

NORTH WEST DURHAM BATTALION BOYS' BRIGADE

REPORT OF BATTALION PRESIDENT - JUNE 2008

I am pleased to say that we have had a very positive year in terms of trying to reverse the downward trend reported last year and highlighted since on numerous occasions.

We began our forward planning with a very good afternoon spent at Consett in February, where it was great to just spend time together discussing the issues we are facing and then to also have tea together before summarizing and rounding off an excellent day.

Following on, many of the ideas from this event have been placed into a plan of action for next session to tie in with the 125th Anniversary Celebrations, which is now ongoing and almost upon us.

More recently we have examined in detail the rules and regulations of our competitions to make them more applicable to today's company numbers to try to encourage more participation.

At this point I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in all of this work, which is vitally important in the survival of the Battalion in what are still very difficult times.

So the past year has been one of preparation and planning, in order to utilize the 125th Anniversary to raise our profile in Derwentside and to attract new members into our organization.

We now need to look forward to the challenge ahead and to grasp the opportunities that we get with both hands in order to reverse the worrying downward trend that has been apparent in the past few years. I sincerely hope that we are ready for the challenge and am sure that if we are then we will obtain some positive results.

On a very positive note, I would like to congratulate 2nd Consett on reaching the semi final of the National Table Tennis Competition and 17th Delves Lane on reaching the final of the National Senior 5 a Side, this being the first time that this company has made it through to a National Final. Well done to both.

Finally, I would like to thank those who have held office during the past year, and especially those who have once again organised and run the events for the boys.

Many thanks to you all for the work that you do in your Companies, and in support of the Battalion.

Paul Knowles.