

THE WATER RAT

Published by
"LEANDER" (KINGSTON) SEA SCOUT GROUP

NOVEMBER 1991

SKIPPER'S SCRAWL

Almost three months after the Great River Race from Richmond to Greenwich, the official times came through my letterbox this morning! I can therefore start by reporting times of our Crews as follows:

		<u>Actual Time</u>	<u>Time on Handicap</u>
Leander Guild	Wooden Gig	2hrs 59:54	+ 0hrs 19:00
Venture Scouts	Fibreglass Gig	4hrs 01:23	+ 1hr 09:25
"Culwell Flyers"	" "	3hrs 55:39	+ 1hr 10:22
Scouts	Wooden Gig	4hrs 13:32	+ 1hr 20:23
Guardian Sea Rangers	Fibreglass Gig	4hrs 18:32	+ 1hr 36:33

Well done everyone who took part and those who raised some £450.00 in sponsorship of the row - I hear it rumoured that the Mums have decided to enter a crew next year!!

I was pleased to see our boys do so well in the District Swimming Gala - Scouts came 1st overall, beating Tiffins by over 20 points. Cubs were just pipped at the post by 1 point and came second overall.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Firework Party and made it such a great evening - certainly the boys and girls enjoyed it - my enjoyment came from watching parents faces as their offsprings emerged from plates and bowls covered in flour, treacle and heaven knows what!!.

Regretably, the Jumble Sale was not a great success. A lot of hard work was put in by those who helped, but we suffered from a lack of customers. Perhaps the day of the Jumble as a fund raising activity is over - having been superceded by Car Boot Sales which, unfortunately, we do not have room at the H.Q. to hold.

Our thanks to Keith Quinnan of the Leander Guild who organised a Charity Dinner Dance on behalf of Leander. It was a most enjoyable evening - superb food and two dance bands. Overall profit is not yet finalised, but at least £500 will be coming to the Group - thanks again to Keith.

I am sorry to report that Mick and Val will be giving up running the Cubs at Christmas. As Cub parents will probably be aware, Mick suffered an injury to his back a little while ago and consequently, Mick and Val can no longer devote the time and energy they used to with the Cubs. I am sure everyone will want to join me in thanking them for their tireless work over many years which has made Leander Cub pack the envy of the District. The Executive Committee are arranging a "farewell do" on Wednesday 22nd January, 7.30pm at H.Q. and invite everyone to join us to make this a memorable evening for Mick and Val as a "thank you" for all they have done.

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"LEANDER" (KINGSTON) SEA SCOUT GROUP

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Meanwhile, however, I would welcome offers of help for Cubs since at present, we do not have anyone to take over!

Finally, I was pleased to visit Beavers last Monday and invest 5 new Beavers into Leander. Also, a welcome to Louise from the Sea Rangers to help Murray in running the meeting. Beavers also need help in running meetings since Marie has changed jobs and now finds it difficult to get to H.Q. in time for meetings. As an interim measure Beaver parents will be helping out on a rota basis, but I would welcome offers of help on a permanent basis. Please let me know if you can help - tel. 081-399 5846.

KEITH MAUND - GSI,

BEAVER REPORT

It has been very busy at Beavers. Since the summer the colony has experienced almost a complete change of personnel. James Mitchell has moved on to Cubs, Marc Osborne and Charles Williamson have left and seven new faces have arrived.

Sessions have been hectic - we have been swimming twice and have entertained ourselves with lots of sticky painting and modelling.

There remains one significant difficulty. Beaver Leader Marie Cox has recently changed jobs and is finding attendance impossible. Her assistant Murray is currently running the colony with major assistance from Kathy, his wife.

Beavers really needs two more Leaders to take charge of the colony so that its continuance can be assured and so that the intake can rise from the current eight to eighteen.

Parents or guardians with boys in Beavers are likely to be asked to volunteer for one or two evenings per term.

CUB SCOUT REPORT

We would like to welcome Andrew Hinsley, Andrew Dequit and James Mitchell who have joined the pack. We hope they enjoy their time in the Cubs.

Since we started back in September, the cubs have been working on their test work with a few boys gaining Cub Scout Award and Adventure Award. Well done to those boys.

Some Cubs have made Lego models which will be entered in the District Handicraft Exhibition on Saturday 30th November. We are all looking forward to the Christmas Party on 18th December which we have said can be Fancy Dress for those cubs who want to dress up.

Akela and I will be leaving Leander at Christmas. We have been with Leander nearly eight years, which we have both enjoyed very much. We have had a lot of fun with all the boys who have been in the pack - some who are now in Ventures. We are moving down to Devon early next year.

We would like to thank all the parents who, over the years, have helped us in so many ways. If we had not had that help we would not have been able to do so many things. Good Luck to you all, especially the boys in the pack at the moment. We will miss you all.

AKELA & RIKKI

NESSIE'S NATTER

Hello again. It's hard to believe that it is only four weeks to Christmas. It doesn't seem that it was very long ago that I was wishing you a Happy New Year!!

So much has happened since the last Nessie's Natter in July. We have had a very successful summer camp in Holland. When we started back in September we welcomed four new boys who came up from Cubs and we have also just invested a Cub from another Pack in the district.

We have had many interesting and entertaining meetings which include cleaning the gigs for use by the Kingston Rotary Club. One Saturday afternoon the boys had to make a suite of sails and get themselves across the otherside of the river using only selected items. Helped out at the Jumble Sale and with some imagination, got their patrol leader who was a British spy out of enemy territory across a 200ft chasm. Eight boys entered the Middlesex Canoe Race in September and who were very well placed.

Two teams entered the District Night Hike held at Polyapes. The Hike itself was around the Box Hill area. They all did very well considering the weather conditions became so bad that at one point it was difficult to see 6ft in front of you.

The boys also entered the District Swimming Gala held at New Malden baths on Saturday 2nd November which I am pleased to announce they won and four boys went on to represent the District in the County Swimming Gala held a week later and we came fourth in that, so I think congratulations are in order. We are also proud that one of our patrol leaders had the privilege to be chosen to take part in the opening ceremony of the Rugby World Cup.

In all we have been very active but I must also mention that the annual Great River Race was held in September. The boys entered along with the Ventures, Rangers, Guild and Fulwell Bus Garage crew. All did very well. The boys did not seem to have any problems until they reached Westminster Bridge.. At this point the water turned and it became very choppy. They finally finished the race at about 8.00 where there was a bus waiting for us provided by Fulwell Garage - this of course was a very welcome sight and a big thank you goes to the bus driver.

On a final note we wish our A.S.L. Andy Bennett well with his studies at Luton Polytechnic.

NESS

THE 1991 DISTRICT SWIMMING GALA

The 1991 Swimming Gala took place on 2nd November. We arrived at the pool with slightly less enthusiasm than we had had for the England Rugby Team earlier that day.

However, the first race was the U12 Breast Stroke which Ben Warrine won by a substantial margin and the second race was the U14 Breast Stroke which Charles Seeley won, quite convincingly; whilst John-Paul Green came 3rd in the U16 Breast Stroke.

In the Back Stroke David King came 2nd in U12, Tom King came 2nd in U14 and to complete the trio, Andy King came 3rd in U16.

The Freestyle was dominated by Leander - Giles Dumper coming 2nd in U12, Ben Seeley scraping in 1st in U14 and Matthew Dyke winning very convincingly in two lengths U16.

In the relays the 3/1 medley relay team of Ben Warriner and Andy and Tom King came a creditable 3rd and the 4/1 freestyle relay team of Oliver Chapman, Matthew Dyke and Ben and Charles Seeley slaughtered the opposition to come 1st.

In the final placings Leander finished in first place, 22pts ahead of Tiffins who came 2nd.

Thank you to Chips who gave up his time to supervise us and to the boys who turned up but, unfortunately, didn't get a race.

ANDY KING (P.L.)

N.B. The four winners then went on to represent the district at the County Swimming Gala on 9th November. The District finished 4th, the best place ever.

THE RANGER REPORT

Yes, we are still here and going strong. The crew has now increased by four cadets and three rangers, all of whom were invested at our crew party held on 8th November, where the girls and Vera Cornerhalligan were presented with their Great River Race certificates. Jane Leader was awarded her Tyrack Ficket which allows her to use the motor boat at Rose Cottage. Like the boys, the girls did very well in the River Race and only came in seven minutes behind the boys.

I am pleased to say that we have a very full programme and have been doing many things which include a basic First Aid Course for use in the boats. The older girls have organised a hike for the 1st December around the Box Hill area. We had our own stall at the Jumble Sale and raised £15. With the help of Mike Baker and five older rangers the games at the Firework Party would not have been possible. We shall be singing carols on 20th December for RNIB and all the girls who are old enough will be working at the Boat Show again this year.

I am sorry that the Ranger report is so short, but we have done so much it would be difficult to tell all that has happened. It only remains for me to be the first to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

NESS

We are looking for more girls so if there are any younger sisters between the ages of 10 and 21 who would like to join please call either myself Miss Vanes, Smith on 081-646 1341 or Mrs Gwenda Sangster on 081-399 2102.

*** CALLING ALL PARENTS ***

*** H.Q. WORKING PARTY - SUNDAY 8TH DECEMBER***

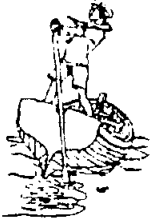
We want to finish plasterboarding the ceiling of the H.Q. We have all the materials, all we need is the volunteer workforce. I plan to start at 8am and work through until the ceiling is finished. We please come and help for as long as you can, when you can. Don't worry if you've never done anything like this before, we can show you how. The important thing is to have enough hands to lift the plasterboard into position for nailing up.

Tools required - if you can, please bring a tape measure, hammer, stanley knife, pencil and saw.

DON'T FORGET THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER 11TH JANUARY 1992 AT H.Q.

PLEASE CONTACT MARION DUFFIN 549-2317.

SCOUT
ASSOCIATION



Be Prepared

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Please reply to:



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Dear Parents and Friends,

You will see from the Water Rat that unfortunately, due to health problems, Mick and Val are having to retire from running the Cubs at Christmas.

They have put in so much time and effort over the years to make Leander Cubs what they are today, and I am sure every boy and parents of boys who have been in the Cubs under Mick and Vals Leadership will want to join me in thanking them for everything they have done.

The Group Executive felt it fitting that we hold a special 'farewell do' for Mick and Val, and this is being arranged for Wednesday 22nd January, at 7.30 pm at HQ. We intend to make a presentation to Mick and Val and if you would like to contribute towards this please send your donation to George Goodall, 37 St, Albans Road, Kingston (Cheques payable to Leander Sea Scout Group) or alternatively, give your donation to Bruno, Chief or myself who will pass it on to George.

You will appreciate that from Christmas, we shall need to find someone to take over as Cub Leader, and also will need help in the roles of assistant leaders, instructors, badge examiners etc. I would therefore be grateful if anyone who feels they might be able to help in any of the above roles with cubs would contact me as soon as possible so that we can ensure continuity with the Cub programme.

In the meanwhile, however, until we find someone prepared to take over running the pack I shall be asking all Cub parents to help at meetings on a rota basis.

I look forward to seeing you on the 22nd January, by which time, hopefully, we shall have found volunteers to take over!

Yours sincerely

Keith Maund