

THE WATER RAT

Published by
"LEANDER" (KINGSTON) SEA SCOUT GROUP

APRIL 1991

SKIPPER'S SCRAWL

My thanks to Lynda and Steve Leader for taking on the arduous task of editing and producing the Water Rat. Communication is essential to keep everyone informed of what is going on in the Group and following Mary's comments in the last edition, I will promise Lynda to write a little larger!

Last month Steve managed to get a Buyer for the Landrover and chased (or pushed) down the Lower Ham Road, we said a fond farewell.

With the camping season upon us, an order will be placed within the next few weeks for a larger four wheel trailer to carry camp gear etc. As those parents whose boys have recently been camping at Polyapes will appreciate, six boys need a lot of gear and it fills several car boots. Cup Camp will require even more gear transported.

So we can afford to pay for the trailer, which will benefit ALL sections of the Group, proceeds from the sponsored walk will go towards paying for it! I would like to see every boy try for a target of £20.00 in sponsorship so we can buy a reliable and robust trailer - N.B. If parents would also like to walk, sponsorship forms are available from Section Leaders.

Viv Brown would also like four or five volunteers to act as Parent Marshalls on the morning of the walk from approx 8.30a.m. - 10.00a.m.

ST GEORGES DAY PARADE

This year New Malden is the Venue and the whole Group will muster at 13.30hrs in St Georges Square.

This is one day we expect ALL boys to be on parade and looking immaculate - last year we did not win the marching and turn out trophy, mainly due to our attendance being down, so please note SUNDAY 21ST APRIL in diaries now.

Congratulations are in order for some of the older members of the Group this month! Firstly to Marie, Mike, Ness and Andy Bennett on the presentation of their St John's First Aid Certificates. Secondly Ness, Nick White, David Mullard and Andy Bennett on completion of their Charge Certificate Examinations for Powerboats.



Cont.../2

"LEANDER" (KINGSTON) SEA SCOUT GROUP

Headquarters:- 92 Lower Ham Road Kingston upon Thames Surrey
telephone: 01 549 6286



Our thanks are also due to Lieutenant Colonel Rod Leigh QGM RMP who organised the Powerboat Charge Certificate Course before taking up his new post I/C the Military Police in Germany. I am sure everyone will join me in thanking Rod for his help over the last 2½ years and looking forward to him being posted back in the U.K. at some time in the future so we can press gang him back into the Group.

Finally, we are nearing the time of the A.G.M.'s and the Leander A.G.M. is being held at H.Q. on WEDNESDAY 8TH MAY AT 20.15 hrs. This is the time when we can all meet to discuss the Group's progress over the year and also elect the Executive Committee who look after the group's affairs.

I do hope we will have at least one parent present from each Leander family, especially since one of the items on the Agenda is raising subscription levels -v- increasing fund raising activities.

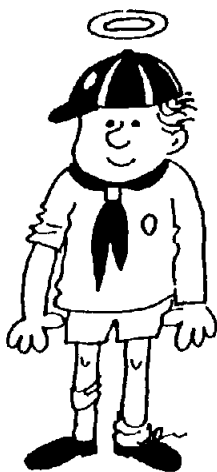
I look forward to seeing parents there - hopefully the business will not take too long and we can socialise afterwards with Cheese and Wine.

Keith Maund G.S.L.

CUB SCOUT REPORT

We would like to welcome Jonathan Burr, Tommy Reddington, Simon Pipola and Oliver Steel into the Pack. We say Goodbye to Tom Parnell and Marker Baker and hope they continue to enjoy their Scouting.

We now have all the information about the new Cub Scout Badge work which we will be starting after Easter. We would like to invite all Cub parents to a Parents Evening on 10th April at 7.30p.m. We would like you all to come so you will know what your Son will be doing and be able to help him with his badges. We will also be able to let you know about the Cub Camp in May/June.



The Pack have been working for some Activity Badges over the last few weeks. All the boys who have completed the work have been given the badges which were: Map readers, Artist and Book Readers.

Well done Boys!!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 10th April: | Parents Evening at HQ 7.30p.m. |
| 14th April: | Sponsored Walk |
| 21st April: | St Georges Day, New Malden |
| | Meeting at St Georges Square at 1.30p.m. in FULL UNIFORM. All boys in shorts please with nice clean shoes! |
| 8th May: | Leander A.G.M. 8.15p.m.H.Q. |
| 31st May-2nd June: | Cub Camp - Walton Firs |
| 15th June: | Cubaree (County Activity Day) Hook Arena |

See you all on the 10th April.

NESSIES NATTER

What have the Scouts been doing during January and February??
More like what have they NOT been doing!!

One of the first Saturday meetings was held at Teddington Swimming Baths. In all there were about fifteen boys, myself, Coxswain and Chief. The aim of the afternoon was to practice for Torpoint and for a couple of them to gain the Advanced Swimmers Badge. At first the pool was fairly packed and the boys did the practicing that was required - towards the end of the afternoon they took it upon themselves to empty the pool by trying to attack Chief and Coxswain!!

(For notes about Torpoint see the report by Peter Dyke).
From the leaders that went, I can honestly say that even though the boys did not get into any of the finals, they put their ALL into it and did their best. Leander has every right to be proud of them.

Winter camp, to which only the Patrol Leaders went, was a great success. I am told that it was very cold but the large camp fire on Saturday nights soon warmed up the spirits.

One of the biggest surprises to us all was how smart our new Assistant Scout Leaders, Dave Mullard and Andy Bennett, look now that they wear their uniforms - Yes, they do have uniforms!! It is a shame that some of the older scouts do not take the same pride in their attire as our younger new Scouts and Leaders do. With St Georges day not far off, the tidyness of their uniforms holds as much importance to the regaining of the Marshal Trophy as do the badgework and district events. So, is it possible to see an improvement in our standards of dress before then??!!.

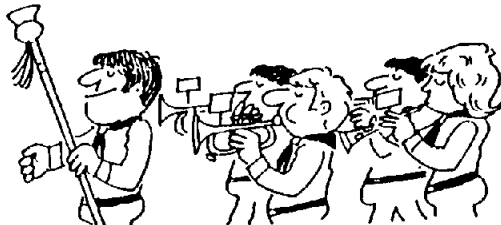
All the boys have had, or will be getting, a letter from their Patrol Leader regarding their Patrol Camps. These camps are to be held at Polyapes at various times during the next few months. I can say that there should be no problem for our Gerbils as they know how to put up a tent, even in the dark, as was demonstrated one Tuesday night. It took them 25 minutes to erect the tent and five to take it down and pack it away.

Well, that's all from me, I've had my moan and hope that the parties concerned take note.....

NESS

ST GEORGES DAY PARADE - SUNDAY 21st APRIL 1991

Could all boys meet in FULL UNIFORM at St Georges Square near the Railway Station at New Malden at 1.30p.m. We shall be meeting the District at 1.45 at the Waitrose Car Park. We march off at 2.20.
The service is being held at Christ Church, New Malden.
Could parents please pick up the boys from the Waitrose Car Park about 4.00p.m.



Cont.../4

TORPOINT 1991

We left for Torpoint at 11.45a.m. It took us about four hours to get there. We took two Leaders, Chief and Ness; the Scouts who went were Tom King, Matthew & Peter Dyke, Leo Gould, Martin Connolly, Ben & Charles Seeley, William Steinthal and Jonathan Kirkley.

Tom King swam in the under 14½ Front Crawl and came 3rd in his heat. Peter Dyke swam in the under 12½ Breaststroke and came 2nd in his heat. Martin Connolly swam in the under 12½ Backstroke and came 4th in his heat. He also dived for us and got 10 points out of 15. Ben Seeley swam in the under 14½ Breaststroke and came 3rd in his heat. Matthew Dyke swam in the under 14½ Front Crawl and came 2nd in his heat and also dived for us and got 12 points out of 15. Charles Seeley swam in the under 12½ Front Crawl and came 3rd in his heat.

The Six Aside Football was organised by Chief and Ness. Our team was made up of Ben, Charles, Tom, Leo, William and Jonathan. We lost to a Troop from North London. We did not have anyone in the swimming finals on Sunday morning. We came third from last overall. We arrived back at Leander at 5.45pm on Sunday very tired but we all had a great time.

PETER DYKE

GIRLISH GIGGLES

Although you do not hear much of us in the Water Rat, we have been very active in the past few months. During December we went Carol Singing as we always do for charity. This year we were collecting for the Blind of Kingston and made £21.00 for all our efforts. The evening was finished off with hot mulled wine and mince pies.

January: Most of our older girls went to work at the Boat Show at Earls Court. This was the first time for many of them and found that even though it was very hard work on the old feet, it was also very good fun. Due to the lack of leaders we did not start back to Rangers until January 18th, which was rather late and it took us a few weeks to get back on our feet, although at the beginning of February we were invited to take part in the North Wimbledon District Swimming Gala at Morden Baths.

All the girls did very well and won seven races that they entered. Karen Louize retained her Diving Cup for the second year running. They also took second place in the Gala overall. We had a few good meetings during February and one of the best was when one of the girls decided it would be a good idea to write to our boys in the Gulf. The results were very amusing.

At the beginning of March we took part in another Swimming Gala at Isleworth Swimming Baths. This was organised by Middle Thames Flotilla. Needless to say we did very well, OK then, we won. Karen Louize won the Senior Diving and Georgie Fellows won the Junior Diving. So the boys had better watch out as the Leander Swimming Gala is coming up soon!! No we are not throwing down the gauntlet, just re-issuing a challenge from 18 months ago!!

VANESSA SMITH
Sea Ranger Officer

PARENTS SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION

I have decided to stand down from running the Fund Raising and Social Events. I am not sure whether I have been doing it for two years or three, but I feel I have now expended all my credit ringing round and trying to persuade people to do things.

I am very grateful to the group of parents who have shared the burden of our round of Jumble Sales, Bazaars, etc. Perhaps one of them will be willing to take over or perhaps some other parent who has not been so much involved.

We have managed to raise on average about £2,000.00 a year from our events. This has helped us buy new equipment for Leander and keep our existing equipment in good repair. I hope that events like the Halloween Party and Open Days have made more parents feel part of Leander.

I hope all parents will make an effort to come to the A.G.M. on Wednesday 8th May. If no one has volunteered to take on the running of the Supporters Association before then, I hope that someone may come forward then.

VIVIAN BROWN

B E A V E R S

Despite continual appeals for more help with the Beaver Section, Marie and Lia are still on their own.

There have been three occasions over the last two months when Marie was unable to get to Beavers due to family or work commitments and unless Jim or myself had been able to stand in, there would have been no meeting.

I consider it is unfair on Marie to ask her to continue without more Adult help and for that reason we have not taken in any boys from the waiting list this year. We could easily have 18 - 20 Beavers if we had the help, but in view of the lack of response, I am seriously considering closing down the Beaver Section if no volunteers are forthcoming to help with running the meetings.

This would be a great shame since the boys do enjoy their meetings and get a great deal from being Beavers.

Beavers meet on Monday evenings from 6.30 - 7.30 (although we could start a little later i.e. 6.45 - 7.45pm).

If you can help, please let me know since if no offers are forthcoming, I shall be recommending closure of this Section at the A.G.M.

Keith Maund G.S.L.

