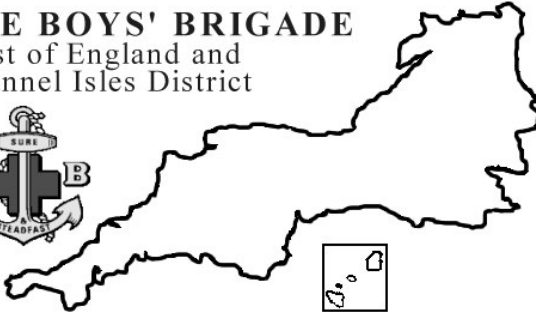


THE BOYS' BRIGADE
West of England and
Channel Isles District



<http://www.bb-west.org.uk>

Vol 3 No 9 May 2005



Somerset Battalion Anchor Fun Day 2005

OBJECT: The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self Respect and all that tends towards a true Christian Manliness.

Presidents Viewpoint

Doesn't time fly it seems just the other day that I wrote the last report for BB West. These are a few of the things that have happened around the District which myself and Di my wife have been involved in:

I was invited to present the District Drill trophies on the 26th February so Di and I travelled down during the afternoon and stopped off for some retail therapy in Plymouth before we made our way to Salisbury Road Baptist Church for 5.00pm. The evening went well and it was good to see so many boys in the companies that entered the various classes of the Drill. The standard of Drill was high, not just from the companies with experienced drill squads but also companies with younger members.

In March I attended with my company the District Company Section Sports Day in Looe which although we had a hiccup with the booking, as the centre had double booked us, the programme flowed throughout the day with a little bit of switching of the order of play. Thanks must go to the organisers as we even got ahead of ourselves and managed to finish early. All the companies there seemed to enjoy the day and sportsmanship from all competitors was excellent.

At the beginning of April we travelled down to Newquay for the District Fellowship Weekend which Marlene and Mike Semmens organised. The Cumberland Hotel we stayed at was very good. They stepped in at the last minute to provide a venue as the hotel we usually stay at had had a fire. The food was excellent, the company was good, and we really enjoyed ourselves.

This weekend was the Junior Section Sports day at Glastonbury which although I was not able to attend, my own company participated, and had a wonderful time.
Gordon Dale



Broadleas, Haytor
Saturday June 18th 2005, 2pm
Cake Stall, Refreshments, Side Shows, Sporting
Competitions, Swimming Pool and so much more!

Secretary's Scene

I can remember that it was almost ten years ago, when I received a letter from my predecessor, Mr Brian Ellis, asking me would if I like to take over from him in the role of District Secretary.

The first thing I can remember doing is checking that he had put the right address on the envelope, perhaps the letter was destined for someone else in the District, maybe the letter had been put into the wrong envelope.

I picked up the phone and gave Brian a call, had he made a mistake.... I'm sure that he had. But after speaking for over half an hour and after a lot of reassurance from Brian, he persuaded me to take on the role. I had obviously, under-estimated Brians' powers of persuasion.

During those years I have had the honour and privilege to serve the District as its Secretary and I have, and still do, feel proud to be a representative of the District. Very few Districts have the same level of competitions & events that we have, and I make sure that other Districts know this as well.

But there does come a time when fresh ideas and fresh blood can make a difference, so I feel that it is time to stand down, but before I do I would like to give my "Oscar" speech and thank a few people. Please don't worry, there will not be any tears, mainly due to the fact that Leeds did not get relegated this season, but we will be back in the Premiership next year.

Anyway, I would like to thank the 4 District Presidents that I have had the honour of serving with, Raymond Bray MBE, Don Reeby, Mike Semmens & Gordon Dale. I am sure that they will freely admit that the role is not an easy one and I am glad that they have used a firm hand & a wise head to guide both the District and myself.

My thanks, also, to all of the Battalion Secretarys that I have had the pleasure of working with and who have also made my role a lot easier. And finally I would like to thank you, the Officers, Staff & members of the West of England & Channel Islands District because without you there would be no District, no Battalions, no Companies and no Brigade.

My thanks & best wishes to you all, especially my successor, now & for the future.

Chris Semmens, District Secretary.

*A comment made by a District Official during the **semi-final** of the Company Section Unihoc competition: -*

"These are two very good teams.....I think we could see one of these making the final"

I get the feeling that this person was elected on their good looks and possibly not on their common sense.

Semmens Slot

It is quite deliberate that we hold the Junior Section Competition Day around the central area of the district. Why? You may ask when the teams participating, with one exception, come from the extremes of Tewkesbury/Gloucester and Camborne/Redruth. Nevertheless, it is very disappointing that no entrants are received from the central area. But putting this issue aside, the day started off extremely wet and continued until just after lunch. This meant that the outdoor events were delayed until late afternoon, but this didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the participants. First event was the Figure Marching, with three teams taking part, all looked very smart, some mistakes were made, but they took part. Then unihoc, some very clever moves, good goal keeping and a close result. Brief time for lunch, then immediately into team games, seven teams participating, dexterity and swiftness of foot, some very close results. Then the much awaited football, very competitive as normal; some very close results but the goal difference equation was not required; a clear winner resulted after about 90 minutes play. Now for the cross country, as you may well imagine, the fields were still very wet and quite soggy, but the majority took part, 8/9 and 10/11 year old competitions, even then the positions were hotly contested. Onto the final event, the Tug of War, on a less soggy grass area. This resulted in many instances where teams needed the third pull to determine the winner. Meanwhile, the arts and crafts had been judged, the standard of entries were excellent.

What a fantastic day! Good competitions all taking part with a fair but competitive spirit, congratulations to the officers and staff.

Many thanks to all those who assisted with the judging and refereeing, especially Tom Woodbury for the judging of the Figure Marching and many thanks for the arrangement of venue from Rob and Hilary Malpas.

Malcolm Godolphin and myself were assisted by Ruth Westbury who kept up with the scores and results.

Many thanks to all those who took part, see you next year.

Kindest regards,
Mike Semmens

Queens Men

The latest young men who have gained their Queen's Badges are as follows:

James Pole 1st Malvern.

Christopher Spackman, Adam Jenkins 5th Swindon.

Congratulations to all three, and good luck to those still working towards the award.



Extracts from 2nd Bath's Diary

March 21st

Our last Anchors meeting before Easter went well when we took our Boys for a hike on part of the Cotswold Way, starting from our Church. The trek took a good 45 minutes and everyone enjoyed it! The Boys were dressed suitably for the hike and brought a drink and torches. They were all very well behaved and earned a point towards their activity badges. Before, during and after we went through the rules of the Country Code and constantly asked questions whilst they were hiking to see if they remembered! When we arrived back at the Church, there was enough time for a game of "Skittleball", a short story and a drink of orange. We dined with our Vesper "Two little eyes" and sent them home to their beds with an Easter Egg from the BB, including a new Boy who started tonight! They all said they had a great time! On Wednesday 23rd we take the Band to Bath Junior Gateway Club to give a demonstration and a music workshop.

March 25th

The music workshop on Wednesday 23rd March went very well when 10 of our members provided a workshop for about thirty handicapped and severely disabled children and young people. The work of the club is quite incredible as the volunteer helpers have infinite patience and enjoyment of working with these special people and integrating them into society and involving society around them. It is a shame that this much needed work is voluntary, solely relying on grants and donations to survive, and not provided by the state. Congratulations to the group's leader and organiser, Mrs Becky Morgan (an old friend of mine who has connections with the BB and our Church through her children who are "old boys" now!). On the 8th April, some of our Seniors will be embarking on a long weekend camping expedition with Rob and Mark so more news later on!

April 16th

After a few weeks break we have started back with only a few more weeks until we commence our "Summer Programme". The 5th Hull have purchased our black Premier Club drum set and collected it this weekend – almost a 1 day journey – and look forward to using it this week at their next band practise! We're sorry to hear that Rick (our treasurer) has not been too well for the last three weeks and had to cancel his holiday in Yorkshire. Sue is still waiting to deliver her baby and is now 2 weeks overdue! Our Chaplain, Jan, has just returned from a week's sabbatical in Switzerland and says she had a good time in the Minister's retreat. The expedition weekend planned for a few weeks ago had to be cancelled owing to sickness and will be planned during the next month or so. **Junior member Alex Shire** will soon be holidaying in Guernsey and will be parading with the BB during the Battle of the Flowers with the Guernsey Battalion! Dudley Hewitt (West of England organiser for Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme) has confirmed that he will be presenting the President's Badge to Ben Curry and Adam Pittman on Sunday 8th May at 11.00. *We have news just in that the Norton-Radstock BB is planning to restart in September 05!*

2nd Stoke Themed Meetings

I thought other companies might like to know about the themed meetings nights we organise. We have found that they encourage the boys and we can link them into the badgework that they are undertaking. We have ordinary meeting nights but during a session we probably run 4 themed meeting nights for both Company and Junior Sections.



In the Junior Section we have recently had 'Art Nights', Mask making, 'Let's Play With Clay', walks in the dark, treasure trails, 'Hockey & Hot Dogs', bird box building and then putting them up, orienteering and also very popular is a 'Board Games Night'. The 'Board Games Night,' we are hoping to take to the local old peoples sheltered accommodation so we can share an evening playing board games with the residents.



In the Company Section we have recently started building a radio controlled car and now I am having to take away the screwdrivers at the end of the evening to make them go home!! We are also intending to take it out locally and build an indoor track as well as race it through the church at our next Parade!

**Ian Rumbelow, Captain
2nd Stoke sub Hambdon**

Sporting Predictions



Thanks to all of you who have entered and with only four results in there is still a long way to go with 87 points up for grabs, so do not despair if you're not at the top. A Welsh win starts 2005 off with a shock but will the unexpected results keep coming? The summer will play a large part in the competition with the football season coming to an end, Wimbledon, The Open, British Grand Prix and the rugby. Still a mention should be made to all of the entrants from the 1st Redruth Company who filled in their applications at 7 o'clock am after spending the entire night staying awake & playing games – the only ones to choose Wales for the 6 Nations! Best of Luck.

Chris Semmens, Competition Convener

OFFICER/STAFF

Gill Hardy	2 nd Bovey Tracey	7
Rosemary Woolston	1 st Somerton	5
Mike Prewett	1 st Somerton	5
Dave Bradford	5 th Exeter	3
Malcolm Godolphin	2 nd Camborne	1
Rob Malpas	Editor	yet to score

COMPANY

Andrew Hale	3 rd Bridgwater	5
Elliot Rolf	1 st Churchdown	5
Ryan Friend	2 nd Bovey Tracey	1
Pete Dunstan	1 st Churchdown	1
Steve Diamond	1 st Churchdown	1
Ian Seymour	1 st Churchdown	1
3 others	yet to score	

JUNIOR

Callum Bolt	1 st Redruth	4
Tristan Barratt	1 st Redruth	4
Sam Goldsworth	1 st Redruth	1
4 others	yet to score	

YOUR DISTRICT NEEDS YOU!

ARE YOU UNDER 25?

ABLE TO GIVE UP 4 SATURDAYS A YEAR?

THE DISTRICT IS LOOKING FOR AN UNDER 26 REPRESENTATIVE TO STAND ON THE ENGLAND REGIONAL UNDER 26 COMMITTEE.

INTERESTED? IF SO LET ME KNOW!

CHRIS SEMMENS

ENGLAND REGIONAL REP

01209 717257

Chris.semmens@tesco.net

Junior Competitions, Glastonbury

The Competitions day was held on 23rd April at Glastonbury Leisure Centre, with 55 Boys from 6 Companies taking part. Heavy rain showers in the Morning meant that the Day's schedule had to be revamped so that the Cross Country and tug of war were held at the end of the day, in case the weather didn't improve. Although the ground was very wet, the rain stopped and the sun appeared in the afternoon. Many thanks must go to all the referees of the matches, to Tom Woodbury for judging the Figure Marching, and also assisting in the difficult judging of the Craftwork. A very good day, which I'm sure was enjoyed by all the Boys taking part.

Ruth Westbury, Cornwall Battalion Secretary.

Results:

	Winner	Second	Third
Football	5 th Gloucester	2 nd Bovey	2 nd Stoke
Uihoc	2 nd Bovey	2 nd Stoke	5 th Gloucester
Team Games	1 st Redruth	2 nd Bovey	1 st Tewkesbury
Tug of War	2 nd Stoke	1 st Tewkesbury	1 st Redruth & 2 nd Bovey
Figure Marching	1 st Redruth	5 th Gloucester	2 nd Bovey
Craftwork	1 st Redruth		
Cross Country			
8/9 Team	2 nd Stoke A	1 st Tewkesbury	1 st Redruth
10/11 Team	2 nd Bovey & 2 nd Stoke B	1 st Tewkesbury	1 st Redruth

Company Competitions, Looe

The day was again held at Looe, in March with 53 Boys from 10 Companies participating. The day did not start well, as the main sports hall was double booked until 11am, even though we had been informed everything was OK in our last phone call. The schedule had to be amended, as we were able to use a different hall for the first competitions. After the initial problem, the day ran smoothly, many thanks to the officers from Cornwall for their hardwork, and to the sportsmanship of all the Boys taking part. Another good day!

Ruth Westbury, Cornwall Battalion Secretary.

Results:

	Winner	Second	Third
Volleyball	1 st Yeovil	Paignton / Bovey	7 th Bristol & 5 th Exeter
Football	1 st Yeovil	1 st Torquay	Cornwall & 5 th Glos
Uihoc	1 st Yeovil	7 th Bristol	Cornwall & 5 th Glos
Team Games	1 st Torquay	Cornwall	4 th Plymouth
Tug of War	5 th Gloucester	1 st Yeovil	Paignton / Bovey & Cornwall
Cross Country			
Jnr Team	1 st Torquay	Cornwall	Paignton / Bovey
Int Team	1 st Torquay	5 th Gloucester	
Open Team	5 th Gloucester		

District Drill 2005

The 2005 Drill Competitions were held at Salisbury Road Baptist Church, headquarters of the 1st Plymouth Company, on Saturday 26th February. Eight Companies took part and the drill was of a very high standard. It was especially pleasing to have two Companies enter the full Squad Drill Competition, the first time this has taken place for over 6 years.

All the competing Companies were from either the Devon Battalion or the Plymouth Battalion. It would be good to see competitors from other Battalions taking part. It is appreciated that the geographical size of the District is the main obstacle, so Companies will shortly be approached to see if there is support for an alternative way of extending the competitions.

Peter Billing

Results:

3 Man Colour Party

Place	Company	Inspection out of 25	Drill Mark out of 75	Total
1 st	5 th Exeter	24.3	66	90.3
2 nd	4 th Plymouth	23	64.75	87.75
3 rd	7 th Plymouth	24	61	85

5 Man Colour Party

Place	Company	Inspection out of 25	Drill Mark out of 75	Total
1 st	5 th Exeter	24.6	68.5	93.1
2 nd	4 th Plymouth	23	68	91
3 rd	1 st Plymouth	23.4	60.5	83.9

4 Man Squad Drill

Place	Company	Inspection out of 25	Drill Mark out of 100	Total
1 st	4 th Plymouth 'A'	22½	82	104 ½
2 nd	5 th Exeter	25	76 ½	101½
3 rd	4 th Plymouth 'B'	22 ¼	73 ½	95 ¾

Squad Drill (in 2 ranks)

Place	Company	Inspection out of 25	Drill Mark out of 100	Total
1 st	5 th Exeter	24.75	84.5	109.25
2 nd	1 st Plymouth	21.71	69.25	90.96

Squad Drill (in 3 Ranks)

Place	Company	Inspection out of 25	Drill Mark out of 125	Total
1 st	4 th Plymouth	22.45	89.25	111.7
2 nd	1 st Torquay	22.16	76.25	98.41

Regional Round Up

The England Regional Committee met on 23rd April 2005 and discussed a number of subjects including: -

Girls Motion - This has been placed on hold as it is feared that the Brigade could be in breach of the Sexual Discrimination Act if the motion goes ahead and is successful. Advice is being sought before a decision is made to proceed.

Under 26 Committee - The Regional Committee is looking to start a Regional Under 26 Committee, and is looking for a volunteer from each District who is willing to give up 4 weekends a year to take part.

Company Section Programme Review - A timeline will be presented in May regarding the new Company Section material. This will then be discussed by the Executive in order to obtain their approval. The idea is to engage Company & Seniors and once approval has been gained it will be actioned.

125th Anniversary of the Brigade - It is hoped that the new Under 26 Committee will look at this as one of the first items of the committee.

KGVI Ambassadors - It is hoped that several of the second year cadets can be used to promote the course and it would be ideal if all Queens Badge Completion Courses would have a spot where the Ambassadors could speak.

National Athletics - Will take place on 2nd July at the Hadley Stadium, Birmingham.

BB/GB Liaisons - The BB & GB have met to discuss how the organisations can work closer together in order to provide additional events & support each other. The GB have been invited to take part in the BB events "Go4it" and the BB is due to be invited to the GB Road shows. Further discussions are ongoing.

Company Support Officer Scheme - Is due to be piloted for a period of 12 months when results will be analysed by September 2006.

England Regional Conference - Was held in Birmingham with between 90 & 100 in attendance; next one in 3 years (possibly).

Chris Semmens, District Regional Representative.

Malvern VE/VJ Day Celebrations

On Sunday 10th July, Malvern will host a Band in the Park performance with the public encouraged to attend in 1940's gear in connection with the celebrations for VE/VJ Day. Bunting etc will be in evidence, and later in the afternoon the olds and bolds will forgather along with the RBL standards.

A drum head service will take place followed by Beating of Retreat. This will be conducted by the band of 1st Malvern and supplemented with buglers from 5th Swindon and 11th Northampton. Following this Sunset will be played along with bugle accompaniment.

As the Brigade President will be present 8 members of the Company will receive their President's Badges from him as well as several Gold DEAS award winners.

Kind regards.

Paul Hern, Skipper, 1st Malvern

District Ten Pin Bowling

Well my bowling is getting worse rather than better, but I must admit that there was a ridge running down the middle of lane directing my shots towards either side of the lane & into the gulleys. (Haven't used that excuse yet but at least it gives me 12 more months to think up another)! A BIG thank you to everyone who took part, especially those who have not entered before, and to the officers and staff who made it possible for your event to take place. I hoped that you had as much fun as those around me who could not stop laughing everytime I tried to bowl.

Anyway here are the legends for this year. Congratulations to all those mentioned:

COMPANY

4 th Plymouth	571
5 th Gloucester	558
1 st Charlton Kings	510
1 st Torquay	494
1 st Malvern	474
1 st Goodrington	456
2 nd Camborne	426
7 th Plymouth	418
1 st Churchdown / 5 th Gloucester	417
1 st Charlton Kings	416
1 st Brixham	402
5 th Exeter	376
1 st Plymouth "A"	353
1 st Somerton "B"	329
2 nd Bovey Tracey	327
1 st Weston-Super-Mare	319
7 th Gloucester	310
2 nd Paignton	282
1 st Somerton "A"	268

JUNIOR

8 th Plymouth	608
5 th Gloucester	562
1 st Weston-Super-Mare	559
1 st Malvern	554
1 st Charlton Kings "A"	554
1 st Tewkesbury "A"	548
1 st Tewkesbury "C"	494
1 st Tewkesbury "A"	492
1 st Churchdown	487
7 th Plymouth	482
1 st Tewkesbury "B"	478
1 st Charlton Kings "A"	475
2 nd Camborne	468

Top 3 Individual Hotshots

COMPANY

Simon Bleazard	1 st Yeovil	178
James Hartley	1 st Charlton Kings	146
David Applebee	1 st Plymouth	140

JUNIOR

Keeley Meredith	1 st Cheltenham	120
Patrick Mills	1 st Tewkesbury	120
Oliver Honey	1 st Churchdown	114

Remembering Eric



Left: 5th Plymouth in 1944 on the playing field behind Embankment Road Methodist Church. The huts in the background show that the field was used, I think, as a barrage balloon site. I expect that many of the white haversacks were made by Edna. No uniforms were available in the war

so everything was recycled. When I was very little I can remember Mother making haversacks out of odd bits of white material and there were no brass buckles or buttons on them.

Eric as a Sergeant in the 4th Plymouth in 1928. The 4th continued to wear the service dress caps after they were no longer regulation uniform. They dated from the period when companies could affiliate as cadet companies and receive a Government subsidy.

The final picture is on Plymouth Hoe in 1957. The 5th is obviously carrying the Battalion Colours - Eric has the Queens Colour; the escort behind him is his nephew Eric Williams and the Battalion Colour is carried by nephew Harold Williams.



All Photos and captions courtesy of Edna and Brian Chapman.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their kindness following Eric's death in December. I have had so many calls, messages and cards, not just from the District, but from many parts of the country and around the world and am not able to answer them all personally, which I am sure you will understand. Many told of happy times with Eric developing the BB work, particularly remembering District Displays, training courses, District Meetings and, of course, Broadleas. At the thanksgiving service in January it was a joy to see lots of BB friends, many I had not met for a long time. Some had travelled long distances to be there and heard tributes from Raymond Bray, Frank Flook and the Minister of the Church. Others, who could not be there, told me that they would be joining with the congregation in spirit at their homes or BB events. Finally, I am so grateful to all who sent

donations to Broadleas in Eric's memory, which will enhance a project that was very dear to him.

Edna Chapman

Victory Parade, 1945. Combined Band of the 4th & 5th Plymouth Companies at the top of what became Royal Parade



Plymouth Stedfast

On August 11th 1954, 11 Boys led by the late W.S. Adams and the District Organiser Eric Chapman left Plymouth by train to take part in the Founders Centenary Camp on the Playing Fields of Eton College. Travelling with them had been some officers and Lads from the BB in New Zealand.

On the 150th Anniversary of the Founder's Birth, and to celebrate 50 years since that camp, 8 of those Boys with 5 wives met for lunch at a Hotel in Plymouth. They were joined by Eric and Edna Chapman (both in their nineties), by Raymond and Lorna Bray and Peter and Jill Billing.

You can imagine the stories that were told and the photographs shown of that camp and the ensuing years. Two boys had not seen each other for 45 years, and their wives had never met, so for them it was a worthwhile time. The party finally broke up after 5 hours of eating and talking with a promise to do it again next year, and a commitment from the 'Boys' to reform the Plymouth Stedfast Association in the new year. Some Officers of the committee have already 'volunteered' to help. Watch this space!

Alan Keast, Vice President, Plymouth Battalion.

I have news that membership has reached 35, still growing by the day and they have not really started to advertise and recruit much yet. Alan had a 15 minute spot on BBC Radio Devon a month or two back and is going to be on Plymouth Sound, the commercial station, soon too, all being well.

Obituary Derrik Collins 1922 – 2005

Derrik Collins died on April 3rd, in Boston, Lincs., where he had gone to stay with his son. Over the last 6 years he had fought a long and brave battle against cancer, undergoing numerous operations, major and minor, to try and keep the disease under control. Throughout that time his courage, humility and cheerfulness shone through, but, above all, we were witness to the strength of his faith.

Derrik was 23 years of age when he joined the 8th Plymouth as a Lieutenant in September 1946. The Company had been formed 7 months earlier by brothers Wilfred and Leonard Hutchings and was progressing well. However, there was still a pressing need for a physical training and gymnastics instructor. This was an area in which Derrik was more than competent, so, on his return from wartime service in the Royal Navy, the brothers, who also happened to be his brothers-in-law, quickly recruited him to the Company staff.

So began an association with the Company of almost 60 years, over 50 of them as an Officer. He served under several Captains [including his son, Philip, who was Captain from 1974 to 1979] and was acting Captain for some time himself. He was a capable drill instructor and a very good pianist, playing for Bible Class and on Drill Parade, his fine tenor voice leading the singing. He also held various Battalion posts over the years and was an Honorary Vice-President of the Plymouth Battalion.

BB was not the only way in which he served his Lord and Master. He was a Deacon of Ford Baptist Church for almost 50 years. During that time, he was Sunday School Superintendent and a teacher, Treasurer, Secretary [a post he held for 30 years] and a welcome speaker at many events and services. It was only when his health began to fail that the fellowship came to realise just how much responsibility he had quietly assumed within the Church family, from building maintenance to visitation.

Generations of Boys will testify to his thoughtfulness, consideration and his strong guiding influence on their lives through BB, Sunday School and Bible Class. He was a Christian who led by example and we shall all remember him with great affection.

There will be a Memorial Service at Ford Baptist Church, Plymouth, on Wednesday 1st June at 11.a.m.

Fantasy Competitions!

Fantasy Formula 1

After the Spanish Grand Prix, Robert Atwood is leading with 61 points, Carl Leavy is second with 58 points, while Marlene Semmens is second on 56 points. There is still one team on zero points, thanks to BAR!

Fantasy Football

Currently, Luke Billing is out in front on 765 points, with the competition convenor, Malcolm Godolphin, only 2 points behind. Adam Howe and Mike Spencer have both exceeded 700 points.

Up to the minute results on both comps are on the District Website

Basil Chant Tribute

Basil has been a member of the B.B. since he was 10 years old. In his twenties he became an officer in the Life Boys (now the Junior Section) & a member of this Church in 1950.

Basil has over the years held many posts in the Company and in the Battalion. Boys then, as now would play officers up... Basil would shout at them..... but boys were never afraid of him, and remembered him with affection and respect.

He always told a good story, and many have benefited from his Bible Class talks.

He enjoyed Camping. Somehow he always made friends with the Cooks.

In recent years life has been difficult for Basil. He has had tremendous suffering and disability which he has coped with in a very remarkable way. He has shown great courage and fortitude.

We are all full of admiration at the way he has coped with so many disabilities.

Throughout Basil's years of ill-health he has continued to be interested in the Company, Battalion and in our Church – always remembering meetings, sports events and social occasions

Each of us has their own SPECIAL MEMORY of Basil but one thing stands out for us all is the fact that he never gave up – whatever life threw at him he always kept going.

Last Wednesday (the day Bas died) at our opening worship we read the words from Paul's letter to Timothy.

“I HAVE DONE MY BEST IN THE RACE,

I HAVE RUN THE FULL DISTANCE

I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH,

AND NOW THERE IS WAITING FOR ME THE PRIZE OF VICTORY”

We would like to leave these words as a tribute to Basil for his work and dedication to the Boys' Brigade & Church.

Graham Voizey, Captain 1st Yeovil.

Editors Notes

Well, thank you to everyone who responded to my desperate appeal 2 days before the deadline. Without them this issue would have been a single sheet of A4. PLEASE try to get me your news in time for the September deadline!!

A report on the District Fellowship weekend will appear in October, as I ran out of room this time round!

Deadline for the October issue of BB-West is 20th September 2005. Please send all articles to the usual address – rileyrob@bb-west.org.uk or Rob Malpas, 21, Ashcott Drive, Bumham-on-Sea, Somerset TA8 1HS (01278 786507).

PUZZLE ½ PAGE

The Wordsearch on the left has 22 BB Towns in it. The unused letters also spell out 3 Battalions. Which of these Towns is not listed?:

Barnstaple, Bath, Bristol, Camborne, Chard, Churchdown, Dorchester, Exeter, Exmouth, Gloucester, Malvern, Mousehole Paignton, Plymouth, Poole, Redruth, Street, Swindon, Taunton, Teignmouth, Tiverton, Yate, Yeovil.

B	R	I	S	T	O	L	G	U	E	B	E	R
A	G	L	O	U	C	E	S	T	E	R	E	N
T	E	I	G	N	M	O	U	T	H	I	N	S
H	X	V	N	R	E	V	L	A	M	X	R	N
E	E	O	Y	R	E	D	R	U	T	H	O	W
N	T	E	L	P	A	T	S	N	R	A	B	O
O	E	Y	C	Y	O	W	O	T	R	M	M	D
T	R	X	A	N	I	O	W	O	A	L	A	H
N	L	T	M	N	S	O	L	N	M	E	C	C
G	E	R	D	O	R	C	H	E	S	T	E	R
I	S	O	M	O	U	S	E	H	O	L	E	U
A	N	E	T	N	O	T	R	E	V	I	T	H
P	L	Y	M	O	U	T	H	D	R	A	H	C

Plymouth News

There was a lot of truth about some of the difficulties facing us in the article reproduced from Bristol Evening Post in the last issue of “*BB West*”, though the editorial comment that it was a shame that papers were only interested in reporting The BB with this type of story brought it into perspective. The headline “Apathy is Killing The BB” was also, to say the least, unfortunate.

Perhaps we should have invited the writer to Plymouth on Saturday 12th February for the “**ALL NEW ANCHOR AND JUNIOR PROGRAMME WORKSHOP**”. What the writer would have witnessed on that occasion was:

- The introduction of two new, exciting and professionally produced award and activity programmes;
- Two expert and knowledgeable trainers taking almost 50 Officers through the programmes;
- BB Officers having fun and enjoying trying out lots of new ideas for themselves; and
- A day of BB fellowship at its best.

Apathy would have been the last thing visible – on show was enthusiasm and dedication. Every Anchor and Junior Section in Plymouth was represented by at least two members of staff and we were pleased to welcome friends from as far away as Weston-super-Mare, Yeovil, Goodrington and Brixham.

For some years, the Battalion has encouraged Boys of 14 and over to attend “**Firm Foundations**” and has given financial assistance to those wishing to go to Felden Lodge. This year is no exception, and interest in this weekend event has increased so much that we need two mini-buses instead of one to convey the Plymouth party, which will include GB members.

The successful **District Display** last October has had a “knock-on” effect here in Plymouth. It is a number of years since we last held a Battalion Display, but, such has been the enthusiasm of the two Companies taking part at Cheltenham, that we are planning a display for May 6th next year. Preparation for this is at a very early stage, but we are planning on using the event to generate much-needed publicity to keep The BB in the public eye as well as to encourage recruitment.

Peter Billing, Battalion Secretary