



# The Water Rat

Newsletter of Leander Sea Scouts

July 2007

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## Enjoy the Party!!!

As we are all very aware, the Summer Holiday period for schools and Leander is upon us now, and I would like to congratulate all section on a full and fun packed term.

Leander successfully passed its very busy and hectic RN Inspection back in May overseen by the new Lieutenant Commander David Griffiths. He was very impressed with ALL sections, and Leander would like to thank everyone that was able to attend that evening.

At the end of May, 30 brave Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorer and Leaders took part in the Royal Kingston Centennial Camp held at Polyapes. Even though it was very wet weekend, fun was had by all. It was also nice to be visited by Nigel (Leander's Chairman)

and Guild member Ray and his wife Stella (who was once a Leander Cub Leader) to see what activities everyone was getting up to, and to see Polyapes once again.

In June we finally had our AGM with a very large attendance from the District Team. On that evening Bob Bushell (Royal Kingston DC) presented two awards. Firstly, to Keith Maund, appointing him as Honorary Scouter, recognising his outstanding warranted service. Secondly, a warrant to Karen Rean, which officially makes her our new appointed Beaver Scout Leader.

On the 1st July, Leander co-hosted the Regatta with Ajax and Warspite on the towpath toward Teddington Lock. The Troop and Unit had a very

successful, long and tiring day. But thanks to ALL of their efforts, they went away with the Overall Trophies for the Under 14 and Explorer categories. A very special and big congratulation goes to Adrian Barley, Alistair Exworthy and Nick Pratt for being the only ones able to complete the Sculling over the Stern event, under very tough river conditions.

Finally, many thanks to our very experienced catering team Amanda Miller, Debbie & Greg Pratt and Susan Steele (sorry if I have missed anyone) for their hard work on feeding the five thousand at the Regatta this year.

The Cubs and Beavers have also been very busy over the past term, visiting Kingston Fire Station, Richmond Park and getting the odd swimming session in. Both sections have been working hard on their progressive badge work. Sadly, Explorers have not been available much this term, because of schooling and other Scouting commitments, so the Cubs have not been able to have their normal taster water night.

That just leaves me to say: have a enjoyable Summer Break, and let's hope it stays dry for anyone going to Summer Camp and the four Explorers (Mattie, Zoë, Rhys & Alistair) that are attending this year's World Jamboree and celebrating Scouting's 100th Birthday (enjoy the party).

Karen



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## Coxswain's Corner

Once again the seasons spin rapidly round; just as we get out on the water, the National Regatta beckons and boating skills are refined, crews are put together and, within a very short time, we are once again competing on the course just down river from the HQ.

It's very nice to win the under-14 Scout section again, but we would like another Group to do that one day. It was very apparent that quite a few of the crews from other Groups had not had much practice and we do put a few weeks in before the event. It was good to see more groups taking part, everyone enjoyed the day and weren't we lucky with the weather?

Very well done, our hard working crews:

1st place, u12 coxed pair – Sam Allen, Joe Ward, Chris Granger (cox).

2nd place, u12 gig – Sam Allen, Joe Ward, Chris Granger, Harry Pope, Huw Walters (cox).

2nd place, u14 coxed pair – James Kimber, Ella Howe, Gemma Morrissey (cox).

1st place, u14 gig – James Kimber, Zoe D'Souza, Ella Howe, Adrian Barley, Gemma Morrissey (cox).

1st place, u14 sculling over the stern – Adrian Barley.

After the Regatta, time for a nice relaxed water treasure hunt on the river, patrols rowing up and downstream to find the answers to their clues, with a 'sweet' reward for everyone taking part.

We have invested quite a few new Scouts recently, Maria and Frederica Sassi Baeta, Lucy and Fiona Kitchen, Chris Granger, Sam Lear and Harry Pope, whilst bidding farewell to Alistair

Exworthy who is off to bigger things in Explorers.

Our final event is the grand task that takes place about this time every year – getting all the kit out for Summer Camp. We are off to Youlbury near Oxford, one of the Scout Association's premier sites with no water (!) and lots of activities. Hopefully we may come back with dry tents – one day, that would be nice.

Many thanks to Karen, Liz and Aidan for all their support and involvement, and to all those Scouts who regularly turn up and make it all worthwhile. Happy hols, see you all in September. (First meeting: River Race Crew – 4th Sept, Troop – 11th Sept).

Coxswain

## Centenary Camp on Ice



*better get some energy for this ...*



*all finished ... show me the ice, Captain Scott!*



*I'm sure I'll get the hang of it ...*



*not so bad after all ... worse things happen at sea!*



*eventually! ... boats are definitely more stable ...*

## Explorers

Once again we have had a busy couple of months at Explorers, starting with the long-awaited RN Inspection. Everyone was smartly dressed and on top form, showing the Inspector just exactly what being at Leander is all about; he loved us, of course, and we passed with flying colours.

Next was the Centenary Camp at the end of May, where I joined Leander in the pouring rain to celebrate the 100th year of Scouting; despite the weather, Karen, Liz and I mortified the Scouts by singing enthusiastic renditions of: **"BOB THE DC, CAN HE FIX IT?"** over and over and over...

It was a literally jam-packed weekend with non-stop activities and loud music into the evening. The Beavers joined the Cubs, Scouts and Explorers on the Sunday, where they could take a turn on activities such as: bouncy castles, the ice rink, the Polyapes trail, camp fire and many others, not to mention the hour long queue for the tuck shop. The rainy forecast did little to dampen our spirits, and overall it was a successful weekend.

We have also recently had a go at sailing; Ian and Nigel kindly helped us to rig up Hero and took us out on the river, it was a lot of fun and we are looking forward to learning in the near future.

In early June some of the Explorers took the Nelson Jamboree group out for a row up to Hampton Court, to give the Land Scouts a taste of the better life. They were surprisingly talented in our field however, and we sped up there in just over an hour; on returning they had had enough of the heat, and took to jumping into the Thames for a splash.

To continue our role of teaching, Berrylands Explorers (Phoenix) came down to have a go at rowing on a recent Thursday; being Land Scouts they did not take like fish to water, although many of them gave it their best shot – it was an overall successful evening.

On the 1st of July was the National Sea Scout Regatta; it was an unexpectedly hot day, which was gratefully received by all considering the recent weather patterns. The day kicked off with the sculling-over-stern races, the wind made steering rather difficult, but Leander held strong and were the only team to even complete the course, let alone win, so well done to Adrian, Ali and Nick.

We had a very good day; the Scouts and Explorers were flying through most of the heats, and pulling strong in the finals. The awards at the end announced that Leander had won,

and Sam and I were left to carry a hundred and one trophies back to the HQ, so well done to everyone.



## Future Events

- July 21/28 – Leander Troop Summer Camp (Youlbury, Oxford)
- July/August – World Jamboree (Essex)
- August 1 – District Sunrise Ceremony (Kingston University)
- September 8 – Great River Race
- September 23 – District Beaver Exploring Afternoon (Southwood)
- October 1 – Leander Executive Meeting, 8pm at HQ
- October 3/8 – Sainsbury Scout Week
- October 5/7 – RN Six a Side Football (Portsmouth)
- October 7 – District Beaver Party (1st Hook)
- October 13 – District Cub Swimming Gala (Cheam Baths)
- October 14 – County Cyclo Cross
- October 19/21 – National Scout Air Rifle Championships
- November 24 – District Anniversary Quiz Night (1st Hook)
- November 26 – Leander Executive Meeting, 8pm at HQ
- December 9 – District Inter-sectional Social (1st Hook)

## Busy Beavers

Four new Beavers made their promise and were invested by Karen in June.

*And this is what one of the smart Beavers at the St George's Day Parade wrote:*

We had to walk in a special way and we also held the flag in turns. We looked left, eyes only, at the Mayor and Mayoress. Each Beaver Group wore different scarves. The band played **really loud**.

*Art Gerachty*



# Firefighting Cubs



First some instruction from the firemen at Kingston Fire Station ...



and give a hand to put it out.  
(Now, where are the Leaders??)



then we're off to find the fire ...

## We are sailing ...

