

NORTH WEST DURHAM BATTALION BOYS' BRIGADE

REPORT OF BATTALION PRESIDENT - JUNE 2009

There are signs that some of our recent publicity initiatives are beginning to pay off. Following the distribution of over 12,000 flyers in the Durham Advertiser throughout the areas where our current Companies meet, letting people know that there is still a BB Company in their area and publicising our website, we have had a number of enquiries and some new recruits.

Obviously we need to keep the B.B. as visible as we can in the areas where we operate with posters placed prominently where children and parents will see them, and this will be continued in the next few weeks with shop window displays in Stanley and Consett.

I would then encourage all Companies to put posters and notes into local infant and junior schools in September to again advertise the B.B. to new starters. If we can attract a 5 year old boy into our Company and then a few of his friends, hopefully they will grow through B.B. together and with good programming we will retain them through the Company. Most of us would be happy to have 3 or 4 boys in each age group in our Company, and this is where the re-building must start.

We have this year managed a very full programme of events for the boys, and although quite hectic in 2009 for Juniors due to the cancellation and re-arrangement of both of the competitions that should have been held before Christmas, it has all worked out so far. The weather has of course been better this spring and we have thankfully not had to cancel any of the outdoor events yet!

Again Companies have been quite successful in National Competitions, with 2nd Consett reaching the semi final of the National Master Team Competition and 17th Delves Lane reaching the semi final of the National Senior 5 a Side. Well done to both Companies.

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 and here's hoping for some new recruits for us all in September.

Paul Knowles.