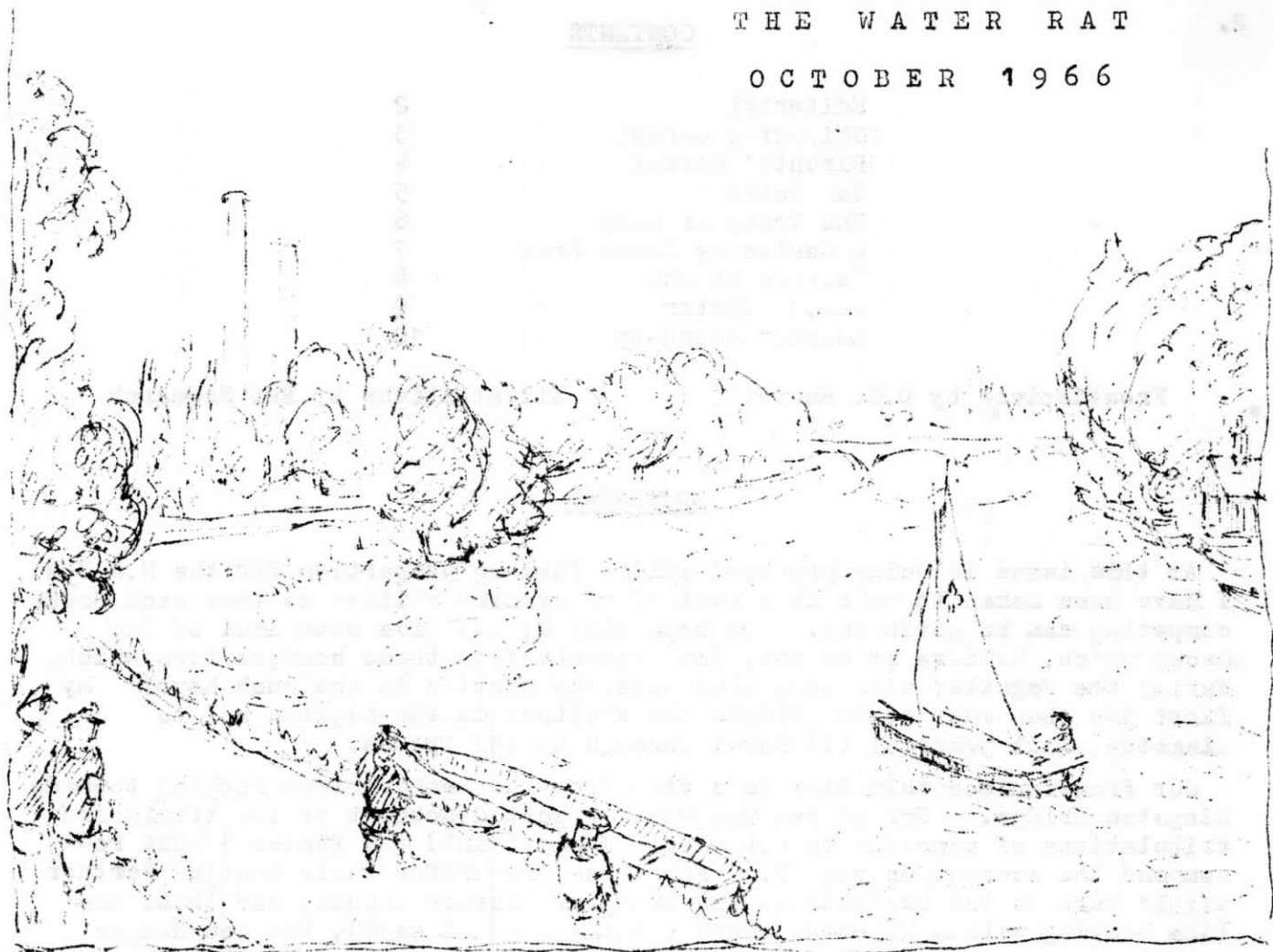


THE WATER RAT

OCTOBER 1966



Edited by Nigel Duffin, 43, Birkenhead Avenue, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey

CONTENTS

Editorial	2
Skipper's Scrawl	3
Parents' Corner	4
Cub Notes	5
The Troop at Camp	6
A Centenary Canoe Race	7
Venture Scouts	8
S.R.S. Victor	9
Leander Round-Up	10

Frontispiece by D.G. Hunter

Illustrations by Pat Newmarch

EDITORIAL

As this issue is being produced amidst furious preparation for the N.S.S.R., I have been asked to make it a sort of "souvenir" edition so that each Group competing can be given one. We hope that it may give some idea of the Group which, believe it or not, does operate from these headquarters which, during the Regatta, seem more like Waterloo station in the rush hour! My first job then must be to welcome the visitors to the Regatta and to Kingston, that peaceful (?) Royal Borough by the Thames.

Our frontispiece this time is a view from the Headquarters looking towards Kingston Bridge. For anyone who wants a potted account of the trials and tribulations of canoeing on (or should I say: "in") the Thames I must recommend the account on page 7. For those who prefer their boating farther afield turn to the accounts of the Troop or Venture Scouts, and those who like boating with a humorous touch (boating, did I say?), the Sea Ranger article is a "must"!

A. Nonymous, the writer of a letter to me which arrived Sept. 30th, please turn to page 4.

Congratulations to our Assistant Cubmaster, Mrs P. Newmarch, on gaining the Wood Badge. This is awarded to Scouters who successfully complete a course of training for leadership in the branch of Scouting in which they are working. Readers of this year's April issue will be aware how arduous some parts of the course prove to be. Congratulations also to Cubmaster Mrs C. Leyshon and to Assistant Senior Scout Leader Mark Bowsher on their respective appointments as District Cubmaster and Assistant District Commissioner for Senior Scouts. We wish them success and happiness in these important posts. Unfortunately, in the case of Mark, it will mean his giving up his warrant in "Leanders" but in his new appointment we shall see much of him and shall continue to receive most valuable advice and help from him.

Rovers are mainly concerned with many jobs of service both within the Group and outside and are left little time for specialised activities of a competitive kind. Thus it is with great pleasure that I record the success of the "Leander" Crew under Keith Maund in gaining 1st place in the District Camping Competition for Rovers. For many years the Scout Troop has been right in the forefront of the District and County Camping Competitions and it is no doubt very gratifying to Scoutmaster Peter Hurton to know that the hard work which he puts into the training of the Scouts continues to bear fruit in later years.

In 1912, when this Group first embraced Sea Scouting, we received great encouragement from Mr Warrington Baden-Powell, elder brother of the Movement's Founder, who was a prominent member of the Royal Canoe Club. In writing this on the eve of the 5th National Sea Scout Regatta I am conscious that this event is the outcome of races organized by the Canoe Club for the Trophies presented by Mrs Warrington Baden-Powell in memory of her husband. Incidentally it may not be generally known that these were made of silver obtained by melting down the many cups won by him as one of the most successful small-boat helmsmen of his time. Recently, as part of its

(continued over

4. Centenary Celebrations, the Royal Canoe Club held a race for two seater kayaks from Marlow to Teddington. Seventy six crews completed the 37 mile course which included carrying the craft round twelve locks. "Leanders" were represented by Patrol Leaders Andrew Hunter and Brian Leyshon who were at least three years younger than any other competitors who included championship canoeists. Their time of approximately nine hours was an outstanding achievement.

#### PARENTS' (small) CORNER

Last event - The Social at the Tudor Hall on 23rd September. Next event - the National Sea Scout Regatta one week later. I wonder if the date of the former was a wise choice? With so many Regatta problems buzzing round it was difficult to concentrate on dancing and games, and the attendance was rather lower than usual. However after a slight (musical) delay we had dancing and games and a very enjoyable evening. Many thanks to Mrs Williamson for arranging an excellent buffet and to the parents and friends who supplied snacks, cakes, etc. We are also grateful to Beefy who dashed home and brought his high powered record player.

Here's wishing the Group success in the Regatta, and let's hope we don't do too badly either!

JACK CRUMP.

P.S. Don't forget the BAZAAR at the TUDOR HALL on NOVEMBER 19th.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear A. Anonymous,

I received your letter this morning. I was wondering how to fill up this space here, so it was a pity your letter could not have been  $\frac{1}{4}$  the size (in more ways than one). Unfortunately, all the rest is typed out, so it cannot be included, which is no great pity as I don't really like anonymous letters whatever the content. Also, may I recommend the "Bad speler's Dictionery"?

## CUB NOTES

5.

Life in a Cub Pack is never dull. Among an Akela's most interesting moments are the occasions when her enthusiastic Assistant tries out new games which she made up herself in the small hours of the morning. Unfortunately, one's own Pack never seems to react in the same way as the Cubs who appear in our dreams! Even Mitten raised a lofty eyebrow when at Rikki's compass direction "10 paces West" the blindfolded Pack pushed open the Main Deck doors and obediently marched out towards the river. Still, I suppose that is one way of solving Bruno's future problems!

Cub Year has been an exciting and busy time for Leander Cubs, for the Pack has taken part in each of the Cub Year projects so far. Out of the 14,000 Cubs who visited the London Zoo, 1,695 Cubs entered for the Zoo Quiz Competition, and Chris Baines of Leander Pack came 5th in the competition and won a Consolation Prize. Congratulations, Chris! We won the Cub Sports Trophy for the first time for many years and the Pack came 2nd in the Swimming Gala which, considering that some of our best swimmers had just up into the Troop and we had two last-minute substitutes due to illness, I think was very good indeed. It was interesting to "see ourselves as others see us" in the Surrey Comet some weeks ago: the photographs will serve as a permanent record of the unique occasion when Mrs. Millest, Leander's first Akela, came to visit us.

We are now approaching the end of Cub Year and, whilst we have enjoyed ourselves looking back over the last fifty years of Cubbing, we should now be hard at work preparing for the future. There will be far more tests to pass and standards will be higher, so it is up to each Cub to work hard at home in order to prepare himself and be ready to pass tests at Pack Meeting.

AKELA.

## THE TROOP AT CAMP.

Saturday, August 6th saw us fairly quickly off from Leander at about 9 a.m. The journey down in the removal van, followed by Beefy and Bruno, was uneventful, and we arrived at Warsash around lunchtime to be greeted by pouring rain. After lunch we had the tents up fairly quickly, which was about all we could do in the wet; luckily the next day turned out quite reasonable, so we were able to get down to work.

The site was very pleasant, among odd bushes and trees on the edge of a huge playing field, surrounded by woods and fields and belonging to the School of Navigation. The pier where the boats were kept was about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile away, and so was the beach where we were able to swim. From here we could see both the Isle of Wight and Southampton Docks.

Our first outing was on Tuesday when the Troop split into Patrols, spent the day, and had dinner in Southampton, meeting at the Ocean Terminal in time to see the Queen Elizabeth come into Dock. After this, in between digging, cooking, etc., there were various Patrol outings to Beaulieu Motor Museum and Southsea funfair, also days out rowing up the Hamble. The gig was used as well for sailing trips to Cowes on the Isle of Wight.

The weather by now had remained fine, and was sometimes hot enough for water fights and swimming. Luckily, parents' day was warm and sunny, and any extra food was welcome as we had found that several breakfasts and Sunday joints etc. had disappeared from the store tents, apparently stolen by foxes or tramps or something, although we never found out.

There were also a couple of scares during the camp, first when an evil-looking gent was seen dragging Andrew Goffe into the bushes one night during a wide game. Everyone thought it was the real thing and knocked up the guard from the School of Navigation, but unfortunately it turned out to be Beefy pulling a stunt. Then came two accidents, first when Dominic cut his leg and had nine stitches, and then when Anthony gashed his leg on a tent peg and had twenty stitches.

Apart from these, camp life went as normal, and I think everyone was sorry when the time came to leave.



On 17th Sept., as part of their centenary year celebrations, the Royal Canoe Club held a 35 mile race from Marlow to Kingston. Andy Hunter and Brian Leyshon entered in a Moonraker canoe which had been borrowed from the Canoe Club.

Our day started by leaving Kingston at 7.15 a.m. for Marlow Rugby Club where we arrived at 8.30. There was a mass start at 9.50, and 69 canoes set off for Kingston. Just under Cookham Bridge our rudder broke and we tried to mend it but without success, so we continued on our way without it. At Bray

Lock we carried the canoe past the lock and I got in the front of it. Then Brian got in and somehow managed to slip (or something!) and overturn us. After emptying the canoe we got in and carried on our way, a bit wetter but still happy. At Boveney Lock there was a checkpoint and some orange waiting for us which we were glad of. At Old Windsor we stopped for about  $\frac{1}{4}$  hr and had lunch. At Staines (half-way) we began to feel that we had been canoeing all the morning! The last check point was at Shepperton, and from then on we were on home ground.

By the time we reached Trowlock Island you could definitely tell that we had canoed 35 miles. We took 9 hrs 4 mins., the leaders taking 4 hrs 35 mins! At the Canoe Club we had some tea, then took the canoe to H.Q. to repair and clean. Although we were tired and damp, it had been an enjoyable day and we were glad to have done it.

The Saturday after, I took the canoe back and collected two nice blue mugs, one of which was presented to each finisher. There is talk of a "Centenary + 1" race next year as this one was so popular, and I hope Leander will enter a crew to compete and come better than 61st.

ANDY.

## VENTURE SCOUTS ON THE ISLE OF ARRAN.

The majority left H.Q. for Arran on the Saturday afternoon in a hired van and met the rest, who came in Keith's car at the ferry point in Ardrossan. After an interesting ferry trip to the island and a short drive from the chief "town", Brodick, we arrived at our campsite in North Glen Sannox. The tents were 200 yds from the sea, and our galley, 30 ft below the tents, was 3 ft from the mountain stream ("burn").

On the Monday afternoon, after settling in, we set off for a "stroll" up Glen Sannox and up onto a ridge from which we had a magnificent view of the surrounding land and sea in the light of the setting sun. Wednesday and Thursday were spent climbing in Glen Sannox, the best climb being one called "Caliban's Creep". During the next few days we examined the next Glen, Glen Rosa, which was complete luxury compared with Glen Sannox: they had bridges over the streams! We fished in the sea and managed to catch four cod which were duly eaten for breakfast the next day.

On the Sunday we went to Church and, after a first-aid incident during which John was virtually hung from a tree, we had a shoulder of lamb cooked by Nye. For the next few days we split into two groups: one went sailing in a 22 ft offshore racer around the Holy Loch area, whilst the other went on a mountain trek which included several interesting climbs and camping by a lake at 1000 ft in the cloud. When Abo returned from the sailing we savoured the delights of a Haggis, apparently caught when fishing.

On the Friday, Abo and Daisy left at 5 a.m. for a last climb, and on their return found the campsite half gone. A sudden decision had to be made to go that evening owing to ferry bookings, and so we turned to and were cleared up in four hours, catching the 1815 ferry. Eventually H.Q. was reached and was the full stop to a very interesting and refreshing two weeks.

At the moment the Venture Scouts are running a District Senior Sections (i.e. mixed) sailing course which is proving very successful, and are also completing the overhaul of their gig and the redecoration of the new Half Deck

DAISY.



S.R.S. VICTOR



The first item that springs to mind is Margaret and Stuart's wedding on the 17th. I hear everything went off alright except for our thought which went astray. Unfortunately some of us were unable to go owing to Regatta commitments. Our congratulations and best wishes go to them, and remember that's 2 down, 4 half-way there, and 18 to go.

Our annual "holiday" up-river last weekend was less energetic and ambitious than in previous years. We rowed, canoed, and cycled to Walton (save the comments); camped in usual S.R.S. Victor style and amused ourselves likewise - Barbara is an expert on dog noises if anyone is interested - then crawled into bed and slept for 12 hours. While paddling about the next morning our attention was drawn to a rather irate-looking creature jumping and waving madly on

the opposite bank. On looking closer it was found to be Ed the String - she said she had got lost but we are not so sure. We started "home" about 1.30 and, with occasional interruptions from fishing lines, maggots, Barion being splashed and splashing back, and a mad ferryman, we arrived at H.Q. - I'll rephrase that - the last victorious five of us - at 6.0.

Our next annual is the N.S.S.R. We seem to be the only people pleased that the number has increased this year.

Finally, we hope to achieve the "hat-trick" in the Ranger Regatta on the 9th, so the best of luck to all those who are in it (that means everyone), and to Jenny at college in Brighton and Sonja who is going into the Wrens in November.

ROSY.

LEANDER ROUND-UP

You could say that we were really licked having stuck down 40,000 envelopes at the beginning of September, but in fact we used sponges, rollers, Selotape and anything we could lay our hands on to seal them for the British Heart Foundation. Mr Prince asked us to do the job when he found that the Post Office had sneakily changed their regulations. Surprisingly enough, it was all done in one day!

I hear that after the Barker Cup Camping Competition the Rovers are going to make a take-over bid for the N.S.S.R. catering. Apparently their menu for Sunday lunch included: baked herring, stuffed marrow, apple pie, and fresh coffee. What is more, they tell us that there was so much food that they didn't know what to do with it. (No suggestions please!)

The two wooden gigs have now been returned to us from the film studio. I don't think that some of the Troop realised that boats could be made out of wood, but we are slowly getting into the habit of using them again.

Following the present trend towards mini-cars, mini-skirts, and the like, we now have taken delivery of two mini-boats, to be rowed with mini-oars by mini-Scouts. It's a pity they don't cost mini-money!

Bruno, Geoff Hynott, and three of our A.S.M.'s went to Walsall in September to judge their District Camping Competition. It was noted with some surprise (knowing Bruno's reputation) that the weekend was fine.

At long last we have despatched two lorryloads of newspaper from No. 1 Boathouse. Unfortunately, there is still one load left, but the floor seems to have dropped 12 inches since it was cleared.

Whiskey, who is now a B.Sc. (whatever that might be) has recently returned from working and travelling in the U.S.A. Also Shrimp, who has a Dip. Tech. in entomology, has returned from the U.S.A. and is off to Trinidad.

What to put in these two lines is a problem, so: Happy Christmas!