court of Honour and the Scout Master, and had almost resulted in a riot at the previous CH meeting (13<sup>th</sup> December 1940).
22. Policy, Organisation and Rules for the Scout Association.
23. The original Constitution had been defined at the COH meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> November 1935 and was much the same in 1941 with a few minor 'tweaks'.
24. This ended up being the 17<sup>th</sup> February 1941.
25. The Treasurer was Jim Crawford.
26. £5-18-1½ in 1941 had the equivalent value of £381 today (2023).
27. The Registration fee was paid annually by the Scout Group to the local Scouting Association. Presumably, it included insurance.
28. It is likely that many if not all of these rules were in force during the 1930s, and that the Court of Honour was re-emphasising them in order to maintain standards.
29. This was certainly in force during the 1930s, as seen in the Group photograph taken in 1937. However, it is not clear what was meant by the twist 'between the woggle and the knot. The knot in the neckerchief was retained until at least 1966, but had been dispensed with by 1970.
30. This may have been one of Wilson Hill's priorities. He had long been insisting that woggles should be made from twine using the troop colours of yellow and brown (see the COH Minutes for the 14<sup>th</sup> October 1938 and the Troop Log entry for the 11<sup>th</sup> October 1940.)
31. This was certainly in force during the 1930s, as seen in the Group photograph taken in 1937. However, the insistence on having the lanyard passing under the shoulder straps of the shirt was probably dropped when the Troop restarted in 1947 after a brief amalgamation with the 59<sup>th</sup>. Lanyards were worn until at least 1966, but were no longer mandatory by 1970.
32. It is assumed that this was also the way in which the Patrols lined up during the 1930s. The Troop continued to line up in this manner until the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1954, at which point the Patrols lined up round the sides of the hall. However, the original method of lining up continued to be used by the Sixes in the Wolf Cub Pack until at least the late 1960s.
33. It is presumed that this refers to Group parades to Finnart Church.
34. It is not clear why sheath knives should be required for Association (District) Parades, but not for other parades.
35. The Patrol Competition and the pennant associated with it were introduced in September 1936 (see Court of Honour Meeting for the 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1936). It is not known what the design of the pennant was, or whether it was the same pennant used during the 1950s and 1960s.
36. A.S.M. Wilson Hill.
37. This suggests that Wilson Hill's patience was starting to wear thin with the behaviour of his PLs and SPLs at Troop Meetings. It might also indicate that Wilson was starting to exert his authority more forcibly. The issue of behaviour was also raised in subsequent Court of Honour Meetings.
38. It is not clear whether Everton was closed because it was winter, or whether there were wartime restrictions on camping.
39. It is not known whether the requirement to camouflage tents was dictated by the government or the Local Scout Association.
40. According to the recollections of George Brown, Harold Hastie was always coming up with new ideas and suggestions. It appears that more of these were rejected than accepted.
41. During the first year of the war, Greenock Scouts expended a huge amount of effort collecting waste paper. However, this was a never-ending chore that was eventually going to wear down the initial enthusiasm shown by the Scouts. The 'difficulties' included logistical problems involved in collecting and transporting the paper, but there were also problems associated with the fact that some households provided paper that had been used for food packaging. This was responsible for the rotting smell that developed once the paper had been stored for any length of time. Harold Hastie's suggestion of collecting magazines would, in theory, avoid that problem.
42. There is no evidence in the available record of the 70<sup>th</sup> undertaking the magazine project

43. *There was some logic in this suggestion as there was certainly a lack of available badges. On the 13<sup>th</sup> December 1940, five Scouts were invested, but did not receive their badges as the District Badge Secretary had none to give. However, it is likely that this idea would have been unpopular with the rest of the Scouts.*
44. *Baden Powell died on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 1941. Lord Somers had been designated by BP as his successor as Chief Scout of the British Empire. He held that title until his death in 1944. In the 1920s, Lord Somers had been appointed Governor of Victoria, Australia, and State Chief Scout.*

17<sup>th</sup> February, 1941

Finnart Church Hall.  
Madeira Street

6.45 – 8.30 p.m

Present;	A.S.M.	W. Hill <sup>1</sup>
	T.L.	H. Hastie <sup>2</sup>
	P.L.	I. Mitchell <sup>3</sup>
	S.P.L.	A. MacFadyen <sup>4</sup>
		'Red Arrow' <sup>5</sup>

An Extraordinary Meeting of the Court of Honour met for the purpose of rewriting the Constitution. The small attendance was regretted by the Chairman. It was decided to proceed to business immediately.

'Red Arrow' suggested that the appropriate passages in P.O.R. should be read. This was done.

There was much discussion, which it is impossible to record. The main objects in view were to prepare a clear and intelligible Constitution which could give no rise to a misunderstanding in the future, to closely define the relations between Court and S.M. and to state the composition, powers, and business of the Court.

The Secretary was instructed to draw up the New Constitution from the material agreed on by the Court and to inscribe it in the minute book.

The New Constitution would, it was decided, come into operation immediately and the old Constitution would automatically be cancelled.

'Red Arrow' was thanked for his valuable assistance.

The Court had thus completed its duty and it dissolved itself, it being thought proper that the present office bearers terms of office automatically expired with the Constitution under which they were elected.<sup>6</sup>

This concluded the business.

(Signed) H.T.A. Hastie Hon. Secy.  
Wilson Hill, Chairman.

***Editorial comments for 17<sup>th</sup> February 1941***

1. See note 3 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Wilson Hill.
2. See note 6 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Harold Hastie.
3. See note 26 for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Ian Mitchell.
4. See Note 27 for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Alan MacFadyen.
5. 'Red Arrow' was Alan MacFadyen's nickname. It is not known how he got it.
6. Considering the amount of focus that had been directed on the Constitution, it is ironic that this meeting was considered valid. The existing Constitution stated that a quorum of 5 members was necessary. As only 4 members were present at this meeting, the proceedings should have been deemed invalid.

**Tuesday 18th March, 1941**

Finnart Church Hall.  
Madeira Street

7.04 – 8.50 p.m

Present;	A.S.M.	W. Hill <sup>1</sup>
	T.L.	H. Hastie <sup>2</sup>
	P.L.	J. Crawford <sup>3</sup>
	P.L.	I. Munro <sup>4</sup>
	P.L.	I. Mitchell <sup>5</sup>
	S.P.L.	J. Menzies <sup>6</sup>

### Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting dated 7th February, 1941 were read and formally adopted on the motion of P.L. I. Munro, seconded by P.L. J. Crawford.

### GSM's Cup, Ambulance Box, Behaviour.

As business arising from these minutes, A.S.M. Hill stated that he had recovered the G.S.M.'s Cup<sup>7</sup>. He also announced that the Ambulance Box had not yet been refitted. There was still no improvement in behaviour.

### Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting 17th, February, 1941 were read and formally adopted on the motion of P.L. J. Crawford. seconded by P.L. I. Munro.

### Election of office bearers.

In accordance with these minutes, an election of office bearers was held. The results were as follows.

A.S.M. W. Hill was unanimously re-elected Chairman  
T.L. H. Hastie was unanimously re-elected Secretary,  
P.L. J. Crawford was unanimously re-elected Treasurer  
P.L. Mitchell was unanimously re-elected Curator.

### New Constitution.

The Secretary then read through the New Constitution<sup>8</sup> (hereinafter referred to as 'the Constitution'). It was considered.

### Date of Meetings.

A.S.M. Hill proposed that Court meetings should be held on Tuesdays instead of Fridays. There was considerable discussion. It was finally decided to hold Court on the first Friday of every month or as soon thereafter as possible. The decision involved no change in the Constitution.

### Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report for the previous month was then presented. There had been an income of £1 (one pound) from annual subscriptions and 1/4 (one shilling and fourpence) from other sources. This gave a final balance of £6-19-5½.<sup>9</sup>

### S.M.'s Report.<sup>10</sup>

The S.M.'s report was presented. Several tests had been passed. There had been two new recruits, Hugh Kerr<sup>11</sup> and Eric Duncan<sup>12</sup>. The February Patrol Competition<sup>13</sup> was won by the Curlew Patrol.

### Patrol Competition.<sup>13</sup>

A motion by S.P.L. Menzies that the Patrol Competition should be held on one particular night and not spread over the whole month was defeated as it received no support.<sup>14</sup>

### Attendance of P.L.s.

The A.S.M.<sup>15</sup> on asking received an assurance from the P.L.s that their attendance would be regular now that the 'Highers' were over.

### Patrol boxes.<sup>16</sup>

A.S.M. Hill then mentioned the matter of patrol boxes. He wanted each Patrol to have a fairly large box in which to keep its gear. So far, S.P.L. Menzies was the only one to have obtained one for his patrol. A.S.M. Hill asked the other two Patrols to try and get a box as soon as possible.

### Vote of Thanks.

The Chairman<sup>15</sup> called for a vote of thanks to Mr. Miller<sup>17</sup>, who had been coming along to the Troop meetings and giving interesting instruction in various things. The Court accorded a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Miller 'absent'.

### Discussion of Outdoor Work.

There was some discussion now on the subject of outdoor work. Hikes seemed fairly popular. It was presumed that these would be held at the week-end. There were, however, some objections both to Saturday and Sunday hikes<sup>18</sup>. All were agreed, however, that good weather was essential.

### Troop Property.

P.L. I. Mitchell, Curator, asked some questions relating to troop property in an effort to trace some articles. All his questions were answered.

### Constitution Change.

T.L. H. Hastie then moved that another article should be added to the Constitution<sup>8</sup>. The article would read "Three months notice must be given of any motion affecting the Constitution". This, he said, would prevent the Constitution being changed in any way at one meeting perhaps to the disadvantage of or against the principles of someone who was absent. The three months notice gave all the Court a chance to become acquainted with the motion and the date of its debate. P.L. I. Mitchell seconded and, there being no dissentient voice, the motion was passed.

### Proposal about Uniform.

T.L. H. Hastie's next moved that, seeing that Troop funds were fairly high and annual subscriptions were at present swelling them, the Troop should undertake to pay half the cost of the uniforms of future recruits<sup>19</sup>. The motion received no support.

### Buying of Scout Books.

T.L. Hastie did, however, get the Court to sanction the purchase of one volume of "Boy Scout Tests and How to Pass Them"<sup>20</sup> for each Patrol. A.S.M. Hill had asked the boys to buy the books themselves.

### Troop Hut.<sup>21</sup>

A.S.M. Hill said that he had intended conserving Troop funds in order to buy an Army hut at the end of the war<sup>22</sup>. This hut would be placed on some notorious stretch of land known by the mysterious name of 'The Right of Way'<sup>23</sup>. Blankets etc would be kept here and the Troop could *spend* the weekends there.

### Business of Raising Funds.

This plan was popular. It was evident that something should be done in the way of raising funds. The Troop must be brought to the fore. The prospects of a dance were discussed. The

prospects of a concert were discussed. The prospects of a concert and film show were discussed. It was decided to continue discussion at an informal meeting.

### Rest Centre.

The Court were agreed that the Troop ought to be brought to the notice of the Church. Several ways were discussed. A Church Parade would be held in the near future. The best suggestion came from A.S.M. Hill. He suggested that the Troop should offer to act as general handymen at the Church Hall which is registered as a Rest Centre if it ever had to be used<sup>24</sup>. This suggestion was unanimously endorsed.

W. Hill A.S.M.

This was all the business.

Signed H.T.A. Hastie  
Secy.

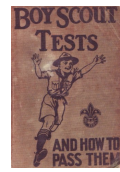
### **Editorial comments for 18<sup>th</sup> March 1941**

1. See note 3 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Wilson Hill.
2. See note 6 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Harold Hastie.
3. See note 5 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Jim Crawford.
4. See note 7 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Ian Munro.
5. See note 26 for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Ian Mitchell.
6. See Note 20 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding John Menzies.
7. See the Minutes for the 12<sup>th</sup> February 1937 regarding the G.S.M.'s Cup. Only non-promoted Scouts could participate. The competition involved a different Scouting skill each year.
8. The details of the new Constitution were provided after the Minutes of 18<sup>th</sup> March 1941. The original Constitution was defined in the Court of Honour Minutes for the 8<sup>th</sup> November 1935.
9. £6-19-5½ in 1941 had the equivalent value of £452 today (2023).
10. Scout Master's Report. At this stage, there was no official Scout Master in position. However, Wilson Hill was the de facto Scout Master.
11. It is believed that Hugh Kerr was born in Greenock during 1925 and joined the Troop in February 1941 when he would have been 15 or 16. However, he did not stay long as he was not mentioned in the Troop roll for February 1942. When he left school, he went into the ministry and moved to Aberdeen.
12. James Eric Duncan was born in Greenock during 1929 and joined the Troop in February 1941, ending up in the Woodpigeon Patrol. It is believed that he lived in the Cardwell Bay area as he moved to the Peewit Patrol in February 1942; this Patrol that had been set up specifically to include Scouts from the Cardwell Bay area. Eric took part in most of the Troop's outdoor activities that were organized between 1941 and 1943 and was a finalist for the G.S.M.'s Cup held in May 1942. Unfortunately, the Troop Log covering the last two years of the war has not been tracked down, and so it is not known whether Eric was promoted or how long he stayed with the Troop.
13. The Patrol Competition and the pennant associated with it were introduced in September 1936 (see Court of Honour Meeting for the 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1936). It is not known what the design of the pennant was, or whether it was the same pennant used during the 1950s and 1960s.
14. When the Patrol Competition was first introduced, it was held on the first Friday of the month, and it is likely that this was still the case when John Menzies joined the Troop in September 1937. It is not recorded when the competition was changed to cover every Friday night meeting.
15. A.S.M. Wilson Hill.
16. It is assumed that Patrol Boxes were first introduced in 1941. They then became a standard bit of equipment and varied in size and shape as each Patrol was responsible for obtaining its own box. It is not known whether the boxes were initially painted or not, but Patrol Boxes during the 1960s were painted in the Patrol colours.
17. Lieutenant Hugo Millar's first visit to the troop was on the 29<sup>th</sup> November, but he also attended Troop Meetings during February and March 1941. On the 8<sup>th</sup> March 1941, he took a few older Scouts to a quarry to practice firing a 0.22 rifle (see photos in the Troop Log). It is likely that Hugo Millar had previous Scouting experience as a leader and had been moved to Greenock with his unit. Unfortunately, very little is known about Hugo or who he served with.

18. Organising Scout activities at the weekend could be problematical. Having them on a Saturday morning clashed with school rugby games. Having them on a Sunday interfered with attending Sunday morning Church services. Therefore, they tended to be organised for a Saturday or Sunday afternoon.

19. There was some logic in this proposal. Items of Scout Uniform were less readily available during the war and it is likely that this increased the costs of what was available. However, it is likely that the rest of the Court preferred available money to be spent in other ways.

20. The book "Boy Scout Tests and How to Pass Them" was published by Brown, Son and Fergusons, Glasgow. A Commemorative Edition was published in 2013. Although, Harold gained a victory here, it was short lived, as his motion was overturned at a later Court of Honour Meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1941.



21. During the first three decades of the 70<sup>th</sup>'s history, there were a number of times when the issue was raised about finding an alternative meeting place for troop meetings. However, this is the only example of a proposal to create the equivalent of a bothy in the countryside. It was an innovative idea, but nothing came of it.

22. Considering the fact that, in March 1941, neither Russia nor the USA had yet entered the war, and with Germany dominating the European continent, it seems remarkably optimistic of Wilson to envisage plans based on the war ending.

23. This statement (written by Harold Hastie) indicates that Harold had never hiked the 'The Right of Way'. A group of 70<sup>th</sup> Scouts (not including Harold) completed the hike a few days later on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1941. However, it is not known whether this was the first time that the hike had been undertaken as the Troop Logs covering the 1930s are missing.

24. Finnart Church Hall was to be used as a Rest Centre as a result of the Greenock Blitz (6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> May 1941) (see the Court of Honour Meeting for 6<sup>th</sup> June 1941).



**70th Renfrewshire,  
30th Greenock,  
Boy Scout Group,  
Scouts**

**Constitution  
Of  
Court of Honour.**

**Formulated:- 17th, February, 1941.**

1. The Court of Honour (hereinafter called the Court) shall consist of:-
  - a) the Troop Leader,
  - b) all Patrol Leaders,
  - c) all Second Patrol Leaders,
  - d) all co-opted members,
  - e) all Warrant Officers of the Group.

Note: Warrant Officers shall act in an advisory capacity only and shall have no vote nor the right to propose or second motion or amendments to motions.

2. The Court shall have the following office-bearers who shall be elected annually by the Court:-

- a) Chairman,
- b) Secretary,
- c) Treasurer,
- d) Curator.

3. The Annual General Meeting shall be held as near as possible to the beginning of the Scout Year. The functions of this Meeting shall be:-

- a) Election of Office Bearers for the following year,
- b) Consideration of the Treasurer's Annual Report on Troop finances.
- c) Consideration of the Scoutmaster's Annual Report on Troop activities.
- d) Consideration of the Curator's Inventory.

4. Ordinary meetings shall be held, if possible, on the first Friday of every month. The business dealt with thereat shall be:-

- a) The Scoutmaster's Report of Troop activities for the previous month,
- b) The Treasurer's Report of Troop finances for the previous month,
- c) All applications for membership of the Troop,
- d) All resignations from the Troop,
- e) Troop activities
- f) Troop finances
- g) Disciplinary matters.

5. The Honorary Secretary shall keep minutes of the meetings of the Court which shall be read and considered at the beginning of each meeting of the Court.
6. The Court must give its approval before any person may apply for a warrant for service in the Troop.
7. A quorum shall consist of five members. The person in charge of the Troop must have knowledge of such a meeting.
8. At the discretion of the Chairman of the Court, the Second Patrol Leaders may be asked to leave the Court.
9. Three months notice must be given, in writing, of any motion affecting the Constitution.

Finally approved at the Court Meeting held on the seventeenth day of the month of February, 1941, in the Finnart Church Hall, Madeira St, Greenock.

Signed: Wilson Hill. (chairman)  
H.T.A. Hastie (Hon. Sec)  
Witnesses: I. Mitchell.  
A.S. MacFadyen.

28th March, 1941

Finnart Church Hall.  
Madeira Street

8.35 – 9.15 p.m

Present;	A.S.M.	W. Hill <sup>1</sup>
	T.L.	H. Hastie <sup>2</sup>
	P.L.	I. Munro <sup>3</sup>
	P.L.	I. Mitchell <sup>4</sup>
	S.P.L.	J. Menzies <sup>5</sup>
	S.P.L.	G. Brown <sup>6</sup>

#### Minutes of previous meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Court were read and formally adopted on the motion of P.L. Munro, seconded by S.P.L. Menzies.

#### Camping.

The Chairman<sup>7</sup> announced that the business in hand concerned camping.

#### Tents.

It was obvious that a tent was necessary for camping. There was a discussion as to which tent should be used as, whichever it was, it would require overhaul. Respective merits were stated. P.L. Munro, an old camper<sup>8</sup>, assisted the Court greatly drawing his advice from his huge stock reminiscences. It was decided to recondition the Bell tent. The Bell tent, it was stated, had many holes, no poles, and needed patches. A.S.M. Hill was given a blank cheque to see to these holes, poles and patches.<sup>9</sup>

#### Camouflage

The subject of camouflage now arose<sup>10</sup>. It was stated that local prices for camouflaging were extortionate. The Court was unanimously against paying such prices from Troop funds. It was decided to buy a pot of paint and let the Troop's artists loose on the tent<sup>11</sup>.

#### Box.

A.S.M. Hill now introduced one of his projects. This time, it was to buy a box at a ship-breaker's yard. This would be kept in the farm at Everton if possible and troop gear would be kept in it. There was a prolonged discussion. On the question of size, varying statements were made varying from a seaman's chest to a ship's cabin. On the question of price, more statements were made also varying. The figure eventually rose to £10<sup>12</sup> quite beyond the imaginative field of the majority of the Court. There was considerable dismay and some signs of panic. A.S.M. Hill was reminded that Troop funds had not attained the astronomical figure he had just mentioned. A.S.M. Hill mentioned possible outside assistance. A.S.M. Hill was reminded, not unkindly, that the Troop wished to be independent. The discussion livened up on the subject of the purpose of the box. A.S.M. Hill stated the gear which was necessary for every camp: - dishes, cutlery, blankets, etc would be kept in it. There was further discussion. The matter was left in A.S.M. Hill's hands. Some members were still slightly doubtful, however.<sup>13</sup>

This was all the business.

Signed H.T.A. Hastie,  
Secy.  
W. Wilson Hill.

**Editorial comments for 28<sup>th</sup> March 1941**

1. See note 3 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Wilson Hill.
2. See note 6 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Harold Hastie.
3. See note 7 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Ian Munro.
4. See note 26 for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Ian Mitchell.
5. See Note 20 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding John Menzies.
6. See note 28 for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding George Brown.
7. The Chairman of the Court of Honour was Wilson Hill.
8. Ian Munro was aged about 17 at this time and had been at the Troop's Summer Camps of 1935 and 1937. He was also unusual in being promoted directly from Scout to Patrol Leader, possibly because of his Scouting/camping expertise.
9. During a discussion with George Brown, 65 years later, George vividly remembered Harold writing about 'holes, poles and patches'. According to George, Harold had a way with words which amused the Court of Honour when the Minutes were being read.
10. Scout tents had to be camouflaged during the war, but it is not known whether this rule was laid down by the UK Government or Imperial Scout Headquarters.
11. This was also remembered by George Brown in a discussion 65 years later. It is not known whether the Bell tent ended up being camouflaged or not. According to the COH Minutes for 6<sup>th</sup> June 1941, it was sent to Blacks for repairs, but was destroyed during the Greenock Blitz of May 1941. Blacks provided a camouflaged Icelandic to the Troop on loan, so it is possible that the Troop's artists never got the chance to demonstrate their creative skills.
12. £10 in 1941 had the equivalent value of £646 today (2023).
13. Despite those doubts, a box was eventually purchased and installed at Everton Farm just below the Everton Campsite (see also the COH Minutes for 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1941 and the Troop log entry for 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> July 1942).

3<sup>rd</sup> May<sup>1</sup>, 1941

Finnart Church Hall.  
Madeira Street

8.40 – 9.30 p.m

Present:	A.S.M.	W. Hill <sup>2</sup>
	T.L.	H. Hastie <sup>3</sup>
	P.L.	I. Mitchell <sup>4</sup>
	S.P.L.	J. Menzies <sup>5</sup>
	S.P.L.	G. Brown <sup>6</sup>
	S.P.L.	A. MacFadyen <sup>7</sup>

#### Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted on the motion of P.L. I. Mitchell and seconded by S.P.L. J. Menzies.

#### Treasurer's Report.

There was still no Treasurer's report<sup>8</sup>.

#### S.M.'s Report.<sup>9</sup>

There was no S.M.s report.

#### Outdoor Work.

A.S.M. Hill announced that some outdoor work had been done<sup>10</sup> and that this would be continued.

#### Tents.

A.S.M. Hill announced that the Bell tent<sup>11</sup> was in such bad condition that it was not worth repairing<sup>12</sup> - the estimated price of repair being two pounds thirteen shillings (£2-13-0)<sup>13</sup>.

A.S.M. Hill said, however, that the Icelandic tent was repairable and that he had, therefore, had work started upon it<sup>14</sup> which would include camouflaging<sup>15</sup>.

#### The Box.

A.S.M. Hill then released some further facts about the box - see previous minutes. He stated that the box had been bought. The approximate dimensions were five feet by three feet by three feet (5'x3'x3'). A.S.M. Hill stated that by the price there hung a tale. An account arrived for the box. A.S.M. Hill read it as 'price of box ten shillings' (10/-). Actually, it read 'price of book price of box ten shillings (10/-)<sup>16</sup> per hundred weight (cwt). Consequently, A.S.M. Hill dispatched to cheque for ten shillings (10/-) instead of seventeen and sixpence (17/6). The dealer<sup>17</sup> replied pointing out *the* mistake but adding that the account was considered square as he approved of the use to which the box would be put<sup>18</sup>. The Court expressed its appreciation.

#### Morse Key.

A.S.M. Hill announced that seeing a useful looking morse key<sup>19</sup> while purchasing the box, he had purchased it. This affected Troop funds to the extent of 1 shilling and sixpence (1/6)<sup>20</sup>.

#### Scout Books.

A.S.M. Hill announced that he had decided not to purchase the three copies of "Boy Scout Tests and How to Pass Them". It will be remembered that T.L. Hastie forced the opposite issue to this question at the Court of 18th March 1941<sup>21</sup>.

#### Recruit Returns.

A.S.M. Hill announced that recruit Collin Reid<sup>22</sup> had rejoined the Troop<sup>23</sup>.

#### New Recruit

A.S.M. Hill announced that a new recruit Thomas Forsyth<sup>24</sup> had joined the Troop.

#### Discipline.

A.S.M. Hill said he had now come to the question of discipline<sup>25</sup>. He spoke of the T.L., H. Hastie in such a way as to constitute a reprimand. The T.L. was informed that he was not leading the Troop properly, that he was not respected and that his behaviour was 'hilarious'<sup>26</sup>. The T.L. offered no defence. S.M. Hill said he hoped for better work from the T.L. The rest of the Court was addressed in the same way, though the T.L. was generally regarded as the worst example. S.P.L. Brown was granted the respect of the Troop by A.S.M. Hill. This was what the A.S.M. wanted. Proceedings from this point on were somewhat subdued.<sup>27</sup>

#### Camp.

A.S.M. Hill announced that he intended to hold a weekend camp as early as possible in June.<sup>28</sup>

#### Church Parade.

A.S.M. Hill said that there would be a church parade on the 5th May<sup>29</sup>.

#### Patrol Boxes.

A.S.M. Hill then brought up the matter of Patrol boxes. He said he hoped the others would follow S.P.L. Menzies splendid example.<sup>30</sup>

This was all the business.

Signed, H.T.A. Hastie. (Secy)

W. Wilson Hill

#### **Editorial comments for 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1941**

1. This is almost certainly an error. The Troop Log identifies the Court of Honour taking place on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1941.
2. See note 3 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Wilson Hill.
3. See note 6 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Harold Hastie.
4. See note 26 for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Ian Mitchell.
5. See Note 20 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding John Menzies.
6. See note 28 for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding George Brown.
7. See Note 27 for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Alan MacFadyen.
8. The Treasurer was Jim Crawford.
9. Scout Master's Report. At this stage, there was no official Scout Master in position. However, Wilson Hill was the de facto Scout Master.
10. This included a number of hikes during the Spring of 1941 on the 8<sup>th</sup> March, 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 29<sup>th</sup> March, 26<sup>th</sup> April and 4<sup>th</sup> May (see Troop Patrol Log). Future hikes and camps were carried out on 19<sup>th</sup> July, 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> August, and 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> August 194 (see Troop Patrol Log).
11. The Bell tent was probably the first tent obtained by the 70<sup>th</sup>, and was mentioned in the short report of the Troop's first Summer Camp at Ardrishaig in 1933, but it is not known whether it was purchased or donated. It is probable that the Bell had not been used since the Summer Camp of 1937, a period of nearly 4 years.
12. Wilson must have had a change of heart as the Bell Tent was sent to Blacks for repairs (see the COH Minutes for 6<sup>th</sup> June 1941).
13. £2-13-0 in 1941 had the equivalent value to £171.16 today (2023).
14. This work was to be carried out by Blacks (see COH minutes for 6<sup>th</sup> June 1941).
15. Scout tents had to be camouflaged during the war, but it is not known whether this rule was laid down by the UK Government or Imperial Scout Headquarters.
16. £0-10-0 in 1941 had the equivalent value to £32 today (2023).
17. It is not known who the dealer was, but he must have been relatively local as Wilson inspected the goods.

18. The box was to be used to store camping equipment at Everton Farm close to Everton campsite. Although storage lockers, could be hired at Everton, it is possible that the 70<sup>th</sup> chose to make alternative arrangements. Alternatively, they might have wished to store more equipment than could be kept in the Everton lockers.
19. The morse key was still in the Troop's possession during the 1960s, but it may have been disposed of since then.
20. £0-1-6 in 1941 had the equivalent value of £48 today (2023).
21. Presumably Harold Hastie was not best pleased at this decision, but this decision is possibly indicative of Wilson taking firmer control of the 70<sup>th</sup>'s affairs. Further evidence of this is indicated in his later comments on discipline.
22. See note 8 for the 1<sup>st</sup> November 1940 regarding Collin Reid.
23. He had left the Troop in December 1940 due to him moving house.
24. There is virtually no information regarding Thomas Forsyth, other than he joined on the 2nd May 1941, and was in the Wolf patrol during September 1941 with Robin MacDougall as PL and Ronald Herbert as his SPL. It is not known how long he stayed with the Troop or what he did after leaving school.
25. It is possible that Wilson Hill had been building up to this for some time and felt it necessary to exert his authority more forcefully than he had done so in recent months, especially in terms of his authority over the PLs and the Court of Honour. An incident that occurred during the Troop meeting that evening may also have been the final straw. The Troop Log (written up by Wilson) states that Harold Hastie had run a treasure hunt that evening with Wilson's hat as the treasure. Wilson makes no further comment about this in his account, but there is a possibility that the hat might have been used without Wilson's permission.
26. It is unlikely that this was stated as any form of complement.
27. This is in sharp contrast to previous COH meetings when the PLs were not slow in opposing some of Wilson's comments, proposals or suggestions. It also suggests that Wilson's comments were somewhat justified.
28. The Troop Log gives no indication of a camp taking place in June, but two weekend camps took place in August. It is possible that the Greenock Blitz may have been responsible for delaying any plans for a camp (see COH minutes for 6<sup>th</sup> June 1941). It is possible that tents were not available until August.
29. In fact, the parade took place on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May 1941 (see Troop Log).
30. See the COH minutes for the 18<sup>th</sup> March 1941.

6<sup>th</sup> June, 1941

Finnart Church Hall.  
Madeira Street

8.45 – 9.30 p.m

Present:	A.S.M.	W. Hill <sup>1</sup>
	T.L.	H. Hastie <sup>2</sup>
	P.L.	I. Mitchell <sup>3</sup>
	S.P.L.	R. MacDougall <sup>4</sup>
	S.P.L.	G. Brown <sup>5</sup>

#### Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Court were read by the Secretary and formally adopted on the motion of P.L. Ian Mitchell, seconded by S.P.L. G. Brown.

#### Resignation.

The Chairman announced that he had in hand a letter from P.L. J. Crawford<sup>6</sup> in which he stated his wish to resign. The Chairman read the relevant passages. It was reluctantly decided to accept this resignation.

#### New Member.

This left a vacancy in the Court. It was decided to appoint Sc. R. MacDougall an S.P.L. This was done and S.P.L. MacDougall was introduced to the Court and congratulated on his promotion.

#### Promotion.

It was decided to promote S.P.L. G. Brown to P.L. in recognition of his hard work, in succession to P.L. J. Crawford. P.L. G. Brown was congratulated by the Court on his promotion.

#### Rearrangement of Patrols

It was decided to rearrange the distribution of the Court among the Patrols. The following was agreed upon:-

Woodpigeon Patrol	Curlew Patrol	Wolf Patrol
P.L. George Brown	P.L. Ian Munro <sup>7</sup>	P.L. I. Mitchell
S.P.L. R. MacDougall	S.P.L. J. Menzies <sup>8</sup>	S.P.L. A. MacFadyen <sup>9</sup>

#### Treasurer's Report.<sup>10</sup>

There was no Treasurer's report.

#### S.M.s Report.<sup>11</sup>

The S.M.s report was then read, considered and adopted on the motion of P.L. I. Mitchell, seconded by P.L. G. Brown. It announced a Church Parade to Finnart Church on the 5th May<sup>12</sup> and showed a marked increase in outdoor work due to trips on Saturday afternoons and Sundays which were proving very successful.<sup>13</sup>

#### Weekend Outings.

It was decided that although Troop Meetings were to cease for the summer at the end of the month, those interested in week-end outings should assemble every Friday evening at the Hall to make final arrangements.<sup>14</sup>

#### G.S.M.'s Cup.<sup>15</sup>

It was decided that the G.S.M.'s Cup should be awarded for skill in camping and cooking. A.S.M. Hill as acting G.S.M.<sup>16</sup> would be the examiner.

#### S.M.'s Warrant.



A.S.M. W. Hill announced that he had not as yet received his S.M.'s Warrant.<sup>17</sup>

#### Subscriptions.

It was announced that the majority of the annual subscriptions had now been received. Defaulters were being pressed at every opportunity.

#### Scout Week.<sup>18</sup>

The Chairman<sup>19</sup> announced that he had received no information regarding Scout Week this year.

#### War Weapons Week.<sup>20</sup>

The Chairman announced that he had received no intimation of Scout activities during War Weapons Week.

#### Work in "blitz".<sup>21</sup>

It was announced that during and following the recent concentrated enemy air attack on the town, the Troop did excellent work in the Hall<sup>22</sup>, which was a Rest Centre and also in many other fields - Civil Defence Forces, Emergency Relief Organisation, and other services.<sup>23</sup>

#### Cubs

It was announced that several Cubs in the Troop Pack were due to come into the Troop. The Court agreed that they should be drafted into the Troop as soon as possible.<sup>24</sup>

#### Tents.

A.S.M. Hill announced that of two tents lodged with Blacks, whose premises were destroyed in the blitz, the Icelandic had been recovered intact. The Bell tent had been destroyed<sup>25</sup> and Blacks had provided a camouflaged Icelandic in its place on loan. Meanwhile, a claim had been put in for the Bell tent.<sup>26</sup>

(Signed) Harold T.A. Hastie.  
W. Hill (Chairman)

#### **Editorial comments for 6<sup>th</sup> June 1941**

1. See note 3 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Wilson Hill.
2. See note 6 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Harold Hastie.
3. See note 26 for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Ian Mitchell.
4. See Note 20 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1939 regarding Robin McDougall.
5. See note 28 for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding George Brown.
6. See note 5 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Jim Crawford. Jim may well have been the longest-serving member of the large cohort of Scouts that joined the 70<sup>th</sup> from his school year, as well as the first boy to have been a 70<sup>th</sup> Scout from the age of 10 to the age of 17. He had been in the Troop since 1934 and had probably just turned 17 when he resigned. Ian Munro and Harold Hastie are also contenders for those accolades, but it is not known whether they joined the Troop in 1934 or 1935. Ian and Harold resigned in September 1941.
7. See note 7 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Ian Munro.
8. See Note 20 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding John Menzies.
9. See Note 27 for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Alan MacFadyen.
10. The Treasurer had been Jim Crawford and it is not known who took on his role.
11. Scout Master's Report. At this stage, there was no official Scout Master in position. However, Wilson Hill was the de facto Scout Master.
12. It actually took place on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May 1941.
13. See note 10 for the COH meeting of the 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1941.
14. It is possible that several such activities took place that were not recorded in the Troop Log.
15. See the Minutes for the 12<sup>th</sup> February 1937 regarding the G.S.M.'s Cup. Only non-promoted Scouts could participate. The competition involved a different Scouting skill each year. It is not known whether the Cup was actually competed for that year, however.

16. *It is highly likely that Wilson took on some of the roles of G.S.M. but not all. It is known that the Rev. Stewart was also supporting the troop and was probably handling the administrative roles normally carried out by a G.S.M.*
17. *It is not known when Wilson officially applied for an S.M.'s warrant, but approval might have been delayed on age grounds. Wilson was probably considered too young to be officially recognised as S.M.*
18. *Scout Week was an annual occurrence organised by the District (or the Local Association as it was called at the time). Events probably included the Swimming Gala and the Open-Air Drumhead Service/Parade at Pirrie/Rankin Park.*
19. *The Chairman of the Court of Honour was Wilson Hill.*
20. *At the start of the war, the public, industry and organisations were encouraged to invest money into National Savings in order to help fund the war effort, which was costing the nation £15 million pounds per day. Essentially, the money invested was being lent to the British Government. Throughout the war, specific fund raising weeks were organised in order to encourage and boost the money invested. War Weapons Week may have been the first of these and took place during the week, 7<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> July 1941. Each town or borough throughout the country set itself a specific target that would fund a specific resource; for example, a squadron of fighter planes. There is no evidence of Greenock Scouts being involved in 'War Weapons Week' during 1941 or in 'Warship Week' during 1942, but the Scouts were involved in the 'Wings for Victory Week' held in 1943.*
21. *The Greenock Blitz took place during the nights of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> May 1941. During the Blitz, 25,000 homes were damaged and 5000 were destroyed. Various rest centres including Finnart Church Hall provided sanctuary for the homeless, as well as advice on what to do next.*
22. *Unfortunately, no details have been found on what the Scouts actually did at the Rest Centre.*
23. *Many of the older Scouts were involved in voluntary work during the war. For example, George Brown had volunteered to carry messages on his bicycle between different command posts. In the days following the Blitz, he was involved in carrying messages between the various command posts involved in the rescue and clear up operations. On one occasion, he was about to launch down a Greenock Street from Westburn Square when a civil defence officer stopped him. Ten minutes later, a building collapsed on the road he had intended cycling down. Alan MacFadyen may also have been involved in Civil Defence during the Blitz.*
24. *The Cubs involved were probably Alan Jubber, John Ellis, Stewart Tosh, Roy Farling and James McIntyre (see the Troop Log for 12<sup>th</sup> September 1941. Roy Taylor and Norman Taylor also joined the 70<sup>th</sup> on the 21<sup>st</sup> June having transferred from the 36<sup>th</sup> Portsmouth Troop.*
25. *This may not have been such a great loss (see the Court of Honour Minutes for the 3<sup>rd</sup> May, which described the Bell as being in a pretty poor condition).*
26. *The replacement Bell Tent that was presumably received through the insurance claim was probably the tent used during the 1950s to 1990s. It is not known whether it is still in the Troop's possession.*

26<sup>th</sup> September, 1941

Finnart Church Hall.  
Madeira Street

8.40 – 10.20 p.m

Present:	A.S.M.	W. Hill <sup>1</sup>
	T.L.	H. Hastie <sup>2</sup>
	P.L.	I. Mitchell <sup>3</sup>
	S.P.L.	J. Menzies <sup>4</sup>
	S.P.L.	R. MacDougall <sup>5</sup>

#### Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read but were not adopted as the last paragraph was incomplete.<sup>6</sup>

#### Resignation.

The Chairman<sup>7</sup> announced that he had received P.L. Ian Munro's<sup>8</sup> resignation. It was reluctantly accepted.

#### S.M.s Report.<sup>9</sup>

The S.M.s report announced that A.I. Dunlop<sup>10</sup>, the former G.S.M., had visited the troop on 13th June. On the 21st June, the last meeting of the troop for the summer was held<sup>11</sup>. A visit was paid to the Home Guard rifle range due to the kindness of Mr Herbert<sup>12</sup>. There were two weekend camps during the summer at Everton<sup>13</sup>. One on the 9th August attended by eight Scouts and one officer<sup>14</sup>, and one on 16th August attended by three scouts and one officer<sup>15</sup>. The first meeting of the Troop after the summer break was held on 12th September. The S.M. commented on the many successful week-end outings<sup>16</sup>.

#### Treasurers Report.

The Chairman read all the outstanding Treasurer's reports<sup>17</sup>. The balance at the end of August was £7-8-0<sup>18</sup>. It was further announced that last year's balance sheets had been audited.

#### Annual General Meeting.

The Chairman announced that the Annual General Meeting would be held the following week on Friday 3rd October.<sup>19</sup>

#### Resignation.

T.L. Hastie said he had not sufficient time to attend Scout meetings regularly and was therefore resigning his office as Troop Leader.<sup>20</sup>

#### Promotions.

P.L. Mitchell was proposed as the new Troop Leader by A.S.M. Hill. P.L. Mitchell declined on the same grounds that he had not sufficient time.<sup>21</sup>

It was decided to appoint P.L. G. Brown Troop Leader.<sup>22</sup>

#### Resignation

P.L. I. Mitchell said he wished to resign his position as Patrol Leader.<sup>21</sup> This left three vacancies for Patrol Leaders.

#### Promotions.

The S.P.L.'s were asked to leave the room. It was decided to appoint S.P.L.'s McDougall and Menzies Patrol Leaders.<sup>23</sup> The S.P.L.s were called in again and congratulated on their promotion.<sup>24</sup> This left three vacancies for S.P.L.'s.

Promotions.

After some discussion Scouts Webster<sup>25</sup> and MacKechnie<sup>26</sup> were appointed S.P.L.'s. The name of the third S.P.L. was not decided.<sup>27</sup>

#### Redistribution.

The Court was redistributed amongst the Patrols as follows:

Woodpigeons	Curlew	Wolf
P.L. A. MacFadyen	P.L. J. Menzies	P.L. R. McDougall
S.P.L. A. MacKechnie	S.P.L. A. Webster	

#### Purchase of Rope.

After some discussion and inquiry, A.S.M. Hill was given authority to draw upon Troop funds to the amount of five shillings (5/-) on the motion of P.L. McDougall, seconded by P.L. Menzies. This sum was to cover the purchase of two hanks of rope for knotting.

#### Vote of Thanks.

The Court recorded a vote of thanks P.L. A. MacFadyen absens<sup>28</sup>, for the free transport to Everton which he afforded the troop for its trek cart and heavy gear.<sup>29</sup>

#### P.L.'s Training Class.

It was decided to hold a P.L.'s training class every Wednesday evening between the hours of 7.30 and 8.30 p.m.

The question of the position of H. Hastie and I. Mitchell now arose. They had both resigned their official status and were technically no longer members of the Court. The Court, however, did not wish to lose their services. Their enrolment in the Group Rover Crew was suggested. A.S.M. W. Hill stated that he intended to write A. Ian Dunlop<sup>10</sup>, the RSL<sup>30</sup>, about the future of the Rovers and other such matters. It was decided that H. Hastie and I. Mitchell should be appointed Rover Scout recruits pending further developments and that they should also be Co opted members of the Court of Honour.

This was all the completed business.

Signed H.T.A. Hastie  
Hon. Secretary  
Wilson Hill (Chairman)

#### **Editorial comments for 26<sup>th</sup> September 1941**

1. See note 3 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Wilson Hill.
2. See note 6 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Harold Hastie.
3. See note 26 for the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Ian Mitchell.
4. See Note 20 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding John Menzies.
5. See Note 20 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1939 regarding Robin McDougall.
6. This was presumably addressed as the last paragraph of the previous minutes now looks complete.
7. The Chairman of the Court of Honour was Wilson Hill.
8. See note 7 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Ian Munro. The reasons for Ian Munro's resignation were not given, but it is likely that he had turned 17. Like Ian Crawford, Ian Munro may well have been a 70<sup>th</sup> Scout for 7 years. However, it is not known for certain whether he joined in 1934 or 1935.
9. Scout Master's Report. At this stage, there was no official Scout Master in position. However, Wilson Hill was the de facto Scout Master.
10. See note 2 for the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939 regarding Ian Dunlop. See also the Troop Log entry for 13<sup>th</sup> June 1941.
11. See the Troop Log entry for the 21st June 1941.
12. Mr. Herbert was probably Ronald Herbert's father. The family lived in Inverkip or Wemyss Bay, and Mr. Herbert ran Greenock Motor Services (GMS). Ronald had joined the Troop in November 1940 and had been involved in several of the outdoor activities organised in 1941. It is not known whether Mr. Herbert organised

or paid for the visit, or whether he was a member of the Home Guard. However, the Troop Log entry suggests that he instructed the Scouts.

13. Everton Campsite was located close to Everton Farm, up the hill from Inverkip.
14. Attended by ASM Wilson Hill, P.L. George Brown, SPL, Alan MacFadyen, and Scouts Ronald Herbert, Alasdair Maclaine, Alan MacKay, Collin Reid, Jim Morton and Andrew Webster. A full report was provided in the troop log for the 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> August 1941.
15. Attended by ASM Wilson Hill, PL George Brown, Neill MacGill and Eric Duncan. A full report is provided in the Troop Log for the 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> August 1941.
16. This, indeed had been a marked feature during the first half of 1941 and demonstrated that the Troop was in a much better position than in 1940.
17. Jim Crawford had been Treasurer until he resigned in June 1941. There is no evidence of a new Treasurer being elected since then, so the reports were probably ones that had been prepared by Jim Crawford.
18. £7-8-0 in 1941 had the equivalent value of £478 today (2023).
19. Unfortunately, the Court of Honour Minute book from October 1941 onwards has not been traced. Therefore, there is no record of the Annual General Meeting of any other Court of Honour Meetings held during the war years.
20. Harold Hastie is another possible candidate (alongside Jim Crawford and Ian Munro) for being a 70<sup>th</sup> Scout for 7 years from 1934-41. Unfortunately, it is not known whether he joined in 1934 or 1935.
21. Ian Mitchell was in the same class as Jim Crawford, but joined the Troop relatively late on in December 1938. He was probably aged 17 when he resigned.
22. George Brown was aged about 14 when he was promoted to Troop Leader in 1941, and so there was a marked changing of the guard with the resignation over the summer of four 17 year olds from the Court of Honour. George Brown had been promoted to PL of The Woodpigeon Patrol in June 1941 when Jim Crawford resigned, but now relinquished that position to become Troop Leader.
23. Robin McDougall had been Second of the Woodpigeon Patrol and now became PL of the Wolf Patrol, replacing Ian Mitchell. John Menzies had been Second of the Curlew Patrol and became PL of the Curlew Patrol, replacing Ian Munro. Alan MacFadyen had been Second of the Wolf Patrol and now became PL of the Woodpigeon Patrol replacing George Brown. Alan's promotion to PL was not actually specified in the COH Minutes, but was indicated in the list of PLs and SPLs provided. It is possible that his promotion could only be made formal once he accepted the position, and he was absent from this particular meeting.
24. This referred to Robin McDougall and John Menzies only as Alan MacFadyen was not present at the meeting.
25. See Note 13 for the 11<sup>th</sup> October 1940 regarding Andrew Webster. It is likely that Andrew Webster's attendance at so many outdoor activities played a big part in getting him promoted.
26. See Note 13 for the 1<sup>st</sup> November 1940 regarding Sandy MacKechnie.
27. It is not known why this was not decided at the time. Ronald Herbert was eventually promoted to be SPL of the Wolf Patrol.
28. In his absence.
29. It is not made clear whether he paid for the transport or arranged for free transport. The equipment was transported on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1941 according to the Troop Log.
30. In fact, Ian Dunlop did not take out a warrant as Rover Scout Leader until August 1942, implying that he was the de facto RSL in 1941.