

Enter the 'Group' System (1928-1934)

1928 brought in the introduction of the GROUP System. Hitherto all Scout Troops, Wolf Cub Packs and Rover Scout Crews had been registered independently (for example the 1st.Beds: had three registrations - Onesters, Onestercubs and Onesterevers). Now they were re-registered as a Scout Group (ideally a Troop, Pack and Crew) and eventually issued with new Registration Numbers (These actually did not come into effect until 1929 - and a complete list of the Bedford District GROUP Registrations is herewith)

With the Group System came certain suggested changes in Administration and planning, and 1928 was in effect a year in which 'The Group' was finding its way. Competitions had to be geared rather differently so as to include three sections, so 1928 was the last year of the "Beff" County Challenge Flag and the Junior Challenge Flag competitions (and both came to Bedford being won by the 5th.Beds: and 15th.Beds: respectively). Other events of local interest were the Scout Swimming Competition - organised by Bedford Swimming Club as part of its Annual Swimming Gala; (This was won by the 15th.Beds: with 19th.Beds: runners up); and the Tee N. Sports at Bedford Modern School Field - which had events for all Sections (This has, however, been described in the 1908 - 1928 Review).

But the Chief Event of the Year was undoubtedly the Guide and Scout Rally in Russell Park (Saturday 14th.July) when the Princess Royal (H.R.H. Princess Mary) inspected Guides and Scouts of the County.

1929 saw the Group Competition in operation. To qualify a Group had to enter two Sections. Bedford L.A. did well at first attempt - the 18th.Beds.(Bedford Modern School) - with Troop and Pack entry - were winners. The 1st.Beds and 15th.Beds. were 1st. and 2nd respectively in the newly constituted Rover section.

The great event of this year was the Third (Coming of Age) World Jamboree at Arrese Park, Birkenhead. Bedford L.A. sent a complete company its Troop under D.S.M. M. F. G. Willson (as S.M.), D.S.M. J. Clarke (Sandy), G.S.M. D. Butters (7th), and G.S.M. F. W. Kuhlicke (18th) as A.S.Ms. Several Rovers were also in the Auxiliary Camp. (As a pre-Jamboree 'get together' a Camp was held at Kempston Mill in mid-July). Many of the local Troops attended the Annual Whitsun Camp at Westoning.

The Tee H Sports were again held (quote "Bedfordshire Times") in the Bedford Modern School Field on Wednesday and Thursday (11th. & 12th. September). It was hoped that a large number of parents of Cubs and Scouts would witness the sports, but few were present. This, however, did not damp the ardour of the youngsters and the events were contested with youthful enthusiasm. They were indeed a happy band; each event took place to the accompaniment of lusty shouts of encouragement from members of the various troops. While each Scout troop was bent on securing the coveted Walter Attenborough Cup, the Cubs were after the Kershaw Teton Pole. Some of the races run were typical of the pluck of the Boy Scout. In the three-mile race for Revers Turner set up a cracking pace, completing the first mile in just under four and a half minutes. It soon began to tell on him but he stuck it until he collapsed on the course. J. White (1st. Beds) the winner, made a great finish, sprinting the last 50 yards in fine style.

The events were varied and numerous and included a crab race, and hop-ping, obstacle and monkey races. Throughout both evenings the Tee H members were assisted by Scoutmasters and Scout officials. Among those present were Mr. Howard Spensley (County Commissioner), Mr. W. Berrall, Mr. H. Farrott (A.D.C. for Revers), Mr. F. S. Smith (A.D.C. Scouts), Mr. M. F. C. Willson (District Scoutmaster), Miss Hedley (District Cubmaster) and Mr. Donald Butters.

At the close Mr. W. G. Morris (Chairman of the Bedford Branch of Tee H) presented the certificates to the successful competitors, the Challenge Cup to the winning Troop, and the Teton Pole to the winning Cub Pack. On the proposal of Mr. Willson, cheers were accorded the Tee H members, Mr. H. W. Liddle, M.A., for the use of the field, and Mr. Rogers, the groundsman, who had worked so hard to make the sports a success. (A full list of results is included herewith).

The chief local event of 1930 was the Bedford Jamboree, held in Messrs. Ellis & Everards' Field, Fenlake, from Saturday 28th. June to Sunday 6th. July. Several Troops were in camp, each erecting a distinctive Gateway, and on Thursday 3rd and Saturday 5th. July the ground was open to the public who were able to witness some grand Arena Displays.

BEDFORD & DISTRICT BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION

TOO H SPORTS

Held in Bedford Modern School Field on Wednesday and Thursday
11th - 12th. September 1929.

Results:-

GUB RACES:

- 50 yards Flat (8 - 10) 1. G. Jones (27th) 2. F. Warnett (11th);
3. A. Gould (101st)
50 yards Flat (10-12) 1. H. Askew (90th) 2. L. Shortland (4th);
3. V. Hills (101st).
Monkey Race: 1. M. Laborda (5th); 2. W. Harper (27th);
3. E. Setchell (65th)
Crab Race: 1. S. Baldock (90th); 2. F. Burton (65th);
3. W. Harper (27th).
Hopping Race: 1. M. Rannells (90th); 2. F. Warnett (11th);
3. R. Fletcher (4th).
'Boat' Race: 1. 90th; 2. 65th; 3. 27th.
Uniform Race: 1. G. Cook (18th); 2. 4th. Beds:

SCOUT RACES:

- Obstacle Race: 1. G. Willmer (65th); 2. 27th; 3. 101st.
Hurdle Race: 1. S. Egan (101st) 2. 94th; 3. 65th.
Quartermaster Race: 1. 6th. Beds; 2. 94th; 3. 101st.
80 yards Flat: 1. R. King (19th) 2. 27th; 3. 94th:
Team Relay: 1. 94th. Beds; 2. 65th; 3. 6th.
150 yards Flat: 1. R. Armour (94th); 2. 101st; 3. 101st:
Tug-o'-War: 101st. Beds:
Knot-tying Relay: 1. 1st Beds; 2. 11th; 3. 65th:
Message Relay: 1 equal: 27th: Beds: & 101st; 3. 65th.
Union Jack Race: 1. ⁹⁴th. Beds: 2. 27th; 3. 101st:

SCOUTERS RACE:

- 100 yards (Handicap) 1. D. Butters (7th); 2. R. Turner (15th);
3. A. Armstrong (11th)

ROVERS RACES:

- 100 yards: Flat: 1. R. Turner (15th); 2. D. Butters (7th);
3. Armstrong (11th).
- Obstacle Race: 1. F. Seamark (15th); 2. 1st; 3. 101st.
- Inter-Crew Relay: 1. 1st.Beds; 2. 94th.Beds; 3. 101st.
- Three-mile Race: 1. J. White (1st); 2. S. Perkins (94th);
3. J. Aynsley (1st).
- Wheelbarrow Race: 1. 94th; 2. 1st; 3. 94th.

"Walter Attenborough" Challenge Cup

1. 94th.Beds (St. Paul's Wesleyan)
2. 101st. " (Kempston Cof E)
3. 65th " (St. Cuthbert's)

"Kershaw" Totem Pole

1. 90th. Beds (Bunyan Meeting)
2. 27th. " (St. Peter's Own)
3. 65th. " (St. Cuthbert's)

Rovers (Championship)

1. 1st.Beds. (Onesterovers)
2. 94th. " (St. Paul's Wesleyan)
3. 15th. " (St. Mary's, Bedford)

PROGRAMME of the
Bedford Boy Scouts JAMBORETTES on
July 3rd and 5th. in Cardington Road Fields.

(Proceeds will go towards the obtaining of a Local Headquarters and
Camping Ground)

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Arena Programme

The Jamborette will be opened each day at 3 p.m.
Thursday, July 3rd. by His Worship the Mayor of Bedford.
Saturday, July 5th. by C. Negus Esq;

Time Table.

3 00 p.m. - 3.15 p.m. Opening Ceremony
3.15 p.m. - 4.15 p.m. Wolf Cub Pageant (See description)
4.15 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. Displays.
4.30 p.m. - 5.15 p.m. Tea Interval.
5.15 p.m. - 5.45 p.m. Displays.
5.45 p.m. - 6.45 p.m. Scout Pageant (See description)
6.45 p.m. - 8.15 p.m. Displays.
8.30 p.m. - 9.30 p.m. Camp Fire, Entertainment and Sing-song.

The following displays will be given, but not necessarily in order shown.

A. Morris Dancing.	B. Whip Display	C. Flag Pole Raising.
D. Erection of Pulley Bridge.	E. Making Fire by Friction.	F. Sword Dancing.
G. Selection of Camp Games.	H. Trek Camping.	I. Physical Training.
K. First Aid Work.	L. Signalling.	N. Rope Spinning.
M. Red Indian Episode.		

Camping

You are invited to inspect the Troop Camps. These show how Scout
Troops normally camp, and those in charge will be pleased to give any in-
formation desired.

Displays will be given in the various Camp areas, and a Display of
RAFT BUILDING will be given on the river.

Cub Displays

Displays, depicting various Cub activities, will be given by Packs
in an enclosure.

Band

The Band of the Leighton Buzzard Troop will play on Saturday, July 5th.

Bedford Jamberette; (continued)

The JUNGLE PAGEANT and DANCES (Wolf Cubs)

Scene 1. Mowgli comes to the cave of Akela, the Head of the Wolves. We see Tabagui, the Jackall trying to make trouble by fetching Shere Khan the Tiger. Nether Wolf frustrates their efforts:

The Jungle Dance of Tabagui

Scene 2. Mowgli is accepted into the Seeence Pack. Baloo the Bear and Bagheera the Panther begin their education of Mowgli.

The Grand Howl.

Scene 3. Mowgli's education continues. Baloo teaches him the Cub Law.

The Dance of Baloo.

Scene 4. Bagheera teaches the Law of Hunting.

The Dance of Bagheera.

Scene 5. Introduces Kaa the Pythen, and the Bandarlog, the tiresome Monkeys.

The Hunger Dance of Kaa.

Scene 6. Shere Khan finds Mowgli with the Buffalo Herd. Mowgli, now an accomplished Hunter, challenges Shere Khan to a fight, and at last Shere Khan the enemy of the Jungle is killed.

The Dance of Shere Khan.

Finale: All the characters combine in a final GRAND HOWL.

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The SCOUT LAW THROUGH THE AGES (Scout Pageant)

Episode 1. First Scout Law - "A Scout's Honour is to be Trusted"
Incident from Hebrew history of David sparing the life of King Saul.

Episode 2. Second Scout Law - "A Scout is Loyal"
The loyalty of the Greek soldier who carried the message of victory from the Battle of Marathon. B.C.490.

Episode 3. Sixth Scout Law - "A Scout is a Friend to Animals"
Scene - a Roman colony in North Africa about 100 A.D. Androcles a slave, and his friendship with a lion.

Episode 4. Fourth Scout Law - "A Scout is a Friend to All"
Incident from the life of St. Francis (1200 A.D) St. Francis reproves Brother Angel for not sheltering and feeding three rather rough-looking characters. The Saint's friendship brings about their conversion.

Episode 5. Tenth Scout Law - "A Scout is Clean in thought, word and deed"
Purity was the crowning virtue of the Mediaeval Knight, who regarded the Knights of the Round Table as his patterns. The scene depicts Sir Galahad extracting the sword from the enchanted stone.

Episode 6. Fifth Scout Law - "A Scout is Courteous"
Two incidents from the reign of Queen Elizabeth.
(a) Sir Philip Sydney refuses the water he needs so badly that a dying soldier may have it.
(b) Sir Walter Raleigh places his cloak over a patch of mud that his Queen may not soil her shoes.

Bedford Jamboree: (continued)

Episode 7. Eighth Scout Law - "A Scout smiles and whistles under all difficulties"

We learn from the journal of John Smith, an English seaman and explorer, how his life was saved from Red Indians through winning the love of the Chief's daughter, Pocahontas, who so admired his bravery and cheerfulness when all seemed against him.

Episode 8. Seventh Scout Law - "A Scout obeys orders"

Cassibianna's death through his obedience to his father's commands is the example chosen. A second, and even greater Cassibianna was the English Boy Scout, Jack Cornwall V.C., who likewise stuck to his post in the Great War

The Two Laws not illustrated in the Pageant are :-

Third - "A Scout's duty is to be useful and to help others"

Ninth - "A Scout is Thrifty"

(The Pageant was written and produced by Group Scoutmaster F. W. Kublicke B.A.)

SUNDAY, JULY 6th.

Morning: All Scouts in Camp will attend the Service at their own Church or Chapel.

Afternoon:

3 p.m. Scouts' Own in the Arena

To be taken by the Rev. M. Scott, M.A., Deputy Camp Chief for Bedfordshire. Anyone who cares may attend this Service.

4 p.m. Old Scouts will meet in the Arena.

Anyone who has been a member of the Scout Brotherhood anywhere in the world and has since left, is invited to be present.

Very little is recorded over the next two or three years on a District basis, which at first may seem rather strange - as if Scouting had suddenly come to a standstill - but the answer reason is soon apparent. The Great Industrial Depression was in full swing (if that is the correct term), it had actually started in 1930. Scouting was very badly hit. Loss of employment meant loss of Scouters, and several Groups - or sections - ceased to function, some only temporarily, others did not revive, but Scouting continued, quite strongly too, at Group and inter-Group level.

The Sports (discontinued in 1930) were held in 1931, the Meeting taking place in Cardington Road Fields on 1st & 2nd July, but the response was not very good. (The "Korahaw" Totem Pole was won by 90th.Beds. Cubs and the "Attenborough" Cup by the 1st.Beds. Troop) 1932 saw two local Events in which Scouts took part, The Hobbies & Handicrafts Exhibition held in the Corn Exchange during February, and Le Glac Englische Fayre in Mill Meadows on Thursday 28th.July (the latter occasion marking the visit of H.R.H. Prince George - later Duke of Kent).

Then in 1933 came the JAMBOREE in Weythill Park, when we were visited by the Chief Scout and Chief Guide (Lord and Lady Baden-Powell). This was of course, a County Event. Also that year saw the 4th.World Jamboree in Gdodol, Hungary, but as far as Bedford was concerned it was far beyond our reach.

There were the highlights of a very depressing period. 1934 showed some signs of a return to normal but it was not until the following year that Scouting District-wide really got into its stride.