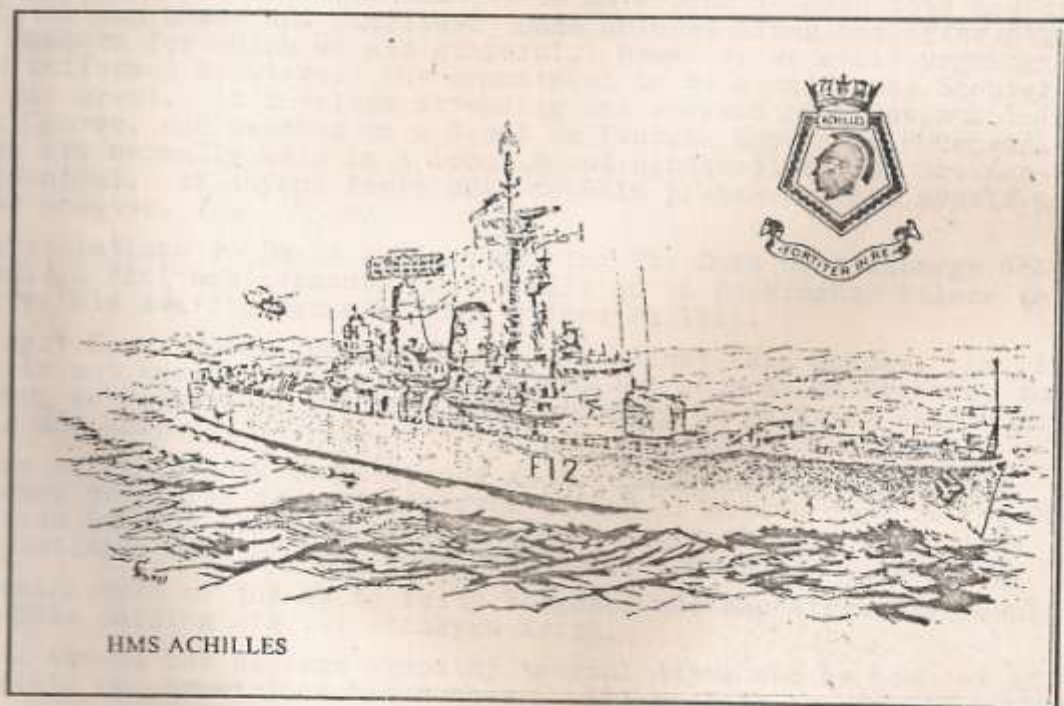


1st HAMPTON HILL SEA SCOUT GROUP

ACHILLES



1980

December

ACTING GROUP SCOUT LEADER'S REPORT

Looking through last years newsletter I note that I wrote strongly about the Leader problem.

Since then Alex Moses has come in as Cub Scout Leader and Miss Denise French is taking uniform as a warranted Assistant Cub Scout Leader. We extend a hearty welcome to both, and hope their time with us will be both happy and rewarding. Unfortunately Alex will be away next year for six months with his Regiment, however, I do feel that we have now solved the Cub Scout Leader problem.

Unfortunately the same cannot be said for the Scout and Venture Scout section. We are still far too thin on the ground. We do get some help from elder Venture Scouts who have taken Instructor permits, and of course, we hope they are the Leaders of the future. However, with life unfolding before them, major examinations, and the start of their careers, they cannot devote too much time to Scouting. This of course produces an acute shortage in these two sections.

Dennis Sainsbury-Brown as Venture Scout Leader, and myself as Scout Leader, cannot go on much longer on our own as "one man bands." We are both feeling the strain and are rapidly becoming extremely tired. Perhaps it is not realised that we do have jobs to hold down and do have our own homes and families! Some do come along and offer help as lay members for which we are grateful. However, we still urgently need uniformed Scouters. The commitment to be a uniformed Scouter is not too great. It involves attending one weekend on a General Information Course, and another on a Scout or Venture Scout Basic Course. These are normally held in a local Scout Headquarters and are non-residential. If anyone feels able to help please contact myself or any other Scouter.

Congratulations to David Ward on gaining The Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. A fine achievement. David will go to Buckingham Palace to receive his Award personally from Prince Phillip.

Our next Royal Naval Inspection will be afloat this summer; as yet the date is not known. This will involve a lot of boat maintenance this winter, so Fathers if you have any carpentry or painting skills do come along and help us.

We are sorry to lose the services of Dennis Bacon who finds that business pressures prevent him from taking an active part in the Group. Thankyou Den for all your efforts and we trust that in the future circumstances will change to enable you to come back to the fold.

A special vote of thanks to Keith Ferguson who has virtually rebuilt the white sailing gig ... thankyou Keith.

We all extend our sincere sympathy to Paul Adams who is now out of hospital, and trust that his recovery will be both speedy and complete.

Finally, scouting in all three sections has again achieved a high standard to a good and varied programme. Thankyou all for your efforts and I trust that next year will again be successful with enthusiasm shown by all.

RON SPARKS

"RETIRED HURT"

The 19th September 1980 - That had been a red circle day on my calendar for many months, the day on which one could leave behind, with considerable nostalgia, the five-day week battle with people, paper, ideas, and too little time in each of those 38-hour weeks. The time had come to get to grips with the myriad of jobs at home that inevitably accumulate with the year - Ah, I will be able to get that done when I retire!

In theory that is how it is supposed to work, or at least that is what they tell you on a retirement course; something else they tell you there ... "Take up a voluntary job, it is very rewarding and it will go a long way to filling in some of the spare time that you will have on your hands." Spare time with Hampton Hill - that didn't ring quite true as many of you know too well. Raising funds to keep an active Group like ours afloat doesn't leave too much spare time, as I have found already!

So, in a weak moment I foolishly agreed to run the Webb Ivory Christmas card sales campaign this year; this is after the Summer Pets, our next largest money raiser. The campaign starts early in September and continues until the end of November each year. What does it involve? Perhaps the best analogy is to compare it with a small import-export business with a turnover of some 10-12 thousand pounds per annum. This obviously requires a small warehouse cum office (a commandeered spare bedroom) where the imports are broken into orders which range from 60p to £50, which have to be checked, accounted for, and delivered. One obviously has to do a sales analysis to predict the correct buying pattern: this showed quite clearly that you were all dead keen on ... Anneliese slimline calendars, Fine an' Fancy gift wrap and Misty Christmas cards, with fourteen main support lines.

So, how has the business gone this year? In the event G.S.A. you have done a great job, selling from the catalogue. Some 300-400 individual orders should see a sales figure in those three hectic months of some £2,500 - £3,000 and you should expect, all being well, a net profit in the region of £600-£700. This retired operator is well pleased with the result, in a year when money is none too easy to come by.

I shall look forward to retirement around Christmas time and my experience has caused me to marvel when I recall that my predecessor in the job is now in her 78th year.

Certainly life in a big Company is less arduous, very different, and often better organised than this business has been.

Please don't send me too many Christmas cards - I must have dispensed several thousand during the past few hectic weeks!

E.V. WHITEHEAD
Group Chairman
The "retired" Webb Ivory Man!

BUCKINGHAM PALACE ... STATE RESERVE DUTIES

On 17th July at 0900 hours four Venture Scouts (namely Philip Shortman, Andrew Clarke, Ian Browne and yours truly) departed from Scout H.Q. on our way to Buckingham Palace for duties at the Garden Party being given in honour of the Queen Mother's 80th birthday.

Mick Browne kindly chauffeured us, and by courtesy of the Parks Police we were able to leave the car in St. James' Park. We strolled through the Park to the 'Electricians Gate' and were told, "sorry mate, wrong gate." We were duly led to another entrance and there joined by members of 16th Twickenham and 1st Hook (Tolworth) Venture Units, and our leader Ken Haschka.

All twenty-two of us were then directed to the Palace canteen and given a meal which compared with the Cafe Royal - even better, it was free. After lunch we were led to the main Visiting Room which gave access to the Royal gardens and outer courtyard. Our duties consisted of .. the boys opening car doors for the guests, and the girls standing in the doorway to greet the guests.

We spent quite a few hours darting and dashing around between the stamping feet of the Guards, opening the guests car doors, and these seemed to come in a never ending flow. One gentleman and his lady, in their finery, after the car had driven off to park, realised they had their dates mixed and were at the wrong Garden Party. This caused great confusion.

When all the guests had arrived, we stopped for tea and biscuits, but this rest was short-lived as we then had to begin the game of fitting the right number of bodies into the right cars. Believe me this led to quite a few problems.

However, our many thanks must go to Den 'Tesco' and Ken Haschka for their part in providing a memorable day.

ANDREW SAINSBURY-BROWN
Venture Scout

-----ooOoo-----

1980/81 CUBS FOOTBALL REPORT

Imagine eleven boys between 9-11 years seemingly chasing each other around a large field every Saturday morning, all yelling and kicking at an invisible something, somewhere in the centre of the group; yes, you're right, the season of Cub football is here again.

It's truly amazing how at such a young tender age these boys have developed some of the professional skills seen on T.V. I especially call to mind our goalkeeper Alex who, without battering an eyelid will pluck a ball from an attacker's feet as easy as picking daffodils. His piece-d-resistance was a very controversial penalty awarded to the opposition, using a very large Cub with size 10 boots, Alex faced his opponent and sized the situation with his usual unblinking concentration the ball powered off the boys right boot to the right of our Keeper, who having already read the situation had launched himself into the air off to the right, the ball and Goalkeeper's hands making positive contact to the dismay of the opposition MAGIC.

The Team Captain, Geoff Thorning, a very notable goal scorer, has the speed of someone possessed, he penetrates and frequently scores despite assaults from all fronts, some of these are suicidal, but unflinching he steps over and around while still pushing the ball just ahead of him.

1980/81 CUBS FOOTBALL REPORT (continued ..)

But what are these without mentioning the whole team from our formidable forwards to our fullbacks, one of whom (Gye Garrett) was presented with "a most promising young Goalkeeper" shield at this years Hanworth Carnival six-a-side competition.

With this years team I am confident of reaching at least the finals of the League, so far we have played only four friendly matches and won three.

I would like to express my gratitued to "the Mums kit washing rota", it seems to work very well indeed (well, for me anyway); and also to my regular rent-a-crowd and advisor, Mr. Gyatt; and to all the parents for providing transport.

PAT COOK

-----ooOoo-----

VENTURE UNIT

Another year in which the Unit has joined in a great many activities that are usual in Venture Scouting. You will read reports elsewhere in the Newsletter on how successfully the Unit have competed in activities in the District Venture Challenge; also, they have continued to assist with Scout and Cub training, and instructing the Rangers on canoeing and sailing (this I'm sure they enjoyed.)

Venture Awards have been gained by Philip Shortman, Andrew Clarke, and Mark Pratley. On behalf of the Unit, congratulations to Andrew Sainsbury Brown on gaining his Queen's Scout Award, and to David Ward on gaining his Duke of Edinburgh Gold - well done lads, a great achievement.

I would like to compliment all the lads on their academic achievements which, coupled with their Scouting knowledge, has ensured that they have all managed to obtain good jobs with plenty of training for the future.

During the year Keith Gale and John Jacques France joined us, and in the New Year we will welcome a new intake of lads from the Troop.

DEN SAINSBURY-BROWN
Venture Scout Leader

-----ooOoo-----

Our Supporters are the greatest
A shame we have so few
They work so hard
For all our lads
With all the things they do
Now when I write this ode
A shame I'm not proficient
At asking for aid
Even if money you've paid
Could you help us become efficient? -

(see 'Situations Vacant')

-----ooOoo-----

OFFSHORE SAIL WITH DAVID RUSSELL

On Friday, 1st August, at the Scout Hut were Trevor Whitehead, Andrew Cursham, Simon Owen, Boatswain and myself all ready to leave for Lymington. We were a bit pushed for time but with Boatswain's expertise in driving we got there in good time. When we arrived at Lymington we met David at his cottage, and drove down to the mooring at The Royal Lymington Yacht Club. The boat is a 28-foot sloop called "Olivia Ann III".

The time was about 10.00 pm and while we got things organised, Boatswain and David went for a little refreshment - although he didn't tell us we knew because he gave us a bad excuse! We all then turned in ready for the next day.

On Saturday we were up at 7.00 am, breakfasted, cleaned the decks, filled up with diesel and water and collected the dinghy from the clubhouse pontoon. We motored down Lymington Channel and hoisted the sails in the Solent. It was quite a sunny day, and the wind wasn't too bad. Skip (David) decided that we would lunch in Newtown Creek on the Isle of Wight. Two of us went below to prepare lunch while the other two stayed on deck. We dropped anchor about 11.30 am, and got the dinghy out so we could explore the Creek. There was all four of us in it but luckily it didn't sink. Whilst we were eating lunch we had an excellent view of the body in the next boat sunbathing (not in the nude). When we had washed we set off for Poole. Each one of us took a turn on the helm while the others sunbathed.

We reached Poole at approximately 5.00 pm and up to now no one had been sick, but we still had a day-and-a-half to go. We dropped anchor just outside Poole under the lee of Brownsea Island, right opposite B. Powell's original camp site. After dinner we played cards and then went to bed.

Sunday we got up, had breakfast and scrubbed the decks. The current was flowing quite fast and as I put the bucket in to get some water I dropped it. While one of us kept an eye on the bucket I told Boatswain and we had to up anchor, execute "bucket overboard drill", and drop anchor again. Good stuff!!

We sailed around Poole that day and managed to run aground a couple of times. For lunch we moored at the Town Quay. We were going back to the Isle of Wight the next day, but there were gale warnings given on the weather forecast so we went back after lunch. As we were going back there was a Force 7 blowing and Andrew didn't feel too good. We reached the Isle of Wight around 6.00 pm and went into Yarmouth for the night. We had dinner and went ashore in the dinghy. There wasn't much to do, but found something to occupy us (fish and chips?). We got back onto the boat, played cards for a while and went to bed.

Monday we got up, had breakfast, and as usual scrubbed the decks. Instead of going straight back to Lymington we went back up to the Needles under storm jib and a big reef in the mainsail. When we reached the Needles the sea was quite rough - Trevor got salt in his eyes while Andrew was sick again. The wind was quite strong and Boatswain nearly lost his hat but the side of the boat saved it ... shame.

When we arrived back at Lymington we cleaned the boat, had lunch, and loaded our gear into Boatswain's car. We said good-bye to David Russell and off we went for home.

I thought it was a very enjoyable weekend.

JEAN MARC FRANCE
P/L. Mizzen

OFFSHORE SAILING WITH MARTIN CURSHAM

On 13th September Johnathon Draper and I went offshore sailing on Mr. Cursham's yacht "Barbary". Despite my efforts to wake up early, the thing that did wake me was Bosun ringing the doorbell!!

After the drive down to Bosham, near Chichester, Mr. Cursham, Johnathon and I rowed out to "Barbary" with half the kit in this tiny inflatable dinghy. Because of all the extra weight and kit the dinghy only had about two inches clearance from the water, meaning that yours truly in the bow got his best feature wet with every passing wave. Bosun with the rest of the kit took the easy way and scrounged a lift from a passing motor boat.

Once aboard we organised ourselves - issued life jackets and safety harnesses, stowed kit, and went through 'man overboard' procedure etc. We slipped moorings and sailed down to Hayling Island, learning the difference between handling a sailing dinghy and an offshore yacht.

Due to the weather forecast Bosun and Mr. Cursham decided not to risk sailing in the Solent, but to sail up the estuaries of Chichester. This provided a good smooth sail - ideal for learning the basic points of sailing and boat handling. We also had a chance to use the charts to find our position. On the helm she was a lot quicker and more agile than I expected. After a good days sailing we returned to our moorings at Bosnam, played cards, and eventually went to bed.

Next morning after breakfasting well, we hoisted the sails and slipped our moorings again. The wind was calmer so we decided to try the Solent. The Solent was a lot rougher than the estuaries; the boat went a lot faster at a lot more of an angle. This was a proper sail ... the wind in your hair, the salt in your eyes. It taught me some of the finer points of sailing - like how to relieve oneself when the decks are at an angle of thirty degrees!

I really enjoyed myself until Mr. Cursham lost his anemometer overboard, and in an effort to recover it gybed without warning anyone. Bosun handled the jib while Johnathon and I hung on, but by the time we actually turned round the thing had sunk. We then returned to our mooring and packed up.

It was a really great weekend, if you get the chance - GO.

IAN GALLOWAY
A.P/L. Foretop

-----ooOoo-----

COUNTY BOAT HANDLING COMPETITION

In March the 1st Hampton Hill Sea Scouts entered two teams in the GLSW Boat Handling competition. I was the Patrol Leader of one team, and Keith Gale the Patrol Leader of the other. The teams were made up of six Scouts from 11 - 15 years of age.

Each team had to complete a number of activities such as - first aid, sculling, rowing, canoeing etc. There was one team event which was the rowing of a gig. We were inspected at the beginning and end of the day in full uniform, and then told the results.

Beef's team came fourth, and much to my surprise, mine came first. Although it was fairly cold I think most of the competitors enjoyed themselves, as I did.

STEPHEN COOK
P/L Midships

-----ooOoo-----

At 1500 hours on Friday, 31st October (half-an-hour later than planned) thirteen Scouts, Bosun and Ian Shortman piled into a minibus and set out for Bethesda in North Wales. After brief stops on the motorway we drove into Bethesda at 2130 hours, and after the usual arguments about sleeping arrangements, warm cups of coffee, and a game of cards, we fell into bed about 2300 hours.

At 0630 hours we were woken up by some awful singing and the threat we would be set on by the dog. Finally we stumbled out of bed and dressed, after breakfast and more arguments about washing up, we checked the contents of our rucksacks and set off for the mountains. We were dropped off at a Mountain Rescue Post to start our mountain walk. We split into groups and set off. My group consisted of Simon Owen, Johnathan Gale, Mark Pointer, Bosun, one of the mountaineers, and myself. We climbed past a lake and up to the top of Glyder Fach where we had lunch; then we walked along the ridge to Glyder Fawr (444m) and then down the Devil's Kitchen. During the whole day we had wonderful weather and a fantastic view of the Snowdon mountain range, and even most of Anglesey. We returned to the Mountain Rescue Post tired after a good day.

That evening we had a talk about the walks and the mountains, and were shown some good equipment in contrast to some of ours. We also had a slide show about the mountains.

On Sunday we were again woken early and after breakfast set off to do abseiling, rock climbing, and map work. We split into groups and did about an hour of each activity. The rock climb started off quite easy but it soon became harder; however, everyone managed to finish by one way or another.

The abseiling was scarring, but almost everyone put on a brave face and slowly went down the 70 ft. sheer face. In the map work we learnt how to use our map and compass on the mountains and when this was finished we returned to base. After lunch and cleaning of the Hall we set off for home arriving about 2130 hours.

Our thanks to all the leaders and mountaineers at the base, and to Bosun for all the driving - they all gave us a superb weekend. The only complaints were about the food, especially the meat pie (in which we could not find any meat!) and the dry spam sandwiches we had on the way home.

DAVID GIBSON

-----ooOoo-----

GROUP SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION

The time for the fund-raising activities has begun once again. We always close down when the Fete in June is completed, and recommence our activities again early September.

The Webb Ivory Catalogues have been circulated to all parents, hopefully, and to date £3,000 of orders have been received. For the interest of new parents, Webb Ivory pay a percentage of the overall order figure to our Group.

The first Jumble Sale of the year was held on Saturday, 11th October, and I am pleased to be able to thank the parents for their support, both on Friday night preceding the Sale and during the actual Sale. In spite of the very bad weather on the Friday evening it was pleasing to see so many parents turn up to assist with the difficult task of collecting jumble. Without the parents and their transport it is almost impossible to run this venture. The profit raised from the Jumble Sale was £207.53p.

/continued.....

GROUP SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION (continued..)

We held our annual Christmas Market on Saturday, 29th November, but at the time of going to print profit not known.

Plans have not yet been fully formulated, but another Jumble Sale will be held on Saturday, 7th March 1981, and possibly our annual "Get Together". This, for want of better words, is a fun event. For the past two years we have held a Barn Dance; whether this will be so next April is too early to decide. Everybody who came has enjoyed the last two (except me!) and this is the only purpose of the evening. Unfortunately, where it does fail, is in achieving its main objective. The idea is that parents get together in a relaxed atmosphere and enjoy themselves. In practice, the percentage of parents who attend, who are not on any of the Committees, is very low.

Finally, I would just like to give a brief description of why the Group Supporters Association exists. As you are aware, your boy comes to Cubs, Scouts, or Ventures, once a week and pays a subscription of approximately 10p per week. This produces less than £5 per boy per annum, and as there are less than 100 boys in the Group, brings in a total income of much less than £500. If you consider that the cost of rates, electricity, gas and other incidentals on the H.Q. amount to in excess of £1,000 per annum; the fleet of boats and tenting equipment need constant replacement or repair, and there are many other incidentals such as football shirts, badges etc., this will give you some appreciation why it is necessary to raise extra money. The only way the Group can survive at its present level, is for extra money to be raised by the parents.

I thank you for all your co-operation in the past, and hope that we can look forward to your continued support in the future.

MICK WARD
Chairman

-----cc00cc-----

WATCH LEADER

Following an enjoyable week off-shore sailing with the London Sailing Project, I was invited back on my performance to take part in a Watch Leader's selection weekend in last September. As a Watch Leader you are responsible for the well being of your watch (six trainees), to make sure that they carry out instructions given by the Skipper via the Watch Officer, promptly and efficiently.

I arrived on a windy wet Friday night with thirty other hopefuls, at Gosport Harbour. We were split into two groups, each boarded a L.S.P. Yacht and were introduced to the assessor.

Up at 0630 the next day we started work; each person wore a number and each took turns at being Watch Leader, while the others acted as his watch. After playing some silly games (six people standing on each others shoulders singing "Life on an ocean wave"), and a so called lunch we slipped anchor and set sail into a windy Solent. This was more like it!

Up and down the Solent we went ... tacking, gybing, changing sails. Each person in turn becoming the Watch Leader. It was very tiring, but enough energy was found for a typical Saturday night ashore. Sunday was spent dismantling the rigging so that the boats could be laid up for the winter months.

I am glad to say that I made no major mistakes and was selected to become a Watch Leader. I now look forward to taking responsibility on a week sailing next summer.

PHILIP SHORTMAN
Chairman -
Venture Unit

VENTURE SPORTS 1980

This year the Venture Unit have had several successes in this direction. Starting on Friday, 16th May, with the District Table Tennis tournament of which we were the hosts. In this competition we entered four teams, consisting of four members per team, each team being split into divisions. The winner of each division playing off. A very creditable second place was gained by the Unit, being beaten on the last point.

On 13th July two members of the Unit, Philip Shortman and Andrew Sainsbury Brown entered the Arun Canoe race, both being placed in the first six.

Next, the Unit entered the Middlesex Canoe Race on Sunday, 28th September. Eight members entered and of these three came in the first three places, the other five all gained points in their various classes helping to retain our second overall placing.

Friday, 17th October was the date of the Scout Swimming Gala and for the first time ever Venture Scouts were invited to enter the relay race. The 'Vultures' entered two teams and Saturday/Sunday practices were much in evidence, and these practises helped us gain an overall second place.

Recently, on Friday 31st October, the Unit entered the District Darts competition, alas we've never done so bad - however, next year all will be venged.... hopefully.

IAN BROWNE
Venture Scout

-----ooOoo-----

THE LONDON SAILING PROJECT

Paul Dart and I went to the Toby Jug Inn at 9.20 am on a Saturday in August, and were picked up by the coach to Portsmouth.

The boat we were using was the "Gunna", and we went on board at lunch-time. The "Gunna" was built in 1947 and is 38-foot long; she was built to take a crew of five, but has been modified to take thirteen with hammocks (ten crew and three afterguard).

We set sail Sunday morning through the Solent to Beaulieu where we moored up and stayed the night. Next day we set sail early, and hit rough seas at which many started to turn green. We sailed throughout the night standing four-hour watches, and reached Weymouth at daybreak. Tuesday was spent in Weymouth and some of us ventured into the sea as it was so hot. Next morning we left Weymouth and headed for Poole. On the way we anchored in Lulworth Cove where the water was so clear you could see the sea bed which was 20 feet down.

We reached Poole around 7.00 pm and went visiting the amusement arcades before going to bed. Thursday we set sail for Cowes, but before it got dark we anchored just off the Isle of Wight near the Needles, went ashore and had a barbeque over a roaring fire. Friday morning we sailed back to Portsmouth where we cleaned the boat, and then caught the coach home.

MARK HUDDLESTON
P/L. Po'castle

-----ooOoo-----

A TRIP TO SCOTLAND

Mark Pratley, Mark and David Ward, and myself, left Hampton at 2100 hrs on a Friday evening to catch the train to Scotland. At 0600 hrs. the following morning we left the train at Dalwhinnie, a remote Scottish railway station; planned the day's route and started off by walking along one of the long Lochs of Scotland which was very scenic and hard-going. We then cut out of the Lochs and went to a Bothy where we had lunch. After a long rest we climbed up the Ben Alder Horseshoe; this is a high ridge of mountain tips forming a horseshoe shape.

That night was spent in a tent which was damp and cold, but the next day we woke to glorious sunshine which is very rare in these parts. That day was spent going up and down valleys (very hard on the feet). However, at the end of the day we were rewarded by a swarm of gnats which took a liking to us and decided to bite us - that night was very uncomfortable, but when we woke next morning it was raining and the gnats had disappeared. After a warming breakfast we set off through a foot of mud, and it took us a long time with a few unexpected detours to eventually reach the railway station where we were to have lunch.

After lunch we set out to look for a Bothy in which to spend the night; eventually we found one but had to share it with some mountain skiers (we didn't tell them there wasn't any snow outside). Again after another wet and cold night we set forward, this time to reach Ben Nevis, the biggest mountain in Great Britain. After ploughing through three rivers and two feet of mud we came to the ridge we had to climb; it was so far up we couldn't see the top and everytime we climbed over what we thought was the top, another would appear. The view at the top wasn't rewarding as we could not see anything for the mist, but the satisfaction of the climb was enough. We climbed down the valley along the edge, following the river and the waterfalls. After a few hours we reached the base of the famous Ben Nevis.

That night we camped and finished off most of the food; next morning we set off to climb Ben Nevis which took all day going up and down the mountain which was well over 4406 ft. high. At the top it was misty and raining.

We finished off the day at Fort Williams from where we caught the train back home.

It had taken us one week to walk 60 miles across some of Scotland's toughest mountains.

PHILIP WARD
Venture Scout

-----ooOoo-----

SITUATION VACANT:

WANTED SCOUTERS/INSTRUCTORS, AGE RANGE
20 - 63 years.
FOR DETAILS OF THIS SATISFYING, HARDWORKING
(with unreasonable hours), NO PAY, WORTHWHILE,
FRUSTRATING SITUATION PLEASE PHONE .. 01-894-4101
FOR DETAILS OF WHY YOU SHOULD NOT APPLY FOR
THIS VACANCY.

-----ooOoo-----

1st HAMPTON HILL CUB PACK

Whenever someone asks a Cub Leader to write a few lines about the Cub Pack, there is always immense difficulty experienced in knowing where to start. Should I tell the Readers about the Boys activities and produce a grand statistical graph to prove achievements, beseech the fate of the Leaders, urge Parents to take more of an interest for their Son's sake, or just say 'The Cubs are alive and living in Hampton'?. And having said all that I shall try to do all of these things!!!

At the time of writing, the Cub Pack has reached its ceiling with 47 Boys - according to the records that is. The Waiting List has had to be closed as that contains another 18 eager to become a Cub boys. There is not much chance of reducing the Waiting List between now and next April, so I am afraid its a case of patience.



"ITS A GOOD JOB WE ONLY MEET ONCE A WEEK !"



Our Leaders, who, incidentally are all Volunteer idiots, are at present mainly untrained and awaiting either a Basic or General Information Course - or both.

As you all probably know, Scouting is a Hobby to us all and we have our own lives too. Paul, who is now successfully recovering from serious illness handed over the Pack to me as 'trustee' Akels in May of this year. While Paul is still recuperating, I am ably assisted by Debbie, Alison and Denise and a Guider doing her 'Service' bit for the next two months. Joanne is still one of our Leaders, but, because of her day job it makes her attendance regularly almost impossible.

"SMILE AND THINK OF WEDNESDAYS"

Since taking over the Pack, we have tried to produce varied programmes for the Cubs based on basic skills which will teach them the rudiments of being able to do things for themselves and at the same time helping other people whoever they may be.

Whilst we have not had many Outings this year, 18 boys went on our Annual Summer Camp again held at Sunbury Court in August. At Camp they took part in such events as building a fire and cooking their own food over it. (A successful try even though the sausages were burnt, the beans gooey and the eggs eclipsed), learning and using a Compass and knowing how to find your way by it,





understanding how to live in close confines with other people who are also probably away from home the first time too, what it means to have a degree of independence from Mum and Dad and how one can, without the 'beast in the corner with the silver eye' provide different forms of Entertainment while sitting around a Campfire without being a Film or TV Star.

The weather was kind to us that weekend and although too cold for swimming, fun was not lost due to a Mini-Sports and Water 'It's a Knockout'.

If nothing else, perhaps the Cubs may look back on that Camp as their first experience in the long road of Scouting.

"I'VE NEVER SEEN ANY OF THE LEADERS DO THIS YET, HAVE YOU ?"

.....

```

XXXXXXXX  Y  Y  XXXXX  YYYXX
Y          Y  Y  XXXXX  YYYXX
XXXXXXXX  XXXX XXXXXX XXXXX
          X  YYYXX  YXX  Y  Y  YXXX
          X  YYY  XXX  XXX  X  X  XXX
          X  XXXXX  XXX  XXXX  X  X
                                     XXX
  
```

Again in August, six of the more senior Cubs were taken on a day visit to Longridge near Marlow on the River Thames to visit the Scout Camp. Whilst there, the Cubs were permitted to take canoes on their own, but under supervision, onto the water. Sad to relate, only Akela managed to overturn two canoes.

The day was full of activity with canoeing, travelling up the river in a Powered boat, helping the Gig Crew row their Gig and Swimming. The evening Campfire Circle was treated to a song from the Cubs which was pretty well done indeed.



"I STILL SAY SEA SCOUTS SHOULD CAMP ON THE WATER - AND THIS IS MY GOOD DEED"

~~~~~

The following ensued after Akela had told the Boys to use their own relatives to given them help in getting prepared for Proficiency Badge Exams;

CUB to AKELA: "My Grandfather was a Sea Scout Master"  
 AKELA to CUB (thinking he'd got a good example of help) " Well if you ask him, I am sure he'll give you plenty of help".  
 CUB: "He's dead" (BOOM,BOOM)



And talking of Proficiency Badges, in July the Cubs (well most of them) attended the District Badge Exam and gained between them a total of 32 Badges ranging from the easy Hobbies or Home Help to the more difficult Scientist or Photographer.

\*\*\*\*\*

"IF I DON'T GET A BADGE, YOU KNOW WHAT'LL GO ?"

And then recently, we held our traditional Hallowe'en Party. The Cubs were to arrive in Fancy Dress and carrying a Lantern both of which would be judged and small prizes awarded to winners. The turnout was very good indeed.

Games such as 'Apple Bobbing', 'Suck the Smartie out of the Bowl of Flour' and 'Blow the Flour all over the Rest' were played among much hilarity and cheating from the Leaders who also fielded a Team.

The evening was rounded off with hot soup around the Lanterns lit in the darkened Hall. A quiet finish to a very enjoyable evening.



"WAIT TIL THEY SEE HOW MUCH FLOUR AND THE SIZE OF APPLES WE'VE GOT !"

.....



```

@ @ @ @ @ @ @ @ @ @ @ @ @ @ @ @ @ @ @
@           ADVERTISEMENT           @
@                                     @
@   Interested in Kids ?           @
@                                     @
@   Aged 17 to 65 ?               @
@                                     @
@   WHY NOT ASK FOR DETAILS ON HOW YOU @
@   CAN HELP AS A CUB LEADER..... @
@ @ @ @ @ @ @ @ @ @ @ @ @ @ @ @ @ @ @
  
```

.....

For the future, we are trying to arrange for people from all walks of life to visit the Pack and either give a demonstration, slide show, films or just talk about their job, interest or particular skill. This will allow the Cubs to meet other people and find out more about them and perhaps how they can help.

DO YOU DO SOMETHING WHICH CAN BE OF INTEREST ???????

.....

And now a plea to Parents. One of the jobs that Leaders find very difficult indeed is to interest the Parent in all aspects of their son's progress and achievements. You can help quite simply on one area important to your son.

How many times has he come home from Cubs, taken off his uniform and slung it away for you to pick up Mum? Why not encourage him by showing him how to fold it, where to put it and so on. Does he make his own bed, clean his own shoes, iron (with supervision) his own Cub Scarf? NO? Then why not let him, and if he succeeds without reminding, send him to Cubs next time saying what he has done (not just once mind) and I will get his record card updated and perhaps see about applying for his Proficiency Badge in Home Help.

## SCOUT TROOP REPORT

Once again a heavy but productive year. In January we entered two teams in a District five-a-side Football competition, doing reasonably well; we also entered for the first time the Royal Naval Recognised Groups Annual Swimming Gala held at HMS Raleigh, Torpoint, Plymouth, and found it to be a most enjoyable weekend.

On 6th February we had our indoor Royal Naval Inspection, the last one by Lt. Comdr. Phillip Cressey RN who was accompanied by his relief, Lt. Comdr. David Uden RN. We extend a grateful thankyou to Phillip for all his work and wish him every success on retiring from the Royal Navy, and appointment as Executive Commissioner Training at Gilwell Park. We extend a hearty welcome to David Uden, and trust that the years ahead will be both fruitful and enjoyable.

The County Boat Handling competition was held on 9th March at Thames Young Mariners Base. We entered two teams, and one of them at last gained first place. Congratulations lads! Also in March 15/16th, the District Patrol Leaders Training Course was held at which four patrol leaders attended. We also brewed tea etc. at the March Jumble Sale.

The 2nd April saw a small party visiting HMS Achilles at Chatham where we were presented with a plaque she had brought back for us from TS Achilles, Auckland, New Zealand Sea Cadet Corps, who had worked out that there are only three organisations named Achilles in the world; the Naval Frigate, themselves, and ourselves. Vincent Whitehead will be personally returning the compliment to TS Achilles, on our behalf, when he visits New Zealand in November.

We had a good turn-out for the annual St. Georges Day Parade on 20th April.

Next through May came a series of Patrol Camps enabling five to attain their Chief Scout Award. Congratulations to - Paul Dart, Stephen Cook, Mark Huddleston, Clive Owen, and Jean Marc France.

From 13-15 June we held a successful Spring Camp at Thames Young Mariners Base covering most nautical activities. The following weekend Stephen Cook and Shaun Pratley sailed with Martin Cursham and yours truly in the Solent from Bosham. More about that elsewhere.

In July because of numbers we re-organised the Troop into five Patrols. The new orbat being ...

Senior Patrol Leader - Keith Gale

|                     |                      |                 |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| <u>Quarterdeck:</u> | PL Paul Dart         | <u>Foretop:</u> | PL Clive Owen        |
|                     | APL Bruce Roaf       |                 | APL Andrew Cursham   |
| <u>Fo'castle:</u>   | PL Mark Huddleston   | <u>Mizzen:</u>  | PL Jean Marc France  |
|                     | APL Trevor Whitehead |                 | APL Johnathon Draper |
| <u>Midships:</u>    | PL Stephen Cook      |                 |                      |
|                     | APL Shaun Pratley    |                 |                      |

On the 2/4th August yet another off-shore sail, this time with David Russell out of Lymington. The crew being - Jean Marc France, Andrew Cursham, Trevor Whitehead, Simon Owen and yours truly. We managed to run aground several times, but still had an enjoyable sail. A report elsewhere.

At last, Summer Camp, from 16th-23rd August at the National Scout Boating Centre, Longridge. Despite all the petty restrictions etc we had a good camp. We are grateful to TS Apollo, Marlow Sea Cadets, for loaning us their 16-foot power boat which enabled us to earn 8 Coxswains badges. The first time ever in the Group. Hearty congratulations to - Paul Dart, Clive Owen, Andrew Cursham, Ian Galloway, Trevor Whitehead, Stephen Cook,

/continued .....

SCOUT TROOP REPORT continued

Jean Marc France, and Shaun Pratley - Well done!

Another off-shore sail with Martin Cursham followed on 13/14th September; this time crewed by Ian Galloway and Johnathan Draper.

We cancelled our entry into the Longridge Regatta for the first time for many years, but felt that because of the disease caught by Paul Adams it was better to be safe than sorry.

The largest entry every was entered in the Middlesex Canoe Race on 28th September. 24 paddlers in 22 canoes. Phil Shortman again took first place in his Class; we gained numerous seconds and thirds, and once again came second overall.

Again we have been on our annual pilgrimage to the GLSW Mountain Base at Bethesda - a report on which appears elsewhere.

On Saturday, 11th October, after the Jumble Sale, I was very proud to attend a Chief Scout Award presentation at which our five Patrol Leaders received their Chief Scout certificates from the County President, County Commissioner, and Deputy County Commissioner. A memorable evening.

On Friday, 17th October, the District Scout Swimming Gala at which the Troop came second to 2nd Whetton. Three members of the team were selected to swim for the District in the County Gala, namely Stephen Cook, Trevor Whitehead and John Neilson.

On Tuesday, 22nd October, I had a night off. The Troop meeting was run entirely by the Patrol Leaders with no adults present and I hear successfully, even if the Group Chairman was accused of being one of those! Well done Patrol Leaders.

All in all another tremendous year. We wish every success to Keith Gale now a Venture Scout, and to Andrew Cursham and Nigel Budgeon who have left. Congratulations to Ian Galloway on being appointed Assistant Patrol Leader vice Andrew Cursham. A special welcome to all the Cub Scouts who have come up to the Troop during the year, and to the lads who have joined direct from "outside".

My special thanks to Martin Cursham and David Russell for once again allowing us the privilege of off-shore sailing with them. I shall be banging your door gentlemen around Christmas time with my 1981 diary in hand!

Talking of off-shore sailing I almost forgot the London Sailing Project. This year we got six berths - Paul Dart and Mark Huddleston; Clive Owen and Stephen Cook; Keith Gale and Jean Marc France. Keith Gale also sailed on the TS Royalist.

Finally, to all those patient Scouters, and even more patient and understanding wives who have "let them out to play", my sincere thanks for another successful year.

RON SPARKS 'BOSUN'

-----ooOoo-----  
The Chairman is one  
The Bosun will be one  
Tesco may be one  
Akela could be one  
Most Cubs, Scouts and Ventures have one  
And one is amongst our best supporters.  
Who am I ???  
-----ooOoo-----



## THE TS ROYALIST

My name is Keith Gale (Beef), and in July of 1980 I had the chance to go on the last British square-rigger.

TS Royalist is owned by the Sea Cadet Association. It was built in 1970 and it is a 110 ton brig, which means it has two masts both of which are square rigged. It is 97 feet from bow to stern and has a mast head height of 76 feet. When we first arrived on board at Ramsgate the ship looked like a mass of rope.

On board there is a wide range of equipment including radar, an anemometer, and other navigational equipment. Each member of the crew has his own sail setting station, bracing station, sail lowering station, and cleaning station while onboard. Also we all had to take a turn at being duty messman, which for me was quite an ordeal as during my turn the boat was under full sail and keeled over to an angle of 45°. You learn fast about life at sea and the running of a square rig.

Our destination was Keil in Northern Germany. This meant that we had to cross the North Sea and then go through the Keil Canal and into Keil Harbour.

Our first night at sea is something I'll never forget, as I had the mid watch which meant I had from midnight to 4 am. It was raining and cold & I had to take up my position amongst the pigeons sheltering from the rain. From Keil we sailed across the Baltic Sea to Sonderberg in Denmark. Then coming back from Sonderberg we had a really good sail and with all the sails up we made a good 10-11 knots, so we arrived in Keil well on time.

In Keil there were many other square rig ships from different countries, some were enormous. The reason for this was a big race called the Windjammer Race which the Royalist was entering.

Living on the Royalist for a week was an amazing experience. Being 76 feet up a mast whilst the ship is rocking back and forth was quite scary especially out on a wire on the yardarm.

We left the ship at Keil Harbour and had to walk the 2 miles to the station as the British Army lorry, which should have transported us and our kit, didn't show up. (It was waiting at Keil station when we eventually arrived!) From Keil we travelled by train to Hamburg and then on to Harwich by the overnight ferry; which proved a bit of light relief as there was a disco and girls on board!

When I eventually arrived home (having been woken up by an elderly lady on the train at Richmond station - thank goodness), I slept for nearly 25 hours trying to make up for having to get up at 5 am every day for a week and a return journey of approx. 28 hours.

A thoroughly tiring, but enjoyable experience which I'll never forget.

KEITH GALE

-----ooOoo-----

## AQUAMEET 1980

In July the 1st Hampton Hill Venture Scout Unit went to Aquameet at Longridge Boating Activity-Centre, in which members - A. Clarke, I. Brown, P. Shortman, M. Pratley, A. Sainsbury-Brown and J.J. France took part.

There were many varied water events, and the Unit came 2nd overall. It was a great weekend, and thorough enjoyed by us all.

ANDREW CLARKE  
Venture Scout

-----ooOoo-----

|                                          |                         |                                                               |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| ACTING GROUP SCOUT LEADER                | R.J. Sparks             | 152 Park Road, Hounslow, Middx.<br>Tele: 01-894-4101          |
| CUB SCOUT LEADER                         | A.P. Moses              | 1 RGJ Cavalry Barracks, Hounslow<br>Tele: 01-570-2371 ext.440 |
| ASSISTANT CUB SCOUT LEADER               | P. Adams                | 7 Station Close, Hampton, Middx.<br>Tele: 01-979-8781         |
| ASSISTANT CUB SCOUT LEADER               | Miss J. Lane            | 66 Wensleydale Road, Hampton, Middx.<br>Tele: 01-979-2553     |
| ASSISTANT CUB SCOUT LEADER               | Miss D. French          | 6 Crasmere Avenue, Hounslow, Middx.<br>Tele: 01-894-9724      |
| INSTRUCTOR                               | H. Shortman             | 11 Albury Close, Hampton, Middx.<br>Tele: 01-979-5002         |
| CUB SCOUT INSTRUCTOR                     | Miss A. Stredwick       | 58 Hatherop Road, Hampton, Middx.<br>Tele: 01-979-2701        |
| CUB SCOUT INSTRUCTOR                     | Miss D. Rule            | 56 Priory Road, Hampton, Middx.<br>Tele: 01-979-6105          |
| SCOUT LEADER                             | R.J. Sparks             | 152 Park Road, Hounslow, Middx.<br>Tele: 01-894-4101          |
| INSTRUCTOR                               | E. Lawrence             | 9 Cardinals Walk, Hampton, Middx.<br>Tele: 01-979-6659        |
| INSTRUCTOR                               | I. Shortman             | 11 Albury Close, Hampton, Middx.<br>Tele: 01-979-5002         |
| INSTRUCTOR                               | P. Shortman             | 11 Albury Close, Hampton, Middx.<br>Tele: 01-979-5002         |
| INSTRUCTOR                               | A. Sainsbury- Brown     | "Zingari", The Creek, Sunbury, Middx.<br>Tele: 76-84955       |
| VENTURE SCOUT LEADER                     | D. Sainsbury-Brown      | "Zingari", The Creek, Sunbury, Middx.<br>Tele: 76-84955       |
| ASSISTANT VENTURE SCOUT<br>LEADER        | K. Ferguson             | 8 Taylor Close, Hampton Hill, Middx.<br>Tele: 01-941-0228     |
| GROUP QUARTERMASTER                      | K. Dart                 | 33 Bluefield Close, Hampton, Middx.<br>01-941-0097            |
| GRC EXECUTIVE -<br>CHAIRMAN              | E.V. Whitehead          | 3 Howard Close, Hampton, Middx.<br>Tele: 01-979-1826          |
| SECRETARY                                | G. Pratley              | 28 Lawrence Road, Hampton, Middx.<br>Tele: 01-941-0358        |
| TREASURER                                | M. Rowland              | 26 Coombe Drive, Addlestone, Surrey.<br>Tele: 9-44805         |
| GROUP SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION<br>CHAIRMAN | M. Ward                 | 45 Cardinals Walk, Hampton, Middx.<br>Tele: 01-979-2834       |
| SECRETARY                                | Mrs. S. Owen            | 34 Broad Lane, Hampton, Middx.<br>Tele: 01-979-8549           |
| TREASURER                                | Mrs. S. Sainsbury-Brown | "Zingari", The Creek, Sunbury, Middx.<br>Tele: 76-84955       |