

Extracts from a History of Scouting in Dunfermline & Rosyth Districts

1952

7.52 - Before looking at other happenings in 1952 it would be as well to deal first with the establishment of the new Local Association for the Rosyth area. A meeting to consider arrangements for the new administration was held on 13 January attended by Mr D Ritchie (DC), Mr Findlay (Local Association Secretary), Mr MacRae (Local Association Treasurer), Mr J Graham (Assistant Local Association Secretary), Mr A Wilson (ADC for Rosyth/ Inverkeithing area), Mr J Spence (41st), Mr R A Todd (68th) and Mr J Rule. The conclusions reached were that Rosyth should make arrangements to appoint office bearers and form an Executive Committee; a sum of £10 should be given to the new Local Association with further sums being made available if necessary; a chaplain would be appointed and parades held within the Rosyth area and the various competition trophies would be retained by Dunfermline District and Rosyth would organise its own competitions. The exception to this was the Foggo Memorial Trophy which would continue to be open to Rosyth/Inverkeithing Groups. These conclusions were accepted by the Dunfermline Local Association.

7.53 - A further meeting was held on 27 January and present were Mr Ritchie (DC), Mr A Wilson (ADC), Mr J Graham (Interim Secretary of new Local Association) and representatives of 13th, 41st, 52nd, 67th and 68th Fife Groups. The first issue was the name of the Association and after some discussion it was decided that it should be known as the Inverkeithing and District Local Association. Given that 6 of the 9 Groups in the catchment area were in Rosyth, this is rather strange. No reason for this is given in the minute but it may have been because Inverkeithing was a Royal Burgh with a history going back many years, it was more central (bearing in mind that there was a Group at North Queensferry) and that a number of the prospective office bearers were from Inverkeithing. Byelaws were agreed - subscriptions to the District would be at the rate of 1d per "Scout" and 1/- per Scouter and Rover Scout, Local Association meetings would be held quarterly, the Executive Committee would have 8 elected members (4 Scouters and 4 lay people). Appointment of Office Bearers was as follows : Chairman - Mr John Rule, Secretary - Mr James Patterson, Treasurer - Mr W MacRae, Badge Secretary - Mr R Todd. Rev J Johnston of St Peter's Parish Church, Inverkeithing was to be invited to be Chaplain. The existing District Cubmaster and District Scoutmaster for the Rosyth area would continue in these positions - Messrs G Kerr and J Spence respectively. The form to register the new Association was subsequently completed and sent to Fife County Scout Council. Although a new Local Association was being formed, Groups in Rosyth, Inverkeithing and North Queensferry were still within Dunfermline District with Duncan Ritchie as the District Commissioner. In effect, Dunfermline District was divided into 2 Local Association areas - Dunfermline and Inverkeithing and District.

7.54 - At Inverkeithing and District's first AGM on 24 April, the finishing touches were put to the new organisation. All the office bearers mentioned above were re-elected en bloc (Rev J Johnston having agreed to serve as Chaplain), Mr D Kennaway was appointed Vice Chairman and Mr Alfred Smith of Inverkeithing was appointed President. The Executive Committee members were elected and this included Mr Duffy, Scoutmaster of 61st Fife (St John's RC Church) Scout Group, because of

his interest in Scout football. Mr Duffy was appointed Convener of a Football Committee with power to coopt. The total membership in the Association area was 463. Thanks were expressed to Mr J Graham, the Assistant Secretary of Dunfermline Local Association and Group Scoutmaster of 39th Fife (St Margaret's Church of Scotland) Scout Group who had assisted in getting the new Association off the ground. Over the winter months 4 meetings of PLs and Seconds had been held at 3 weekly intervals. The attendance list at this first AGM is included on page 183.

1954

7.162 - In August, Inverkeithing and District Local Association resolved to apply for full District status and this resolution was forwarded to the County Scout Council for consideration.

1955

7.186 - On 28 April, Inverkeithing District held their Executive Committee meeting. The County Commissioner, Major Crichton Stuart, attended and it is clear from his remarks that Inverkeithing was then considered to be a District in its own right. He presented Andy Wilson with his warrant as District Commissioner (see Press cuttings below). After the meeting, members attended Dunfermline District's Swimming Gala in which Groups from Inverkeithing and District took part (by invitation).

Scout News

Inverkeithing D.C.'s Warrant Presented

The County Commissioner, Major M. D. D. Crichton-Stuart, Falkland Palace, presented the District Commissioner's warrant to Mr Andrew Wilson, Rosyth, at a meeting of the Executive Committee of Inverkeithing and District Association on Thursday evening.

The County Commissioner complimented the Association on having attained full District status, and spoke of Mr Wilson's long association with the Scout movement, and the excellent qualities and diligence he had shown in his service to Scouting.

The Chairman of the Association, Mr John Rule, M.A., congratulated the new District Commissioner on his appointment which was sincerely welcomed by all in their own district and, he felt sure, by the many Scouts, Scouters and officials with whom Mr Wilson had worked during the last 25 years and more.

Dunfermline Press
30 April 1955

District Commissioner's Long Record of Service

Mr Andrew Wilson, 15 Selvage Place, Rosyth, who, as reported in last Saturday's *Press*, has received the District Commissioner's warrant for Inverkeithing District, has a long record of service in the Scout movement.

Mr James Patterson, hon. secretary, Inverkeithing and District Association, writes:—"Having been associated with Andrew Wilson over the past 25 years or more I have watched with deep appreciation his progress in the movement which he serves so well. He is certainly one whose record in Scouting is that of constant fidelity to the aims of the Founder, the late Lord Baden Powell of Gilwell. Andrew was first registered as an Assistant Cubmaster with the first Rosyth (Garden City in those days!) Scout Group, the 26th Fife (Rosyth Methodist Church). The date of that first warrant is 6th April 1923.

"He later held a Scoutmaster's warrant (1928) with the 52nd Fife (Rosyth Baptist Church) and was with them throughout the 30's when I met him during my own work as secretary of the Rosyth Y.M.C.A. Boys'

Club. Andrew's Troop merged with the Y.M.C.A. activities in Rosyth and it was a strong and active Group under his able leadership as Group Scoutmaster. He was present at the World Jamboree in Holland, with the Fife contingent. An active member of the Dunfermline Association, he was, along with the late Mr John Foggo, presented with the Long Service Ribbon in August 1948.

"Appointed A.D.C. in 1951, his services to the movement were further recognised when, as A.D.C. of the new Association, Inverkeithing and District, he was awarded the Medal of Merit in 1953. As one of the founders of the new Association which he still serves, I feel sure that his enthusiasm brought a resurgence of activity among the Scout Groups in this area.

"As District Commissioner, Andrew Wilson will continue to contribute his wealth of experience, diligently applied, during his many years of service. His enduring qualities and honesty of purpose are such that it is right that we should pay tributes on occasions such as these: they are not sought, but they are well deserved. He is a popular figure at the National, County and District conferences and training courses, at all of which he plays no small part."

Dunfermline Press
7 May 1955

Martin Rodgers
March 2017