**1ST UXBRIDGE BB**

**CAPTAIN’S REVIEW OF 2022-2023**

It’s hard to believe that another BB year has passed. However, we find ourselves at the end of another session. This session has been a challenging one, but also a very busy and enjoyable one, as this year we were able to completely return to pre-Covid activities.

We started off the year with a night hike for our Company and Senior boys which they all enjoyed. Early in November our Anchors and Juniors joined with other companies from across the battalion for a games, craft, and gymnastics afternoon.

Also in November, we held our usual firework party, and it was again good to see a large number of parents from both BB and GB enjoying the small low noise display and then afterwards burgers and hot dogs in the hall. As usual in November, we also attended the Civic Remembrance Service at the Piece memorial in Uxbridge and together with the girls laid a wreath on behalf of the BB and GB.

We ended 2022 with our usual Christmas party where we said goodbye to Sanches Wang who had been with us for the past year while his dad had been working at Brunel University. It was great to have him with us and see him develop. We presented him with a BB Medallion and a small book of photos to remind him of his time with us.

The second half of the year was a busy one for us all. Our Juniors, Company and Senior boys enjoyed a visit to the Mayor’s Parlour where they were met by the Mayor, Cllr Becky Haggar and her husband and Mayor’s consort, Mr. Marios Kaikitis. The boys were given a talk about the mayor’s role, and also had the opportunity to ask some questions. After some very nice refreshments the boys were taken into the council chamber where everyone (staff as well) took part in a short debate, presided over by the mayor herself, to give everyone an idea of what goes on. We were very impressed with the way every boy joined in. Maybe we have a few future counselors amongst us!

In March we took 15 of our boys to Heathrow Bowl to join other companies in the Battalion for a game of 10 pin bowling.

Since the end of last year our Company and Senior boys had been working hard practicing Drill and 3 person Colour Drill, under the tuition of Mr Paul Hotton, former Captain of 2nd Uxbridge. This was to prepare for the London District Drill competition. Our lads were amazing and really performed on the day, winning the single line drill and coming second in the 3-person colour drill. We now have plans to enter again next year and come away with both trophies!

As we are now able to have residential events again our Junior boys joined with the Junior girls for our first sleepover for 3 years. They visited Kidzania for the day on Saturday where they were able to run free and earn their Kidzo’s (Kidzania money) all in a safe and secure environment, while the staff sat and drank coffee!

Company and Senior boys enjoyed another weekend on the canal with a trip from Harefield to Apsley marina and back.

Anchors are not allowed to have residential events; however, they did not miss out on a special event as we were invited by GB to join the Explorers for an afternoon with a visit from ***Falconry UK*** where they learnt about a few birds of prey and got to hold some as well.

At the end of last year, we applied to the council for a £1500 ward grant. This is something we have done in the past and been lucky with. We were pleased to again be awarded the grant and that meant that for our residential events for Juniors, Company and Senior boys and our Anchors event we were able to subsidise the amount the boys had to pay by at least half the cost. We were also able to purchase 2 new, up to date laptops for company use.

We have continued to hold our coffee mornings at Christ Church across the year, managing to raise over £300 for our Company funds to help with the work we do. This is largely due to the fantastic cakes provided for us each time by Christine Newell, Harry, Luke, and Daniel’s nan. A big thank you to her for keeping us stocked up every coffee morning, it makes such a difference Thank you.

As usual, it was great to finish the year with another well-attended display. Thank you to everyone who came along to share it with us.

So, as another BB year comes to an end, congratulations and well done to all our boys who have received badges and awards this year.

My thanks go to everyone who has been involved with us over the past year. Thank you to our staff, Graeme Moran and James Bowman for their work with the Company and Seniors, to Noelia Bowman for her continued help and support in running Anchors and Juniors with me, to Paul Hotton for his patience and perseverance ‘drilling’ our older boys to Graham Hinton for standing in when needed over the past year to ensure that we can continue to meet when other staff members are unable to be around.

Finally, and most importantly, a big thank you to all our parents for your support throughout the year. For bringing the boys along each week and for making sure they are well turned out, and for the help getting the boys to and from a few of our activities. All your help and support is very much appreciated.

Thank you too to all the members and staff of Christ Church for their continued support and prayers throughout the past year.

We will again be finishing the year with our annual BB/GB family Barbeque next week, 21st July, and we hope to see you there.

As we finish another year, we look forward to the 2023/2024 session and all that it brings. We pray that the coming year will be a good one as we continue to Advance Christ’s Kingdom among Boys.

**We begin our new session on Friday 8th September 2023**

Don’t forget, you can keep up to date with all our news on our facebook page @1stuxbridgebb

For anyone who wants to know more about us just visit our website at [www.1stuxbridgebb.org.uk](http://www.1stuxbridgebb.org.uk)

**Have a good summer everyone and thank you for your continued support.**

**God Bless**

**Paul**

(Company Captain)

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**The BB Object:-** The Advancement of Christ’s Kingdom among boys and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-Respect and all that tends towards a true Christian Manliness.