

THE WATER RAT.

NEWSLETTER OF 'LEANDER'

H.Q. 92, Lower Ham Road, Kingston-upon-Thames,
Surrey, KT2 5BB.

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* MAR '89 *
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FROM THE G.S.L.

It was good to see the Main Deck full this month, when the Scouts joined in with the Cub meeting and finishing off with a 'Going Up' ceremony. This also saw the formation of two new scout patrols, so the Group is now up to strength with 6 patrols and six cub sixes. It does, however, make our requirement for more adult help on both Beaver and Scout Section's more pressing and I am still waiting for offers of assistance with instruction.

As we move into the (hopefully) warmer days, equipment overhaul and replacement becomes a priority. Thanks to some members of the Guild, the second wooden gig is undergoing a refit and hopefully will be ready for the beginning of April. The Cubs have two camps planned this year and the troop are going abroad. A new 'mess' tent and cooking equipment is therefore essential. Similarly, a rescue boat is also top of the shopping list.

I am pleased to report we have been granted £1,000 from the Kingston Lottery fund towards the rescue boat, however this is conditional on the money being spent by May! Since the rescue boat will cost about £3,000, we need to concentrate efforts in the two fundraising events in the near future, i.e. the Race Night and the Sponsored Walk, and hopefully raise enough for the renewals of equipment. The Sponsored Walk is being organised by Kingston & Malden Scout District, and this year will start in Kingston follow the towpath from Kingston Bridge to Hampton Court, and from there, around the park and back to Kingston. Leander have been asked to Marshall the towpath between Kingston Bridge & Hampton Court, and 'man' a checkpoint halfway along the towpath. Distances to be walked will be for Beavers: 10KM for Cubs: 15KM, and Scouts/Ventures 25KM. All proceeds of sponsorship will be used for purchase of equipment as above, and sponsor forms will be given out to the boys next week. Cheers for now,

Keith Maund - G.S.L.

DIARY DATES

- Fri. 31st Mar. - Race Night at H.Q.
- Sun. 9th April. - Sponsored walk for Beavers/Cubs/Scouts/Ventures -Parents & Supporters needed for marshalling.
- Sun. 23rd April - St. George's Day Parade
- Sat. 29th April. - District Swimming Gala.
- Sun. 7th May. - Jumble Sale.
- Thurs. 18th May. - Leander A.G.M.
- Sat. 20th May. - Sea Ranger Assoc. A.G.M. - all day at Leander HQ.

SCOUT LEADERS REPORT

At last we have reached our target, and that is to have six patrols. I have dreamed of having an HQ full of scouts and it seems that we are well on the way as we are now 32 strong. It is a great feeling seeing this 'small

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SCOUT LEADERS REPORT (continued)

Navy' around me, BUT... to control this amount needs more than six eyes, (mine, Chips and Bosun). So, I once again repeat, I do need help from anyone who has an idea how to handle boys who need to let out a lot of steam!

We must wish Bosun a very speedy recovery with his injured thumb, he had a 'set to' with an inmate, anyway I have heard that he is out of his sling by now.

District Night Hike. This took place on Saturday 25th Feb. I was not involved as I had travelled for 27 hours back from Austria that day and felt rather tired. I would like to say a big 'Thank you' to the fathers who gave up their Saturday night to help with the Hike and transport. They had to call off the Hike at 0400hrs due to bad weather, lost boys and tired leaders, who were freezing waiting at the check points. This is the second event that cannot be marked up regards the Marshal Trophy. To have any chance of getting it back, the badge work is in top gear in March. No games during this month, just work, with an aim to get 100 badges during the month. It can be done, as there are around 30 badges half completed. Of course, we must get the marching practise in to gwt the others. You just need to make sure that your son is at every meeting during March. Next month's report should give you a clear picture of what we have achieved this year.

Dates for your Diary

Fri. 31st Mar. - Race Night. It will be a great night if we all turn up, and the profits will replace camping equipment, and boy, does that need replacing! So, lets all be there, 19.30hrs onwards. I am the M.C., its my game, my rules!

Sun. 9th April - Sponsored Walk, District Event. 3rd Kingston HQ to Hampton Court via the River, back through Bushey Park and back to 3rd's HQ. Again, please support this, as whatever we raise goes to the camping equipment, and this is for Scouts & Cubs.

Sun. 23rd April - St. George's Day Parade. Every boy must be there as this is where we are counted, and we want to win the marching Trophy.

Sat. 29th April - District Swimming Gala at New Malden Swimming Pool.

Your son's Ell form should arrive by post to you during this month. I will be calling them in during April & May.

P.S. My wife & I had a terrific time in Austria in February, hiking, climbing and snow fights. No skiing! Thats all for now,

Chief - Mick Chinnock

BEAVER LEADER'S REPORT

Since my last report, we have had a cooking evening, well, it was more like making sticky chocolate cherries! Nevertheless, they went down O.K. Then we had a 'Guess Who?' competition. The boys had to bring along a photo of themselves when they were aged between one and four years. The winner was Daniel Lorrenzini, who managed to get 12 out of 18 right. Well done, Daniel.

We also had a District Valentine Party, which was great fun, but, unfortunately Leander did not support it very well. There was only 3 out of 20 boys which is a very poor show considering the time and effort spent making and preparing things so the boys would enjoy themselves. We made Mothers Day cards last week, and a very big effort was made by each boy. We also had a surprise visit from our local beat policeman, 'P.C. Ray'

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BEAVER LEADER'S REPORT (continued)

he is going to visit us again when he is passing the HQ, also he is going to arrange a couple of evenings for the boys.

May I take this opportunity to thank all the parents who have helped me this term, and on behalf of Marie and myself, we wish you all a very Happy Easter.

LIZ

SOCIAL CLUB REPORT

Next Sunday, 12th March is the 'Pub Row & Lunch', and would all those wishing to row, assemble at HQ at 11.00am. We aim to row up to the 'Albany Pub' at Thames Ditton, where everyone else is welcome to join us for lunch at around 12.30pm. *cancelled*

The next event on the calendar is the Race Night at HQ on the 31st March, Tickets for this event should be purchased in advance and are available from Nigel Duffin, at a cost of £2.50 per person. To order a ticket you can contact Nigel on 01.977.8305. Some tickets may be available on the night, which commences at 7.30pm.

Finally, we have arranged a Wine Tasting evening on Monday 24th April at HQ, where you will have the opportunity to sample a variety of wines, under the guidance of a professional expert. The cost of this event will be £2.00 per head, payable on the night.

Robert Payne - Social Club Chairman

PARENTS & SUPPORTERS FUND RAISING

Vivian Brown: Tel. 546-2989

We now have a Committee of parents to help organise various supporters events. The aim is to involve all parents in this, so we are trying to develop a network to call on parents to help when they can with individual events. You may well have had a call already to find out what sort of things you can help with, if not, you should do shortly - and please do not hesitate to ring me if you feel left out! We want to make the events good fun in their own right, not just ways of raising money to give the boys more to do in the troop. It is not just a question of providing help for specific events, we also want you to come and support the events themselves.

The next event is a Race Night on Friday 31st March at HQ, (for those who have not been before, there will be a number of races during the evening, on the 'big screen') You can have a flutter on the horse of your choice and see if you get lucky. You can also become a horse owner for the evening. We have some professional help to ensure that Leander stays in the 'black'! We have helpers to arrange food for the evening, so please come along!

There will be a Jumble Sale on Sunday afternoon, 7th May, which James Warriner is organising. He will be looking for helpers, and of course for Jumble, so please start putting some aside. You can contact James on 399 - 1742.

On Sunday, 9th April, the boys will be participating in a District Sponsored Walk, and I will be looking for volunteers to man one of the checkpoints. You may hear from me! We will also be in touch later about the Ham Fair (lots of cakes needed, and helpers to put up and run the stands. This is to be held on the Ham Green on Saturday, 10th June. Further afield is the Regatta, on Sunday, 9th July, when we invite a number of other troops to race on the Thames. We will need some help to run the stalls to provide refreshments to participants and passers by.

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PARENTS & SUPPORTERS FUND RAISING (continued)

Sunday Teas at Leander in the Summer A very successful way of raising funds for Leander has been to sell tea, cakes, squash to Sunday afternoon walkers along the River. There is usually a brisk sale from early afternoon through to the evening. If every parent is able to do this just once in the Summer (and we suggest two parents for each Sunday), then we should be able to cover the period from early May to late September. Tea, coffee, sugar, cups etc will all be provided at the HQ. The only things parents will need to bring on the afternoon are milk, cakes and biscuits. You will be given a full briefing on where to get the keys, and where to find things.

Could all of you please telephone to Margaret Williams on 549-5164 and volunteer one Sunday when you would be able to take this on? Two families can volunteer together or we can find you a partner.

Vivian Brown. Parents & Supporters Fund Raising

THE STORY OF THE NIGHT HIKE: by Oliver Brown, Scout.

The date was Saturday, 25th February, and the weather was terrible as we set off from H.Q. When we arrived at Box Hill, we were given a wave and shoved off into the rain! We had two teams. In team 'A' was Ali Bennett; Stuart Livesey, Oli Brown, John Long, Damion Daroos and Ben Seeley. In team 'B' was Simon Leo, Jonathan & Richard Merry, Simon Clark, John-Paul Green and Andy King.

The ground was very hard to walk on as it had been raining and it was extremely muddy. We got covered in the stuff. Still both teams made good progress. Then, the weather got worse, and went from rain to sleet to snow. Team 'B' had to give up after one checkpoint as they were tired, wet and cold, but still this was very good as most teams did not get to the 2nd checkpoint at all! But still team 'A' fought valiantly on, but, after the 2nd checkpoint the weather and an injury in the form of John Long getting cramp, forced us to abort the hike and seek the help of a nearby house. The people there were very kind and provided us with soup and a barn to stay in for which we are very grateful. After about an hour we were picked up by the mobile patrol who had a bit of trouble finding the place!

We came back to find team 'B' already at Polyapes in their sleeping bags, and soon we were in ours too....sheer bliss! The next morning we woke up to bright sunlight and awful food. Still, after breakfast we packed away, and went off home to a nice hot bath!!

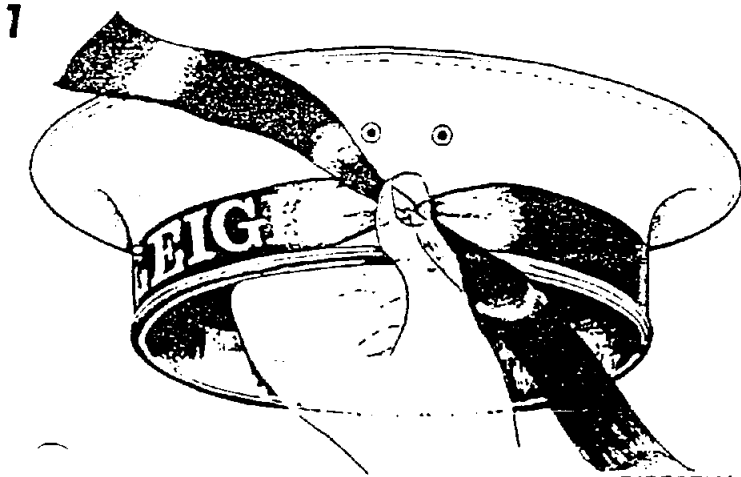
Oli Brown - Scout.

NOTE FROM EDITOR

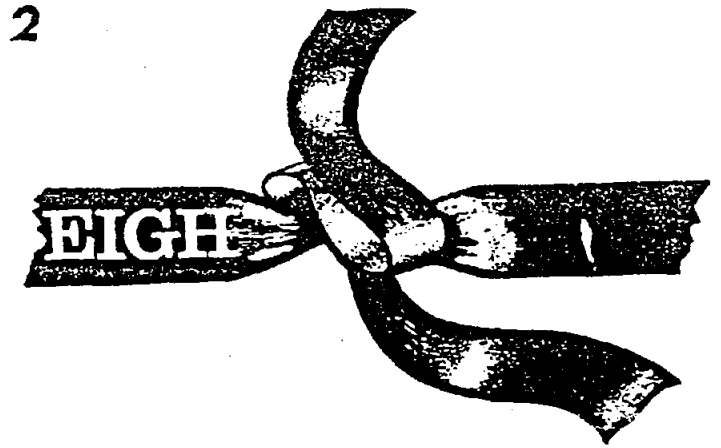
May I please remind all Sections that I should receive all Reports on the first day of each month, as they all take a few days to collate, edit and print prior to distribution. Thank you.

Mary Clark. Ed.

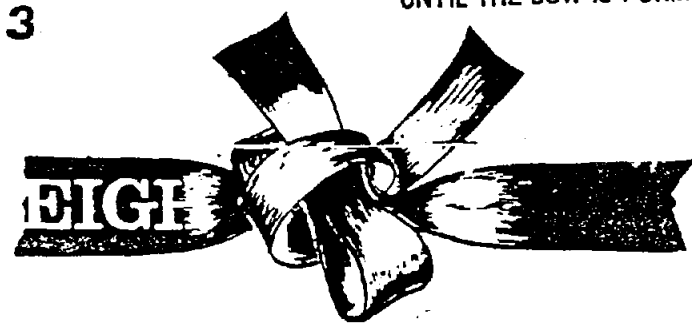
TYING A CAP RIBBON



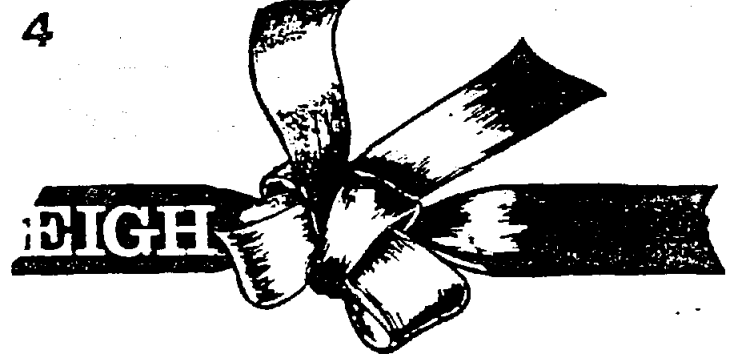
CENTRE THE RIBBON WITH THE 'A' OF RALEIGH DIRECTLY UNDER THE FRONT SEAM OF THE CAP. TIE AN OVERHAND KNOT DIRECTLY UNDER THE LEFT HAND SEAM OF THE CAP HOLDING THE RIBBON FIRMLY IN POSITION WITH THE THUMB UNTIL THE BOW IS FORMED



THE UPPERTAIL IS BROUGHT DOWN AND UP AGAIN TO FORM THE FIRST BIGHT



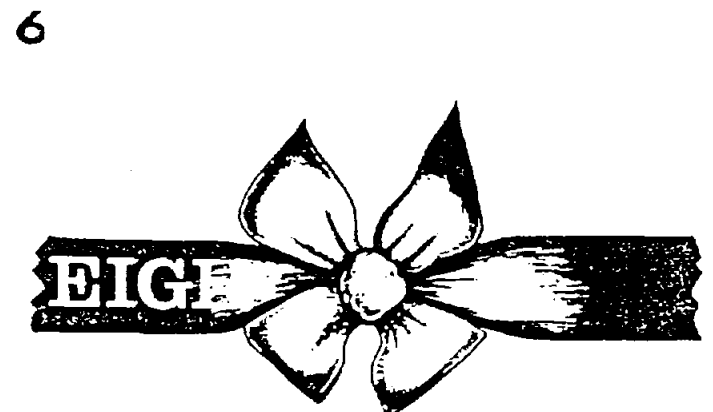
THE LOWER TAIL IS PASSED UNDER THE FIRST BIGHT AND THEN UP ON THE OUTSIDE



A BIGHT IS FORMED IN THE RIGHT HAND TAIL AND TUCKED BEHIND THE TOP END OF THE FIRST BIGHT



THE KNOT IS NOW CAREFULLY FORMED AND TIGHTENED.



THE TAILS ARE CUT TO SHAPE.