



The Water Rat

Newsletter of Leander Sea Scouts

May 2005

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Skipper's Scrawl

First of all, a reminder that our AGM will be taking place on Monday 6th June at 8.00pm. We hope to keep the formal part of the meeting to a minimum and then move on to discuss our plans for the coming year. Hopefully a good number of parents and supporters will be able to attend as we value your views and input in planning for the future. The District Commissioner, Bob Bushell, will also be present to update us on all the new initiatives being undertaken in Scouting throughout the Borough. Light refreshments will be available at the end of the meeting.

I managed to get down to the last Beaver meeting which should have been a swimming session. Because of refurbishment going on at Teddington pool, it was rescheduled to Headquarters. The craft element of the evening was clay modelling and it was interesting to see how many Daleks had been produced!

Regrettably, Mandy will have to stand down as Beaver Leader in September because she is taking a course on Monday evenings for her work. Jane, who has been assisting each week, will also be leaving at this time. I am sure you will all join me in thanking them for the work they have done over the last three years. Although Mandy won't be able to get to Beavers she has said she will still be able to help with the administration side so if the Beavers are to continue next year we

need some volunteers. Please let me know if you think you may be able to assist.

We are now getting to the busy period with the Regatta looming, and the RN Inspection in September. We also need to plan for the Great River Race. Traditionally, we have had a crew from both mums and dads, so time to get thinking about practice sessions. I would add that, if the mums are to have their own boat again, part of the practice sessions will include throwing a heaving line if you want me to take you under tow after the finish!

Debbie Pratt has again volunteered to do the catering for the Regatta so if you think you can help on the day, Sunday 3rd July, please let her know. It's a great fun day and Beaver and Cub parents should also come down - preferably to help but, if not, just to see what is going on.

Finally, thanks to the Guild for decorating the Wardroom, which looks great for the coat of paint and the new flooring. Volunteers now please for some carpentry, making new fixed screens for the maindeck and putting cupboards in the disabled loo so we can get on with fitting that out properly.

Hoping to see you at the AGM.

Keith

Beavers

The Beavers completed their Friendship Challenge Badge. Last term they found out about four different countries and had a visit from a judge, and this term they were shown some first aid. Jane, who is a nurse, showed them how an adult would resuscitate someone, how to put someone in the recovery position and how to deal with cuts and burns. We explained the need to call for help in an emergency.

We had a good turn out from the Beavers at the St George's day parade.

The Beavers enjoyed their visit to a Scouting exhibition in New Malden, organised by Scouting archivist Harry Ward. They were fascinated by the little action men who had been dressed in scouting uniforms and the miniature models of scout camps and how they had changed over the years.

This term the Beavers have also made some models with clay, anything from coil pots to Daleks!

Mandy



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Explorers go over four hills

Well, well. Another *Water Rat* and another Explorer section: that feeling of déjà-vu coincides with that of going back on the water in the past couple of weeks, something which we have all been itching to do again.

The only difference is that we have Surbiton Sealion down as well for the Summer weeks; maybe they thought we needed company. But a lot more had been done before that, including a South American cook off, two teams both given the same food and we had to cook something nice and interesting – interesting is one way to say some of the things made. But overall it was an interesting and fun night; that's what the whole night was for.

We also had a self defence class brilliantly instructed by Karen herself – I'm glad I've never met her



I'm glad I've never met her down a dark alley

down a dark alley or I might never have children, this was quickly followed by a 'Resusci Annie' teaching in case we do get mugged and take it a bit too far.

Trangia cooking was next in line, with heating up fully prepared dinners and puddings. They actually tasted very nice – especially the chocolate pudding. But that was only the warm up for the Easter egg hunt we had, getting a bit more grown up: having to ask questions before we get to find an egg.

But the most exciting event was the planning and undertaking of our DofE practice hike starting from Leander HQ all the way to Polyapes. It didn't look that long when planning it, but it was when doing it. We did the hike a couple of weeks ago and although it took us a while we all made it with only a few back aches and a numb left bum cheek. We then stayed there the night sitting in front of a burning Christmas tree generously donated by a nearby neighbour.

I'm sure that all the Explorers are looking forward to the actual four hills hike that we have now planned out, going across two sets of maps and (as the name suggests) going over four hills. With that behind us, we are now preparing for Summer camp and the various rowing events coming up.

Aidan H

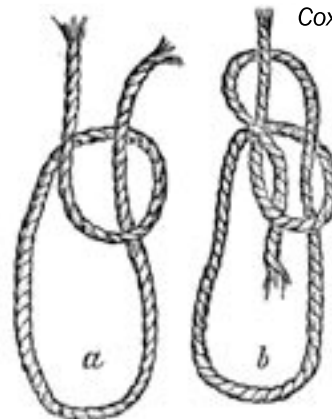
Coxswain's Corner

We are all out on the water again, a bit nippy sometimes, but Sea Scouts are hardy and raring to get afloat. Unfortunately we do not have the services of our regular canoeing instructor at the moment – a search is on for someone else who can assist. Apart from learning and enhancing nautical skills we have just had a major event – the largest investiture of Cubs at one time for many years. A big Leander welcome to Viviana Gardener, Gemma Morrissey, Ella Howe, Adrian Barley, William Beedham, Jamie Bowers-Clark and Luke Geraghty.

We have also had a Patrol taking part in the first Royal Kingston District Challenge Camp, with camping and cooking competitions, at which 50 scouts from Troops throughout the District spent a weekend at Walton Firs Scout Camp site. Whilst Kingston had torrential showers and hail, the sun shone for us and we had a brief two minute shower all weekend. It was jam-packed with activities, the Scouts learnt how to pitch their tents, gut fish, make their own videos, race around in sedan chairs and cook all their meals over open fires. Well done to the *Water Rat* Patrol – Ben Cockle, Andrew Chappell, Vivian Gardener, Gemma Morrissey and Becky Pratt who really worked together as a patrol and gained 2nd place in the Cooking Competition.

From now until Summer Camp we will be out as much as possible, the National Sea Scout Canoeing and Pulling gala is coming up in July, so lots of skills to be put to work.

Coxswain



KazBar

Dates for your Diary

June 6 – Leander AGM, 8pm @ HQ

Jun 12 – HQ working party: *King, McGuinness, Sibley, Pope, Breen

Jun 26 – HQ working party: *Barley, Gardener, Ward, Sankey, Frame, Rean

July 10 – HQ working party:
*Freeman, Beedham, Hearn, Bate, Jackson

July 2/3 – Sea Scout Regatta

September 6 – RN Inspection

To all Explorers ...

We are now also meeting on Sundays from 2.00pm till 4.30pm for that extra practice in individual events for the Regatta. If you are not in the Regatta squad you are still welcome to come down and go out on the water.

Also we are now in Summer uniform.

KazBar