

1st HAMPTON HILL

SEA SCOUT GROUP

ACHILLES



1981

December

I take this opportunity firstly to congratulate the 1st Hampton Hill Sea Scout Group on its continuing success.

The fact that it is a Royal Naval Recognised Group is in itself an achievement of which all connected with the Group must be proud.

When you read through the activities reported in this edition of the many events that have taken place during the year, one feels a tremendous debt is owed to the leaders, instructors, and others who are ably backed up by a very active Group Supporters Association.

It is this combination that makes 1st Hampton Hill so successful. All give their time and services freely, it makes one proud to be associated with them.

We, at Local Authority level, really do appreciate all your efforts and wish you all a very happy and successful 1982.

By the way

When you are out sailing and rowing in the Hampton Reach have you ever wondered why Platts Island or Thornycrofts, as it was known during and after the war, had such high banks? In some places they are 25 - 30 feet high. And did you know that the greater part of the Island once belonged to the Metropolitan Water Board?

Three water companies started in Hampton in 1854, and the greater part of the Island was purchased by them, with the exception of the tail of the Island on which offices and the original boat-sheds now stand.

A water intake was formed on Platts Eyot. It stood at the head of a channel excavated through nearly the whole length of the Island. Water from the channel percolated down to a system of earthenware pipes, then through a tunnel under the Thames to an engine house from where it was lifted to the filter beds on the North shore. The remains of the intake valves and a filled in brick shaft are still to be seen at the head of the Island.

On the northern bank there are some half-dozen filter beds near the old Water Board ferry. These were completed in 1901.

It was in these former years that Platts Island started to be built up with the soil excavated from these filter beds, transforming the Island into a large tumulus. With the vast top weight imposed upon it the Water Board carried out extensive camp shedding around the head and both upper sides of the Island.

Many fine boats and fast naval craft were built on the Island, including Coastal Motor Boat No. 4 which up to a few years ago was preserved on the Island. She had a Victoria Cross painted on her side commemorating the award of that honour to her Captain, Lieut. A. Agar V.C., D.S.O., for the part he played in sinking two enemy warships in the First World War.

Many other fine boats were also built there, including Miss England III in which Kay Don set up a new world water speed record of 119.75 mph in 1932.

George Kenton

GROUP PRESIDENT

"THOSE FEET OPPOSITE"

A laconic entry in the Minutes of the Group Executive held on 2 April 1980 reads:-

"Wednesday, 2 April, visit to H.M.S. Achilles at Chatham and presented with a plaque and tally band bearing the New Zealand Cadet Corps crest. Publicity to be given in the local press and Scouter magazine. Agreed that scarves bearing the District tab and the R.N. tab be presented to H.M.S. Achilles and to the Sea Cadet Corps in New Zealand, and a brass plaque to be engraved and presented to them. (Possibility of a personal presentation being made by E. Whitehead"

So, on the way to Alexandra (South Island) and a visit to a younger sister and assorted nephews and nieces, we flew in to Auckland (some thirty hours after leaving Heathrow) around about dawn on Tuesday, the last day of March this year. In the evening Lt.Cmdr.Roy Vaughan (Achilles' Commanding Officer) picked us up by car from the motel and drove us along the waterfront of Okahu boat harbour, past Point Resolution; strange to be told that the lights across the water were those of Devonport. Memories of the "feet opposite" in Navy days in Oggieland, the other Devonport in Cornwall and H.M.S. Raleigh at Torpoint.

Just beyond Bastion Point in Tamaki Drive we were piped aboard our antipodean sister shore-based ship, H.M.S. Achilles of the New Zealand Cadet Force. They have a most comfortable headquarters there in a converted former sewage pumping station. The Officers had put on a wardroom party in our honour and we were introduced to Roy's wife Jane, to Lt. Andrew Howellie and his wife Janeene; Andrew was "Jimmy the one" at Achilles, and he in turn introduced Lt. Bruce Dovsey whose job was, in effect, the Quartermaster looking after the ship's stores. Roy's immediate predecessor, Lt.Cmdr.Dick Parsonson and his wife Dora had joined the Kiwi party for the evening to greet the Pommy B's from the U.K. as indeed had Lt.Col Kel Ffrest-Brown, Keith Warwick and Jim Morgan, all from the New Zealand's Navy League in Auckland.

A bottle of duty-free Scotch was presented to the mess to break the ice and the cork was drawn immediately and passed round the empty glasses. So on to the speeches of welcome and to the presentation of the Hampton Hill Trophy, to be hung eventually on the Quarter Deck the right way up there so that it would rest feet-to-feet with our own in Hampton.

We parted the best of friends with an invitation to return on Wednesday evening to meet the ship's company in the Drill Hall and once again to present our Trophy to the ship's company for safe keeping on their Quarter Deck. Heather was invited to sit in on a meeting of the fund raising Supporters Association and occasioned quite a lively discussion and exchange of ideas on ways and means of painless transfer of money from Supporters purses to Achilles funds.

The C.O. and I attended a "REQUESTMEN" in his office and there laid plans for the Regatta the following weekend at Devonport that was to be honoured by a visit from Prince Charles. And so back to the wardroom to finish the dutyfree and to be shown some of the very interesting wardroom relics and historical documents. Among these were many original photographs of the River Plate action, inside and outside Montevideo, in which H.M.S. Achilles, manned by Kiwis, played a proud part. They certainly had the photographs to highlight the action. Some of these were kindly given to 1st H.H.S.S.G. Achilles, and now reside in our scrapbook to commemorate the visit.

Since that time one of their Officers, Sandy Davidson, has visited the Unit at Hampton and attended our District Annual General Meeting in Teddington.

E. V. Whitehead

CHAIRMAN - GROUP EXECUTIVE

GROUP SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION REPORT:

I resigned as Chairman of the Group Supporters Association in May of this year and, as this will be the final report I shall write as GSA Chairman I thought it would be interesting to look back over the many changes that I have seen since 1968.

When I first joined the Group, the situation was very much different from to-day. There was no Venture Scouts, the Scouts were being run by only one man and they met in the United Reformed Church Hall in Hampton Hill. The Cubs held their meetings at Carlisle School and during this time quite often meetings could not take place during the school holidays. The Group was not that well off for equipment, and the main objective of fund-raising was to provide a Headquarters 'sometime in the dim distant future.' Various plans over the years were contemplated. A floating Headquarters was once considered, and several attempts were made to obtain a plot of land, before Station Road came on the scene.

To-day the whole position is different. We now have a Headquarters, a Venture Group has been formed, and the three Units are on a more stable basis.

I have three sons and they all joined the Group as Cubs and finally left as Venture Scouts. If I was to try and sum up the benefits that I feel they have obtained from the Group, I would say that they have a far broader and balanced outlook, more self-assurance, and a greater know-how of what life is about. If I had to comment on how they got this from Scouting, I would say a great deal was due to the patience and know-how of the Scouters; but also, because the boys were prepared to put something into Scouting. Like most things in life, a great deal of what you get out of it is based on what you are prepared to put into it. To an extent, it is also true to say that what your son gains from Scouting depends on what you, as parents, are prepared to contribute.

You will appreciate that the weekly subscriptions you pay amount to a very small proportion of the overall expenses and the Group would quickly bankrupt itself without the fund-raising activities.

I was pleased to learn that following my resignation in May, new parents have joined the Committee who have Cubs in the Group. The new Committee now chaired by Mrs Sainsbury-Brown appears to be, if anything, more active than before I resigned. The takings from the Jumble Sale have increased, the Fete was a success, and the sale of Christmas Cards this year will create an all time record. Maybe twelve years from now one of the new members will write their reminiscences - an article which I would read with interest.

In case you think this is an obituary, I am still just about 'alive and kicking' and am still connected with the Group - they put up with me on the Group Executive Council!

Many thanks to all the Committee members and parents who have helped me over the years, and best wishes to the new team.

Mick Ward

PAST CHAIRMAN
GROUP SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION

I could not let this opportunity pass without saying on behalf of the GSA, thank-you Mick for being at the helm for so long and for all you have done, and I know will continue to do.

Shirley Sainsbury Brown

GROUP SCOUT LEADER'S REPORT:

What a difference to last years report! As Scouter-in-Charge I had to report that the Group was in serious trouble in the lack of warranted Scouters. Writing for the first time as Group Scout Leader I have the greatest pleasure in reporting that we have no less than seven new warranted Scouters and two new appointments. The adult leadership is below :-

Group Scout Leader

Ron Sparks

Cub Pack

Cub Scout Leader	Paul Adams
Asst. Cub Scout Leader	Denise French
Asst. Cub Scout Leader	Andrew Sainsbury-Brown
Asst. Cub Scout Leader	Alison Stredwick

Scout Troop

Scout Leader	Pat Cook
Asst. Scout Leader	Ian Shortman
Asst. Scout Leader	John Roaf
Troop Instructor	Philip Shortman

Venture Unit

Venture Scout Leader	Dennis Sainsbury-Brown
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Miss Denise French received her warrant at the last Annual General Meeting in May, and our new District Commissioner, John Donaldson, presented Dennis Sainsbury-Brown with his at the Royal Naval Inspection, also in May. In October the District Commissioner presented warrants to - Pat Cook, John Roaf, Ian Shortman, and Andrew Sainsbury-Brown; and new warrants on change of appointment to - Paul Adams and yours truly. By the time we go to press Miss Alison Stredwick will also be presented with her warrant as Asst. Cub Scout Leader.

You will see from the structure above that the Cub Pack and Scout Troop are now reasonably well off for leaders, however, I am still looking for help for Dennis in the Venture Scout Unit. We require an Asst. Venture Scout Leader to help him. Den is managing without complaining but I know he would dearly like some help, particularly now the District Commissioner has appointed him Asst. District Commissioner (Venture Scouts). Den our heartiest congratulations.

During the year the following leaders have left the Group. Alex Moses - his Regimental duties have taken him to Northern Ireland for two years; keep your head down Alex and God speed for a safe return. Debbie Rule and Keith Ferguson have also retired for business reasons; thankyou Debbie and Keith for all your help and we wish you both every success in the future.

We welcome the services of Miss Susan Cundle who is a Guide doing her service for her Queens Guide, and perhaps, who knows, Susan may stay and join us!

Sadly I have to report the retirement of Mick Ward, Chairman of the Group Supporters Association for many years. When Mick started as a committee member many years ago the annual income raised was approximately £300. Last year the G.S.A. made in excess of £3,000. The figures speak for themselves. I am pleased to say that Mick has accepted Honorary Membership of the Group, and of course, will always be welcome. The Chairmanship is now in the very capable hands of Shirley Sainsbury-Brown who I am sure will strive to produce even better results.

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GROUP SCOUT LEADER'S REPORT (continued...)

After many years and thousands of pounds worth of sales Mrs. Sewell has retired from organising the Webb Ivory cards, gifts, etc. etc. She has for years given unstinting service to the Group, and continues to do so with her White Elephant stall at numerous functions, including the annual Fete.

To keep it in the family the Webb Ivory sales have been taken over by her son-in-law, young Vincent Whitehead, amongst his many other duties as Chairman of the Group Executive, etc.

The Group attended St. George's Day Parade in April where the Venture and Scout Troop had a particularly good turnout, but sadly, the Cub Pack was rather small in numbers.

The Group Annual General Meeting was held in May, where again the attendance was very low. The regular faithfuls were there as ever, but please parents I must appeal to you all to come along and support it. You are all automatically members of the Group Council.

In May we had our Royal Naval Inspection by Lt. Comdr. David Uden R.N. It was afloat and the inspecting officer was taken down river in Den's cruiser and escorted the last 100 yards by a flotilla consisting of all our boats. He posed several seamanship problems, but all were handled successfully. I thought it was a very well balanced inspection which went extremely well, proved by the quite glowing official report received from the office of Naval Home Command.

Leader Training is progressing well. A Sea Scouters Supervisory and Skills Course was attended by - John Roaf, Ian Shortman and Andrew Sainsbury-Brown. Andrew has also done his Cub Scout Leaders Basic Course, and Denise French will attend here in January 1982. Pat Cook and John Roaf will, hopefully, attend a Scout Leaders Basic Course early in 1982, and I hope that Paul Adams will do his Advanced Cub Scout Leaders Course next year.

The Venture Scouts enjoyed some offshore sailing with the London Sailing Project, unfortunately only one in the Scout Troop was old enough to go this year. However, within the Troop some excellent sailing was enjoyed with David Russell out of Lynton, and with me from Bosham.

We ventured forth on our annual expedition to Snowdonia recently, staying at the County Mountain Base at Bethesda, and a good time was had by all.

The Scout Troop received a very good summer camp report from the host D.C. at Maidstone. Many congratulations to Paul Adams who received the finest camp report I have ever seen. My thanks also to John and Carol Roaf who cooked for the Cubs, and to Jean Cook, Janet Ferguson, and Denise French who cooked for the Scouts. It is a great help when the leaders can concentrate on the training knowing that the administrative side is in capable hands.

My heartfelt thanks to all in the Group who have made the year so successful, and particularly to my fellow Scouters for all their support and effort. I say this thank you every year, but believe me it is not just repetitive, I mean it most seriously because without all your help Sea Scouting in Hampton would not exist.

A Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year to you all.

Ron Sparks

GROUP SCOUT LEADER

BE UNIT REPORT:

- Another very successful year in the history of our Venture Scout

A year when we have seen many changes, but one in which I have been fortunate enough to be responsible for running what must be the best unit in the area.

Venture Scouts, like all young men of 16-plus are considered to be noisy, irresponsible, lacking in consideration etc., which I suppose is true of all teenagers of all times, but we are fortunate that in these times all our members are working or at college, and yet they still find time to join in a great many outside activities, as reported elsewhere in this Newsletter.

What they don't report in detail is that ... three days in canoes (in very cold/wet weather) in order to help train Guides in boating, or as the smartest dressed Unit on parade at the Royal Fireworks, or help at Scout and Cub meetings every week and again at Summer Camps, or at Long Bethesda, which leaves very little time for their academic studies and training for their own Unit qualifications; but whenever I need help to do a "good deed" there are always volunteers who come forward without any hesitation.

I am indeed lucky - you and I - that in this troubled year of 1981, the members of our Venture Unit have been no trouble at all

BILL DONE LADS.

Den

VENTURE SCOUT LEADER

SEX CANOE RACE:

The first Sunday in September came round again, and so fifteen Scouts and Guides met at the Scout H.Q. for the Middlesex Canoe Race. At 1100 hours the boats were set off for the start, which was by Walton Bridge. Once there the boats were checked and everyone got ready. At 1200 hours the first race started with heats starting every three minutes thereafter. Fortunately the current was quite swift and also the wind was behind the competitors so the race much faster than previous years.

I was off in my Water Rat canoe quite confidently having done the race before but began to fall behind everyone else and got a bit worried thinking "..... what's wrong?" When I reached the first lock and lifted the boat I found it had shipped a lot of water, and when I looked at the bow I saw that there was a hole in it. Everytime I took a stroke, the bow used to go under the water and a jet of water came into the canoe, slowly filling it up. Not wanting to lose time I got back into the canoe without emptying it and went on thinking I could empty it at the next lock. However, I was still some way from the lock when I found that the bow of the canoe stayed permanently under the water, and that a trail of bubbles was coming from it. So I had to empty the canoe fast or else I would sink. Whilst doing this I was annoyed to see all the people that I had passed go sailing by. The canoe had to be emptied once more during the race, and finally arrived at the end than Bathes (the finish) last in my heat.

Stones Hill came third overall in the race and some of the boys did very well in their classes; notably Mark Pointer who won his class; Phil and Ian who won the senior K2 class; Jean-Jacques France came second in class 3B; and I came third in class 3B; and Ian Browne won class 3A.

Clive Owen

VENTURE SCOUT

THE ARUN

Panic! Panic! We need a roof rack, Dad's lent his to a friend
Good old Henry, turns up trumps again

So on Sunday, 13th September, at 0900 hours the family and I load
the canoe and ourselves and troop off to Pulborough for the Arun.
Running late again, don't look at the speedo, keep your eyes
peeled for the fuzzi.

We arrived on time and actually find the place first go.

Well done Mum - she was reading the map, Dad was only driving.

What! only me here. Aah, there's Keith and two Scouts.

Briefing over, I think I know where we are going.

We stand a good chance here. Oh no! they've put two classes
together, and here comes the rain.

Mum to the rescue with a Kagoule. I've left mine at home.

What is it? Up river for about a mile, turn and down stream

forever it seems. This is tough going, I'm getting worn out.

Seems a lot of canoes coming the other way, hope I haven't gone
wrong. No, there's the bridge, now I can turn and go up river
again.

This is ridiculous even the hailstones are trying to sink me.

Keep plodding on Ian, you'll get there in the end.

I've made it "well where's the milk and where did I come?"

"Only ninth - are you sure?"

"Gosh I'm tired but I think I enjoyed it"

Congratulations Mark on coming first

Well done Paul, your third. I'm embarrassed.

Well there is always next year and I'll be back.

What about the rest of you?

Ian Browne

VENTURE SCOUT

SWIMMING GALA:

On Friday, 16th October, the Venture Unit entered the Swimming Gala
which was held at Richmond Baths. Our Unit entered two teams, "A" and
"B". The "A" team ... Stephen Cook, Jean Jacques France, Philip
Shortman and myself; the "B" team ... Paul Dart, Gordon Cross, Mark
Eddleston and Clive Owen; both teams being managed by the one and
only Andrew Clarke. Ian Browne also came, but he swam with 16th
Twickenham as they didn't have enough swimmers.

The "A" team came first, then the "B" team swam and came second, both
teams were through to the finals. In the finals the "A" team came
second and the "B" team third. Istmar came first in the finals, but
because we had gained second and third places we were the overall
winners - a most enjoyable evening.

Well done - Manager, Andy Clarke.

Jean-Marc France

VENTURE SCOUT

ROYAL FIREWORK DISPLAY:

The 1st Hampton Hill Venture Unit were appointed Torch Bearers, with a few other Units, to line the route of the Royal Party on their way to the Firework Display.

We left Hounslow Tube Station at 1800 hours in a fairly empty train which, by the time we arrived at Hyde Park Corner station was so full of people it was almost impossible to move. By the time we had fought our way through the crowds of people at the station it was near our rendezvous time so we hurried through the streets and the park, arriving just in time to get our orders and torches.

We were led off and shown our places - we stood just in front of the barriers behind which were multitudes of people shouting and cheering. We stood waiting for what seemed hours, then the first stately car came into sight. We grabbed our boxes of matches and lit our torches; these were just like large candles with a piece of rope as a wick.

The cheers from the people were almost deafening, while we stood there unharassed with a better view than anybody. We saw the Queen, Prince Charles, Maggie Thatcher and the top-knobs as they drove along the route. When the fireworks started it was a bit of an anti-climax for us as we were right under a line of trees, completely blocking our view. We could only see the very high ones, or the low ones, but everybody else seemed to enjoy them.

Afterwards the cars started on their way back, and by this time not many people had much of a torch left, and some even had the cardboard holder alight. Getting back home was a nightmare, fighting our way through the millions of people - but we made it.

It was a most memorable evening and each one of us received a letter afterwards thanking us for doing a good job.

Mark Huddleston

VENTURE SCOUT

During the past year we have had six new members join the Unit, all of whom have progressed up from the Troop. With these new members, the Unit, after a year of relative inactivity, this year is beginning to find a new positive and more active image.

During the year, and in particular the Summer season, we have been participating in numerous competitions and events, including Aquameet (a very wet weekend); the Middlesex Canoe race; Off-shore sailing, the District Swimming Gala in which we gained first place. The highlight of the year was officially attending the Royal Wedding Firework Display as torch-bearers.

Scouting however is about giving as well as receiving. We spent a very enjoyable weekend instructing Guides on the skills of sailing and canoeing, and also spent a very wet Sunday acting as marshalls for the District Scout Prowl.

As Unit Chairman can I take this opportunity to thank our leader, Den, for all his help and guidance, and in particular, actually "putting up" with us all, and to the members of the Unit for their continuous enthusiasm and for "putting up" with me. Thanks!

Philip Shortman

UNIT CHAIRMAN

UNIT TREASURER'S REPORT - 1981

This financial year the Unit is glad to report that there is actually a small sum of cash in hand. Our funds derive mainly from the subscriptions paid once a month by the Ventures, and sometimes a small donations through community service.

The reason for the existence of this fund is so that the Unit can purchase equipment should the need arise, and payment of entry fees into competitions. This year the fund paid for twelve Ventures to enter Aquameet at £3. per head, and part-petrol expenses towards transport costs. Recently, the Unit voted to purchase Basketball nets to add to their equipment stores, and this has been a great success and is in regular use.

Andrew Sainsbury-Brown

TREASURER/VICE CHAIRMAN

DAY PROWL:

On Sunday, 25th October, the 1st Hampton Hill Sea Scouts, and some of the Venture Unit (who were to act as Marshalls) set off for Thursley, for - as they thought - a good DAY PROWL; but oh how wrong they were, it rained continuously all day and was extremely cold.

Briefly, the idea was that each team be given a map reference, and on finding that Checkpoint they were given a project, such as .. first aid - knotting - pioneering etc to complete, then given a hot drink and the next map reference. The whole Course covered approximately twenty miles.

This was a new District competition which despite the weather conditions everyone seemed to enjoy.

Andrew Clarke

VENTURE SCOUT

CUB FOOTBALL - 1981/82

Sadly my last season of Cub football. I have enjoyed many Saturday mornings for more than five years - cheering and bellowing at the Cubs to do their best on the field. Of course, without many helpful parents, Cub football would not be able to function. It is very important to have one or two cars available for transporting Cubs to away matches, and I have been very fortunate this year in having parents volunteer to run and organise the football fixtures etc, and so far their efforts seem to be getting results.

GOOD LUCK CUBS.

Pat Cook

SCOUT LEADER

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+ STOP PRESS + +
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On Saturday, 28th November, we had another successful CHRISTMAS MARKET raising £350. 24p.
Our grateful thanks to parents and supporters for their efforts.

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LONDON SAILING PROJECT:

On Saturday, 15th August, at 0930 hours a coach picked Keith Gale and myself up outside the 'Toby Jug' and took us to Gosport. We took the Gosport Ferry across to the other side of the Solent where the 'Brigadier' picked us up and took us to our respective boats; Keith and myself being on the Rona, which is a 76-ft ketch.

For the rest of the day we all got to know each other, and the boat. Early Sunday morning we set off for Jersey. There was a fair wind and the sail was good: the route to Jersey took us around the Isle of Wight and past the Needles. After sailing all night we arrived at Jersey. We all took our leave in turn - to taste the local beverages. General duties had to be done around the Rona, and food had to be taken on.

From Jersey we sailed through the night to the French Island of Brehat where everyone had a great time - swimming, drinking, and eating. On Tuesday night we had a barbeque on the beach.

Wednesday morning we left for Sark. Again duties were done and food taken on. As Sark is good for duty frees, we each purchased our rations. Wednesday night we set off for Southampton, and in the middle of the Channel encountered a storm of Force 8, gusting 9, all through the night and with super-tankers passing left-right-and-centre it was quite an experience.

Finally, on Thursday afternoon we arrived at Southampton to pass through Customs; we also had a shower and supper at H.M.S. Wessex.

Friday morning we motored back to Portsmouth and tidied up the Rona. Then back to the 'Toby Jug' by coach, and home.

Paul Dart

VENTURE SCOUT

SINKER FEED:

This year the Venture Scout Unit decided that a change was needed on the side shows. The Unit invented a new "Soak-the-Canceist" which after some time we decided to name "THE PLUG PULLER."

The contraption was made from various bits and pieces found lying around. The idea was to throw 3 out of 5 balls into a bucket, this setting off a pull mechanism attached to a drain pipe, which a washing-up liquid bottle specially accurately weighted to slide down the pipe into another bucket, pull up a plug from the sink, and soak the cancelist underneath.

I am sure you remember this great crowd puller See you all next year.

Gordon Cross

VENTURE SCOUT
UNIT SECRETARY

***** STOP PRESS WEBB IVORY CHRISTMAS CARDS ETC

Up to the time of going to print sales have reached £4,000 plus; this will bring in an approximate profit of £1,000 with a further £150 expected at a later date.

Our very sincere thanks must go to all those who have helped make these record sales, especially to our organiser, Vincent Whithead.

SCOUT LEADER'S REPORT:

As most of the Scout Troop will by now have realised, there have been a number of new faces appearing on Tuesday meetings, in fact, faces that have been around for sometime, namely .. Ian Shortman, John Roaf, and myself (Pat Cook). The difference now is that we have taken Scout warrants and into uniform; we all have a very busy time ahead of us apart from running the Troop. Our new C.S.L. (Ron Sparks) will be ensuring that we attend training courses in the near future.

I hope that both Scouts and Scouters will benefit from different ideas and personalities.

Programme from February 1981

- February** Annual swimming gala arranged by the Royal Navy between all Troops with Admiralty Recognition.
- March** Sailing week-end at Thames Young Mariners. Culinary delights by kind permission of Jean Cook, Denise French, and my own special brand of porridge!!
Patrol leaders training course attended by - Stephen Yell, Simon Owen, David Gibson, Stephen Williams.
- April** County boat handling competition held at Ham.
Patrol leaders camp at Walton Firs.
- August** Summer Camp, Allington Castle, Maidstone.
My very first summer camp, and very memorable too. We transported everything but the grass. Keith Ferguson organized and ran an overnight canoe bivouac with six of the younger boys and it was very successful indeed. Stephen Yell's overnight gig camp certainly had some hairy moments, as you will read.
We had an excellent camp fire run by Ron and attended by a few invited guests who unfortunately got in the way of some water - but seemed to enjoy themselves nevertheless. I started the camp in style by twisting my ankle, but was well cared for by our resident First Aider - Denise French.
I must mention the weeks cooking and menu arrangements run by Janet Ferguson and my wife; they hardly had time to recover from one meal before the next was due. It was hot, tasty, on time, and served with a giggle. Our tour of the Castle was impressive, especially when we were invited to a private tour of the ramparts - enjoyed by all.
- October** County Regatta - considering the small number entered we had very good results.
Day Prowl - a brand-new event to be run annually by the District. It involves map reading, compass work, first aid, pioneering, knotting, and bags of common sense. We entered three teams (12 Scouts) and apart from foul weather, it was a good days scouting. One of our teams came third out of twenty-four teams. Well Done.

Pat Cook

SCOUT LEADER

OFFSHORE SAIL WITH DAVID RUSSELL
28th August - 1st September

On Friday, 26th August, four Scouts - Mark Pointer, Paul Ferguson, Jonathan Gale, and myself (David Gibson) were picked up by Bosun (Ron Sparks) from our houses at about 1400 hours. We arrived at Lymington an hour-and-half later, where we found David Russell on his boat "Olivia Ann III"; a six berth sailing yacht.

After learning all the safety rules, and having a meal out in the town (fish and chips), followed by a game of cards, we all went to bed early. Next morning we were woken by Bosun with the weather forecast and a cup of tea. After getting up reluctantly, and breakfasting, we had quite a leisurely morning, but around 1030 hours to catch the tide, we set out for the open sea. We were soon sailing with the mainsail and a large genoa (foresail), but were disappointed as we were only met by gentle winds, slowly we crawled towards the Needles. After an hour we passed the Needles and the wind picked up. We started to move quite fast on a reach, which is to sail across the wind. We managed to get up to six knots - unhappily Paul and Mark became sea-sick and so missed the enjoyment of a very good day's sail. That night we anchored near Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour. After a brief visit to the Island we had dinner, another game of cards, before quickly falling fast asleep. It was a quiet night - except when Paul was sick again because the dinghy had been banging against the side of the boat where he was sleeping.

We were awoken early in the morning, and after breakfast decided to go ashore again. We went for an hour long walk in the woods - I hasten to add that we did not get lost once due to our Scout training. On returning to the boat we put up the sails and headed for Weymouth. The wind had become stronger and we made very good progress with the wind behind us. We even managed to reach 9½ knots with the spinnaker up: this was the fastest David had ever done in his yacht. Soon after passing Swanage we had to attempt a spinnaker gybe which is the most difficult manoeuvre in sailing. The strong winds were going to make it even more difficult. We tried it and after losing control for a few seconds and Bosun and David almost falling into the sea, we finished the manoeuvre successfully. After that the rest of the journey was more peaceful. We arrived at Weymouth around 1430 hours and tied up in the Town harbour about seven boats away from the bank. We all decided to go ashore - David and Bosun went to look at the boats whilst the rest of us went into town. Upon returning we fetched water, had dinner, had another game of cards, and an early night.

We were awoken about 0400 hours by a large bang which we found out later was the lifeboat leaving. We awoke again not much later, about 0530 hours, to catch the tide. We very reluctantly got out of bed and made breakfast - made good progress and were soon back in Poole Harbour for lunch. After lunch we did many things ... we went for a swim, went up in the Bosun's chair up in the mast, and went out in the dinghy back on to Brownsea Island - after which we were all rather tired.

Again we had an early night which was much more peaceful than the previous night.

We awoke early for we were going to have the wind against us all the way back to Lymington, so after an attempt at making breakfast we set off. The wind had shifted slightly so we were able to make good progress to the Needles, we were even able to get the auto-helm out (this is a machine that steers for you). When we reached the Needles we had to start to tack, after about 7/8 tacks down the Solent, and one missed tack by Bosun, we reached Lymington Harbour. Then after cleaning the boat, having lunch, and saying "thank-you" to David, we set off for home.

Everyone agreed it was a very enjoyable weekend, and our thanks must go to Bosun

/continued -

OFFSHORE SAIL WITH DAVID RUSSELL (continued ...)

and David for giving us a new experience. Lastly, I must add my commiserations to Mark who during the weekend was unable to master the seacocks for flushing the toilet.

David Gibson

P/L 'Q' DECK

COXWAINS MATE GIG EXPEDITION
Summer Camp 1981

On Thursday afternoon of summer camp at Allington Castle, the Scouts doing the Coxwains Mate badge rowed the first 200 yards down the River Medway to Allington Lock. Once through the Lock and into the tidal Medway we settled down into half-hour rowing stints for the two four-man teams. We had about seven miles of rowing, and the afternoon in which to accomplish it.

We reached our campsite at the end of Snodland cement works at about 1730 hours, in time to pitch camp and have dinner. Bosun and Pat Cook arrived about 2100 hours to see how we were getting on; after they left we retired to our survival bags for a windy night.

It was still dark when we got up at 0430 hours in an attempt to catch the tide. We were on the water by 0600 hours, but the tide turned against us soon after. As we rowed - at a snails pace - through the factory cuts at New Hythe, we were amazed to see white water ahead; this turned out to be chemical foam which was being poured into the river!

The realisation that Allington Lock would be shut when we reached it came home to us as the rudder began to scrape the bottom and the oars stuck in the mud flats. Within 100 yards of the Lock we attempted to moor to await the opening of the Lock, but James Napier and Saul Gray sank knee deep in mud when they tried to take lines ashore. We shipped oars, and they pushed the gig. Turning a corner Mark Pointer was caught off balance and ended up in the drink. We tied up nearer the Lock and took turns going to the camp (only 50 yards away!) to eat, until such time as we could row the gig through the Lock and return to camp in proper style.

Stephen Yell

P/L FO'C'SIE

+++++
+++++
+++++ We are indebted to a great many local and
+++++ national companies who continue to give us
+++++ their support, even during these difficult
+++++ economic times. A list of these companies
+++++ is included in our Fete programme each year
+++++ please note that our Fete in 1982 is
+++++ on SATURDAY, 12th JUNE
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CUB LEADER'S REPORT:

Once again I am pleased to be able to say what a good year the Cubs have had both in standards of work, and in competitions.

Our leader team is quite strong with three warranted leaders and two instructors and we have the maximum of thirty-six Cubs with a waiting list of ten. There is a high level of determination which is reflected in the quality of work and the good results achieved in District events.

There are detailed reports on the other pages, so I will only briefly run through our 1981 activities :-

March 21st	: Nature Walk in Bushy Park
April 26th	: District St.George's Day Parade
May 6th	: R.N. Inspection
May 16th	: Cub District Sports Day (4th out of 22)
June 13th	: Athletics Badge Exam (all but 1 passed)
July 11th	: 6 boys visit Windsor Safari Park and 3rd HH
August 7th	: Cub outing to Hampton Court and Wembley
August 23/26th	: Annual Camp - Polyapes in Surrey
September 12/13th	: District Cub Camp
October 10th	: Cub games morning
October 19th	: 500th Cub Leaders Meeting held at our HQ
October 23rd	: Cub Swimming Gala
October 28th	: Hallowe'en Party

As you can see a varied programme with a fair mix of District, Group and Pack activities, with still more activities to run before 1982. Looking to 1982 - even now (November) dates are coming through which indicate that 1982 is going to be even busier and more exciting, with more camps and District events, and special celebrations to mark the 75th Year of Scouting.

I would like to end this item with a special thank-you to all the people who made 1981 such a great year

- not just the leaders for all their time and efforts
- not just the parents for preparing their sons for meetings and activities
- not just to the other sectional leaders for their help and advice, and
- not just to the fund raisers, supporters, and helpers - but
EVERYONE for making CUBS FUN IN 81.

Paul Adams

CUB SCOUT LEADER

DISTRICT SPORTS:

On the 16th May the District organised a Sports Day for all the Cub Packs in the area. Our Pack had about ten boys enter in events. Some of the boys entered individual events and some got through to the finals. We also entered teams for the relay races, these boys done well and were placed in two finals, so they received certificates. Our overall position in the sports was fourth which is the best we have ever done.

Toby Hamilton

ANNUAL CUB CAMP:

This year Cub Camp was held at Polyapes near Cobham, on Sunday 23rd August to Wednesday 26th August.

We arrived at the H.Q. about 8.30 on Sunday morning and by the time everyone had finished saying goodbye to their parents it was about 9 o'clock, so we left. When I say we all left, I mean all but Denise, she made the excuse that her car wouldn't start and she followed us on about half-an-hour later. When we arrived at the campsite we had to find a suitable spot to pitch our tents. Once we had found one a few of us went and got a cart to carry out tents and equipment. Then some of us helped the leaders unload their cars, and others went and got some water. After all the tents were put up (with the help of some Dads), Akela put us in teams and gave us tents, then we had to sort our own kit out; eventually we put up the flag pole and had Grand Howl. During Grand Howl the flag pole fell down, so it took longer than usual. By the time that was all over we had about half-an-hour free time before lunch. After lunch Akela let us go and explore the campsite. Exploring was great fun, and before we knew it, it was time for tea. When tea was over and we had all washed up we had a football match until it started to get dark. Once it started to get dark no one was allowed outside the camp unless Akela knew. Because we had had an exciting day we were all tired and so went to bed early after a hot drink.

On Monday morning we were all up early and as soon as everybody was up we had to go and wash (no one liked this very much but we had to go). When we came back from washing, breakfast was ready. Every morning after breakfast we would have an inspection of our tents and then have Grand Howl. Once all that was over some of the leaders arranged games for us on the field while Mrs. Roof and Denise went to get some shopping. At about 11 o'clock we had a cool drink, and after our drink the duty six would have to help with preparing the dinner. Later on that morning we went on a Nature Trail in the woods to see how many different kinds of leaves we could find. In the afternoon we had a mini-sports competition which involved lots of relay races and throwing games. At meal times we had a rota, that meant that the best six could have dinner first. After it got dark we had our first wide-game in the woods. It was like being in the Army because one team had torches and the other team had to hide and not get caught. We didn't go to bed very early because by the time we had talked about the game it was quite late.

The next day we did not get up so early because of our late night, so we had to get washed quickly so as not to miss breakfast. We made mug stands that morning for our Camper badge. That afternoon was one of the best because we had a really good water fight where we soaked all the leaders. Once we were all dry we had a cross-country run in the woods, we had to follow flags so as not to get lost. After tea we had to get ready for camp fire. At the camp fire we were doing stunts for the parents so it meant that we all had to learn our lines. Ron Sparks (Bosun) led the camp fire singing, and Alex our old Akela came as well. When all the parents had gone home and the leaders had gone to bed, we all had a midnight feast with lemonade and sweets we had saved.

On Wednesday morning the leaders had to wake us up because of our late night. After breakfast and flag up we started to pack away our kit and putting tent down ready to be packed into cars. After loading all the kit into leaders, Dads cars and a van we made sure there was no rubbish or mess left behind. We left the campsite at about 2 pm. When we got back to the H.Q., our Mums and Dads were waiting for us. Some of us stayed and helped unload cars. I bet when everybody got home they had baths and went to bed because we were all whacked out.

Jason Wing, Wayne McKenny,
Grahame Rowley and Simon Clarke

TRIP TO WEMBLEY:

We started off at about 10 o'clock with fifteen Cubs and three leaders. Mr French was our driver. First of all we went to Bushy Park where we parked the van. We walked through the Park to Hampton Court, first stop at Hampton Court was the maze where we tried to lose the leaders. After finally getting everybody out of the maze we went and had a look at the Real Tennis Court. We didn't stay there very long because we know we were going into Home Park for a game of Chain He and Block. Time soon passed for us to make our way back to the van for lunch. After we had all eaten our lunch we set off for Wembley, and arrived at approximately 2 pm.

First of all we went into the main part of the building where we saw all the trophies of different sports that are held there, then we went to see a film about Wembley and all the historic events that have been staged there. Once the film was over we were then shown around the changing rooms the bath-house, and also saw lots of players kits and Stanley Matthews football boots. From the changing room we were taken out into the players tunnel where we were divided into two teams, when the guide told us to run we all ran down the tunnel and when we reached the end a recording of cheering was playing so it made us feel that we were running out on Cup Final day. We walked round the pitch to the Famous Steps. We all walked up to the top where another guide played a tape of cheering and gave us a replica of the F.A.Cup to hold, from there we went into the Royal Box and some of us even sat in the Queen's chair.

This was the end of the tour, but before we left they gave us a free drink and we were allowed to look around the souvenir shop. On the way home in the minibus we sang songs, and arrived back about 5 pm and our Mums and Dads were waiting for us.

Andreas Kikidas, Andrew Garratt
and Steven Gayett.
CUBS

CUBS GAMES MORNING:

At 10 o'clock on Saturday, 10th October, we had a Games Morning at the H.Q. We played space invaders, laser fight, snooker, chess, othello, and some of us even had a go using a computer. About half-way through the morning we all had a drink of lemonade and changed round to play different games. We all enjoyed the morning very much and hope we will have another one next year.

Alan Wheeler, James Richards
and Daniel Vernon
CUBS

SWIMMING GALA:

On the evening of Friday, 23rd October, twelve Cubs left the H.Q. at 5.30 en route for Richmond Swimming Baths where we were to compete in the District Gala and to represent our Pack. We all enjoyed the evening, and the best bit being the Leaders/Dads race. Tesco was our Leader but he did not fare too well. Overall our Pack came sixth out of twenty Packs.

Toby Hamilton, Andreas Kikidas
and Daniel Chicksand
CUBS

HALLOWEEN PARTY:

This year the Halloween Party was held on the Wednesday before Halloween night. We had another fancy dress with the theme of Ghosts, Ghouls, Witches or Wizards. The turn out was really good, and only one Cub came in uniform. Once we had had the fancy dress parade, and decided the winners (which was one of the hardest things to decide), we played a few games aptly modified to blend in with the situation; instead of musical chairs we had musical coffins. We also had games like bobbing apples, and smarties in flour. I think the Cubs enjoy any kinds of game as long as it includes water or anything that is messy. All the way through the party we had music which was eerie and coloured lights to make it look spooky.

When it was time to go home every Cub took home with him a piece of cake decorated like a cobwebb and a biscuit shaped like a pumpkin.

I am sure that the Cubs enjoyed themselves - I know for a fact that the leaders did. All we can hope for now is that the Christmas party goes off as well as this one did.

Denise French

A. C. S. L.

DISTRICT CUB CAMP:

District Cub Camp is held each year to give the boys that were unable to camp with their Pack a chance to spend a weekend under canvas. This year it was held on 12/13th September at 3rd Hampton H.Q. Our Pack sent three Cubs, namely Simon Cundle, Ben Hedgeland and Harry Llufrnio, and two leaders Denise French and Andrew Sainsbury-Brown (Tesco).

The weekend was never entirely dry, either from the weather or people attempting to get each other wet. The camps activities included games such as Over and Under (with wet sponges), many team games incorporating water, and making such things as Kites, Indian Head-Dresses, and televisions out of paper. In the evening the Cubs took part in a camp fire which was led by Ron Sparks.

On Sunday morning the camp had its own small service which is called Cubs Own, where we all congregate together and say prayers and sing hymns. After this we had Cubs versus leaders games which took up most of the morning. The afternoon did not really go as planned - we were going to have a mini fair but it ended up as a Cubs versus leaders water fight. I am sure the Cubs went home on Sunday evening full of the events that happened over the weekend.

Andrew Sainsbury-Brown

A. C. S. L.

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