



THE WATER RAT

Published by
"LEANDER" (KINGSTON) SEA SCOUT GROUP

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FROM THE G.S.L.

Unfortunately, attendance at the AGM wasn't as good as last year- is this because we didn't send every parent a personal invitation, or perhaps people think AGM's boring? Feedback and comments would be appreciated before next year since I do feel it is important parents do attend in force to hear whats been going on, and whats planned. However, thanks to all those who have agreed to serve on the Executive Committee during the next year - the Group could not function without you.

Again, a busy month, camping well to the fore by Cubs and Scouts, and with the Summer months now here, boating becoming the norm. Lets hope that perhaps we can get some of the older Cubs canoeing later in the year.

Those who have been down to H.Q. this last week will have seen we have a safety boat - good news and bad. The boat at H.Q. is only on loan since when ours was being delivered by the firm in Cardiff, it was involved in a road accident which smashed boat, trailer and launching trolley! However, thanks to Cardiff Bay Yachts for the loan of another boat and outboard until they have built the replacement which, hopefully, will be during the next two weeks.

Due to a clash of dates between District activities and Leader Holidays, we unfortunately had to cancel the Scouts Own/Going Up ceremony - a great shame, but I felt if we are to start something, it must be done properly. So sorry to those who were about to 'go up'. Alternative arrangements will be made in the immediate future. Last week also saw the postponement of the County Boat Handling Competition- again due to lack of communication. Communication must therefore be improved - Mary Clark does a fantastic job in the production of the Water Rat, however is hampered when she does not get reports in from sections on time. So, to readers who are also contributors give Mary a chance by getting your news in on time.

Thanks to Alan Gould for offering his services to organise the race schedules, our Regatta will be taking place as planned on the 9th July with Groups coming from as far afield as Lymington and Fareham. I do, however, still need more volunteers for help on the day in laying the course, getting boats in position, marshalling, etc, etc. I am sure Viv Brown will also be asking for help with teas, etc on the towpath. Please contact Viv or myself if you are able to help with this major event, and also sell as many draw tickets as possible.

With the new safety boat and Summer here, I feel it necessary to remind everyone of boating regulations so that there is no misunderstanding or excuses of 'we didn't know'

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"LEANDER" (KINGSTON) SEA SCOUT GROUP

FROM THE G.S.L. (continued)

The regulations need to be adhered to, not only from the safety aspects, but also insurance reasons.

Finally, a Leander sweatshirt is now available and will be on show at Section meetings over the next few weeks. The shirts are embroidered with the Leander logo, price - childrens sizes: 24-32" chest-£5.55p, Adults sizes S/M/L/XL - £7.85p. Order forms will be available shortly.

Keith Maund G.S.L.

BOATING REGULATIONS SUMMARY

To avoid scouters being put in the embarrassing position of having to say 'no' to a request to use boats outside Scout Meetings, general boating regulations are summarised below. The regulations are not just to cover safety, failure to comply renders our insurance nul and void, or could lead to prosecution.

- 1) Leanders boats are all subject to annual inspection for seaworthiness and registration/insurance purposes. Use of any boat for Scouting activities is subject to the boat being registered with the Scout Association or, alternatively, its use being first approved by the Group Scout Leader.
- 2) Leander Boats have Thames Water Authority 'exemption plates' -i.e. special licences issued at significantly reduced licence fees. Use is restricted to Scouts/Sea Rangers or Instructors.
- 3) Only the two wooden gigs are licenced for use by non scouts, e.g. Guild, Leander Supporters/Social Club members.
- 4) The safety boat is the ONLY boat registered for use on the Thames with an outboard motor. Outboards must not be used on any other boat above Teddington Lock. N.B. The Safety boat also carries an 'exemption plate' and may only be used by a person holding an appropriate charge certificate.
- 5) Life jackets must be worn when sailing, a bouyancy aid or Life Jacket worn when canoeing or windsurfing.
- 6) Life Jackets must be carried in pulling boats when on tidal waters and worn if the person in charge considers it necessary due to water or weather conditions
- 7) Non-swimmers must wear a life jacket at all times or until they have passed the 50 yard swimming test.
- 8) Persons in charge of Group boats must hold an appropriate Scout Association charge certificate, or be under the supervision of a qualified/authorised Leader.(N.B. Although some boys have passed charge certificates,for insurance purposes, until 13 years old, they can still only take command with the specific authority of the Leader supervising. Similarly,use of the wooden gigs by Adults/non Scouts must be approved by the G.S.L. who must be satisfied that the person in command is competent.

Keith Maund. G.S.L.

REPORT FROM SCOUT LEADER

We had a pre camp at Petersham & Ham Scouts HQ for Summer Camp '89 at the beginning of the month. Due to lack of transport we took all our equipment down by river. This meant an early start on Saturday as the 3 boats had to be loaded. They were towed down the river by a power racing boat owned by Paul(ASL from 1st Nolesey), this made life casier for us for once. It was a very good camp, the weather was very hot, and the atmosphere was great,and if this is what the Summer Camp is going to be like, then a great time will

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REPORT FROM SCOUT LEADER (continued)

be had by all! I was asked to run the football on Saturday afternoon, and the pitch was about 1/2 mile away. It was more fun to walk to the pitch as the tides had come in and everyone was walking in about 2 feet of water - to see a canoe paddling on the tow path is quite a sight! A great time was had by all around the camp fire. Sunday we packed up and went home by road due to the tide we felt that carrying a tent through the water was not on.

On the weekend of the 20th, we had our patrol camp at Polyapes, again the weather was good to us, and I believe everyone enjoyed themselves. Plenty of wood was burned that weekend. I could only spend Saturday with them due to work, but it was a good day, especially as I made the boys take the tents down and put them up again correctly. By late morning the camp looked like a scout camp, and anyone who saw it would have been proud of it.

Our last event in May was to start name tagging our equipment for Summer Camp, as this is now coming up to us very fast.

On Sunday 4th June, the boat handling competition should have taken place, but due to lack of interest from the rest of the County it had to be cancelled. It now will take place in October (2 teams turned up). I must say 'thank you' to Tim Sevitt (PL) for getting our team together with a minute's notice. Well done Tim. I must also say 'Thank you' to the following: Chips, for running every Saturday on his own - To Ford, who helps him - and to Peter De Roos, for getting involved with us as a ASL to be. Due to work, I only get one in five Saturdays off, and when I am on late, I have to leave early, and I know that this leaves a lot of pressure on Jim (Chips), That's all for now.

Chief - Mick Chinnock

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 9th July - Leander Regatta at HQ. An all day event, and everyone should be there.

Summer Camp '89 - Have you got your son's passport yet! ?
By Tuesday 18th July, I would like to see them all with any E111 forms that are outstanding.

BEAVER LEADER'S REPORT

Sorry about last month, but because of the two Bank Holidays, there was not a lot to report on. Anyway, during May we had a visit from Mrs. Clark, who is blind, along with her guide dog, Quintas. Mrs. Clark gave the boys a talk of what it is like to be visually handicapped, and how she copes with everyday life. At the end of the evening, we gave a donation to the charity, and hope to continue to collect articles which will raise money for Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Nearly all Beavers have a swimming badge now, Well Done boys, lets keep up the good work!

We say goddbye to Daniel Lorrenzini and Evin Fahy on Wednesday, as they are both going up to Cubs.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Holiday, wherever you are going.

Liz. (A.B.L.)

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PARENTS/SUPPORTERS GROUP

We had another successful day for Leander at Ham Fayre. Earlier in the week it had been cold and wet, but the sun shone on the day, and we could not keep up with the demand for teas!

We made £255 on the tea stall and the bric a brac. Many thanks to Jaiyy Saifee who organised the two Leander stalls, and to those parents and members of Leander Social Club, who helped by baking cakes or running the stalls. The Fayre gets underway so early in the afternoon, that we were short of helpers at the beginning. Later in the afternoon there were enough pairs of hands. We just could not get our bottled gas cooker to boil the water fast enough. I gather from the GSL that new cookers are on order for the Summer Camp, and that we should have no problem next year.

Apologies to those parents who had difficulty finding our stalls on Ham Common. We had a teas sign up, but I couldn't find our Leander sign when I was loading up. I hope no one gave their cakes to another stall!

The Sunday teas are continuing to go well, raising about £30 a week. That should bring in about £500 over the Summer, if we can keep going. If you have not offered your services so far, please get in touch with Margaret Williams on 546-5164.

The next event is the Regatta on Sunday 9th July, that is when the boys race groups from a half a dozen or so other Sea Scout Groups, on a variety of boats. The races take place alongside the towpath between British Aerospace and Lower Ham Road. We will have a few stalls selling teas, sandwiches, cakes etc. I will be in touch about baking cakes and helping out, particularly from those parents whose sons are in the races, and who, no doubt, want to watch the events.

We are having another Grand Draw for Leander over the Summer. The 1st Prize is a weekend in Paris for Two. There are also valuable supporting prizes. All boys will get a block of tickets to sell, please do help them with that. All tickets sold to be back before the Summer holidays.

In September, there is a 'going up' ceremony planned on Sunday, 24th. We are hoping that after the ceremony each of the Groups will put on a display for parents so you can see what the boys are learning at various stages of their Scouting career. We will have a barbecue out in the newly cleared ground behind the HQ. Please put the date in your diaries and come along.

Vivian Brown.
