

# **51st Renfrewshire (2nd Renfrew) Scout Group**

## **The Rover Mate**

The Rover Mate (R.M.) is to his Rover Crew what the Patrol Leader (P.L.) is to a Patrol of Scouts. His position is a privileged one in that he is elected to the job of R.M. by vote of the Crew, in the belief that he is by experience, and practice, the most able Rover in the Crew.

Personality, ability to lead, one who is reliable, are all features of a good R.M. and the right man for the R.M. must be evident in any Crew.

The R.M. does not assume any vastly superior position within the Crew. Although he may be called upon to undertake the duties of Rover Scout Leader (R.S.L.) in absence. Rather he has the job of binding the Crew together into a team. He knows the Rovers in all probability much better than the R.S.L. for he is of their own age and is on an equal footing with everyone else in the Crew. Warranted Scouters, and young Squires are all Rover Scouts (R.S.) together in the Crew. The R.M.'s example, like that of the R.S.L.'s, should be patient, tolerant, understanding, cheerful and have a sense of humour. Often the R.M. is called upon to make sacrifices, time and money may be spent by the Mate in helping Squires and the Rovers in the Crew, who are sponsoring them and planning fresh programmes, in doing his best for the Crew in general.

The R.M. and the R.S.L. are good friends, so much so that they have the Crew's pulse constantly under their fingers and know at a touch how things are going. The R.M. is wise to keep at least two moves ahead of anyone else in the Crew, so that he has always something ready at his fingertips. A wise R.M. will keep a lookout for possible R.M.'s within the Crew, so that after he has carried out his task efficiently, he may want to stand down and give another Rover the chance of Crew Leadership.

Let us remember the R.M. of to-day should be the R.S.L. of tomorrow. A Rover Scout of experience who knows really well the scheme of practical training outlined in Policy, Organisation and Rules, by his own personal effort he makes himself efficient for the sake of the crew. But the R.M. will watch his position carefully – he will never assume a position that places him above any other member of the Crew. The two red strips on his left shirt pocket are a charge of responsibility, not an indication of superiority or rank. But it is a weak Crew if the R.M. has to do all the work.

Again a determination on the part of every member of the Crew, to be loyal to his R.M. and R.S.L., will result in a Crew habit of sharing jobs and responsibility, whether they are jobs of service, helping in the Pack or Troop, or arranging the training of the Crew.

A Rover's key note should be Service Not Self

*[Transcriber's Note: Taken from an old, typed document, date unknown.]*