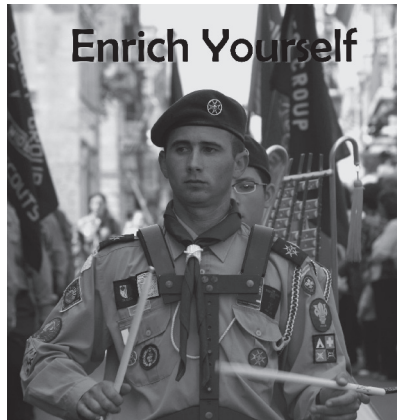
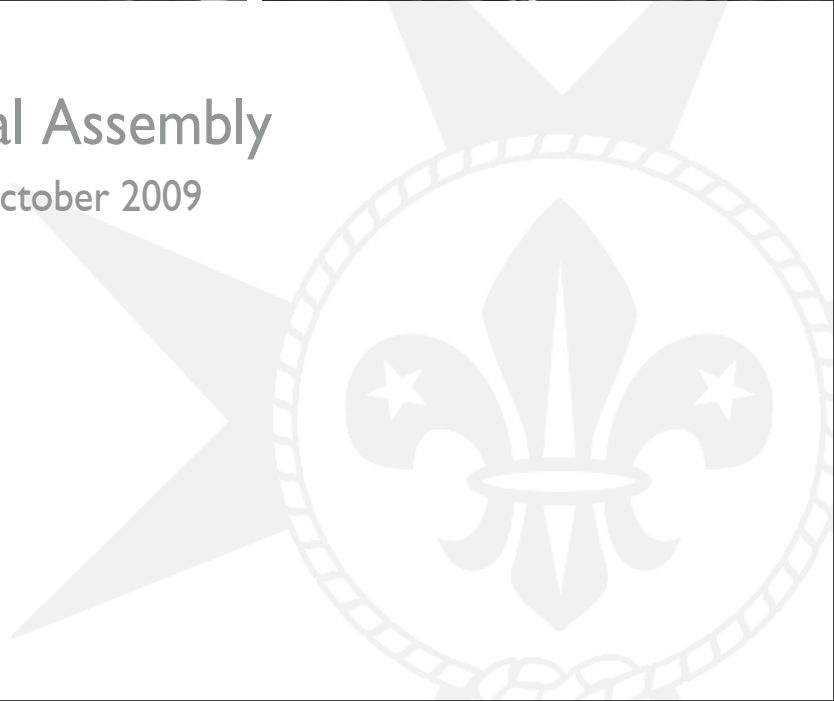


A Review of the Movement



General Assembly
6th October 2009



Contents

A New Era for Scouting in Malta	5
Review of a Great Movement – 100 Years Later	6
Events	7
International Participation	8
Census 2006 – 2007 – 2008	9
The Role of the Scout Island Headquarters with a Mission “to Serve”	10
The Policy Committee	12
The Ghajn Tuffieha Campsite	13
Interesting Initiatives taken up since the last General Assembly by the National Scout Council	15
The Finance Report	16
The Way Forward 2009 - 2012	18

A New Era for Scouting in Malta



Dear Assembly Members

Allow me to once again refer to the beginning of our Train Journey that started on 2nd June 2009. My appeal to one and all was to clean all the windows of this train so that the journey will be more enjoyable and more importantly we will know the direction of our travels. This has in fact happened and today I am pleased to confirm that our windows have been polished and most members on this train are not only enjoying the ride but know exactly our destination.

We have also managed to increase the wagons as more people have joined us on this journey; more people offered to become Team Leaders and today I am the proud leader of a great Movement with motivated leaders and a great sense of direction.

Today 6th October 2009 we have yet again called at another station to pick up more passengers and get more fuel for the rest of the journey.

Kindly allow me to ask all Assembly delegates to give us all the fuel possible so that we can carry on to our next destination.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'De Martino'.

Kenneth De Martino
Chief Scout



Kenneth De Martino
Chief Scout

Review of a Great Movement 100 Years Later



Robert Gonzi
Hon General Secretary

I think it is my duty to start this report by acknowledging the past leaders of the Movement who did everything possible to lead our Association with great dedication and at the same time to welcome the new Chief Scout who has with his enthusiasm, given a new direction and new energy to our Association which clearly needed vision and strong leadership.

Although the new team has been in office for only four months it is important to register the activities that were organised as part of the centenary celebrations when our Association celebrated its 100th birthday last year. It is impressive what a team of volunteers can achieve with a continuity that goes beyond any individual effort. Volunteers continue to prove a constant reliability.

The Oxford dictionary defines the word 'volunteer' as: "A person who offers to do something of his own free will". I think you will all agree with me that this should be reworded to: "A person who is tricked into the once a month commitment joke and is then required to do anything and everything that is necessary." This is pretty much how I was convinced to accept my appointment as Commissioner for Administration in February and then Honorary General Secretary less than two months later. Keep in mind that I had relinquished my role as Group Scout Leader last January for a role that was supposedly less of a commitment!

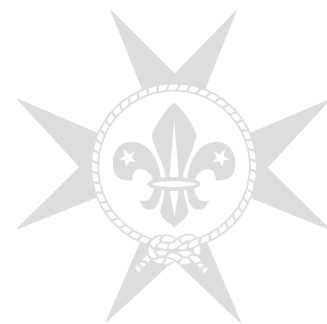
I sometimes ask myself, am I the best person for this post? and I feel the answer is most certainly not! What I am sure of though, is that I am doing my best to ensure that the Association is doing what it is meant to do i.e. serving the Groups in the best interest of each and every member. With thanks to all the team at IHQ and the cooperation that I have found from all the Group Scout Leaders, I might end up doing a 'good job' after all. With all of us pulling together as one team, the Association will have a great kick start which will allow it to continue to flourish and will assure its continuity during the new centenary.

Will it be all plain sailing? No I am sure it won't. Let's not kid ourselves. However allow me this little piece of advice: We are all volunteers giving our time freely for others. That makes us extraordinary and rare in today's world. Even the best of families with all the love in the world have arguments but these can be resolved if we try hard to think positively about one another and appreciate all the efforts put forward by everyone within his/her limitations. None of us are here for the prestige or the salary. We are here for our young members. Many people complain about society but we are doing something about it. Try and keep focused!

So far we are doing a great job. Our centenary was a year to remember. Just having a look at the last census reports with all the activities listed, it surely seems to have been a great year for our members. The following is just an extract.



Events



National & District Events

- Make a difference... You Can!
- Leaders Seminar
- Founders Day
- Annual Rally
- Centenary National Camp
- Gozo National Parade
- A number of Adult Training Courses
- National Skills Camp for Leaders
- JOTI/JOTA
- Commemorative Reception
- Scout Festa at Ta Qali
- Participation in a number of workshops and seminars overseas
- Launching of a new Anthem commemorating the 100 years of Scouting in Malta
- The official launch of the Archives and Museum
- The launch of the 100th Anniversary Commemorative Medal
- The launch of the Commemorative Postage Stamp
- District Parades
- District Camps
- District and National Challenges by Section

Community Events

- Events in aid of id-Dar tal-Providenza
- Participation Charity Events
- Religious Functions
- Visits to Old People Homes and community service
- Social Awareness Events
- Locality Days organised by Local Councils
- Environmental Events
- Re-enactments
- Cleanups
- Blood donating events

Group Events

- Annual General Meetings
- Investitures and Going Up Ceremonies
- Group Anniversaries and HQ Official Openings
- Summer, Easter, Christmas and Themed Camps
- Foreign Visits and Exchanges
- Treasure Hunts
- Cultural Visits
- Parades
- Fund Raising and Family Activities
- Canoeing, Kayaking and Boat Building
- Tree Planting
- Star Watching
- Fun Run and Marathons
- Lots of crafts
- Swimming
- Horse Riding
- Cookouts
- Halloween Parties
- Sports Activities
- Rescue and Civil Protection visits
- Caving
- Abseiling
- Pet Days
- Clay Pigeon and target shooting
- Day and Night Hikes, Orienteering and Expeditions
- Participation in the Military Tattoo
- Radio Talk Shows
- Back to Basics events and activities
- Christmas Pageant
- Carol Singing
- Bike hikes and cycling events
- Bring a Friend activities
- LAN and Computer Games events
- Pioneering Activities
- DVD and movies activities
- Numerous Joint Activities

And much, much more.....



It is always a pleasure to receive the periodical newsletters from a number of Groups. I whole heartedly appreciate those who do send them in and I encourage more Groups to follow and send a copy of their monthly program to IHQ.

International Participation



David Schembri
International Commissioner

During the years 2008 – 2009 several Scout Groups and members of the IHQ team have participated in a variety of international events. The Youth in Action programme has been particularly successful as our Scouts have had the opportunity to attend programmes in a variety of countries, including Spain, Iceland, Poland, Italy and UK, just to mention a few. Under the same programme several Groups have also been able to host Scouts from other countries here in Malta. The Scout Academy has also sent members on training overseas and destinations have been varied and include amongst others Singapore, Korea, Belgium, Latvia and France. Some Groups have also had the opportunity of taking some of their members overseas on their own individually designed programmes and destinations include Switzerland, Sicily, Wales and others.

It is obvious that Scouters are making every effort to give the youngsters in their charge as many opportunities as possible to experience life outside of Malta. This helps to emphasise the international aspect of our Movement and at the same time gives our young people the chance to experience and see for themselves how people live in other countries. This is all part of our overall programme of helping young people to grow and develop and it will be interesting to see if in the coming year more Groups can include an overseas trip in their annual programme.



Leslie Bonnici
Commissioner
Training & Programme

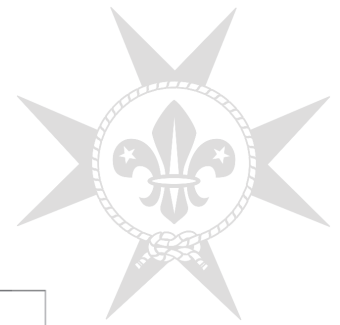
Participation in National Training Events

Course	2007 No of Participants	2008 No of Participants	2009 No of Participants
Pathfinder	76	77	-
Basic Adult Leadership	87	-	42
Advanced Leadership	-	58	-

A full Report from the Training Department was submitted to all Scout Groups

Information supplied by Leslie Bonnici Commissioner for Training & Programme

Census 2006 – 2007 – 2008



	2006	2007	2008
Attard	46	66	81
B'kara	34	44	64
Dingli	60	66	68
Hamrun	57	63	72
Lyceum	18	21	19
Qormi	30	62	51
Rabat	54	55	56
Siggiewi	45	49	57
St. Aloysius	113	104	99
St. Augustine	41	35	37
St. Venera	46	53	43
Valletta	7	0	1
Zebbug	51	51	62
Central	602	669	710

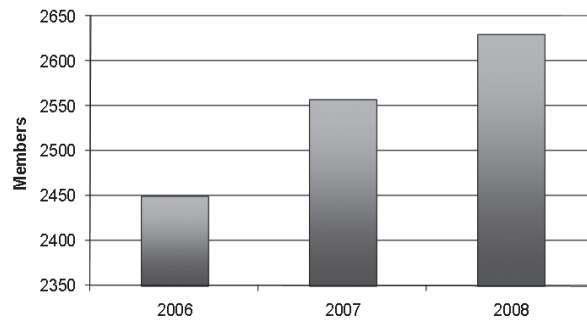
Victoria	101	114	120
Xaghra	0	0	60
Gozo	101	114	180

Gzira	41	28	23
Iklin	34	36	53
Mellieha	82	78	30
Mosta	129	131	149
Msida	59	67	74
Naxxar	58	58	51
Pembroke	48	51	48
San Anton	70	92	118
San Gwann	103	103	75
Sliema	125	119	102
St. Julians	43	50	55
St. Michael	80	80	63
Stella Maris	59	70	56
Qawra	60	30	42
North	991	993	939

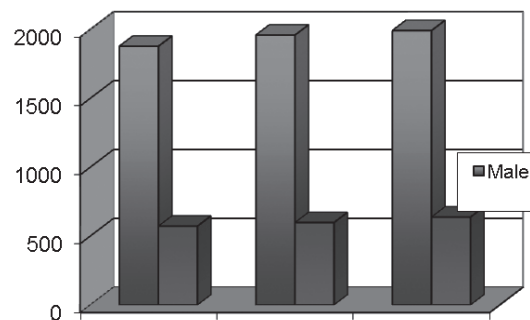
B'Bugia	110	107	105
Cospicua	105	102	96
Fgura	102	162	140
Marsa	84	76	78
Pawla	17	13	12
Qrendi	53	26	38
Tarxien	70	80	81
Xghajra	35	40	46
Zabbar	22	32	53
Zejtun	60	77	70
Zurrieq	98	66	82
South	756	781	801

Grand Total 2450 2557 2630

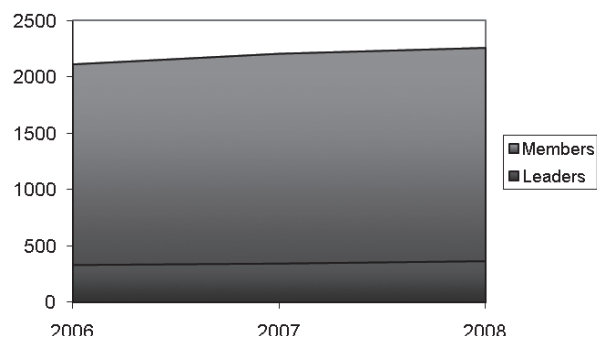
Membership Growth



Male & Female Distribution



Leader & Member Growth



The role of the Scout Island Headquarters

by *Kenneth De Martino* - Chief Scout

With a mission “to serve”

I do admit that after having found myself at the helm of a great Movement it was important to start identifying priorities that were necessary to steer the Association in the direction that is appropriate for the largest NGO in Malta.

Without any doubt the first part of this exercise were a series of meetings organised at different levels which included, the GSL's Forum, the Commissioners Forum, the District Meetings, the Executive and also the National Scout Council. Other informal meetings with all staff at Island Headquarters and the visits to the various Scout Group summer camps were an important eye opener which gave me the necessary strength and courage to press ahead with the changes that we are all experiencing at the moment. I do admit that the task was a never ending one and, as quoted on various instances, I had to dedicate a considerable number of hours on a daily basis in order to make sure that targets are reached on time in order to be able to report progress at this General Assembly meeting.

Having been away from what I call active Scouting, I do admit that I faced some challenging moments and I feel today, four months down the line, we are certainly on the right track to discover the true potential of Scouting in Malta and the true effect it has on our youngsters.

The biggest change is certainly a mentality change, the way we look at each other and the way we work together. I assure you all that it was not an easy task to eliminate perceptions that were killing the Movement. I have on occasions referred to this as a cancer that needs to be eliminated from our Association. With everybody's assistance and with a true sense of the scouting spirit I can actually report that priority number ONE was achieved. Today we work better with each other, we certainly understand each other better and we have eliminated quite a number of perceptions. Much more needs to be achieved but due to the fact that I had the support of some key players we have overcome some big hurdles in a short period of time.

The second biggest change is certainly our communication process. We have become more transparent in the decision making process. For the first time we are publishing on Scoutkeeper a synopsis of the minutes of both the Executive Committee meetings and the National Scout Council (NSC) meetings. We have also created a strangers gallery which allows any member of the Assembly to sit in on the NSC meetings and follow what is being debated. These are certainly new cultures in our Association which, to say the least, needed some adjusting to! We have also changed the format of the GSL's Forum so as to make it more participative. The experience was great and the voting procedure which was included did not cause any problems whatsoever! Districts have taken the initiative to invite the Chief Scout to their meetings and I do admit that this has helped me cascade information to everybody with clarity and without any misinterpretations

The third biggest challenge is to find a way to elect the next Chief Commissioner which is acceptable to one and all. Here I cannot say that we have finalised the process of debate but



we have understood how to tolerate each other's point of view and how to understand that although we have various options ahead of us common sense and maturity will play a major part in how we move forward. The Policy Committee report elaborates further on this issue.

The above targets, together with an IHQ structure that will be fine tuned as we move forward, will allow us to serve the Groups better. Again I do admit that it is of great importance that we all understand that the Association's administrative set up needs to be organised in such a way that it can offer added value to our Scout Groups. They need to be ready to serve whenever required to do so. We need to move away from the mentality that the Groups are there to support IHQ as it is certainly the other way round! Staff and Commissioners will have to understand their roles better and Groups need to accept the fact that they are making sacrifices in order to dedicate time to a national Movement. In an ideal world it would also be great if we could all serve for a term of office at IHQ and then go back to our Groups where scouting is actually practised at its best!

Extend Yourself



The Policy Committee



**Avril Frendo Chairperson
Policy Committee**

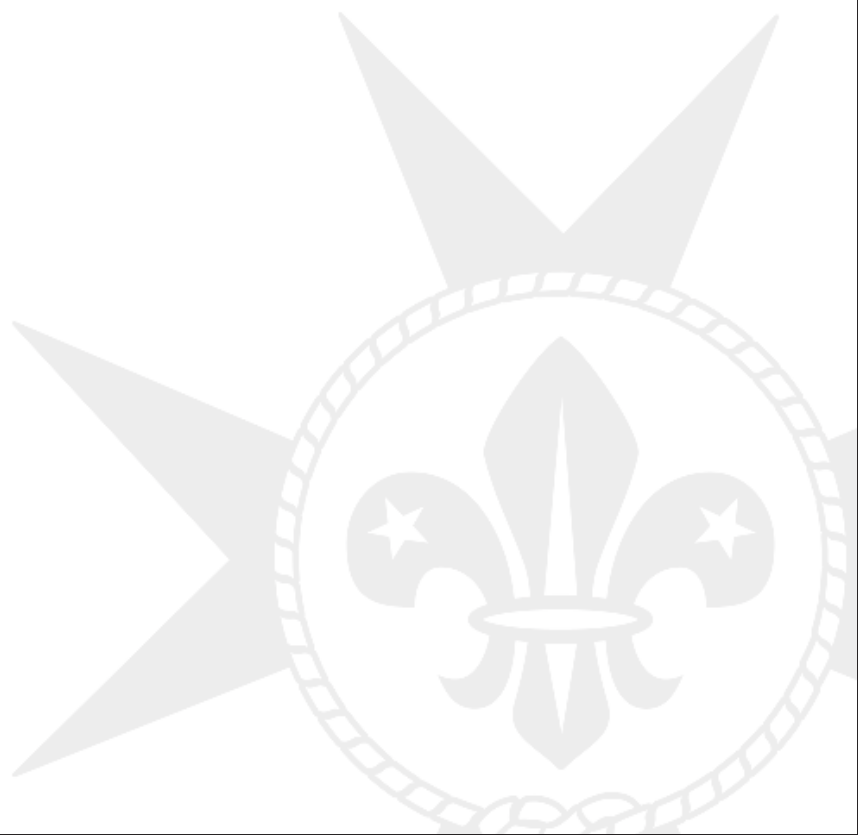
After the recent election of the Scout Council, the Policy Committee was reconvened with seven members, four of which were representatives of the four Districts. By doing this the Districts were given a voice on the Policy Committee and the opportunity to discuss both with the Committee and their members the important issue of the appointment/election of the new Chief Commissioner. Recognising the importance of this issue, Policy Committee meetings have been suspended in order to give the Districts all the time they need to discuss and debate this matter before reporting back to the Policy Committee.

Work on the redrafting of the Constitution has commenced as can be seen from Scoutkeeper. Once we have finalised the methods of electing the Chief Commissioner we shall look at the methods of appointing, and the functions of, the other Commissioners. We are aiming to produce a more concise Constitution and those matters relating to Job Descriptions which currently appear under the Bye Laws will eventually be included in the POR.

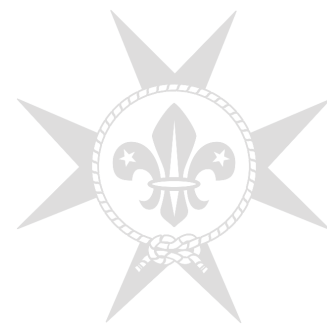
The Policy Committee also has responsibility for the POR and once the redrafting of the Constitution has been completed we will focus on the POR which, because it has been amended over the years now really needs to be re-written.

Frequent meetings are being held with the aim of considering all alterations carefully so that when the final documents are approved, they will not need to be revised in a few years time.

This is a very important task and I am sure the General Assembly appreciates that the Policy Committee should not rush into any decisions before a proper debate is carried out.



The Ghajn Tuffieha Campsite



The Association has always dreamt of owning a campsite that could rival scout campsites abroad. The dream began to materialize in 2001 when the Association was given title to just over 56 tumoli of land at Ghajn Tuffieha.

Situated in an un-spoilt (if you ignore the hotel), open and beautiful part of the Maltese Islands, the location of the Ghajn Tuffieha Campsite offers both serenity and activity. It is in walking distance from one of Malta's most popular beaches, it is in a great location for hikes and offers opportunities for varied scouting activities within the campsite itself.

Since gaining title to the land, the development of the site was phenomenal thanks to the incredible contribution and unrelenting conviction of the previous Chief Scout, Perit Vincent Cassar. The site was converted from a discarded wasteland into a fully functional, well-laid out and fully featured campsite. The whole place was landscaped; water and electricity services were installed; full sanitary amenities set up and an amphitheatre seating 1000 people built.

All this was in the past. More recently though, thanks to the hard work of a few individuals, the site has received some tender loving care in the form of a huge and on-going clean-up! - regular clearing of the camping plots and common areas, regular cleaning of the ablution blocks, maintenance of equipment, maintenance of electrical equipment, maintenance and laying down of irrigation equipment.

Such a huge tract of land is very difficult to maintain and without muscle, time and patience - the hard work invested by all involved will be lost.

The Association has ambitious plans for this treasure! We want to run the campsite on professional lines. We want to see the site being used not just by our own Scout Groups and other NGOs, but by foreign Scout Groups too. We want Ghajn Tuffieha to become a landmark in the Scouting curriculum of camping. To do this we need to upgrade the site by making it greener – even during the hot summer months. We need to extend the facilities - a Keepers' Lodge, staff accommodation, a hostel, a swimming-pool, a restaurant and a car park. We want to set up activities all year round, offering various services to increase revenue (not strictly from camping fees).

In the near future, the newly elected National Scout Council will be discussing a document on the Ghajn Tuffieha Campsite. This document will be proposing a plan to establish a Limited Liability Company to manage the Campsite. The Association would like to think that all Scout Groups feel that they belong to and are part of the Ghajn Tuffieha Project - that they own it! The Association would like to see the participation of Groups and Districts in this Company. A scheme for this to be achieved will be included in the proposal to the Council.

Our one aim is to turn this campsite into a monument to the Scout Movement in Malta, to the people who originated and strived to make it happen, to the people who worked miracles in making it what it is today, and to you all, as Members of the Scout Association of Malta who will make this project happen!



Martin Azzopardi
Deputy Chief Scout



Leslie Bonnici
Commissioner
Training & Programme

We acknowledge and thank all those who have selflessly contributed their time and energy to make Ghajn Tuffieha Campsite what it is today and trust that we can depend on them and others to keep the good work going.

A Working Committee is in fact being formed to drive forward all these ideas. The members of this Committee are Martin Azzopardi (Deputy Chief Scout) Leslie Bonnici (Commissioner Training and Programme) Joseph Borg (GSL) and one other person who will be appointed shortly.

It is truly a gem! Together we will achieve!





Interesting Initiatives taken up since the last General Assembly by the National Scout Council.

The National Scout Council apart from meeting on a regular basis and monitoring the progress achieved both by the Executive Committee and the Policy Committee, has developed some interesting initiatives based on the feedback given to the Chief Scout during his visits to various groups during the last few months.

1 Study Groups

Two Study Groups responsible to collect information one on branding (chaired by Commissioner Adrian Farrugia) and one on Quality Assurance (chaired by Commissioner Kevin Camilleri) were formed as a follow up to the last GSL's Forum. Results will be presented at a National Leaders Conference to be held in January 2010.

2 Scout-In-Need (SIN) Sub Committee

A Scout-In-Need Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Chief Scout Martin Azzopardi. The main aim of this Committee will be to support individuals who require financial support to purchase their uniform or to participate in scouting events. A set criteria will be established for applications for such assistance and this together with application forms will be published before the year end. It is with pleasure that I can report that the Scout Shop and the Scout Fellowship will be contributing to this fund.

3 Scout Awards Sub Committee

The Scout Awards Committee will be established under the Chairmanship of Tony Abela Medici. As in the past, the Awards will be announced during the Founders Day celebrations and the presentation of these Awards will take place at the Annual Rally.

4 Trustees

The Scout Council has appointed five Trustees to formulate a strategy for the management of the assets of the Scout Association.

As required by the Constitution the members of the board of Trustees will be the Chief Scout, Kenneth De Martino; the Hon General Secretary Robert Gonzi; The Hon Treasurer Mark Pizzuto plus two others. Dr Therese Comodini Cachia and Andrew Cutugno have been appointed to fill these two places.

5 Scout Shop Assessment

In the coming months, the Scout Council will be discussing, with the aim of updating, the current Scout Shop Agreement. There are plans in hand to set up subcommittees to handle this. A chairman has been appointed, namely Peter Degiorgio and he will be assisted and supported by the Chief Scout, Kenneth De Martino and the Hon Treasurer Mark Pizzuto. The Scout Shop provides a very important service to the members of the Movement and it is in the interest of all concerned that the service given is the best.

The Finance Report



Mark A Pizzuto
Hon Treasurer

The Scout Association Income & Expenditure Account for the period ended 31st December 2008	Unaudited 2008	Audited 2007
Income		
Donations and contributions	16112	16944
Scout Registrations	7097	6539
Investment Income - local	772	685
- foreign	21	7
Bank interest	537	345
Scout shop operations	6994	5278
Surplus from Training Courses plus other Local and international events	14450	2173
	45983	31971
Ghajn Tuffieha Account		
Campsite income	13102	9870
Campsite lease	-13,510	-13,510
General expenses	-11,839	-214
Water and Electricity (incl. arrears)	-9,482	-9,122
	-21,729	-12,976
Expenditure		
Administrative expense	12244	12984
Affiliation fees	2029	1640
Depreciation	4366	3792
Insurance and licences	2986	1679
Parades and public activities	9707	4847
	31332	24942
Excess of expenditure over income	-7,078	-5,947



The Scout Association Financial Statement for the period ended 31st December 2008	Unaudited 2008	Audited 2007
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	38277	33762
Investments	24998	15551
	<u>63275</u>	<u>49313</u>
Current assets		
Stocks	7283	8309
Debtors	17937	18178
Cash at bank and in hand	34034	57612
	<u>59254</u>	<u>84099</u>
Creditors due within one year		
Creditors and accruals	-12943	-16748
	<u>46311</u>	<u>67351</u>
Net current assets		
Net assets	109586	116664
Represented by:		
Accumulated fund:	<u>109586</u>	<u>116664</u>

The financial records presented, give a true and fair view of the Associations financial position as at the end of 2008.

Strong efforts have been made by all concerned to keep costs to a minimum and our thanks go to all Council, Executive, and Working Group members who by their continued support, dedication and hard work have made the special events of the past year a great success.

Although the financial position of the Association could be better, every effort is made to support the growing membership in every possible way. Our exposure both locally and internationally continues to grow and various programmes and initiatives are in the pipeline, all of which will come at a cost.

The aim of the Council is to maximize our resources and at the same time mirror the priorities of our members. This is only possible through the continued support of all our members. We have just celebrated 100 years of Scouting and we look forward to another 100 years of success and progress.

The Way Forward 2009 – 2012

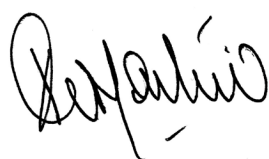
The Scout Movement is well on its way to becoming more professional in its administrative setup with better communications and clearly defined rules and policies laid down by the Scout Council.

The future holds an interesting new pathway for the Association with a new mentality and a more transparent approach. In fact the team at IHQ will soon be strengthened as a call for applications will shortly be made together with a more streamlined structure. When choosing the new Chief Commissioner, who will be the new team leader at IHQ, we must make sure that this person will be ready to follow the new vision set by the Scout Council and assume the responsibility for further development. The role will require great management skills and a balance between experience and 'new blood' which will make another interesting development for Maltese scouting.

I do admit that my four months in office as Chief Scout with the additional responsibility of Chief Commissioner has given me a unique opportunity to rally support from all Scouters, Group Scout Leaders, Commissioners and Scout Council members. I am pleased to say that I have been overwhelmed with the enthusiasm and support that is forthcoming from everybody!

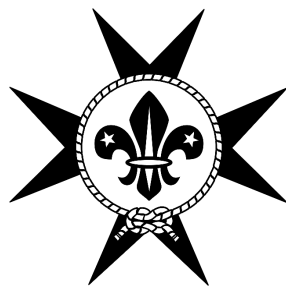
The true change in how we all manage and work together is here! The new era of scouting has arrived and I sincerely hope that the train journey that started on 2nd June and is refueling today the 6th October will be a pleasant and rewarding long journey for the benefit, and in the best interest of our young members.

Good luck and good Scouting to all



Kenneth De Martino
Chief Scout





The Scout Association of Malta
Island Headquarters E S Tonna Street Floriana FRN 1480
Tel: +356 21224334 • Fax: +356 21251382 • e-mail: info@maltascout.org.mt

www.maltascout.org.mt