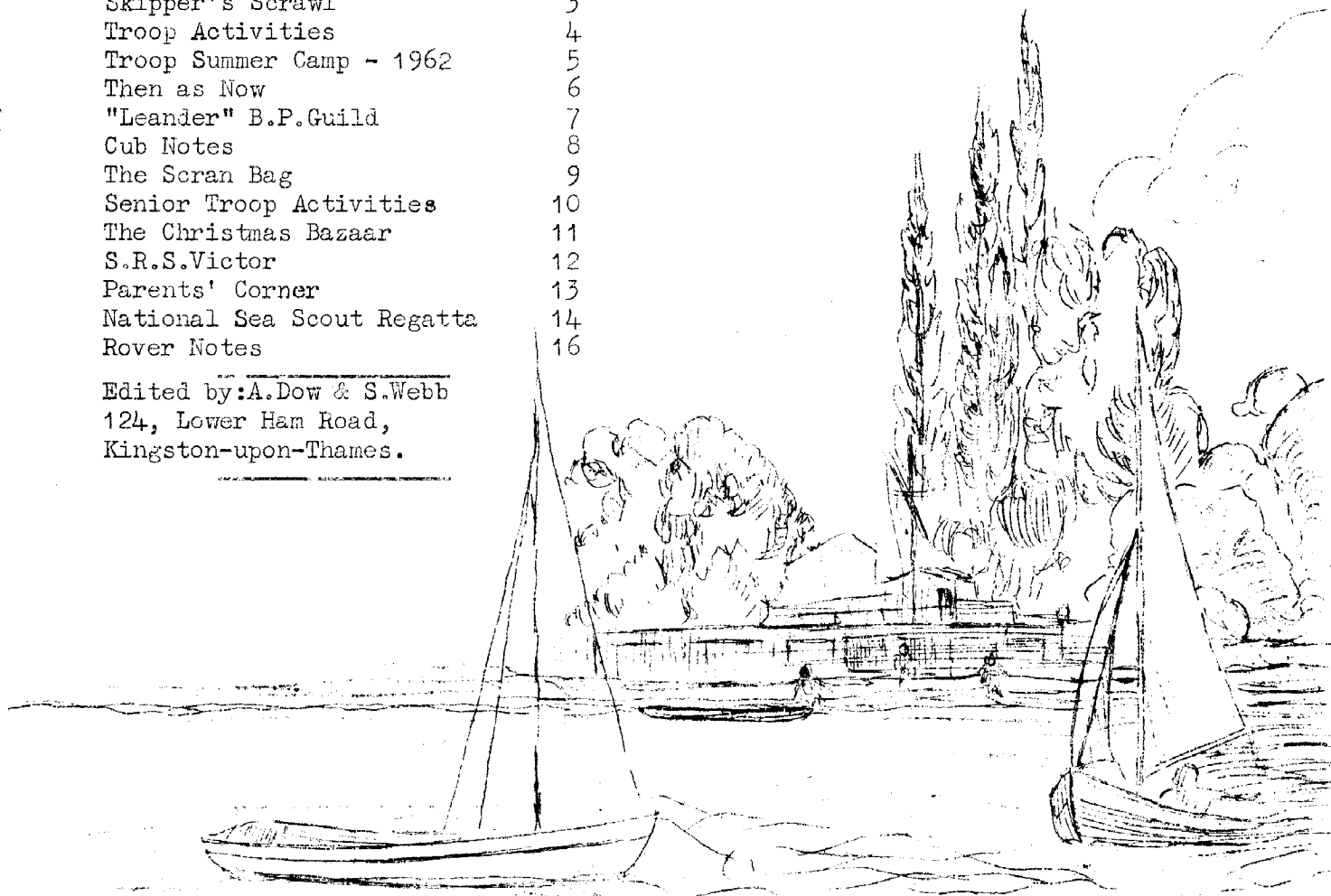


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Edited by:A.Dow & S.Webb
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Kingston-upon-Thames.



EDITORIAL.

The first "Water Rat" appeared in January, 1933, and since then it has been published through thick and thin, by a variety of Editors. We hope that this edition will continue to promote the tradition of Sea Scouting and "Leander" as the previous "Water Rats" have done so well.

Since the last edition, the Group has added four new Coypu sailing dinghies and an additional fibre-glass gig to its boat-deck. The four venerable old twelve foot dinghies have been retired after many years of steadfast service. Sandling has been sailed a great deal this year, although she is still not being used to her fullest extent as we would like it to be. Sandling has the potential to sail much further afield than she has done up to now, and there are surely enough "Leanders" with the necessary experience in seamanship to take her.

A recent venture on the social side is the "Layabouts Club", which is held weekly, and is open to anyone wanting a good time. We wish this Club every success and would like to see this aspect of Scouting developed further.

It looks now as though we are not likely to be moving into a new H.Q., but the present Headquarters has served us admirably for quite some time now, and we are perhaps rather glad to be staying here. Whilst on the subject of H.Q., the Ward Room requires smartening up, as well as the office, and a working party to follow the example set by the Seniors in re-decorating the Half-Deck would be very welcome.

Any articles, comments, or suggestions for inclusion in forthcoming "Water Rat" editions will be very welcome, and we will print them if space permits. An idea for the future is a "Letters to the Editor" page, and we will be grateful to receive any letters for this.

This Magazine marks the end of another successful year for the Group as a whole, and we would like to take this opportunity of wishing everyone a Merry Christmas, and we hope the coming year will prove to be as eventful and memorable as this one.

THE SKIPPER'S SCRAWL

3.

Nature lovers have recently expressed concern at the rapidly diminishing numbers of some species of our native wild creatures, and I have even heard fears that the "Water Rat" had become extinct as it had not been seen in these parts for two years. Thanks to the exertions of the "Leander" Rover Crew, our readers now have proof that no such catastrophe has happened but that our ancient rodent was merely hibernating for an unusually long time. The more observant ones will notice that during this period of inactivity the "Water Rat" has put on weight and is now fatter than ever before, and is now resplendent in a new coat. During my many years as Group Scoutmaster, I have come to regard this magazine as one of the Group's greatest assets and I am very grateful to the Rovers who have taken upon themselves the task of "presenting" the "Water Rat" for our entertainment and information. I trust that it will forever continue to make its appearance at not too long intervals.

Whilst some native animals have become scarce, the South American "Coypu" which was introduced into Norfolk some years ago has increased almost to plague proportions. Its namesake, the "Coypu" class of sailing dinghies built at Wroxham, has (with some modifications) been adopted as the most suitable "one design" sailing dinghy for Sea Scouts. Let us hope that their numbers will also increase rapidly but not, I trust, ever to the extent of becoming a nuisance. At present "Leanders" flotilla of four of these craft is the envy of all Sea Scout Groups who have seen them. Our thanks are due to all those who have worked so hard in raising the money for their purchase. We are very grateful to the Boy Scouts Association, the Surrey Youth Committee, and the Kingston Rotary Club for the generous financial help which they have given.

On reading the following pages it will be abundantly clear that the Group is in a very flourishing state and that the past year's activities have been fully up to the standard which everyone associates with "Leander". I want to record my thanks to my fellow Scouters for their unsparing labours and to the members and their parents who have backed them up so magnificently. We cannot however afford to "rest on our oars" and, in particular, our money raising efforts must be unremitting. Will all parents and friends please bear in mind the Group's Jumble Sale on 30th March, and will all Cubs, Scouts, and Rovers "Be Prepared" for "Bob-a-Job" Week from 13th to 20th April.

TROOP ACTIVITIES - 1962.

As this is the first "Water Rat" for some considerable time, I have been asked to give a resume of the Scout Troop's activities during 1962. Our regular "Lash Up" readers will, of course, have been kept up to date with events as they happened, but I think it is an excellent idea to survey the whole year at the end. Mention of the "Lash Up" reminds me that our thanks are due to Mr. and Mrs. Leyshon for the continuing support for this most useful monthly information service to members of the Scout Troop and their parents. Our thanks also to Mr. Andrews, Mr. Sanders and Mr. Grigg for all their transport assistance during the year.

Now to the survey. The first event of 1962 was the District Cross-country Race. Although we were unplaced in this, it was most gratifying to see the size of our entry compared with others.

Easter Camp was for the P/Ls and Seconds at Longridge, sailing and boating and some hardy souls actually went swimming. Also camping there were the 11th Fareham, in the charge of our old friend Rowland Spencer. Around Easter too, Patrol weekend camps began, and continued at the rate of one a month from April to September.

Our Whitsun Camp was held at Buckmore Park, near Chatham, and this site was a real eye-opener on a first visit - heated indoor swimming pool, providore, separate Cub site, and a Sports arena and shooting range being built.

I was tempted to say "as usual we won the District Camping Competition" though this might sound "big headed", still we did, and the Seagulls went on to obtain 4th place in the County Competition at Frylands Wood. About this time, early July, we were extremely pleased to get the first two of our four new dinghies. We had felt very much the "poor relations" with the Seniors and their two gigs, as our old dinghies, which were built in 1946 were suffering from severe senile decay and only two were in service, and those only just! They certainly proved their worth in the Hamble at Summer Camp.

After the usual going up ceremonies, the new Patrol Leaders ran one weekend camp, as part of the District Camp on Sept. 15th, winning the Competition for the best Patrol.

Our proposed Admiralty Inspection on Nov. 23rd had to be cancelled because of the posting of the Inspecting Officer, so we shall have until February before this now happens. During the year 3 Helmsman and 6 Oarsman badges were gained, along with a large number of Swimmer badges, and 2 First Class badges. We are now looking forward to another year as full and successful as this last one has been.

TROOP SUMMER CAMP - 1962.

Summer Camp was held this year at Hook Park, the grounds of the Southampton University School of Navigation at Warsash, Hampshire. By 10 o'clock on Saturday 11th August the lorry was loaded with the two 'Coypu' sailing dinghies, a "Home Counties" gig, camp gear, and the happy campers. Muff travelled in the lorry cab as navigator, whilst the Scoutmaster and Pluto went by car, and Mac and Whisky by scooter. We arrived at Hook Park at 12.30, and unloaded the lorry on the site. The School was on the mouth of the River Hamble, opposite the Fawley oil refinery on Southampton Water, and our camp site was set well back from the river, sheltered by thick woods. For the first few days we shared the site with a Cub Camp, who were later replaced by a Sea Scout Group of which Spence was Scoutmaster.

It took us some time to get settled in, although we managed to go to Church on Sunday evening, but the next day things began to happen. The Seniors who were camping with us, set off on a two-day expedition in the gig to Wootton Creek, taking with them Peter, so he could gain some experience of sailing in the gig. During the fortnight the Seniors went to such places as Cowes, Portsmouth, Chichester, and Beaulieu River, a P/L from the Troop accompanying them each time.

This year we were lucky enough to have the use of Sandling, and each Patrol had a day out in her, under the supervision of Bob or Nye. I hear she made one trip without running aground! A few of the younger members of the Troop couldn't get used to the constant heeling and were glad to get back on dry land again. Apart from a few days, however, when a gale was blowing, the weather was ideal for sailing.

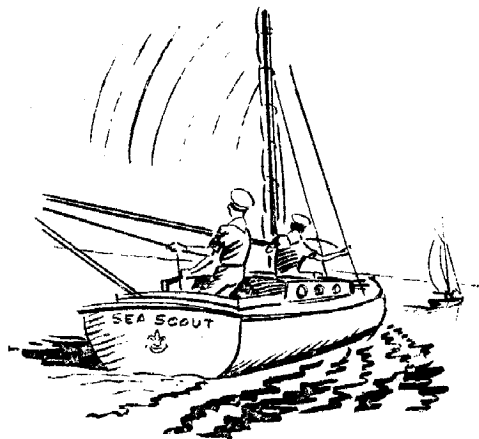
The Patrols went on day trips to Southampton, and its surrounding districts, and it was on one such outing that Clive terminated his summer camp after only a few days, by breaking his arm. Some Patrols rowed up the River Hamble to Bursledon.

In the second week a great deal of time was spent on sailing, much more in fact than at any of the recent camps. We all went to the Ocean Terminal at Southampton on Tuesday to see the Queen Elizabeth dock, and the new France call and leave, and later Mac, Muff and Shrimp organised a night hike. Some of Spence's Group joined in and Spence himself helped officiate. Many of the hikers were not back before daybreak.

But soon the camp was at its close, and at 1 p.m. on Saturday the lorry came. We were quickly loaded up and on our way home, where we found a very welcome tea awaiting us.

THEN AS NOWLog of a First Class Journey, 1937.Saturday

- 2.30 p.m. Arrive at H.Q. No key.
 2.32 Thirsty. Drink river.
 2.33 Find dead dog in river.
 2.34 Feel ill.
 2.50 Friend arrives, plus kit and key.
 3.00 Launch dinghy. Dinghy leaks.
 Friend says will improve.
 3.10 Does so.
 3.20 Stow gear and depart.
 3.30 Kingston Bridge. 3 inches water
 in boat.
 3.40 Boat nearly full. Go ashore.



- 3.50 Empty boat and set off again.
 4.00 Surbiton.
 4.30 Molesey Lock. See "lady" on bank,
 call "Cooee". Hit in mouth by
 stone.
 5.00 Sunbury Lock. Tired of rowing so
 go ashore for ice-cream.
 5.11 Eat ice-cream. Find money gone.
 Run off without paying.
 5.12. Still running. Man pursuing.
 5.13. Jump in boat. Safe!
 5.15 Cap overboard!
 5.20 Search no avail. Only see bubbles.
 5.30 Campsite on starboard bow. Friend
 says not starboard but other.
 5.31 Reach campsite
 5.45 Start tea
 6.15 Eat meal. Tea tastes queer.
 However, drink it.
 6.30 Find tea leaves not tea but coffee.
 6.32 Leave washing up till morning.
 6.35 Unpack
 6.36 No tent! (Left home by friend)
 6.40 Pull dinghy ashore. Will sleep
 under it.
 7.00 Prepare beds.
 7.10 Go into town to look round.
 10.00 Return to camp.
 10.30 Go to bed in dark. No torch
 (left home by friend)
 11.00 Jolly cold. No sleep.
 11.15 Annoyed. Can't sleep. Friend
 can. Curse him!

"LEANDER" B.P. GUILD.

We were very pleased indeed to hear that, through the stalwart efforts of a few people, the "Water Rat" was to be published again. May we wish them every success. In the Guild we have our own monthly Newsletter, which keeps our far flung members in touch with all our activities. Undoubtedly there are many people in the Group who have either never heard of the Guild, or are only vaguely aware of its existence. Briefly our terms of reference are described in the B.P. Scout Constitution as follows:-

- 1) To keep alive among its members the spirit of the Scout Law and Promise.
- 2) To carry that spirit into the communities in which they live and work.
- 3) To give active support to the Scout Movement as far as their other responsibilities will allow.

But although this is all embracing, we like to feel that it goes deeper as the majority of the present members of the Guild have been all through the various sections of the Group, from Cubs to Rovers and Warrant holders. Consequently over the years we have formed firm comradeship which I know personally, and I know this view is shared by many others, is valued above all other friendships and associations. May I say that we owe a tremendous amount to the Group which provided for us, in our earlier days, an opportunity of widening our horizons. This essentially has left its mark and helped us all, I feel sure, in building our characters and providing a basis to our lives.

Our activities so far this year have covered social evenings, we meet on the first Friday of every month, visits to other guilds, Film shows, lectures on topical subjects, various competitions, Guest nights, Ladies' night, a Regatta (on the river too!) and Dance, and we have endeavoured to assist in running Swimming Galas both in and outside the Group. We also provide "bods" for helping Mr. Dow and his merry band in Group fund raising efforts. We have planned a Christmas and New Year's Dance and of course our annual Dinner some time in March. At this latter event, we have the pleasure of entertaining Skipper and Mrs. Ebbage, together with various elder statesmen of the Group. May I, on behalf of the Guild, wish everybody a very happy Christmas, and a prosperous 1963. On this note I will end, but would extend an invitation to all ex-members and present members of the Group, to come down to any of our meetings, where we can assure you of a good evening.

SNOWY V. (Chairman B.P. Guild).

CUB NOTES.

The Pack has had a full and interesting year, the highlight of which was our Cub Camp at Polyapes. This year we invited the Handicapped Cubs of the 4th Kingston Pack from Bedelsford School, to spend a day in camp with us, which made the weekend even more worthwhile and enjoyable than usual. Each handicapped boy was put in the charge of a "Leander" Cub, who was responsible for seeing that his guest both enjoyed himself and came to no harm. The weather was perfect and, after lunch, with help from parents, who provided pick-a-back rides for the not-so-mobile boys, we all managed a memorable and much enjoyed expedition through the woods. It was interesting to watch the normally harum-scarum "tough-guys" arguing fiercely for the privilege of pushing the small wheelchair (egged on by its delighted occupant!) and then, the battle having been won, seeing the victor pursue his way, manoeuvring carefully to avoid unnecessary bumps. A sing-song around an enormous "Noggin'-special" camp fire, lit in a small clearing of the wood, ended a very happy day from which the Cubs of both Packs derived infinite pleasure and satisfaction, which must have been thanks enough for all the kind folk who helped with transport, etc.

There was a smart turn-out for the St. George's Day Parade, which immediately followed "Bob-a-Job" Week, during which the Pack excelled themselves by earning an average of £1.2.2d per Cub. In May, the Pack together with other Packs in Kingston, visited

Wimbledon Common to meet thousands of Surrey Wolf Cubs for "Surrey Cub Day". In spite of the freezing cold wind, and an almost incessant downpour, the Cubs insisted that they had had a "smashin'" time. At the District Swimming Gala, "Leander" Pack gained first place, and retained the Rose Bowl, and at the Group Swimming Gala every Cub competed in at least one event. At the County Swimming Gala, "Leander" was represented by Geoffrey Newmarch, and Kingston came first in the Relay Race, and won third place in the Gala. Organised swimming sessions each Saturday morning have continued throughout the year, except for a few months during the summer when the baths became too crowded for serious coaching. At the Group Fete "Leander" Cubs won prizes in the Fancy Dress, Cake-making, and Photographic Competit-



ions, and at the Bazaar, the Pack presented its vocal version of the "Going-up Ceremony". As this, however, was barely audible, we concluded that the whole Pack was no doubt suffering from laryngitis, following the dreadful noise they had made at the previous Pack Meeting! The Cubs, however, have requested me to reply on their behalf to the repeatedly asked question "Who was that Lady Cub-master I saw you with that night?" with "That was no lady! that was Michael Stanford!"

We were very sorry indeed to have to say "goodbye" to one of our Cub Instructors, Kim (Hazel Rainsley), when she left the Pack in July to join her parents in Coventry. In September "Noggin" (Graham Hockham) and "Daisy" (Stephen Day) who had been helping the older Cubs with signalling and rope work for some time, were appointed C.I.'s, and, together with our loyal and hardworking veteran Cub Instructor, "Mitt" (Nigel Duffin) they continue to give yeoman service to the Pack.

On behalf of the Pack and Cub Scouters, I should like to thank all the Mums who have helped and provided cakes and refreshments for the parties, etc., and the Dads for their help with football and swimming.

AKELA.

THE SCRAN BAG - by NEPTUNE.

I hear "Leander" were hoping to acquire 'Gable Cot'. Was this the cheapest way to buy a swimming pool? Any more suggestions like this and we'll be in debt!

Is it true that whilst standing on the kerb in Fife Road, Mitten received sixpence in the mouth from a motorist, and had a nasty experience with a dog?

A new bridge for Kingston? Nobby Han.ey doesn't think its necessary!

The Regatta was a grand success this year. Is Ron organising Cowes Week next year?

I hope the fate of 'Der Spiegel' will not befall the "Water Rat".

No Bob, I don't think the gig would win the America's Cup in 1963.

They tell me anyone with a Rolls Royce pick-up truck would be very welcome at Rover meetings on Fridays.

No, the Gestapo haven't come to Kingston, its only S.r..p on his Ariel Square Four wearing half a cowhide specially imported from China.

N.

SENIOR TROOP ACTIVITIES

This year the Senior Summer Camp was held in the same location as that of the Scout Troop, namely Warsash, near Southampton. The site was in the grounds of a Navigation School, near to the River Hamble. Only three Seniors attended, Noggin, Brian and Keith, but there were also two Scouters and a Rover present, Bob, Nye, and Shrimp.

During the two weeks it was intended to obtain as much experience in the gig as possible and also to take advantage of the use of Sandling. The gig was well used, and since Bob was taking Sandling out most days, we co-opted Troop P/Ls into our crew. Cruises were most eventful because of the good wind, no doubt, when coming out of Wootton Creek once the gig almost capsized, but by reefing the mainsail down to the gaff we were able to get back without further mishap. We intended to go to Yarmouth, but our centre-plate unfortunately broke, off Calshot Spit. The mainsail was quickly dropped and we were able to return under the foresail.

Coming home from Cowes on one trip took only 40 minutes, sailing all the way on a broad reach at an average speed that was estimated to be 10 knots, much to our surprise. Sandling was accompanied by the gig to Gosport and then back to the Hamble, the gig going a little further by rounding the Chichester Bar buoy.

h Besides sailing activities, a night hike was held in competition with the Troop, the Seniors being the only ones to complete the course. Advantage was also taken of local figures of interest, and a good time was had by all.

Since then the membership of the Troop has risen to ten, making two Patrols, and giving more scope to Senior activities. There has been a District Senior Scout Weekend (supported only by "Leander"), and a weekend on Sandling for P/Ls and Seconds. Noggin, Brian and Keith also rowed up to Longridge (Marlow) in the Sea Rangers' skiff taking only 13 hours for the journey; this was because some of the Troop had said that we were "past it". We also supported the National Sea Scout Regatta wholeheartedly, sailing in both of our gigs, although we did not particularly distinguish ourselves in it.

Badge work has gone fairly well, and at Whitsun a canoe journey was undertaken along the Kennet and Avon Canal, all the Troop going. This was completed and had the result of us all gaining Senior Explorer badges which count towards the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, which many of the Seniors have entered for. With the Troop flourishing well, we look forward to an exciting and active year ahead of us. Thanks must be given to Bob and Nye for giving their enthusiastic support to us throughout the year.

KEITH.

THE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR.

On the 3rd November, at St. Peter's Hall, the Group's annual Bazaar took place. The construction of Stalls, etc. started early in the morning and the number of willing helpers soon multiplied as time wore on, work only ceasing for the occasional "cuppa". At about 2.30 p.m. the Bazaar was opened and soon began to fill up with prospective customers. There were a great variety of stalls and raffles, the bottle stall offering a big attraction, with an elegant decanter of port wine. Grocery, Greengrocery, Treasure Island, Cacti, White Elephant, Handcraft, Cake and Candy, and Jewellery were among the stalls run by parents and friends. The Senior organised the usual and successful "Hot Dog" stall, and the Guild ran various amusements. The refreshment stall was there, of course, and did a roaring trade.

At about half-past three, the Cubs put on a short play which took the form of a mock going-up ceremony, with Akela and Bruno being impersonated by two Cubs. The words of the play were sung by the Cubs to the tune of "Oh, dear, what can the matter be", and Chris. Hunt played the piano. An hour later, the Troop put on a play, produced by Hugh Rickard, which portrayed the happenings on a British Warship at sea. This went down quite well, although it did become rather rough at one point.

During the afternoon Mr. Duffin had been at the door with the Visitors' Book, and every time a page of this was filled up with names, Mr. Ebbage asked someone to pick a numbered envelope from the bundle, and the person whose name corresponded to that number won a ten shilling note.

There were several raffles going on, and the first one to be drawn was for a big pink doll. Also raffled were a box of fruit, a box of chocolates, and a giant sized toy truck. After the raffle, Skipper got on to the stage and expressed his gratitude to those who helped to organise and run the various stalls, and items. He then presented Thanks Badges to Mrs. Duffin, Mrs. Fielder and Mrs. Shackleton. Mr. and Mrs. Dow were to have one each, but they had "jumped the gun" and had theirs given at the National Sea Scout Regatta where they did a good job.

After the presentation, the multitudes began to disperse, but the hot dog stall was still thriving, various announcements were made of reduced prices, and clearing up began. One of our most successful Bazaars was over - a profit of £115 being made.

DAISY.

S.R.S. VICTOR.

If you have been at Headquarters on a Monday evening, or sometimes a Sunday morning, you will have noticed us - we hope! Some of the Cubs look horrified to see females twice their size all over the place, but we are on speaking terms with the Scouts. One of our Rangers was actually a member of "Leander" until circumstances put her away.

We're S.R.S.Victor, the lodgers, who supply most of the female entertainment and coffee for almost every function you've had, but don't get me wrong, I didn't say we work, but you may remember we did for the National Sea Scout Regatta.

A lot of us live too far away to do as much as we would like towards your many social events. We have members from Chessington. Hook, and Esher, which are quite far enough to come once a week, let alone more often.

You may have heard about our many accomplishments. Only fairly recently one of us fell into the foaming brine at Teddington Lock. We had difficulty in rescuing our Clementine, as laughter weakened us considerably, and we were in imminent danger of capsizing.

Yes, we're good on the river as well as in it. The one that got away this year, was the County Regatta Cup. The trouble is that when people know you're so good, they don't just give up all hope, they try harder and even beat you. We were second, anyway, we have to let the others win sometimes.

Following many requests, I'd like to explain to you that the little yellow and blue bar-badges we wear under our woggles are not blank because the Girl Guide Association cannot afford to put writing on them. Anybody who is even moderately educated in the knowledge of badgery, (like moles they live in holes) would know without asking what they're for. You get a yellow one if you capsize or fall in the river three times, and a blue one for six or more times. Notice the excess of yellow ones. They're prettier too.

Lastly an advertisement --- since we're not paying for it.

SEA RANGERS

MONDAY 7.45 p.m. - 9.45 p.m.

Any abnormal female between the ages of $14\frac{1}{2}$ and 22.

PARENTS' CORNER.

At the conclusion of each money-raising function it is quite common to hear someone ask "How are we doing?". The answer can normally be given in pounds, shillings and pence. At other times the questioner may wish to know how are we doing in relation to former Committees, and are we pulling as strong as we should be. The short answer would be "Very well indeed", we are raising more money now than at any time in the history of the Group - this cannot be disputed. However, a different picture could emerge if we were to take into consideration changes in the purchasing power of money. For example, an article costing £100 in 1914, would require an expenditure of about £360 to replace today.

It is possible to adjust earnings in any one year to present-day values and obtain a fairer basis for comparison, but it is not possible to measure the need for the effort. During the eight years, 1932 to 1939, parents' efforts produced a total of £340, an average of £43 per year, this was probably all that was needed. If the same work had to be done during the six years 1957 to 1962, some £600 would have been raised, an average of £100 per year. A greater effort is required today because of improved training facilities, more modern craft, etc., consequently we are now aiming to raise £350/£400 per year and we must do so if we hope to extinguish the £600 Bank Overdraft in the next 2/3 years.

All present "Leander" parents are grateful to the Parents' Association, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Buer, who between 1952 and 1956 raised a total of about £450 from outside sources alone. It is interesting to note that the Secretary of the Association was Mr. H. Duffin, our present Treasurer.

We will be sending you an invitation to attend our meeting, early in the New Year, when we will plan our activities for 1963. It may be that you do not agree with the way things are run, and anyway you could do a jolly sight better yourself. Just the person we have been looking for, come and teach us what to do, organise an event or two, show us where we have been going off the rails, and earn our gratitude and thanks.

During our efforts we have received the fullest co-operation from the Scouters, and "Leander" Parents thank them for the work they are doing on behalf of the boys.

NATIONAL SEA SCOUT REGATTA - 1962.

We have been accustomed to the annual request for the loan of our boats and for the Troop to lay on the ferry service to the Royal Canoe Club on the occasion of the Warrington B.P.Races at the end of September each year, but this year somebody had the idea of holding the first-ever National Sea Scout Regatta on our home reach with "Leander" as the hub of the whole venture. The two-day programme was arranged and even our 'unflappable' Group Chairman's wife (Mrs.Dow) thought twice when they told her the number of guests that would be staying overnight for full board and lodging, and cheerfully said that they just couldn't guess how many would be looking in for casual meals.

Boats had been arriving for days, to fill the extra moorings laid by Nye (R. Bevan) before the first guests arrived on the Friday evening. Saturday morning was fine, and bright, and mustered by the public address system, wired up by Mitten (N.Duffin) and Mac (I.Dow) the racing was away to a good start. We had a very successful day winning through to the semi-finals in all the events except the Senior Sea Scout pulling, and we went on to win the Group Trophy at the Swimming Gala organised by the "Leander" Branch of the B.P.Guild, in the evening.

It blew a gale all Saturday night, and Sunday morning it was 'out mops and balers', to get the boats ready for the day's events as well as repitching the tents that had been damaged during the night. For the Troop, Blogg (D.Owen) won his way through to three finals, Archie (R.Andrews) to two. Nutty (H. Rickard) won the Cannonball Trophy for Skiff Pulling for under 15s. The Gig crew, coxed by David (D.Grigg) won the Chief Scout's Trophy, and promptly threw him into the river, together with his bowman. Keith (K.Maund) and Noggin (G.Hockham) reached the final of the Senior Sea Scout Dinghy Sailing, and the crew coxed by Nye (R.Bevan) finished second in the Home Counties Sailing Race for Gigs.

Skipper entertained all the V.I.Ps to lunch in the Ward Room, while parents and friends of the Group catered for all the competitors and their friends, serving nearly two thousand meals, a truly wonderful job.

Captain Browning, Headquarters Commissioner for Sea Scouts, thanked the Group for all the work they had done, and presented Mr. and Mrs.Dow with "Thanks Badges".

R.S.L.

Extracts from letters.

I was delighted when I heard that the younger members of the "Leander" Sea Scouts were carrying on their Group's traditions by distinguishing themselves so well at the National Sea Scout Regatta.

May I offer my warmest congratulations on becoming the first holders of my trophy: your being so has given me very great pleasure.

With good wishes and good 'pulling' in the future.

Yours sincerely,

CHARLES MACLEAN,
Chief Scout.

My very first letter of thanks must come to you for all the wonderful assistance and untiring co-operation you and your "Leander" Group have given so wholeheartedly towards the National Regatta. The help given by the many organisations and people has been considerable, but without the facilities and manpower provided by "Leander" such a grand occasion as we witnessed last week, would have been impossible.

Yours sincerely,

S. R. GOODCHILD, Training Dept.

What a truly magnificent show you, your Group and its many offshoots put up this last weekend. When I look at the list of Groups entering and the fantastic number of entries I am more than ever amazed at the way in which everything worked, with, so far as one could see, the minimum friction and the maximum of cheerfulness. The whole conduct of the Races and the Swimming Gala seemed quite excellent within the limitations of the boats and facilities available.

I do most heartily congratulate everyone and ask you to convey to them all my own personal gratitude and that of the 3rd Porchester.

Yours very sincerely, and with great admiration,

ANTHONY COBHAM, Ass. H.Q. Comm.

"Leander's" part in the results.-

Sea Scouts (under 15) SKIFF SINGLE SCULLS. For the "Cannonball" Trophy.

First H. RICKARD. "Leander" (Kingston) A.

Sea Scouts (under 15) 4-OARED GIG PULLING. For the Chief Scout's Trophy.

First "Leander" (Kingston) A.

Senior Sea Scouts - "Home Counties" GIG SAILING. For "Home Counties Silver Trophy"

Second - "Leander" (Kingston) B.

ROVER NOTES.

On Friday 12th October, Skipper invested Whisky, Shrimp and Nye as Rovers, which brings the Crew's strength to seven. Pluto and Mac are, however, only with us during their vacation from University. Mac is in his second year at Southampton, and Pluto in his first year at Edinburgh.

There have been several Rover activities this year, the first of which was a trip in a London Police Launch from Waterloo Pier. During the trip the workings of the Thames Division of the Metropolitan Police was explained to us, and a most interesting commentary on the river, and what goes on legally and illegally on it was given to us by a Sergeant. The next main function of the Crew was a Night Road Rally organised by Mac. Six teams took part and they covered about 80 miles in the pouring rain, driving mainly along narrow lanes in the Surrey countryside. Stuart Brown won the Rally, the other two to complete the course being Shrimp and Whisky. This was quite an achievement for Shrimp and his terrified passenger Noggin, as their map had just about dissolved when they finally crawled into H.Q. for sausages and coffee. Muff's new scooter proved unstable and he was forced to retire. Another function the Rovers took part in was the Guild Regatta at Ham Base, where we managed to win our two races.

The Crew is at the moment on the look out for a van which they can use to transport themselves and their kit to and from Sandling. Thanks must go to Mr. Grigg for surveying the many wrecks we have come across in our travels.

In the summer, Sandling was used by the Rovers quite extensively. Whisky, Shrimp and Nye (lower deck addition to the Crew) spent a week sailing between Poole and Chichester Harbours, calling in at various harbours on the Isle of Wight. Pluto also had a week on her with some of his friends.

We hope that the Crew will continue to flourish in 1963, and any new members will be most welcome.

S. & W.

