



# The Water Rat

Newsletter of Leander Sea Scouts

December 2007



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## Coxwain's Corner

The Troop has been busy working though the *Balanced Programme*, a series of activities and skills which enable each Scout to gain certain awards and badges. As Sea Scouts they also learn nautical skills, which give them some preparation and boating knowledge when they get back on the water in Spring.

We had a large group of Cubs linking with Scouts for the last few weeks of December, enabling them to get a taste of Scouting, ready for when

they join the Troop. They are all very enthusiastic and we look forward to seeing them in the new year.

What have the Scouts actually been doing? Designing centenary T-shirts, swimming and gaining swimmer's badges, learning about OS maps and map symbols, making flagpoles out of canes and rubber bands (more difficult than it looks) and trying out some new games.

There seems to be little enthusiasm at the moment for some of the larger activities put on for Scouts – only managed five players for the RN six-a-side football at HMS Excellent, just about got a team together for the District Swimming Gala and, for the first time in many years, didn't put a team in the District Night Hike. Maybe some of the Scouts are not as adventurous as in the past – however, there is always next year.

Coming up in the first part of 2008 is a PLs and APLs Activity Weekend, County Cooking Competition, Polyapes Activity Day, County Night Exercise and a Water Activities Weekend at Longridge boating Centre, Marlow.

Have an enjoyable break – first meeting in 2008 is 8th January.

Coxwain



The tallest flagpole built out of garden canes and rubber bands.



Enjoying a 'Nights Away' leaders training weekend in Croydon

## Four years as CSL

On Wednesday 5th December at the HQ, Karen made a small presentation to Caro on her last night as Cub Scout Leader after four years of service.



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## Explorers in Winter

Although the colder months are a lot quieter than the summer ones, we have done a number of different things. For a start we had to pull the boats in for the winter ahead. We spent a few weeks pulling the gigs in; reluctantly cleaning the inch thick grime from around the sides and the array of bird poo on the thwarts. We also spent an evening pulling the Ebbage in, wading into the river in our wellies to assist the manoeuvre!

Aside from this, we have also taken part in a T-shirt competition, to find the best design for a Leander T-shirt to celebrate 100 years of Leander! We have heard of the Monopoly challenge, but on the smaller scale Karen came up with a Kingston Monopoly challenge. One evening we split into two teams, naturally boys versus girls, and were sent off with different sheets, to find each location in Kingston. We could not cheat, as we had to have a picture in front of each place – unfortunately

we did not have the smart idea of bringing a bike!

Finally, for our Christmas party, we decided to do something a little different, so we went to Sandown for the night for a go at dry slope skiing. Some of us were amateur and some of us were experts, but we all managed to have fun regardless. There will be lots more to do when we come back, but for now I hope you all had a very merry Christmas and a happy new year!

Mattie



## First Bronze Award



Leander's first Chief Scout's Bronze Award was achieved this Autumn by Tom Goodwin who will be moving up to the Cub Pack in the new year.

The Chief Scout's Bronze Award is the highest award available in the Beaver Scout Section. It is gained by completing the six challenges: Creative, Fitness, Friendship, Global, Outdoor and Promise.



Explorer and Scout teams at RN Six a Side Football Competition in October.



Representing 100 years of Scouting at the Lord Mayor's show in November