

Brigade Council – 4 September 2004 – Leicester

The following notes have been prepared as a guide to the proceedings and decisions of Council:

The Revd Dr Stuart Jennings conducted the opening service.

The Brigade President, Mr J Neil OBE, read a message of loyal greeting that had been sent to our Patron, Her Majesty The Queen on behalf of Council. Council stood to receive her reply.

Copies of the Standing Orders for the procedures at meetings of Brigade Council, previously circulated were accepted

Members of Council were welcomed to the All Nations Centre, Leicester, by The Lord Mayor of Leicester and Mrs R Dunn, Chair, Council Organising Committee. The Brigade President replied and welcomed members and guests. He conveyed greetings which had been received from The Girls' Brigade, England & Wales and Mr Sydney Jones, OBE, former Brigade Secretary. The President welcomed Mr T H Williams CA, as Brigade Treasurer and paid tribute to the service of the previous Treasurer, Mr Ron Dunning. Members of the Brigade who had died in the past year were remembered.

The voting strength at Council was as follows: 102 Ordinary votes, 38 proxy votes, 101 postal votes. Total: 241.

Minutes of Council held in 2003 in Tulliallan, Fife, which had been circulated were proposed and accepted.

Mr John Young, MBE, Brigade Vice-President, presented the Annual Report for the session 2003-4. Several matters in the report were highlighted: Training Developments, Programme Review, Training Centres, National Competitions, work around the regions, International work, Firm Foundations, Crossover. He paid tribute to the work of HQ staff, who had worked hard under difficult circumstances without a Brigade Secretary for 15 months. On behalf of the Brigade he wished God's blessing on Mr Steven Dickinson, in his service to the Brigade as Brigade Secretary. He also paid tribute to Brigade Staff, Mr Malcolm Hayden and Mr Alex Hunter, who had retired during the year and to Tom Boyle who, in the period without a Brigade Secretary, took on the role of Acting Brigade Secretary.

Mr John Williams, Brigade Treasurer, presented the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2004 and highlighted a number of items. It was pleasing to note that the General Fund deficit had been reduced quite considerably this year and grants received had increased as had capitation fees. Training Centres had improved financial results and Supplies surplus was improved - £149K against £89K last year. General administration costs were down and overall costs were down by over £100,000. During the year staffing levels had reduced by four. Insurances had increased but we were striving to get them reduced by reviewing the Brigade's insurances. Pension Fund shortfall was reduced to £1054K compared to £1182K last year.

Mr Williams spoke of Company Contributions for the session 2004-5. The company registration fee (£150) and banding fees will remain the same and there will be an increase of £2 to officer registration, bringing the cost to £22. Fees for officers in receipt of state retirement pension and those in full-time education will be £16. The proposed fee of £5 for helpers and instructors would not be introduced. The Brigade Executives continues to look for cost savings to maximise training centre opportunities, meet pension deficit obligations and above all, to exercise best quality stewardship of the funds. Brigade Council received the Accounts.

The Brigade Secretary, with input from Richard Kyle (Scotland), Martyn Waters (Programme Director) and Karen Jay (Training Director), presented an update of progress towards the BB Business Plan, the aims of which are focussed on:

1. Achieving a sharper focus on the needs of companies.
2. Growing the teenage membership by delivering interesting and challenging programmes and building our work with the under 11s.
3. Growth in numbers of young people and quality of youth work.
4. Equality and accessibility.
5. Participating and empowerment.
6. Improving our credibility with churches, young people, parents, funders.
7. Mixed gender work.
8. Financial stability.

Richard Kyle and Andrew Oakley, members of International Team, launched the global awareness project 'Un:covered' which focuses on issues of street children in Brazil – to bring the problems to the attention of BB young people and encourage them to respond to the challenge to make a difference. Material will be distributed to companies, through the Gazette and the website. Members were urged to use the materials.

Constitutional motion in the name of N Ireland District. was proposed by Mr E Johnston, Chair, N Ireland Regional Committee that: ‘The number ‘26’ in paragraph 1 of the Scheme and Schedule referred to in Article 27 of the Brigade Constitution be amended to ‘22’; in the schedule of Electoral Areas the section referring to Northern Ireland should be amended to read: ‘17. *Northern Ireland District; such number of members as is decided by the District; and that sections 22 to 26 be renumbered 18 to 22.*’ The motion was seconded by Mr J Thornberry, N Ireland Regional Committee. After a debate a card vote was taken:

Ordinary votes For	78	Ordinary votes Against	7
Proxy votes For	37	Proxy votes Against	0
Postal votes For	95	Postal Proxies Against	2
Total votes For	210	Total votes Against	9
(two-thirds majority is required).		The motion was carried	

Non Constitutional motion in the names of Richard Davies, 4th London, Christopher Buss, 70th London, Stephen Lane, 1st Barnet, Alan Watts, 5th London, Alan Pannell, 1st Hillingdon and Martin Bowering, 17th Waltham Forest companies was proposed by Mr Richard Davies, Captain 4th London Company, that: ‘The Brigade Executive is instructed to bring a Constitutional Motion to Brigade Council in 2005, which would allow companies to admit girls into membership where it is the desire of the church or sponsoring body and where no appropriate organisation exists or is established for them.’ The motion was seconded by Mr Christopher Buss, Captain 70th London Company. After a debate a card vote was taken:

Ordinary votes For	61	Ordinary votes Against	25
Proxy votes For	19	Proxy votes Against	14
Postal votes For	51	Postal Proxies Against	50
Total votes For	131	Total votes Against	89
(simple majority vote required).		The motion was carried	

Workshops were held in the afternoon on:

1. Challenging Behaviour.
2. Child Protection.
3. Fundraising.
4. Programme Review

Other Competent Business

Mr A Marquis, President, West Lothian Battalion, requested the Brigade Executive to carry out a review of Brigade Council in the light of dwindling numbers. He was concerned that it was not representative demographically and the time was not being used to best advantage.

Mr E J Johnston, Chairman, N Ireland Committee, gave an invitation to Council 2005 which will take place in Londonderry, N Ireland.

Council closed with worship led by The Revd Dr Stuart Jennings.

**Brigade Council
4 September 2004**