



The Water Rat

The Newsletter of Leander Sea Scouts

May 2012

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Coxswain's Corner



BOATING! That's what this term's activities are all about, and, of course, getting wet as well.

The weather has been rather interesting, or perhaps very British. With the large amount of rainfall we had not so long ago, the river took on another aspect – lots of water coming down, the lock sluices were opened and the resulting very fast stream meant that boating was not possible.

However, conditions are good now with everyone out each meeting. We are emphasising the skills aspect with a programme that ensures each Scout understands and can apply correct boat handling, coming alongside, coxing, anchoring, depth measurement, gig pulling, sculling and sailing (when there is some wind!).

Kayakers and canoeists have been out each week, which will mean

that many of them will be gaining appropriate qualifications by Autumn. It's good to see how keen all the cubs are who have been invested recently. With the National Sea Scout Regatta at the end of the month, some serious practice



will be taking place, with crew selection very shortly.

We are having selected Saturday meetings, which are well attended and consequently makes the activity worthwhile. It is also the best time for sailing, as there tends to be more wind in the day. There will be at least two more such meetings before summer camp.

MAD Olympics



At the end of May, two teams from Leander took part in the MAD Olympics weekend at Birchmere Scout Camp site, organised by Royal Kingston District. The events were a mixture of team and individual challenges, based on Olympic and Paralympic events with each team choosing a country to represent. Although small in stature, both teams really got into the spirit of the event and did very well indeed. You don't have to be a big 'un to succeed.

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The two teams were :

Vietnam – Jonathan Bennett, Ben Longhurst, Ben Tahsin, Zayn Shafiudin, Stephen Judt, Toby Rean.

Afghanistan – Bertie Cardillo-Zallo, Thomas Dugdale, Sammy Sparks, Joe Cox, Toby Britton, Edward Patterson.



Events

Air Rifle, Archery, Blind Football, Chess, Cross Country, Cyclo Cross, Sitting Volleyball, Tug of War, Synchronised Swimming, Push Ball, Bracelet making, Trees, Mugs & Water.

Team results

Water Wellie Challenge – Silver (Afg) and bronze (Vn)
Archery – Silver (Afg)
Push ball – two Bronze (Afg & Vn)
Trees, Mugs and Water – Gold (Vn)
Fun Activity – Silver (Afg) and bronze (Vn)

Individual results

u/12 Air Rifle – Toby Rean - Bronze
u/12 Cross County – Jonathan Bennett - Silver
u/12 Cyclo Cross – Joe Cox - Gold
u/12 Cyclo Cross – Jonathan Bennett - Silver
u/12 Archery – Joe Cox - Bronze

A terrific result from our youngest Scouts

Coxswain

Fundraising



LOTTERY FUNDED

Thanks to a lot of hard work by Fiona Firth and Andrew Jackson, our application to the Lottery Fund has been successful. We have been granted £10,000, which will be used towards replacing all the remaining roof skylights, many of which have started leaking. We hope that this work will be completed over the Summer.



They have also obtained, on our behalf, a grant from the Royal Borough for £1000. This will be used towards

purchasing paddles for the four canoes recently acquired, to replace unsafe kayak paddles, and to update other boating safety equipment.

Don't forget to continue to help us raise funds by using easyfundraising.org.uk

Beavers

Completing the Outdoor Challenge Badge has enabled eight Beavers to receive the Chief Scout Bronze Award.

Swimming continues to run twice per term at Teddington pool. Generally 10-12 Beavers attend the sessions, with those who do making steady progress towards their stage 1 and 2 badges. The swimming sessions are supported by Dick Garnish.

The Colony is working on the Health Eating, Health and Fitness and Creative badges. There will be a Jubilee and Olympic theme to many of the activities.

I am also very pleased that Ben Brickwood, father of Sam, has volunteered to take up a post as Assistant Beaver Scout Leader.

Richard

Cubs

Sixteen Cubs represented Leander at the St George's Day Parade. Ralph Talman won best-presented Cub, judged by Robin & Aidan. Kitty Finnie & Eleanor Pullen won best marching, as judged by Karen. Georgie Yelland was our flag bearer.

As it is Olympic Year, we are working on the Fitness Challenge Badge and the Athletics Activity Badge. We are also instigating a policy of first aid training at least every year outside of any badge work, encompassing basic DRAB routine and how to deal with cuts. Sara Boss will be here to run the DRAB together with Joe from St John who will have an ambulance in the yard in-between the boats.

Normal work on swimming badges continues at Teddington Pool.

We played in the District five-a-side tournament, and visited the last lock on the Thames at Richmond in May.

Other activities this term include a firelighting competition on 13th June. We will be going to Thames Young Mariners again as it was voted 'best fun' and also we are very grateful to Robin and the team who will be taking the Cubs out on the river with the Explorers and Scouts on 11th July.

Karen & Ben



We all send our congratulations to GSL Karen and Ben, married on 2nd June.

AGM

The Group Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 18th June, at 8.00pm in the Headquarters. The meeting is expected to last about an hour and refreshments will be served.