

3 October 2008

MILITARY EXERCISE - LOCH ERIBOLL 9-16 OCTOBER 2008

An amphibious exercise involving approximately 300 personnel from the Royal Marines and French Army will take place in Loch Eriboll during the period 9-16 October 2008. Troops will operate in small groups conducting landings and subsequent operations on privately owned land in the Eriboll area. The exercise will be conducted under the aegis of Exercise JOINT WARRIOR; the large NATO maritime exercise held bi-annually off the coast of NW Scotland. The amphibious element will involve up to 300 troops with the possibility of a small amount of helicopter movement and fast jet activity during daylight hours. Troops will carry weapons as part of their normal equipment and the exercise will include the use of blank ammunition and pyrotechnics in areas where permission has been granted to do so. Some noise disturbance may be experienced. Concerns and complaints relating to exercise activity should be directed to one of the points of contact: Before and following the exercise: Major (Retd) John Pullman, G3 LTAR, Headquarters 51 (Scottish) Brigade, Forthside, Stirling FK 7 7RR. Telephone: 0131 310 4938, mob: 07810 813120 or e-mail: john.pullman291@land.mod.uk During the exercise: Major Pullman will be contactable on 07810 813120. Out of Hours: HQ 2 Div Staff Duty Officer, Craigiehall South Queensferry EH30 9TN. Tel: 0131 310 2211. Flying Complaints: Sqn Ldr John Gilbert, Royal Air Force Regional Community Relations Officer Southern Scotland, Canonbie, Dumfries DG14 OXF, tel: 01387 381156.

Dog Trials

RESULTS OF DURNES OPEN SHEEPDOG TRIAL 2008

Judge: Jock Sutherland

Open:-

1. Michael Shearer – Bob 96 Points

2. Hamish Maclean – Roy	94 Points
3. Ewen Mackinnon – Nan	91 Points
4. Ewen Mackinnon – Roy	89 points
5. Stewart Grant – Vicky	88 Points
6. Murdo Murray – Jim	88 Points
7. Iain Mackay – Bob	88 Points
8. Hamish Maclean – Kim	87 Points
9. Michael Shearer – Cap	87 Points
10. Derek Murray – Kylie	83 points

Specials:-

Best Outrun	Iain Mackay & Judy
Best Fetch & Drive	Hamish Maclean & Roy
Best Shed	Willie Davidson & Mac
Best Pen	Jimmy Lamont & Turk
Best Command	Scott Renwick
Best Lady	Jasmine Ross
Best Dog Bred & Handled By Competitor	Michael Shearer & Bob
Best Dog Born & Bred in Sutherland	Martin Mackay & Spot
Highest Pointed Handler	
Never Won an Open	Donnie Ross
Best Sportsmanship	Hugh Johnston
Best Working Shepherd	Stephen Mackinnon
Best Caithness/Sutherland Dog	Michael Shearer & Bob
Youngest Competitor	Stephen Mackinnon
Oldest Competitor	Donnie Ross
2 Dog Aggregate	Michael Shearer
Donald Campbell Cup	Murdo Murray
Most points in County of Sutherland	Derek Murray
John Lennon Trophy	Ewen Mackinnon & Gyp

Local:-

1. Neil McKenzie – Kate	71 Points
2. Martin Mackay – Spot	66 Points

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|----------------------------|-----------|
| 3. Stephen Mackinnon – Ben | 64 Points |
| 4. Angus Baillie – Ben | 54 Points |

Specials:-

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|--------------------|-------------------|
| Best Outrun | Martin Mackay |
| Best Pen | Stephen Mackinnon |
| Best Shed | Neil McKenzie |
| Best Command | Martin Mackay |
| Best Fetch & Drive | Martin Mackay |
| Best Sportsmanship | Angus Baillie |
| Best Kept Dog | Martin Mackay |

50 Dogs ran



Village Hall Seminar

From the sixteen village halls in North West Sutherland stretching from Lochinver to Melvich thirteen were represented at the Village hall seminar in Durness last Saturday. In March this year a national event was held in Avimore regarding the value and uses of Village halls in Scotland. It was apparent from this gathering that the different use standards and scales of halls throughout Scotland were vast. As there was only a very small representation from the North West CVS North contacted and visited all the halls in the area and

estimated from the response that there was support for a North West Hall and community building seminar.

The day started with an opening and welcome from the Chair of CVS North Kirsteen Mackay and was facilitated throughout the day by development Officers Frances Gunn and Ronnie Lansley. After a general introduction on the responsibilities of hall committees to fulfil the criteria for legislation, each hall was discussed in turn with their recent achievements, aspirations and concerns.

David Ingils gave talk on his new post as licensing Officer for Sutherland and Caithness with specific reference to the guidance for voluntary organisations in the licensing (Scotland) act 2005

All alcohol licensing law in Scotland is currently changing, the process will be rigorous and applicants are encouraged to submit applications as early as possible especially for premises not recently licensed or where there might be public safety issues. David clarified many of the concerns and misunderstandings that have been created regarding the new Act. Guidance notes for completion of the application forms will shortly appear on the Highland Council's website.

After lunch Mark Brennan from the Crofters Commission explained the work of Rural Direct service which will offer advice, support and technical expertise to help rural community access funding including the new Rural Priorities scheme. If communities want to refurbish village halls, develop new local services or come up with a long-term plan for community development, then a new service run by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations and the Crofters Commission can help make the most of the funding programmes that are available

Jon Priddy explained the purpose in historical terms of the new company Community Energy Scotland. This agency is setting out to build confidence, resilience and wealth at community level through sustainable energy development. Its vision is of a self-financing community energy sector in Scotland underpinned by an extensive network of revenue-generating renewable energy projects. Jon explained in a concise presentation the process and assistance and service that can be obtained with funding for projects of all sizes.

The Highland Council were represented by Lawrence Jamieson Area Community Learning & Development Officer Caithness, Sutherland & Easter Ross and Andy Mackay ward manager for north and west Sutherland. Lawrence outlined the main source of Highland Council

funding and 'Who's Who' in his department and where help can be obtained for village halls. An informative summary of a comprehensive handout entitled Capital Funding for Village Halls gave an informative insight into the process and requirements with sources of help for those seeking funds. Andy gave a synopsis of the ward discretionary budget held by the local councillors George Farlow and Linda Munro were present and apologies had been received from Robbie Rowantree, and the areas where help has been given and the priorities to the decisions on future funding.

Kirsty Bateson from K Bateson Consulting gave a presentation on effective fundraising covering how to present an idea to potential funders, writing a proposal and proper evaluation.

The day was concluded with a demonstration of Funder Finder, an electronic software package that allows searching through grant giving trusts and organisations to match project proposals. This service is offered by CVS North. Christine Ross from Voluntary Groups – East Sutherland gave an outline of The Community Toolkit, a resource that has been developed for and with the help of community groups, to help improve skills and knowledge and bring benefits to local communities. There are guidelines on a range of topics, including setting up and running a community group, legal requirements and good practice, planning and fundraising for a particular project and where to obtain useful statistical data.

Trina Hastings Development Officer from Voluntary Action Highland assisted CVS North by taking notes and information which will be used to further evaluate the day. It is planned to present the outcomes and findings in an information package that will be distributed to all those that attended and be incorporated in to CVS North website.

The first North west Sutherland Village Hall seminar, attended by forty people, was seen as very positive and gave opportunities to hear about everyone's plans and activities and despite the problems being encountered by the majority of halls – e.g. funding and committee recruitment, there was a very positive feel about the whole day and a willingness to work together, share information and good practice. There is a great diversity of type of building and state of the structures. It was clear that village halls in the area are all important assets to the communities and villages that they serve. Although changes in their uses have altered in recent years they were necessary for the ongoing stability of communities. Many were now

identifying these new uses and how the facilities can be maintained and reorganised to meet the new demands.