

THE WATER RAT

Published by
"LEANDER" (KINGSTON) SEA SCOUT GROUP

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SKIPPER'S SCRAWL

I believe our Open Day/Going Up Ceremony proved an enjoyable occasion for everyone. A big day for those 'going up', a chance to see what the boys do, and an opportunity for all boys and parents to get afloat. Hopefully, we shall make this a regular event in the Leander calendar.

It is intended to include a regular 'Sea Scouting Skills' sheet in Water Rat, covering topics such as safety rules, anchoring, parts of boat, etc. This may be of help to parents when they take to the oars, but the main intention is for boys to be able to build up a reference folder covering "technical/theoretical" aspects. The first article on pulling orders is included this month.

Both the River Race from Richmond to Greenwich, and the P.L's sailing weekend on the Solent went well. It was good to have Guardian Sea Rangers participating in the row down river. Special thanks to Guildsmen 'Dai' Evans and 'Cyril' Fletcher for making their boats available for the boys who thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and I'm sure, will now have some salt water in their blood and look forward to sailing even further offshore.

Congratulations to Rod Leigh on the presentation of his woodbadge. This marks a significant achievement in completing Leader training. Rod is now moving over from Cubs to the troop, and we shall benefit from his wide experience in diving and powerboat handling - hopefully now some of the older boys will be able to gain their power coxswains badge.

Welcome also to Tony Johns, a Beaver parent and ex Sea Scout, who is a qualified RYA sailing instructor and has agreed to help by teaching the boys sailing. Thanks also to Lauri Dewhalley for instructing some of the younger scouts in canoeing - hopefully some boys may achieve their first star canoeing certificate before the Winter sets in.

In order to broaden activities next year, we must put in more work on basics during the Winter months on the theoretical side, and for this we need 'expert' instructors to lay on short courses. Please let me know if you can help in teaching any of the following: Basic Navigation, First Aid, Ropework, Pioneering, Weather forecasting, Marine VHF Radio, Firefighting, Boat repairs, Signalling. With the Groups growing numbers, the more instructor we can call on to help out the better. Please let me know if you can give say 4-6 evenings or Saturdays afternoons to help out (Tel.01.399.5846)

We also still need more adult help with Beavers - Monday evenings 6.30pm-7.30pm.

Finally, looking to 1990, we shall be extending our invitation Regatta a little and making it a National one! Please note the dates in your diary now - July 7th and 8th. Its probably almost 20 years since Leander hosted a national Regatta, and those who remember the last time will know it will be all hands to the pumps!! Keith Maund.

"LEANDER" (KINGSTON) SEA SCOUT GROUP

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CHIEF'S CHAT - (Report from Scout Leader)

What a month this has been! On the 23rd the County Camping Competition took place and was led by Olly Brown with Stuart Livesey, Leo Gould, David Leader and Guy Knagg. We had warned Olly that this would be a tough one. The result proved this as we came in joint last. I was not as disappointed with this result as Olly was.

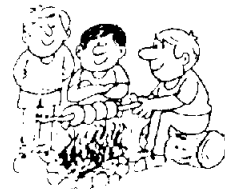
On the 23rd we also had the Great River Race, which was over a distance of 19.5 miles, from Richmond to Greenwich. The day started at 08.00hrs at Ham car park, where we all met for the start of the Race. The crew consisted of Simon Leo, Paul Livesey, Richard Merry, Jonathan Merry and a Sea Ranger named Jane, with me as coxwain and an extra rowing hand when required. Our aim was to cover the distance in under 4 hours. We actually completed the row in 3 hours, 44 minutes, 52 seconds. We don't know our placing yet as we did not wait for the results, knowing it would take us longer to get home, than it took to do the race. Other participants from Leander were 2 Venture Scouts, Andrew Bennett and Nick White. The Sea Rangers made up the rest of the crews with our GSL as cox. We also had crews from Fulwell Garage, who I must say rowed very well, so well in fact that they beat us by 15 minutes, and were coxed by Chips. The rescur boat was handled by Rod and Ness from the Sea Rangers. As you can see the Sea Rangers took a great part in this race, and for that I would like to say 'Thank you'.

On Sunday, the 24th September, we had our first 'Going Up Ceremony' with all the parents attending. This day proved to be a success as the Beavers went up to Cubs, and the Cubs up to Scouts, and all parties were invested on the spot. The parents then took to the river in our boats. It always looks easy from the bank, but when you actually get in one and row it, then it becomes a little bit harder! A Bar B Que was held upstairs at the same time, and everyone had a good feast. My only complaint was, where was every one when the boats had to be put away? Next time the parents can do this bit as well.

A fire fighting course has been laid on at Kingston Fire Station for 6 weeks in October. In November, an Airmans basic training course has been arranged to take place in New Malden. We also have at least three other District events to take part in during October and November.

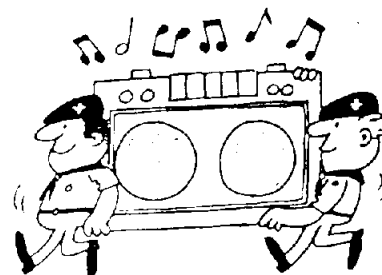
I would just like to say 'Welcome' to Rod who has joined us from the Cubs section to become an ASL. The more help I get, the more interesting programmes we can lay on for the boys. We also welcome Matthew Jarman and Aaron Ross from the Cubs, who were invested on our opening Sunday.

Chief. Mick Chinnock



Dates for your Diary

- 28th October Halloween Party H.Q.
- 11th November..... County Cub Swimming Gala
- 29th November..... Cub Parents Open Evening. H.Q.



CUB'S CAPERS (Report from Cub Leader)

We would like to welcome Gregory Nutt and Edward Lightfoot who came into Cubs last week. Goo luck to Aaron Ross and Matthew Jarman who have gone up to Scouts. We would also like to wish Rod Leigh (Shere Kharn) all the best with his new job with the Scouts and thank him for all his help.

In the New Year we would like to have a Handyman's Proficiency badge day at H.Q. We would need some Dad's to help the boys during the day, and most importantly bring the tools and Workmates with them. Any Dad who would like to help us, please telephone us on 942.6276, and then we can make a date.

We would also like to congratualte Rawden Leigh and Richard Secker for gaining their Silver Arrows. Well done.

Event Dates:

- 14th Oct. Leander Swimming Gala - Roehampton.
- 28th Oct. Halloween & Fireworks Party at H.Q. Evening.
- 11th Nov. County Swimming Gala (This one is for the boys who swam for us in the District Gala)
- 13th Dec. Cubs last meeting before Christmas.
- 10th Jan.1990. Cubs 1st meeting after Christmas.



AKELA & RIKKI



BUSY BEAVERS (Report from Beaver Leader)

We would like to say Goodbye and Good Luck to Edward and Gregory who have both gone up to Cubs. A big Welcome to Jay and Benjamin who have joined us. Well done to Nicholas, Jonathan, Quentin and Gareth on being invested.

A special vote of thanks to Chief for taking us on the river on Sunday, 24th September. Please do not forget the Swimming Gala on October 14th.



Marie.

P.S.A. ANTICS. (Parents & Supporters Assoc. Report by Chairman)

The fine Summer weather led to record takings for our Sunday afternoon teas. I do not have the final total, but it is around £600. This is a great tribute to the hard work Margaret Williams has put in to organise parents for each Sunday afternoon, and to make sure they had the keys and knew what to do. Thanks also to Peter Burton for keeping an eye on the provisions and replenishing them as necessary. Thanks to all of you who gave up a Sunday afternoon to bake cakes and sell the teas. Although the pace of business is leisurely, Leander teas seem to be coming an established feature of the Summer towpath!

The other event to report was the Open Day and Going Up Ceremony on 24th September. No doubt there will be other reports elsewhere in the Water Rat. It was very good to see so many parents during the afternoon. I hope those who went in the boats enjoyed themselves. It was a good opportunity for the Beavers and Cubs to see what lies in store for them. The Barbecue, teas and refreshments seem to have been well received. It was difficult to know

Continued.....

P.S.A. ANTICS (continued)

how many sausages to keep on the grill! (We just about got it right)

My thanks to Jan Reid, Margaret Bennett, Di Parnell, Sheila Coulson, Zainy Saifee, Nigel Duffin and James Warriner for their help on the catering side, and to Steve Leader for the sausages.

The next event - The Halloween Party on 28th October - fuller details to follow shortly, but there are certain to be valuable prizes for the best dressed witches and warlocks.

In November (date still to be settled) there will be the Christmas Bazaar. I will be in touch in the next few weeks to recruit a few more people on to the Parents & Supporters Committee. I would particularly like more representatives from Beaver parents. Please give me a call on: 546-2989, if you can offer help. Thank you.



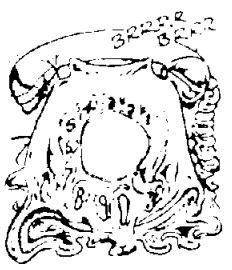
Vivian Brown - Chairman.



HOW ABOUT SOME 'VERBAL' FROM VENTURES FOR NOVEMBER WATER RAT ? ?

AND SOME 'SNIP ITS' FROM THE SOCIAL CLUB ? ?

Remember your copy should be in by the 1st of each month, and if you do not have a pencil or sheet of paper, I will even take your report by telephone - 24 hours - day or night! Tele. 949.4195.



Mary Editor.



ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE THE 'SEA SCOUTING SKILLS' SHEETS. PLEASE DETACH THEM CAREFULLY. A MARGIN HAS BEEN LEFT FOR YOU TO 'PUNCH' AND TO INSERT INTO A REFERENCE FOLDER.

SWEATSHIRTS & T-SHIRTS

There are a few Medium sweatshirts remaining in stock and also small sizes in the T-shirts if anyone requires these sizes.

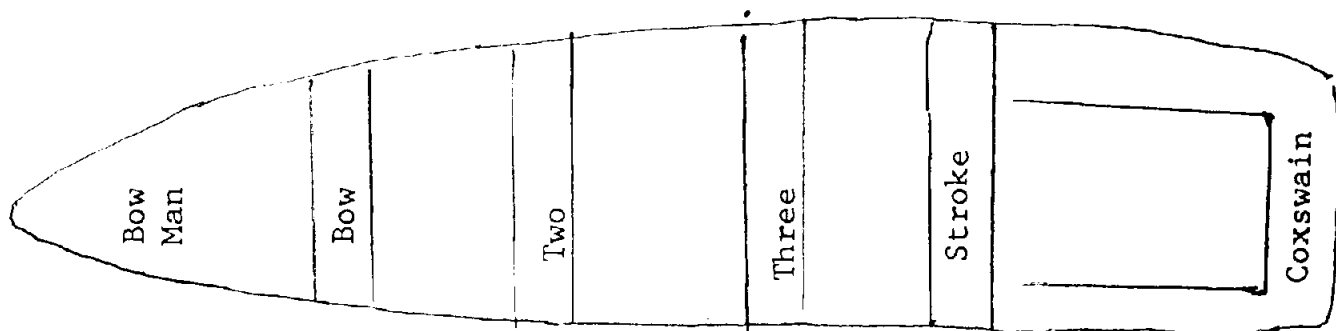
A new stock of X large and XX large sweatshirts will ^{be} coming soon, so if you require these sizes please telephone: Mary on 949.4195. Thank you.

SEA SCOUTING SKILLS"BOATING ORDERS"

Boating orders vary slightly between different Sea Scout Groups, however it is very important that everyone within the same Group uses the same orders. The following are the boating orders used in Leander.

1) Crew Assembly

The crew line up on the bank facing away from the River. The coxswain then numbers off the crew and they 'fall in', in order, stroke nearest the bows, three, two and then bow, if the crew has a separate bow man, he falls in aft of bow.

2) Crew Positions3) Boarding

The coxswain will give the order - ABOARD CREW, BOW STAND FAST, (where there is a Bowman, the order will be for Bowman to stand fast instead of Bow) The coxswain will board first, followed by Stroke, Three and Two, in that order. Bow (Bowman) will remain ashore. The crew should board one at a time, stepping over thwarts until they reach their rowing positions.

4) Getting under Weigh

The coxswain ships the rudder and yoke before giving the order, "HANG ON TWO WITH THE BOATHOOK" followed by "CAST OFF BOW". Bow will then cast off the sternfast and pass it to the coxswain, cast off the painter and stow it, and then come aboard.

"TAKE OVER THE BOATHOOK BOW". Bow remains standing and takes boathook from two. Two then sits in position (where there is a Bowman, the bowman casts off whilst the boat hook is initially held by bow)

"SHOVE OFF BOW" (Bowman). Bow will then put the boathook behind him and push on it to bear the bow of the boat upstream and out into the stream. When the boat is sufficiently clear of the bank, the coxswain will give the order "OARS", the crew will then take fendoffs inboard, ship crutches and position oars parallel with the water and at right angles to the boat. Stroke lifts the blade of two's oar and places it forward of his crutch before getting his own oar out. Bow remains standing, stows the boathook (hook facing to bow) and then ships his oar before sitting down. N.B. Oar blades are stowed in the boat with blades towards stern except bow oar which is stowed with blade facing the bow.

Continued.....

- (4) "STAND BY" - Crew leans forward ready to row.
 "GIVE WEIGH TOGETHER" - Stroke will give crew six short strokes, and then lengthen the stroke.

(5) Manoeuvring under Weigh

Except for the order "HOLD WATER ALL" which is executed immediately, the crew should execute orders one stroke after the order is given.

TRAIL OARS - swing oars parallel to the boat.

SHORTEN OARS - continue rowing with oars drawn in towards the oarsman.

OARS ACROSS THE BOAT - Stop rowing, draw oars to lay across the gunwales.

PULL UP PORT - (STARBOARD) EASY STARBOARD(PORT) - to turn the boat in the required direction.

PULL UP PORT(STARBOARD) BACK HER DOWN STARBOARD(PORT)- to turn boat in limited space.

HOLD WATER ALL -push stroke to check weigh

BACK WATER ALL -To go astern.

GIVE WEIGH TOGETHER - order to resume rowing ordinarily after a manoeuvre - number of short strokes are indicated with the order "TWO (THREE etc) SHORT"

(6) Coming Alongside

IN BOW. Bow will cease rowing,put his oar across the boat,stand up, unship his oar and stow it blade forward,unship his crutch,take up his boathook,and be ready to grip or check weigh. THIS ORDER MUST BE GIVEN IN AMPLE TIME.

WEIGH ENOUGH. Oars swung in and stowed,crutches unshipped,and fendoffs put out.

When alongside TAKE OVER THE BOATHOOK TWO, ASHORE BOW WITH THE PAINTER. When made fast,coxswain will pass the sternfast,and bow will make it fast, SHIP THE BOATHOOK TWO. Two will place the boathook hook forward next to bows oar.

NO ONE ELSE GOES ASHORE UNTIL THE COXSWAIN GIVES THE ORDER,'ASHORE CREW'. They will then leave the boat by the bows,and fall in on the bank as before for dismissal.

BOATS CREW ALERT. TURNING RIGHT. DISMISS.

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