

THE WATER RAT

Published by
"LEANDER" (KINGSTON) SEA SCOUT GROUP

JANUARY 1992

SKIPPER'S SCRAWL

A Date for the 1992 Diary - LEANDER A.G.M., 20.00 hrs MONDAY 11TH MAY at H.Q. Apart from Hearing reports of the last year and electing the Group Executive, this year we shall debate whether or not to go mixed!

Often the AGM is a time when work of individual supporters is marked by the presentation of a "Scout Thanks Badge". This year, however, I have broken with tradition and presented two badges at Christmas Dinners - one to Keith

Quinnen of the Leander Guild and one to Marion Duffin. It is quite likely that many readers of Water Rat may not even know who these two Supporters are, since both have helped the Group in their own way, quietly in the background, over many years.

Keith Quinnen has raised about £5,000.00 for the Building Fund by organising a Boxing Evening, Charity Ball and several other social functions - all of which have been supported mainly by people outside Leander.

Marion Duffin, apart from organising the Supporters New Year Dinner for the last three years, has helped by Marshalling at the Regattas and helped at Jumbles, Bazaars etc. for almost as long as I can recall.

Last Wednesday we said our farewell to Akela and Rikki (Mike and Val) who will shortly be departing for Devon. I was pleased a good number of parents and friends were able to attend their "do" when we presented them with a Brass Tide Clock to remind them of their time with Leander. We thank them for their Leadership over the last 7½ years and wish them good luck for the future. Although they say they are going to have a rest from Cubs, I'm sure it won't be long before some Group in the wilds of Devon will be benefiting from their Leadership.

A warm welcome to our new Akela & Rikki - Mick and Wendy Glynn (tel: 081-949 6984). Mick and Wendy are well experienced Leaders and I'm sure everyone will be pleased that the boys will be in such good hands. Please give them as much support as possible while they find their sea legs.

Finally, a reminder on the "Equipment Levy" which, as was reported some months ago in "Water Rat", is now due for 1992 at £10.00 per head. Please complete the attached form and return with your money/cheque to your boys section leader.

We are in need of several items of equipment - new tentage, life jackets, sailing dinghies etc., and these will be prioritised for when our funds permit.

On the sailing dinghy side, we want to replace the four mirror dinghies with toppers or similar. We have already sold one mirror and if anyone is interested in purchasing one of the remainder, please let me know.

KEITH MAUND, G.S.L.

"LEANDER" (KINGSTON) SEA SCOUT GROUP

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



BEAVER'S BANTER

Boisterous Beavers belt about on Monday nights! We are certainly living up to the Beaver Motto "Fun and Friends".

Just before Christmas we said "Goodbye" to Ben Williams who has gone on to Cubs. We have been joined by Jack Butcher, George Mitchell and James Ford. Recent activities have included baking, painting, mask making and lots of games.

Everyone is looking forward to a busy session up to Easter. This will include three visits to New Malden baths, after all our mucky painting and sticking, it will probably take three swims to become clean - but there again, Beavers like water!!

MURRAY BUTCHER

CUBS CAPERS

I have been asked to write my first report for "Water Rat" as the new C.S.L. for Leander Cubs. Considering that I have only run two Pack meetings, it seems somewhat premature for me to give you an update on the pack. However, this article does give me an opportunity to introduce both myself and my wife Wendy. Before I do that, I would like to go on record in thanking both Mike and Val McMullen for the work they have put in over the years both with Leander and helping in the District. Also I would like, on behalf of all the Cubs at Leander, to wish them every success in their move to Devon.

Well - who am I? My name is Mick Glynn and I have been A C.S.L. in Kingston and Malden District for the past twelve years - the last twelve months as ADC (CS) for Kingston and Malden. Wendy, my wife has been an ACSL in K & M for the past five years and of course involved in a support role to me for a lot longer than that!

When we heard that Leander Cubs were to become leaderless, it was not a difficult decision for us to volunteer to become the "new" Leaders. We are both looking forward to this new challenge and are both excited with changing from khaki to navy blue!! and with the prospect of working with your Group.

We both look forward to meeting you all over the next few weeks/months.

MICK GLYNN - ADC (CS) CSL

SCOUT WINTER CAMP

On Friday morning we met at the H.Q. and were taken to Friday Street Car Park. From there we hiked to the campsite in 2½ hours with William S map reading. Once we reached the camp site we put up our tents and collected wood for the fire. When we got the fire going we decided to make a shelter where we could prepare the food for our meals. For Dinner we had Sausages, Mash and Beans with Apple Pie and Custard.

We finished dinner, washed up and cleared away. We decided to explore the campsite. While exploring we found a big wood pile so decided to carry back a massive long branch to Chief and Cox who were sitting around the fire trying to keep warm. We went to bed, all of us in one hike tent because the other one was missing a pole, so we used this tent to store our kit.

On Saturday we got up and had a wash. The facilities were quite good and there was hot water.

For Breakfast we had bacon, egg and fried bread. We had to chop a load more wood for the fire. Chips then taught us how to light a fire properly using silver birch bark to light it.

We prepared our evening meal which was Beef Stew and Mash followed by Rice Pud (which was largely consumed by Chief!). At about 7.30pm we started our Night Hike.

The route was from the Campsite to the Friday Street Car Park - it was the same route used the day before, only backwards!

Sunday morning we got up, washed and had breakfast. After breakfast we took down the tents and cleared up the campsite. We had Cup-a-Soup for lunch. Our parents collected us at 2.30pm.

MARTIN CONNOLLY

THE RANGER REPORT

Hurray!, Hurray! Party Time!! We are now one of the largest Sea Ranger crews in Southern England with a grand total of 21 members! (Welcome to all new).

This year started with seven (keen, conscientious, friendly!!) Sea Rangers boogying on down to the 1992 International Boat Show at Earls Court. We were acting as general dogsbodies to all and sundry Oh! I mean helpers to the organisers, but at the same time we enjoyed ourselves immensely.

This year we are parting from the Cadets (although we are still one crew) to carry out our own varied activities such as Camp Fires and Hikes which so far have been very successful. With the help of Gary Smith (Land Scout Leader) we enjoyed these activities greatly.

Now let's leave the past and go on to the future. We have two Swimming Galas comming up and one of which we are defending the Winners Cup. We are not the only ones who have been active. The Cadets have been doing their own thing which they have taken great delight in participating in.

Well that's all from us now folks. We will fill you in on our further adventures in forthcoming editions.

THE RANGERS

NESSIE'S NATTER

Happy New Year to all and it's 1992! Leander, like the English nation, are also going into Europe for our Summer Camp.

We have been busy since we started back. We have been preparing for the First Aid Competition on 25th January. Thanks to Mrs Connolly for all her help. We are also preparing for a Vollyball competition at the end of February.

On Tuesday we have been doing a lot of the scouting things, eg knots etc. One Saturday we constructed a bicycle obstacle course up the back while the PL helped scrub one of the gigs. This was a great success. Another Saturday we went and collected loads of wood from the river banks. We rowed up to half-mile tree, loaded up the wood and rowed back. Unloaded the wood, cleaned the boat and sorted the wood into various piles. Once this was done Coxswain taught the young ones how to use an axe properly.

There was also a competition to see who could light a fire the quickest and keep it going.

Cont.... /4

The boys were split into three teams and it was a tie for winning place.

The APLs who went to winter camp came back with glowing reports of how much they enjoyed themselves. Chief and Chips also agreed that it was one of the best camps they have done. The boys were well behaved and learned a great deal. See the report by Martin Connolly.

We have a lot of things coming up in the near future and will keep you informed.

NESS

LEANDER SUPPORTERS ANNUAL DINNER

Saturday 11th January saw the fourth annual Christmas Dinner of the Leander Supporters at the HQ. The main deck was transformed into a full blown banqueting hall, with lights festooned across the room and an aperitif (G&T or Sherry) welcome. The evening proved an immense success due largely to Marion Duffin and her band of co-workers. We sat down to a four course christmas dinner with all the trimmings, superbly served. The evening had everything, food and drink, a birthday boy, a presentation and a free raffle.

The raffle was won by Bruno ("I never win anything") Burton with the second prize going to Mrs Alice ("Neither do I") Duffin. The presentation was to Marion Duffin, who received a Thank You Badge from Keith Maund for services to the cause. Mr Brian Wilson was celebrating his seventieth birthday, and very well he looked for it. As well as being an old Leander Boy, Brian was responsible for introducing Bruno to Leander, as eleven year old boys. Like Brian, Bruno will be seventy in three months, so I will leave you to work out just how many years he has been involved with Leander.

Finally, a big "Thank You" to Marion and all of her "hard-working" team for a very successful and most enjoyable evening.

JOHN CONNOLLY

```

*****
*
* DIARY DATES: 9th February - H.Q. Working Party 8.00-12.30
*                8th March   - " " " "
*                11th March  - Group Executive Meeting 20.30hrs HQ
*                11TH MAY    - A.G.M. 20.00HRS AT H.Q.
*                4th/5th July - Regatta
*
*****

```

EQUIPMENT LEVY

I enclose my cheque for £10.00 (payable to Leander Kingston Sea Scout Group).

BOYS NAME SECTION: BEAVERS/CUBS/SCOUTS/VENTURE

Please complete above and return to your boys Section Leader as soon as possible.