



10TH KL AIR SCOUT GROUP

A HISTORIC JOURNEY

by
Rohan Talalla

About the Author

Rohan Talalla is a true-blue product of MBSSKL, joining Standard 1 in 1972 right until Upper 6 in 1984. He served in the Prefectorial Board from Form 4 and was the School Vice Captain (1983/84).

Persuaded by his parents, themselves a Scout and a Girl Guide, he reluctantly joined the Wolf Cubs in Standard 3 but only developed a keen interest in Scouting in Standard 5. Since then, there was no looking back.

His leadership skills and enthusiasm led to him being appointed Patrol Leader of Eagle Patrol in Form 2 and Reginald Joseph Mitchell in Form 4. Badgework pursuit took centre stage in Form 4 and together with three other Scouts, he successfully attained the coveted Pengakap Raja (King Scout) Award in 1983.

He assumed the role of Assistant Scoutmaster (Boy Scouts) in 1983 and subsequently, as its Scoutmaster. This gave him the opportunity to pass on his learnings to budding scouts of 10th KL.

In 2021, he embarked on this two-and-a-half-year writing project, enthralled by the stories of exciting adventures regaled in the Old Boys' Whatsapp chat group. This writing journey presented him with a valuable opportunity to rekindle ties with his scouting buddies.

He fervently hopes that this write-up, his legacy paying tribute to his cherished Scout Group, would become a living document, replenished from time to time with new stories and exciting adventures of the younger generation of Scouts of 10th KL.

HOW THIS WRITE-UP CAME ABOUT

The idea of recording 10th KL's many achievements and exploits was mooted on 10 April 2021 in typical Malaysian fashion - over a late-night supper at a roadside stall!

The Author, Rohan Talalla was chatting with Gary Lee Chuen Inn (current Asst. Group Scout Leader) about the exciting escapades and adventures on the Whatsapp chat group of 10th KL's older generation scouts, affectionately called, 'Old Boys'.

Taken aback to learn there were no records kept, Rohan gamely volunteered to embark on a simple exercise to pen down milestones and achievements of 10th KL through the ages. It was meant to be a simple chronological summary of events, in table form, totalling no more than three pages.

Enthusiasm and passion soon took hold and thus began this two-and-a-half-year project. Once completed, it would be gifted to 10th KL.

The Scout Leaders' Council saw this as an opportunity to bring to life the Troop's rich and vibrant history and decided to take this to the next level in the form of a book. Earlier attempts over the years to produce a documented version of 10th KL's history somehow did not materialise. Determined to see this through, Choo Chon Ming (Asst. Group Scout Leader) promptly stepped up to identify and pull together a team of suitably qualified individuals to form a publication team.

This team, comprising of 10th KL scouts across the years, convened their first meeting on 1 July 2023 at KC Den, bringing their unique expertise to the drawing table and together, mapping out an action plan with timelines.

Under the guidance of GSL Choo Yew Kuen, these five individuals then worked in seamless collaboration to produce 10th KL's first officially documented history book.



Project update briefing and endorsement to the 10th KL Scout Leaders' Council at MBSSKL's Boardroom (13 August 2022)



*(Above and below)
Publication Team's First Meeting at KC Den (16 September 2023)*



BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE



The Publication Team

Left to right:

*Choo Kit Sing, Dr. Wong Tuck Meng, Choo Yew Kuen,
Rohan Talalla, Choo Chon Ming, Wong Hsien Loong*

Choo Yew Kuen (GSL / Project Sponsor)

As the Group Scout Leader, Choo provided reassuring guidance to ensure the team was motivated and persevered in realising its goal.

Rohan Talalla (Project Lead / Co-Editor)

Rohan gained much from his time as a Scout and Scouter in his earlier years and this now provided him an additional opportunity to contribute back to the Group.

Wong Hsien Loong (Graphic Designer)

Hsien Loong's expertise in graphics and layout design, with over a decade in this profession, made him a crucial member of the team.

Choo Chon Ming

(Scout Leaders' Council Liaison)

Chon Ming's role liaising with the Council and as a solution provider in overcoming hurdles was critical to the team's progress.

Dr Wong Tuck Meng (Co-Editor)

Having authored several publications on Malaysian timbers, Dr Wong's keenness for detail proved invaluable in reviewing and finetuning the manuscript.

Choo Kit Sing (Printer)

Kit Sing's vast experience and expertise in printing proved a value-added component, bringing with him innovative ideas and reassurance of output quality.

**MESSAGE FROM DR TAN HOI WENG
PROTEM CHAIRMAN
10TH KL AIR SCOUT GROUP COMMITTEE**



Dear All,

It gives me great pleasure and pride as the ProteM Chairman to pen a foreword for this memoir on our scout movement journey since its formation to the current day.

The 10th Kuala Lumpur Air Scout spirit is still ablaze in our hearts with love and memories of the early and pioneering founders of this movement at MBSSKL. We reminisce those days of camping, journeys and scout activities.

This compilation of the history of the Scouting Movement, starting from the Brownsea experimental camp, to the shores of Malaya and to the formation of the 10th KL Air Scouts Group is well narrated. We hope this will shine as a legacy to guide the current and future generations to experience and enjoy scouting as to lay well the groundwork for character-building for future leaders towards the development of Malaysia.

I congratulate the Author and the Publication Team for their dedication to the 10th KL Air Scouts Group in making this book a reality after much research and effort. My appreciation also goes out to all those who have contributed in one way or another to make this book a success.

This book is also a timely tribute to our alma mater MBSSKL, which has just celebrated its 125th Anniversary in 2023.

Throughout my career and family life, I have tried my best to keep in mind the Scout's motto, "Be Prepared" and to bring to life the 10 Scout Laws into my daily routine.

Well done, my Brothers! To all, happy reading and I hope this brings back fond memories of your scouting yesteryears.

Dr Tan Hoi Weng

**MESSAGE FROM CHOO YEW KUEN
GROUP SCOUT LEADER (GSL)
10TH KL AIR SCOUT GROUP**



Dear Brother Scouts,

It is indeed a great privilege to share my thoughts on this write-up on the history of our scout group.

I stand proud to be a 10th KL scout, having joined the Boy Scouts section in Form 1 in MBS (Secondary) KL and moving onto the Senior Section, then Rover Crew, to Scoutmaster and to my current position as GSL.

In my six decades of scouting with 10th KL, I have had the privilege to be part of the character-building foundation blocks of a great number of boys. Despite their differing backgrounds, socio-economic settings and mindsets, one common trait they possess is their spirit for adventure. This has led to them organising a great many events and expeditions in their scouting journey.

Sadly, much of our vibrant history has faded but thanks to the dedication of an old boy, Rohan Talalla, our history has now been pulled together as much as possible and penned down into this

document. His work is the culmination of two and half years' effort, tracking down and interviewing over 25 individuals, piecing together information, painstakingly validating facts, details and dates, collecting photographs and researching on the internet for relevant information.

My valued thanks go out to the other members on the Publication Team comprising, Choo Chon Ming, Wong Hsien Loong, Dr Wong Tuck Meng and Choo Kit Sing. They have indeed contributed with their respective skills to realise this project.

This write-up is meant to be a living document of 10th KL's history - to be reviewed periodically, corrected and amended where fresh information is gathered, and updated with new milestone achievements as history progresses.

Having our history etched into our hearts and minds - and now in print - we

stand ever so proud, remembering the contributions of our founding brother scouts, their thrilling expeditions, the myriad of challenges they faced and the spirited adventures they embarked on.

I hope this historical log of 10th KL serves to spur the current and upcoming generations to chart their own memorable journey, taking the learning of their scouting days and applying this experience throughout their adulthood and careers.

With this core essence of scouting, we hope this would be the building block for them to be a good citizen and leaders in their home, community and nation.

Wherever you find yourself, be reminded that you are a member of the 10th KL, a brother to every other scout and to uphold the 10 Scout Laws in your endeavors.

Choo Yew Kuen

MESSAGE BY ROHAN TALALLA
AUTHOR



Dear Brother Scouts,

The 10th Kuala Lumpur Air Scout Group exemplifies the rich and vibrant spirit that the global Scouting movement stands for. Together, we've experienced the brotherhood camaraderie forged through our regular Saturday meetings, camps, hikes and expeditions, all instrumental toward character-building and instilling positive values in ourselves.

This document seeks to record 10th KL's journey from its inception, its formative years and to its present-day operations, a journey rich with chequered milestones and adventure-filled achievements.

Dilligent, painstaking effort was made to validate events, dates and names, but sadly, due to fading photographs and memory, some details are unfortunately best-guess estimates. Hence, readers' kind understanding and indulgence is greatly valued.

While names of key figures contributing to the progressive development of 10th KL have been highlighted, there would invariably be names omitted. This is purely unintentional and inadvertent, as the numerous individuals contributing to scouting development of the boys over the years does not make it feasible to include all of them here. Our sincere apologies, as it is not the intention to slight anyone.

Nonetheless, this document is meant to be a living document, updated periodically as time progresses. It seeks to provide an insightful testimony of 10th KL through its eventful decades and of its vivid characters - the stalwart Scouters and spirited boys, showcasing the strong Scouting spirit sparked by the vision of one man, Lord Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell of Gilwell.

It would be remiss if tribute was not duly accorded to our alma mater, the Methodist Boys' (Primary and Secondary) School, Kuala Lumpur, being an august educational institution. Its guiding principals, inspirational teachers and enthusiastic students passing through this institution's hallowed hallways contributed greatly in upholding 10th KL's time-honoured traditions.

Together, wherever we are, irrespective of age, let's continue to embrace the Scouting spirit and ensure 10th KL's campfires continue to shine ever so brightly, radiating outwards and warming our hearts and minds.

"Once a Scout, Always a Scout".

Rohan Talalla

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FIRST STEPS OF SCOUTING

THE BIRTH OF SCOUTING

Lord Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell of Gilwell. This is the indelible name of one man with his far-sighted vision to instill strong, positive character in young boys.

Drawing on his weather-beaten Army experience, he formulated an exciting outdoors-oriented training skills programme to cater to adventure-seeking young boys, or 'Scouts', as they came to be known as.

In 1907, Baden-Powell wrote a draft called Boy Patrols. In the same year, to test his ideas, he gathered 21 boys of mixed social backgrounds and held an 8-day camp in August on Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour, Dorset, UK. His organisational method, now known as the Patrol System and a key part of Scouting training, allowed the boys to organise themselves into small groups with an elected patrol leader.

The birth of Scouting is generally acknowledged to be this 1907 Brownsea Island Scout Camp. From this experimental camp, there was no looking back.

From that moment onwards, the Scouting spirit radiated steadily outward throughout the British colonies, appearing on the shores of Malaya around the 1910s.



Robert Baden-Powell in 1896



Postcard of the first Scout encampment at Brownsea Island (August 1907)



*A popular picture of the Founder of the Scouting Movement,
Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell*

https://en.scoutwiki.org/Robert_Baden-Powell
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brownsea_Island_Scout_camp

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SCOUTING SNIPPET

The 1907 Brownsea Island Camp

This camp in Poole Harbour, Dorset, UK, is acknowledged to be the starting point of the Scouting movement. The 21 campers consisted of boys from schools in the London area and interestingly, also from various Boys' Brigade units.

As a badge of honour and a token of appreciation of their attendance, it was only fitting that B-P later issued a copper fleur-de-lis badge to all participants of this experimental camp.

Scouting popularity gradually spread across continents and established itself as a worldwide youth movement, with well over 57 million members from 216 countries.



<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scouting>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Scout_Emblem

<https://www.scout.org/scout-movement>

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10TH KL's
FORMATIVE YEARS
(1910s - 1949)

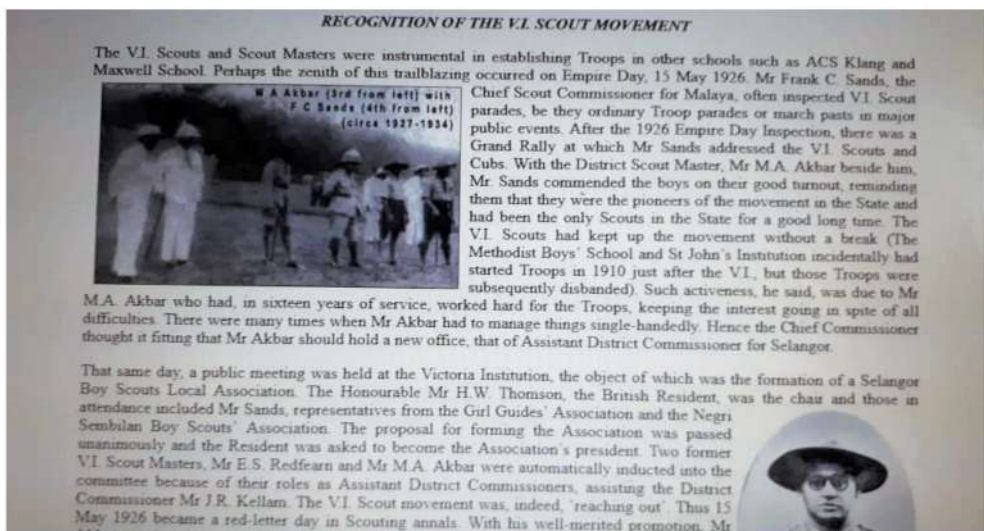
THE FORMATION OF 10TH KL (1907)

Tracing the point of origin of the 10th KL Scout Troop of the Methodist Boys' School Kuala Lumpur is a formidable task. Then, both the Primary and Secondary school was one entity, hence referred to as 'MBS'. From past recorded interviews of old Scouters and anecdotal evidence, the MBS Scout Troop seemed to have started in 1915. The absence of early Scout Troop registration records at the Boy Scouts Association of Malaya (BP House) is most unfortunate. Hence, 1915 seems to be the generally accepted conception of the MBS Scout Troop.

Of intrigue however, is a publication from the Victoria Institution's Scout Troop, in which the MBS Scout Troop was mentioned to exist even before 1915 (see photo below). There, it states

that the Scout Troop of Methodist Boys School, KL was started in 1910, alongside another Troop from St. John's Institution. It further mentions both Troops were subsequently disbanded.

Could it be that the MBS Scout Troop was later resurrected in 1915, hence tying in with the past anecdotal evidence? Or was it simply an error of publication? As it stands, more substantive evidence is required to make a firm determinant as to the birth of the MBS Scout Troop. Until then, we are inclined to leave the date of birth of 10th KL as 1915, not intending this write-up laying unsubstantiated claims for the sake of simply etching deeper on MBS's Scout Troop's family tree roots.



Excerpt from VI KL's Scouting History Brochure

ONE SCHOOL, TWO TROOPS (10TH KL AND 15TH KL)

From 1915 onwards, it is believed that due to the popularity of the Scouting movement at MBS, there were more than adequate numbers to form two separate entities, run entirely on their own with separate Scoutmasters heading each Troop: Scoutmasters Ng Tham Ken and V. Durainayagam ran the 10th and 15th KL Troop respectively.

Although running in parallel, both Troops were well aligned in terms of colour of uniforms and training programmes, based firmly on B-P's Scouting tenets.



*Methodist Boys School,
Davidson Road (now Jalan Hang Jebat),
Kuala Lumpur, 1904*

SCOUTING SKILL PROVES LIFESAVING (1931)

Sadly, there is little documentation existing of 10th KL's formative Scouting years. An exception however, was an article in the local newspapers in which an MBS Scout was credited with saving the life of a young boy from drowning.

On 12 November 1931, Chang Kong Lam, a Senior Troop Leader from MBS, happened to be in the vicinity of a mining pool in Sg Besi when he chanced upon an unresponsive 10-year-old boy who had just been pulled out from its deep waters. Having learnt the Schaefer resuscitation method as part of his scout training, he immediately applied this and successfully managed to resuscitate the boy.

For his strong presence of mind and swift action to save a life, he was aptly awarded the Scout Gilt Cross Gallantry Medal. This prestigious award, the third highest in the Scout Awards, was presented by Sir Lancelot Henry Elphinstone, the then-Chief Judge of the Federated Malay States (1929 – 1932).

A PLUCKY SCOUT.

Decoration for Saving A Drowning Boy.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Kuala Lumpur, Nov. 12.

Troop Leader Chang Kong Lam, of the Methodist Boys' School Troop, Kuala Lumpur, was presented with the Scout



Troop Leader Chang Kong Lam.

Gilt Cross yesterday by Sir Lancelot Elphinstone in the presence of a large assembly of his brother Scouts.

He received this honour as a reward for saving the life of a drowning boy near Kuala Lumpur.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lancelot_Elphinstone



SCOUTING SNIPPET

Scouting Reaches the Shores of Malaya

It is believed that Scouting in Malaya was first introduced in Penang in 1908 as an experimental troop at the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) before spreading throughout the entire peninsula.

In 1934, Lord Baden-Powell and Lady Olave Baden-Powell undertook a historical visit to Malaya, stopping by Penang, Kuala Kangsar, Ipoh and Kuala Lumpur.

On 1 September 1957, closely following Malaya's declaration of independence, the Boy Scouts International Bureau formally extended a membership to the nation's Scouting body, the Federation of Malaya Boy Scouts Association.

This Association later became known as 'Persekutuan Budak-Budak Pengakap Malaysia' (Boy Scouts Association of Malaysia), officially regulated by an act of Parliament through The Boy Scouts Association of Malaysia (Incorporation) Act No. 38, 1968.

<https://54.bw.penangscout.org/history-of-scouts-malaysia>



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Or email to :
10kl.airscoutgroup@gmail.com

Thank you.