



LEANDER (Kingston) SEA SCOUTS

RN30

Annual Section Reports

Leander Sea Scouts: Beaver Colony Annual Report 2011/12

2011 was, as always, a busy year for the Beaver scout colony. 2011 marked the 25th anniversary of the official recognition of beaver scouts by the Scout association. To highlight how much things have changed over the last 25 years the beavers brought in a selection of objects, memorabilia and music from 1986 which proved very entertaining.

Swimming sessions were moved to Teddington Pool and continue to be a regular part of the programme. Many beavers successfully completed the requirements for the stage 1 and stage 2 activity badges putting them in a good position to continue to stages 3 and 4 in Cubs and prepare them for the many water-based activities as they progress through scouting.

Leander was able to attend a number of events organised by Royal Kingston District. These provide a great opportunity to meet other beavers from around the district, earn specific badges and have fun.

- Science / Experiment afternoon at 1st Hook in March 2011
- Explorer event at Southwood activity centre in March and September 2011
- Sleepover at Polyapes campsite in May 2011
- Sleepover at Berrylands HQ in September 2011
- Beaver Party at 1st Hook in November 2011
- Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime performance at 1st Hook in January 2012

In July Leander was represented at the Royal Kingston District Sports day. After exceptional performances from Jonathan Allen, Ralph Talman and James Wallington, Leander came joint fourth place against over 12 other teams from across the district.

Several other external visits were organised or attended during the year

- Open day at Kingston Police station (June 2011)
- An adventure walk in Richmond park (June 2011)
- Visit to St Paul Church on Kingston Hill as part of the faith activity badge (October 2011)
- Visit to Pets at Home in New Malden (January 2012)
- Outdoor challenge quiz /treasure hunt in Canbury Gardens (March 2012)

We were also very fortunate to have a number of people attend our regular meetings at Leander to support badge related activities. In June as part of the Safety activity badge work we were visited by members of the Tudor Safer Neighbourhood team who talked about what to do if approached by a stranger. In July we were visited by a member of the Marine Police Unit who talked extensively about water safety and the work of the marine police.

In June six beavers attended the biannual Greater Southwest County Cubeaver Funday at Walton Firs. This was an action packed day of activities, games and displays for all beavers and cubs from across southwest London.

The single highlight of the year which many beavers still recall today was the making of paper boats and sailing them on the river as part of the adventure activity badge. This may be a very simple activity but one which everyone was able to participate in and get a great sense of joy and excitement from. This is what scouting is all about and these unexpected successes are the best reward for all the hard work as Beaver Scout Leader. Having said this – any help parents are able to offer on a regular basis is always gratefully received.

Richard Wallington
Beaver Scout Leader

Cub Pack Annual Section Report 2011/12

Over the year we have generally had 30 Cubs although we have occasionally dropped one or two. These have been quickly replaced from the waiting list.

16 Cubs represented Leander at the St Georges Day Parade. Ralph Talman won best-presented Cub judged by Robin & Aden. Kitty Finnie & Eleanor Pullen won best marching as judged by Karen. Georgie Yelland was our flag bearer.

Our badge policy is to work on one challenge badge, one or two activity badges, one staged badge and a swimming level every term.

We try to attend as many district events as possible as we feel it is very advantageous for the Cubs to mix with Cubs from further afield. We have attended 5-a-side football competitions, Arts & Crafts Days, Panto, Jambo events and more.

We have tried to include as many short hikes as possible. Richmond Park and Old Deer Park and Richmond Lock have been included so far.

As the weather improves, we will be working on core scouting skills such as lighting fires safely.

We would very much like to visit a Hindu/Sikh/Buddhist place of worship but are finding it hard to find a local one that is willing to have 30 cubs running around it. If anyone has any contacts here, please let me know.

We currently have five very active leaders, one who temporarily inactive (for the next few weeks) and one who we are hoping to persuade to return. Training is slow with most leaders still to achieve first aid or safeguarding. We are also still aiming to achieve a night's away permit for at least one leader.

Simon Biddulph
Cub Scout Leader

Scout Troop Annual Section Report 2011/12

The Scout section is certainly thriving, with over 30 young boys and girls, but what they may lack in height they certainly make up for in enthusiasm. Getting the whole troop out on the water is our priority in summer, with some intensive practise in June for the National Sea Scout Pulling and Canoeing Regatta. Leander successfully retained a number of trophies, but the competition is getting more skilled, so we have to up our game in 2012.

Summer Camp was at Longridge Water Activity Centre, Marlow, with lots of time for water activities. As we were camping on the island it did mean that everyone had to become competent in sculling across the cut if they wished to visit the toilets or showers - mission accomplished! Towing a selection of boats up the Thames to Marlow kept Alex, the Explorer Leader and I busy for a very long day, but that made us completely independent and we could boat whenever we wanted to. (Then we had to tow the boats back!)

Autumn sees the boating season come to a close, the emphasis is then on running a structured programme that embraces key elements of nautical skills, first aid, map and compass, swimming proficiency and the many different challenges that make up modern Scouting.

Retaining our RN recognition is vital, our new Inspecting Officer was suitably impressed and we now look forward to a proper inspection on the water next time after a series of winter inspections, which do limit what we can do.

The District Night Hike in December is always a challenge, with very variable weather, followed by the County Cooking Competition after Xmas and the County Night Exercise in March. The Leander team flew round the course (2nd Fastest) and gained 4th place out of 43 teams competing, an excellent result.

Royal Kingston District recently held a MAD Olympics (Multi Activity Day) at Birchmere Camp Site near Wisley, with 12 of our Scouts gaining a good handful of individual and team medals - it was scorching hot but very enjoyable.

Unfortunately the weather this year has meant red boards on the Thames meaning the stream is too strong and boating not possible. Hopefully a few planned Saturday meetings may help and might even get some sailing in - it's not happened before like this, it would be nice to get some reasonable weather. However Sea Scouts are waterproof and that hasn't stopped them all getting totally wet whenever they can.

Many thanks to Aidan, Jim, Jon and Russ for helping to make sure that pulling, sailing, sculling and kayaking, plus the winter activities, all attain the high standard that Leander is known for.

Coxswain

Explorer Scout Unit Annual Section Report 2011/12

2011 was a year of quite a lot of membership change within the unit as three of our longer standing members left to go to University in September. (All have kept in touch and two of them called in to see us at both Christmas and Easter holidays.) We also had an intake of Scouts in 2011 and again in early 2012.

The Winter term after new year is always a challenging term to keep the Explorers busy as they wait to be able to get out onto the river. Following some interesting attempts from the explorers at planning their own programme a joined up programme was developed. After Easter the Explorer's were out on the river every week whatever the weather mostly practicing for the regatta but with a few nights in kayaks also.

September saw an explorer gig successfully complete the river race in good time on a bitterly cold day with the remainder of the Autumn term taken up with a busy programme of first aid training, 'ready steady cook', and seasonal evenings for Halloween, bonfire night and Christmas. Not forgetting of course preparation for the RN inspection.

Lucy Burrows
Assistant Explorer Scout Leader