



THE WATER RAT

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"LEANDER" (KINGSTON) SEA SCOUT GROUP

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SKIPPER'S SCRAWL

With bags packed and ready to go to the airport, I've just about time to put pen to paper for the Water Rat rather than incurring the wrath of the Editor for delaying the issue!

What a good turn-out for the AGM. Thanks to all those who attended and made the evening both lively and constructive. Thanks too for those who volunteered their services on the Executive Committee and for taking command of the various fund raising activities. I trust details will be given in other reports.

Progress and activities in all sections continue and I was pleased to see those Cubs who were at Camp at Walton Firs having such a good time and not deterred by the thunder storms of the Friday night.

Well done to our two Scout patrols in the Camping Competition - a very commendable effort by the new P.L.s and all the boys considering the very adverse weather conditions. I'm only sorry that more did not turn out for the Wisley Wander - sponsored walk. Those Cubs, Scouts and Sea Rangers who did brave the elements had - I believe (well looking back after the event!), an enjoyable experience. Mums/Dads please note - a waterproof coat really is essential for outdoor activities rather than cagoules which let the water through!

Sunday 5th July - National Sea Scout Regatta - We are again the Host Group and I do hope as many parents as possible will turn up to both support the boys and also help with the event.

Apart from helping with the catering side, we particularly need as many adults as possible from 7.00 A.M. to help get everything prepared. There are tents to put up, the course to lay, boats to be launched and numerous other tasks. This year, the Regatta has been condensed to a one day event so we need to be ready for the first race by 9.00! I look to everyone who can to come down and help!

Finally - the Building Work. Derek Wood of the Guild will be arranging two or three working parties to finally get the ceiling finished. The Executive Committee decided we should go ahead with plastering the ceiling during the August break and before that can be done, there are still some more sheets of plasterboard to be nailed up.

If you can - please help at these mornings - we can then look forward to seeing a more "Ship-shape" H.Q. and gaining the benefit of a warmer building this winter.

KEITH MAUND - G.S.L.

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BEAVER'S REPORT

Since I last reported there has been more healthy progress in Beavers. We have seen Thomas Mills swim up to Cubs and Lewis Bernard and Paolo Perella have joined us. That puts us up to lucky 13; not since September 1990 have Leander had so many Beavers.

The over frequent Monday Bank Holidays have rather messed up our programme recently but happy times are here again until the middle of July. I'm looking forward to arranging a family party for our last evening 13th July, so put it in your diary, 6pm - 8pm parents, brothers and sisters, in Canbury Gardens, if it's fine! - more in due course.

And finally, Beavers needs help. The colony could easily be supported by a group of parents taking weekly turns. Please come and speak to me or Keith Maund and let's see what can be worked out.

MURRAY BUTCHER

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CUBS CAPERS

Having just returned from Camp is a good time to be asked to write an article for Water Rat.

On Friday 29th May fourteen boys (why didn't the others come?) and four Leaders arrived at Walton Firs for a Pack Holiday (Pack Camps are under canvas). The evening started with a walk around the site and rules and regulations were established. This was followed by a very enthusiastic wide game, supper and eventually bed only to be woken up during the nights by thunder and lightning.

Saturday started a little wet but by 10 o'clock the ground had dried up and the sun had come out. The day was spent completing tasks for the Award scheme and consisted of: tracking/lighting fires/cooking on open fires/knotting and lashings. As a fun event all the boys went on the assault course and some did not manage to clear the water jump! (I think this was on purpose!). In the evening after the Camp Fire we had a do'nut eating competition (it's surprising how difficult it is to eat a sugar Do'nut without licking your lips..). This was followed by a quiz and hot drink and then to bed.

Sunday, after breakfast, we attended the short Cubs Own church service and then had the pleasure of investing Mark England into our Pack. A small amount of Award work was completed in the morning and after lunch began the task of packing and tidying up ready for the parents to collect the boys at 4pm.

All in all this was a VERY enjoyable weekend and from the comments/ letters we have received, the boys also enjoyed themselves.

Finally, I must thank Rikki, John Cannon, Mike Freeman and Arthur (the Cook), for all the help and support they gave.

MICK GLYNN

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NESSIE'S NATTER

It seems like ages since we last had a Water Rat but I suppose that's because so much has happened - six boys have passed their Firemans Badges, six are doing their BCU 1 Stars and lots of Seamans Badges have been completed.

We are also doing well on the Leadership team front: we have Damon who is one of Chief's first scouts who is to be an Instructor; John Matthews who has been persuaded to come and join us from 1st Molesey; and Mike Baker (Bosun to the boys) has also joined us (ex Leander Cubs).

At the moment we are practising hard for the National Regatta on 5th July. William is defending the Cannon Trophy for Single Skulls. All the boys are needed to help even if they are not in a race. We have tried to include as many of the boys as possible in the races, but with a troop the size of ours, it has caused a few headaches.

Camp preparations are going well and John has agreed to come and help as we are going to be a bit short staffed - so a big thank you to him. For all of those going, the rest of the Camp Fees should be paid as soon as possible and the Camp Bank is open for the boys to pay money in.

For those not going to camp, there is a possibility that you will be needed to be on parade in Kingston, so please make yourselves available.

Lastly, we welcome two new members, Ollie a Cub from 2nd Norbiton Cubs and Edward, a friend of Ted Lightfoot. (I think that Ted may well be a Salesman in later life as he did a selling act on Edward and persuaded him we were brilliant!!).

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THE RANGER REPORT

Hello all. Yes, we are still here and increasing in size all the time. We, like the Scouts, have also been very busy.

We have our own National Regatta at Longridge a week after the one here at Leander. The Rangers are going all out to win the Gig Trophy. The Cadets have been getting to grips with the finer arts of rowing and the Rangers have been gaining more confidence in the canoes, learning to sail and row gigs correctly.

They put the gig pulling into practice on Friday 12th June when they did a night row to Hampton Court arriving back at Leander about 10.45pm. A good time was had by all. There is also an Aquameet on the first week-end in July, held at Langridge, which they are all looking forward to.

In the middle of June the girls have been asked to take part in a march past along the Mall and we are to be receiving some drill instruction. The results, I'm sure, will be amusing!! but they can do it when they put their minds to it.

Our Summer Holiday will be at Rose Cottage towards the end of August and, at the beginning of September, there is the Great River Race in which we hope to be entering a team.

Well, that's all for now. Hope you all have a good summer and we will see you in September.

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The "SUNDAY TEA" Season is well under way and volunteers are manning the Stall every Sunday until 26th July.

The following Sundays are, as yet, unfilled:

August - 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th

September - 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th

and I would be most grateful if people who have not yet been contacted could volunteer for one of these dates.

For new members who are wondering what is involved, here is a brief explanation:

Normally two families get together, provide some cakes (not necessarily home-made!), and milk and serve teas from the Leander HQ to passers-by on the Tow Path.

Tea, Juice, Coffee, Cups, etc., are provided and we usually open from 2.30 - 5.30 p.m. It is not particularly onerous and provides a small but steady income for Leander.

If anyone is unable to help but could provide some cakes to sell, I always have plenty of room in my freezer!

PLEASE CONTACT: Di Parnell - 081-549 7383

PARENTS' SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION

Another lovely day for Ham Fayre - a change from last year's deluge!

We took just under £350 and made an immediate profit of over £160 - £56 on the bric-a-brac and just over £100 on the refreshment stall. But there is now also plenty of coffee, tea and tomato ketchup in stock and some only slightly depleted gas containers for the Scout Camp, so there's more profit to come.

Many thanks to all of you who provided cakes - still a minority of parents, which is disappointing when all of you should have received an individual request for help. Particular thanks to Sarah and Robert Barnard who ran the bric-a-brac stall, to Christine and Robin Chapman for running the refreshment stall, to those who came along and helped during the day and to James Warriner who helped us get set up on the common. It was an enjoyable day for all of us who worked on the stalls.

VIVIAN BROWN

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