

# THE WATER RAT

Published by  
"LEANDER" (KINGSTON) SEA SCOUT GROUP

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER '90

## SKIPPER'S SCRAWL

Concerned that the Water Rat might not always reach home with the boys, the Executive Committee decided that in future publication would be bi-monthly and entrusted to the post! (Do I hear a sigh of relief from our Editor that she will now only have to chase for contributions every other month?)

All sections of the Group have been very active since September, Beaver outings to Crystal Palace, Great River Race, Ventures Scouts hikes etc, etc, and hopefully full reports to follow. Congratulations to those taking part in the River Race - 3rd place in

both under 16 and under 18 sections, and the Guild coming 2nd overall on handicap. It was certainly good to see all our 4 gigs in commission again - (one was used by the Sea Rangers)

Well done to the Scout Troop - 2nd place in the District Swimming Gala - a superb result considering the older boys have all just 'gone up' to Venture Scouts.

Its also good to see an active Programme in the Venture Unit, and I was pleased to attend the investiture of 4 boys into the Unit, re-affirming their promise underwater in Sub Aqua gear - however, where were all these swimmers at the District Gala?

Akela and Rikki have decided to move down South, and regrettably for Leander, will be retiring from the Cubs at the end of December. I am sure everyone will join me in thanking Mick and Val for their dedicated work with the boys over many years and wish them all the best when they move.

Due to changes in job and shift systems, Chief has not been able to get to many Saturday meetings, and therefore feels he must stand down as S.L. Thankfully, Mick will still be at meetings as often as possible, and at present Scouters are working their own shift system.

Marie still needs help with Beavers, and although Rod and Russell are looking after Venture Scouts, Rod is due to move some time next year.

We are not alone in needing more Leaders. There is a 'shortage' in the majority of Groups in Kingston and Malden. However, unless we get more volunteers to help with the Sections in the next two months, we shall have serious problems in providing adequate supervision at meetings from the New Year. I would therefore ask all parents and supporters to consider if you can help, or to tell me if you know of anyone who might like to become a Leader (Tel. 081.399.5846).

### H.Q. Building

The Executive Committee have decided that we should complete the drainage on the H.Q. and completion of the Galley (kitchen) and Galley store a priority. Drainage and plastering will be put out to contract, but finishing and fitting out will be a D.I.Y. job.

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SKIPPER'S SCRAWL (continued)

It is hoped that we may well be able to hire out the Main Hall for events on Saturdays evenings which should boost Group funds. Anyone who can help on D.I.Y. building work, please contact John Clark (Tel 949-4195)

Landrover

We are concerned that the Landrover has seen its best days and must now be replaced. We shall be discussing disposal of the Landrover and what it should be replaced with at the next Executive meeting, i.e. mini bus, another Landrover, Hopper bus type vehicle - and how we shall finance the purchase. We are fortunate to have an active fundraising committee and I do hope that all parents and supporters will assist where they can so we can provide the best possible equipment for the boys.

I look forward to hearing from those who can help.

G.S.L. Keith Maund

ADVANCED DIARY DATE! SEA SCOUT REGATTA 1991 - JULY 6th/7th.

The River has been booked-details to be finalised! Please keep that weekend free!

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CHIEF'S CHAT (Report from Scout Leader)

Summer Camp has long passed us and it's just a memory now, but, what memories! To my mind it was one of the best Camps I have ever had. The standard the boys' set themselves after we showed them how high we wanted it was maintained throughout the Camp, and it was a happy Camp through the 12 days. We did our share of sailing, canoeing, hiking and scout work. The highlights were, a day spent at the Military Police Training camp, and for this day, we must thank Rod- it was great. We had a day out in Portsmouth and Southsea. This included a trip to the swimming pool and a trip round the harbour finishing by some free time at the Fun Fair in Southsea. Our next day out was to Burley Car Museum and Southampton swimming pool, with the longest chute I have ever seen.

Paul from Molesey had his off-shore power boat at the Camp and all the boys had a go- the winning Patrol for maintaining the best Camp, had the pleasure of going at full speed in the boat, and we did the Isle of Wight to Southampton in six minutes, that will give you some idea of the speed it can do.

A special thankyou must go to Lynda (Mrs Brooks) for cooking for the leaders- you did a great job Lynda. Thank you. To the rest of the leaders who were at Camp, I say many thanks for making my life so easy. It was a holiday for me. Ta ever so.

SEPTEMBER REPORT

Not a lot to say about this Month, but we took part in the River Race. In fact Leander had three entries in it - the Old'uns (Guild Members) the Ventures and the Scouts. The Sea Rangers put an entry in and so did Fulwell Garage. I can't say a lot about the Race because on the day I was travelling to Austria. When I got back I was told that the Ventures and the Scouts came 3rd in their section - Well Done! The distance being 22 miles and rough at that, you all did very well. The Guild came 2nd overall, and to them I say, well done, you certainly kept the Leander flag flying.

I also heard that the boys had a late night, this was due to a misunderstanding between the bus that I had laid on for Fulwell and Leander, and

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CHIEF'S CHAT (continued)

of course the fact that they ran out of water due to Low Tide - as they say, the tide waits for no man. We should have taken part in the Middlesex Canoe Race on the 30th September but this was cancelled due to lack of entries, as it seemed the million night campers had taken its toll on the entries.

In the meantime we are doing the normal Scout work.

Chief. Mick Chinnock

Dates for the future

District Swimming Gala. Sat 6th October. (to late for Press day)

Saturday, 20th October - District Night Hike.

Saturday 27th October - Halloween Night at H.Q.

Sunday 11th November - Remembrance Sunday (details to follow)

Sunday 2nd December - Incident Hike (for the younger Scouts)

Dates to note for 1991.

Sun. 10th Jan - 2nd or 9th February - 2nd March - 21st April - 11th/12th May  
30th June. (These dates are for District events)

Thats all for now

Chief.

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CUBS CAPERS (Cub Leaders Report)

We hope that you all had a good Summer holiday. Now we are back to normal, we would like to welcome Jamie Breen, Jack Randell and James Bertenshaw who have joined Cubs.

Good luck to Hathi who is in the middle of his first aid course and he has also started his Leader training doing his general information course. =  
Swimming

We still did not have all the Cubs at the Bank of England pool the other Friday. We will be going again the last Friday of November, 7pm-8pm. Please attend as it gives the Cubs a chance to do the different stages of the Swimmers Badge.

Next month we should be getting the information about the change in the Cubs Badge work. We will keep you informed as we hear about it.

Leaders

We would like to thank Gordon Secker for his help at Cubs. Could you please ask yourself if you could and would give up some of your time and help at Cubs, and maybe even go into uniform. Akela and I (Rikki) will be leaving Leander in a few months time, which will leave the Pack very short on adult help. Please think about it. Akela and I have been with Leander Cubs for almost 7 years and we have enjoyed meeting all the young lads, some now very big lads in the Ventures, and we have had a lot of fun with them. If you are interested and would like to know more, please ring: 081.942.6276. Before Christmas the Cubs will be doing the Scientist Badge and having a Christmas Party.

Dates for your Diary

27th October. Halloween Night at H.Q.

30th November. Swimming 7pm-8pm

8th December. Cubs Party 3pm-5pm (Parents invited for Coffe & Mince Pies at 5pm)

\*\*\*\*\* Akela & Rikki \*\*\*\*\*

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BEAVERS BANTER (Beaver Leaders Report)

Beavers started back again on 10th September. We welcomed Max Osborne and Sam Jarvis into our colony. We discussed our Summer holidays and it seems that everyone had a good time. We said goodbye to James Bertenshaw and Jack Randall who have now gone up to Cubs.

On Saturday, Sept. 15th the District Beaver outing took place. We travelled by coach to Crystal Palace and visited the Zoo, adventure playground, dinosaur walk and the swimming pool which was reserved for Beavers. The weather was good and we all enjoyed ourselves. A big 'Thank you' to Sue Wellman for all her hard work in arranging it all.

Marie

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'BEAVERS DAY OUT AT CRYSTAL PALACE'- by JONATHAN BURR- Beaver.

110 Beavers from all over Kingston went to Crystal Palace for the day. The swimming pool was big and warm and I had fun playing in it. Afterwards I went to the farm, and the goats tried to eat Marie's skirt!

We had our lunch in the big adventure palyground and I liked chasing through the wooden tunnels. On the Dinosaur Walk one of the dinosaurs looked as if it was climbing out of the water. The whole day was very good and many thanks to Marie for looking after us.

Jonathan Burr- Beaver

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VENTURES SCOUT SECTION NEWS (Venture Scout Leader's Report)

As most of Leander will have noticed, the Venture Section is gaining momentum. The Unit gained an excellent third place in the under 18 class in the Great River Race- with the help of their last minute passenger, Jennifer who stepped in to replace one of the Ventures who had to make up the numbers in the Scout boat.

An investiture with a difference was held for Simon Leo, Ollie Brown, Ally Bennett, Ed Devlin and Stuart Livesey - it was carried out underwater in the Chelsea Barrackes Pool using Sub-Aqua equipment. After the investiture the whole Unit re-affirmed their Scout Promise in the presence of the GSL and ADC(VS).

The next event was a night hike held in mist, torrential rain, no moon, and on off-road routes on the North Downs, in practise for the County Competition to be held in October. The Unit performance under very adverse conditions was excellent.

However, the variety and challenge of the Venture activities being undertaken naturally brings the Section to the attention of the GSL and Bruno and to others in the Group - perhaps not always in the most complimentary manner. As a result, there has been an element of interference in Unit activities and with Unit equipment. Obviously this is unacceptable and must stop! Things are improving and will get better as we go on! In the meantime, should anyone have anything to say about the Ventures or what they get up to, please channel it correctly through the VSL - Rod Leigh.

Rod Leigh -VSL

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SUNDAY TEAS AT LEANDER -Fund Raising

I have been the Leander Sunday teas organiser this Summer and now that the Season is over I feel it would be nice to say a big Thank You to all those mothers(and some fathers too!) who cooked cakes and spent Sunday afternoon making teas for passers by on the towpath. It was a wonderful Summer and many reported back to me that they actually enjoyed themselves in the sunshine and making friends with other scout families.

It was a great effort,much appreciated, and we made a profit of nearly £500 ! - I hope you all will volunteer again next year.

Jenny Sevitt

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

It seems a long time since the National Regatta weekend when we were putting up the stands and trying to get the water hot enough for tea(having fused the electricity power supply for the computers and loudspeaker system and being told we had to use gas) It was a good weekend,keeping up with the demand for drinks, sandwiches and hot dogs. Many thanks to those of you helped serve or who brought cakes. A particular thank you to the Connolly family who were the mainstay of the organisation.We kept the prices down so the boys could easily afford to eat and drink, but we still managed £130 profit.

Over the Summer, most of the parents should have been involved at least one Sunday serving teas at Leander H.Q. Jenny Sevitt has done a terrific job masterminding the organisation and ensuring someone was there each week. We owe her a great debt of gratitude, and to all of you who helped out. It is a good way of getting Leander known in Kingston, and I hope also provided a means of bringing Leander parents together.

We have a few events planned for the Autumn, and I hope we can count on your support. The dates are still subject to final confirmation,but are as follows:-

JUMBLE SALE - Leander H.Q. Sunday 21st October at 2.30pm

HALLOWEEN PARTY-Leander H.Q. Saturday 27th October at 6.30pm.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR-Leander H.Q. Sunday 18th November at 2.30pm

We are planning to run a Raffle to raise money for Leander and have the grand Draw during the Christmas Bazaar.

You will receive fuller details of the events shortly, but meanwhile please pencil the dates in your diary.

Vivian Brown. Chairman

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

As you know the Water Rat will now be published bi monthly commencing September/October ..November/December...January/February...March/April...May/June....July/August

Would all Section Leaders please let me have their copies between the 1st-7th day of each month underlined above, i.e. next copy due 1st-7th Nov. Thank you.

Mary - Ed.  
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