



THE WATER RAT.

NEWSLETTER OF "LEANDER"

H.Q. 92, Lower Ham Road, Kingston-upon-Thames,
Surrey, KT2 5BB.

* * * * *
* FEB '89 *
* * * * *

FROM THE G.S.L.

Christmas over, we can look back on enjoyable dinner evenings of Guild, Social Club and Venture Scouts, though I was a little disappointed more parents didn't attend the Social Club dinner.

To Cubs who had a Cub Scout Annual for Xmas- how many of you have seen the picture on page 17, which shows, in 1944, Princess Elizabeth, then a Sea Ranger, watching Leander Guildsman, Ron Jault - can anyone tell me who the other two Leanders are?

Still with Cubs -well done on the sponsored scrub of HMS Illustrious and raising over £600. We still don't have a final sum but have raised at least £1200 for the GOSH appeal - well done!

Welcome Rod Leigh, who joins us to help as an assistant Cub leader this month. This must take us to full strength on Cub leaders, but we still desperately need more leaders for both Beavers & Scouts. Please 'phone me if you are, or you think of someone else, who may be interested,

I have been down to troop meetings for the last two Saturdays, and am pleased to see boating continuing despite the adverse weather. I must, however, comment on poor response to P.L's commands and uniform which needs considerable improvement. If the P.L's & A.P.L's are to do some offshore cruising on the Solent this Summer, 'discipline' must be improved and become second nature. The Thames is relatively 'safe' outside H.Q., but at sea or in Tidal waters, there can only be one 'skipper', and often instantaneous response to commands is necessary for safety. I would stress to everyone, the need for Scouts to attend Tuesday & Saturday meetings. Punctuality is of the essence if we are to get boats out quickly, and I would stress the need for boys to stay until the end of the meetings since the boats and gear also have to be stowed away. Uniform is navy or black trousers - not Jeans. Trainers are for boating, black leather shoes(polished) for initial muster. Finally, towel, waterproof anorak and full change to scruff kit is needed since as sailing & canoeing gets more adventurous, there is more chance of ending up in the hogwash!

Following Jen Chinnock's 'retirement' as fundraising organiser, our Chairman, Viv Brown, is setting up a 'Network' of parents & supporters to spread the load of organising these events. If you are not yet part of the network, please contact Viv (546-2989) to let him know which activities you can help with.

I attended a Sea Scout Leaders conference at B.P. House last weekend. One item for discussion was the 'ideal' standard sea scout boat. This was almost unanimously still considered to be the Home Counties fibreglass gig - designed by our old G.S.L. Eric Ebbage. We have two of these gigs, but, unfortunately, both in sad need of major refits - so, to the 'network' - I hope we can aim this year to get these two gigs afloat again, and also get some more small sailing boats(toppers?), funds permitting. We also need a new dining shelter for Cub camps, and some other items of camp equipment, before the troop go off to Holland this Summer!

continued overleaf...

FROM THE G.S.L. (continued)

Secondly, the conference agreed in principal to a National pulling & canoeing regatta in 1990. Leander has been suggested as the venue and an initial feasibility study is being carried out!

Keith Maund - G.S.L.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

6th MARCH:- 20.00hrs - Group Executive Meeting at H.Q.

31st MARCH:- Race Night at H.Q.

9th APRIL:- Kingston & Malden District Sponsored Walk (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts & Ventures walking - Volunteers from parents required for marshalling)

23rd APRIL: St. George's Day Parade (all Beavers, Cubs, Scouts & Ventures are expected to attend)

29th APRIL:- District Swimming Gala.

18th MAY:- LEANDER A.G.M. 20.00hrs at H.Q. (A MUST FOR ALL PARENTS & SUPPORTERS)

SCOUT LEADERS REPORT

We started the year with our Winter Camp (the weather being warm enough for a Summer Camp!) The mild weather did spoil the effect of it being a Winter Camp, anyway we met on 6th January at Surbiton and caught the train to Godalming in the Surrey hills area. We had four boys and 1st Jaguar from Molesey, also 4 boys with Chips & Graeme (Coxwain) plus 3 leaders. I should have been in the same party, but due to a tooth abcess a few days before, I was in too much pain to go on the Friday, however the pain killers worked and I was up to the Camp before 8.00am on the Saturday. What a great day we had - this included me being taught how to absail! The night hike had to be done, and very well they did too. I got back home after 12.30am, so it was a very long day. Chips showed them how to prepare a chicken and cook it under split tins in the fire. It tasted fine. Sunday they broke= camp in the rain, so in the end they did get a taste of a Winter camp!

On Sunday 22nd January we held the District First Aid Competition and entered 2 teams hoping that maybe once again we could get a first place as in 1988. Our 'incident' was what I believe to be the worst accident that could happen on a camp - 'A patrol camp without a leader present, and they are playing around the fire while the P.L. is getting dinner ready- a boy is tripped up and falls straight into the fire - the whole of his body except the lower part of his legs are burned. Our 'patient' was Jonathan Merry and for him volunteering, I say, THANK YOU, as he went through hell, what with being dragged off the 'fire' and having cold water poured over him all day long, made to 'die' a few times with shock and by the end of the day he was shaking for real with the cold! Again I say thanks Jonathan. With the treatment he got from some of the teams, he in fact died four times, or was it five!?. Anyway our 2 teams saved him, so they do like you! However, what our teams did not know was that for all their efforts on our 'incident' they never got a single mark for it, this makes it fair with the points. The final result was:- Tiffins:1st, 1st New Malden:2nd, and Leander:3rd, the points were very close, and so congratulations are still in order for our lads. Well done both teams at last we are taking an interest in First Aid.

Our next main event is the District Night Hike, and only 1st place will be accepted.

continued overleaf ...

SCOUT LEADERS REPORT (continued)

The remaining part of the month was spent on the river on Saturdays, and rope work on Tuesdays. It does seem that the boys of today have bad memories - show them a knot one week, and by the next they have forgotten it! I will succeed with these knots eventually!

Chief. Mick Chinnock

MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Summer Camp During the early part of February, the second part of the fees are due please.

FEB.25th -SATURDAY - District Night Hike: This is an 'All Night' event, and the boys will be home on Sunday morning. I am still waiting for details, but I could be in a position where I may be calling for help from 2 fathers with transport, as the landrover is 'out of order' at the moment. Chips is working very hard on it to try and get it fit by the 25th. I will be abroad, so I will not be involved this year. So please, can 2 fathers come forward for taking the boys to the start of the hike, and to collect them on Sunday morning - or if you want to stop out all night and help with the Hike with Chips.

FEBRUARY 21st-Tuesday. - NO SCOUTS on this Tuesday, but we are meeting on Wednesday 22nd Feb with the Cubs as we will be receiving four Cubs into the Scouts that night. "The boys have been told"

4th MARCH-SATURDAY:- 'Fun Night at Tolworth Leisure Club' (the boys will be given the details)

12th MARCH-SUNDAY:- Incident Hike for the younger boys (details to be given out when I receive them

Chief

CUB LEADER'S REPORT

We hope that you all had a lovely Xmas, and wish you all a very Happy New Year - better late than never! We have had a very exciting month. The Cubs have started doing Arrow work, with some already gaining their Arrows. Over the next few months we will be doing a lot more not only at home, but also at Cubs.

The best part of the month has to be our visit to Portsmouth to wash the deck of HMS Illustrious. What a day! We left by coach at 11am, stopped for lunch at The Devil's Punch Bowl, then on to Portsmouth. After driving round all the road-works, we at last arrived to be greeted by a sailor who had to direct us round the docks - are they big! We passed the Victory & the Warrior, and the Mary Rose. The Cubs thought they were big, then we pulled up next to the Illustrious. I wish I had brought my camera, the Cubs could not believe the size. Once on the ship they told us we had a schedule to keep. First, up to the flight deck to start the work. The Cubs did wash a fair part of the deck (AS YOU CAN SEE BY THE PHOTO REPRODUCED AT THE BACK OF THIS WATER RAT). Firstly, it had to be hosed, then gallons of washing liquid, then in with the brooms. The Cubs really enjoyed themselves. Then we had a grand tour in 4 groups, ending up in the ward room for drinks and biscuits. They had so much drink, we had to stop 3 times on the way home. Everybody, Leaders & Cubs were very tired after climbing so many steps.

continued overleaf.....

CUB LEADER'S REPORT (continued)

We all had a fantastic day. I would like to thank Akela for starting off the idea back in May with many 'phone calls and letters. Thanks to Baloo for arranging the transport as part of her basic course project. A very big 'Well Done' to all the boys & parents. We still have some money to come in but up to now (27.1.89) we have collected £407.63p, all going to the GOSH appeal. We would like to thank you all for your support. We hope to have a parents evening to show you the pictures and video of The Day!

We welcome 2 new boys, David King and Giles Dumper, who we invested 2 weeks ago. Also, Rod Leigh who will be known as Shere Khan to the boys, who is joining us as a leader, already having done his basic and camp courses. We also welcome Rawdon Leigh who has transferred from a pack in Germany.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 22nd Feb. Cubs going up to Scouts.
- 25th Feb. 5 A-Side-Football. District Competition.
- 23rd April St. George's Day Parade.

RIKKI

BEAVER LEADER'S REPORT

We have had a very quiet time since the Xmas holidays. We are carrying on our swimming, and have been doing general work. We would like to say good luck to Giles Dumper who went up to Cubs 2 weeks ago.

We would like to remind parents about the Beavers Valentine Party at the New Malden Methodist Church Hall on Sunday 12th February. Please may we have your replies back

LIZ

VENTURES CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This month started very busily with a night hike over Box Hill on the first Thursday. No one got lost and we were all home by 11.30pm. Then came the arrangements for our Christmas meal to be held on the 17th. The meal was great, thanks to Nick's wife for help with the cooking of the turkey(which was huge!) after all, feeding about 16 hungry mouths is not easy. We then watched videos and fell asleep sometime in the early hours. In the morning the cleaning began, to finish by Monday morning.

We met again at the beginning of January, and the money for the ski-trip was paid in, as they are off soon to try to kill themselves, and each other no doubt. In the near future we have dry-slope skiing, to get in some practise - bowling at the Charrington Bowl, and when the weather gets better it will be back to the water for even more fun and frolics! Bye for now...

Dave Mullard

(Acting Chairman, til Ian comes back
from America)

SOCIAL CLUB :-

A full report on the Social Club's activities, past and future will be reported in the March edition of The Water Rat.

Ed.

SUPPLEMENTARY PERSONAL ACCIDENT

Insurance Scheme

Part of the membership fees pay for a small insurance premium, which does give a small benefit to Scouts if suffering personal disability or death as a result of an accident whilst involved on a Scouting activity.

The Scout Association has arranged an inexpensive policy to give supplementary cover and the executive committee felt that parents may wish to consider registering their boys in this scheme,. A summary of cover is set out below, and should you wish to take out this additional cover, please complete the form below and return to the appropriate section leader by the 1st MARCH, together with cheque made payable to:- LEANDER(Kingston) SEA SCOUT GROUP. You will then be registered for the scheme under the Group Policy - Please note the Policy is due for renewal in December each year.

SUPPLEMENTARY PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE SCHEME

I WOULD LIKE TO ARRANGE COVER AS FOLLOWS:-

MEMBER'S NAME:-

AGE:-

I ENCLOSE PREMIUM FOR:-

PLAN 'A' - (Scouting Activities only)

Members over 18 yrs:- £7.00 per annum
Members under 18 yrs:- £3.00 per annum

PLAN 'B' - (24 Hour cover)

Members over 18 yrs:- £28.00 per annum
Members under 18 yrs:- £12.00 per annum

PLEASE STATE EITHER 'A' or 'B' :-

SIGNED(Parent)

(TO BE RETURNED TO YOUR SECTION LEADER BY:- 1st MARCH 1989)

STOP PRESS! (Received just before going to print!) SOCIAL CLUB REPORT

We held our Xmas/New Year's Dinner on Saturday, 14th January at the H.Q. Although numbers were not as high as expected, the 20 or so who did attend, had a thoroughly enjoyable evening - so we have decided to make this an annual event. I would like to thank Marion Duffin for preparing & organising the meal, and to all who made the Main Deck so festive for the evening.

I wish to take this opportunity to remind all parents that you are automatically members of the Club, and welcome to participate in all the activities advertised in the Water Rat. We have two social events in March, first, a Pub Row & Lunch on Sun. 12th March. We aim to row 2 gigs from HQ to a suitable pub upriver, where other members are welcome to join us for lunch. Details will be available in the next Water Rat. Finally don't forget the Race Night at HQ on Friday, 31st March. That's all for now.

Robert Payne (Social Club Chairman)