



Scouting Ireland Annual Report 2006





The Scout Law

A Scout is to be trusted.

A Scout is loyal.

A Scout is helpful and considerate to all.

A Scout has courage in all difficulties.

A Scout makes good use of time and is careful of possessions and property.

A Scout has respect for self and others.

A Scout respects nature and the environment.

Scouting Ireland Annual Report 2006

Scouting Ireland is a voluntary, non-formal educational movement for young people.

It is non-political, open to all without distinction of origin, race, creed or gender, in accordance with the purpose, principles and methods conceived by the Founder, Robert Baden-Powell and as stated by the World Organisation of the Scout Movement.

Scouting Ireland encourages the physical, intellectual, social, spiritual and cultural development of young people so that they may achieve their full potential and as responsible citizens, improve society.

Scouting Ireland achieves its aim through a system of progressive self-education, known as the Scout Method, the principal elements of which are:

- Voluntary membership of a group which, guided by adults, is increasingly self-governing in its successive age groups.
- Commitment to a code of living as expressed in the Promise & Law, the meaning of which is expanded as the member grows towards maturity.
- The provision of a wide range of attractive, constructive and challenging activities, including opportunities for adventure and exploration both indoors and outdoors.
- The provision of opportunities for leadership and responsibility. Learning by doing. Encouragement of activity in small groups.
- An award scheme, which encourages participation in its full range of activities and provides recognition of individual and group achievements.



Scouting Ireland Acknowledgements



Scouting Ireland wish to acknowledge the support and assistance received from the
Department of Education and Sciences - Youth Affairs Section
under the National Development Plan 2002 - 2006



The Association would also like to acknowledge the support it
received from the Irish Youth Foundation.

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Foreword from the Chief Scout



*Martin Burbridge
Chief Scout*

Firstly I would like to sincerely thank all of our youth members for their valuable contribution to Scouting and for doing so well in living up to their Scout Promise. Everywhere I go around the country there is lots of evidence of this and I never cease to be amazed at the fantastic things they achieve.

Of course this is made possible by the work of our adult members, professional staff and other helpers who selflessly work on behalf of Scouting and all our youth members. For this I thank you all sincerely.

We should also pause to remember fondly those who have gone home and are no longer with us. We should be eternally grateful for what they shared with us, for the wonderful memories of their work and for the great experiences they leave as an enduring legacy.

Through our on-going work, week in, week out in communities all over Ireland, Scouting Ireland has shown that we are being true to the commitment made in our Scout Promise to help other people.

All of these efforts demonstrate that the members of Scouting Ireland are continuing to be true to the wonderful traditions of Irish Scouting. When ordinary people, young and old, work together cohesively we really can achieve extraordinary things.

In the three years since January 2004 Scouting Ireland has made huge strides in many areas. Many more things however, need to be done. I believe it's in the nature of any Movement, and particularly one like ours that there is always a long list of things to be achieved. It's especially true of a movement undergoing significant change, as Scouting Ireland is today.

In my opinion this is one of the hallmarks of a healthy and vibrant organisation. I'm confident that together we will achieve all that we wish to. We're a strong force in Irish society and when we work together for the good of Irish young people and are true to our belief in the ideals of Scouting, we're always going to achieve.



So what are the huge strides we have made since January 2004:

- Together we have a strategic vision of what Scouting Ireland should deliver to our youth members. Delivering any strategy takes a bit of time but I believe we're well on our way towards achieving the objectives set out in the strategic plan presented to National Council in June 2005.
- Local level is where Scouting really happens. We are striving to provide more support through the Provincial and County Teams to Scout Groups and Scouters. A lot has been achieved in this area but I'm conscious that even more is needed if we are to give Scout Groups the help and support that they need and deserve.
- We have sought to place Child protection at the very centre of what we do in Scouting Ireland with an updated Code of Good Practice. We have also revised our processes and procedures in this important area. We will carry out on-going reviews to ensure we remain at the forefront in seeking to deliver the very highest standards in Child Protection.
- We have worked on developing a new Programme, which will be suitable and attractive for our youth members. This has been a massive task. The team of people working on this have expended enormous effort to develop the programme and the support material that Scouters will need. You will be hearing a lot more about the progress on this initiative over the coming months and there will be plenty of opportunities to ask questions and share your views.
- We have updated many SI policy documents and sought to make official documentation more user-friendly. The scouts.ie website is a terrific resource and it will undergo a fundamental re-structure in 2007 to make it even easier to find what you need.
- We have also been busy in building our public image and have had some notable success with this. We have huge credibility as a movement of volunteers and we have a distinctive uniform and visual identity. We need to build on these to ensure that we further improve our public profile. As we begin our Centenary celebrations, a huge opportunity presents itself.



- There has been modest growth in membership with youth numbers being up by about 2,000. The groundwork has now been put in place to enable us to grow membership more significantly through taking advantage of the centenary celebrations, the launch of the new programme, if approved in late 2007, and the 2008 Jamboree.
- At every level, and especially out in communities up and down the country, large numbers of our members have worked together to make the change to a new association and to provide help and support for each other. Many of us have been privileged to have made new friends along the way.
- We have managed our finances very well and have succeeded in increasing the amount of grant support received from the Government.

I think we can all look back together with some satisfaction on what has been achieved over the last three years. However, there are many challenges ahead:

- We certainly need to provide more professional support at Provincial and County level. This will require the recruitment of more professional staff. Funding will be needed and I'm optimistic that the NMC will be making a decision on this shortly
- We have a decision to make on our new Youth Programme. It's my firm belief that we must ensure that we review and improve the programme on a regular basis, say every 5 years, going forward to make certain that it continues to be relevant, exciting and fun.
- Provision of camping sites is a concern, with parts of the island operating without local camping facilities. We must do more to rectify this gap. As part of a focus on this, we have recently appointed a Programme Commissioner (Campsites) and will shortly appoint a Senior Professional Manager with responsibility for Campsites and Facilities. This will ensure that we address this important issue in a cohesive manner. We are also providing some grants for Provincial campsite development.

- In an association as large as ours, communications can always be improved at all levels. We are actively looking to find new ways of sharing information with one another in a more effective way. But we must all recognise that everyone has a positive role to help improve the communications process.

We've come through a time of very significant change and adjustment for everyone in Irish Scouting. I know and understand that much still needs to be done and I genuinely believe that by working together we will achieve whatever we set out to achieve in the years ahead.

I would like to finish by acknowledging the warmth and friendship experienced by my wife Eileen and I during our visits to all parts of the island. We are both truly grateful to all of you.

I never cease to be amazed at the fantastic events that people organise, the images of fun-filled quality programme that shine out all over the country. But the most abiding and heartening thing of all is the depth of care, understanding and pride that our Scouters show towards our young members. This is what makes our movement truly special.

Martin Burbridge
Chief Scout

Report of the National Secretary



*Michael Devins
National Secretary*

Having just completed my first full year as your National Secretary I am finding it a very rewarding and enjoyable role. One of the main tasks I set myself when I was elected was the improvement of Communication with and access to the Management of the association by the membership so therefore a great deal of the items covered below follow that theme. I've sought to champion this, with support from my NMC colleagues, in a number of ways:

Management Bulletin

We have developed this as a communications tool for the association. It is generally prepared and finalised during National Management Committee Meeting's to minimise delay in circulation. Its intended as a concise summary of key decisions made at the NMC meetings thus we keep it short and to the point.

National Secretary's Question Time

This commenced early in the Autumn of 2006. It centres on a facility on www.scouts.ie which enables any member to submit questions that the National Team for Policy Implementation and Co-ordination can answer live at their monthly meetings. Typically there are between 6 and 7 questions at each session and we aim to provide an immediate answer wherever we can. I would encourage you all to use this facility if you think the NTPIC can offer you any assistance with a query.

Access to NMC

During 2007/08 we intend to invite each Provincial Management Team to attend part of a National Management Committee Meeting with the purpose of giving a presentation on their progress and providing an opportunity for each team to put issues on the agenda of the NMC. This will begin in March with the Southern Province. We also plan to hold some NMC meetings outside the Greater Dublin area. We are also open therefore to accept invitations from Counties and Provinces to host a meeting of the NMC.

During the course of the year a number of groups attended the National Management Committee such as the Youth Fora and some Scout County boards. This gave the opportunity for these groups to bring issues of relevance to their Group or Scout County to a National Forum.

Indeed we also have had requests from individual Group Leaders to ask for issues to be put on the agenda and would encourage any County or Group who wish to have something placed on the agenda please do so through their Provincial Commissioner or directly to the National Secretary.

Access to NTPIC

The National Team for Policy Implementation and Coordination otherwise known as the NTPIC meets once a month in Larch Hill. During the year we met with a number of groups including Larch Hill management, the Heritage Group and representative from a number of Scout Counties. All came with proposals that they felt they would like the backing of the association with. Again I would encourage any of you who have issues or ideas which you feel could benefit from the support of the NTPIC to make contact and I will arrange to have your visit placed on the agenda.

National Management Committee

Membership of the NMC

During the past year we have seen a number of changes in personnel with the departure of Brendan Lynch as International Commissioner and his replacement by Ann Foley. Provincial Commissioners Joe Marken, (DMP), John Meikleham (Northern) and Billy Gaynor (South Eastern) all stepped down to be replaced by Ann Smithers, Noel Mc Carthney, and Francis Minogue respectively. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those that served and those who replaced them.

At last years National Council I asked for groups and counties to consider nominating young Scouter's under 26 for membership of the National management Committee. We have been joined by two young leader's Ciara Higgins and Richard Scriven who have been in attendance at National Management Meetings during the year. I would hope that they would stand for election at National Council.



The NMC met 6 times last year Jan to Dec and attendances were as follows:

Name	Entitled to Attend	Attended
Martin Burbridge	6	5
Michael Devins	6	6
Niall Walsh	6	5
Kiernan Gildea	6	6
Brendan Mc Nicholas	6	6
Fr Peter Kehoe	3	0
Garrett Flynn	6	5
Ann Foley	6	5
Brendan Lynch	4	3
M J Shinnick	6	5
Christy Mc Cann	6	5
Julie Malone	6	4
Joe Marken	5	4
Ann Smithers	2	1
John Meikleham	4	2
Noel Mc Carthney	2	2
Billy Gaynor	6	5
Francis Minogue	1	1
Pat Murphy	6	5
Paul Falvey	6	5
Stephen Carey	6	6

Data Base and IT Infrastructure

A contract has been signed for the supply of a new data base for the association. This will allow for on-line access for group leaders and others to their groups data. It is hoped to have it completed by mid summer 2007.

Scouting Ireland Ltd

Scouting Ireland Ltd finally became operative in Jan of 2007 this completes the final piece of the setting up of the new association

Insurance

While our premia are still dropping this will only continue if we maintain the highest standards of health and safety at our meeting and activities.

Scouting Ireland Poster Campaign

In mid Feb we had the Gifts of Peace poster campaign which was so kindly donated to us free of charge by Titan, I would like to pay tribute to Garrett Flynn and Ann Foley who did an enormous amount of work on this project.

Communications Report - Garrett Flynn

Scouting Ireland continues to raise its profile in a meaningful way in Irish society and the Communications Team are working both inside and outside the association to maintain this momentum.

The focus of the Communications Team within Scouting Ireland is to support and advise the various National & Provincial Teams on issues relating to communication generally.

This includes public relations, marketing, design and managing the association's visual identity in a way that helps us to present a consistent image to the public, including youth and adult prospective members.

Notable recent successes include the successful launch of two centenary stamps, a central role in the first Scouting Ireland advertising campaign, regular presence in 'Outsider' magazine, new branding & brochures for our major campsites, some significant publicity coups on RTE's 'Primetime', 'Den TV', Newstalk 106 and in the Irish Times, Sunday Tribune together with over 100 mentions in press per month, keeping our profile up with the public at large.

The major focus for 2007 will be maximising publicity from our associations involvement in the 2007 Jamboree, taking a fresh look at National Council in an effort to make it a destination for more Scouters, a complete revamp of our website to ease navigation and increase the resources available still further and as always to maximise our associations profile in any way that we can.

International Report - Ann Foley

Gifts of Peace

This was launched by the World Scout Committee as part of the centenary celebrations and former Chief Scout, Peter Dixon is leading the Project on behalf of the SI. He launched the associations contribution in 2005. The Association's contribution to the World Project is comprised of Aqua Boxes, Good Deed Tokens and Scout-Link. All Programme Section Leaders received the promotional info in 2006.

21st World Scout Jamboree: UK

James O Toole, Contingent Leader to the 2007 World Scout Jamboree has said it will be Ireland's largest Contingent to a World Jamboree ever: 8 Troops comprising 288 Scouts and 33 Troop Leaders will attend. In addition a further 120 Ventures and Leaders, 86 of whom are under the age of 26 will contribute as part of the International Service Team.

Day Visits to the Jamboree are available by booking on the UK website. A "One World - One Promise" 2007 Centenary badge is available in Irish or English from Outdoor Adventure Stores.

Irish International Scout Jamboree 2008

Christy Mc Cann has been appointed Camp Chief to run this International Camp in 2008 to celebrate the 100 years of Irish Scouting. Promotion to Associations around the World is ongoing!

Courses Conference and Seminars

As usual there have been many representations by the International Team and other members of the Association at various Conferences and Seminars throughout 2006 including:

International Commissioner Conference 2006 in Copenhagen - attended by the International Commissioner, Adult Resources Course Belgium - attended by Aidan Brennan, The European Youth Consultation in Brussels - attended by Brendan Brown, Youth Programme and Adult Resources Denmark - Pauline Lucas, Jill Mulholland, Collie Kavanagh, Sean Farrell, Steve Oaks, Brendan Mc Nicholas, E-Learning Belgium - Canice Curtis - Karol Quinn, Child Protection Belgium - Phil Stapleton

In addition, the European Conference in Slovenia will be held in May 2007 with a delegation from Scouting Ireland of 4 including two under 26 members.

Scouting Ireland members working internationally...

Scouting Ireland has never been so well represented internationally. Therese Bermingham is the Vice Chairman of the World Scout Committee, John Lawlor Jr is a Youth Advisor to the World Scout Committee and we also have a number of members who are involved in training and seminars in Europe.

Visit of Boy Scouts of America

In June 2006 19 Eagle Scouts and four leaders from Texas visited Scouting Ireland. They were based in Larch Hill and Mount Mellery for the duration of 10 days. 14 Irish Chief Scout Award Holders joined the Texan group. The visit was a great success and enjoyed by all. It is hoped a reciprocal visit by Irish Scouts to Texas will occur in 2008.

Forthcoming International Events

Roverway the European Moot for venturers will take place in 2009. This event will be promoted at the earliest opportunity to encourage venturers to participate.

International Projects in Asia /Africa

The International Team is working on a proposal for two world projects - a visit to Asia and New Zealand, to work on a sensory room for the YSIS in Malaysia and visit a scout outdoor adventure centre in New Zealand and a Training project in Africa. It is hoped to offer these projects to Venture Scouts and Leaders in 2008/2009.

Thanks

I would like to end by thanking the professional staff under the management of Eamonn for all their help and assistance over the year and of course the help and support I have received from my colleagues on the National Team in settling in to my new role.

I'm also most grateful to Garrett Flynn, Communications Commissioner and Ann Foley, International Commissioner who both work closely with me on a day to day basis. I'm looking forward to continuing to support your invaluable work at local level in the year ahead so please don't hesitate to make contact with me if you think I can help in any way.

Mick Devins National Secretary

Report of Chief Commissioner – Youth Programme



*Kiernan Gildea
Chief Commissioner*

Is mór an taoibhneas dhom, a leagann amach thíos, an tuarascáil bliantúil don rannóg Príomh Cóimisionéir (Clár na nÓg) don bliain 2006.

It is a pleasure for me to set out hereunder the Annual Report for the Chief Commissioner (Youth Programme) for the year 2006.

National Youth Programme Committee

The NYPC met formally on three occasions during the year. However, the Committee members met on a number of other occasions during Programme Development (RAP) weekends. In addition to these the Programme Commissioners also attended a number of meetings of the National Management Committee.

The single most important 'event' during the year was the final establishment of a real Programme Unit at National Office. With the recruitment of Canice Curtis, Karol Quinn and Gillian Keogh, Collie Kavanagh's long-running one-man Programme Unit has multiplied 300%! The establishment of the Programme Unit, in preparation for the new youth programme, and the on-going debate during the year regarding the contents of that programme has ensured that 'Youth Programme' has finally come to the centre stage of the Association's thoughts.

Another welcome development during the year was the decision of the National Management Committee to establish the volunteer position of Programme Commissioner (Campsites) and the full-time professional position of 'Campsites and Facilities Manager'. The establishment of these positions will ensure that camping and the outdoors feature strongly in any future development of the Association.

Neil Ledwith and Pat O'Connor decided to call it a day as Programme Commissioners. My thanks to them for their efforts while in office. John Lawlor Jnr took up the position of PC (Participation) while (as we go to press) Morgan O'Sullivan has taken up the position of PC (Over 11's). Paul Falvey as also joined the NYPC as PC (Campsites).

Programme Development – Dominic Byrne

(see separate report)

Camping – Paul Falvey

This portfolio is still in its infancy and is still evolving. The main aim is to develop and support campsites which will assist in supporting and delivering program. It is also important to promote health and safety on all campsites and facilities(including dens or wherever meetings take place).

It is intended to work with the campsites to provide increased and improved standards based on their current standard and reviews to place on an ongoing bases.

A minimum criteria has been issued to all on the current list of campsites. By the time of this years National Council, the list will have increased from 22 to 26 including the National Campsites.

At the January meeting of the NMC, a new Log Cabin-dormitory with a capacity for up to 20 persons was approved for Larch Hill, to be located in the Training field. This will be a great asset for smaller groups. It is hoped that this facility will be ready before the end of the year. A review of development is to be undertaken at each of the "National Campsites". Reviews of Lough Dan and Killaloe have been undertaken and recommendations made for improvements generally.

The first series of grants were approved at the January NMC meeting for a number of projects on "local campsites" and it is expected that the full amount will be allocated during this year. Due to the lateness of the appointment it was not possible, nor would it have been prudent to allocate funds for the sake of using it, in the latter quarter of 2006.

This year I hope to be in a position to part fund a new 1.5acre campsite in Carrickmacross, which has access to lakes, rivers and forestry, a scouters dream. I have only scratched the surface so far but once we have everyone on board, I hope we will be delivering a better service and support to all who enjoy the great outdoors.

National Events – Ian Davy

The ultimate aim in Scouting Ireland is to enable young people to develop into full and active citizens. To assist in fulfilling this aim, the 2006 Events Calendar focused on what we, as an Association want to achieve and deliver through appropriate learning experiences. Fun, challenge and friendship are key outcomes of the activities that are run but in order to deliver the Scout Method, all concerned must have a deeper understanding of what is being done and why.



For every national event developed, there is a clearly defined and measurable set of objectives so that the full potential of the Scout Method can be realised. The 'National Events Calendar', as much as possible tries to incorporate all areas of the Scouting Ireland youth programme. One of the key purposes of national events is that they can act as examples or even reference tools for various parts of the ever-extensive youth programme. Each section / Scout Group / Scout County should look at the events available to them nationally as examples of activities that they can, and should be running at a local level.

National Events in 2006, saw in excess of 9,000 youth members participate in over 50 Events held in the traditional sense of single locations and LONE (Locally Organised National Event) Initiatives such as Trail Day and National Orienteering Day, which have gone from strength to strength.

Unfortunately the National Events Team had to cancel some 7 National Events due to lack of interest or communication problems. The team revised the calendar with this in mind and subsequently launched the 2007 calendar of Youth Programme National Events in November. Further steps have also been taken to improve communications through the NET Forecast Publications, Event Information Sheets & Acknowledgement Postcards upon Booking.

On a final note, thank you to the participants of the National Events who helped raise in excess of €16,000 collectively for the National Children's Hospital, Bóthar and The Variety Club of Ireland.

Over 11'S – Pat O'Connor **Camping and Outdoors – Pat McCartin**

Camping and outdoor activities are vital components of our programme and I am happy to say that they still form a mainstay of our programme delivery. National Campsites have reported increased camping and overnights during the year.

The 'Get Out' programme initiative has been running for the last 2 years and preparations are underway for its implementation in 2007.

A large portion of our Sections take part in this initiative and apply for badges and certificates at the end of each camping season. What has been noticeable this year in the overall increase in the number of nights camped for a good number of the Sections, and a lot of young people will now be wearing 'Expert Flashes' under the 'Get Out' Badge.. What is also noticeable is the change in the total number of nights that make up the annual camp. Often you will see 2 or 3 shorter camps rather than a larger event. However, most Sections show a variety of activity over the year with many one day activities and weekend events been listed. So, the traditional annual camp of say 10-14 days is shifting, so to speak. Some Sections opt for a combination of short camps, with perhaps a bigger event in the following year for example. This would appear to be the case if a Section is travelling abroad for example.

While those indicating that they are taking part via the 'Get Out' Programme have achieved much, there are many Sections who have not indicated the same level of activity. Support structures do not appear to be present at County level it would appear, to encourage or support activity in these Sections, perhaps by friendship camps or inviting less experienced camper to come, learn and enjoy. This is of concern to the team and we hope to produce a resource which can be used by Section Leaders and to support training that will help those Sections to 'Get Out'. We are working towards a date in April 2007 for its launch.

Participation – Neil Ledwith / John Lawlor

Since his appointment as Participation Commissioner last September, John Lawlor Jr and his team have focused primarily on two key issues: namely promoting 'Youth Involvement' and secondly, promoting cultural diversity within Scouting Ireland. Success to date in these areas has come from working closely alongside the National Youth Council of Ireland and through Scouting Ireland's network of Youth Reps. The team has been in consultation with Groups in developing a policy paper on Cultural Diversity. In future they will have to examine issues such as promoting opportunities for people with disabilities to be involved in Scouting and developing Scouting Ireland's policy on co-educational Scouting.

Under 11'S – Pauline Lucas

2006 for the Under 11 section was another busy year. This section continues to be the most dynamic of Scouting Ireland. And it is for two reasons – YOU – the leaders, who give tirelessly for the young people in your care. Your enthusiasm, dedication and pure fun approach ensure the second reason – the message or programme that we share with the Beavers and Cubs. And in a report like this, my thanks to you is first and foremost. Keep up the good work.

Notions, Motions and Potions continued on the road again... with many hundreds of Beaver and Cub Leaders up and down the country taking part. The concept was also extended when the Beavers and Cub Scouts of the North East Province had their own tailored Notions Motions and Potions camp in May in Portlick. To the crew who stepped in at the last hour (through personal reasons) my grateful thanks – true Scouts and great friends.

Cuboree 2006 was an outstanding success in June with amazing memories for one and all. The arrival on the shelves of the O.A.S of the long awaited Kubuk and How 2 Kubuk brought Cubs and Leaders eyes alight.

We continue to be involved with and give support to the other Programme Commissioners. Programme Review continues to dominate and a huge amount of work has been done to date. Our team is small but effective – Barbara Ross, Bridget O Sullivan, Declan Mc Cann, Frances Lyttle, James O Toole, Kieran Cody, Fiona Finn, Barbara Whitley, Anne Marie Millar and Jill Mulholland. To all of you, my thanks on behalf of Scouting Ireland. You have gone the extra mile.

Water Activities – Brian O'Daly

- The team comprises members from a geographical and skills spread.
- Meetings were held with a view to advising on the elements of water activities and how to go about making a start in this environment.
- A blend of water, land and technological elements were hosted and encouraged, and to this end we initiated and supported open days, camps and meetings for the benefit of all.
- Training courses were held where required and invitations were circulated.
- Leaders attended the 8th Eurosea Conference in Finland, and contributed to European matters regarding Water Activities.
- Preparations were made for the Sea Scout and Water Activities conference to be held early in the year 2007.

And Finally Other commitments...

As well as commitments arising from involvement in the National Youth Programme Committee I attended meetings of, and contributed to the work of, the following Committees during the year:

- National Team for Policy Implementation & Coordination (NTPIC)
- Child Protection Management Team (CPMT)
- SQS Review Group
- Awards Committee
- Scout Foundation
- Scout Foundation (Northern Ireland)
- Heritage Group
- Adult Status Working Group
- World Jamboree Contingent Committee
- Professional Staff Recruitment
- National Museum Exhibition Project

This brings to an end my term of office as Chief Commissioner (Youth Programme). I would like to thank the members of the National Management Committee for their friendship and support during my term. I would like also to thank the members of the National Youth Programme Committee especially the Programme Commissioners for their good work.

Finally I would like to pay tribute to Mr. Walter McGrath of Cork who passed away during the year. As a 'young' National Programme Commissioner in CBSI/CSI he was a source of inspiration to me and was very helpful with his advice and encouragement. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

'In a changing society, as soon as we stop changing, we start to go backwards.'

Kiernan Gildea Chief Commissioner (Youth Programme)



Report of Chief Commissioner – Adult Resources



*Brendan McNicholas.
Chief Commissioner (Adult Resources)*

The National Adult Resources Committee continued to promote the recruitment, training and retention of adults in Scouting Ireland during 2006.

Scouters, and other adults, bring extra value to the programme of Scouting activities enjoyed by our young members. They are ordinary people, doing an extraordinary job, and it is my role to ensure that they are supported in their task.

Recruitment

Whilst there was an increase in the number of new adult applications received at National Office, I am concerned at the difficulty in retaining adults. It seems to me that where Groups are already strong, with good support and social networks, adults will stay in Scouting.

Our task is to facilitate systems to support adults in their roles, so that we can strengthen all Groups and ensure that more young people enjoy Scouting.

Vetting

In September the Gardai began to vet new adults in the Republic of Ireland. Adults in Northern Ireland continue to be vetted under the POC system. This is not a substitute for local knowledge and the Welcome to Scouting package.

Retrospective vetting for current adult members will occur within the next year. No adult member should feel affronted by this; indeed in this matter Scouting Ireland should be proud to lead.

Adult Status

A working group was convened to consider the situation regarding adult membership, to ensure the safety of Scouts is maximised. Proposals will be made to National Council.



Child Protection

Child Protection can be described as *“ensuring the best possible welfare and protection for young people and adults working within the youth work sector”* (NYCI). A highlight of 2006 was the introduction of the Code of Good Practice and the positive response it has received.

In 2007, we will introduce new ‘Child Protection Awareness Training’. This 4 hour module is approved by the HSE, and will replace previous sessions. Discussions on similar training in Northern Ireland are ongoing.

We are continuing to seek legal defence insurance for adult members against whom allegations have been made.

Training

I am delighted to see the amount of adults who commit to Woodbadge training each year. During 2006 Sheila Haskins stepped down as training Commissioner, and was replaced by John Brennan. Our best wishes go to Sheila.

John plans to create an epidemic of learning so that we can gift the collective genius of Scouting Ireland to adults who will enthuse, motivate and encourage young members on their Scouting journey.

Negotiations with FETAC to accredit Woodbadge training are at an advanced stage.

Priorities for 2007 include ‘Child Protection Awareness Training’, consolidating the Trainer panel and preparing for the management of change to a new programme.

Support for Quality Scouting.

Scouting Ireland has made a commitment to its youth members. SQS can support Groups in honouring that commitment by identifying assistance required by Groups, and ensuring that support is provided by County, Provincial or National level as appropriate. A report on performance during 2006 will be provided directly to National Council.

Commissioners Conference

This conference of Commissioners, PTCs and CPCs was a great success. All who attended are clear in their mission to support adults and young people in their Scouting activities.

National Adult Awards Committee

Over 700 Awards were made during 2006, all nominated at local level, and all well deserved. Some Honour Awards were made to young members.

Scouting Ireland Heritage Group

A mission statement for this group was agreed in 2006. A detailed plan will be presented in 2007.



Moot

The annual Fellowship Moot was held with some success in May 2006. Unfortunately the Young Leaders' Forum was not such a success. We will try to create a synergy by bringing both events together in 2007. Other Centenary events will include Founder's Day, a Scouters Challenge, and a Centenary Ball.

Government

Submissions were made to the Taskforce on Active Citizenship and to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Child Protection.

End of Term

As we approach the end of term I must return to the SI2K+ documents and reflect. We have made great progress, and have met most of our expectations. We still have work to do in supporting adults in a personal way, and will propose a document on 'Understanding Suicide' early in 2007.

In Scouting we should never find that we have 'completed' anything, I am happy that the NARC is already planning for the future.

Finally

As we enter our Centenary Year I think of the first Scouter, Baden-Powell. I hope that our collective work will support young people on the journey to active citizenship proposed by him.

I would like to thank all who have worked with the National Adult Resources Committee during the year; to Seán, Phil and Margaret for their professionalism; and to my wife Noeleen for her continued patience and support.

Bainigí taitneamh as bhúr nGasógaíocht,

Brendan McNicholas
Chief Commissioner (Adult Resources)



Report of the National Treasurer



Niall Walsh
National Treasurer

All in all, the financial health of Scouting Ireland is relatively good – with borrowings at a level, which as an association we can sustain and expenditure at a level, which is within our means. The past year has been another year where the budgets were not spent by all areas and income was higher than originally forecast. This is both good and bad for Scouting Ireland. We are living within our means but are not maximising what we can give to our members. This is, of course, a better position to be in than one where we are spending too much as we do not have to reduce the services we provide for our members or to lay off staff.

Note: all monetary amounts are rounded to thousands.

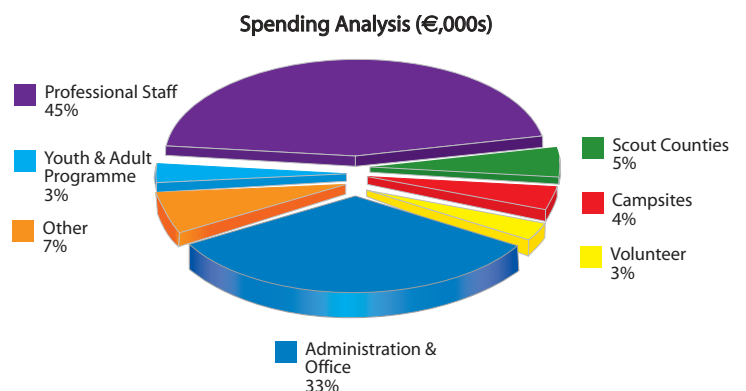
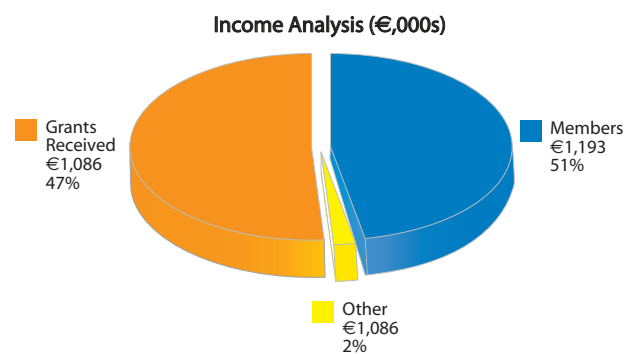
Income & Expenditure

We had prepared a break-even budget for 2006, forecasting that Scouting Ireland would not have a surplus but this was not the outcome. We unfortunately had a surplus of €220,000. The key contributors were the increase in income from government grants of €45,000 and our membership fees growing by €45,000. Our expenditure across a number of headings was lower than budgeted.

The plan for 2007 is to break even – with increased spending on staffing with a focus on staffing in support areas – both PSO type and other support areas such as child protection and programme development. We will need to take care when expanding the employee costs that we do not cause a situation where our spending exceeds our income in the longer term as this is not in the interest of Scouting Ireland.

Spending

Each year I am asked for a breakdown of the membership fee and an indication of where it is spent. As the membership fee is not allocated to specific costs, this is not possible. In other words it is not possible to say that x euro of the membership fee goes on insurance or on salaries, etc. What is possible is a breakdown of where all of the income of Scouting Ireland is spent and an analysis of what the total income was spent on. The following table provides the available information.





Cash Flow

Our cash flow was strong during the year with significant repayments of loans during 2006 – which are forecast to continue in 2007. Our bank loans were eliminated and our mortgage was reduced by €65,000. This reduction in borrowings was supported by repayments of amounts owed by our retail operations (shops) of €180,000 during the year. At the end of 2006 we had significant bank balances, which where possible to have since the year-end had been used to further reduce the association's borrowings.

Forecast for 2007

Again in 2007 we have budgeted for a breakeven position. I hope we will achieve this. While we are budgeting for a break-even income and expenditure situation I expect to receive further repayments from the Retail Operations (Shops) in 2007 and hope that if the sale of Castle Saunderson is agreed by National Council that the amounts owed by Castle Saunderson to Scouting Ireland will be repaid. This will enable Scouting Ireland to reduce the borrowings significantly again in 2007.

A number of other items which I wish to bring to your attention are:

- Membership fees and the way they are charged have been modified – with membership fees for leaders reduced to the same level as youth members.
- We have provided in the accounts for legal cost to the amount of €423,000 in respect to legal cases.
- We have written off the investment in the Scout Shop Limited amounting to €50,000 as the shop no longer trades and the investment is of no future value. We have now consolidated our retail operations into the Outdoor Adventure Store (Liffey Street) Limited – which is a better vehicle through which to trade.

- We have initiated a programme to replace the existing financial package used to manage the associations finances – this project will, when completed, deliver more reliable timely information in respect to Scouting Ireland's finances.
- The Castle Saunderson project has deferred time and resources (it owes the Association in excess of €140,000) from running Scouting Ireland for the benefit of our members.

I would also like to thank the staff in Larch Hill, especially Fíonán Lawlor and Barbara Hughes in the finance function, who do an excellent job in assisting the volunteers and contribute greatly to Scouting Ireland.

Finally, you need to be aware that with Scouting Ireland moving to a Limited Company the accounts presented at National Council in 2008 will be substantially different from those to be presented in 2007. There is no sinister reason for the change; it is simply an outcome of changing to a limited company - due to the requirements of company law and accounting rules.

Northern Province



Noel McCartney
Provincial Commissioner



The year of 2006 was one of great change for the Northern Province. It began the year with John Meikleham as its Provincial Commissioner. Then in the middle of the year John took seriously ill and was forced to resign from the post. He remains ill but determined to get back to full health and despite his illness he continues to contribute to scouting. We are sure you'll join with us in wishing John a full and speedy recovery and our best wishes to him and his family.

John was succeeded by Noel McCartney who was the previous Provincial Commissioner. He was asked to take over the post by the Provincial Management Support Team. Noel, together with the team continued to implement the events, programme and work that John and the PMST had already planned and put in place.

During 2006 the Province put a great emphasis on training and not just the training of Leaders but indeed the training of Trainers. And as such during the first six months of the year three weekend training of Trainer sessions were held in Ballyhorman Scout Centre, County Down. Nearly 20 leaders were trained as Trainers and this now means that each of the five Counties in the Northern Province has a pool of Trainers to call upon to deliver Scouting training courses at a local level.

Development

The Province carried out some work in the past year towards the development of new Groups. It is hoped that this will bear fruit in the coming year and we will see an increase in membership this year. In particular the Provincial Commissioner and the PSO have worked hard to ensure we once again have a strong and vibrant new Group in Newry.

Each year every County takes the time to do a Development Plan for the coming year. Each County needs to ensure that that plan includes supporting what they have, but highlighting and pursuing opportunities that will see new Groups and new Sections come into being. They should remember that the PSO and the Provincial Commissioner are there to support and help in these endeavours.



Events Phoenix

The Phoenix Challenge was staged in the Province during the year and was hosted by the Down and Connor Scout County. Congratulations to the County Commissioner, Paul Brown and his team for making it such a great success. Details are given elsewhere in this national report.

Camp North

One of the Province's main events during 2006 was Camp North. Having begun as a weekend camp to mark the then 70th Anniversary of the former Scouting Ireland CSI, the camp has continued each year since. It has been moved to the first May Day Bank holiday and continues to use the same venue, the Scout Association N. Ireland's campsite at Crawfordsburn. 2006 was therefore the third birthday of the camp since Scouting Ireland came into being and again there was a great turn out. Just under 400 Cubs, Scouts, Venture Scouts and Leaders took part with nearly 100 Beavers attending on the Sunday. Indeed the event has become one of the biggest Venture Scouts weekend by default. John and his team did a great job and the Camp Chief was Declan McKenna from 6th Tyrone Cookstown who was ably assisted by other Leaders including fellow Leaders from 6th Tyrone and 1st 2nd 3rd Fermanagh.

Odyssey Day

The other big event in the Province came towards the end of the year when the Beaver and Cub day took place at the Odyssey in Belfast. This was first staged two years ago at the same venue and again, as on that occasion, it proved to be a great success. Cubs and Beavers from both sides of the border headed towards the Belfast venue on Saturday November 25th.

The event was organised once again by Joan Crowther from 14th Down. Up to 1300 members of Scouting Ireland from both sides of the border were joined by Cubs from the Scout Association of Northern Ireland in a friendly "take over" of the Odyssey complex. The event was hosted with the joint co-operation of Sheridan IMAX, Storm Cinema, and W5. So successful was the first "invasion of Cubs and Scouts" two years previously that the three businesses were delighted to again come together to look after an event of this scale.

Our Chief Scout, Martin Burbridge, was guest of honour at the event.

Joan and the other members of the organising team from the Northern Province were delighted by the tremendous response making it the biggest Scouting event in the Province during the year

Indeed such was the success that in 2007 as part of the 100th birthday celebrations for Scouting the Province is now in the process on trying to stage a similar event with a greater emphasis on cross community relations.



North Eastern Province

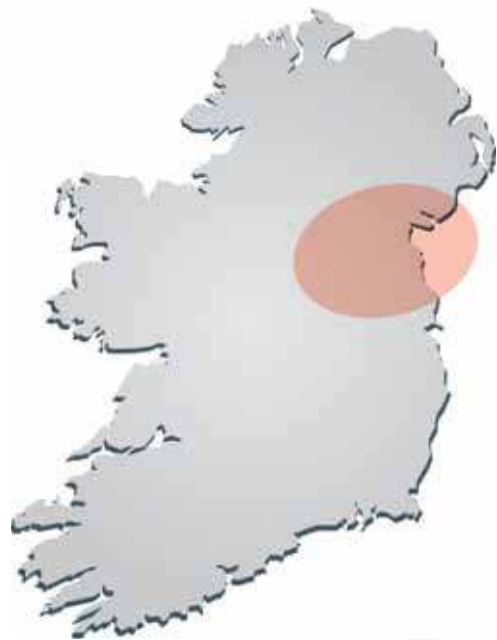


*Christy McCann
Provincial Commissioner*

When everyone throughout the Province looks back on 2006, the highlight undoubtedly will be Camp North East 2006, which took place on the May Bank Holiday weekend in Portlick Campsite. Over 600 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Ventures and Leaders from every corner of the Province took part to make it such a memorable weekend. It's success wasn't just the gathering of so many young people with one aim, but it was the bringing together of all of the Counties within the Province with one aim and right throughout the rest of the year, the Province has reaped the benefits of this work.

The Camp wouldn't have happened without the dedication of all of the Leaders who came along to Camp North East or the CPC's and County Commissioner's who did all of the background work and were guided along by our Provincial Programme Rep, Sinead Bermingham.

Whilst this was a successful event, we can't forget about the other 51 weeks of the year and the enormous amount of quality Scouting that is evident where ever you visit within the Province. Every camp, hike, day event, training course, meeting (yes, they achieve a lot too!), expedition or voyage that is undertaken within the Province builds and builds on the Scouting Experience we have to call upon. The sharing of ideas is very much a need of every Group so that they can expand the range of activities they have to offer and keep spicing up what they do in their weekly meetings and activities. This message very much came through in the Provincial Survey during 2005 and was delivered upon in every gathering within the Province, whether it was on a Training Course, at the SQS presentation evening, at County AGM's or at Camp North East. The social interactivity between Leaders brings about the mixing and sharing of idea's and encourages others to take that extra step and see what else is out there in Scouting.



With all of these gatherings of so many people in the name of Scouting, they, of course, are not opportunities to be missed with so many other goings on in Scouting Ireland. The Province is delighted to have in excess of 100 Scouts, Ventures and Leaders as part of Scouting Ireland's Contingent to the World Scout Jamboree in the UK this coming summer. We wish them every success at the Jamboree and know that they'll do us all proud on the 'World Stage'. Not to be out done, recruitment is also underway for Jamboree 2008 with a huge interest already within the Province and no doubt we will be there in force.

Looking back on the training year in 2006, just under 400 Leaders from the Province undertook a training experience with all courses from Fundamentals to Scouting Leadership on offer. The Province also expanded its training reach by hosting the first nationally run 'Venture Expeditions Course'. The Province also expanded the number of trainers on the 'Provincial Training Panel' with some new trainers and we wish them every success on their own new training experience. We will continue to deliver training locally to where it is needed and keep the momentum going in the next century of Scouting.

2006 saw the opening of two new Groups within the Province and they are 181st Dublin (Castaheany Ongar) and 17th Cavan (Mount Nugent). These two Groups will shortly become old hands (!) as we welcome new Groups in Omeath and Longwood during 2007. Also during the year, the Province, and in particular Réachra County, welcomed six new Groups from Eblana County in the Dublin Metropolitan Province into the fold, following an NMC decision in November.

There's lots happening, it never stops and long may it continue as we deliver on our promise of quality Scouting to more young people throughout the Province.

Yours in Scouting

Christy McCann
Provincial Commissioner



Western Province



*Julie Malone
Provincial Commissioner*



2006 again saw the Provincial Support Team on the road giving support to all groups who requested our assistance. At present in the province we have 5 counties on a huge geographical spread from south Donegal to south Clare.

The Province

We have 54 active groups, which includes new groups and the expansion in a number of existing groups. The Province has had a 6% membership growth. This growth is as a result of good leadership and the willingness of people in the counties to put their shoulders to the wheel to keep scouting active and alive. At present we also have a number of new groups coming on line in early 2007.

Provincial Conference

We held our conference in November in Oranmore. Our Guest speakers were Phil Stapleton and Sheila Haskins. The weather on the day was extremely bad but it did not deter a good number of people attending. Phil went through the new vetting procedure and Sheila took the opportunity to present 4 Woodbadge beads to Tommy Flaherty, Martee McCaffrey, Joe Doherty and myself.

My thanks to both ladies for making a huge contribution to the day.

Training

Training has gone from strength to strength again this year with 232 people having at least one training experience.

We also had 15 people attend Keeping Safe training with the HSE and 2 of the Provincial Training team have been accepted by the HSE to train with them to become Keeping Safe trainers.

It was with regret that we had to say Adios to 2 members of the team during the year. Margaret Fagan has relocated back to Dublin and Martee McCaffrey has decided to retire from training. I would like to thank them both for all the hard work they have done over the years and send them both best wishes for the future. Our training team now only has 8 members but they are all very enthusiastic and very willing to give training anywhere they are asked to go.

Awards

The province had a number of accolades during the year:

Cu Culainn – Christy Shannon (1/4 Clare)

Chief Scout Awards – Christian Malone, Josh Shannon, Sean O Gorman
Daniel O Sullivan, Michael O Shea

Numerous Service and meritorious awards were presented also

Service	5 Year	8	Meritorious	Bronze	5
	10	4		Silver	7
	15	3		Gold	1
	20	6			
	25	1			
	60	1			

Awards are our way of saying thank you to all our adults and again I encourage all groups and counties to make sure that their adults are rewarded for their time and efforts in the name of scouting.



National Events

During the year, we were well represented at national events. Cubs from Ballyboro and Sixmilebridge represented their counties at the National Challenge day.

Cuboree was a well attended with all Counties attending the event, which was a huge success Scouts from 1st Roscommon and 1st 4th Clare took part in the National Challenge too with Roscommon taking 1st place.

Scouts from 3 counties also took part in the Phoenix Challenge with 2 teams finishing in the top 10.

The Talent Expo winners and runners up were from 12th Galway.

Well done to everyone who took part and did so well.

Youth Fora

The province was represented at both the Scout and Venture Scout forum where a number of our youth members were elected for 06-07, Sorcha Gannon – Scouts and Ronan Scott and Kieran Greene - Venture Scout.

Congratulations to you all.

SQS

We had a good uptake on SQS mainly due to the Groups striving to achieve the objectives on their development plans.

Jamboree 07

The Western Province has a troop going to the jamboree headed by Trevor Conroy, Joe Doherty, Sean Greene and Marie Carr. I look forward to hearing the stories when they come home.

New proposed Programme Pilot Groups

2 Groups have taken on the task of running the new proposed programme.

Camping

Most groups in the Province took their Cubs and Scouts to camp during the year with venues ranging from local fields to as far away Switzerland.

As I come to the end of my term as Provincial Commissioner I look forward to the challenges that lie ahead:

1. Have a full Provincial Support Team in place.
2. Train at least 10 more people to be part of the training team.
3. Have all sections camp and provide more out of doors activities
4. Bigger uptake in Provincial/National events
5. Develop our newsletter

And finally, I would like to thank all 5 commissioners in the Province, David Kiely, Colm Dunne, Duncan McGregor-Tompkins, Tommy Flaherty and Noel Keaney for their dedication to their role. I wish David well in his retirement from the job and welcome Willie Murphy on board. To Joe Doherty and all the PST my heartfelt thanks for their support to me and the trojan work they do in the Province on behalf of Scouting Ireland. And last but not least, as always to my family thank you all for your continued support to me.

2006 was a great year, here's to 2007, the centenary of Scouting.

Julie M. Malone
Provincial Commissioner



Dublin Metropolitan Province



Anne Smithers
Provincial Commissioner

Once again we present our annual report and reflect on the events of another passionate year of Scouting in the DMP. Over the twelve month period Scouting was active in halls/ dens in lots of local communities in the greater Dublin area, scouts were out on the surrounding hills and forests, on the Liffey and in Dublin Bay, in sunshine, wind and rain. Not just content with that, many Scouts, Sea Scouts and Ventures travelled abroad on summer camps, seminars, conferences and community projects. An ever increasing number of Leader parties travelled to the snow for some skiing and relaxation!

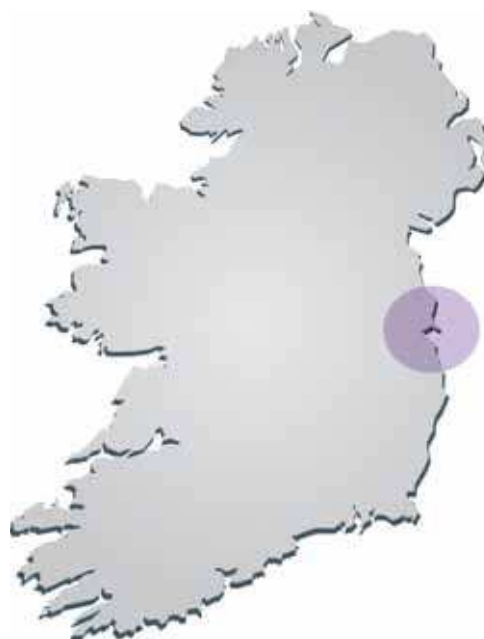
The scope of activity within the local Scout Group is due in no uncertain terms to the commitment of an extremely energetic and dedicated team of Leaders, parents, and young people. In nearly every Scout County, a Group(s) expanded their membership by opening additional sections to meet local demand. These included the opening of some Venture sections. In January 42 Dublin Dolphin's Barn re-opened after many years.

Participation in Leadership Training was as popular as previous years. 19 Leadership Training Courses were held with a participation of 346 leaders. This year we found an increasing number of leaders from the South East and North East Provinces participating on our courses. Thank you Leaders, for travelling, and giving of your time to training. So many people have supported training; to all our Trainers, to our venue providers, to our training co-ordinators, and to our 'Man Thursday' Kevin Fahey for preparing the Training boxes, and always prepared and willing to do anything to support Leader Training. One must single out Gay Davoren, our Provincial Training Co-ordinator. Since 2004 over 1000 leaders have participated in Leadership training. His drive and enthusiasm holds no bounds. Thank you, Gay.

In February 2006 the President Mary McAlesse launched an initiative for people between the ages of 12 and 25 called the Young Citizen Award. 45 Dublin Mount Argus and 9/10 Dublin Aghrim St Ventures were honoured to receive the Award.



As well as promoting good citizenship, through living the Scout Law and Promise, the Groups had been involved in the Special Olympics, anti-racism awareness days, raising money for the Tsunami Disaster Appeal and painting and decorating a Vietnamese orphanage. Congratulations and well done.



Some other notable events and memories of 2006:

Last January 2006, the first Dublin based Programme Development Consultation Day was held in Donnybrook, the Gift of Peace project had a high level of participation, likewise the Scout Talent Show, the Outdoor Show in RDS, the GET OUT challenge, the Walk in the Park, the Venture Summer Ball, first provincial Conference, 4th Fellowship Moot, the triumphant success by two 8 u Calafort Leaders in the Devizes to Westminster canoe race (22hrs 27mins), Spring and Autumn Scout County Camps with over 2000 campers in Larch Hill, Powerscourt and Lough Dan, many Dublin Leaders were honoured 'Unsung Heroes' by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, local fundraising commenced within Counties for participation in the World Jamboree, Scout involvement in Electric Picnic initiative by a 6 Dub Leeson Park leader, 4 DMP troops in top 10 in the Phoenix, 3 Groups in the DMP piloting the New Programme, Scout and Venture Forums, 6 Leaders receiving CDYSB Volunteer Achievement Awards.

This year the DMP said farewell to many friends who have departed this life and to them we owe our gratitude for the memories they have left behind. Gone but never forgotten.

One notable change in the Dublin Province, was the dissolution of Eblana Scout County. Seven Groups have now joined Reacha Scout County and one has moved to Cluain Toirc. That now leaves the Province with nine Scout Counties: Dodder, Dublinia, Montpelier, Liffey West, Three Rock, Dun Laoghaire, Cois Fiarraige, Tolka and Cluain Toirc.

As 2006 drew to a close several County Commissioners tendered their resignations.

To Karen Scully in Dodder, Noel O'Connor in Dublinia and Pat Black in Dun Laoghaire County, we thank you for your participation and contribution with the local Groups, the County and within the Province. These commissioners took office in 2004 when there was no County identity and in each case, every County has developed and created an identity which correctly reflects its local scouting environment. During 2006, 20 new Group and Deputy Group Leaders were appointed and Shane Kavanagh was nominated as County Commissioner in Cois Fiarraige County.

Joe Marken tendered his resignation in October he gave an extraordinary commitment to his position and responsibility of Provincial Commissioner. I would like to acknowledge Joe's work and thank him most sincerely for his dedication to Scouting in the Province.

Our PSO, Geraldine Smith, who has done and continues to do a superb job and has been a great support to all in the Province is over worked and under staffed and deserves a special thanks as does Deirdre Black, for her voluntary work within the Provincial Office. Work which plays a vital part in the support of adults in the DMP.

My thanks to everyone in the Province for making Scouting prosper during 2006. Here's to 2007 being a challenging and fun filled Scouting year.



South Eastern Province



*Francis Minogue
Provincial Commissioner*

The South East Province, through its seven Scout Counties, looks after Scouting in Wicklow, Waterford, Kildare, Laois, Wexford, Carlow, Offaly, Kilkenny, part of North Tipperary and a bit of Meath. There is over 90 active Scout Groups in the Province and we are pleased to report a Youth Membership growth of 2% in 2006. During 2006, 5,700 youth members enjoyed scouting in the Province. 1,130 Adult Scouters supported the delivery of the programme to these Youth members. To each of you a big THANK YOU is required for your work in 2006.

A thank you also goes out to Billy Gaynor, who resigned as Provincial Commissioner in January 2007. Billy had served the Province with his best endeavours during 2005 and 2006.

We would like to welcome Annette Byrne and Marie Murphy as the new County Commissioners for South Kildare and Wexford they replace Anthony Corcoran and Ollie Kehoe. We would like to thank Anthony and Ollie for their hard work since 2004.

Training during 2006 was a success and the following is a list of courses run in the province during the past year: 1 Beaver Overnights, 2 Cub Overnights, 2 Scouts Overnights, 7 Scouting Fundamentals, 4 Cub Essentials, 5 Scouts Essentials, 1 Venture Essentials, 5 Beaver Essentials, 2 Scouting Leadership, 1 Beaver Slumber Night and 1 Group Leader Training. Special thanks goes out to our trainers who worked hard to deliver interesting and relevant course material to leaders in the province.

We would like to welcome the new groups which have been set up in the province this year; 18th Kildare (Prosperous), 4th Wicklow (Baltinglass) and 7th Kilkenny (Castlecomer). Also due to open in 2007 are Sallins, Blessington and Camross

Thanks also to the many people that helped Scouting in the Province during 2006; your assistance was very much appreciated.

As we enter the Centenary year of Scouting, we in the South East should seize this opportunity to promote and develop scouting at all levels. There are many objectives for the South Eastern Province during 2007, which include:

- Strengthening our Youth Participation;

- Ensuring Scouting at all levels receives the Programme and Training support required;
- Improving communications within the Province, part of which will see the introduction of a Newsletter;
- Focusing our Professional support on Groups in the Province identified as needing assistance;
- The growth of our Youth Membership to over 6,000.



Scouting in the Counties Carlow / Kilkenny

It has been a very active year in Carlow/Kilkenny Scout County with many activities and events for all Sections. These have included the Fun Day and Variety Afternoon for Beavers, Orienteering and County Camp for Cubs and the Fia Challenge and Sherwood Cup for the Scout Section. All events have been enjoyed by everyone and well attended. Events are not confined to local, and our members actively take part in the Beaver Santa Day and the Sionnach Adventure.

The Chief Scout, visited Carlow-Kilkenny twice during 2006 to present three well deserved Chief Scout's Awards.

Cill Dara

In Cill Dara a number of County events were arranged for each of the programme areas, Beavers and Cub events were Leader driven while Scout and Venture events were dictated by the respective forums, this also saw us participating at National level. 2006 saw the introduction of the County Outdoor Award Scheme to encourage participation in Local, County and National events.

Cill Dara targeted existing groups to identify how best we could support them in the area of programme development and working with them to develop premises and source grants. An appearance on RTE of the Lexlip Group's hall renovation was a highlight of the year. A new County Badge was also introduced.

Slieve Bloom

2006 was a very busy year in the County. The highlight of the Year was the Awards Night in May at which Jack Ryan from the 3rd Offaly Birr was presented with the order of Cu Cuhlainn. The Commissioner's Conference was hosted by the County in October. Many successful training events were held during the year, with the first 5 leaders in the County since Scouting Ireland started receiving their Woodbeads (many more to follow in 2007).

Youth Membership reached the 800 mark for the first time. A vibrant County Programme for each section was enjoyed by the Youth members.

South Kildare

The County Programme was jam-packed in South Kildare in 2006; County Challenge Days for Cubs & Scouts were well attended, the County Soccer Blitz raised funds for Barretstown, Orienteering in Dundlea and the County Shield in Athy were all excellent events. At the end of 2006 Anthony Corcoran completed his 3 year term as County Commissioner, he was replaced by Annette Byrne from the 4th Kildare Naas. Annette was previously County Secretary. Thanks to Anthony for his work over the 3 years. 700 Youth Members enjoyed scouting in the 11 Groups in the County in 2006.

Waterford

Waterford Scout County are pleased to report that during 2006 all Groups took part in the county programme events and training. During 2006 Billy Collins and George Kavanagh of the De La Salle Group were presented with well deserved Cu Cuhlainn Awards. 7 National Scout Awards were presented during the year. Membership in the 14 active Scout Groups in the County remained strong at over 900.

Wexford

The Wexford Scout County enjoyed an active and successful 2006. Membership in the 13 Scout Groups continues to prosper at over 700. Ollie Kehoe stepped down as County Commissioner at the end of his first term to take over the role as Provincial Training Co-ordinator. The County elected Marie Murphy from the 4th Wexford Bunclody as their new County Commissioner. We wish Marie well during 2007 and beyond.

Wicklow

Wicklow Scout County continues to ably serve 800 Youth Members in some 12 Groups. Tony May the County Commissioner has just completed his first 12 months in the role and is looking forward to building on the active and vibrant programme and training offered by the County in 2007.

Francis Minogue
Acting Provincial Commissioner



Southern Province



*Michael John Shinnick
Provincial Commissioner*

What a year we had in 2006. One of the best on record and we are looking forward to the next one.

Programme:

One of the biggest events took place in Limerick Scout County with the Cuboree. The event was a great success and the June bank holiday weather proved to be one of the hottest on record. Over one and a half thousand Cubs from all over the country attended this great event. Pallaskenry Scouts did the Province proud with their win in the Phoenix trophy in the North. Well done to the entire Group.

Training:

This was a lot easier than last year when we had a major push on training. This year the training was on demand and we had a large number of Fundamentals and Essentials taking place in the province. We had a great leadership weekend in November which was well attended from around the Province with 35 participants. Thanks to John Brennan, Enda Downey and their team for running a successful course.

Retirement:

A Night To Remember, Jim Goulding the Province's first PSO retired this year and we had a great send off in the Beamish Rooms in Cork City. This was a fitting retirement party for Jim who was working in Scouting for so many years. A large group of Scouters all attended from around the Province and the Country to wish Jim the best.

Sally Simpson, David Barry and Paul Falvey all retired as County Commissioners and Sue Thomas as Provincial International Coordinator, in the Province and we would like to thank them for their work in Scouting in the counties that they represented.



Conference:

Sorting the tangles out of the tradition of having a Provincial Conference every year continued, with the Conference taking place in Clonmel on September 17th. This again was a great success and was attended by over a hundred Scouters as well as the Chief Scout and Chief Commissioner Youth Programme.

At the conference we launched the Resource Disc for the Province which every leader will get at training and events in the Province. The Disc has a contact list for every county as well as templates of useful forms for the groups. Thanks to all the team for putting this together.



Youth participation

Steve Cull Venture Scout Forum and David Shalloo Scout Forum made a power point presentation on - youth participation "A tokenism in Scouting Ireland".

S.Q.S

A return of 86% from all groups across the Southern Province, up from last year.

Chief Scout Award

South Province badge launched designed by Ciaran Lucas.

Phoenix Challenge was won by the 34th Pallaskenry, Limerick Scout County

Provincial Management Team: County Commissioners Bernie Brennan, Brendan Lynch, Lucy Kay, Chris MC Sweeney,

Richard Pumphrey, Sheila Power, Patrick Roche, Jimmy O Donnell, John Alymer.

John Brennan (P.A.C..)Mary O Regan (P.T.) Enda Downey (P.T.C)Tim Calvert(PS.)

Morgan O Sullivan (P.P.C.) Jennifer O Regan (P.I.C.) Martin Thompson(PS.Q.S.)

Denis Kirby (P.D.C.) Neill Collins PSO.

Chief Scout Recipients 2006 in the Province

Dave Stuart	3/12 Cork Group
Craig Murphy	3/12 Cork Group
Joseph Casey	117 Cork Group
Eadaoin Horgan	67 Cork Group
Eoghan Healy	18/19 Cork Group
Aidan Sheehan	18/19 Cork Group
John Duggan	18/19 Cork Group
David Ahern	29/30 Cork Group
William English	29/30 Cork Group
Con Quigley	2/7 Cork
Fearghal Fitzgibbons	2nd Kerry (Sea Scout) Group
Barry O' Mahony	2nd Kerry (Sea Scout) Group
Cian Buckley	55 Cork Group
Timothy Nation	55 Cork Group
Fiona Heffernan	109 Cork Group
Cormac O' Conaill	109 Cork Group
David Callanan	18/19 Cork Group
Andrew Callanan	18/19 Cork Group

Support...

To all who supported me over the year many thanks, lets keep up the good work .

Michael John Shinnick P.C. Southern Province



Youth Programme Development



Dominic Byrne

When the whole concept of a “pilot scheme” was first broached last year, we were interested and apprehensive. As a group we discussed it – again and again. The arguments that we had would at this stage be familiar to all! “Why change a winning formula?” “Why would we want to get rid of six year olds?” “But our Scout section will never be the same again....”

When we brought it a stage further – and thought it out a bit more – we came up with the thoughts that all these arguments could be summed up by us as being “afraid of change”. As a group, we decided to brave it out and try it.

From the start, things have worked quite well. We’ve found that the new age ranges work very, very well. The programme developments have been great. The activities are continuing with what we have been used to up to now – we’re still hiking, pioneering, camping, backwoods cooking, etc. As ever, we’re still planning for the summer ahead. Some of our older members will be at the World Jamboree, some will be at our group camp in Italy for 2 weeks. Our youth are still learning leadership skills. The main difference is the way in which our members are now more empowered at all levels – they’re making decisions, planning their activities, running them and assessing them afterwards. The new programme planning has reinforced that this association belongs to the young people in our care.

Is it succeeding? In general, we are happy with the programme, last Wednesday night, one of our Explorer sections had 31 members down at a meeting. This section started with about 18 members in September. While not as impressive as this section, all of the other sections have increased their membership since the start of the year, also at nearly every activity and meeting, our sections have about 85%+ attendance.

Is everything rosy? No, not always. There are things we’d like to be happening quicker, but we’re also aware that it’s a pilot scheme and everything won’t be perfect. The main thing is that the Programme Development team are listening to our feedback and are prepared to take it on board.

We are very happy to be part of the Pilot Scheme and to feel part of the future. We have found the new structures and the new approach to the Programme to be a great improvement. We are looking forward to the adoption of the Programme, as we certainly don’t want to go back!



Quotes from Pilot Group members

“Developing well – review particularly good”

“A lot of good work done, but more needed”

“RAP rocks”

“A new beginning, working well and will get better”

“I love it”

“Nice change from the current programme”

“I’m a converted sceptic. This is a great process and we’re nearly there.”

“The Pilot Programme has made me think that we should have made improvements like this long before now.”

“Very exciting programme”

“As a new Scout Leader, I’ve really enjoyed working on developing the scheme and putting it into practice”

“Our members are now more empowered at all levels”

Youth Programme is the totality of what young people do in Scouting (the activities), how it is done (the Scout method) and the reason why it is done (the purpose)

World Programme Policy, WOSM

2006 was a very exciting and busy year for Programme Development. After three long years of dedicated work by many volunteers, we are now approaching the completion of the proposed new Youth Programme for Scouting Ireland.



Participants on Pilot Scheme Training Weekend



Thanks

Thanks to all of the Groups who are participating in the Pilot Scheme –

- 15th Dublin/9th Port (Malahide)
- 66th Dublin (Clontarf)
- 171st Dublin (River Valley)
- 3rd Meath (Ballivor)
- 9th Meath (Ratoath)
- 54th/88th Dublin (Dún Laoghaire)
- 86th Dublin (Mount Merrion)
- 6th Laois (Mountrath)
- 31st Waterford (Faithleg)
- 34th Waterford (Ardmore)
- 1st Wicklow (Greystones)
- 2nd Cork (Cathedral)
- 2nd/7th Cork (St. Finbarrs)
- 4th Cork (Peters & Pauls)
- 6th/47th Cork (Douglas)
- 80th Cork (Little Island)
- 46th Limerick (Ballybricken)
- 2nd Mayo (Westport)
- 20th Mayo (Snugboro)

It is a huge commitment for any Group to make, to venture into something new and untested. We owe them a debt of gratitude for trying out the proposed Programme so that we can all be confident that the final proposals work.

Thanks also to all the people who have volunteered their time to work on developing the Programme. They do so in addition to their normal work as Scouts and Scouters with their local Group. In particular, thanks to the regulars who turn up to every meeting and who have worked through many weekend meetings often into the early hours of the morning.

I am looking forward to the year ahead and to presenting the final Youth Programme proposals to National Council in October 2007. I hope that we will then have a new Youth Programme that all members of Scouting Ireland are happy with and can be proud of.

Overview by Chief Executive Officer of the Annual Report 2006



Eamonn Lynch
CEO

Introduction

The year 2006 being the third year of existence of the new Association augured well for the further development of the Scouting Ireland based on the progress in the previous two years. There has been continued progress in many areas and a consolidation on the success achieved in the first two years and the Association can derive huge benefits and spin-off development from the Centenary Celebrations of Scouting in the UK in 2007 and in our own Centenary Celebrations in 2008. The NMC had six meetings in 2006 and there were regular meetings of the NTPIC throughout the year to complement the work of the NMC. At Provincial Level, much work was achieved, especially in the training of Scouters and a total 2,122 Scouters successfully underwent training in the Provinces in 2006.

National Youth Work Advisory Committee

The National Youth Work Advisory Committee had seven meetings in 2006 in order to progress the implementation of the Youth Work Development Plan. The work of the Committee was on-going and the main events arising out of this work were as follows:

- The appointment of the Assessor for Youth Work, Mr Conor Rowley, in July 2006.
- An increase in funding in the Youth Work Sector for 2007 of 14% (Eur6.2m) over the 2006 figure.

- The commencement of vetting for volunteers and professional staff in the Youth Work Sector in September 2006. There was an apprehension that the new vetting procedures would cause significant delays in the recruitment of volunteers, but that fear has been largely allayed by the relatively quick processing (average five weeks) of leader applications by the Garda Vetting Unit in Thurles. This time-span for vetting may increase in the future particularly when vetting is carried out on applicants with foreign addresses. NYWAC and the Association will be monitoring the situation over the next twelve months.
- In November 2006 the Minister of Youth Affairs Ms Sile De Valera, resigned and she deserves great recognition and credit for not only securing a 14% (Eur6.2m) increase in funding for 2007, but also for her commitment and hard work in securing a 123% increase in funding for the Youth Work Sector during her tenure in office.
- The Taoiseach has appointed Mr Sean Haughey TD to replace Ms De Valera as Minister of Youth Affairs, and the Association looks forward to working with the new Minister in implementing the National Youth Work Development Plan.

The Associations Strategy

Many of the objectives for the Associations Strategy for 2004 – 2007 have been achieved, partially achieved or are about to be achieved when the review of the Youth programme is completed later in 2007. The main thrust of the Associations Strategy has been inter alia.

- Review of the Youth Programme.
- Successfully running a series of National Events which complement the local Scout Programme.
- Youth members actively involved in decision making at all levels of the Association and contributing in a real and tangible way to achieving objectives of the Association.
- The contribution of each youth member has been valued and achievements recognised.
- Scouters and adults focus is on the delivery of the commitment to Youth and accepting personal ownership for the quality of the Scouting experience that we deliver.



- The contribution of adults is valued and achievements recognised and they are involved in a real and tangible way in achieving the objectives of the plan.
- The Training Scheme is amended so that it enhances and supports the new Youth Programme.
- The public image of Scouting is clear, relevant, modern and attractive to Youth and adults.
- Increase and retain the membership of Youth and Adults in the Association.

The Association's Strategy will need to be updated and amended to reflect events in the environment and society, particularly to benefit from momentum and publicity generated by the Centenary Celebrations in the UK and Ireland in 2007 and 2008.

Membership Figures

In 2006 the Association experienced a disappointing decline in membership of 1%, whereas the decline is quite small and is possibly within the realm of a margin of error, nevertheless, it is a reality check following two years of modest growth, and the Association should not be complacent but should rather galvanise its efforts to ensure a return to a growth in membership in the future. Possible reasons that can be attributed to the decline in growth in 2006 are:

- The impact of the new vetting procedures for adult volunteers.
- The continuous pressure on adults to devote more of their free time to supporting Scouting activities.
- The need for more professional support for Provincial Commissioners, County Commissioners and Group Leaders throughout the country.

An analysis of the membership figures in 2006 is provided further on in this report:

Professional Staff

There was no turn-over of professional staff in 2006 despite the competition of the vibrant Celtic Tiger economy. In July 2006, three new staff were recruited to provide more resources for the completion of the review of Youth Programme. The names of the new staff and job titles were as follows: Mr Karol Quinn, Support Officer Programme Development; Canice Curtis, Support officer Programme Research and Development; Mrs Gillian Keogh, Administrator Programme Development; Mrs Grainne Quinn was also recruited as a new Receptionist to replace Mrs Gillian Keogh in September 2006. Interviews took place for the position Support Officer Campsites and Facilities in December 2006 and at the time of writing this report a candidate had been selected and offered the position and negotiations were at an advanced stage on agreeing the terms and conditions for the appointment.

Funding

The Association will need to make significant expenditure on campsites, to improve facilities and the imminent recruitment of a Support Officer for Campsites and Facilities should hasten progress in that area in 2007. The provision of extra professional support in Provinces, Counties and Groups is also an area that merits consideration as the further growth and expansion of the Association is being inhibited by the constraints on volunteer Scouter's free time. In 2006 the Association received extra grants from the Youth Affairs section of the Department of Education and Science for the following:

- A once off grant of €9,000 to help defray the costs of fulfilling the duties and obligations in 2007, of the vice-chairman of WOSM, Ms Therese Bermingham.
- An increase in baseline funding of €2,000 for 2006, €7,500 in a full year for the services of a sign language interpreter for 191st Dublin Deaf Scouts Group.
- The Association also received a one off grant of €15,000 from a Development Fund for youth organisations, to support organisations in complying with the new vetting arrangements and for the purchase of necessary equipment to assist with the compliance with Health and Safety standards and other necessary improvements to National Office facilities.

Castle Saunderson

A comprehensive report on Castle Saunderson, which had been mandated by National Council 2006, was issued to the membership in December 2006 and this was followed subsequently by a meeting in the Scout Den in Drogheda in January 2007. This report will be considered by the membership of the Association and a decision on the future status of the Castle Saunderson property will be taken by the membership of National Council in June 2007.

New Database for the Association

After a series of protracted meetings and consultations in 2006 a specification for a new database for the Association was completed. In October 2006, interviews took place to select a software provider to construct the new database. A new software provider (Tekenable) was selected and it is hoped to have the new database in place sometime in mid summer 2007, after contracts have been signed in early 2007.

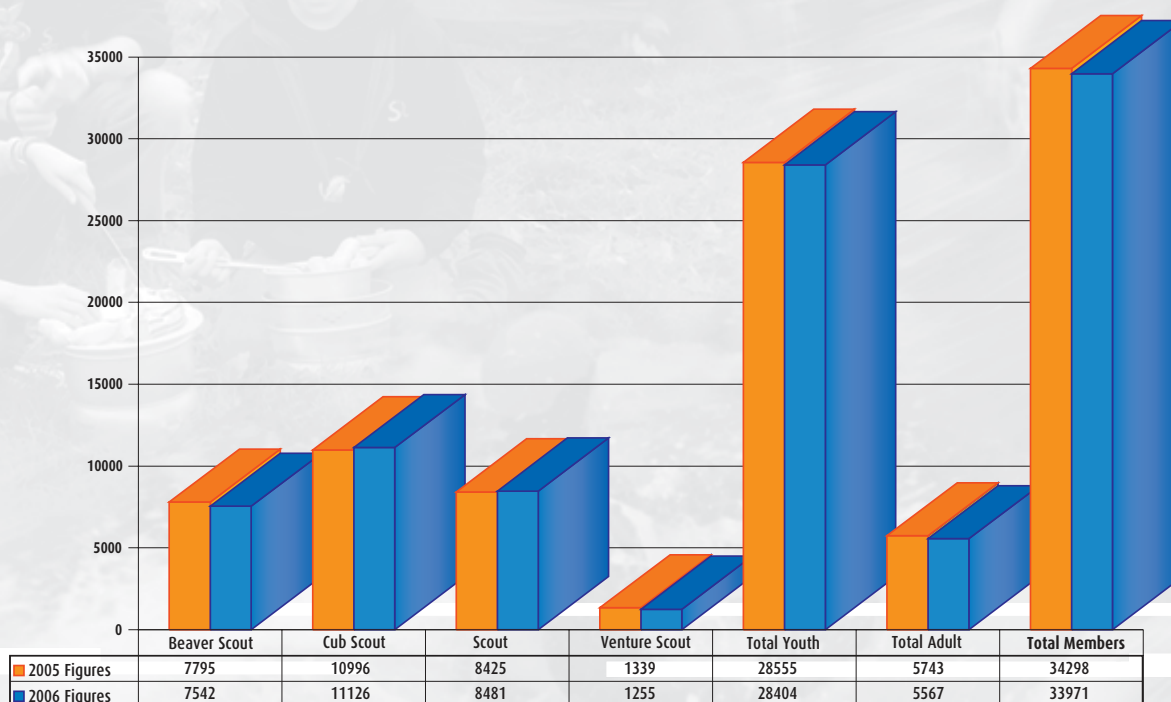
Conclusion

The Association has made very significant progress in its initial development as a new Association and in the achievement of the objectives in its 'Strategy'. However, it is unrealistic to expect that we will not encounter some obstacles or disappointments such as the apparent check in membership growth in 2006. Rather than perceiving this as an impediment we should strive to galvanise our energies and resources and put in place strategies and mechanisms, which will sustain and support the membership of the Association so that the Scout Programme can be delivered to a wider and more diverse public in 2007 and beyond.

Eamonn Lynch
C.E.O.



Membership Figures



PROVINCE	Beaver Scout	Cub Scout	Scout	Venture Scout	Total Youth	Scouter	Committee	Direct Reg.	Total Adult	Total Members
DMP	1135	1997	2042	423	5597	1068	77		1176	6773
North Eastern	1435	2188	1666	275	5564	854	70		973	6537
Northern	906	1265	760	114	3045	562	37		602	3647
South Eastern	1547	2292	1672	162	5673	963	87		1130	6803
Southern	1729	2245	1601	224	5799	962	89		1190	6889
Western	790	1139	740	57	2726	476	27		548	3274
Total 2005	7795	10996	8425	1339	28555	5258	386	99	5743	34298
Total 2006	7542	11126	8481	1255	28404	4885	387	48	5567*	33971
Difference	-253	130	56	-84	-151	-325	1	-51	-176	-327

* Please note: The Total Adult figure includes 247 Scouter applications that are pending

Scouting Ireland

Members of National Management Committee

Martin Burbridge, Michael Devins, Brendan McNicholas, Kiernan Gildea, Niall Walsh, Fr. Peter Kehoe (Resigned, June 06) Joseph Marken (Resigned, October 06), Anne Smithers, Christy McCann, Julie Malone, John Meikleham (Resigned, August 06) Noel McCartney, Michael J Shinnick, Billy Gaynor (Resigned, November 06), Francis Minogue, Garrett Flynn, Ann Foley, Pat Murphy, Stephen Carey, Paul Falvey, Brendan Lynch (Resigned, July 06).

National Team for Policy Implementation & Co-Ordination

Martin Burbridge Chief Scout, Michael Devins National Secretary, Niall Walsh National Treasurer, Kiernan Gildea Chief Commissioner – Youth Programme, Brendan McNicholas Chief Commissioner - Adult Resources. Fr. Peter Kehoe, Chairperson National Spiritual, Religious Advisory panel (Resigned June 06)

Members and Directors of The Scout Foundation and Scout Association of Ireland Trust Corporation Limited (Who have held office in 2006)

Joe McLoughlin, Aidan Brennan, Donal O’Sullivan (deceased, February 06), Mark Doyle, Terry Kiely, (and National Officers ex officio.)

Provincial Commissioners

Joseph Marken (Resigned, October 06), Anne Smithers, Christy McCann, Julie Malone, John Meikleham (Resigned, August 06) Noel McCartney, Michael J Shinnick, Billy Gaynor (Resigned, November 06), Francis Minogue.

Staff

Eamonn Lynch	CEO,
Colm Kavanagh	Programme Development Officer Research/Publications
Sean Farrell	SQS,AIS, Provincial and National Co-ordinator
Neil Mahony	PR, Information/Communications Officer
Philomena Stapleton	Child Protection Officer/Risk Management
Oladoyin Durojaiye	Legal Governance/Property Administration Officer
Karol Quinn	Programme Development Officer
Canice Curtis	Programme Development Advisor
Gillian Keogh	Programme Development Administrator
Damien O’Sullivan	Warden manager Larch Hill National Campsite
Bridie O’Sullivan	Administrative Officer
Marie Dalton	Registrar
Margaret Moore Lewey	Administrative Assistant Provincial Support/Insurance
Rose Doyle	Administrative Assistant National Secretary
Grainne Quinn	Receptionist

Provincial Support Officers

Sinclair Trotter	Northern Province
Neil Collins	Southern Province
Joe Doherty	Western Province
Justin Maher	South Eastern Province
Gerry Hickey	North Eastern Province
Geraldine Smith	Dublin Metropolitan Province

Finance

Fionan Lawlor	Financial Controller
Barbara Hughes	Accounts assistance

Notes





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