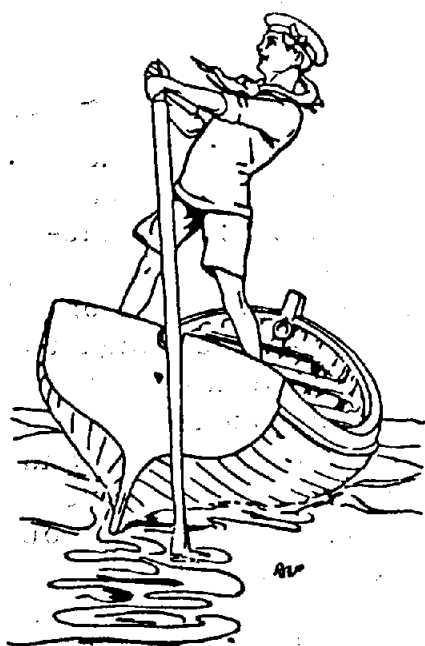


# THE WATER RAT

Published by  
"LEANDER" (KINGSTON) SEA SCOUT GROUP

MARCH/APRIL 1990

## SKIPPER'S SCRAWL



Our Editor has been chasing me again for 'copy' and tells me she has had to phone everyone except Chief to 'plead' for their articles. So, regretfully therefore, this edition of Water Rat is late, and in future, Mary has said if copy is not in on time, she will go to print with what she has had in. A plea, therefore, for us all to help Mary, by getting our articles in on time.

I write this early on the morning of the sponsored walk, which, hopefully in about 2 hours time with this good weather, will be well supported. Certainly, the weather has given the troop time to get back on the river with rafts etc. As we now approach the boating season, I attach an article on Weil's Disease for the information of boys and parents. In no way do I wish to be an alarmist and our D.C. has informed me there is little risk of this disease outside our H.Q. However, I feel it is something we should all be aware of, and perhaps may prompt volunteers to come forward to offer to tile the shower cubicles so they can be used!

I was pleased to attend investitures of Beavers and Scouts at their meetings last month. Welcome to all the new boys, and I hope you have an enjoyable time with Leander.

Two important items for your diary:-

ST. GEORGE'S DAY PARADE - SUNDAY, 29th APRIL - This is a 'must' for every boy to attend if we are to retain the parade trophy. Although Beavers will not march, a 'dragon party' has been arranged, and they will be able to watch the Parade at the march past. It's also our turn for the Venture Scouts to do the Reading at the service! Full details will be circulated to the boys by Section Leaders.

A G M - a reminder that the A.G.M. will be held at H.Q. on 16th May - 8.00pm start. This is a chance for all parents to hear what has been going on during the year and what is planned for the future - remember it's your Group, and the chance for parents to put questions to the GSL and elect the Group Executive Committee! I do hope at least one parent from each family will be able to attend.

G.S.L. Keith Maund

Editor's Apology I regret that it has been necessary to include March and April together in one issue, but owing to lack of copy from Section Leaders in March, and pressure of work, time marched on...but, this was only a 'hiccup' and Water Rat will be printed every month, between the 1st and 7th days. So...please let me have your copy, by letter or phone, in good time. Many thanks.

Editor -Mary

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CHIEF'S CHAT (Report from Scout Leader)

February/March The following article on Torpoint was written by

Matthew Dyke as part of his Pathfinder badge. I believe this is the first time ever that Leander has held a Cup from Torpoint, and you can imagine how we all felt when Ollie went up to collect the Cup! Congratulations pal, you dived 'divine'. Chips and myself would like to congratulate every one who took part, as you all did so well. A pat on the back for Richard Merry for being the only swimmer to get through to the Final, this was in the under fourteen backstroke, plus a pat on the back for Peter Dyke, who swam in the under fourteen breaststroke while he was still a Cub. Next year Peter, you will be in your correct class, and then we will have a winner! On the whole, I would like to congratulate the nine boys for their behaviour whilst being at Torpoint, they did not let Leander down - made me raise my voice once or twice, but that is normal!

We also had the District Night Hike during February. This was not an easy hike, and I must congratulate Rick for the way he organised this hike. Ten teams took part and Leander was the only team to finish the hike. Well done Tim Sevitt for leading the winning team, which include Richard Merry, John Paul Green and Paul Livesey. Our 2nd team was led by Alistair Bennett and included Stuart Livesey, Leo Gould and Robert Savage. They came in 4th. I must say that every boy who took part in this hike deserves a pat on the back, because he must have learned something from it. Well done all of you.

Dates for the Diary

Friday 23rd March-Sunday 25th March we have a basic training course for the younger scout. Each parent will receive a letter for those concerned.

4th/11th and 25th March we have a Junior Seamans Course taking place at H.Q. I have not put anyone on this Course as it clashes with other events. Saturday, 28th April, we shall be meeting at T.Y.M. for the sailing regatta. This will start at 09.00hrs to around 17.00hrs approx.

SUNDAY 29th APRIL -ST. GEORGE'S DAY PARADE. Every boy must be there-Details will be given later.

SUMMER CAMP - 1990. I gave every boy a format for Summer Camp, and I asked for the bottom part to be returned by the end of February, at this moment in time, we have had 2 boys forms returned, and unless we get at least 15, then I'm afraid there will be no Camp. So, please fill in this part and let me know, as I have to complete forms for the D.C., and this can take up to 3 months to come back to me.

Chief. Mick Chinnock

TORPOINT SWIMMING GALA - by Matthew Dyke

The Leander team consisted of 2 Leaders, Chief and Chips - and nine swimmers, Ollie, Tabish, Tim, Richard, Jonathan, Peter, Ben, Thomas and Matthew. We set off on Friday, 2nd February, at about 11.30am. Everyone was in good spirits, and we only stopped twice on the journey down. We arrived about 5.45pm, and were shown to our dormitories, and settled in. At about 6.15pm, we all went to the arcade. We got back to the dormitories at about 10.30pm, but did not get to sleep until 12.30pm!

The next morning we were woken up at 5.30am, we washed and had breakfast. We got to the pool at 7.30am, and the races did not start until 8.00am. We were quite nervous during the half hour wait. The races went as follows: (they were all out of-6)

Tabish-5..Thomas-4..Ollie-2..Jonathan-3..Richard-2..Ben-2..Peter-3,  
Matthew-3..Tim-3

continued overleaf....

Torpoint Swimming Gala- Matthew Dyke (continued)

In the Diving there was Ollie, Matthew and Tabish. In the under 12½ was Tabish who came (t.b.a) Matthew in the under 14's who came 12th, and Ollie in the under 15½'s who came FIRST!

In the 6-a-side football there was Jonathan, Richard, Ollie, Ben, Thomas, and Tim, with 2 reserves, Peter and Tabish. They got into the semi-finals.

In the relay, the under 12½ team was, Ben, Thomas and Tabish, who came 5th. The under 14's team was Richard, Peter and Matthew, who came 3rd.

The activities finished at 1,00pm, so we went to have lunch, and the rest of the day we had free. The next day was the swimming finals, in which Richard came 4th. Later that day we set off for home and arrived back at 6.10pm on Sunday. We had to wash the van before we left H.Q. Overall we came 13th out of 21 entries, and also had a great time!

Matthew Dyke - Scout

CHIEFS CHAT -(Report from Scout Leader) MARCH

We sent nine boys up to Polyapes for the first Back to Basic Training course to take place in the Kingston & New Malden District. They had a very good time, and for those who put their 'thinking caps' on they must have come home with more knowledge than they went with! All Section Leaders were asked to help, and we did have a very good turn out from the boys and the leaders. Our congratulations to Simon Leo for gaining his Chief Scout Award, well deserved. It was my intention to have at least five Chief Scouts awarded this year, but alas, four could not be bothered to complete the final part, and that is the 3 month service to our handicapped swimmers, and this one badge nobody gets unless they have completed their service, and as they are 'running out' of time age-wise, they may not ever complete it.

The rest of the month was spent doing badge work and sailing as the G.L.S. Regatta is coming up very soon, and as we 'cleared up' most of the trophies last year, we now must maintain our standard. Of course, as soon as we get our gig back then it will be full practise for the national regatta, so it looks like a busy time ahead!

Summer Camp is on, so we are on our way to the Cricket camp, and by chance 1st Molesey with whom we went to Holland, will also be on the same site for our first week, and they are going to see if they can change their first week. So now we will have a racing boat to play with as well. Our own numbers are very low, to date we have only 11 boys going, and I am looking for 15 to 20 to make it a good camp. The dates are: 5th-17th August, price £85.00- just ask for details.

If this article comes out in time, we have St. Georges Day Parade on Sunday, 29th April. We meet at 3rd Kingston H.Q. at 13.30hrs. Saturday, 28th April, no meeting at H.Q. All at T.Y.M. from 10.00hrs to 17.00hrs Sailing Regatta.

All this information was given in the last Water Rat, which I have not seen - (You wouldn't have Mick - there wasn't one!)Ed.

Chief. Mick Chincock

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P.S.A. ANTICS. (Parents & Supporters Assoc. Report by Chairman)

Jumble Sales: 28th April and 13th May - We have two Jumble Sales at the H.Q. coming up and urgently need your help. We need good quality clothes and particularly bric a brac. The Jumble Sales will be on Saturday 28th April starting at 2pm and Sunday, 13th May, starting at 2.30pm. Jumble Sales are as successful as the number of people who are there to help. If you have not done so already please offer to help on one or other day.

continued overleaf.....

P.S.A. ANTICS (Continued)

Please telephone James Warriner if you can help on 28th April (399-1742) and Steve Leader for 13th May (391-0081)

SUNDAY TEAS

We will be re-starting Sunday teas at H.Q. from 13th May. We expect every family in Leander to devote one Sunday afternoon in the period from May to September, to provide biscuits, cakes and milk, and make and sell teas and soft drinks. Normally, 2 mothers share the work from about 2.30pm through to 5.30pm or 6.00pm, depending on the weather - with one of them having done it in previous years and so knowing where the provisions and hot water heaters are kept. Jenny Sevitt is organising things for this year to make sure there is cover for each Sunday, and people know what to do. Whether you have done it before or are new, please telephone her as soon as you can to offer particular Sundays when you could take this on. Her telephone number is 546-4173. Please do help, we mean you. It's actually a very pleasant way to spend a Sunday afternoon, looking out over the river and watching the World go by, and trying to spot those who are going to stop for tea and cakes. We have been providing teas for a number of years now and Leander H.Q. is becoming a Summer landmark for many Sunday afternoon walkers.

Future Events

Many of you will remember the successful Open Day we held last Autumn. We are holding another on Sunday afternoon, 10th June. The boys in the three troops will organise things to show you what they have been doing. We hope to get people out on the river using the boats under supervision. Weather permitting, we will have a barbecue. Please note the date in your diaries.

The following Saturday on 16th June, we will be taking a number of stands at the Ham Fayre on Ham Common. We will be in touch for cakes and helpers nearer the time. On the weekend 7th/8th July, Leander will be hosting a National Regatta for Sea Scouts, with a programme of races on the river on the course close to British Aerospace a few hundred yards downstream from the H.Q. This will be a big job for us all in catering for the hundreds of boys and their supporters who will be with us for the weekend.

What do Supporters funds go on??

We hope to raise £3,000 this year. It's not an enormous amount. We put up subscriptions a couple of years ago so that we did not need to rely on fund raising events to cover the day to day costs of running Leander. The funds we need your help to raise this year are to provide new equipment. We hope that with the sponsored walk last month, we will have enough to buy a marquee for use particularly by the Cubs. The other priorities for this year are to refurbish the gigs and to build a better landing stage.

I am very grateful for the support many parents give to these events we organise.- but, please, do not let this just be the band of 'regulars' we would like everyone to be involved. Thank you.

Vivian Brown - Chairman

(Published on behalf of Leander(Kingston)Sea Scout Group by Mary Clark;  
34, Lynton Road, New Malden, Surrey)