



No. 2904.

97/148

HIGH COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE,

Pretoria.

8 November, 1938.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th October renewing the invitation conveyed to me from the Headquarters Council of the South African Pathfinder Boy Scout Association to accept the office of Chief Scout for the High Commission Territories.

I am very glad to accept the invitation of the Headquarters Council, and I shall be pleased if you will inform the Council accordingly and convey to them my best wishes for the success of their work.

I -

SENATOR THE HONOURABLE
J.D. RHEINALLT JONES,

CHIEF SCOUT'S PATHFINDER COMMISSIONER,

JOHANNESBURG.

- 2 -

I am much obliged to you for letting
me see the correspondence regarding the
question and I now return the original enclosures
to your letter.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

W. H. C. Clark.

High Commissioner.

19.14.1 20 JUN 1940

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HEADQUARTER COUNCIL OF THE PATHFINDER SCOUT ASSOCIATION OF THE BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE, HELD IN THE OFFICE OF HIS HONOUR, THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, IMPERIAL RESERVE, MAFEKING, ON FRIDAY THE 12th OF APRIL, 1940, at 10.45.A.M.

PRESENT: His Honour, Mr.C.N.Arden Clarke,(in the chair) Mr.A.D.Forsyth Thompson,A.R.C., Mr.H.J.E.Dumbrell(Assist.Div.Comm.) Revd.F.J. Shaw,(D/C.Kanye) Mr.T.Powell, Mr.H.G.Clarke,Mr.Mildenhall, Chief Bathoen & the Organising Secretary,Mr.C.H.Preston.

APOLOGIES: Were received from Major R.Hurndall & Chief Musi Pilane.

MINUTES. : Of a meeting held on the 22/11/39, having been circulated, were taken as read & confirmed.

BUSINESS : **Pathfinder Scout-Boys' Brigade Competition.** In this connection **ARISING.** : the Secretary suggested that as far as the Scout section of the competition is concerned, that all the Scouts must be 2nd Class Scouts & that besides the tests of Signalling, 1st Aid, Pyramids & Physical Drill, the Scouts should be examined in the Tenderfoot & 2nd Class Tests. This was agreed to & Mr. Shaw mentioned that the representatives of the Boys' Brigade would like an age limit. It was agreed that this be 19. He also said the Boys' Brigade would like Athletics included in the competition. It was agreed that Mr.Shaw & Mr.Preston go into the question of marks with the Revd. J.Burns. Mr.Mildenhall suggested that at the conclusion of the Competition, a circular be sent out giving particulars of the marks etc., this was agreed to.The Secretary stated that the competition would be held at Serowe this year, in October.

S.A.Pathfinder Scout Council Meeting: In connection with this meeting, which was held at Florida in December,1939,reports were submitted by the Revd. J.Shaw & Mr.Preston,delegates to the meeting. Arising out of their reports, the question of a contribution to S.A.P.Scout Headquarters was discussed. Mr. Mildenhall proposed & Mr. Forsyth Thompson seconded,& it was unanimously agreed "That the sum of £5 be earmarked for this purpose."

Award: The Secretary reported that the Revd.P.Sekgoma,D/P/S/M, of Francistown had been awarded the Medal of Merit on the recommendation of this Council. It was resolved that a letter be sent to the Revd.P.Sekgoma,conveying the Council's congratulations.

Camp-Kanye: The Secretary stated that the camp held at Kanye in connection with the Training ground was well attended,about 50 boys were present.Useful work on the campsite was done.

FINANCE: The Secretary submitted the Financial Statement for the period 22/11/39-12/4/40, which showed a balance in hand of £23.7.10. (£3 of this amount to be divided among P.Scouts & W.Guides in Baralong area)The Financial Statement was adopted. Arising out of grants made by Tribal Administrations to both Movements in their own areas,it was suggested that the local committees might make a small grant to P.Scout & W.Guide Headquarters.In connection with the Training ground at Kanye, it was agreed that this should be under the control of the local P.Scout Authorities & if the camp is used for general training purposes a small contribution could be made by those attending.

GENERAL: The Secretary gave a brief report of his future movements in the Territory. More time would be spent at each place.Arising out of the Secretary's report, His Honour gave the meeting some information re future development of both the Youth Movements in the Territory.(P.Scout,Boys' Brigade,W.Guide & Girls' Brigade) Steps would be taken to expand the Youth Movements as widely as possible. His Honour was meeting a deputation of the London Missionary Society on the 23rd of April. His Honour intimated that he felt he could'nt give his personal attention as head of the P.Scout Movement & that he would like to with-

withdraw from the position of Divisional Commissioner, Mr. Dumbrell also intimated that he could not find sufficient time to carry on as Assistant Divisional Commissioner, owing to increased pressure of work.

APPOINTMENTS: Mr. Forsyth Thompson proposed & Mr. Dumbrell seconded & it was unanimously agreed that the Revd. J. Shaw be appointed Divisional Commissioner, Major W. Hurndall, Assistant Divisional Commissioner, Mr. T. Powell, District Commissioner for the Southern Protectorate & Mr. H. G. Clarke, District Commissioner for the Northern Protectorate, subject to the approval of the Chief Scout's Pathfinder Commissioner & S.A. Pathfinder Scout Headquarters. It was further unanimously agreed that His Honour be appointed President of the Association in the Bechuanaland Protectorate. It was suggested that where possible likely Africans might be appointed to positions of responsibility.

It was suggested that all Schools be circulated re the future expansion of Youth Movements. It was agreed to do this at a later date.

War Funds: The question of how the two Youth Movements could help with War Funds was discussed. Various suggestions, such as the collecting of scrap material, old bones, thatching grass, thatching bark etc could be collected & sold for War Funds. It was pointed out, however, that Troops should concentrate on making their own funds secure before trying to raise money for War Funds. It was agreed to leave the matter in abeyance for the time being.

There being no further business, the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chair.

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CONFIRMED. CHAIRMAN.

.....DATE.

C. H. PRESTON,
ORGANISING SECRETARY.

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PATHFINDER BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE DIVISION

HR the Resident Commissioner,
(Col. A.D. Forsyth Thompson, C.B.E.)
President of the Bechuanaland Division,
MAFELING.

K A N Y E,
10th January 1944

Dear Col. Forsyth Thompson,

I had hoped to be able to present to your Honour the most encouraging report of the activities of the Division since I became Divisional Commissioner of it, but in some respects 1943 was a disappointing year.

Headquarters & Policy At the beginning of the year I received the good news that you had made available the sum of £50 for the training of young Scoutmasters & I looked forward confidently to using that money for the good of the movement since we had no lack of suitable trainees in the Districts. The money is, however, still lying in the Bank. I was pleased to attend the Meeting of District Commissioners and Chiefs you called early in the year, and to learn of the willingness of these Districts where Pathfinders existed to supplement the efforts of the boys by making grants to Local Associations; and the 25% share of these grants promised will as you designed cover the few expenses incurred by Headquarters. I went just after to Johannesburg to attend the Executive Committee of Headquarters Meeting. There very pleasing plans were made for the Gilwell Training Course for Officers for which we have been looking for a long time & I left fully expecting to hear that very shortly our men might be able to attend the first Course: I reported fully to you at the time, mentioning that I had pressed for the opening of the Course before the end of March 1944 at least. I have twice since then made enquiries but am still without news as to progress or as to the date of opening. The Chief Scout's Pathfinder Commissioner is as you know carrying a very heavy burden of extra war work. At the same Conference I asked for the preparation of a simple booklet such as might help us fill our long felt want of assistance to our Scoutmasters. I made provision for the cost of duplicating and translating into Setswana in the estimate of probable needs I sent to you at your request, but the booklet has not come to hand. I thought of producing something of my own but came to the conclusion that my African experience of Scouting was not sufficiently wide - the most important part of the booklet we hoped to have was to be a Year's Programme prepared by the Natal Division, who have run many camps over a long period: and I think it is worth waiting for. As I suggested to you in Mafeking we have agreed not to incur the expense of calling meetings of the Bechuanaland Headquarters Council for the time being.

The Districts & Visitation My claim for expenses this year will be very light, I am sorry to say. At the time when Mission duties left me free to visit the Districts I was faced with a breakdown

of my car which robbed me of the effective use of it for three months. I toured all the district south of Kanye by bicycle and ended in tackling the re-ascitation of the Movement in Mafeking I may possibly be able to visit to the Hobbbh before the end of the financial year. The Francistown district has Lt. Langley as Commissioner and very encouraging reports come from there. Mochudi has found a Commissioner in the Rev. Mr. Murray, and he reports that the Movement is stronger under a teacher called Edwin Gare. Molepolole had Mr. Hume of the MRC as Commissioner but he has resigned, though he is carrying on until I can find another; the District Scoutmaster there, James Whiko reports that he has more officers and better support. Mr Joyce acted as Commissioner for Gaberones until his removal to Mafeking. I have no other report of the district than came through Mrs. Burndall who kindly let me know that she had seen very good parades of boys at Ramoutsha & Gaberones. Lobatal and the South are under Mr. Ellenberger, but the groups in all places are small and the work weak, though we are doing what we can to strengthen them. There is a very good prospect of the work starting up again in Mafeking. The African leaders are there, but they say they will not begin without another European as Commissioner, and I cannot yet find him. Kanye has had one of the best years we have known. More boys have passed their tests than before, and I have been able by the help of the Director of Education to teach the Training Centre boys both theoretical and practical Scouting; they, in turn, have helped considerably with the Troop.

Census returns have not all been returned, but those figures that are to hand show little difference from the previous year. I still do not get answers to letters in many cases, and without them am often in the dark as to progress. I did however see a very encouraging batch of letters sent to the Secretary, Mr. Kgōpō, with some Census returns.

During the Year Mr. Dumbrell has been granted a bar to his Medal of Merit, and District Scoutmaster Whiko has won the Medal of Merit.

I was glad to be able to forward the sum of £3-17s from the Division for the Baden-Powell Memorial Fund.

I wish that I had been able to send a more cheerful report to you. We seem to have been marking time when we ought to have been advancing. What I have been able to do I have done but I feel that a Divisional Commissioner with fewer other duties or, at least with greater mobility, could have done much more.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Ch. Shaw

Divisional Commissioner.

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