

# BNI2020 CHALLENGE TROPHY 22<sup>nd</sup> Year

Dear Leader,

We invite you, or at least a team from your Troop, to take part in the 2020 BNI Challenge Trophy Competition. There is a place, as of right, for every Troop in the District, in our twenty-second year. Please, do everything you can to give your Scouts the opportunity to take part and, perhaps, get their names on the Trophy.

Not much has changed since 2018, mostly detail, but a major, behind the scenes change is, the so called BNI Document. Once a magazine sized, printed document, then a CDROM and lately a 'memory stick'. Now, as you will have found, it's all in this section of the Lambeth District website at [www.lambethscouts.org.uk](http://www.lambethscouts.org.uk)

Another small, but far reaching change for this year only, is the date. The UK Government have changed the Mayday Bank Holiday, usually the first Monday in May, to the second Friday (8<sup>th</sup> May 2020) this year. So, the 2020 **BNI Challenge Weekend** will be from **21:00hr Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May to ~ 14:00hr Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020**, at **Hamlet Wood Scout Camp, Stockett Lane, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 0QG**. They will be home on Sunday for an early night and still full of adrenaline for Monday morning.

The final, mostly administrative, change is who will be running it, in the future? The answer is; Frankie Postles from the 4<sup>th</sup> Streatham Sea Scouts. Not just because he is a past winner of the BNI Trophy, but because he is the 'man for the job'. Frankie will be 'shadowing' me for the 2020 edition and then I will 'shadow' him for 2024. Then.....?

The rules are clear, the age range is 10 years to fourteen years + 182 days at the start of the competition. Teams must have a minimum of *five invested Scouts* and a maximum of *seven*. We've had Cubs being invested into the Troop on the Saturday morning of the competition and a fourteen-year-old going over the 182<sup>nd</sup> day on the Sunday. How you go about doing things is entirely your affair, of course, but our experience shows there are things you can do to maximise the chances of any, given team. Five is a bit too small, the workload is too high, and in some cases, the physical effort is too great. Having said that, teams of five *have won* the competition. Teams of seven, oddly enough, are too big and the focus tends to become undirected, with people standing around with their hands in their pockets. Six then, is the ideal team.

We have had virtually all ex Cub teams and they have done surprisingly well, but there is no substitute for a fourteen-year-old PL, with three thirteen-year-old 'heavy mob' operatives and two or three mixed 'other ranks'. And don't ever be tempted to assume all boy teams will do better. Look at the names on the trophy in 2016 and 2018.

If your Troop has never taken part, if you have never taken part personally or, brought a team yourself, don't worry. Part of the BNI 'Philosophy' is the principle of HELP. There is always something we can do to help – *if you just ask*. The earlier we know about your problem, the better chance we have of fixing it. *Ask*.

Although there is a lot to read and take in, our advice is to read it – all of it, especially the Registration notes and forms - almost everything you need to know is there, somewhere. We give you *nearly* everything, but if there is a question, ask it as soon as you have it. So, please, crank up your Group Treasurer, get your team entries in as soon as possible and start training your team/s.

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