



The Water Rat

Newsletter of Leander Sea Scouts

July 2000

Skipper's Scrawl

It only seems a short time since the last *Water Rat* and as we go to press the school holiday season is on us. Summer camp for the troop is on the Isle of Wight this year and I am sure all the Scouts going will enjoy themselves and perhaps get some tidal boating experience. I understand that visitors will be welcome but please liaise with Coxswain if you intend to visit.

I was sorry to learn of the death of Trevor Thorpe whom some of the older members will remember. Trevor was Leander Chairman for several years and our thoughts are with his family.

Jan and Mark Wileman will shortly be moving to Wales and I am sure you will all join me in thanking Jan for all the hard work she has put in helping the Group. Nick will, I understand, be continuing to collect subs (in between travelling backwards and forwards to Wales) so is there anyone who is prepared to help him this year with a view to taking over in a year's time?

The social evening at HQ proved to be an enjoyable evening for those who attended and our thanks are due to Madeleine and Angie for preparing the food and drink, etc.

September will see an active programme with the Great River race – five gigs entered from the Group again – and shortly followed by the district swimming gala. Hopefully with all the swimming practice the Beavers and Cubs do we can put on a good showing.

Finally thank you to the 35 parents who have so far returned their gift aid forms. If you haven't sent yours back yet please can you let me have it as soon as possible so we can put all the necessary records in

operation – remember this could be an extra £1000 a year to the Group direct from the Taxman and will help to keep subscriptions down.

Hoping you all have an enjoyable break

Keith

Beavers

This term Beavers have welcomed two new leaders, Keith Aldred and Tony Edwards and two new beavers, William Paintin and William Bradbury to the Colony. We will be saying goodbye to Andrew Chappell who is going up to Cubs and whose swimming goggles will be particularly missed!

Huw Walters, James Kimber, Peter Thomas, Nicholas Paterson and Andrew Chappell have all completed their Beaver Scout Challenge award and the Beavers were treated to a fine display of Break Dancing by Andrew as evidence of achieving his 'personal challenge'. We will be doing more work on the Challenge Badge next term with the newer beavers in the Colony

Other highlights of the term have included a practical demonstration of knot tying by Johnathan Edwards' grandfather, tracking along the river, a trip to Richmond Park and an attempt to build wigwams that would stay up. Despite the weather we have managed to get out and about surprisingly often.

The first meeting of the new term will be held on Monday September 18th. Enjoy the Summer holidays!

Ros and Catie

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

We have been lucky this summer in that the weather has been very favourable on Tuesdays, so we have not lost any opportunities for boating and canoeing. A particular thank you to Chris Hampton, Alex and the Surbiton Sealion Ventures, Smurf and John, who have been along every meeting, coaching a substantial number of Scouts to obtain their BCU One Star award.

There have not been any District or County events, so basically we have just been getting on with boating. As the National Pulling Regatta was not held this year, instead we put on a mini fun Regatta with Surbiton Sealions and Petersham & Ham. It was a great pity that only a handful of people attended the event. As usual some Scouts did not read their programme – I received a number of phone call after the event asking when it was to be held! Once again, the Leander rule is check the event date on the Tuesday before it is due to be held.

At last we managed to rig 'Hero' for sailing and see what she was like with the new mast and sails. The gigs do sail well, we should get some nice runs off the Isle of Wight when we are at camp there.

There are many activities coming up in September and October, there will be a lot of choices – including the Great River Race, County Cyclo-Cross, County Camping Competition, District Swimming Gala, RN Football six-a-side.

Many thanks to all parents who returned the questionnaire – there were some very valuable comments – we hope to publish the results in the next *Water Rat*.

Next meeting will be the first Tuesday of the new school term, meanwhile do have a very good summer holiday.

Coxswain

Dates for your Diary

July 29th/Aug 8th – Troop Summer Camp, IOW
September 18th – Executive Meeting 8pm
September 23rd – Great River Race
October 14th – *Water Rat* copy date
November 20th – Executive Meeting 8pm
December 16th – *Water Rat* copy date

Cubs

Poor weather during the last couple of months meant that the Cubs have not been out as much as planned.

We go swimming once a term, and nearly all of the Cubs have got their First Swimmer's Badge and about three-quarters have the Second stage. Hopefully next term someone will be able to achieve the harder Third stage.

An enjoyable visit was made to the Fire Station, which ended in some of the Cubs getting wet.

We joined the Troop on one Tuesday evening and the boys were able to go out boating. Next term, hoping for an Indian Summer, more outdoor activities including an evening's canoeing are planned.

On 15th July, 25 Cubs went to the Cub Fun 2000 Day, where there were activities such as rocket making, bungee sliding, catapults, face painting, and hand printing. Wimbledon Football Club were doing some coaching and the Cubs were able to try beating the goalie.

We say goodbye this term to James Williamson, Alon Aviran and Jed Wingrove, hope they have enjoyed their time in the Pack and go on to have further fun with the Troop.

Akela (Tim)

Ventures

Dave King is now off in Ghana, on Operation Raleigh, helping to build a hospital. Other Ventures are helping with the Troop and Alex is taking out an ASL warrant.

Some of the unit went for a few days' camping at Polyapes recently and there are plans to fix the cabin and flooring in the 'Ebbage' over the Summer.

Alex

e-mail addresses

We're compiling a list of e-mail addresses for members of the Group. If you've not already done so, please send an e-mail to me at nigel@duffin.demon.co.uk.