

<http://73birmingham.boys-brigade.org.uk>

Lyndon Methodist Church, Melton Avenue, Solihull, B92 7QX. Church Tel: 0121 743 5608

Brief Introduction

The Boys' Brigade is a Christian youth organisation for boys of all ages, backgrounds and abilities. A varied programme of fun activities is offered, designed to educate, challenge and inspire young boys in a safe and friendly environment.

Meeting Information

Anchor Boys': ages 5-8

Meet Wednesday evenings 6:00pm-7:00pm

Subscription: £1 per week

Leader in charge: Jackie Wassall



Juniors: ages 8-11

Meet Monday evenings 6:15pm-7:30pm

Subscription: £40 per annum

Leader in charge: Jeremy Wassall

Company: ages 11-15

Meet Monday evenings 7:45pm-9:15pm

Subscription: £50 per annum

Leader in charge: Andrew Wassall



Seniors: ages 15-18

Meet Monday evenings 7:45pm-9:15pm

Subscription: £50 per annum

Leader in charge: Andrew Wassall

Company Captain: Matthew Baker

Company Chaplain: Chris Taylor

Band: ages 10 +

Meet Wednesday evenings 7:15pm-8:30pm

Band masters: Claire Frew & Andrew Wassall

Club night: ages 11+

Meet Wednesday evenings 7:30pm-9:30pm

Parade service: all sections

2nd Sunday in the month 10:15am-11:30am



The band playing at the opening of the BB Memorial Garden at the National Arboretum

Contents

Front Page	1
Contents Page	2
Introduction	3-4
Anchor Boys	5-6
Juniors	7-8
Company	9-10
Seniors	11
Behaviour code	12-13
Other activities	14
Fire procedure	15
Use of electronic communications	16

Introduction

Welcome to the 73rd Birmingham Boys' Brigade's handbook. This is designed to inform you of the different sections within the 73rd Company, what our Company offers children and young people, and general information about our Company.

The BB was founded in 1883 in Glasgow by William Alexander Smith and our objective is "The advancement of Christ's kingdom among Boys and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-respect and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness." This objective has remained the same since the formation of The Boys' Brigade and we strive to achieve it.

Here at The Boys' Brigade we welcome all children and young people and we do not discriminate on the grounds of class, family status, disability, ethnic origin or culture. We encourage the Christian faith, discipline, respect and fairness. We also offer a range of activities, classes and pursuits including; football, athletics, swimming, craft as well as being active participants in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. We are closely linked with our Church, Lyndon Methodist and our minister Julia Monaghan.

Our Company has been serving the young people of Solihull and Sheldon for 70 years and we are one of the largest companies in the Birmingham Battalion. Many of our members, past and present, have also gone on to achieve the Queens Badge award, the highest award available to Boys' Brigade members. Whilst we are very proud of our history we have a great desire to ensure our program is both dynamic and retains the interest of our members.



Junior and Company section awards evening, June 2009.

Our highest priority is the protection and safety of your child while they are having fun and adventures at Boys' Brigade. Hopefully the following headings will answer any questions or queries you may have, however if they that are not answered in this handbook then please speak to one of our Leaders who will be more than happy to help.

Leaders

All of our Leaders are CRB (Criminal Record Bureau) checked and have a considerable wealth of experience in youth work and Boys' Brigade in general. All leaders undergo a three-day 'Youth Leader Training' course as standard. Some of our most experienced members of staff have been members of The 73rd Birmingham Boys' Brigade Company for over 30 years!

BB Insurance Policy

While we take every precaution to keep your child safe, accidents can happen. To offer peace of mind to parents the Boys' Brigade has an Insurance Policy that fully covers every member while they are attending BB.

Parental Consent Form

In order for the Insurance Policy to be legally binding we require a Parental Consent Form to be filled out and signed on an Annual basis. This form will be given to the boys at the start of the session in September and must be filled out, signed and returned as soon as possible. If the form has not been returned by the beginning of October the boy will not be allowed to join in any sporting activity until we have received the completed and signed Consent Form.

Occasionally we will organise weekend activities and trips away, which may require an additional Consent Form to be completed, specifically to cover that Activity. We will notify parents by letter for any such activity and without the completed and signed Consent Form the boy will not be able to attend.

Photographs

We typically use photographs to promote the activities and work we carry out. To date this includes using photographs on our website (<http://73birmingham.boys-brigade.org.uk>), Boys' Brigade regional and national newsletters, and at events we invite Parents and Guardians to such as award evenings or our annual display.

Parents or Guardians may choose to exclude their child from all photographs by completing the appropriate section of the Annual Consent form.

If an individual indicates they do not wish to appear in any specific BB publicity that wish will be respected.

Personal Details

The only personal details that we collect from you are the details that you supply to us when completing one of our Consent Forms. The information collected is for the purpose of The BB insurance, and to ensure we have adequate information to use in the event of an emergency.

Annual Consent Forms remain with the Leader in Charge of your child's Section, and Special Activity Consent Forms remain with the Leader responsible for running that Activity. All information on the completed form stays with that Leader, other than 'medical details' and 'special needs' that may need to be shared with other Leaders of The 73rd Birmingham Boys' Brigade to ensure we are meeting your child's needs.

We will never share personal details with a third party outside The 73rd Birmingham Boys' Brigade, except under a medical emergency with the Emergency Services.

Email address are required on the Annual Consent form so that we can send you weekly or monthly notices, to keep you informed of what is happening in your child's Section. We will never send unsolicited spam to your email address. Please refer to Page 16 for full details on our 'Use of electronic communications'.

Behaviour Policy

Our Leaders are experienced and prepared to deal with many challenging behaviours from children and teenagers; however, there are some forms of behaviour that we will not tolerate from our Members. This includes Bullying, Violent and Aggressive behaviour, Excessive bad language, disrespect and backchat to Leaders and other Members.

Punishments for bad behaviour range from being told to sit out of an activity for minor transgressions, to phone calls home to parents for more serious offences. We may ask a parent to pick up their child early or give a suspension for a week or two weeks if we feel their behaviour is serious enough to merit it. In extreme circumstances we will ask a member to leave and not come back. Parents will be informed of the reasons and will have a chance to talk to Leaders about any such situation that occurs and a letter of such will be given. Please refer to Pages 12 and 13 for full details on our 'Behaviour Policy'.



Anchor Boys: ages 5 – 8

Meet Wednesday evenings 6pm – 7pm

In uniform unless advised otherwise.

Leader in Charge: Jackie Wassall (Tel: 0121 743 8918)

The Anchor Boys section is for boys aged between 5 and 8 years and all boys are welcome. We offer a varied program and our weekly activities include a wide range of both team and non-competitive games. During the evening we also create something wonderful during our craft time and have some quiet story time.

Anchor Boys will also have the opportunity to work towards gaining badges on the award program. The topics covered in the badge work are varied and include practical skills, like tying shoe laces and even a bit of cookery! There are five different program zones . . .

- Body – fit for fun
- Mind – think and do
- Spirit – god and me
- Community – me and my world
- Creativity – make and do

Throughout the year we enter competitions and events organised by the Birmingham Battalion and also our local Division. We also have an annual display evening held at Lyndon School in spring time, where the Company along with our Girls Brigade Company presents an evening of events to entertain parents, families and friends.



The devoted staff team in our Anchor Boy section is made up of trained leaders; some of us are Moms ourselves and two of us are ex members who have gone through the ranks of the Brigades and become leaders.

Our leader in charge, Jackie Wassall says;

“Most boys join our Anchor Boy section and we then have the pleasure of seeing them grow up and move through Juniors, Company and then the Senior section. Many stay on in the company and train to become Officers themselves. Very few lose touch completely. If you have any questions about your son joining Anchor Boys, please do not hesitate to contact us or come down and see what we do. Give us a try!”

What else do I need to Know?

Uniform

The Anchor Section uniform consists of a red Sweatshirt with an embroidered BB badge worn over a blue Brigade Polo shirt. These are worn with school trousers and black shoes.



Parade services

The Boys' Brigade is a Christian organisation and as such we encourage boys to attend Church at least once a month for the combined Boys/Girls Brigade service which is held every 2nd Sunday each month. This is a family service designed to appeal to all ages and we ask parents to support us by bringing their sons along to Church. Parents are of course very welcome to join in as well.

Meet the staff of the Anchor Boy section

Leader in Charge of Anchor Boys



Jackie Wassall

Leader



Simon Orme

Leader



Steve Bodfish



Juniors: ages 8-11

Meet Monday evenings 6:15pm – 7:30pm

In uniform unless advised otherwise.

Leader in Charge: Jeremy Wassall (Tel: 0121 743 8918)

Juniors is about . . .

- having fun and making friends
- enjoying lots of activities and trying new things

Our Junior program is designed to challenge the boys and give them confidence and a sense of achievement whilst having fun! Section meetings are crammed full of games and activities, many of which contribute to the Boys Brigade award programme.

The award programme is specifically designed to encourage a child to look beyond themselves. Many are interested in one type of activity - perhaps football, or other sport. The programme provides for such interests and at the same time gently urges them to try other interests of a different type. There are physical and adventure activities in 5 different programme zones . . .

- Body - fit for fun
- Mind - think and do
- Spirit - God and me
- Community - me and my world
- Creativity - make and do



Our company is very active in the local BB competitions so boys will get the opportunity to take part both individually and as part of a team in sports like football, athletics, hockey, cricket, chess and swimming. We encourage all boys to participate regardless of their ability. Juniors will also get to go on trips and days out, to places like Laserquest, theme parks or a farm, as well as going on a weekend camp to Earlswood.

From June onwards the section meets at the park off Wagon Lane (weather permitting) and the boys get to go tracking in the wooded area there as well as playing games and sports.

Through the many different activities, Juniors will . . .

- Learn about themselves
- Get to know people and learn to work together
- Explore their community
- Personally develop

What else do I need to Know?

Uniform

The Junior Section uniform consists of a royal blue Sweatshirt with an embroidered BB badge worn over a blue Brigade Polo shirt. These are worn with school trousers and black shoes.

Parade services

The Boys' Brigade is a Christian organisation and as such we encourage boys to attend Church at least once a month for the combined Boys/Girls Brigade service which is held every 2nd Sunday each month. This is a family service designed to appeal to all ages and we ask parents to support us by bringing their sons along to Church. Parents are of course very welcome to join in as well.



Meet the staff of the Junior section

Leader in Charge of Juniors



Jeremy Wassall

Leader



John Evans

Leader



Trevor Bodfish



Company: ages 11-15

Meet Monday evenings 7:45pm – 9:15pm

In uniform unless advised otherwise.

Leader in charge: Andrew Wassall (Tel: 0121 743 8918)

Those in the Company Section take part in the Discover programme that enables you to take part in a fun, balanced and challenging programme, be recognised for your effort and achievement, and build trusting relationships.

It's all about learning new skills, making your own decisions and having fun. BB provides a safe environment to explore new possibilities and achieve personal goals while making friends and having adventures. Within Discover there are 3 programme zones as follows:

- Community
- Recreation
- Skills



And it's up to each young person to work out which opportunities are relevant for them, whether it's improving football skills, podcasting or recycling.

Every young person should also expect . . .

- To experience new challenges
- To be listened to and have a say
- To be respected and valued
- To have fun

Throughout a typical evening, boys participate in various activities which contribute to the badge scheme. We try to invite various guest speakers wherever possible, the most recent being Lorely Burt our local MP for Solihull, who came and gave an insight into life in Parliament and in her local constituency.

Here are just some of typical our activities:

- PE & physical training for Duke Of Edinburgh's Award
- Home, fire and road safety
- Map work, expedition skills, first aid and life skills
- Interests such as glass painting, electronics, IT skills
- Photography, sign language, forensic science, nature, cooking.....

We also participate in events such as Football, Swimming, Athletics, Chess and Cross Country with other Boys' Brigade companies in the Birmingham Battalion.

What else do I need to Know?

Uniform

The Company Section uniform consists of a blue shirt with an embroidered BB badge, a BB tie, a BB belt and an armband. These are worn with school trousers and black shoes.

Parade services

The Boys' Brigade is a Christian organisation and as such we encourage boys to attend Church at least once a month for the combined Boys/Girls Brigade service which is held every 2nd Sunday each month. This is a family service designed to appeal to all ages and we ask parents to support us by bringing their sons along to Church. Parents are of course very welcome to join in as well.

Meet the staff of the Company and Senior sections

Leader in Charge of Company and Seniors



Andrew Wassall

Leader & Chaplain



Chris Taylor

Leader and Captain



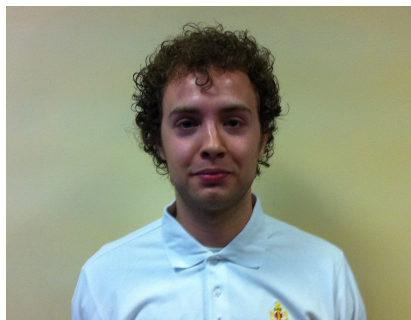
Matthew Baker

Leader



Graham Tredinnick

Leader



Tim Williams

Leader



Sam Monaghan

Leader



David Rowe

Leader



John Mendus



Seniors: ages 15-18

Meet Monday evenings 7:45pm – 9:15pm

In uniform unless advised otherwise.

Leader in charge: Andrew Wassall (Tel: 0121 743 8918)

Seniors take part in the Challenge Plus programme, which is made up of Projects and Challenges.

Projects

These include taster sessions that act as an introduction to a topic and are then followed by a longer project that is designed and led by the young people. Projects are grouped into 3 programme zones . . .

- Community
- Life Skills
- Recreation & Leisure

Challenges

These are focussed on activities that could be completed by the group or as an individual ranging from 'Climb a Munro' to 'Review a local takeaway'.

There are also opportunities to work towards; The Duke of Edinburgh' Award, Young Volunteer Awards and The Queen's Badge.

It's all about learning new skills, making your own decisions and having fun. BB provides a safe environment to explore new possibilities and achieve personal goals while making friends and having adventures. And it's up to each young person to work out which opportunities are relevant for them, whether it's sport's officiating, fundraising or DIY.

Every young person should also expect . . .

- To experience new challenges
- To be listened to and have a say
- To be respected and valued
- To have the opportunity to develop a personal Christian faith

Whenever it's possible the seniors like to go out for the evening, sometimes joined by the girls from GB. In the recent past we've been to the Driving Range at Four Ashes, we've also been bowling and to laser quest and also tobogganing olvome in Tamworth. Nights out also involve eating at various venues such as Woks Hall or Nandos. New ideas are always welcome!!

What else do I need to Know?

Uniform

The Senior Section uniform consists of a blue shirt with an embroidered BB badge, a BB tie, a BB belt and an armband. These are worn with school trousers and black shoes.

Parade services

The Boys' Brigade is a Christian organisation and as such we encourage boys to attend Church at least once a month for the combined Boys/Girls Brigade service which is held every 2nd Sunday each month. This is a family service designed to appeal to all ages and we ask parents to support us by bringing their sons along to Church. Parents are of course very welcome to join in as well.

73rd Behaviour code



- Come to section meetings as regularly as you can - every week if possible.
- Arrive on time and in full uniform unless advised otherwise.
- Treat everyone, boys and leaders with kindness and respect.
- Join in and work as a team.
- Be a good sport.
- Pay attention and listen when a leader is talking or giving instructions.
- Attend parade services in church. (2nd Sunday each month).
- Be well behaved in public, conduct yourself in a manner which brings you credit and also the company and the Boys' Brigade.
- Come and have FUN!!!!
- Use bad language or verbally abuse other people.
- Fight or physically harm anyone.
- Make fun of anyone because they are different from you.
- Bully any other boy(s).
- Cause any damage to the building or its fixtures.
- Bring inappropriate items to meetings.
- Tell lies or take things which don't belong to you.
- Waste time or be disruptive, especially during devotions.

What will happen if you break the rules?

It is important that all boys' in the Company are safe and feel safe. In situations where behaviour does not meet expectations, the incident will be discussed with the boy to find out what has happened, to remind him of expectations and to explore how to avoid the situation occurring again. The boy may receive a verbal warning, and if difficulties continue a leader will speak to the boys' parents. If the problem is reoccurring and others are placed at risk, a boy may be suspended from the Company for a leave of absence while a productive way forward is sort. As a last resort, the boy may be asked to leave the Company.

As leaders of the 73rd we will:

- Set you a good example and keep all the rules you are expected to keep.
- Be mindful of your safety at all times.
- Listen to you and give you help and advice if you have a problem.
- Reward your achievements and help you to correct your failures.
- Explore with you the challenge of the Christian Faith.
- Prepare interesting, educational and fun activities for the section meetings.
- Organise exciting trips and outings.

Our procedures for discipline

Depending on the type and severity of the incident:

1. Any Leader will deal with the situation there and then, by talking to the child, explaining the consequences of their actions and to remind them of expectations.
2. If difficulties continue, the Leader in Charge of that particular section will have an informal chat with the parent(s) at the end of the session.
3. A letter will be written by the Leader in Charge & Company Captain to arrange a consultation with the child's parents. As a result of the consultation, a strategy is to be discussed and agreed mutually between both parties on how to proceed from here.
The Church Minister is to be informed at the beginning of this stage and will be involved in the consultation with the parents and the Company Captain in order to evaluate future conduct.
It may seem appropriate for the child in question to have certain privileges revoked or may be requested to take a leave of absence.
4. The Captain and Minister are to arrange a meeting with the child's parents to ask them to leave to Company.

Notwithstanding the above, immediate action may be necessary to ensure the wellbeing and safety of members of the Company.

Other Activities & Information

Anchor Boys

Throughout the year, Anchor Boys may have organised trips to venues such as the Sea Life centre, West Midlands Safari Park etc.

It is imperative that you provide us with an appropriate child restraint if we are to transport your child to and from an event so that we comply with seat belt legislation. Unfortunately if you do not provide us with an appropriate child restraint, it will not be possible to take your child on the trip.

Use of seat belts and booster seats:

From September 2006, with few exceptions, children travelling in cars will be required to use an appropriate child restraint. In vehicles where seat belts are fitted, children aged 3 years to 135 cm in height (approx. 4ft 5ins) MUST use the appropriate child restraint.

"Child restraints" is the collective term in the seat belt wearing legislation for:

- baby seats - rear-facing and for children up to 13 kg (approx. age birth to 9-12 months);
- child seats - forward facing and for children 9 kg to 18 kg (approx. 9 months to 4 years);
- booster seats - for children 15 kg to 25 kg (approx. 4 to 6 years);
- booster cushions - for children 6 years and up.

Band (Ages 10+)

The origins of the Band go back to the formation of the Company when the Bugle Band was formed to lead Church Parades and provide Buglers for calls at Camp.

In the 1970's the Band was transformed into a combined BB/GB Band and changed to valved instruments in the wind section, a whole range of percussion equipment and marching bells.

The Band has been a part of Battalion, West Midlands District and National BB/GB Band Contests for many years and the name of the 73rd Birmingham can be seen on many of the trophies awarded in these events since the formation of the modernised Band.

So far this year we have seen 3 members of the band win individual trophies in the Battalion Band Competition of which we were runners up for. We have taken part in Sunday church services playing alongside the congregation during the hymns and also performed for the BB/GB display.

Many young people have enjoyed the experience of marching with the Band and have been able to use their Band membership for BB and GB awards and The Duke of Edinburgh's Award and we have a mix of ages from nine to nineteen so anyone can take part.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award (Ages 14+)

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme is a national programme for young people between the ages of 14 and 25 which consists of five sections; skills, community, volunteering, residential and expedition. The award scheme recognises achievement at bronze, silver and gold levels and is a positive and inclusive award, open to all young people regardless of ability or disability.

The 73rd Birmingham Boys' Brigade and 2nd Solihull Girls' Brigade have a long association with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. Victor Harding, a former member of our company was the first boy in Warwickshire to gain the Gold back in 1958, and he was also the first boy in the Birmingham Battalion of The Boys' Brigade to achieve the Gold Award. He travelled to Balmoral Castle in Scotland to receive the Award from the Duke of Edinburgh. Since then, many other young people have achieved bronze, silver and gold awards.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme remains a popular feature of our programme and is run throughout the year. Our practice and assessed expeditions currently take place at the Cotswolds in Gloucestershire, the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire, the Long Mynd in Shropshire, the Peak District National Park, Snowdonia National Park and Dartmoor National Park.

Procedure In The Event Of Fire

1. Fire alarms are not installed in The Church Centre. On discovery of Fire the alarm must be communicated verbally and cascaded to all.
2. Exit from The Centre must be carried out immediately via one of the three Fire Exits. Use the Fire Doors signposted in the Lounge or The Sports Hall, turning left down the side of The Centre towards the front of the building, or exit through the main door.
3. Leaders should ensure that the above is carried out and check that all present are aware of the emergency and vacating the building, bearing in mind their own safety.
4. All members will assemble on the grassed area on the corner of Melton Avenue and Lyndon Road. The most senior Leader will take charge and check that all are accounted for.
5. The use of any Fire Extinguishers in The Centre will be determined by Leaders only. Any decision to use an Extinguisher will only be made bearing in mind personal safety.

Created:

John Mendus
January 2006

Reviewed:

Matthew Baker
December 2010

The above 'Procedure In The Event Of Fire' is located on all Section noticeboards for reference. On top of this all young people will be given the above as a verbal briefing and a fire drill will take place at least once a year.

Use of electronic communications

For the mutual protection of all young people and staff alike, The 73rd Birmingham Boys' Brigade have put together a set of guidelines for usage of electronic communication between leaders, young people and parents.

Please read this carefully, paying particular attention to refraining from contact using 'social networking' websites such as Facebook, and promote this to your child.

- 'Friendship links' and all forms of communication between young people aged under 18 and leaders of The 73rd Birmingham Boys' Brigade is not permitted on any social networking website (Facebook, Bebo, Twitter, MySpace etc).
- All outbound email communication is restricted to Section Leaders and the Company Captain. This will typically take the form of weekly or monthly email notices to parents/guardians.
- For Company and Senior aged boys (14-18), The 73rd Birmingham Boys' Brigade Administrator of the Duke of Edinburgh's award and The Boy's Brigade Presidents & Queens badge may email parents/guardians and their child, with the aim of progressing that child through that particular award.
- In the event of your son making email contact with another member of staff, this should be restricted to "business issues" only, such as requests for details of times/dates/venues/costs etc. In reply, Leaders have been instructed to carbon copy the Captain, and wherever possible, their parent or guardian, enclosing your son's original email.
- Lyndon Methodist Church currently administers a 'Facebook Group' for Breakfast Church, for young people aged 12 to 18 years of age. This is used to communicate information in an open environment to all members within the 'Breakfast Church Group' (primarily used to advertise the Sundays Breakfast Church meet). Members of the 'Breakfast Church Group' whether young people or leaders, are not needed to be directly connected to each other in order for the 'friendship links' for the 'group' to function.

You will know that all Section Leaders' details, including email addresses are published on all Company publications in order for you, as parents, to be able to communicate with us easily and effectively. We would like to re-assure you that whilst we want to reduce the chances of inappropriate communication taking place we are very focussed on ensuring that your son enjoys his time at Boys' Brigade as much as possible and that you are kept fully informed of all that is going on in effective manner.

If you have any concerns with any of the above please do not hesitate to speak to the Company Captain.