

The Water Rat

Newsletter of Leander Sea Scouts

July 2001

Skipper's Scrawl

I will leave reports of the recent events to the section leaders, save to congratulate the Ventures on coming first in the Regatta and also to the new parents' fund raising committee on their organisation of the refreshments on the day.

So, on to the future. September promises to be a busy month and starts with the **R.N. Inspection on TUESDAY 11th**. Muster will be at 18.00 hrs to get boats out and the Inspecting Officer will be picked up by gig at 18.30. Due to the summer holidays we will not be involving Beavers at all, and only Sixers and Seconds from the Cubs. I do expect to see a full turnout from all the Troop and Ventures, as this is one compulsory meeting.

As Beaver parents will know, Ros is stepping down from Beavers and I am sure you will join me in thanking her for all her hard work over the last three years. However, she has agreed to take on another 'demanding' role, and from September will be co-ordinating sub collection. It will make her life much easier if everyone could settle subs during the first two weeks of the new 'term' so that she doesn't have too much chasing up to do.

We also will be welcoming Maggie Bailey who has agreed to join Tony and Keith on the Beaver Leader team.

Hoping you all have an enjoyable holiday break and the Scouts a good camp.

Keith

World Jamboree 2002

The next World Jamboree is being held in Thailand in 2002 and Kingston and Malden District has been allocated three places. Ruth Osbourne was put forward as Leander's representative, and, following the recent interviews, I am delighted to tell everyone that she has been selected to go.

Keith

Leander Mutineers

The appeal for new recruits to the Mutineers was very successful, as there are now 10 people who are available to row. Because of work/family commitments, not everyone can make it every week, so at least we can get a full crew out each Thursday. The level of skill is improving, in particular when Zoe Burr, our 'professional' coach, who rows for Sheffield University, is available and takes the boat in hand.

Hopefully, the Great River Race crew will be able to improve their time of last year, but the important thing is getting out on the river each week. At night, the river is quite magical and provides superb rowing conditions. Of course, visiting the occasional hostelry up river is purely incidental.

Leander (Kingston) Sea Scout Group

Headquarters: 92 Lower Ham Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey
Telephone: 020 8549 6286 — www.leanderss.free-online.co.uk



Beavers enjoy the Summer evenings

After the hibernation of Winter, it's been great to enjoy the freedom to roam around the Hut in the lighter and warmer evenings.

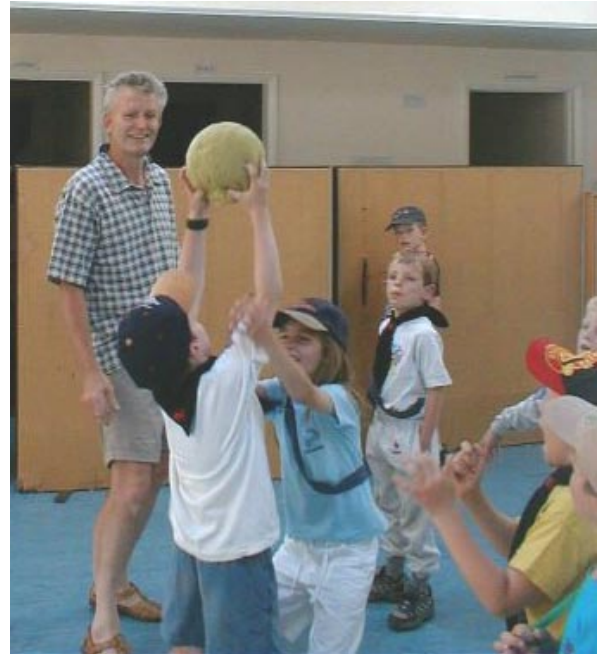


We have made extensive use of Canbury Gardens for sports activities, and the section have shown a marked improvement in their Rounders skills. A session of Touch-Rugby was also hotly contested, with only minor disagreements over the precise rules employed!

We welcomed one new Beaver to the colony: Charlie Pilcher into Aft. He was successfully invested on 25th June. by the Skipper. There were Swimming Badge awards to Jamie Bowes-Clark and Louis Lafon, and a Challenge Badge to Rory Brennan.



Swimming has re-commenced at Teddington Pool in Vicarage Road, where the facilities are superior to Malden Centre, which makes up for some inconvenience in the location. We have largely been able to enlist sufficient help from parents to maintain a safe ratio. However we will need increased support next term, so all should look out for the volunteer list at the door on Monday nights, and get your names down!



On one of the rare nights when we were confined to the hut, we staged a netball match, with beavers on chairs for the nets. Despite some sceptics among the boys, ALL enjoyed the experience.

With another wave of Beavers moving up to Cubs over the break, we will also bid farewell to Ros, who has given exceptional support to the section over the last two years. In saying goodbye to Ros, we also must focus our minds on the need for at least one, but preferably TWO, female helpers to support the group. James Hunter is also leaving us, to commence his degree studies at Bristol : Good Luck James!

Tony, Ros, Keith and James.

Fund Raising Update

Hello to all parents, beavers, cubs and scouts from *your* fund raising committee. We are a ramshackle and inexperienced (in fund raising terms!) group of parents who happened to be at the AGM when Leander's financial position was explained, and who have agreed to try to help.

In essence it is currently costing £2000 each year more to run the troupe than is received from all sources. In addition, equipment including some boats will soon require replacement, and we could do with purchasing other equipment, especially for the younger members' activities.

It was agreed that we need to raise the profile of fund raising and to plan a programme of activities. I hope that you will recognise that it is *everyone's business* to help get the finances on to an even keel. If we don't, then the opportunities which a lot of people work very hard to provide and which our children get so much from will be jeopardised.

Our committee has thought through a range of options, has agreed the following to give us a manageable initial focus, and is prepared to lead the work. However it won't happen unless we receive *active support*, especially from parents. There are currently 60 families with beavers, cubs or scouts in the Group. I hope that all will be prepared to become involved in some way or other over the coming months. These are our immediate plans, with an indication of who will be leading the work:

National Scout Regatta 2001	July 2001	Phil
Great river race	Sept 2001	Paula
Rotary Xmas tree	Dec 2001	Keith
HQ hire (junior parties)	on-going	Annette
HQ hire (visiting boat clubs)	on-going	Phil
Beavers/Cubs own efforts	on-going	Marian/ Alison
Open Day/ Families on the water	May 2002	tba
Ham fair	June 2002	tba
National Scout Regatta 2002	July 2002	tba
Dinner dance	Autumn '02	tba

We've had a good start. The National Regatta was a great success for those involved, and along the way we expect to have raised over £200. Thanks to all who helped with the refreshments tent, especially Hazel Burr, Jane Chapman, Ian Chappell, Paula and Ed Hazard, Pete Mitchell, Annette Osborne and Debbie (i/c strawberries - yum, thanx!) and Greg Pratt.

As you can see, the next target is *The Great River Race* in September. We hope to have at least 12 scouts and 6 parents rowing. All will be seeking sponsorship for what is a real challenge – completing a 24 mile row in gigs is an achievement for anyone. If you are in it, please work hard to raise your target sponsorship (£40 scouts, £60 parents) – sponsor forms coming very soon. The Scout raising the most sponsorship will be on for a great prize. If you know someone in it, please sponsor her/him. If you are involved in a local business we are seeking sponsorship for each boat – there will be some good publicity associated with this. Please contact Paula with any queries or suggestions.

Finally it is important but difficult to keep in touch with everybody on these matters, so we suggest that the first point of contact for parents of beavers and cubs on fund raising should be Marian and Alison, with Paula, Annette and Phil being the link with Scouts' families.

We are very keen to hear of other ideas and offers of help so please contact us on the numbers below. One suggestion is a Hundred Club, with prizes announced in each issue of the *Water Rat*. What do you think? Looking forward to hearing from you and meeting you in the coming weeks and months.

Phil Chapman

Fund raising contacts:

Phil Chapman 020 8541 3809
Annette Osborne 020 8949 3006
Paula Hazard 020 8546 3815
Marian Harrison 020 8549 7849
Alison Paintin 020 8974 6638
Keith Maund 020 8399 5846

Coxwain's Corner

For this edition, lots of news about activities and the scouts who have taken part in them. Troop nights have been very well attended, with well over 25 scouts at each meeting and every available boat we have in use.

Many thanks to Chris Hampton and John Bridger, our canoeing instructors, who have regularly taken out a group of boys and girls who are now progressing through their BCU qualifications. All those who have joined the troop recently have been kayaking, it is very rewarding to see how confident they look on the water.

Our first event after Easter was the District six a side football competition, once again organised by Karen and held at Kingsmeadow. The juniors played valiantly but were up against some very good teams, with 7th Malden juniors eventually taking the trophy. The seniors however played brilliantly and retained the trophy they won last year.

We have just been notified that Leander Senior and Junior teams have been selected for the Royal Naval Recognised Units Soccer Sixes Tournament at HMS Excellent, Portsmouth, in late September. This is a very prestigious event (we made the senior semi final last year), which is now heavily over-subscribed, so we are lucky to have a place.

In June, Kingston Rotary Club organised a Dragon Boat Racing event, based at Canbury Gardens, for which a joint team from Leander and Surbiton Sealions had been entered. This turned out to be a really good day, with some very close and exciting races. We had a crew of 16 paddlers, 9 scouts and 7 adults and we were very pleased that out of 24 teams we put up the 4th fastest time. All the other teams had adult crews, so we did extremely well. The event was very well organised, with each race of 3 boats timed over a 400 metre course – in our best race of the day, there was only 6 tenths of a second difference between the 3 boats! Next year we will be practising in good time – we can do better!

The National Scout Regatta, held jointly with the Sea Rangers in July, was a great success, with good weather and exciting racing. The only unfortunate point was that all our Senior entrants were suddenly spirited away to complete their Duke of Edinburgh bronze award, which had been postponed from earlier in the year because of foot and mouth. All the scouts gave of their best and did very well up against some really good teams. Well done Nick, Zoe, Chris, Callum, Tom, Mattie, Robbie, Miles, John, Alex, Danica, Ella, Jack, Will and Nathan.

The Ventures swept the board, winning single dinghy, sculling over the stern and the gig race, gaining them the Venture Trophy. This last race, against our old rivals Warspite, who are very accomplished, was fantastic. I was on the course in a safety boat to enable Mike Freeman to take some photographs and from our parallel viewpoint, the boats were neck and neck all the way. The sound from the river bank with every Leander supporter in full voice, was incredible. Congratulations to Matt Freeman, Michael King, Jonathan Burr and Danny Wileman, and of course, Nathan McGuinness, who coxed the boat to victory.

We finished off the term, on a rather wet and dismal night, with a barbecue, but, in the true spirit of Leander, every one went out in the boats and got thoroughly drenched.

We will be leaving for Summer Camp, at Tolmers Scout Camp and Activity site on the 28th July. The numbers have grown dramatically, with 16 scouts going, to experience a week jam-packed with activities.

Now a note of thanks to those who normally don't get a mention. To all the members of the Leander Executive Committee, who spend many hours supporting the activities of the Group and the unique Headquarters we use. To Mike Freeman for organising HQ lettings, the cleaning rotas and mowing the lawn. To the new Fund Raising Committee, who have seized the initia-

tive and have all sorts of exciting ideas to implement.

A special thanks to two people who look after vital functions. To Nigel Duffin, the Group Chairman, who spends many hours dealing with the waiting list and enquiring parents and ensuring that boys and girls move from section to section at the right time. To Skipper, Keith Maund, whose drive and unique ability to help keep Leander funded and in the eye of the public, is now legendary.

Finally, my thanks to Karen Loizu, who as assistant Leader of the Troop has done a fantastic job; with 33 Scouts on the books it takes an enormous amount of time to organise events, instruct and help run the troop. Between us we can be justifiably proud of having a very active and very enthusiastic section, in which every scout has the opportunity to learn and practise seamanship, gain awards and qualifications and to take part in a wide range of scouting activities.

Have a very nice summer holiday

Coxswain

Guild crew hopes to triumph

The Leander Guild Newsletter tells that their 'Rowing Club', in its second outing of the season in May, welcomed its newest recruit, Ivor Hunt. This was his first outing in a gig for 38 years.

Members of the crack Guild gig crew recently received a prize for gaining third place in the 'Scout Affiliated' class of the 2000 Great River Race, but clearly think that this was a very poor show and are determined to do better this year.

There are also reports from one of their members, who has motored across the Channel, from Haslar to Honfleur, cruised through France, via Paris. The latest report was from the Rhone, south of Lyon.

Dates for your Diary

July 28/August 8 – Troop Summer Camp
September 9 – HQ Working Party (*Aviram, Barley, Biddulph, Blackhurst, Bolster)
September 11 – R.N. Inspection
September 15 – Great River Race
September 17 – Executive meeting 8pm
September 22/23 – County Camping Competition at Boidierhurst
September 23 – HQ Working Party (*Bowers-Clark, Bradbury, Brady, Brennan, Bromham)
September 28/29 – RN 6-a-side football Competition at HMS Excellent
October 13 – District Swimming Gala
October 14 – HQ Working Party (*Carter, Byrd, Chapman, Chappell, Cockle)
October 14 – *Water Rat* copy date
October 19/20 – National Air Rifle Competition at Walton Firs
October 28 – HQ Working Party (*Freeman, Ford, Foster, Goodall)
November 1/2 – District Night Hike
November 19 – Executive meeting 8pm
December 15 – *Water Rat* copy date

Special Notice for Scouts

The first meeting after the summer break will be Tuesday 4th September, which we would like every Scout to attend, because the next Tuesday, 11th September, is Admiralty Inspection.

On Saturday 15th September is the Great River Race, from Ham House to Island Gardens, Greenwich.

Coxswain

Chairman Ray Taylor recounts his first visit to Leander, when he was in fact with Ajax. They had rowed down from Surbiton and, coming alongside, were aware that all had to be done in a seamanlike manner. All went well until the bowman leapt ashore with the line, only to be picked up by two hefty bods and thrown in the River. Fortunately, relationships did improve!

Cubs 'lark in the park'

Oh the joy of the arrival of the light and warm evenings! It has been a real pleasure to be able to get out and about to escape the confines of H.Q. Hopefully you will have seen a marked improvement in the boys' abilities at softball, although their football skills seemed to have deserted them. Having won the District 5-a-side trophy two years ago and then holding it last year, Leander's luck ran out and despite a great effort by both teams against some pretty determined opposition (both on the pitch and off it!) we failed to win it for a third time. But we'll be back.....

A particularly enjoyable evening was had at our 'lark in the park', an evening of games held in Richmond Park. The main event was a wide game with four teams of boys trying to locate and seize each others team flags. Lots of shouting in the bracken and a liberal interpretation of some unusual rules made for lots of fun and an entertaining spectacle for the adult observers. Next time we will have a lesson on stealth and camouflage beforehand.

But it hasn't been all been larking about this term. The cubs have had another swimming session each (thank you to Buffy and Claire) and have undertaken work toward two badges. The work on the Navigator badge showed many of the cubs are getting a grasp of maps and directions (have a break, let them navigate for your hols this summer), whilst the Home Safety work generated quite a broad range of answers – some of you shouldn't be sleeping safely at all!



Enjoy your holidays, see you all in September. We will send you a newsletter informing you of dates and activities.

Baloo

Sunday Working Parties

Parents' working parties on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month are for regular cleaning and maintenance of the HQ, allowing our Leaders to get on with planning and running programmes.

All Leander families (except leaders) are divided into groups of four or five and one parent from each family is asked to come along from 10:00 to 12:00, arranging swaps if necessary. A new rota (below) starts in September. Please put your family's date in the diary now.



Please would the **first named* on the list arrange to collect a key from Mike Freeman (020 8549 8634).

- September 9 – *Aviram, Barley, Biddulph, Blackhurst, Bolster
- September 23 – *Bowers-Clark, Bradbury, Brady, Brennan, Bromham
- October 14 – *Carter, Byrd, Chapman, Chappell, Cockle
- October 28 – *Freeman, Ford, Foster, Goodall
- November 11 – *Harrison, Hazard, Healy, Hudson
- November 25 – *Kearns, King, Lafon, Liefkes
- December 9 – *Lightfoot, Livesey, Manson, McGuinness
- January 13 – *Mellett, Mitchell, Osborne, Paintin, Parker
- January 27 – *Patterson, Pearn, Pilcher, Pratt, Seeley
- February 10 – *Sollis, Steele, Thomas, Walters, Whitaker
- February 24 – *Whitfield, Wingrove, Woods, Yagnick, Young