



The Water Rat

Newsletter of Leander Sea Scouts

July 2003

editor – Nigel Duffin

Skipper's Scrawl

The past couple of months have been somewhat hectic, so I am sure everyone is ready for a short break during August – once summer camp is over, that is!

Maggie's last Beaver meeting finished in style with an abundance of barbecued hot dogs and burgers although I was somewhat surprised the chocolate bananas took back seat. So once again thanks Maggie for your hard work with the section over the last two years.

I am pleased that Dick Garnish (Sticky) has agreed to help at Beaver swimming sessions in future and I am sure his coaching will prove invaluable. Dick has however said that in taking on the swimming we will need to look for someone to take over from him as minute secretary for the Group Executive, so I would appeal to anyone who feels they could take on the job to let me know. It involves attending about five meetings a year (Mondays from 8.00 to about 9.45 pm) and recording and circulating minutes. Hopefully one of our readers can take this on – please let either Nigel Duffin or myself know if you can help or would like further details.

The Regatta went off very smoothly this year, so firstly thanks to all those who helped in the preparation and throughout the day. It was a chance to try out the Group's new mess tent and I must say it was good to have the control centre in a large white tent with windows rather than the old khaki ex-Army Falklands tent. I am sure the



Under 12: Gig, 2nd place – Rhys Steele, Alex Barley, Andrew Chappell, Lizzy McAllister, Matt King. Double dinghy, 1st place – Alex Barley, Rhys Steele, Andrew Chappell.

Under 14: Gig, 1st equal – Nick Pratt, Zoe Steele, Nathan McGuiness, Alon Aviram, Jed Wingrove. Double dinghy, 2nd place – Matty Biddulph, Nick Pratt, Owen Walters. Stern sculling, 1st place – Jed Wingrove. Canoe, 1st place – Alon Aviram.

Explorer: Gig, 1st place – Ella Pearn, Matt King, Aidan Hazard, Miles King, Alex Woods. Stern sculling, 1st place – Miles King.

tent will also make a large difference at Summer and Family camps in the future. Well done to all the age groups – under 12s, under 14s and Explorers. We rather swept the board, winning all sections and it is good to see so many trophies back in the Wardroom.

As soon as the holidays are over, we start again with the Great River Race from Richmond to Greenwich on Saturday the 6th September. This year we will be entering an under 14 and Explorer crew plus the Mutineers, the Guild and a Mums' crew. This is always an enjoyable day and hopefully those

entering will get themselves sponsored for the 23 mile row. Proceeds will go towards the boat fund, as we need to replace the Coypus, which are now over 40 years old, and four new ones will cost in the region of £8500.

I have also heard it rumoured that we are due for an "Admiralty Inspection" in September, although as yet do not have the date confirmed. So have a good holiday, as it will be a case of 'All Hands' when we resume meetings in September.

Keith

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Forming up for a canoe 'run', but finding that it's a bit more complicated getting ashore again ...



Sunday Morning Working Parties

Don't forget – we rely on you to keep the HQ 'ship-shape'!

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 starts at the end of September.

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

Dates for your Diary

- September 6 – Great River Race
- September 14– HQ Working Party:
*Walters, Whitfield, Wingrove, Woods, Young
- September 15 – Executive Meeting
- September 28 – HQ Working Party:
*Aviram, Barley, Biddulph , Bowers-Clark, Bradbury
- October 12 – HQ Working Party:
*Cantello, Chapman, Cockle, Croft, Edwards
- October 26 – HQ Working Party:
*Freeman, Foster, Geraghty, Goodall, Harrison
- November 15 – Executive Meeting

- September 14– *Walters, Whitfield, Wingrove, Woods, Young
- September 28 – *Aviram, Barley, Biddulph , Bowers-Clark, Bradbury
- October 12 – *Cantello, Chapman, Cockle, Croft, Edwards
- October 26 – *Freeman, Foster, Geraghty, Goodall, Harrison
- November 9 – *Hazard, Hearn, Howe, Kersey, King
- November 23 – *Lafon, Lear, MacAllister, Maguire, Manson
- December 14 –*McDonagh, McGuinness, Mellett, Morrissey, Osborne
- January 11 – *Paintin, Pearn, Peto, Pope, Pratt
- January 25 – *Sibley, Smith, Steele, Taylor, Waller
- February 8 – *Walters, Whitfield, Wingrove, Woods, Young

Parking at HQ



Now that the road safety measures are in place outside the Headquarters in Lower Ham Road, parents should drop

and pick up their children from the entrance in Albany Mews. The gate here will always be open during Beaver, Cub and Scout meetings.



Four new Cubs invested in June