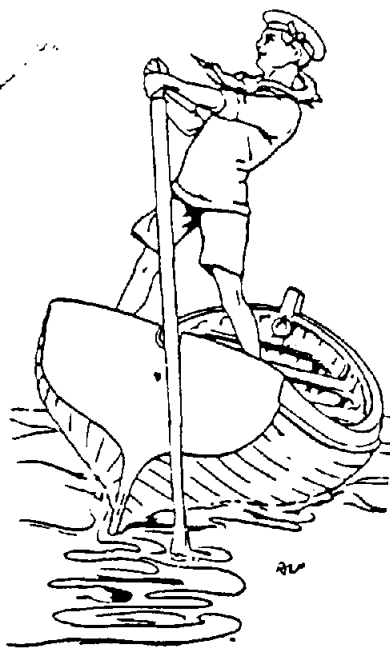


THE WATER RAT

Published by
"LEANDER" (KINGSTON) SEA SCOUT GROUP



SKIPPER'S SCRAWL

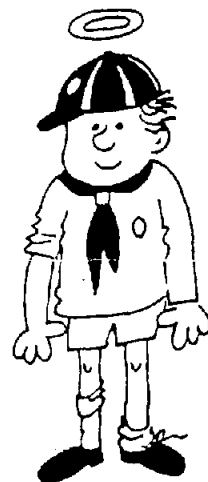
MAY/JUNE 1990

Welcome. Firstly a warm welcome to Susan Miller who has joined us from Richmond to help Marie with the Beavers. We also welcome back Graeme Brooks to Scouts. This helps our Leader situation, but we still need male help with the Beavers, and one more Leader for the Cubs. As an interim measure until Marie and Sue find their "Sea Legs" I will run the Beaver waiting list myself. We will accept 5 more Beavers shortly and, subject to offers of help with the colony, will be able to take a further 8 boys aged 6 from September. The waiting list for next year (boys born in 1985) is already half full - so if you have a boy wanting to join next year - make sure his name is on the list.

Leaders. With the addition of Graeme we have been able to redistribute some of the Scout Troop responsibilities. Mick (Chief) remains Scout Leader with Rod, Vanessa and Graeme as assistant scout leaders - though Rod will divide his time between Scouts and Venture Scouts. Tony Johns will continue to instruct sailing. Jim (Chips) has agreed to take on the vital task of ships carpenter, to ensure the correct maintenance of the boats and gear - and hopefully to teach the boys boat and outboard motor maintenance. Ford has taken on the position of Quartermaster and is faced with the daunting task of cataloguing and maintaining the Group camping and pioneering equipment.

Events. It was a shame that attendance at the open day was so low, however, with 10 Scouts away at the District Camping Competition it was perhaps inevitable. I have raised the irritating problem of late notice changes of date for District Events at the District GSL's meeting. The District intends to set the calendar for 1991 this July to allow Groups to plan their programmes around the District events and prevent clashes of dates. I have made the point that, once District dates have been set, any subsequent changes will take second place to our Group events. Congratulations to the Cubs for winning the District Cub Scout Sports. The Cubs tried so hard and seemed to enjoy themselves so much - despite the deluge of rain at the end!. To the Scouts who came last and second to last in the District Camping Competition - well done - but learn from your mistakes!. I can remember leading the Heron patrol to victory in the District and County Camping Competitions 29 years ago (dare I say it) - and coming 7th in the Nationals at Gilwell Park - and then the same patrol losing everything the next year!. It is hard work getting to the top - and even harder staying there!. Our recent successes have certainly made the other Groups in the District that much keener to beat us.

Gigs. Those who have been down to the HQ recently will have seen that Turks have completed the refitting of **both** fibreglass gigs. All they need now is more work by **parents** in rubbing down the woodwork and varnishing. My thanks



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to those who have already got one gig woodwork sealed and ready for the regatta. I now need volunteers from parents willing to spend some evenings or weekends in August/September to complete the varnishing. This refit has cost £2000 so far - so it is vital that the woodwork is properly protected for the future. Hopefully, this year, we will enter 4 gigs in the Great River Race from Richmond to Greenwich - one each from the Scouts, Venture Scouts, the Guild and the Sea Rangers. So - once the regatta is over - volunteers please to finish off the gigs. As a reward in anticipation of your assistance with the gigs, I am sure you will be pleased to know that the Scout Association Insurance for all our gigs has been increased to cover their use on non-scouting events. The way is open for parents/supporters to organise their own row up river in the autumn - with up to 4 gigs.

Standards. As the regatta, Admiralty Inspection and summer camp approach, a final effort is needed by everyone. May I stress to parents the importance of attendance by the Scouts at the saturday meetings to ensure that Leander maintains a high standard in these forthcoming events.

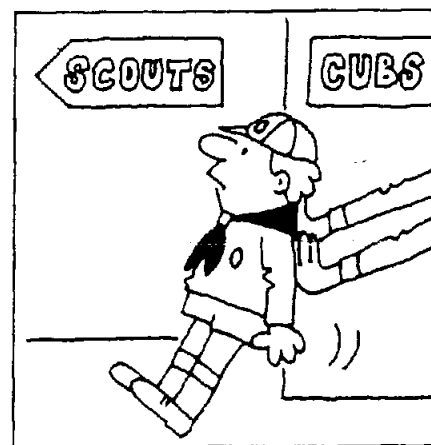
Dates For Your Diary.

National Sea Scout Regatta	7/8	July	
Admiralty Inspection	24	July	
Royal Tournament outing	25	July	Tickets from Chief.
Troop Summer Camp	5-17	August	
Great River Race	15	September	
Cubs Parents camp	15/16	September	
Group Executive Meeting	17	September	

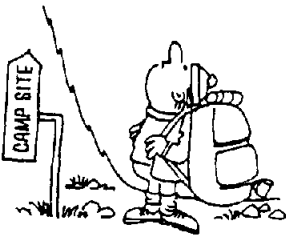
GSL KEITH MAUND

CHIEF'S CHAT

Scout Section Report. May and June has been a quiet period for the Troop. We entered 2 teams in the District Camping Competition. What went wrong only the Patrol Leaders will know, but it was a record - no one finished behind them - they were last, and second to last. The nose dive seems to have occurred on the second day. It was wrong of the organisers to let the 2 Leander patrols camp together in the first place - but that is no excuse for the messing about that went on - especially amongst the more senior scouts. However, that is now history. We have 6 Cubs doing their link badge - and the feedback is that they are having a great time - so we are doing something right!. The plan for the Cubs is to save time in September when they can come straight up to the Troop. We have welcomed Graeme Brooks back to Leander as an ASL after some years in the wilderness. Graeme, for those of you who do not know him, was a Leander Cub, Scout and Venture Scout, and my ASL for 5 years. He is a welcome addition to the team.



Saturdays. We have been trying to put in the practice for the Regatta, but poor attendance on saturdays has not helped - Parents - please impress on the scouts that saturdays is a normal meeting, attendance is expected and it is then that the majority of boating activities are done. It a little disheartening when we end up with a ratio of only 1.5 scouts per adult scout leader on a saturday!.



Summer Camp 90. It now getting close to Summer Camp. I need the final payment by Tuesday 10 July please - remember that we meet on that night at the Kingston Gate Car Park, Richmond Park, for a scout Wide game. The total amount is £85, please complete full payment of that amount by 10 July.

Admiralty Inspection. Tuesday 24 July is the 1990 Inspection. This is a compulsory attendance night for all scouts, in immaculate full uniform. Earlier start time of 6.30 PM. We only have 2 compulsory meetings per year - this one is vital!.

Royal Tournament. I have booked Tickets and transport for 25 boys and 4 Adult Leaders for the Royal Tournament on 25 July 90 at Earls Court. Costs are £5 for the boys. Again by Tuesday 10 July I need the names of all wishing to go. We will depart from the St Albans Road entrance (the back gate) at 11.30 AM on the 25th for the afternoon performance. We will share the transport with 1st Old Malden Troop. Full Uniform is to be worn.

National Sea Scout Regatta. This will be held at our HQ over the weekend 7/8th July. It lasts all day, both days, from early AM to about 6.00 PM. The scouts taking part have the exact timings. We need a full turnout of scouts to show everyone else what Leander can do.

Reminder - Scouts Wide Game Meeting - Tuesday 10 July - Kingston Gate Car Park, Richmond Park, normal timings -scruffy clothes.

Chief - Mick Chinnock

BEAVER TALES



We have had a slightly more delicate time in the colony lately - making Mustard and Cress Eggheads. Hopefully the Beavers will enjoy watching them grow - and eating the final product!. We have also had a painting round each Beaver session, the Beavers will paint them, and when they are dry, we will send them home - and sorry, yes, you do get the Beaver back as well as the picture!.

Farewell. We welcome Sue to the Colony, she and Marie will be taking over from me in September. I wish Marie and all the Beavers the very best for the future, and I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents, past and present, who have helped and supported me over the last 3 years.

Beaver Outing. Don't forget the Beaver outing in September - money and names to Marie please as soon as possible.

LIZ

PARENTS/SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION ANTICS

There was plenty of opportunity for parents and children to get out on the river at the Open day on 10 June. Most people had a go at rowing one of the gigs or being taken out in the rescue boat. I hope all of you who came enjoyed yourselves. It turned out to be a bright and sunny afternoon. many thanks to the Leaders for giving up more of their time for the boys. The following

Saturday at Ham Fayre was also a bright, dry day. We could have done with more help but I am grateful to those who helped put up the stands and take them down again and those who came to serve on the refreshments and Bric a Brac stalls. Business was very brisk. We could have sold many more sandwiches and hot dogs but we had just the right amount of cakes for sale. So - many thanks to those who baked for us - we made just under £300 profit so it was a very worthwhile day. Our sights are now fixed on the National Regatta on 7/8th July. There will no doubt be a fuller report elsewhere in the Water Rat, but we will be providing refreshments throughout the day over the whole weekend for the expected 300 competitors and supporters. We will need help to run the stalls between about 10.00 AM and 5.00 PM each day. If you can help - let me know please either on the pink form from last months Water Rat or direct by telephone: Vivian Brown - Chairman:

081-546-2989.

VENTURE SCOUT FEATURE

Due to exams the Venture Scout section is in a sort of limbo just now. Once the exams are finished a properly structured programme will be started and the Unit will begin to feature in Group activities. Recent informal meetings have included Home Brewing and some water activities. Phil Day, an ex-Leander has contributed some equipment to get the Unit started on their Home Brewing - part of the "creative" section of the Venture Scout award. Plans are under way to organise a hike for the Scouts, to join in on summer camp for a couple of days and to have a go at Sub-Aqua. You will hear more of the Venture Unit soon.

Rod.

SEA RANGERS SECTION - GUARDIAN

The Sea Rangers remain active and have a full programme for the summer. Vanessa Smith has been granted her Sea Ranger Warrant - well done!. We hosted (Hostessed?) the National Sea Ranger Association AGM at the Leander HQ on 9th June. We had a visit by the 12th Wimbledon Guides for the evening on 15 Jun - a great fun evening. The Section will be taking part in Aquameet Longridge on 6-8th July - for the older girls only. The younger girls will get their chance when the whole Section goes to Rose Cottage from 27 July - 3 August for a water activities session. The Rangers will be entering a gig crew in the Great River Race again this year, so we will have to practice.

Ness.

EDITORIAL

If you thought that this edition looked different - you were correct!. Mary was snowed under and couldn't do it, so I have bashed it out - Mary, clear your workload soon - please ! Please!.

Rod

Rod Leigh (itinerant Leander scouting person)

