

## **A Message from our President**

### **‘I want it so I will go and get it...’**

The ‘August Riots’ in Wolverhampton and in many towns and cities around England, besides making us feel ashamed to be English, have made us realize just how far we have to go to make an impression on some young people. Most people, when asked on ‘Facebook’, about the reasons for the riots, responded with the answer: ‘Selfish Greed’ this was seen as the main reason why people were killed, homes and business premises trashed and shops looted or burned to the ground. They simply wanted ‘stuff’. Looters, when interviewed, just said ‘I want it so I will go and get it...’

The cult of selfishness and greed, of course, has been around for a very long time. Status in society is seen, by some, as owning as much as possible. In Biblical times it was animals, farming land - even servants! Today it’s mobile phones, computers, trainers, flat screen TV’s, designer clothes etc.. Some people’s lives seem to revolve around buying things – massive purchase power is often seen as being the best aspiration for young people and they are frequently led to want fame and the riches that go with it. People with big ‘spending power’ are regarded as ‘heroes’ and role models for youth. For me, this simply does not seem to be right, since, for a start, such wealth is not readily obtainable by legal means unless you are mega-talented at football, win the lottery, or prepared to wait for many years whilst working really hard. And when you get that wealth, does having it make you happy or fulfilled? - NO, generally it does not. There is nothing wrong with aspiring to do well, aiming for a good life, working hard or developing your talents. Those of us who have been around for a while however, know that as adults we accumulate a lot of stuff... stuff we didn’t have, or even want when we were kids; but does this make us ‘great’ ?

When asked by his disciples, Jesus was clear about who was the greatest in the kingdom of heaven...

‘So Jesus called a child, made him stand in front of them, and said, “I assure you that unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the Kingdom of heaven. The greatest in the Kingdom of heaven is the one who humbles himself and becomes like this child. And whoever welcomes in my name one such child as this, welcomes me.”’

One job of the Boys’ Brigade, is to show young people that there is a better way to grow up than simply wanting to get ‘stuff’. May the Lord give you his blessing as you start the 2011-12 Session and seek to influence, by example, the children and young people in your Company.

Rob. Bolton  
Battalion President