

MINUTES OF THE 8th MEETING OF THE TRANSVAAL PATHFINDER SCOUT COUNCIL HELD AT SCOUT HEADQUARTERS ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20th, 1937 AT 4.30 P.M.

PRESENT. The Actg. Div. P/S Com. Capt. W.E.Barber (Chairman) ; D/P/S/C H.W.Shearsmith and A/D/P/S/Cs L.M.Seepe and Rev. J.V.Cantrell; Rev. J.E.Hallendorff and Rev. P.T.Leresche; K.N.Fleischer Esq., and L.I.Venables Esq., The Hon. Stock Supervisor C.Nicholls and the Assistant Secretary.

APOLOGIES. Apologies for absence were received from The Hon. Sec. J.P.Rees Esq., The Hon. Treasurer E.A.Otto Peetz Esq., Rev. C.Bouffard, Rev. S.M.Roberts, Rev. E.Carter, Rev. Dr. J.Dexter Taylor and E.Lithebe Esq.

Mr. J.P.Rees applied for two months' Leave of Absence as he was proceeding Overseas, and it was granted.

Welcome to Mr. L.I.Venables. The Chairman welcomed Mr. L.I.Venables, Acting Manager, Municipal Native Affairs Department, Joh'burg, who had very kindly agreed to become a member of the Transvaal Pathfinder Scout Council. Mr. Venables expressed how keenly interested he was in Bantu Welfare and he hoped that the redistribution of the Pathfinder Scout Districts on the Reef would contribute still more to the administration and furtherance of this great Movement.

MINUTES. The Minutes of the previous meeting having been circulated were taken as read and confirmed.

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES.

(i) Training Ground for Officers. The Chairman reported that the Chief Scout's Pathfinder Commissioner, Senator J.D.Rheinallt Jones, had been engaged with other appointments and it had been impossible to interview him on this matter. His Secretary, however, promised to advise the Chairman of a possible date for meeting the Chief Scout's Pathfinder Commissioner. It was suggested that the proposed Training Courses should at first be held once a year.

(ii) Re-subdivision of Pathfinder Scout Districts. A meeting of the Sub Committee appointed for this purpose at the previous meeting of the Transvaal Pathfinder Scout Council, was fixed for November 3rd, 1937 to be held in the Committee Room at Scout Headquarters at 5.15 P.M.

(iii) Error in the Press. With further reference to Mr. Fleischer's remark at the previous meeting, the Chairman stated that in order to avoid any more mistakes, all Pathfinder Scout Notices etc. in the Press would in future be submitted either to himself or to Rev. W.Samson of Benoni, for certification.

FINANCE. The Hon. Treasurer in his letter of apology for absence from the meeting, briefly outlined unforeseen circumstances which had not enabled him to provide time for drawing up his Monthly Statement for September. He also stated that it depended on these circumstances as to whether he would be able to continue as Treasurer.

/Some discussion

FINANCE. (Paragraph continued).

Some discussion arose on this matter, and Mr. Nicholls proposed that a meeting of the Finance Committee of the Transvaal Pathfinder Scout Council should be summoned immediately to discuss the matter with Mr. Peetz, and to come to some arrangement regarding the writing up of the books and the proposed Half Yearly Audit.

Unanimously Agreed.

Mr. Fleischer suggested to the Transvaal Pathfinder Scout Council that, if necessary, outside help should be obtained to write up the books if Mr. Peetz should be unable to do so, and that a payment should be made for same.

The Chairman in passing stated that he hoped we would not lose the services of Mr. Peetz and commended his work to the Council.

CO-OPTION OF MEMBERS TO THE COUNCIL. All but one of the invitations extended in this direction were very kindly accepted. Mr. G. Ballenden, who is the one excepted, was reported to be away in India and the matter would be referred to him on his return.

Mr. S. Mashupye, St. Peter's Secondary School, Rosettenville, and Mr. C. Tshetlo, 74, Meyer St. Sophiatown, were also nominated for co-option of membership to the Council at this meeting.

NOTED.

GENERAL. Mr. J. F. Rees in his letter of apology for absence from the meeting, put a request that the Council should circularize all the Districts in connection with the publication of the new P.C. & R obtainable from Pathfinder Scout Headquarters (Transvaal Division) at 9d per copy and 1ld by post, and also about conditions relative to applications for Warrants and Registrations.

The Council authorised the draft and despatch of this Circular from Transvaal Pathfinder Scout Divisional Headquarters.

Registration Cards. It was decided that new Application Cards for Warrants and Registrations should be printed.

Mr. Nicholls and Mr. Fleischer were asked to co-operate and deal with this matter, subject to the Chairman's approval.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING. This was fixed for November 24th, 1937.

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 5.45 P.M.

Minutes confirmed at the meeting on \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman. \_\_\_\_\_

SUB COMMITTEE REPORT.

The Sub Committee of the Transvaal Pathfinder Scout Council appointed to deal with the matter of the resubdivision of the Districts on the Reef, held its first meeting on November 3rd, 1937 (Wednesday) at 5.15 P.M. in the Committee Room at Scout Headquarters.

The Central Reef area was recommended to be subdivided as follows :-

District 1.

Johannesburg City (South of Commissioner St.) - Wemmer Township - ~~Ophirton~~ - Rosettenville.

District 2.

Eastern Native Township (George Goch) - Municipal boundary on the East.

District 3.

~~West of Ophirton~~ - Municipal boundary and South of Railway line. (No Pathfinder work in this district presently).

District 4.

Vrededorp - Newtown (No work done here presently).

District 5.

*Mr. H. V. Shearsmith*  
Western Native Township, *4 Fr. Ross (no work)* Newclare & Sophiatown. West of Westdene - Municipal boundary and South of Waterfall. *5 Fr. Ross* *9 Masilele*

District 6.

*Mr. S. Mashupye*  
Orlando Native Township.

District 7.

*Mr. S. Mashupye*  
Diepkloof - Kliptown - Pimville.

District 8.

*Mr. Masilele*  
Alexandra Native Township.

A suggestion was made that only one District Pathfinder Scout Commissioner, a European, should be appointed mainly to supervise and act in an advisory capacity to the above Districts as a whole. It was reckoned the District Pathfinder Scout Commissioner would hold monthly meetings with his A/D/P/S/Cs where current news of Pathfinder Scouting importance could be discussed, and he would do all in his power to encourage slackening Troops and impart fresh ideas to them through the A/D/P/S/Cs.

This matter was discussed at some length and it was difficult at the moment to think of an available gentleman for the above nature of work, and the matter was deferred awhile. It was, however, decided that one A/D/P/S/C should be appointed to each of the aforementioned districts, and preferably, all of them to be Bantu.

The following gentlemen were suggested for nomination by the Council :-

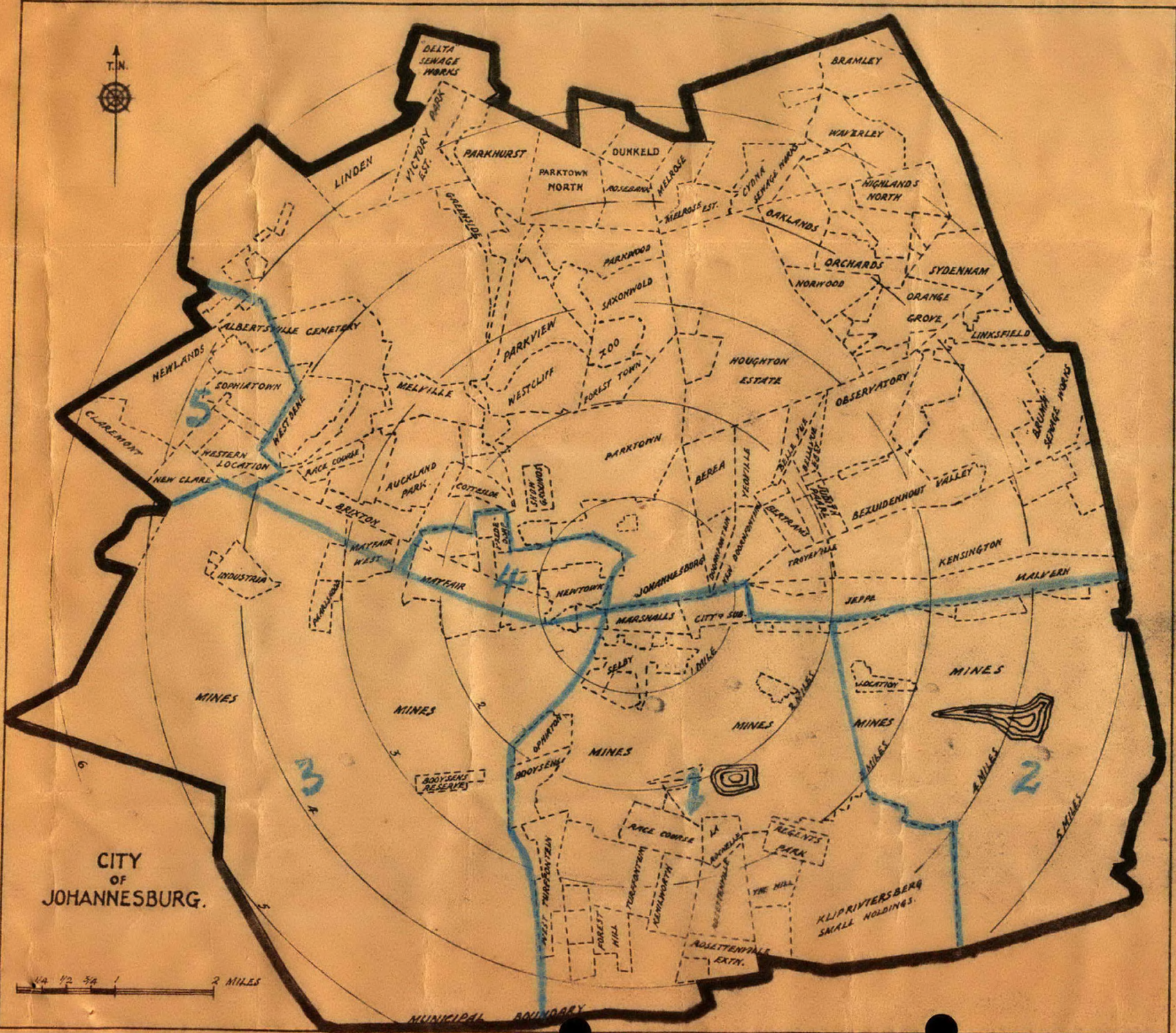
Mr. H.V. Shearsmith, Mr. I.H. Magang, Mr. L.M. Seepe, Mr. S. Mashupye, Mr. Maseko, Mr. Masilele and Mr. C. Tshetlo.

A recommendation was also made that a minimum of 8 Pathfinder Scout Officers with 12 as the maximum should be put through a Gilwell Training Course. The A/D/P/S/Cs already mentioned were recommended for the candidature of this Course.

/ Mr. Fleischer .....

Mr. Fleischer felt that the Assistant Secretary should be asked to arrange for period visits to certain areas where required, but in view of the difficulties existing in the Office at the moment, it was decided to bear this matter in mind for discussion again at a later date.

By: Nebajoth S. Mokgako.  
ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL SECRETARY.



CITY OF JOHANNESBURG.

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MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY

MINUTES OF THE 9th MEETING OF THE TRANSVAAL PATHFINDER SCOUT COUNCIL HELD AT SCOUT HEADQUARTERS ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24th, 1937 AT 4.30 P.M.

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PRESENT. The Actg. Div. P/S Com. Cant. W.E.Barber (Chairman) ; D/P/S/Cs H.W.Shearsmith, D.G.Lace & Rev. S.M.Roberts; A/D/P/S/Cs I.H.Magang, L.M.Seepe & Rev. J.V.Cantrell; Rev. G.Westphal & Rev. F.T.Leresche; Mr. E.Lithebe and Mr. L.I.Venables; The Hon. Stock Supervisor and the Assistant Secretary.

APOLOGIES. Apologies for absence were received from Rev. W.Samson, Rev. Fr. Trelawney Ross C.R., Rev. J.E.Hallendorff, Mr. B.W.Martin (Chief Native Commissioner - Wit ' rand), The Hon. Treasurer E.A.Otto Peetz Esq., and the Hon. Secretary Mr. J.P.Rees.

MINUTES. The Minutes of the previous meeting having been circulated were taken as read and confirmed.

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES.

(a) Training Ground for Officers. The Chairman reported that he had discussed this matter with Senator J.D.Rheinallt Jones, Chief Scout's Pathfinder Commissioner who had agreed to grant the use of his grounds at Florida during Easter in 1938, as that was the only time when they would be available. In future, however, he intimated that the Transvaal Pathfinder Scout Council should, whenever they wished to use the grounds, lodge a written application with him 14 days prior to the date required so that the necessary preparations could be made. Accomodation was ample and the Council decided to organise its first Gilwell Training Course for twelve Officers.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Chief Scout's Pathfinder Commissioner for his generous assistance in the matter.

(b) Sub Committee's Report. Mr. H.W.Shearsmith on request by the Chairman read out the report of the Sub Committee appointed to deal with the matter of the resubdivision of the Pathfinder Scout districts on the Reef.

Mr. L.I.Venables pointed out how difficult it was without a map to visualise the sizes of the districts referred to, and in response Mr. Nicholls offered to have despatched with the next Council minutes copies of the map of the suggested districts to all members of the Council concerned, and attached would also be a copy of the Committee's report.

The Chairman reported that the Chief Scout's Pathfinder Commissioner thought the Sub Committee's suggestion of appointing only one District Pathfinder Scout Commissioner for Johannesburg, unsuitable. He pointed out that it would be a full time job and that it would be impossible to tackle so big a proposition. He suggested that a minimum number of four Commissioners be appointed for such supervision.

The Chairman stated that on consideration he also deemed it advisable to have a larger number and he appealed to the Council to help find him suitable people for the vacancies. Mr. Nicholls also endorsed the appeal.

/Rev.....

Rev. J.V.Cantrell notified the Council of his transfer to Swaziland and recommended his successor to membership of the Council. He added that the Superintendent of the Wesleyan Methodist Church had promised to allow greater facilities in future for his nominees to carry on Pathfinder Scout work. Rev. Cantrell asked that Council minutes should be sent to him at the new address, as he wished to keep contact.

Both requests were unanimously agreed to and a vote of thanks was passed to Rev. Cantrell for his highly appreciated services on the Council during the past years.

(c) Co-option of Members to the Council. The nomination of Mr. C.Tshello of Sophiatown was cancelled in view of his departure to further his studies.

(d) Registration Cards. The draft of the new application cards for Troop registrations and Personal Warrants was approved.

CCORRESPONDENCE. (i) A circular letter from the Chief Scout's Pathfinder Commissioner was received, drawing attention to an invitation extended by the Deputy Camp Chief of Natal, H.V.Marsh Esq., to all European Pathfinder Scout Officers at the 6th Wood Badge Training Course to be held at the Natal Gilwell Training Camp, Pietermaritzburg, from April 15th - 24th, 1938. The fee is £2. 2. 0 payable in advance, and the Chairman hoped that as many European Pathfinder Scout Officers as possible would avail themselves of this splendid opportunity for training.

The Chairman undertook to write a letter of thanks to Mr. H.V.Marsh in this connection.

(ii) A letter was also received from Rev.W.B.Modikoane of P.C. Schildpadfontein, asking the Council to send someone to visit the Troops in his area, as the need for such encouragement was long felt. Unfortunately no D/P/S/C was available, but it was felt the matter of such attention to Troops, especially those in isolated Country districts, was a grave business of the Council and this subject was referred to the next Council meeting for discussion.

FINANCE. In the unavoidable absence of the Treasurer Mr. Nicholls read the Financial Statement which reflected a Bank balance of £52. 5. 5 in No.1 a/c and £100. 2. 2 in No.2 a/c. The Petty Cash balance was £1. 6. 4. Mr. Nicholls added that the only outstanding debt, other than current accounts, was one of £30 with the Transvaal Division of the Boy Scouts Association, being remainder of purchase price of old Pathfinder stock. This amount would be cleared very shortly. Mr. Nicholls also reported that as a result of discussion with the Hon. Treasurer all the books of the Association were written up to date and the Treasurer was adjusting final details prior to presenting them to the Hon. Auditor for examination. As a matter of interest to the Council Mr. Nicholls gave a statement of the cash values of the stocks of the Pathfinder Scout shop as on the 31st March, 1937 and 30th September, 1937, and explained how the various items were made up. This statement was being forwarded to the Hon. Auditor.

/The Chairman noted .....

The Chairman noted with satisfaction that the affairs of the Council and the shop appeared to be on a sound basis again and was much indebted to those concerned for the good work done.

APPOINTMENTS AND REGISTRATIONS. Rev. Cantrell proposed, seconded by Mr. Magang that the appointments and registrations be approved as scheduled.

A G R E E D.

GENERAL. Mr. H.W. Shearsmith gave a brief report of a splendid camp held at Florida by the St. Peter's Pathfinder Rover Scout Crew, Rosettenville.

Noted.

The Chairman informed the Council that progress in Pathfinder Scouting matters was also noticeable in the Krugersdorp district. Mr. D.G. Lace, District Pathfinder Scout Commissioner in this area, was rousing the spirit of scouting and had asked the Chairman to come to Krugersdorp in his capacity as Actg. Divisional Pathfinder Scout Commissioner to enrol some Troops at a Rally which was to be held on Saturday, Nov. 27th, 1937.

Proficiency Badges and Service Stars. Mr. Nicholls referred to a noticeable confusion in the award of the new Scout Proficiency badges and Service stars to Pathfinder Scouts. There was no uniform ruling in the Divisions. The current P.O. & R. laid down definite requirements, but these were not being adhered to throughout, as detected from some doubtful cases of orders recently received at the Pathfinder Scout shop. He therefore felt that a motion should be put forward from the Transvaal Pathfinder Scout Council to the South African Pathfinder Scout Headquarters Council, asking the Chief Scout's Pathfinder Commissioner as Chairman to circularise the Divisions as to the correct conditions applicable to the issue of the new Scout Proficiency badges and the Scout Service stars to Pathfinder Scouts.

The proposal was seconded by Mr. I.H. Magang and unanimously agreed to by the Council.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING. This was left to be decided by the Divisional Pathfinder Scout Commissioner, Canon Woodfield, who was returning from Overseas. No meeting would be held in December 1937, as the Christmas vacation for schools would result in the absence of most of the members of the Council.

This ended the business and the meeting closed at 5.45 P.M.

Minutes confirmed at the meeting on \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_



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