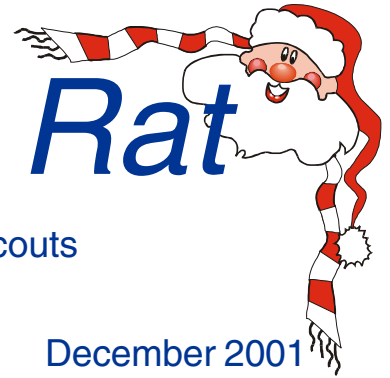




The Water Rat

Newsletter of Leander Sea Scouts



December 2001

Skipper's Scrawl

Yet another year has flown by and it seems just a little while ago that I was wishing all at Leander Season's Greetings. Nigel has assured me he wants to get this edition out by the end of December, so I send you my best wishes for 2002 and hope that you had an enjoyable Christmas!

As we go into the New Year we can look forward to the launch of the Programme review implementation, which is due on the 10th February for the London region. Exactly how this will affect sea Scouting has yet to be seen but, certainly from what we have heard so far, it should bring many benefits.

At the same time as the programme is reviewed we also need to take stock of our equipment position and high on the agenda is the replacement of the four Sea Scout class dinghies (Coypus) and also provision of a more suitable small rescue boat. Without completely giving my age away, I can remember our Coypus when they were first launched some 43 years ago at which time I was a PL in the Troop. This does credit to both the suitability of the boats and also to the Leaders over the years who have ensured they have been well cared for. In total, we need to raise about £11000 on top of our normal running costs and, although hopefully we may be able to obtain some grant assistance, we shall have to raise a considerable amount ourselves. Phil Chapman is spearheading fundraising and several events are being planned throughout the year. Please give Phil and his committee all the support you can so we can acquire the replacement boats as soon as possible.

Finally, I must comment on subscriptions. I understand some are still outstanding for the last term!

Subs are again due in January so can you please ensure that cheques are given to the Leaders during the beginning of the month (together with any overdue amounts), since the Scout Association capitation and insurance fees are due at the end of January.

Keith

Dates for your Diary



- January 8 – First Troop meeting of 2002
- January 13 – HQ Working Party (*Mellett, Mitchell, Osborne, Paintin)
- January 21 – Executive meeting 8pm
- January 27 – HQ Working Party (*Patterson, Pearn, Pilcher, Pratt, Seeley)
- February 10 – HQ Working Party (*Sollis, Steele, Thomas, Walters, Whitaker)
- February 24 – HQ Working Party (*Whitfield, Wingrove, Woods, Yagnick, Young)
- March 10 – HQ Working Party (*Aviram, Barley, Biddulph, Blackhurst, Bowers-Clark)
- March 10 – *Water Rat* copy date
- March 18 – Executive meeting 8pm
- March 24 – HQ Working Party (*Bradbury, Brennan, Brook, Byrd, Chapman)

Leander (Kingston) Sea Scout Group

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



Coxswain's Corner

What a change this Winter: last year the rains had started and the river was running fast and high, hopefully we won't have to move the tentage off the boat deck again in case of flooding. Troop meetings have been very full, with 95% attendance on Tuesdays. As always these are a challenge, especially so now that school and homework demands seem to have increased dramatically and Scouts do need to let off steam.

Shortly after winning the District Swimming Gala, a team of Scouts, mostly from Leander, took part in the County Gala at Trinity School, Shirley. Up against some very good club swimmers. the team put in a very good performance at what was a well-run and enjoyable event.

Shortly after that I took a team to the National Air Rifle Tournament at Walton Firs, the first time we had entered. This is a great event, with over 376 competitors firing over 32,000 pellets (safely!) at a variety of targets. We were all under canvas, the weather was awful, but Scouts are waterproof and there was a great atmosphere. Teams came from all over the UK, a real mix of the very experienced and first timers like ourselves. 7th Malden kindly invited us to mess with them, which worked out extremely well. (They had a large team entered and congratulations to them for a superb team performance, gaining gold and bronze awards in various events – an excellent result for Kingston & Malden District, with 1st Old Malden competing as well, the District was very well represented at a tournament at which the standard of shooting was extremely high). Very well done to Alon Aviram, Thomas Young and Jack Young for taking part in such a tough event. (Incidentally,

at a new event at Bisley Ranges last summer, between the Army Cadet Corps, Sea Cadets, Air Cadets and the Scout Association, the Scouts won the event by a huge margin.)

Whilst I was at Walton Firs, Karen took a party to Polyapes for some wardening activities – every Group has to assist in looking after the District site, so there will be other opportunities next year.

A couple of weeks later we were back at Polyapes for the District Night Hike, the first of the joint events organised with Surbiton District. With over fifteen teams entered, this was very well organised, each team was bussed out to a start point and then hiked back to Polyapes following a series of map references. All our teams and those of Surbiton Sealions then stayed overnight in one of the large huts there – no two o'clock in the morning pickups required from parents! Our A Team came second, a good result, and well done to Nick Pratt and Alon Aviran, who, in the best spirit of scouting, joined a Sealions team as they were so keen to take part in the hike.

Last week Tom Chapman, Nick Pratt and Chris Pearce took part in the District Chess Competition, another joint event with Surbiton District and the first time we have entered a team.

I hope everyone has a nice break over Christmas; we can all look forward to 2002 being a very busy scouting year.

First meeting after Christmas – Tuesday 8th January

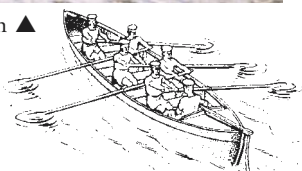
Coxswain

'Enhanced' image fails to impress Guild gig crew



original 'inferior' photograph ▲

'enhanced' version ►



Last issue's 'computer enhanced' image of the Guild gig crew in the Great River Race clearly failed to impress them, as your *Water Rat* editor has been threatened with everything short of legal action.

Well, you can now judge for yourselves. Has the computer enhancement has given every crew member a job, avoiding the need for a passenger? Has it smartened their image, giving each a very fetching little round hat? Has it streamlined their boat, giving it a stern more in keeping with the 21st century?

Summer Scout Camp, Nawaka 2002, Roermond, Netherlands



Thanks for the forms returned so far; for those of you who have requested further information, here are the basics.

Nawaka is an international Sea Scout Camp, organised by *Scouting Nederlands*, with over 3,500 Sea Scouts attending. Held on very safe waters, the camp site spreads around large lakes formed from old gravel workings. There are dozens of activities, water and land based, with days out as well. The whole town of Roermond turns out to watch the sail-past up the river, with all the boats illuminated and decorated. A unique event, superbly organised and not to be missed.

Dates: 22nd July-2nd August 2002

Cost: Not yet finalised, but should be under £200 per head, inclusive of all travel, camp site fees, food, activities and insurance.

Movement Order:

20th July – Advance party depart with boats and tentage

22nd July – Main party depart am UK by luxury coach, arrive Roermond late pm.

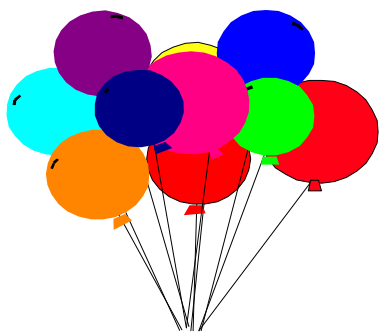
23rd July – Nawaka 2002 officially opens

31st July – Nawaka closing ceremony

1st August – Strike camp, pack gear and boats

2nd August – Depart Roermond am by luxury coach, arrive Kingston late pm

There will be a Nawaka Meeting for all parents and Scouts in mid-January, by which time we should have all the programme information from the organisers.



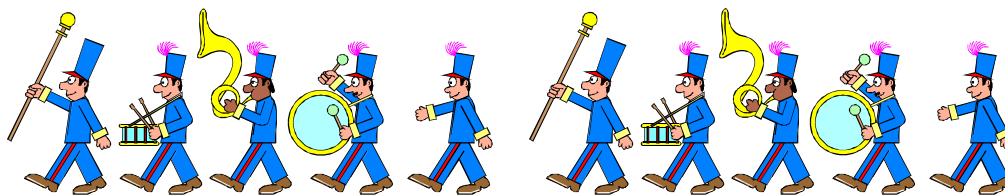
HALL AVAILABLE for junior parties

£35 for an afternoon session

£50 for an evening session

Phone Mike Freeman (020) 8549 8634 for details

Leander Sea Scout Group, Lower Ham Road, Kingston



Leander Family Camp 2002

Leander will be holding a family camp over the weekend of 26th/27th May 2002, at Downe Scout Camp Site and Activity Centre, Biggin Hill, Kent. Over 120 Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, brothers, sisters and parents attended the last family camp at Chalfont Heights in 1999, and as the Group is now larger we should have even more families attending. These are always excellent events, with everyone under canvas, lots of activities, competitions and a grand campfire. Downe is a very attractive rolling wooded site offering heated swimming pool, archery, rifle range, climbing wall, orienteering, games field and backwoods area.

The cost will be £20 per adult and £10 per child, inclusive of all accommodation, food, activities and insurance. We need to get an idea of numbers, so we can provide the right amount of tentage. A family camp meeting will be organised in February, at which the full programme and camp information will be available.

Please fill in the form below and return to your child's section leader as soon as possible after Christmas.

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 starts in March. (full listing in next *Water Rat*)

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

January 13 – *Mellett, Mitchell, Osborne, Paintin

January 27 – *Patterson, Pearn, Pilcher, Pratt, Seeley

February 10 – *Sollis, Steele, Thomas, Walters, Whitaker

February 24 – *Whitfield, Wingrove, Woods, Yagnick, Young

March 10 – *Aviram, Barley, Biddulph, Blackhurst, Bowers-Clark

March 24 – *Bradbury, Brennan, Brook, Byrd, Chapman

Leander (Kingston) Sea Scout Group – Family Camp, May 26th/27th

Downe Scout Camp Site and Activity Centre

Yes, we hope to attend family camp

Family name.....

Our group will consist of:

Child's name.....Age.....Section.....

Child's name.....Age.....Section.....

Child's name.....Age.....Section.....

Child's name.....Age.....Section.....

Parent's name.....

Parent's name.....

Signed