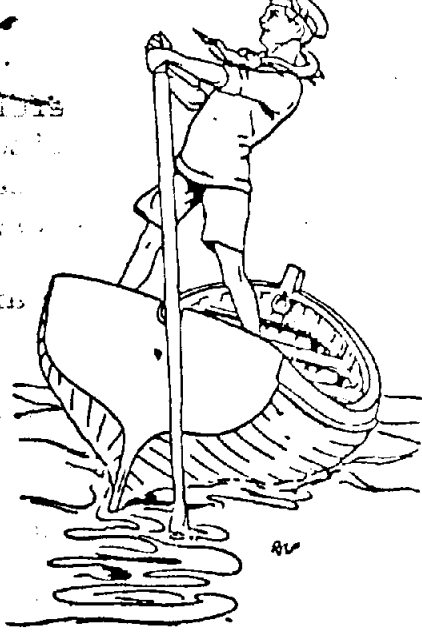


# THE WATER RAT

Published by  
"LEANDER" (KINGSTON) SEA SCOUT GROUP

JANUARY 1991



## SKIPPER'S SCRAWL

Time and Tide wait for no man! This also applied to the last issue of Water Rat, which went out as a single sheet due to lack of contributions (including my own!) Hopefully, this issue will be a little fuller!

Unfortunately, due to personal reasons, this will be Mary's last edition as editor. I am sure everyone in the Group will join me in thanking Mary for the hours she has put in at the typewriter over the last 3½ years. The Water

Rat is an important part of the Group, since it keeps everyone in touch with what's going on in the various sections - I would be pleased to hear from anyone willing to take over publication.

This month, we welcome Leah Hibbin who now is helping Marie with Beavers. Additional help means we can now take in some new Beavers, but we do still need another leader in this section before we can recruit to full compliment.

I'm also pleased (and somewhat relieved) that Mick and Val have postponed moving down South, and are therefore carrying on with Cubs. This year Cubs celebrate 75 years, and several events are planned later in the year. February will also see the launch of a new badge scheme, which should improve links with Beavers and Scouts, and also have more for the older Cubs to do.

Graeme Brookes, as those in the troop will know, has now taken over as Scout Leader from Mick, and we look forward to a continued, adventurous programme under his leadership. Mick, I am pleased to say, will still be continuing to help out with scouts on Tuesday evenings, and has agreed to take responsibility for 'Special Projects'. He will be taking the boys to Tor Point, and I hope, in September, organise a Group family Camp.

The Venture unit is still moving onwards, but unfortunately Rod has now got his marching orders and is being posted to Germany. Cieren and Rawden therefore are now at a new school, but we hope to see them at meetings during school holidays.

The Executive committee have decided that the Landrover must go, and Steve Leader has been charged with its disposal for the best possible price. With the money from its sale and the savings on insurance, we propose to purchase a special 4 wheel trailer to carry camp gear, canoes, etc - even tables and catering equipment for Ham Fayres etc. We shall then look to ways of raising funds to purchase a Mini-bus in the not too distant future. In the meantime, I would like to hear from any parents/supporters who have a Tow Bar on their car, and who would be prepared to occasionally tow the trailer to camps etc.

Finally, those of you who have been down to H.Q. recently, will have noticed that the woodwork in the ceiling has now been completed, and work is underway on plasterboarding.

continued overleaf....

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SKIPPER'S SCRAWL (continued)

John Clark has sunk all the ceiling lights into recesses and hopefully, we shall soon have a ceiling! Thanks to those parents who gave up time over the pre-Christmas period in D.I.Y. work. In the future, please note we shall be having WORKING PARTIES AT H.Q. on the first Sunday in every month - 8.30am-12.30pm, all volunteers welcome!

Thats all for now, and I look forward to your phone calls re Tow Bars and Water Rat.

Keith Maund. G.S.L.

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NESSIE'S NATTER (formerly Chief's Chat) -Scouts

As many of you know we said a sad farewell to Chief (Mick Chinnock) on Tuesday 18th December '90. We presented him with boatswains call. We all wish him well in his new post as liaisons officer for the group.

The task of correspondence for the Water Rat has fallen to myself, myself being Ms Vanessa Smith, (Ness to everyone else)

Throughout the past three months, we have had a very full programme, not doing so many of the scouting things, but teaching the PL's and APL's to be Patrol Leaders - showing them how responsibility sometimes has disadvantages, but more often than not, advantages! There have been quite a few inter patrol competitions, such as, 'cook a meal', urban night hike using C.B. radios, and a regatta.

By doing all the above, we have put back all the team spirit that has been missing for a very long time. Somebody actually said that they really noticed the difference in the attitude and behaviour of the boys, not only towards the Leaders, but also to each other!!

We have started a Patrol Leaders Council, and our first meeting was held in November. We planned the programme for the coming months, and they also decided that it would be good if they all went out together. The first outing was to MacDonald's in Surbiton - needless to say they were all fairly well behaved, but I will not be showing my face there again for some time.

During November, we welcomed Dave Mullard(Mole) and Andy Bennett, two of the Venture scouts, who have agreed to take out warrants in the New year. Goo luck to them. At the beginning of December we welcomed 7 cubs who have started to work on their link badges. We hope that they enjoy Scouts as much as they did Cubs.

Our last meeting for 1990 was the 18th December, this was the night of the Christmas Party. A good time was had by all, and a few members got very messy with some of the games, and a few got their 'just desserts' for some of the things that they have done to Leaders in the past year.

We are now looking forward to the New Year, and hope it will be as good as the last.

Ness -(for the Scout Leader)

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VENTURE SCOUTS NEWS

The Ventures remain fully active and are continuing in their pursuit of the elusive powerboat charge certificate. They have so far achieved authorisation to use powerboats on home waters with the permission of a leader. The theory testing including knots, splices, and whippings, meteorology, first aid, boathandling theory and buoyage has been completed. The next stage will allow those that pass to go farther afield, on safe tidal waters, with the permission, but not necessarily the presence of a leader

continued overleaf

VENTURE SCOUT NEWS (continued)

The final on-water test is scheduled for 10th Feb.'91, ready for Spring, so we will be out practising over the coming weeks. Andy Bennett has passed his St. John's First Aid Certificate, following the course over the Winter. SEALION Ventures have asked to come and join the Leander Ventures for an evening meeting on 7th Feb 91, so we will have to set up a suitably notable programme for them. At the end of Feb.91 (weekend 22-24 Feb) Rod is threatening to take the Ventures away for a 'survival weekend'. Anybody with suggestions for those who ought not to be allowed to survive should join the queue behind Bruno.

Rod leaves Kingston for Germany in March '91, so a new VSL will be appointed then. The Ventures are helping out with Scouts quite regularly now, and are willing to help out on any group project, provided adequate notice is given. A happy and successful New Year to you all from the dreaded Ventures!

Rod. V.S.L.

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SOCIAL CLUB 'SNIP ITS'

On 12th January, thirty parents, leader and friends of Leander sat down to the now traditional (if 3 years can be called a tradition)- New Year Dinner at H.Q. The Main Deck was barely recognisable with its multi-coloured illumination and white clothed tables. Marion Duffin prepared a marvellous meal of melon, followed by turkey and ham with all the trimmings, mince pie and Christmas pudding, finishing with coffee and presents for everyone. A wonderful end to the Christmas season. Marion was helped by her sister, Hazel, a Leander from some thirty years ago, and also Hilary Maund. There were several diners whose memories reach that far back, including Roy Bevan who kindly donated the meat for the evening. Jennifer de Kerkhove helped with the presents, and they must all be thanked, together with the other 'below decks' staff, for what, all agreed was a marvellous evening.

Marion is planning to use the surplus from the dinner to make the life of future caterers at H.Q. easier. With the Galley store soon to be fitted out, this looks good for the social life of Leander. Cutlery is a particular need and she would like you to see if you have any old stainless steel cutlery that you are chucking out (now that you are using the solid silver for every day!) You can phone her (081-549-2317) or pass it on to Keith.

Finally, an apology to those who would have come to the Dinner had they known about it. Unfortunately, we just missed the last Water Rat for the announcement, and invitations had to be largely by word of mouth. Keep an ear to the ground for next year!

Nigel(Mitt) Duffin

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

As Keith mentioned earlier, this Water Rat will be the last one I will be editing/publishing, which I am sure I am going to miss. I am sure the next editor will get a lot of fun out of it, but I will warn him/her that you will need the following items if you want things to run smoothly i.e.:- (magnifying glass to read Keith's copy - professional translator to read Viv's copy - dictionary for Vanessa's copy, and very important - a big black cross in your diary dated about a week after the date the copies should be in from the Section Leaders, and then you may be lucky to receive some! Joking aside, I have enjoyed it very much and I am sure you will telephone to Keith on 399-5846 if you can offer your services.

Mary Clark - Editor

N.B. Next copies due on 7th March

DATES FOR DIARY

Tor Point ..... 1st/2nd/3rd February  
 Cub Parents Evening/Going Up Ceremony.....6th February  
 Executive Meeting.....18th March ..8.00pm H.Q.  
 Leaders Meeting.....21st March...8.00pm H.Q.  
 Group Annual Gen.Meeting..8th May.....8.15pm H.Q.

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PARENTS AND SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION

As those of you who have been in the H.Q. recently will have seen, the main effort since the Christmas Bazaar in mid November has been on the building. We have spent money from the Building Fund on the carpentry work needed to case the windows in the roof, and to prepare the ceiling for the plasterboard. There are now to be regular working parties, described elsewhere in the Water Rat, to try and finish off the ceiling and start some of the painting work. I do hope as many of you as can will give help on Sunday mornings.

Since the Bazaar we have had no Fund Raising activities as such. All of us have been busy with with our own Christmas. On the 12th January we had our Leander Christmas Dinner at the H.Q. It was an excellent evening - superb food and good company. Many thanks to Marion Duffin and her helpers for arranging such a good evenings entertainment. Everyone got presents as well as a full Christmas dinner and we still made a profit. Well done Marion!

For the coming year, we will be looking for someone to organise teas in the H.Q. on Sundays during the Summer months. Most Leander parents are now fully familiar with what to do. The job for the organiser is to make sure there are a couple of people for each Sunday. Jenny Sevitt took this on last year with great success. Please do think whether you would be willing to volunteer for this Summer. Have a word with me if you want to know more about what is involved - Telephone:- 546.2989.

Very best wishes to you all for 1991.

Vivian Brown

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