

**REPORT TO THE NATIONAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**  
**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2009.**

The Committee established for the Review of Scouting Ireland's Constitution and Rules has now met on a number of occasions.

With regard to the Terms of Reference for the Review the Committee is in a position to comment and conclude as follows:

- A) Structure and Format of the existing Constitution and Rules documentation.
- The documents would benefit from a reorganisation.
  - Such a reorganisation would benefit to the members of the Association and facilitate access to required text.
  - While a proposal to bring both documents into one, (without impacting on the requirement that the Articles of the Constitution have certain conditions before amendment is made), is, prima facie, possible, it is felt that further exploration would be required to be certain of its benefits.
- B) Content of the existing Constitution and Rules documentation.
- The text of both documents would benefit from correction and such would improve the clarity of a number of Articles and Rules.
  - It is possible to highlight a number of inconsistencies in the documents for further attention
- C) Governance of the Association and possible / consequential constitutional reform.
- These are matters for debate and discussion with a view to bringing forward proposals to facilitate consideration. The process is the first step and clarity on the extent of the process is important and to be sought.
- D) Specific Issues identified by the National Management Committee regarding the foregoing matters and others.
- It is possible to consider each of these issues and comment, make recommendations and proposals for further action.
- E) General
- A Review such as that envisaged by the National Management Committee will take significant time. A Review of Articles and Rules, other than a reorganisation of the document and refinement / improvement of the existing text will require significant consultation and careful explanation of any proposals.
  - While a Review appears to be desirable it needs to be recognised that the Association has a Constitution and Rules which governs the operation of the Association since its formation. A Review does not necessarily result in change. There should be no suggestion or implication that the current Constitution and Rules is ineffective.

- Some of the difficulties being experienced seem to be with regard to interpretation of the current Constitution and Rules. The establishment of a committee, dedicated to providing assistance to the National Secretary and the National Management Committee or otherwise on the interpretation of the existing (or alternative/future) Articles and Rules could be explored, such as that which exists for the World Scout Committee.
- The Committee would prefer some clarification on how the National Management Committee would like it to proceed further.