



## Brigade Council 2 September 2006 – Cardiff

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

The Revd Flavio Azamuja, Vice President, Wales District conducted the opening service.

The Brigade President, The Very Revd Professor Alan Main, TD MA, read a message of loyal greeting that had been sent to our Patron, Her Majesty The Queen on behalf of Council. Council then stood to receive her reply.

Copies of the Standing Orders for the procedures at meetings of Council were accepted.

Members of Council were welcomed to Cardiff by the Rt Hon The Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Councillor Gareth Neath and by John Winchester, Chair of Wales Regional Committee. The Brigade President replied and welcomed members and guests particularly members of the Global Fellowship Executive and Ms Mary Care. He also read out several letters of greeting.

The voting strength at Council was as follows: 155 ordinary, 94 proxy and 164 postal votes. Total votes 413.

Members of the Brigade who had died in the past year were remembered.

Minutes of Council held in 2005 in Londonderry, which had been circulated were proposed and seconded.

Mr John Young MBE, Brigade Vice President presented the Annual Report for the session 2005/06. Several matters in the report were highlighted. Mr Young spoke particularly of the importance of leadership and training. Mention was also made of special events including Firm Foundations, Crossover, The Queen's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations and the forthcoming celebrations for the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Mr Young finished his report by reminding Council of the core foundations of The Brigade. Mr Norman Batty, Brigade Vice President seconded the Annual Report and gave an update on the Constitutional review; proposals will be brought to Council in 2007.

Mr John Williams, Brigade Treasurer presented the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2006. Mr Williams highlighted several key matters including, the small operating surplus, an increase in legacy income for last year, the completion of the Carronvale refurbishment project and the outsourcing of BB Supplies. Mr Jonathan Eales, member of the Executive seconded the Annual Accounts, which were adopted by Council. Mr Williams then spoke about capitation fees for the session 2006/07. The restructuring of the fees that had taken place in September 2005 had been well received. The Executive recommended no changes in capitation or officer fees for 2006/07. John went on to encourage the prompt payment of company and leader fees. There was one question from the floor regarding the levels of supplies stocks.

**A non-constitutional motion** in the name of five officers was proposed by Mr David Allan MBE, Captain 2<sup>nd</sup> Alton Company that the uniform regulations from 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2006 be amended as follows:

**Add to 3:** On ceremonial occasions, at the option of the relevant officer and by those in possession, a white haversack may be worn over the right shoulder and under the belt, which may be brown with brass Boys' Brigade buckle; in addition a dark blue or black jacket and a plain white shirt, with a plain black tie in place of the BB tie, may be worn in place of the navy blue sweatshirt, blue polo shirt or navy shirt detailed above.

**Add to 4:** On ceremonial occasions, at the option of the relevant officer and by those in possession, a dark blue or black jacket and a plain white shirt, with a plain black tie in place of the BB tie, may be worn in place of the navy blue sweatshirt, blue polo shirt or navy blue shirt detailed above.

**Add to 5:** On ceremonial occasions when jackets are worn by members as detailed above, and at the option of the relevant officer and by those in possession, officers may wear a plain dark jacket, to match their trousers/skirt; a plain white shirt, with a plain black tie in place of the BB tie will then be worn in place of the navy blue sweatshirt, blue polo shirt or navy shirt detailed above.

The motion was seconded by Mr Paul Hern, 1<sup>st</sup> Malvern Company.

Mr David Richmond spoke against the motion on behalf of the Brigade Executive.

After a short debate a card vote was taken:

Ordinary votes for	45	Ordinary votes against	103	
Proxy votes for	37	Proxy votes against	56	
Postal votes for	31	Postal votes against	131	
Total votes for	113	Total votes against	290	<b>The motion was lost</b>

**A constitutional motion** in the name of The Brigade Executive was proposed by Mr Alistair Joss.

It is proposed that Article 1 of the Brigade Constitution be deleted and replaced by the following:

**1a.** The organisation shall be called "The Boys' Brigade" (the "Brigade").

**1b.** Membership is open to Boys. Where it is the will of the Company and of the Church or other body of which the Company is part, and where they have agreed a need, membership is also open to Girls.

**1c.** With the exception of Articles 1.a, 36, 40, 43, and 44, where the context so admits, after the word "Boy" or "Boys" shall be added the word "or Girl" or "or Girls."

The motion was seconded by Mr Perry Donaldson, member of the Brigade Executive

**An amendment** in the name of West Lothian Battalion to the above constitutional motion was proposed by Mr Alistair Marquis, Queen's Badge Convenor, West Lothian Battalion.

**1a.** The organisation shall be called "The Boys' Brigade" (The Brigade) and shall consist of Boys' Brigade companies and Brigader Companies.

**1b.** Membership of Boys' Brigade Companies is open to Boys. Where it is the will of the Company and of the Church or other body of which the Company is a part, and where they have agreed a need, a Company may operate as a Brigade Company. Membership of Brigader Companies is open to Boys and Girls.

**1c.** With the exception of Articles 1a, 1b, 8f, 36, 40, 43, and 44 when reference is made to Boys this should be interpreted as members.

The motion was seconded by Mr David Gilchrist, President, West Lothian Battalion.

After a lengthy debate a card vote was taken:

Ordinary votes for	24	Ordinary votes against	123	
Proxy votes for	28	Proxy votes against	62	
Postal votes for	26	Postal votes against	134	
Total votes for	78	Total votes against	319	<b>The amendment was lost</b>

Council returned to the motion in the name of the Executive. After a further debate a card vote was taken

Ordinary votes for	103	Ordinary votes against	42
Proxy votes for	24	Proxy votes against	65
Postal votes for	102	Postal votes against	62
Total votes for	229	Total votes against	169

**The motion was lost** as a two-thirds majority is required for a Constitutional motion.

There was one item of Other Competent Business. David Gilchrist, President of West Lothian Battalion urged the Executive to formulate a communications strategy to ensure better communication across The Brigade. Mr Young responded by saying the Executive and Constitution Review Group would take this on board.

During the afternoon, a number of presentations were made concerning several Brigade initiatives:

**Engage a Generation:** Ron Reid, Member of Brigade Executive gave an update on the Engage a Generation initiative. Jonathan Eales, President Northamptonshire Battalion and Ian Simpson Development Worker Northamptonshire Battalion gave a presentation about the pilot scheme in Northamptonshire.

**Company Support Scheme:** Karen Jay, Director of Training spoke about the Company Support Scheme being piloted in ten battalions. The scheme offers support, advice and information to companies in order for them to develop their work.

**Programme Review:** Martyn Waters, Director of Programme, spoke about the programme review currently underway for the company and senior section age groups including a new Challenge Award, a new seniors programme, a new Young Volunteer Scheme and amendments to the President's and Queen's badges.

**Participation of young people:** Philip Lund, HQ Participation Worker spoke about the work he was undertaking to promote the participation of young people at all levels of the Brigade.

**Global Fellowship:** Tim Pratt, Chief Executive of Global Fellowship gave a presentation about the work of the Fellowship.

**BB Cameroon:** Stephen Cowden, 4<sup>th</sup> Newtownabbey and Robert Botting, 1<sup>st</sup> Woodley gave a presentation on their recent visit to the BB in Cameroon, West Africa.

**BB Jamaica:** Andrew Wade of the 7<sup>th</sup> Northampton and Adam King and Malcolm Semenytsch of the 17<sup>th</sup> Nottingham companies spoke about their recent trip to Jamaica where they helped refurbish a local school by building a class room and clearing a play ground.

Mr John Young MBE made a presentation to Ms Mary Care BEM paying tribute to her 40 years of service to the Brigade as a member of Headquarters staff, Mary having recently retired as Assistant to The Brigade Secretary.

Mr Michael Elliott, Chair of the England Regional Committee made an invitation to Brigade Council 2007, which will take place in Bradford, 31 August – 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2007.

Council closed with worship led by The Revd Flavio Azamuja.