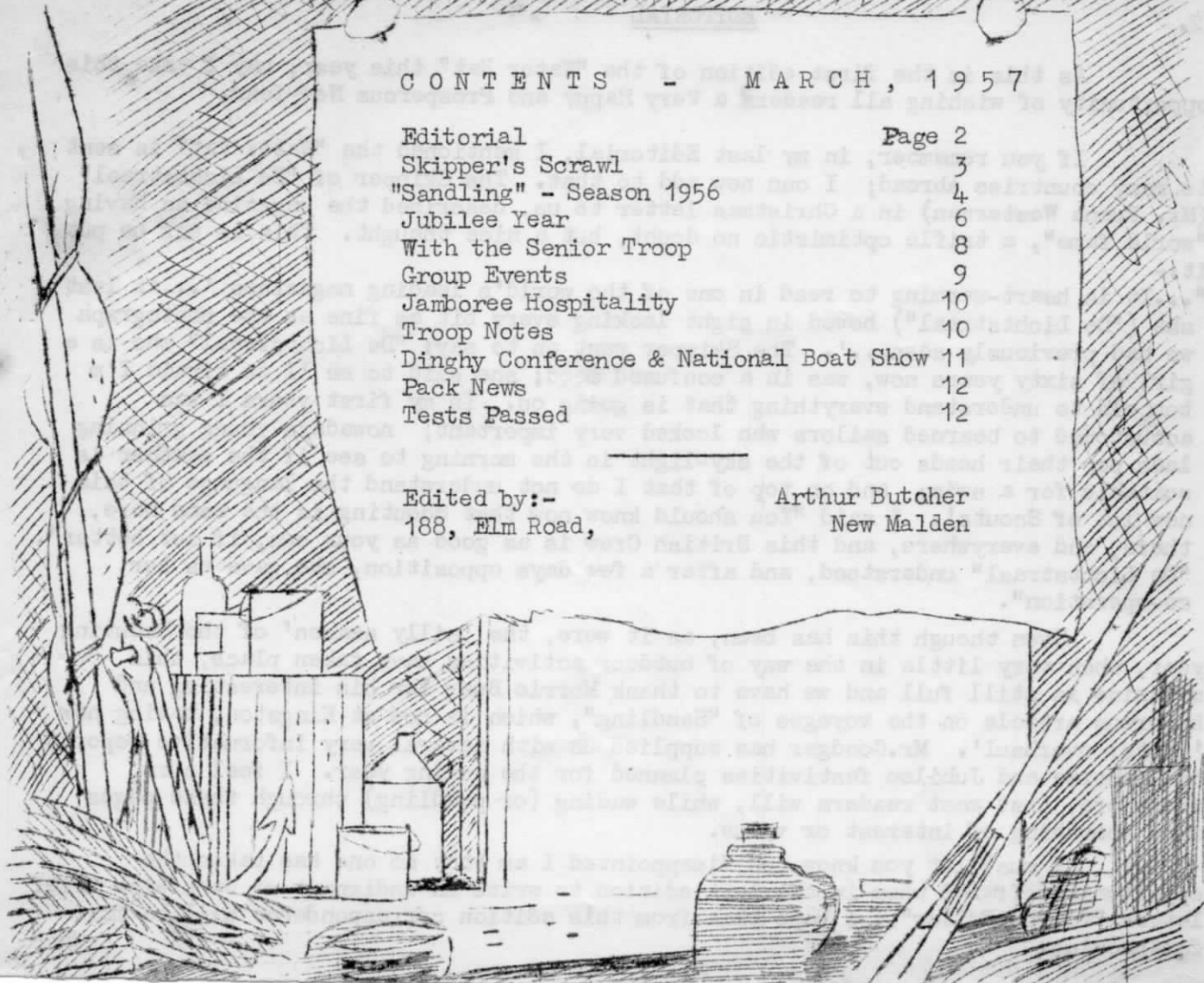


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Edited by:-
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New Malden



EDITORIAL

As this is the first edition of the "Water Rat" this year, may I take this opportunity of wishing all readers a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

If you remember, in my last Editorial, I mentioned the "Water Rat" is sent to many countries abroad; I can now add to that. The Skipper of "De Lichtstraal" (Mr. Frans Westerman) in a Christmas letter to us, described the magazine as having "world fame", a trifle optimistic no doubt, but a nice thought. This is how he put it:-

"...It is heart-warming to read in one of the world's leading magazines '...at last she ("De Lichtstraal") hove in sight looking every bit as fine as the photograph we had previously seen...'. The Skipper went on to say: "De Lichtstraal" who is a girl of sixty years now, was in a confused mood; she said to me 'I am afraid I'm too old to understand everything that is going on. In my first years I was accustomed to bearded sailors who looked very important; nowadays young grinning lads pop their heads out of the sky-light in the morning to see if the weather is suitable for a swim; and on top of that I do not understand the language of this new lot of Scouts'. I said "You should know now that Scouting is the same here, there, and everywhere, and this British Crew is as good as your own, if not better". "De Lichtstraal" understood, and after a few days opposition, she gave us her co-operation".

Even though this has been, as it were, the 'silly season' of the Scouting year, when very little in the way of outdoor activities have taken place, this magazine is still full and we have to thank Morrie Buer for his interesting and humorous article on the voyages of "Sandling", which is now at Kingston, having her 'winter overhaul'. Mr. Goodger has supplied us with several very informative reports on Jamboree and Jubilee festivities planned for the coming year. I feel sure, therefore, that most readers will, while wading (or paddling) through these pages find something of interest or value.

I must let you know how disappointed I am that no one has taken the opportunity offered them in the last edition to write an indignant or otherwise brief letter "To The Editor". I hope that from this edition correspondence will be more forthcoming.

Together with our brother Scouts everywhere, "Leanders" are taking part in the celebrations of the Jubilee of Scouting. This Group has grown from the original 2nd Kingston Troop, formed in the very early days of Scouting in Kingston. With this long history, packed with achievement, this Group has every reason to be proud of its past and it is up to each one of us to see that its present and future activities continue to be worthy of its great traditions.

A very full programme of special events has been arranged for the next few months and most fittingly this commenced with Church Services in commemoration of the Centenary of the birth of our Founder, Robert Baden-Powell. I was very privileged to have been present at the most impressive National Thanksgiving Service in Westminster Abbey on 22nd February, and also at the County Service in Guildford Cathedral on 24th February. The local Service, at All Saints Church, was also attended by a large number of Old Scouts and parents. These services, together with similar ones throughout the World, have served to remind everyone of the great purpose underlying the whole scheme of Scouting.

The next local event is "SCOUTORAMA", at the Coronation Hall, Kingston, on 18th, 19th and 20th March. We are looking forward to large gatherings of our friends and members of the general public at these three performances. Most of the items this year are entirely new, and everyone can be sure of an evening's thoroughly good entertainment.

Although the World Jamboree at Sutton Coldfield is being attended by 35,000 Scouts, only 2 Senior Scouts and 1 Rover from "Leanders" can be included in this number. All Scouts are naturally anxious to pay a visit to the Jamboree, and arrangements have been made for the "Leander" Scout Troop to do so. As a result of a "brain wave" on the part of Scoutmaster Peter Burton, they will be voyaging to Sutton Coldfield by barge on the Grand Union Canal. Thus, in addition to having a unique opportunity of meeting Scouts from other lands, they will see parts of England from an entirely new angle.

Alas, even in the midst of our celebrations, we must not forget that expenses have to be met. We are holding a Jumble Sale at St. Luke's Social Centre, Elm Road, Kingston, on Saturday 6th April. We shall be glad to collect any unwanted articles - especially clothing - at any time from now on.

"SANDLING" - 1956 SEASON.

The June 1956 issue of the "Water Rat" described the main modifications made to "Sandling" during the previous winter - resteping the mast in a tabernacle, replacing the bowsprit, and alterations to the galley to improve stowage space. A number of other smaller alterations and additions were undertaken, including two magnificent navigation light boxes made by the tender hands of one who shall be nameless. After ensuring they were a perfect fit, he came to the conclusion that he had made two port boxes instead of one port and one starboard! Those who worked hard over the winter months on the modifications, were rewarded by the improved sailing performance of "Sandling", and the greater comfort living aboard her this season compared with 1955. The following extracts from her log give some of the highlights of the 1956 season cruises.

11th-13th May: This week end "Sandling" was worked round to Hartly Ferry and back, and was blessed with good weather all the trip; in all a pleasant weekend. This was the first time that the new jib sail was used and very useful it proved to be.

1st-3rd June: The highlight of this weekend was when one of the crew had the misfortune to find that his hot-water bottle had a leak, at 3.30 a.m., this in June! "Sandling" was sailed as far as Southend Pier and back, the object apparently being to allow those who had bought tickets for the Pier's railway something to wave at.

The 22nd June found Mr. and Mrs. Fentiman aboard for a fortnight's holiday. Mrs.F. appears to have done a considerable amount of work, including cooking, but in the log she is referred to, with much dignity, as the Mate. Cruising on the Rivers Swale, Colne and Crouch, to Brightlingsea and Bradwell Creek was the general plan; it is surprising to note the number of times that the crew went ashore for stores and finished up at the 'local'. "Sandling's" log now reads something like a "Who's Who" of the East Coast public houses. On the way to Brightlingsea the wind being what it was, forced them to anchor off Clacton Pier. For the second weekend "Blunt" and his young lady (now his wife) joined the crew. This second weekend turned out to be wet and windy, and little sailing was done.

The following weekend (6th July) Ernie Southey and Dick Riches, with their young ladies, took over. That week was spent cruising to the River Blackwater. Bob Dodge moved aboard on the Friday night, and on the following Saturday they sailed from Brightlingsea to Gillingham on the Medway. The best part of the 40 mile journey was done in pouring rain.

SANDLING - 1956 SEASON (contd.)

5.

At Gillingham there was trouble with the mooring buoy, which had developed a habit of submerging at high water, however, they got over the difficulty and recorded in the log "a most enjoyable week afloat".

The Dodge Brothers and some friends worked "Sandling" round to Harty Ferry on the Isle of Sheppey. The return trip was made on Monday, by way of the River Swale and the notorious Kingsferry Bridge - needless to say Bob navigated the bridge with extreme caution.

From 10th August to the 19th, "Dai" Evans, and a crew of Rovers took over and again had "huge fun" with the buoy, but suddenly it popped up when the tide went down, and all was well. The following day a gale blew up, so they stayed on the mooring. However, on the morrow, the weather had improved, and a course was set for Havengore Creek, and an anxious time was had while crossing the Maplin Sands with only one foot of water in places. But tide and time were all worked correctly, and the night was spent at anchor at Burnham. The following night "Sandling" went aground while proceeding up Brightlingsea Creek. In the morning the crew found they had been navigating by the local railway lights and not those marked on the chart for navigation. Gales and rain prevented much sailing that week, and she was left at Brightlingsea. Bob Dodge and a crew from the Hampton Sea Scout Troop brought her back to Gillingham over a weekend early in September.

On 2nd November Morrie Buer, Gordon Biden, Mike Smart and Derek Milner went down to Gillingham intending to bring "Sandling" back to Kingston. However, strong NNE winds resulted in slow progress down the Medway, and by the time Sheerness was reached both wind and tide were unfavourable for a trip up the Thames. So she was reluctantly sailed back to Gillingham, and next day was spent scrubbing out. The following weekend Bob Dodge took another crew (Tony Bond, "Dai" Evans and a friend) down to make a second attempt. After much juggling with the moorings (as in the previous weekend) she was under way by 14.00 on the Saturday. There was very little wind but by using the motor she arrived at Shell Haven, on the Thames, by 20.00. Here the anchor was dropped and the crew turned in to wait the tide at midnight. Under way again, they ran into fog at Dagenham which made navigation difficult, and at one time they found themselves in Barking Creek. After running aground for a short while on a mud-bank they reached West India Dock pier by eight the next morning. Here the mast was

6.

SANDLING - 1956 SEASON (contd.)

lowered and secured for the up-river trip under the London bridges, and the crew got some much needed sleep until the tide turned. After an uneventful passage upstream, she eventually arrived at Kingston at 20.00.

Thus ended the 1956 sailing season, which has taught many of the older members of the Group a great deal of seamanship. The season has also shown that an income from hiring of about £100 per annum is needed to cover running and maintenance costs. The list of bookings this season is already open, and we hope all dates will soon be taken.

Thanks to the kindness of Messrs. Beckett, who lifted "Sandling" out of the water on to their wharf at Hampton Wick, the whole of the exterior of the hull has been "burnt off" and has had three coats of paint and varnish. She is now back at her moorings opposite Group Headquarters, and maintenance jobs are being done on her in preparation for the 1957 sailing season.

JUBILEE YEAR.

This year, 1957, Scouting celebrates its Jubilee, for it was in 1907 that the first Scout camp was held at Brownsea Island. This year, too, is the centenary of the birth of the founder of Scouting, Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell. To make these anniversaries, a series of events is being organised, some internationally, some nationally, and others on a County or District basis. Over the last eighteen months preparations have been going on for the greatest event of all - the combined Jamboree (for Scouts and Senior Scouts) Moot, (for Rover Scouts) and Indaba (for Scouters) to be held at Sutton Park, near Birmingham, during the period 1st-12th August, when some 35,000 Scouts and Scouters from most countries in which Scouting exists, will be camping together. The U.K. contingent will number about 8,000 to 9,000 and some 300 places have been allocated to Surrey. Surrey will also have a special interest in the Canadian contingent, as the County has been asked to provide hospitality for Canadian Scouts before and after the Jamboree. Smallest of all contingents are single representatives from Mauritius, and Burma. The Jamboree will be open every afternoon, and many districts are planning to visit it, so that Scouts who are not selected for the U.K. contingent, will have an opportunity of seeing what a Jamboree is like.

The celebrations commenced on 22nd February, the anniversary of Robert Baden-Powell's birth, with a National Service of Thanksgiving in Westminster Abbey. This was attended by representatives of the Scout and Guide Movements from all parts of the British Isles and many Commonwealth and Foreign Countries. In Surrey, a County Service of Thanksgiving was held in the completed portion of the new Guildford Cathedral on 24th February. At this service the Bishop of Guildford dedicated the Memorial to Surrey Scouts who have been 'Called to Higher Service' during the past 50 years.

Another National event has been the presentation of Ralph Reader's play "Great Oaks", at Golders Green Hippodrome during the week 25th February to 2nd March, when the 'house' was packed on each occasion. Among the audience on the Friday evening were several members of the "Leander" Group, together with a number of parents and friends. The play depicts the story of Scouting from its earliest days through the eyes of a Scoutmaster, and whilst it proved most entertaining, it had its more serious moments.

Plans are now in hand for the building of Baden-Powell House on a site in South Kensington, and it is hoped that the foundation stone will be laid this year. This building, which is intended as a permanent memorial to the Founder, will replace the present Imperial Headquarters, and will also serve as a hostel and social centre for Scouts visiting London both from this country and overseas. The cost is being met from funds subscribed by members of the Movement, and many other admirers of Baden-Powell's work.

On a district basis, many "Scout Weeks" are being organised in all parts of the country, to show the public something of Scouting activities. Kingston's effort will soon be a thing of the past, but many somewhat similar events will be held out-of-doors later in the year. During the period 17th/20th June all districts will be undertaking collective "good turns", to remind Scouts of one of the fundamental principles of Scouting, and as a token of appreciation to the general public for their help in finding work for Cubs and Scouts during the "Bob-a-Job" weeks which have been held for the past few years.

WITH THE SENIOR TROOP.

Since the last publication of this magazine several changes have taken place in the Seniors, F. Goodger and C. Bishop have, regretfully, had to give up active work with the Seniors, and Bob Dodge has taken the helm, ably assisted by Ted Boddy. The three former Patrol Leaders - G. Braye, G. Fennell and D. Milner - have now joined the new Rover Crew, and their places have been taken by B. Garnish, I. Bates and D. Lenthall. Paul Adams and Raymond Huckson have come up from the Troop. It is hoped to begin a series of instructional lectures on Sunday evenings early in the New Year, so that more members of the Troop may obtain Charge Certificates, enabling more down-river trips; and it is also hoped that more members will take active interest in the repairs that are being carried out on the boats and gear.

At the time of going to press, two members, B. Garnish and R. Shackleton, have been nominated to attend the Jamboree at Sutton Park this summer.

Since its performance at the Bazaar, the Seniors' band has developed in new "skiffle" directions. Some strange instruments have been constructed, and while to some the resulting noises hardly seem to be music, we have been assured by the experts that it is the modern kind. Now the band has been presented with a piano to add to its other instruments, perhaps we shall be able to appreciate this new kind of music properly.

The troop has been awarded 3rd place in the 1956 competition for the Goodson Trophy. This competition, which is open to all Scout Troops in the United Kingdom is judged on the best log of a Scout adventure. For our entry we submitted the log of our Dutch cruise. The first place was gained by the 1st Rochester (Staffs) Troop, with the account of their canoe cruise to Oxford, and 2nd place by the 3rd Tyne Sea Scouts, who sailed their newly acquired ketch from Southampton to the Tyne. Letters of congratulations have been received from the H.Q. Commissioner for Sea Scouts, and the County Commissioner.

On 15th December we paid our annual visit to town to see a show, this time "Sailor Beware" at the Strand Theatre. We thoroughly enjoyed this amusing play of what might happen when a sailor decides to get married. After the show we had dinner at Rich's Restaurant, where Fred and Charlie were presented with books by the Troop, as a token of appreciation for all they have done in the past. It was a real pleasure to have the Bo's'un with us on this occasion - the first time we had seen him since

the summer cruise. He alleged he had lost some weight as the result of it, but we found this difficult to believe. Over Christmas we had further reminders of the Netherlands, in the form of letters and cards from Mr. Slijk, the Skipper, the Mates of "De Lichstraal" and from Otto, the Dutch American boy who went with us for part of the cruise.

On the first Friday in the New Year, the Seniors "went gay" with their annual party, when their young lady friends were invited to join the fun and games; it included the Crazy Gang film "Going North" (which was particularly crazy!) and was quite a success!

Several Seniors were on duty as Stewards at the opening day of the National Boat Exhibition, a description of which appears elsewhere in this issue.

GROUP EVENTS.

The Bazaar held in November resulted in a profit of £76. Our next money-raising effort will be a JUMBLE SALE to be held on Saturday 6th April at St. Lukes Social Centre, Elm Road, Kingston. We hope all members and friends of the Group will support this effort, by sending plenty of "jumble" for sale. A circular letter will be sent out later, but in the meantime will you please be looking out suitable articles for sale. On such occasions we need a large sales staff, and offers of help in this direction will be very welcome.

Two successful Dances, organised by the Supporters Association, in conjunction with the local branch of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, were held in October and November and were very popular. It is hoped to run further Dances, so if you enjoy this kind of activity, keep a watch for the dates, and come along.

For those who prefer something less active, there are Whist Drives at Group Headquarters on alternate Thursday evenings, commencing at 8 p.m. The next one is on Thursday, 14th March.

The Bayer Winthrop Trophy, which is awarded annually by the Kingston Youth Council to the Youth Group showing the greatest achievement, and was held in 1955 by this Group, has this year been won by the Kingston Congregational Youth Club, to

whom we send our congratulations. Acknowledging the Group's entry, the Youth Officer wrote:-

... "They were greatly impressed with the "Leander's" record for the year, but I think you will agree that in an award of this kind when there are many other good claims it is well that the trophy should move around the district".

JAMBOREE HOSPITALITY.

As mentioned in the article on Jubilee Year, Surrey has undertaken to provide hospitality to the Canadian contingent to the Jamboree, which will number about 1350 Scouts and Scouters. Of this total, Kingston district has been asked to take approximately 50 - 35 Scouts and 15 Scouters, who are expected to be here from 20th/30th July, and after the Jamboree again from 13th/16th August, before they return to Canada (they are travelling in both directions by air). It is hoped it will be possible to accommodate and entertain all Canadian Scouts and Scouters in the homes of members and friends of the Scout Movement in and around Kingston. Last year, when the Jamboree was held in Canada, all the Scouts in the United Kingdom Contingent were invited to stay in the homes of Canadian Scouts. Now is our opportunity to return some of the hospitality U.K. Scouts received then.

Will parents of Scouts (particularly those in the 14/17 age group) who would like to provide accommodation for a Canadian Scout, please get in touch with the G/S/M at 82, Eden Street, or Mr. Goodger, 45 Dysart Avenue, either of whom will be pleased to supply further details. Those who are unable to accommodate Canadian Scouts may, as an alternative, be able to offer facilities for entertaining them. If YOU can help in this way, will you please let Mr. Goodger know?

TROOP NOTES.

Now that "Buster" Huckson and Paul Adams have departed to the Seniors, Bill Callow, "Pluto" Day, and Ned, have been made Patrol Leaders, while "Ginger" Webb has become Troop Leader. On 5th November we had our usual firework display, and at the Bazaar later in the month, "Bruno" (Mr. Burton) was presented with the Long Service Award, on the completion of 15 years as a Scouter in the Group. To our Christmas party this year we invited some Hungarian refugee boys - language was a bit difficult, as none of them could speak English, and we couldn't speak Hungarian! but we got on all right.

(contd. on page 12)

During the last few months, members of the Group have attended two outstanding events. The first was a one-day Conference on Dinghy Building, organised by the Central Council for Physical and Recreational Training. This included an exhibition of small sailing and rowing craft, and lectures were given by experts on dinghy building for beginners, catamarans, varnishing (by a representative of Cellons) and glueing techniques. Mr. Austin Farrar, the well-known designer, gave hints on dinghy maintenance, and answered questions.

The 3rd National Boat Show, sponsored by the "Daily Express" was better than ever this year. The ground floor of Olympia was packed with sailing, motor and rowing craft of all sizes from a 22 ton Watson cabin class lifeboat, shortly to be stationed at Angle, Pembrokeshire, to the latest in fibre-glass dinghies, a fisherman's dream boat. Donald Campbell's "Bluebird" and "Windermere III" were there, contrasting vividly with the battered barnacled hull of the little "Orenda", a 26ft yawl in which two Canadians sailed the Atlantic in 56 days in September/October, 1956. Another outstanding boat was the 18ft catamaran "Endeavour" which is at present holder of the "Fastest mile" record. Among the pleasure craft on view, was the latest "Maid" line cruiser, which is available for hire from Thames Ditton for up-river trips. The Royal Navy added a new attraction with a helicopter and an exhibition of how it is used for rescue work. Among R.A.F. equipment on view was an air sea rescue vessel, and one of the latest life-saving rubber dinghies; the manufacturers modestly say it takes only a minute to inflate this dinghy, but I timed it to be just over 30 seconds, proving its complete efficiency. Another popular feature, was a stand "Boating on a Budget" which comprised a display of inexpensive sailing and rowing craft. Close by was the "Build-it-yourself boatyard" where one could watch professionals and amateurs building and repairing boats. On this stand too, was a demonstration of carving figureheads by Mr. A. Levison, believed to be the only man in Britain now practising this ancient craft. He was carving a figurehead for the famous tea clipper "Cutty Sark" now in permanent dry-dock at Greenwich. For those with problems concerning boats and boating, there was the Boating Advice Bureau, where experts, including Mr. Uffa Fox the famous yachtsman and designer, were ready to lend their great knowledge of boat building and sailing to whoever wished it. It was a great show, and I hope many of you managed to go. If you did not, you should make it a "must" for next year. I'm sure you won't be disappointed.

PACK NEWS.

For our Christmas Party this year, we had a "Sherwood Forest" setting, with the Cubs dressed up to represent Robin Hood and his followers. Keith Maund won the 1st Prize, and so realistic was his "Maid Marion" costume, that for a time Ted Boddy thought a Brownie had been invited to our party! We went to the District Cub Carol Service and also did some carol singing on our own, to buy flowers for Old People. We played a football match against 3rd Kingston Pack, but lost it. Clive Tanner and Julian Davey have joined the Pack, and the following Badges have been gained in the last few months:-

Brian Martin - House Orderly, and Leaping Wolf

Bernard Cole - Housecraft

Robert Peck - Collector

Good Hunting,

AKELA.

SCOUT TESTS PASSED.

Tenderfoot:	R. Hepworth (1)	R. Lenthall (6)*	G. Phillip (3)
Second Class:	R. Bevan (2)	R. Braye (5)*	I. Coghlan (1)
	C. Godsave (3)*	G. Sims (2)	S. Webb (3)*
	R. Williams (1)		
First Class:	R. Braye (3)	R. Day (2)	A. Hockham (3)
	M. Webb (3)	C. Young (3)	

(* All tests for Badge completed)

TROOP NOTES (contd. from page 10)

In the District Cross Country Run in January, we managed to get 1st place. We have also played two football matches against Dr. Barnardo's. The first we won handsomely 8 - 1, but lost the second 2 - 7, and another against 1st Kingston Hill, which we won 4 - 2. During the winter we have helped with the installation of new red lights to warn traffic on the Lower Ham Road when boats are being put in, or taken out of the water.