



# The Water Rat

Newsletter of Leander Sea Scouts

May 1999

## *Skipper's Scrawl*

Considering the short notice for the St. George's Day parade we had quite a good turnout. During the service we were presented with the Marshall Trophy, which is awarded for the Troop who gain the most badges per capita and for achievements in District competitions, etc. Well done to the Troop and let's hope we can win it again next year.

Thanks to all the parents who have done their stint at the working parties. It really does make a difference and we are gradually getting into the backlog of H.Q. maintenance. Hopefully at the next one we will be able to get the safety railings up on the entrance slope now the post holes have been dug out. We are also in the process of re-keying the H.Q. since it was felt that, with lettings increasing, some parts of the building need to be shut off on these occasions.

I am pleased to see the Beavers working well with Ros and Catie at the helm – however we do still need to recruit two more leaders for the section.

What a marvellous weekend the Family Camp proved to be. There were, I believe, just over 130 attending and everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves. Congratulations to Ness and her team who organised the event and let's hope it can be repeated next year.

Finally, an appeal for help over the weekend 4th/5th July for the National Sea Scout Regatta. This year we are being joined by the Sea Rangers and with some 250 competitors expected we will particularly need help setting things up on the Sunday morning and with catering during the day. Please let me know if you can help (0181 399 5846).

*Keith*

## *Cub Report*

This appears to come around so quick – it only seems last month I was talking about the 5-a-side.

This term we have been working for the Local History Badge. The boys have copied the Kingston coat of arms and written about the growth of the town. They will complete the badge by going on a walk around the town learning about the history. A local resident who gives walks on a regular basis is conducting this tour. The two dates for the walks are the 9th June and the 16th June, this is so that half the pack can go at a time.

The swimming is up and running and the sixes that have been have done well. Some boys have completed the swimmers one badge. Well done to Jack Grant, Jack Hudson, Mark Wileman and Mathew Bolster.

This year there is the National Commissioner's 24-hour Challenge. This is for both Scouts and Cubs to combine and to 24 hours' worth of activities together. Our aim is for the older cubs to do this on the Friday 9th July through to Saturday 10th July 1999. The boys will stay at the hut on the Friday and do some evening events and then all day Saturday they will be with the scouts and complete the challenge.

I will send out information about this as and when I have some.

In July as usual we will be meeting on one Tuesday rather than Wednesday – this is so the boys can go on the river with the Scouts. The date is as yet to be confirmed.

*Akela (Tim)*

Leander (Kingston) Sea Scout Group

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## Beavers

The Beavers have sadly had to say goodbye to their leaders Buffy, Steve and Claire as their sons have moved on to Cubs. Ros and Catie have stepped in as new leaders and we have welcomed five new Beavers to the colony: Ian Tozer, Iain Mandale, Huw Walters, Joseph Hoskin and James Irons.

Beavers continue to go swimming on a monthly basis at the Malden Centre and some of the boys are working towards their first swimming badge. The Beavers have learnt "The Leander Beaver Chant" with great enthusiasm and have even attempted some sewing. With the longer evenings we are trying to get outside as much as possible for games and trails around Canbury Gardens and Richmond Park and we plan to bring the term to a flourishing end with a Pirate Party, for which the boys are already eagerly collecting toilet rolls to make into telescopes!

We are still searching for another one or two volunteers to join the Beaver leadership team, helping out every two or three weeks. It really is great fun and if you think you might be able to help or would like to know more about what is involved, please contact Ros, Catie or Keith – your offers will be greatly appreciated by the whole Beaver colony!

*Ros*

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## Subs Reminder

Nick and Jan Wileman would like to remind you that subs are due at the beginning of each term. These can be given to Nick or Jan, who attend the first two meetings of all sections each term. At the last executive meeting the treasurer pointed out the need for all sections to have their subs paid promptly as the group has a lot of bills to pay in the very near future. We would urge all Mums, Dads and Guardians to contact us if you are unsure whether or not you have paid, the address to send the subs is Caretakers Cottage, Corpus Christi School, Chestnut Grove, New Malden, KT3 3JU. Our phone number is 0181 942 9236. This term's subs are as follows, Beavers £15.00, Cubs £18.75 and Scouts £45.00. We still have a number of outstanding subs throughout the sections and must have these in by the end of this term which, believe it or not, is only a couple of months away.

Thanking you in anticipation.

*Nick and Jan*

## Ventures

The Venture Scouts have been busy helping out with other sections of the Group as usual (*What would they do without us??*). Also Ness wants to say a big thank-you to those who helped her with the Group Camp – borrowing, unpacking and pitching tents, etc., etc.

They have now finished decorating their den and are thinking of planning some paragliding and a narrow boat trip in the Autumn.

*Ness*

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## Sunday Working Parties

Parents' working parties are on the second Sunday of each month from 10:00 to 12:00 and there will be a member of the Executive Committee or a Leader who knows about the jobs required. The jobs will include hoovering, cleaning the kitchen and toilets, mowing the lawn, tidying camping and boat gear, taking inventories, occasional painting and woodwork, etc., so that there is work for everyone to do.

The lists for the next two working parties are below – apologies for the impersonal use of surnames! If you are unable to have someone attend on that day, you are asked to *arrange a swap* with another family.

**June 13th:** – King, Lawn, Leo, Lewis, Liefkes, Lightfoot, Livesey, Mandale, Manson.

**July 11th** – Marsden, Mellett, Mitchell, Newman, Offord, Origo, Osborne, Packer, Patterson.

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## Dates for your Diary

June 21 – Executive Committee meeting, 8 p.m.  
July 3/4 – National Sea Scout/Sea Ranger Regatta  
July 10 – Copy for July *Water Rat*  
September 5 – Great River Race  
September 13 – Leander A.G.M.

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## I can't believe it's not June

Don't you just hate it now that the January edition of so many magazines seems to thud on the doormat at the beginning of November? Well, the *Water Rat* fights back! Seriously, though – this edition may be lean and keen (for that read late!) but look out for all the missing reports of those activities in July.