



THE WATER RAT

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"LEANDER" (KINGSTON) SEA SCOUT GROUP

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SKIPPER'S SCRAWL

First the GOOD NEWS!!

We have been very fortunate to receive a Grant from Kingston Council for new Lifejackets, Bouyancy Aids and a Gig Trailer. Since our present life jackets are over 10 years old, the grant is particularly welcome, especially since we propose to introduce the older Cubs to canoeing this year. Unfortunately, the grant will not entirely cover the cost of the trailer. However, since we have now sold the mirror dinghies, some of this money will make up the

balance. Hopefully, we shall take delivery of both the Life Jackets and Trailer within the next month which will be well in time for the boating season. I'm sure the older boys will look forward to crusing new waters, e.g. the Solent, upper Thames etc., once we can transport the gigs by road.

Treasurer, George Goodall, tells me that the equipment levies are coming in steadily, but prompts me to remind those who have not yet paid their £10. This is a particularly expensive time of year for the Group as we have to pay the Boys Membership Subscriptions to the District and National H.Q. (approx £500) and also renew boat insurance (approx £600). These two items account for a third of the boys subscription so we are dependant on the equipment levy for renewal of any further gear/boat maintenance etc.

Thanks to the Guild and those parents who helped on the last two working parties, the ceiling in H.Q. is now almost complete. We hope the next two Sunday sessions will complete the ceiling so please note the dates - April 5th and May 3rd - and come and help if you are available.

Those who have not been at H.Q. in daylight hours may not know that the Council have built a new landing stage adjacent to our river frontage and will be granting us licence to use it. This will make it much safer for the boys when Lower Ham Road gets busy with traffic during the summer months.

Regretably, Graeme Brookes has resigned and will not be able to attend Summer Camp for personal reasons. I'm sure parents will join me in thanking Graeme for the work he has put in as Scout Leader over the past 18 months.

We are at present making alternative arrangements to assist Jim and Ness for staffing and transport for the Camp. Hopefully this will be finalised within the next week and we shall then be writing to parents of all the boys going to Holland to advise of the revised details.

May I again remind parents of the forthcoming AGM - 11th May 20.00hrs at H.Q.. Apart from the debate on Girls in Scouting, it is also the time when we elect the Executive Committee for the coming year.

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"LEANDER" (KINGSTON) SEA SCOUT GROUP

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I would particularly welcome nominations (or volunteers) for Beaver and Cub Parents since at present these two sections are under-represented. The Executive Committee is responsible for the general running of the Group; finance, equipment, building, support, etc. and meets about five times a year. Please contact either the Chairman - Viv Brown - or myself if you would like further information on what you would be committing yourself to!

Finally, you may well of heard of the "Promise Appeal" launched in February by the Chief Scout and being run on a National Basis. The object is principally fundraising to develop Scouting in Inner City areas. Many events are being organised with promotional back-up from the Scout Association and other corporate bodies/companies. In most of the events, 50% of the money raised goes to the Appeal Fund and 50% to the Group. If you would be interested in acting as Co-ordinator for Leander, please let me know so we can take advantage of some of the events planned for helping both ourselves and Scouts in less "well off" areas.

KEITH MAUND - G.S.L.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- H.Q. Working Party - Sunday 5th April - 8.00-12.30hrs
- " " " - Sunday 3rd May " "
- Sea Ranger Assoc AGM - 13th/14th June - H.Q.
- Boxing Evening - 27th April - Preston Cross Hotel 7pm
- Wisley Wander - 9th May
- Leander AGM - 11th May - H.Q. 20.00hrs
- Regatta - 4th/5th July

BEAVER REPORT

Yet more Beavers! The Beaver Colony is growing having recently welcomed Alexander Southcombe, Mikael Hyde and James Mills. We have also said goodbye to John-Paul Griffin who swam up to Cubs in February.

Talking of swimming, we've been having lots of fun at New Malden baths over the last few months. Maximum turnouts for this monthly wetting are due to a much appreciated high level of support from parents - a special thanks for this solid support and getting wet too!.

While I'm handing out thnks, Louise Connolly, a Leander Sea Ranger deserves a special mention. Louise has been helping every Monday night without fail and has ensured that we have sufficient pairs of hands, on hand!!

Which brings me to a familiar call. Due to new demands on my time next Autumn, I shall have to leave Beavers at the end of the next session (July). Beavers desperately needs two permanent Leaders - could you be one of them? Meeting times could be changed and are probably too late for young bodies even now. Why not join in after Easter and get a taste for it. Speak to Keith Maund, the Group Scout Leader, if you would like to know more - I can tell you what it's like as well. If we all did just one year each Beavers would thrive and prosper.

MURRAY BUTCHER

CUBS CAPERS

Time for another report for Water Rat (doesn't time fly when you are enjoying yourself!). It is now nearly three months since we took over the Cub Pack and so far it all seems to be going fairly well.

All the necessary record cards are now up to date and all the boys are aware of the work they have to do towards their next Award Badge. Unlike the old scheme, most of the tasks are intended to be completed 'at home' by the boys, after having received general instruction from a Leader, if relevant.

Recently the District held a Sixers/Seconders afternoon and I'm pleased to report that 9 out of 10 of our Sixers/Seconders attended. The afternoon's theme was the Home Safety Badge and I am pleased to say that all our boys achieved the standard to obtain the Badge.

Looking ahead, plans are well under way for our "Camp" at the end of May, which will be in the Hut at Walton Firs (this was booked by the previous Akela). Details will be issued in the near future so please ensure your son passes them on to you.

However, prior to Camp we have St George's Day Parade on 26th April. Please make a note in your diaries as EVERY boy is expected to attend this event. EVERY member of the Scout Association has to renew his promise at Least once a year and in Kingston & Malden part of this parade service is used for that reason. Details will be sent to you in the next few weeks.

Finally, I welcome Marie Cox (ex Beaver Leader) to Cubs on a Wednesday evening. Marie cannot continue to make Monday evenings, Beavers, so we have ambushed her to help on a Wednesday!!.

AKELA

UNFORTUNATELY THE FOLLOWING LETTER ARRIVED A DAY TOO LATE FOR THE LAST WATER RAT BUT I THINK IT APPROPRIATE TO INSERT IT HERE

To all our friends at Leander, we would like to thank you all, for a very pleasant evening on Wednesday. We enjoyed seeing you all Cub's Scouts Parents + Leaders, we would like to thank everyone who have give us support during the time we where with Leander, far to many to name. We will always remember the fun and the hard times we have had over the years, especially all the boy's, who have been our cub's.

We are over the moon with the Ships Clock, which will take pride of place in our new home, and with the lovely cake which was a big surprise. Thank you all so much.

We are ~~now~~ now looking forward to moving into our new home. We will let you know when that will be. Bruno has promised to send us a Water Rat so we will be following all leader's news.

We are very pleased that the Pack will be in very capable hands of Mick & Wendy Olyn and wish them all the best. We will keep in contact with the Group.

bye for now. Val & Mike

NESSIES NATTER

After a difficult few months, the Troop is to continue as usual, but there are to be a few changes. The Patrol Leaders are to be promoted to Senior Patrol Leaders and put in a patrol on their own. The APLs are being promoted so there are vacancies for 4 APLs. These positions will be awarded to those who have earned it and have shown that they can be trusted.

We also welcome two Cubs into our ranks who were invested on Tuesday 17th March, along with myself being presented with my Warrant. (It's only been two years!!!), and Chips received his Basic Training Award.

The boys have had a few eventful meetings, many have had badges awarded that are long over due. The District Volley Ball Competition held on 7th March was not a great success for us as neither the U13 or the O13 were placed but we did have the satisfaction of knowing that we did stick to the rules. Are we really only one of the few troops who can abide by the rules but because we do, then why should we suffer?

St George's Day Parade is being held in the same Venue as last year and wouldn't it be nice if we were to win either the Marshall or the Marching Trophy - but to do this Uniforms do need some attention!!

The Summer Programme is almost complete and we shall forward further details of events when necessary.

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PARENTS SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION

Although there have been a number of Fund Raising and Social occasions over the last year, there is no longer an organising committee.

There will be several events in the coming year which we in the Executive Committee would hope parents will help organise - Sunday Teas in the Summer, the Ham Fayre on Sunday 13th June and no doubt a Summer Regatta.

Please consider between now and the AGM on Monday 11th May whether you, as a parent, would be willing to help organise these events.

Someone will need to come forward to lead an organising committee and others will need to come forward to volunteer to take charge of individual events.

The money which can be raised from these events goes to improve the facilities for your boys and future Leander generations. Please consider whether you can help for the coming year and come to the AGM ready to offer your services.

VIVIAN BROWN

Chairman - Executive Committee