



# West Anglia Steadfast Association Newsletter

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## Welcome to the second edition of West Anglia Steadfast Association

The West Anglia Battalion consists currently of eleven active companies from Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes. This relatively new battalion was formed by a merger of the old Bedford & district, Luton & district and Milton Keynes Battalions in 2001.

This newsletter hopefully will be an effective way to stay in touch with current & former officers, helpers and ex-members and aid to form a Steadfast Association.

The main aim being to **"Further the Object of the "BB" and to foster the spirit of comradeship between past and present members of the Brigade and to render service to others."**

## Introducing the New Battalion President

Hi everybody,

I would just like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new President of The West Anglia Battalion of the Boys' Brigade.

I stepped down as captain of the 1st Kempston Company, after 30+ years in harness and had my arm gently twisted to accept my current position.

Therefore I am very familiar with current BB thinking, aware of the trials and tribulations as well as the highs and buzz moments that BB can generate.

I have also had experience the workings of two other Battalions, as Kempston was initially part of the Nene Valley Battalion and then had several years in the Bedford and District before joining The West Anglia.

I look forward to contributing the occasional article to the Steadfast Association Newsletter as a way of keeping you informed of what the Battalion is up to, but in the mean time, don't forget to visit the Battalion web site occasionally.

**Dave Baker**

*"I remember the good old days in BB when..."*

*Starting in this edition as a regular feature, "I remember the good old days in BB when..."*

*"I remember the good old days in BB when... there was a BB activity offered everyday;*

*Band-Mon,  
5-a-side  
Football-Tue,  
Gym- Wed,  
Table Tennis-  
Thurs,  
Parade night-Fri  
Football  
training-Sat,  
Bible class-Sun"*

**Daniel Ciantar**

**Ex-member of 1<sup>st</sup>  
Kempston 1990-2002**

**If you "remember  
the good old days  
in BB when..."  
contact us!**

**[contact details can  
be found on the front  
page]**

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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Bedford's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

2<sup>nd</sup> Bedford is the oldest company in North Bedfordshire and is in fine shape to face the future. We currently have 60 boys on the roll.

In Sept 2006 we shall be celebrating our Golden Jubilee!

**Fri 29<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Old Boys Dinner

**Sat 30<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Morning: Special activities being planned for every section

Afternoon: Legends Football Match ~ a challenge to ex-members to find out, just who was the best and perhaps a few old scores to settle

Evening: 50<sup>th</sup> Display 6:30 – 8:30pm ~ We hope to welcome as many old boys and staff as possible, and a warm welcome is extended to Battalion Staff to join in this occasion

**Sun 1<sup>st</sup> Oct:** Morning: Celebration Service @ Brickhill Baptist

### ***All Welcome to join us.***

The company is also seeking to produce a book, recording its 50 years. If anyone has any photos/stories of the company, then do please contact the Captain.

An anniversary badge and bible is to be presented to every member and a new set of colours are being dedicated – all these have been provided by funds gifted from old boys.

So whilst we are remembering the past, the company is firmly fixing its gaze on the future; Our grand plan is to take the company to 100+ boys for the first time in our history.

We'd love to have some new helpers/officers on board to help in this challenge.

We launch a new Drum and Trumpet Corp Band in September and we are looking to purchase two 12-man tents so that we can resume outdoor camping with the older boys.

We would love to welcome you to our anniversary weekend.

Regards

**Allan Tresidder (Captain) Tel (01234) 319269**

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*Do you have any questions current or past BB wise?*

*Contact us and we will try to answer your questions*

### Dates to note

*2<sup>nd</sup> Bedford's Anniversary events; 29<sup>th</sup> Sept-1<sup>st</sup> Octo 2006*

*125<sup>th</sup>*

*Anniversary Special Event @ Bedford Corn Exchange Sat 8<sup>th</sup> November 2008 (pencil this date in your diary's, more details to follow)*

*If you have any dates to note for inclusion in this newsletter, contact us!*

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## You old Boys!

- Do you have any BB stories you would like to share in this newsletter?
- Are you looking for any of your old mates or colleagues?

*Why not write or email in to us to include in the next edition!*

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## BB Uniform

The BB has had a number of different uniforms within its 123 years. Currently, at the end of this session, we reach the last time where any old BB uniform styles can be worn on official brigade business. When the original decision was made back in 2000 a six year introductory period was agreed for the change to gradually take place, so not to create an unnecessary additional expense to parents. (As normally lads grow at a fare pace in six years, and would outgrow any old uniform –As I am sure many parents will testify!)

Because of this, for want of a better word, expiry date a small contingent in the Brigade has suggested that there should now a last ditch attempt to retain all old versions of the uniform for formal occasions. Now I know many old Boys, Officers and Parents will fondly remember the old uniforms of the Brigade and yes the new uniform whilst more practical may not involve three tins of Duraglit (For the current lads that is what you use to Clean the Brass Bits!!) But despite these memories, the Brigade must move on. The decision was made six years ago to scrap all the various former uniform versions and create one new uniform that would be worn up and down the country, hence the term uniformed youth organisation –what will happen at the vote, who knows but it is my hope that this idea is strongly defeated, we have made the change lets not now look back!

**Below: The newest BB uniform**



Taken from kbbnews; May 2006 edition, official newsletter of 1<sup>st</sup> Kempston Company, and can be found at [www.kbb.org.uk](http://www.kbb.org.uk) click on kbbnews. Author: Philip Timms

At the end of this session the results are:

1<sup>st</sup> Kempston are 5<sup>th</sup> time Champions' Cup Holders for the Seniors & Company Sections

2<sup>nd</sup> Bedford are Champions' Cup Holders for the Junior Section

23<sup>rd</sup> Luton are the Anchor Boy Champions' Cup holders

*Well Done to all who participated!*

## Battalion Competition Results 2005/06

The results this session are:

Champions' Cup scores					
		Senior	Company	Junior	Anchor Boys
1st Bletchley	1B		17	15	14
2nd Bedford	2B		89	<b>118</b>	61
3rd Bedford	3B	18	99	106	18
1st Flitwick	1F	16	53	82	42
1st Harlington	1H		13	94	
1st Kempston	1K	<b>53</b>	<b>103</b>	24	44
15th Luton	15L	26	40	86	
20th Luton	20L	27	88	116	59
22nd Luton	22L		49	56	
23rd Luton	23L		65	59	<b>64</b>
1st Newport Pagnell	1NP		18		

# Invest in the future

# Invest in us



## Become a leader

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