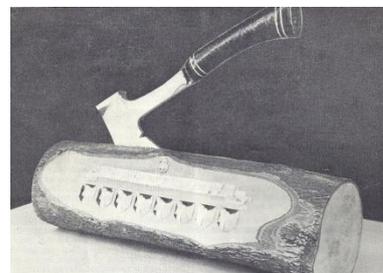


The Bata Toughees Challenges (Circa 1960's to early 1980's)

In 1960 Bata offered in a spirit of service to the youth of South Africa to sponsor some constructive Scouting project, and so the annual Bata Toughees 50-Mile Hike was born, with Bata rendering a significant service to the youth of our country and [Vic Clapham](#) the driving force from Scouting.

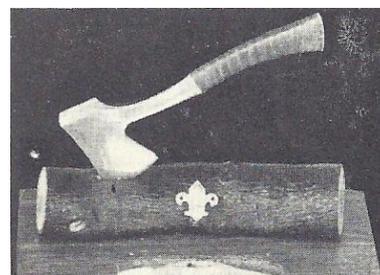
1960 - 1st Bata Toughees 50 mile Hike

It was of course, no ordinary hike - indeed, at the outset, many adults felt it was too demanding. But the boys of South Africa felt otherwise, and countless thousands of all races completed the project over the first ten years. Broadly, the project involved hiking 50 miles (80Km) in open country, with three overnight camps, to Scouting hike-camp standards. As it evolved there were categories for individual, Patrol and Troop participation, and the major challenge lay in the Logbook competition, in which Scouts log in detail every mile of the way.



Toughees National Trophy
(Floating)

Though prizes and certificates were available on Divisional basis, the annual competition reached its peak when the best Divisional logbooks were sent forward to SAHQ for National Judging - the overall winner holding the coveted *Bata Toughees National 50-Mile Hike Floating Trophy* with his name and unit engraved on in silver, to hold for one year.



Toughees National Trophy
(Replica - to keep)

Initially there were two awards - the Senior Award where a Logbook was produced for the full 50 mile hike and the Junior Award where the Scout hikes the full 50 miles but does not complete a Logbook.

1967 - 7th Bata Toughees 50 mile Hike

Theme 'For Friendship'

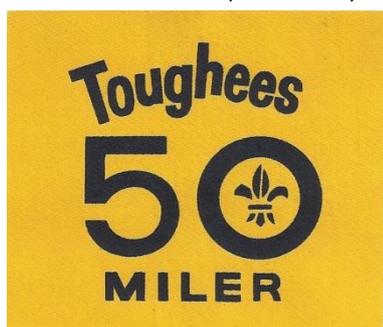
Two new awards were introduced: - The Patrol Award for a standing patrol in which 5 or more members took part and 2 or more members submit a Logbook and the Troop Award where 2 or more standing Patrols within the Troop had qualified for the Patrol Award.

1970 - 10th Bata Toughees 50 mile Hike

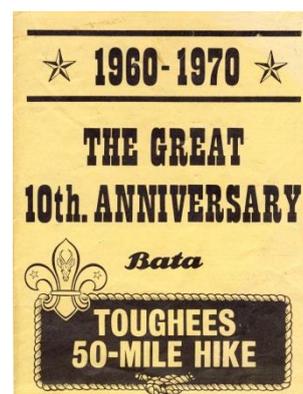
Theme 'The Great Anniversary'

A celebration of ten years of its existence, and the project - which was open to Scouts in the European, Coloured, Indian and African Associations - had seen a vast number of miles hiked; and the standard of hiking had improved tremendously, under the stimulus of the prizes; awards, certificates and other similar material so generously offered by Bata.

Hikers who had gained an Award more than once were entitled to Ribands for 100 (i.e. 2X50), 150 and 200 miles.



Scouts were given two badges, one to put on their rucksack to show that they were on the hike, and one for their campfire blanket after having completed the hike.



To celebrate the 10th Toughees Hike a 36 page bilingual Hiker Handbook was published with illustrations and guidance on how to do a Logbook.

The following introduction to the book was written by the then Chief Scout Carveth Geach.

"The words which Robert Louis Stevenson wrote 73 years ago, never fail to stir-the blood of a real hiker:

Give to me the life I love,
Let the lave* go by me;
Give me the jolly heavens above,
And the byway nigh me

**Lave, the flow of a river*

In this day and age of physical ease, the joys of hiking are known to all too few of our youth.

Therefore when, a decade ago, Bata offered in a spirit of service to the youth of South Africa to sponsor some constructive Scouting project, and the annual Toughees 50-Mile Hike was born, Bata rendered a signal service to the youth of our country.

In the ten years of its existence, this project - which is open to Scouts in the European, Coloured, Indian and African Associations - has seen a vast number of miles hiked; and the standard of hiking has improved tremendously. Under the stimulus of the prizes; awards, certificates and other similar material so generously offered by Bata.

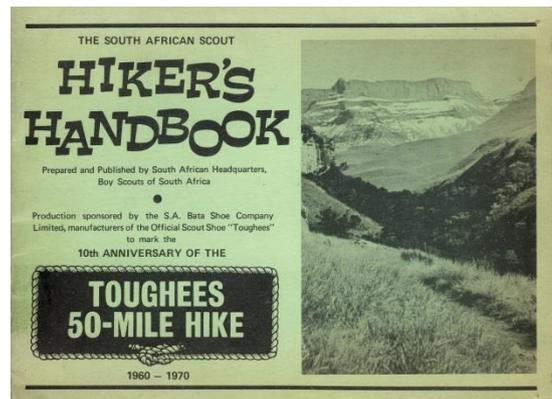
It is, of course, no ordinary hike - indeed, at the outset, many adults felt it was too demanding. But the boys of South Africa felt otherwise, and countless thousands of all races have completed the project over the past ten years. Broadly, the project involves hiking 50 miles in open country, with three overnight camps, to Scouting hike-camp standards. There are several categories for individual, Patrol and Troop participation, and the major challenge lies in the Logbook competition, in which Scouts log in detail every mile of the way. Some idea of these requirements can be found in the pages that follow.

Though prizes and certificates are available on Divisional basis, the annual competition reaches its peak when the best Divisional logbooks are sent forward to SAHQ for National Judging - the overall winner holding the coveted Bata Toughees National 50-Mile Hike Floating Trophy.

In a world often critical of modern youth, perhaps the most important thing that emerges, on the 10th Anniversary of the Toughees 50-Mile Hike is that South African boys indeed bear the stamp of their adventurous forefathers. From the Namib Desert to the rugged Transkei, from the Drakensberg mountains to the Blyde River canyon, few parts of this big, rough country have not seen Scouts participating in the challenging Toughees 50-Mile Hike. Trekker, Second Class and First Class hiking are a lead-up to bigger adventures like the Toughees 50-Miler, and this booklet will serve as an invaluable guide to the candidate in these Tests.

Thank you, Bata, for ten years of fruitful co-operation. And thank you, too, for making the production of this hiker's handbook possible."

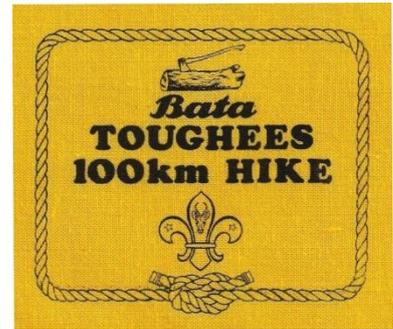
C.H.GEACH
Chief Scout 1968 - 1973



1974 - 14th Bata Toughees 100 Km Hike

Theme *'The Great Nature Trek'*

This hike was made more adventurous by extending the hike distance - on the Chief Scout's authority - from 80 Km (50 miles) to 100 Km. This was in direct response to the call of the young leaders of all races who at 'Pitso 73' who called for more challenge and adventure. There was a strong emphasis on Conservation during the hike and this coincided with the introduction of the Scout World Conservation Badge.



Campfire Blanket patch

1975 - 15th Toughees 100 Km Hike

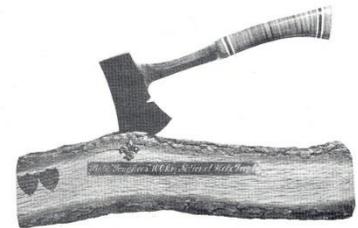
Theme *'Hike and Seek'*

The focus was on problem plants. In salute to Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden - host countries for Nordjamb the booklet honoured Carl Linnaeus, the renowned Swedish botanist.

1975/76 - 16th Bata Toughees 100 Km Hike

Theme *'Hike as you like'*

This hike gave the Scouts the choice to choose their own theme. The period was changed to run from September to August so as not to coincide with Matric exams. A new Senior National Floating Trophy and a new 'Keepsake' trophy and a new Junior National Floating Trophy was introduced.



Snr Nat Floating Trophy

1976/77 - 17th Bata Toughees Hike

Theme *'Go Rock-Hounding'*

Combining the thrill of treasure hunting with adventure hiking and discover the earth's hidden treasures. How to hunt for fabulous gemstones was detailed in the July 1976 edition of 'Veld Lore'.

1977/78 - 18th Bata Toughees 100 Km Hike

Theme *'Walk with Nature - Work with Nature'*

The primary objective of this hike was 'Blaze a Nature Trail, Other Scouts can follow'. The idea being that the Logbook would go into the troop library so that Scouts in years to come could use the logbook hiking the trail that was pioneered.

1978/79 - 19th Bata Toughees 100 Km Hike

Theme *'Cultural Exploration'*

Code named 'Operation Culture Vulture' it was based on the assumption that the 15th World Jamboree in Iran would take place and its theme was a Jamboree for Cultural Development. It was also a 'Join-in-Jamboree' activity promoting human understanding and peace among all people. The idea being on the hike to seek, observe and record in the logbook anything of cultural interest.

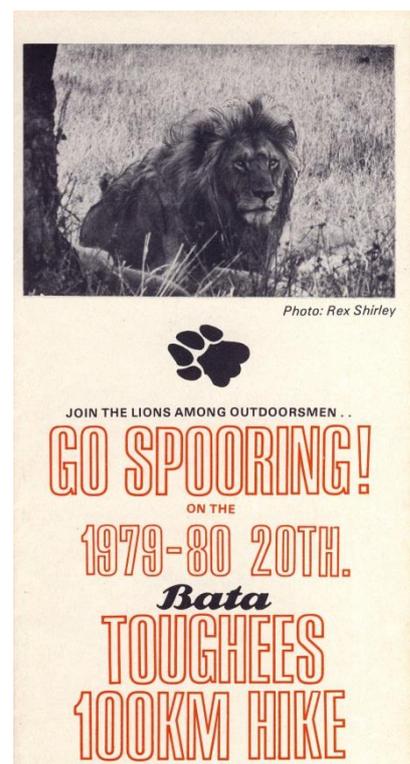
1979/80 - 20th Bata Toughees 100 Km Hike

Theme *'Go Spooring'*

Hit the Wildlife Trail and get on the Track of Adventure with one of the rarest of outdoor skills. Study wildlife from the ground up from tracks of animals, birds reptiles and insects. Once again the publication 'Veld Lore' (Spring 1979) was synchronised to publish all the 'know how' and 'how to' around Spooring

Sadly, it appears that based on the records available in the Western Cape Scout Archives that this was the last of the Bata Toughees Hikes.

However, the Bata Challenge seems to have reappeared as the Bata Toughees Patrol Camping Competition.

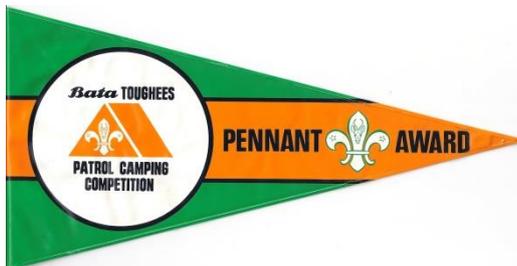


Bata Toughees Patrol Camping Competition

Started in 1980/81, it was required that the participating Patrol undertook two Patrol Camps during the competition year and each Camp must be of at least 25 hours duration (i.e. overnight, under canvas)

The Camp Logbook being the unaided work of one or more members of Patrol, the Scribe might write the report while others might contribute items such as sketch maps, sketches, and photographs. In short, it can be a joint Patrol effort, by the Patrol members alone.

There was a National Floating Trophy, to be known as 'The Bronze Billy', and was held by South Africa's top camping Patrol for one year; the Patrol's name and Troop, and the year, to be engraved on the trophy.



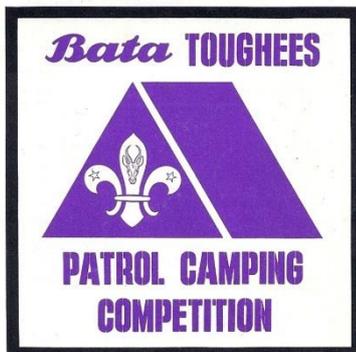
Camping Pennant

There were also three National 'Keepsake' Trophies, for the top three National Winners; these become the property of the Patrols concerned, and they will be miniatures of the National Floating Trophy, and be suitably engraved, Camping Pennants, for the top six winning Patrols in each Area, and Merit Certificates for all Patrols entering the competition, who submitted a Camp Logbook.



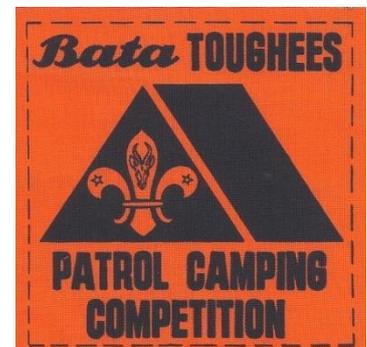
'The Bronze Billy'

1984 Bata Toughees Patrol Camping Competition



Much the same as previously but with helpful suggestions from the Training Team that they could maybe plan a Conservation Project and the Camp should have a theme

The maximum points totalling 100 were awarded as follows: Required information (10); Quality and Variety of Camp Programmes (30); Food and Menus (10); Maps, Sketches and Photos (25); Campsite and Hygiene (10); Overall impression (5).



Campfire Blanket patch

Thank you Bata for all those fruitful years of co-operation.

Western Cape Scout Heritage Team 2016

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