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EDITORIAL

Well once again we, the Editors that is, have summoned up the strength, courage, energy or what have you to bring out another Water Rat. The real problem is of course procuring articles, and then after having successfully completed this part of the operation, in typing out all the articles with the legendary two fingers. We are as always most grateful to those who do write their piece as promised, and here once again Mr. Hunter has very kindly drawn another frontpiece at extremely short notice.

In this edition we have the usual reports from the different sections of the Group, and have once again an article about the activities of the Sea Rangers, whom I am sure many of you think of as part of "Leander" in any case - in the nicest possible way naturally. One new feature this time is the cartoon section, and it is along rather broader lines containing cartoons and articles not too closely bound up with the Group activities during the previous few months, that I would like to see the magazine progress (Only half of the Editors speaking here).

We have just heard that there are plans afoot for the "Lash-up" to rear it's ugly head again, for those of you who have understandably forgotten, or just never knew perhaps, it is the chronicle of the Scout Troop and supposedly appears monthly. We would like to take this opportunity of welcoming it back to the fold of going concerns, and say we hope it's absence will not be used as an excuse to print their old articles again! A rather surprising lack on the part of the aforesaid publication is that of an Editor, nevertheless we wish the phantom luck.

All there seems left to say now is please, if you think the "Water Rat" is worthwhile do try to write an article or letter for us, and remember we most certainly prefer criticism to apathy; Good Luck.

P.S. I must apologize for the lack of the promised cartoons, but I think the space will be more than adequately filled by the elephant jokes you will find on page 15. W.

The Group is very indebted to the members of the Rover Crew, and in particular to Alan Dow for producing another issue of the "Water Rat". This comes at a very opportune time when we are at the commencement of a new Scout Year. As stated in the Annual Report just distributed, "Leanders" are able to look back on twelve months of great achievement and I am sure that everyone from the youngest Cub to the most senior Scouter is determined that the coming year will be even more successful. It has been remarked that much which in the past has required special effort is now taken in our stride. The standard of Scoutcraft and Seamanship has reached a very high level and this is especially true of the Senior Troop. Much of the work carried out by them in refitting and rerigging "Sandling" is of professional standard and has evoked praise from some most critical judges. One of these, Mr. Fred Cranmer, who is an 80 year old craftsman, was so impressed that he has been along on several occasions to help with the work.

As one of the oldest Scout Groups, "Leanders" have been given the privilege of holding the Summer Camp for the Scout Troop on Brownsea Island. It was here that our Founder held his experimental camp in 1907 prior to the publication of "Scouting for Boys". Members of the Senior Troop and the Rover Crew are planning to cruise from Southampton to Brownsea in the gigs and "Sandling" and thus link up with the Scout Troop. The waters of Poole Harbour are ideal for Sea Scout boating activities and I trust that this will be a memorable camp for all concerned. It is now up to everyone to prepare himself by working hard at the various Scout Tests which will ensure the safety and comfort of himself and all others.

The Group is extremely well-equipped with both boats and camp equipment, but each year a considerable sum has to be spent on maintenance and renewal. For the money to do this over and above that provided by the members own efforts, we are most grateful to the Parents' Committee who work extremely hard. I appeal to all those who have not been able to help in the past to make a renewed effort to join in all future money-raising activities. The next of these is the Summer Fete in July, on the 4th.

In conclusion we extend our congratulations to Jill and Rowland Spencer on the birth of a son, Ian David, on April 8th. Before moving to Sarisbury Green, Southampton, where he has been running a Scout Group for the past two years, Rowland was for many years a most enthusiastic and active member of "Leanders".

CUB NOTES.

Having just returned from the wilds of Richmond Park, accompanied by an assortment of frogs, Cubs, sticklebacks and toads, I was not in the least perturbed by the greeting: "Now is the time for the Water Rat to emerge again!"

Our Going Up Ceremony, which preceded the ramble was an extra special occasion, for, after giving three of our Sixers, David Lawrence, Stefan Davies and Robert Beaupre a rousing sendoff to the Troop, the Pack were able to join with the rest of the Group in the presentation ceremony of the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards to Peter Hunter and Stephen Day.

Following the ceremony, the Pack departed, armed with fishing nets and jam jars, for Richmond Park, where they proceeded to investigate the inhabitants of the murky waters of the pool, climb their favourite oaks, turn gentle rivulets into raging torrents, and generally vie for the privilege of being the first to lighten the contents of Akela's First Aid Kit. Surprisingly enough, however, a weary and not-so-immaculate Pack returned to H.Q. quite safe and sound, ready and grateful for their fish and chip tea with the Troop.

Since Rikki's appointment as A.C.M., the Pack's Nature lore has improved by leaps and bounds and one is now never surprised to find the Main Deck transformed into a Potting Shed, with Cubs knee-deep in soil, sand and seeds!

Mr. Andrews and Mitten have been doing noble and rewarding work each Sunday morning with their swimming sessions, which took place, even in the bitterest weather. All erstwhile non-swimmers, who have attended regularly, can now swim with confidence; one keen Tenderpad, who has shown exceptional stickability is Robert Holman who was a non-swimmer eight months ago and who last week received his one length swimming certificate, a great achievement both for Robert and for Mr. Andrews.

Bob-a-Job was an unqualified success this year and we were all delighted with the result of almost £30. Most Cubs earned more than £1, and Nicholas Pearce earned as much as £2.14.0. On several occasions I was told of Leander Cubs exceptional smartness, cheerfulness and politeness during Bob-a-Job week, which pleased me even more than the financial result. Congratulations, Cubs!

"DODGSON, bring the coal-list, would you?" Three of us were sitting round the fire at the club that evening - Carruthers, "Blackie" Whitehead (formally of the "Piffers") and myself, warming our hands at the cheerful glow provided by what seemed a perfectly adequate Silkstone Main '51. But we felt like celebrating a bit for once.

Old Dodgson, the coal-waiter, was quite a character, When he was in a confidential reminiscent mood, he could tell you stores of how Lord Curson used to rummage through the coal-scuttles looking for slack and making no end of a fuss if he found any; and how Bonar Law once flung a handful of Manvers No. 3 Level "21 in Austin Chamberlain's face.

Dodgson now came shambling up, carrying a coal-list as long as your arm. Frowning, Carruthers thumbed through it. "What shall we have? Lets see - Old Barnsley '57 - a bit on the grassy side - all flame and no fire, eh? - or there's Harrowby No. 1 Seam '61 - impudent young coal that, with plenty of spirit in it - or, hang it, tell you what, Bodgson, bring us one of your miscellaneous, surprise-packet scuttles, there's a good chap. And put in a few detonators". "Very good, Sire".

"Trouble is", I put in, "with so many unscrupulous coal merchants about, how can we know what we are getting anyhow? I see here in the paper that the County Councils' Association wants coal merchants to be required to declare to the buyer the National Coal Board's group number of the coal he is getting.

"It'll never work", said Curruthers decidedly. "Any way, I'm against it. Too much regimentation nowadays. Takes all the fun and adventure out of coal. I mean, as things are, you can put a scuttleful on the fire and not know whether it will put the fire out or blow the whole place to smithereens. I'm old-fashioned, I suppose. I like it that way". Casually he selected a big handful from the scuttle Dodgson proffered, held it up to the light, crumbled it between his fingers for a moment, then, with the quick, dexterous flick of your real coal-connoisseur, flung it on the fire.

A damp, spluttering hiss, which practically put out the fire, was succeeded by a shattering rear which sent blazing fragments hurtling about the room and set fire to a bookcase and Dodgson's trousers.

"See what I mean?" said Curruthers, chuckling. "Old Ghoulhurst No. 4 Level, National Coal Board Group No. 65, or I'm a Dutchman.

TROOP NOTES.

The first thing of interest which happened this year was the District Cross-Country when Alan Martin **gained** first place, followed by J.L.C. who finished in agony suffering from a stitch. They were admirably supported by the rest of the Troop, **which** enabled us to obtain first place overall in the competition.

Early in the New Year the "peace" at H.Q. was shattered by Nutty's efforts to form a choir. This was primarily needed for the District Revue, but has continued in a vague sort of way ever since. Nutty now has a plan to get them singing "Shenandoah" in French!!!! At the end of February, one of the leading members of the choir (i.e. he stands in the front) went for an involuntary swim, to the tune of hearty laughter, for much to our surprise the 2'6" deep water was not too shallow for him. (He is the smallest Boy Scout ever to be seen in Kingston).

At Easter the P.L.s were planning to row up-river, but unfortunately the current **was** running at about six knots against them, so they were forced to abandon the expedition: in lieu of this they camped at Teddington Lock and assisted with the D/W race.

Instruction sessions on every Friday night, in addition to the normal Troop meetings, have resulted in one hundred second class tests being completed during the winter months.

The Storks And Beavers went for a week-end camp at Polyapes on the 18th. and 19th. of April. The weather was so fine on the Saturday that the representative members of the Oxo Drivers Club Ltd. wanted to stay there for the week-end as well. However, by Saturday afternoon the monsoon season had arrived, and continued throughout the camp.

Finally we have welcomed three Cubs, Robert Beaupre, Stefan Davies and David Lawrence. We have lost Richard Andrews, who has crawled up to the dizzy heights of the Senior Scout Troop. The Troop is looking forward to all the competitions that come along with the Summer, and further ahead still to the Summer Camp, which this year is to be held at that home of Scouting-Brownsea Island.

Peter and Stuart.

Throughout the country April sees the going of old committees and the coming of new committees, and so it is with the Leander B-P Guild. Undoubtedly there are many people in the Group who are only vaguely aware of the Guild's existence and so at the risk of some personal embarrassment I should like to introduce the new committee to you. It is our custom for the retiring chairman, to occupy the slightly "cooler" seat of vice-chairman, where he (Dick Riches) can teach the newly volunteered chairman (Sticky), the ropes. One spot which regularly becomes hot is occupied by Jeff Dove, our editor when he hears that old cry "Where's my news letter". This year Nigel Fentiman and George Goodall will be working quietly in the background as secretary and treasurer. The position of Social Secretary (Keith Quinnen) completes the new committee which will control our activities for the coming year.

If you ask "what of the old committee?" you are asking "what have the Guild done in the last six months or so?" In the latter part of the year, under the eagle eye of our foreman of works, Maurice Herridge, the Guild was instrument in re-roofing No. 5 boathouse. Our Ladies Night in November was by way of a change held at H.Q. As it happened the rig of the evening (slacks and hairy pullovers) was most appropriate in view of the cold wet weather. Our Christmas Eve party in the now customary surroundings of "The Three Compasses" was a great success, and Skipper and Mrs. Ebbage were our guests at the annual dinner held at the "Turk's Head" in March; the best yet.

Among the topics discussed at the A.G.M. was the ever increasing age difference between the youngest Guild member and the most senior member of the Rover Crew. This gap is due in the main to people going away to University, or to the Navy, or to just going away. I know that this magazine has a wide circulation, so wherever you are if you feel any hang of nostalgia for Leander, why not come and see us on the first Friday evening in every month.

Sticky

Forthcoming Events.

- APRIL 26th. St. George's Day Church Parade at All Saints' Church. Parents welcome to service at 3p.m. Group meet 82 Eden St. at 2.15p.m.
 27th. Kingston Association A.G.M. at Guildhall at 7.45p.m.
- MAY 16th-18th. Whitsun Camp - Buckmore Park.
- JUNE 13th-14th. Surrey Sea Scout Meet - Longridge.
 30th. Admiralty Inspection.
- JULY 4th. Garden Fete.
- AUG. 8th.-22nd. Summer Camp - Brownsea Island.

THE SUPREME DOUBLE: QUEEN'S SCOUT - DUKE OF EDINBURGH GOLD AWARD.

"A disciplined mind in a healthy, trained body, striving for the best whilst seeking opportunities for service to others" has always been a civilised community's wish for its youth. Translating this wish into action, King Edward VII gave his name to the 'King's Scout Badge' (now 'Queen's Badge') of the Scout and Guide Movements. More recently H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh gave his sponsorship to a wider scheme for all.

It is a terrific achievement that, during the last twelve months, Leander has gained four such 'doubles': Keith Maund, Chris Hunt, Stephen Day and Peter Hunter. As well as congratulating the boys themselves on their 'stickability' and the hard work that went into winning these awards, sincere thanks are due also to the Scouters and Instructors who have provided the training, to the parents and friends who have provided the facilities, finance, transport and encouragement, not to mention the tolerant girl friends who have waited so patiently in the cold and the wet.

R.S.L.

The main activity of the Seniors so far this year has as usual been working. Because Sandling came to Ham Base, this winter for a refit, several Troop meetings have been taken up there, first of all manhandling her out of the water and more recently copious scraping, sanding and painting. This is fully reported in the Rover article.

The Easter trip this year was shortened for the purpose of working on Sandling. On Sunday 22nd March a crew rowed one of the fibreglass gigs to Discovery, where we are fortunate enough to be on sufficiently "good terms" to be allowed to moor. The following Thursday evening we, that is: Shrimp, Daisy, Peter, Paul, Mitt and Graham, were taken to Discovery in Nye's car, and we prepared the gig to leave. The high tide was unfortunately not until about 2 a.m. the following morning so we tried to catch up on a little lost sleep on board the Discovery. At high water we left under oars and rowed down river towards Greenhithe. It was spring tides that weekend and, consequently, the trip was quite short. Most of the journey was done in the dark and it was still dark when we hoisted the sails at Greenwich. There was a light wind, and although this was not enough to make hectic sailing, it was easier to sail than to row. It was definitely a case of relaxing "Sunday afternoon sailing". We arrived at Greenhithe about breakfast time and cooked a meal.

After a day of sleeping we got up about teatime to have another meal and to start to strike camp and reload the gig. The row up was just as uneventful as the row down, even more so in fact, for there was not a suspicion of wind and we were unable to sail. We arrived back at Discovery around 2a.m. on Saturday and while waiting for Mac to pick us up in the van made full use of their galley. We quickly loaded the gear into the van and returned to Headquarters. (Have you ever done 50 m.p.h. in the van.)

During the Easter holidays, Peter, Archie, Alan and I arranged to take the journey part of the Master Canoeist badge. We used the Group's Moonraker canoe and borrowed Keith's. We were taken by van to Oxford on Monday April 6th where we found a backwater of the river near the road, unloaded our canoes and

launched them. We were fearing the worst as far as the weather was concerned, for it had been quite bad before, but fortunately we seemed to have chosen a fine spell. The Canoe trip was just a matter of paddling, apart from nearly being fined £500 for the Union Flags which Alan and Archie had pinned to their canoe. As it was we escaped with a polite order to remove them from one lock-keeper. Two nights were spent by the side of the river, and after paddling 54 miles we stopped at Marlow where the van picked us up on Wednesday afternoon.

On Saturday April 11th after the Cub Going-up ceremony, the D.C. presented Daisy and Peter with their Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award badges in the presence of most of the Group. The A.C.C. Sea Scouts was also present.

That evening a Venturer incident hike had been arranged by Bob Hughes and the Rovers; this was taken by Abo, David and Mitt, the rest of the Troop making up the teams. This journey mainly involved wading waist-deep in the River Mole guiding people on two rafts. It was 1 p.m. before we arrived dripping at H.Q. (Have you ever done 60 m.p.h. in the van?)

On Sunday April 12th Archie came up from the Troop to join the ranks of Senior Scouts which now number 10. We are looking forward to a full programme during the Summer; summer camp will be spent cruising from Poole Harbour using Brownsea Island as a base camp. We are also, of course, hoping to make progress in the direction of Duke of Edinburgh's awards and Queen's Scout badges.

Mitt.

The Scran Bag - by Neptune

I heard a name the other day down at H.Q. and I was not quite sure to whom it belonged, perhaps someone could help, it was the Duke of Durlston Road.

Is it tru that when N.e has hit everyone's cars he is starting again with Stuart.

They tell me that Scoutmaster is working on acquiring a fleet of marquees to convert into a mansion plus garage when he goes to camp.

Daisey tells me he thinks that he is a hero for working so hard on Sandling, it would seem that the only answer is a Purple Heart.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

11

It is good to report on the co-operation between the 1st Kingston Hill committee and ourselves, the use of our stalls was offered to them for their Bazaar. They were unable to accept owing to the limited floor space available at their H.Q. but they asked if the offer could hold good for their Fete in May.

We had intended covering the stalls but thanks to I.K.H. committee this will not now be necessary. They are providing covers for all stalls and we have been advised that they will be available to us as and when required.

One of the main objects of the work undertaken by the Parents Association is the reduction of the Bank Overdraft. It must be a source of satisfaction to the members to learn that in the year ended 31st March, 1964 that the overdraft was reduced from £600 to £300.

It is also stimulating to realise that if the earnings from the Fete, Catering and Bazaar, in 1964, were applied solely to the reduction of the overdraft, it would be more than eliminated in just seven months.

First of all the money has to be earned and our first major effort will be the Fete on 4th July. The organiser will be Bill Williamson, 13 Cardinal Ave., Kingston, and he will be delighted to learn from you, how you can best help on this day.

To run a successful fete on the scale envisaged by Mr. Williamson will require a staff of 60; one parent from each member of the Group would give him more than required. However, if you do not offer your service it will probably result in a reduction in the number of stalls, and consequently income will be lost.

There will be a meeting of Parents at 8.15 p.m. on Thursday 14th May at Leander Headquarters; we would like to see you there. Come along and help us to plan a successful afternoon.

D. C. DOW.

Devizes-Westminster Canoe Race - Easter, 1964

Oxo left H.Q. at 20.30 hrs on the Thursday with a canoe lashed on the top and the A.D.C.(R) inside, guarded by the Chairman of the B.P. Scout Guild and myself (i.e. Keith). Whisky was responsible for getting us to Devizes, and dropping off Sticky's wife at Reading. We "slept" in the back of the van, but after about $\frac{1}{4}$ hour were rudely awoken by our escort, Muff and Stuart in the "bug" at 01.00.

Good Friday saw us up by 06.00 and whilst Mr. Leyshon and his kit-checkers rushed about, Muff cooked our breakfast, so by 08.00 Stick and I were ready to leave. There were 80 senior crews scheduled to start at 08.00! We managed to get away in the first bunch at 08.08 and found the going on the canal rather heavy. (Comment overheard: "It's just like porridge".) The worst place on the canal was after about 18 miles at Crofton. Here, there was no water, and consequently we had to portage about 600 yds. We were certainly glad to get back into the canoe! Every time we passed Stuart and Muff, they seemed to be relaxing: at one time they were sitting in deckchairs eating sandwiches. Still we were very glad to see them, even if they only looked over bridges and poked their tongues out at us. By the time we reached Aldermaston, it was dark and going was becoming slower low bridges being one of the worst hazards.

Just before reaching Reading, we stopped for an hour's rest, and cooked ourselves a hot meal. Then, we joined the Thames. The current was very fast, and we were going down at a rate of knots. Stuart and Muff met us at every lock until Marlow, and then left for Kingston, leaving us to carry on to Maidenhead, where we found Whisky waiting for us. However, since we could no longer keep our eyes open, we went to sleep for a couple of hours.

It was light when we started off again, but when we reached Temple Lock (just above Windsor), we made a 4" split in the bows of our Fibreglass canoe. Still, having patched this with tape which would only stick to itself, we

continued to Teddington. Here we found Leander Layabouts waiting for us, and some other friends.

Oxo then took over from Whisky's car, and Mac, Whiskey, and one of S.R.S. Victor followed us down to Westminster, so they could bring us back.

The final time was 34 hrs. 35 mins. 32 secs. and we were placed 31st out of 96. Thanks must be given to those who followed us up and gave us encouragement. Can there really be 400 people mad enough to go in for this race?

KEITH

D/W Canoe Race - Teddington Control.

I was one of the nameless, faceless, cold army of men working behind the scenes at the recent race. We set up our tents at the Lock and met the men of the Royal Signals Junior Leaders Regiment who were manning a radio post there. They were having a difficult time contacting their stations up-river, although they had clear contact with their base in Devon! The first canoe appeared out of the dark at 5.05 a.m. on the Saturday morning, and, watched by two police constables we took their number and phoned through to County Hall Westminster to inform them of the leaders' position. In two minutes they had left us to the dark and cold - Oh! the Glory of it all!

The next canoe arrived at 6.30 and so on in dribs and drabs until our last at 7 p.m. on Sunday. We kept a check of the position of canoes from the radio reports, but as everyone was so cold, including the radio operators, we lost many canoes and often had reports which indicated they were going up-river again. In fact two canoes which we checked through had not been seen since Devizes and had missed all 13 radio checks.

It was evident to us, positioned towards the end of the race, what a fine thing it is to even complete the course. Most canoeists were soaked through and had been for one or even two days, and their spirit and determination to finish the race had to be seen to be believed. It was difficult to watch them struggling to carry their canoe over the rollers and know that to help them would disqualify them. We were extremely cold after two days and nights operating the checkpoint, but I would do that rather than be a competitor any day!

Mac.

S.R.S. Victor.

Mrs. Townsend decided to give up her warrant last year and has officially left us this year, so we now have no Skipper. We were very sorry to see her go and now rely on Wendy and Marion to run the Crew and wish them luck.

We have planned an extensive programme this year, hikes, camps, sailing, up river weekends, etc. and with a bit of hard luck (Humph!) and luck we may do them all. More boating permits must be obtained as Viv is the only Ranger with one now, since Anne and Liz have left. Anne Margaret and Liz couldn't stand us any longer, so Anne and Margaret emigrated to Australia and Liz got married.

We hope to get our canoe finished soon, despite the rude comments and sarcastic advice given by our Leander FRIENDS.

Poor WILLIT has got the dreaded rot, but we are going to have her operated on. We had to strip her completely inside as she was used with the outboard last season and we have a strong suspicion that she was used for transporting purple elephants with long, sharp toenails, to distant shores.

This is probably the last you will hear of eight of S.R.S. Victor, because on Saturday April 25th, we are going on a night road rally and as we haven't got any competent and clever Rovers to look after us we shall probably get lost and disappear for ever.

At our Jumble Sale we made a good profit and also aquired a canoe from one of our customers who didn't want it because he lived too far away from the river and it is rather heavy.

Our thanks to Stuart for getting up early and helping to take our Jumble to the hall.

Hilary Owers.

I must apologize to Hilary for having typed her article rather badly after she had typed much of the rest of the "Water Rat"; she has now gone to bed. (In the most respectable way possible of course.)

Improve, or perhaps start to find, your word power.

ÆRUGINOUS pronounced ē-roo'ji-nus, meaning - pertaining to or like copper-rust or verdigris.

Verdict - obviously a word you and I just can't get along without.

Next issues word, Trechometer.

W.

Why does an elephant stand on one leg?

To give the other three a rest.

How do you stop an elephant going through the eye of a needle?

Tie a knot in it's tail!

Why do elephants have short tails?

So they can turn round easily in a telephone box!

How do you get 4 elephants in a mini?

Two in the front and two in the back!

How do you get 4 zebras in a mini?

You can't, there are 4 elephants there already.

Why does an elephant never forget?

Because nobody ever tells him anything!

Why doesn't an elephant smoke?

Because he can't light a match!

Wanted -- a man to sandpaper elephants down to greyhounds.

DEVIZES-WESTMINSTER CANOE RACE.

You will find the reports of Leander's participation in this race on other pages - I have been asked to provide a few general details.

A sports writer called it "the toughest Canoe Race in the World" and we agree with him. The tough 125 mile journey along disused canals and the River Thames, often in flood, and in sub-arctic conditions started as a race in 1948 when the 1st Devizes Scout Group accepted a challenge to travel the journey by canoe in under 100 hours. This they did at Easter using two old canoes, in a time of 8½ hrs.50 mins. for a prize of a Canadian Canoe and a sum of money for the maintenance of their boats. Since 1949 the entry has increased in numbers and is organised in two sections: Senior Sections where competitors push on right through, often without sleeping, (shortest time for this 20 hrs, 23 mins); Junior Sections when competitors camp three times on the way down, the total paddling time only counting for the prize. Full kit and food have to be carried and the full loaded canoe has to be carried round 57 locks. Anyone who completes the course proves that he is not only a fine canoeist but really fit as well. May we long see the name of Leander in the lists of successful competitors.

ROVERS.

The total strength of the Crew now stands at nine, three of whom are at University and so are unfortunately only with us for short periods. In January we had to say farewell to Muff, who on obtaining the ripe old age of 24 had to resign due to pressure from P.O.R. During the Winter Sandling has been lying under repair at Ham Base, and we would like to take this opportunity of officially thanking the Seniors for all the help we have received from them in this matter.

Earlier on during the year a combined effort pulled Sandling free of the water; after a slow start the work is now well under weigh with the utmost cooperation of the Seniors, and last weekend Sandling was launched into the muddy waters of the Base.

The van has been in full use throughout the winter carrying everthing from Jumble to A.D.C.'s. Maintainance has been mainly of an electrical nature which has been well looked after by our master electrician Mitt. Our thanks also to Ron Grigg for help with servicing.

Rover meetings have been held regularly twice monthly, and despite varying interests and committments, attendance has been good. Some chart-work has been done, under the watchful eye of the Admiral, and some routine maintainance work about H.Q. as well. Keith Maund has been elected to the office of Rover Mate, and I must say he is doing a really excellent job, in fact I would go as far as to say a brilliant job.

At Easter the Crew under-took it's first major operation of the season, this being the Devizes to Westminster Canoe race. We were represented in it by Keith and Sticky who nobly battered through the course in approximately $34\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.; we are still trying to fathom out whether they are a couple of heros, or more probably just complete idiots. The Rover Crew followed the canoe right down to Westminster in a variety of different vehicles.

As to future events, we have Sandling to return to the moorings at Gosport when the work on her is completed, and then there is the Van, which is really the dominating factor of the Crew giving us a common interest near at hand. We had a good season last year, and we are looking forward to an even better one this year.

Stuart.