



The Water Rat

The Newsletter of Leander Sea Scouts

October 2010

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National Scout Air Rifle Championship at Bisley



Our tent was pitched with three other Royal Kingston District Scout Troops: 1st Tolworth, 1st Hook, and 1st Old Malden, so we had familiar faces around us. Early Sunday morning the tents were dusted with frost but the sun shone for us all weekend.

We thank Jean Jenkins and her team of Instructors at 1st Malden for their continued support and encouragement.

It was a first Bisley Camp for all three of us, but we'll be back for more!

Karen Rean (fellow competitor)



Leander sent two keen marksmen to the 34th National Scout Rifle Championships for a weekend of camping and shooting at Bisley. Record-breaking numbers attended this year, with 782 Scouts, Explorers and Leaders taking part, both competing and volunteering as range officers.

Samuel Lear and Joseph Edwards Rean did incredibly well, especially in the reactive knockout competition. Sam (14) competed against an estimated 470 people in the senior section, only letting 15 people get ahead of him and Joseph (12) competed against 312 in the junior event to take the silver medal.

Survival Camp

Royal Kingston District has just held a Survival Skills weekend at Broadstone Warren, a large and wild campsite in Ashdown Forest. Over 90 Scouts made shelters, slept in them and cooked their own meals over an open fire - without utensils. Clare Jackson and Kirsty Frame were two of the youngest there, they all did extremely well and successfully gained their Survival Skills badge - one of the more difficult to get, so very well done, Clare and Kirsty.

Leander (Kingston) Sea Scout Group

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Beavers busy with three badges



Beavers started the Autumn term with six new members. Oliver Constable, Izzy Cox, Drice Hellal, Tess Lewisohn and Ted Pope were invested into the Colony in mid-October.

The Autumn term is always very busy and we are ambitiously working towards three badges. For Beavers who joined after March we are running a refresher of the Global Challenge badge. Leander is aiming to have all sections complete this to become eligible for the Environmental Partnership award badge. We are also working towards the Creative Challenge badge and Air Activities badge.



versions some of which could fly almost as fast.

Four Beavers took part in the District Explorer afternoon held at Southwood Activity Centre in September. We were able to complete the outside discovery trail before retreating indoors, because of inclement weather, where we learnt about many famous explorers from Vasco da Gama to Sir Edmund Hillary, and many others.

Beavers were very well represented at the CARA Autumn litter pick and collected the equivalent of their own body

As part of the Air Activities badge Beavers have been learning about the fascinating history of the Hawker Centre, had a talk from a British Airways pilot (who used to fly Concorde) and even made their own paper

weight in litter. This organised activity was an important step towards the Global Challenge badge for new Beavers.

Swimming so far this term has been a great success with four Beavers completing their Stage One Swimming badge. There is one more session at New Malden pool in November before free swimming for under-8s is discontinued and we need to make alternative arrangements to continue this important skill development.

Beavers also enjoyed the District Beaver party held at 1st Hook HQ. This was an afternoon of fun and entertainment for over 200 Beavers from across the Royal Kingston District.

Finally, I would like to thank Karen and Simon for their support during my Beaver Scout Leader apprenticeship. If you would like to support your Beaver Colony in an official position we are in need of an Assistant Beaver Leader as Simon will be 'swimming up' to Cubs in the new year.

Richard

Moving On

As many of you may know by now, I have decided to step down as Scout Leader at Christmas. Thirteen years is long enough – it's time for a change and for someone else to bring in new ideas. However, I will not be disappearing, as I will still be an ASL and also have lots of work to do on the boats.

I have been asked to take on another role, as Assistant County Commissioner for Scouts, a real challenge that means I will be working with Leaders from other parts of Greater London South West Scout County, helping to promote Scouting across Kingston, Richmond, Twickenham, Wimbledon, Sutton and Croydon.

I have had some fantastic times at Leander; it is a very individual group with a real family feel; it has grown dramatically and, under Karen's strong leadership, it will continue to provide that wonderful mix of Scouting and water activities that it is famous for.

I would just like to thank all you parents who have entrusted your young ones to us, being able to help them acquire new skills and abilities, and seeing them develop into accomplished young adults has been a real privilege.

Coxswain

Cubs win medley relay



We finished the Summer term on a lovely evening with games in Richmond Park followed by a picnic, containing the old favourites plus some healthy food (which was eaten!). Overall a great evening, followed by some well-earned refreshment in the Boaters for the leaders!

This term the Cubs have been researching items for the Global

Challenge badge. Much brain-power has been spent and I think most Cubs will gain the badge. Back to less cerebral activities in the second half of the term!

On Saturday 9th October, Toby Rean, Harry Vincent, Archie Talman, Ben Longhurst and Iona Biddulph took part in the District Swimming Competition. A lack

of entrants meant that we could not enter all the races and consequently dropped a lot of points, which was disappointing. Despite this handicap, the team did very well and won the medley relay, placing us joint 6th overall.

On a less cheerful note I'm sorry to announce that Tony Cockle has decided to stand down as a Cub leader, but many thanks for all his help and effort he has put into Cubs.

As a general note to all parents, we are now very short of leaders and if anyone out there can help in any way, then please let me know. Leander Cubs cannot survive without leaders.

Nick

Come and have some fun at Leander's first ever



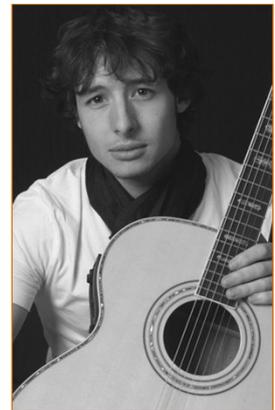
Reindeer Race Night

with special guest – singer/songwriter

Aaron Norton

Saturday 13th November 2010

Adults £2, under-14 £1



There will be a light refreshment bar, but you will not be able to buy alcoholic drinks, so you are very welcome to bring a bottle. There will also be a raffle.

We suggest you have plenty of 20p coins (minimum race bet)

To guarantee that this event can take place we ask for you to contact Liz Morrissey to confirm numbers attending, as we need a minimum of 50 people.

So why not come along and support Leander and enjoy an evening of entertainment with friends and family

Closing date for confirmation of number attending is Friday 5th November

Liz.morrissey@hotmail.co.uk, 020 8391 1243 (home), 07773 411 025 (mobile)

Coxswain's Corner

Here we are again, back in the Headquarters for our Winter meetings, after a very good Summer out on the water. In fact, up until a couple of weeks ago, the Scouts were able to enjoy boating at night, when the water is very calm with few other craft about.

Summer Camp took place at Braggers Wood Scout Campsite, right on the southern edge of the New Forest, a nice self-contained site where 28 Scouts, Explorers and Leaders had plenty of room for their tentage and camp activities. Taking advantage of the heaths and open spaces, literally just up the road, we hired a load of very nice mountain bikes and had a great day exploring the trails and paths of the New Forest. Brownsea Island had to be visited – the day was hot, the ferry was full, a swim or paddle in the sea was most welcome and we even saw some of the island's famous red squirrels. As the birthplace of Scouting, this was the most appropriate place for an Explorer investiture, with Scouts and Explorers gathered round the Baden-Powell memorial.

A Canadian canoe session had been booked on the Beaulieu River, and, after arriving at the wrong rendezvous, we did a very rapid two-mile quick march to



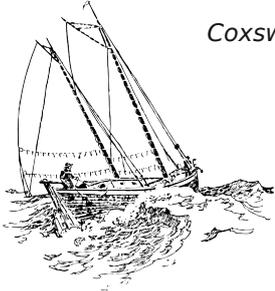
the correct base. A good paddling and games session took place, enlivened by the sight of thousands of very small jellyfish.

On site there was plenty to do, with the younger Scouts learning how to camp and appreciate the joys of patrol cooking, superbly mentored by the Explorers. Each evening saw a hectic wide game in the woods, followed by a camp fire on our site – all in all, an enjoyable and successful camp.



This term we will be acquiring Nautical Skills, completing the Group Environmental Challenge, Fire Safety Badge and stage four of the Emergency Aid badge, having a patrol 'Ready, Steady, Cook' challenge and a wide game in Richmond Park.

Harry Pope and Sam Lear have now reached the end of their Scout days and will be moving on to Explorers, so we wish them good luck on the next stage of their Scouting.



Coxswain