



7<sup>th</sup> April 2010

The Scout Association Patron – HM The Queen President – HRH The Duke Of Kent Chief Scout – Bear Grylls Founder – Robert Baden Powell

To all Beaver, Cub, Scout and Explorer parents & carers  
Daviot Oldmeldrum Scout Group

Dear Parent or Carer,

Many of you may not be aware that the Group owns a large multi-pole canvass marquee which it loans out to organisations and individuals who wish to use it for various events. In the past these have ranged from private functions such as weddings and garden parties, to steam engine rallies, motor bike rallies and even as a covering for excavations during an archaeological dig! You will have seen this marquee if you have ever attended one of our bi-annual Cheese and Wine parties at Daviot.

In return, the individuals and organisations give a donation to Group funds and it would not be exaggerating to say that the funds raised from the marquee make up the majority of the operational costs of running the Group and making sure all the activities that our children enjoy during their weekly meetings can actually take place. Without these funds we could not keep our annual subscription charges as low as we do. Our annual fees are the lowest in Gordon District scouting, however the bulk of these annual fees go towards Scout Association membership fees, various levies and insurance charges with only a small percentage left over to actually run the scouting programme.

For the last ten years and more the marquee has been quietly and efficiently co-ordinated by Ian Milton who stepped-down from this role last year. When the marquee is booked a small team of volunteers goes with Ian to set up the marquee on one evening and returns after the event to dismantle it and put it back into storage (at Mackies Farm). It is all part of the loan "service" for which the donation to the Group is paid.

It was always envisaged that the volunteer construction team would be drawn from the whole parent body of Daviot Oldmeldrum Group and I am writing to remind everyone that that is still the case even though Ian has now stepped down from the co-ordinator's post.

We already have 5 bookings for the marquee on various dates over the spring and summer. Given that the size of the construction team is usually around half a dozen, and with a parent body of over one hundred families, it is still more than likely that you will never be called upon to lend a hand to the Group in this way. Think of it a bit like Jury Service! However, if you are given a call for assistance by me or one of the other Leaders I will be very grateful if you could agree to giving up a few hours of your time to help us provide this service which directly helps our children get the most out of their Beaver, Cub, Scout and Explorer meetings and activities.

Thank you all for your support.

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**Mike Bidgood**

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