

THE BOYS' BRIGADE NORTH WEST KENT BATTALION

D. E. A. EXPEDITION COMMITTEE

NOTES ON ASSESSORS MEETING HELD AT TONBRIDGE ROAD METHODIST CHURCH MAIDSTONE ON 10 JULY 1990

1. Introduction

- 1.1 M.D.B stressed that the D.E.A. committee run expeditions for and on behalf of the B.B. These have now become an essential part of BB alongside the rest of the D.E.A. scheme.
- 1.2 As we are part of the B.B. N.W.K Battalion we must maintain the highest standards and objectives of the B.B. at all times.

2. New B.B. regulations

- 2.1 These come into effect in September 1991, and at least one person (though we would prefer as many as possible) must hold the new certificate.
- 2.2 There are two levels - Standard - which covers Bronze & Silver.
- Advanced - which cover Gold (ie Wild Country)
- 2.3 To each certificate there are 8 categories:-
 1. Equipment
 2. Lightweight camping & backpacking
 3. Navigation
 4. First Aid, emergency & safety
 5. Expedition planning & management
 6. Access & the environment
 7. Instructional Techniques
 8. Practical Assessment
- 2.4 Items 1 to 4 and possibly 8 are covered by those who have completed successfully a Gold expedition.
- 2.5 Training for 5, 6 & 7 can be carried out at company, battalion and national level.
- 2.6 Practical assessment if required will be assessed by assessors appointed by B.B. headquarters.

3. Training

- 3.1 Mick Sayer and Andy Gibson have prepared a report on their experiences with the Mountain Leader Training Scheme (Summer) Basic Training. Copies are available and are well worth reading.
- 3.2 At the meeting Mick and Andy voiced their thoughts and concerns regarding the level of training and the amount of experience many assessors have.
- 3.3 With impending B.B. regulations in mind it has been decided to put together a scheme for training of new assessors. This will incorporate ideas taken from the MLT scheme and prepare us for September 1991 and after.
- 3.4 All current assessors (old, young, fat & thin) will be encouraged to do practical walking (preferably as a group). It is proposed that all current assessors have refresher training sessions to keep everyone up to date with the latest developments. These training session may be :-
 1. Weekends away
 2. Training days
 3. Separate sessions on training weekends

4. Training Weekends

- 4.1 One of the points raised by Andy Gibson is that we are trying to cram too much teaching into the Saturday morning. This means that Map & Compass is not being covered in enough detail and that standards are dropping.
- 4.2 Andy Gibson proposed that we moved the training walk to Sunday (all day) and spent Saturday on teaching, which would include practice walks. It was however highlighted that we do not hold training expeditions in Wales prior to the main expedition because we claim to simulate poor conditions by walking at night in Kent.
- 4.3 The format for the training weekends needs to be considered carefully to overcome both these problems.

5. Code of Practice & Syllabus

- 5.1 M.D.B Proposed that a syllabus check/check list be prepared. This will ensure that all groups are taught to a similar standard, and help assessors to cover the items required. This idea was met with approval by the meeting.
- 5.2 The code of practice will be a simple list covering what we expect from groups and assessors. For example, procedurs at checkpoints, silent checks, emergency rations.

6. Snowdonia 1991

We will be using a new bunkhouse in Snowdon next year together with one room at Jessies for telephone duty. This will give a total of 40 beds (36 BH, 4J's). It is still to be decided who will sleep with the telephone but the snorers look hot favorites at the moment.

The arrangements for cooking and eating are not as good as we have had in recent years. However we will have the entire place to ourselves nad there should be no double booking!

7. South Downs 1991

This will continue as normal. M.D.B. proposed the idea of telephone duty to keep track of groups & assessors. The meeting thought this was not needed as the current system of one car one group with an emergency car phone seems to be working.

Andy Webber has kindly offered to take a bar-b-que to Plumpton for the Saturday evening (if he can find it). We will then take our own food, drink and music and provide our own entertainment.

I hope these notes have given you an indication of what was discussed at the meeting if you were unable to attend. The next few years ahead look exiting for B.B. expedition. While it may seem as if our standards are not high enough I can assure you that as an organistion we NWK BB DEA is looking very healthy and that is thanks to all you assessors who put so much time and effort in.

If you have any comments or question about any of the items to do with D.E.A. please do not hesitate to contact me.