



THE WATER RAT

Published by
"LEANDER" (KINGSTON) SEA SCOUT GROUP

SKIPPER'S SCRAWL

JULY 1996

Once again the weather favoured us for the National Sea Scout Regatta and I am sure everyone was pleased with our Group performance. Yet again Lymington managed to win but we gave them a run for their money and they only just beat us by 3 points. Well done to all our team and perhaps with a little more practice next year we can beat them. Final results in the Scout section were:

Lymington 37
Leander 34
Surbiton 16
Warspite 13
Ajax 11
Portchester 10
Norwich 6
Molesey 2
High Wycombe 2

Thanks to everyone who helped both before and on the day to make the event such an enjoyable one. Perhaps with a little effort for the Great River Race we can take the trophy for the under 14's from Warspite this year.

Thanks to partial Grant Aid from Kingston Council we shall shortly be taking delivery of four new canoes to replace some of our present ones which are now about 12 years old. We will probably be selling 2 of the older canoes so please let me know if you are interested. Coxswains efforts together with some of the older Scouts over the winter months have meant that all our boats are now in good repair and I am pleased that Gordon Biden has volunteered his services to do a full boat inspection on a Quarterly basis. This should mean that we can move to a more planned maintenance routine and I will be looking for Volunteers to undertake maintenance as necessary.

I have repeatedly been asking for volunteers to help within the Group and as you know Chief (Mick Chinnock) is now co-ordinating the waiting list for all sections. At present all sections are full given the number of Leaders we have to supervise the meetings. However, I would like to see us take in 4 more Beavers, 12 Cubs and another 8 Scouts. To do this however we need more Adult Uniformed Leaders and Instructors. It is also vital that some more of the support functions are taken away from our already overstretched Leaders. Can any of our readers offer a little of their time to help out?

Chris Osborne has kindly offered to take on responsibility for Headquarters and Equipment Bookings and in future anyone wanting to hire or borrow anything, e.g. trailers, tables and chairs, Gas Bar-B-Q, Hall, etc., should first check availability with Chris (Tel: 0181-546 5401).

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"LEANDER" (KINGSTON) SEA SCOUT GROUP

Headquarters:- 92 Lower Ham Road Kingston upon Thames Surrey
Telephone: 01-549 6286



Madelaine and Anji, although stepping down from the Executive Committee this year, will still be continuing to organise catering for group events. We do, however, need an additional two helpers particularly to take on running the refreshment stall at the Rotary Club Car Boot Sales which are held at the North Kingston Centre on a monthly basis. This can be a good source of additional income to the group so please let Madelaine, Anji or myself know if you feel you can help out in this respect.

Finally, I am looking for a volunteer to erect safety railings (Kee Clamp type) along the edge of the slope leading up to the main door. This, we feel, is essential to prevent a possible accident involving younger boys when leaving the meetings and needs to be erected before the dark nights start to creep up on us.

KEITH MAUND - G.S.L. (Tel: 0181-399 5846)

COXSWAIN'S CORNER

Since Easter we have been out on the water every meeting. The weather has been terrific and every body has been able to put their seamanship and boating skills into practice. The only exception was the gig trip to Hampton Court, which was undertaken in pouring rain, but was good fun. A great performance from James Ford, who had just come up from Cubs, who rowed bow for his first experience in a gig, both directions.

Lawry has been busy bringing on new canoeists, so BCU one and two stars and canoeist badges have been awarded and we have also just acquired new kayaks to replace some of the older boats. 9 swimmer badges have also been gained, which is vital for our particular activities.

The National Sea Scout Regatta produced some very good results, (report later), which shows that practise does work - so well done all the crews who have spent time improving their skills. Chris Osborne is supervising sailing sessions, so we have had both the Toppers and the Laser out, which is excellent as we don't get as much sailing as we would like.

The Annual District Hare and Hounds Competition was postponed, due to district organisational problems. As it is very popular, we hope it will be re-scheduled in early autumn. An epic cycle camp, organised by Bassy Tindall for his explorer badge, having been postponed twice, eventually took place at the beginning of June (see report).

Our final event before the summer break is summer camp which will be held at Cricket Camp Site, on the River Hamble at Southampton, in the first week of August. We will be taking a selection of boats down so that we can enjoy salt water and tidal waters. It's a very nice woodland and field site, used by Leander quite regularly in the past.

May I remind you that meetings start again in the first week of the autumn school term - the Great River Race and Admiralty Insepction take place almost immediately, so we will meet on **TUESDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER.**

COXSWAIN

CYCLE CAMP

"It's definitely this way", said Bassy, leading the Leander cycle party out of Haslemere station in the wrong direction. Six tough, intrepid, off-road cyclists were just about to commence a very hard, but extremely enjoyable, expedition through the Devil's Punchbowl, along the North Downs Way to Newlands Corner and back to Guildford. Bassy Tindall, Alex Newman, Matt Freeman, Alexis Childs, David King and Coxswain managed to survive 40 miles of rough going, with most of it off-road. We had torrential rain, sleet and brilliant sunshine. The tracks varied from boulders and rocks to deep mud filled gullies and wet sand. There were no punctures, but lots of running repairs as bits fell off bikes. We had arranged to meet Ness and Karen with tents and equipment as a rendezvous halfway round. We then pitched camp at Farnham District's site hidden away in a delightful valley.

The ups were steep and so were the down bits. Every time a long descent was in site the peloton tore down it at a great speed. You did have to be quite fit to survive this as there was a lot of climbing involved.

High spots were Matt's increasing ability to perform wheelies and Alexis scaring the life out of a group of walkers as he descended a vertical slope and ended up in a gorse bush with the bike on top of him. Being made of some incredibly tough material, he was soon back on the road.

A few distinctions could be awarded:

Most time spent on one wheel - Matt
 Most spectacular vertical descent - Alexis
 Most changes to his bike - Bassy
 Best dive into nettles - Dave
 Worst cassettes played on the boom box - Alex
 Fastest back to Guildford - Coxswain

GARY MITCHELL'S "REGATTA" SLOT

This year's Sea Scout Regatta was a great success with Leander coming second in a field of eight teams, which was a considerable improvement on last year. *Well done all!*

The following results were achieved:

U/13 Gig	1st
U/13 Coxed Pairs	1st
U/13 Sculling over Stern	2nd
U/13 Single Sculls	2nd
U/15 1/2 Sculling over Stern	1st
U/15 1/2 Canoeing	1st
U/20 Sculling	1st

The day began at around 6am with all the hardy faithful erecting the necessary equipment involved. Thanks to the Guild Members as always who put in a sterling effort in arranging bouys, setting courses, etc. Also Vanessa said not to forget her efforts in the galley doing breakfasts (only joking Ness). Cheers anyway - we've always loved your bacon rolls!!

The rescue boats were manned (and womanned) by Sea Lion and Warspite as well as Leander. Although for some of the time our boat Ebbage II was having repairs, namely a new remote control fitted, and also a bit of electrical work. A thank you to Garry Smith and Andy King there as well as myself!

I think most of our readers will agree that at Leander we now have a thoroughly quality boat. I just can't wait to see her riding the waves down river in September when we take part in the annual Great River Race.

Getting back to the Regatta though, the weather turned out very pleasant, warm and sunny, which always seems to be the way for this event, although no-one seemed to have booked the jazz band who we normally hear playing on the opposite side of the river!

Another hearty cheer for the Catering Crew - more sterling efforts here too, what would we do without them?

A mention finally to someone who is without a doubt worthy of praise. James Ford turned out to be Leander's star turn. James has only just come up from the Cubs. He rowed as bow in the U/13 Gig crew and, because we were short of a body, he also rowed the under 12 Single scull and got us into the final. A fantastic effort, as he had not rowed a single scull before. Well done again.

Let's not forget Mick (Chief) who always puts in his fair share of graft on this day in setting up and bringing down tents, stalls, etc. TOP BLOKE.

This year we were finished and clear of the site by 6.30pm, unheard of normally.
Roll on next year!!

I THANK YOU!

GAZ