

1st HAMPTON HILL SEA SCOUT GROUP

ACHILLES



1983

December

FOREWARD

My first involvement with the 1st Hampton Hill Sea Scout Group occurred in 1967 when I took my then small son to the Cub Pack meeting at Carlisle Infants School to meet with Akela (Paul Carter). Since then I have taken numerous members of the Group to various locations up and down the country to enable them to pursue their walking, climbing, caving, swimming, boating, and camping. I have been persuaded into assisting with assorted fund raising activities - Jumble Sales, Petes, Raffles, and selling Christmas Cards. However this is the first time I have been cajoled into writing in the Newsletter.

Many changes have taken place in the Group in this period; membership has increased, and a Venture Unit and Service Crew have been formed; the boating "fleet" has been expanded to enable all the boys to partake in boating activities; a magnificent new Headquarters has been built, and the Group has received Royal Naval recognition.

Always in the background has been, and continues to be, an enthusiastic band of parents and friends in the Supporters Association. They provide the wide range of support necessary to maintain the Scouting activities of the uniformed sections of the Group.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter is reported many of these activities which have taken place over the last twelve months, and which demonstrate that the Group continues to thrive. This success however comes from the time and effort applied by the Scout Leaders and Instructors to whom we owe our thanks. Looking into 1984 I can only say "keep up the good work"!

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

GERRY PRATLEY
Group Secretary

A mixture of hard work and effort, flavoured with plenty of fun and topped off with a generous measure of success has again proved to be a winning formula for the 1st Hampton Hill Sea Scout Group this year.

But that formula can only prove to be a winner if there is a large number of people willing to give up much of their free time and for that a grateful vote of thanks must go to the Leaders, Instructors, and Parents.

May I take this opportunity to say congratulations for what you have achieved this year, and to each and every member of the Group, Officers, Parents and Supporters, I wish you a happy and rewarding 1984.

BY THE WAY

In the Domesday Book of 1086 Hampton was recorded as HAMWTON and the name indicated an enclosure, or village, at the bend of the river. At this time Hampton Ferry was mentioned for the first time. It was the principal link across the river between Sunbury and Kingston, and remained so until 1350 when another Ferry was started at Hampton Court - the first bridge was not built there until 1753.

In 1648 Sir John Hipperley, a Royalist turned Roundhead, marched along the river bank on the Surrey side with a party of Roundheads intending to cross the ferry at Hampton and attack Hampton Court Palace. But the Royalists had news of this and placed guards on the Ferry; during the night several attempts were made to swim across the river and capture the ferry-boat, but the Royalist guards were waiting. After two Roundheads had been wounded Sir John Hipperley gave up and returned to his Surrey quarters.

During the time of the press gangs Thames Watermen were always in danger and when working barges down river from Reading or Oxford to London would bring the barges as far as Hampton, where much older men would continue the journey to London, leaving the young Watermen to pick up another barge and return up river.

On one occasion even the crew of the Lord Mayor's barge was pressed while rowing him on the annual trip to the London Stone at Staines, which marks the boundary of the City of London's authority on the river. The barge was moored opposite Hampton Church and when the toast - God preserve the City of London - was drunk, and largesse distributed to the crowd, nine true men were recruited to replace the pressed men and so the Lord Mayor was able to continue his journey to Staines.

While on the subject of the Lord Mayor's barge it is interesting to note the "Maria Wood", which was the last one, was a regular visitor to Hampton and was described as a sight that brought excitement and a holiday atmosphere with parties of pleasure seekers, music, dancing and dining aboard, and local people were invited to join in.

The barge was 85 feet long and 11 feet 6 inches wide, and on the lower deck aft were two gilded Gods called "Meriod" and "Neptune" while on the bow (or front) of the boat were the gilded Arms of the City of London. The boat was rowed by 24 oarsmen, and it was thought the last occasion the barge visited was in September 1861 when the Hampton Freewatermans Regatta was held.

At that time Jack Snell was famed for walking across the river on a rope stretching from Garricks Island to Bell Hill, and the Queen's Waterman would carry a balancing pole with a weight at either end.

COUNCILLOR GEORGE KENTON
Group President

" THE DUMMY RUN "

Early this year our new G.S.L. was advised, much to his surprise, that our Admiralty Inspection was set for Wednesday evening, 3rd May. We were to be inspected afloat by a new Inspecting Officer, Lt.Cdr. Scott R.N.

The bush telegraph had indicated quite firmly that our turn would come up late in 1983, somewhere around June to September - hence a slight air of "panic stations" was around in the Spring; a quite different Spring Fever!

A briefing and rehearsal of the drill to follow up the Inspection on the river was arranged at our Headquarters for Tuesday, 26th April, in the evening and I was invited to attend and act the part of Lt.Cdr. Scott for the indoor sequence. This was all fairly standard procedure and at the end of the evening I was asked if I would turn up at Platt's Eyot at 1100 hrs on Sunday, 1st May, for the afloat rehearsal. I was to board the Group Gig at that time, once again impersonating the Inspecting Officer, and be pulled down to the Group Boating and Sailing Base at the M.W.B. frontage on the river at Hampton and afterwards look at riverwork being rehearsed there.

This scheme of things would not have posed any real problems and could have been a pleasant fresh run down river on a quiet Sunday morning.

Sunday, 1st May, duly turned up as expected but one look outside showed a heavy leaden sky and fairly steady rain (May Day S-O-S) ... "Ah well, early yet, just a shower, hope it clears up by 1100 hrs."

By 1030 hrs that morning the shower had really got going and it was fairly pelting down. Nothing for it at 1100 hrs - leave the shelter of the car and walk over to the waiting Gig, manned by the S.L. in full uniform, water cascading from the peak of his cap. He had a full boat's crew, all volunteers, clad in white fronts looking decidedly unhappy.

Brush the surface water from the proffered seat in the stern sheets - "Sic" - then make the best of putting on a brave face as that chilling sensation of water seeping into the seat on one's pants became apparent.

Rain, rain, and more rain fell from the skies in torrents. Soaked to the skin and shivering slightly, continued to act the part and ask the lads questions about capsizing drill. Those unfortunates who had capsized by now had turned chalky white suffused with a hint of blue and with chattering teeth manfully played their part in what they considered as a very unnecessary dialogue.

The damp charade drew eventually to its conclusion and with unseemly haste we all made for the shelter of the Headquarters for a brisk rub down and a very welcome mug of hot coffee.

The moral of this damp saga is

"A sane person never volunteers for anything. Expect to be press-ganged and at the same time hope that by some miracle one may become invisible for as long as it takes for the next guy to be chosen"

In conclusion, it may perhaps be instructive to consult the dictionary learn what the savants say about the word DUMMY, well

"That thing that is counted or used as, without being what it represents. Merely, nominal holder of office etc. Man of straw. Mere tool "

Q.E.D. - A DUMMY ON A WET GIG !!

E.V. WHITEHEAD
Group Chairman

As I sit and write this report, I am reminded of the gratitude that a great many parents (including myself) owe to a few Scouters, Instructors, and Supporters, for all their efforts over the past year.

When Ron Sparks resigned after so many years of hard-work in which he built up our Group, the Group Officers and Scouters sat down to plan the future. I must say that we were not too confident, but help came in a number of ways and I am pleased to say we have had a most successful year.

All three sections - Cubs, Scouts, and Ventures, have had a very full and busy time with plenty of activities, and gaining many awards and badges. They have now been joined by our own Service Crew who are helping in a number of ways. The Supporters have continued all their marvellous fund raising activities and have added a few new ideas to help boost finances.

To all these Scouters, Leaders, Instructors, Supporters, and Friends - our most grateful thanks for all your efforts.

To those parents who are not included in the above, how about making 1964 the year in which you gave a little of your time to help support our Group, and of course, your own son. Any one of those listed in "Whose Who" on the back page of this magazine will be most pleased to advise or accept your offer of help. If you are unable to offer any assistance, at least make the Scouters job a little easier by ensuring that your son arrives on time for his meeting and that he is properly and smartly dressed. Boys will be boys - and just as school clothes need washing and ironing so do Cub and Scout uniforms and scarves. If we are to retain our R.N. Recognition it is essential that smartness and reliability, as well as Scouting and boating skills, are of the highest order.

We Scouters DO OUR BEST on the training;
If you will DO YOUR BEST on attendance and uniform;
Together we can ensure that all our lads will BE PREPARED

During October we were most pleased to receive a visit from Geoff Wilcox who had been a Cub - Scout - Rover - and finally Group Scout Leader with 1HH. He joined as a Cub in 1925 and left in 1959 when he emigrated to Australia; now living in New Zealand he is still in Scouting being a very active District Commissioner.

Whilst on his visit there was a 'get together' with a great many of his old Scouting friends, some of whom have clubbed together to present this Group with a Trophy to be awarded annually, this will be known as "The Percy Eildon Trophy" in memory of Skipper Eildon who was the Group Scout Leader for twenty years from approximately 1928 to 1948.

It is sincerely hoped that this contact with past members will result in many more visits from active (and not so active) ex-Scouts who helped build

1st HAMPTON HILL SEA SCOUT GROUP (ACHILLES)

DEN SAINSBURY-BROWN
Group Scout Leader

CUBS .. CUBS .. CUBS .. CUBS

** What did the Cubs do in 1983?

** Well, they went camping, on trips, and other things.

** Oh! Usual boring things then.

** Well, if you call camping in Force 10 gales, taking the controls of a glider at 2,000 feet, spending two hours on the river in a canoe, and meeting film stars boring - the answer is yes.

** Did Cubs really do those things?

** Yes, and more!!

The above is absolutely true.

During our Cub camp at Kingsdown the wind became stronger and stronger reaching Force 11 offshore, and Force 10 on land, and then it started to rain; despite this we had a great time.

It was during August that the Cubs went gliding at Lasham Airfield and some even took the controls.

A joint activity with the Venture Unit on 24th August gave the Cubs an evening on the river and some of the older boys who could swim went out in a canoe, some for the first time.

It was in June during (deep breath) 'The National Cub Scout Tea-Making Challenge 1983' that one of our Cubs approached Elstree Studios to make tea for "someone famous". It ended up with Russell Goodwin making tea for Harrison Ford (Hans Solo in Star Wars and Indiana Jones in Raiders of the Lost Ark) on the set of his new film Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom. His photograph was taken and sent to Scouting magazine where it was printed in September.

AND MORE?

It was a Cub who travelled in the bow (sharp end) in the sponsored Gig row up to London; it was the Cubs who led the Group at the District St. George's Day Parade; it was a Cub who got his photograph printed in Scouting first; it was the Cub section who got four mentions in Scouting in six months.

I could go on about the 300 plus cups of tea made and the 110 nights the Cub section spent away from home, but I think you now have the idea that we spent a varied and busy time in 1983.

To all who helped us make 1983 fun for Cubs - THANK YOU.

You can now have a rest because 1984 can't be so busy ... except it is the 'Year of the Sea Scout' and there will be three Cub camps, the District Gala, Sports Day, other District events plus the usual fund raising events, the Pack meetings, the Halloween party, the Christmas party, the Royal Navy Inspection, Cub Football and the usual Group events, so -

enjoy your rest, it may be short-lived!!

PAUL ADAMS
Cub Scout Leader

CUB YEAR 1983

(WERE YOU THERE? CUBS WERE!)

January

22 Scientist Badge Day

100% pass

February

Concentration on 'Arrow' work - many tests passed.

March

19 Six-a-Side Football

Did not win, but a very good try.

April

24 St. George's Day Parade

26 Cubs and 3 Leaders on parade.

May

4 R.N. Inspection

Sixers and Seconders and Leaders on parade.

7 Video Show

2 conservation and 2 cartoons.

14 Cub Sports Day

Another good try but no prizes.

Cubs mentioned in Scouters exchange - Scouting magazine

June

11 Summer Fayre

Tea-making challenge stall as part of N.C.S.T.M.C.

Champion tea-maker for 1st Hampton Hill was Russell Goodwin.

July

1 - 3 Chalfont '83 Cub Camp

20 Cubs, 4 Leaders - great fun

9 District Athletes Badge

6 passes (4 at stage 3)

28 Swimmers Badge practise

Good results.

August

Cub Challenge Summer '83 launched - "sleep somewhere unusual"

3 - 10 Cub meetings held outdoors at Carlisle Park.

14 Cubs go gliding

Cubs at Lasham Airfield to fly glider

24 Cubs afloat

Evening on river with Venture Unit.

27- Kingsdown '83 Cub Camp

10 Cubs, 2 Scouts, 3 Leaders, 1 Parent.

3 Sept.

Windy - but fun.

September

A photograph of Russell Goodwin making tea for actor Harrison Ford was printed in Scouting, also Cubs had a mention in Scouters exchange section (second time this year).

17 Walton Fire Cub Scout Day

First time attended - excellent time - going next year.

October

8 Badge Training Day

Good attendance and good work.

22 Cub Gala

16th but good try.

Cubs get third mention in Scouters exchange section of Scouting magazine.

November

*2 Halloween Party Fancy Dress
19 District Badge exam.

December

3 Challenge competition
18 Cub Christmas party
31 Take a deep breath because here comes 1984

A TRIP GLIDING

On a Sunday we went gliding. We met outside our Cub Hut. The place was Lasham Airfield and it took about one hour to get there. As a lot of people didn't turn up because it was in August which is during the holiday, there was only six and also three Leaders. I had to navigate Ian with a map. We were first there, and then it was Paul who arrived next with his mother and his wife. First of all Simon Cooper went up in the glider. It had an engine to get us up there, and at about 1050 feet he switched it off and we glided up and up to about 2000 feet. Next was Michael Rowley. Then a packed lunch. After that I went up and then the rest with all the relatives. Then we all came back with Ian and all fell asleep because we had such an exciting day.

GRAEME ROWLEY
Cub

When we went gliding we had to wait about ten minutes, and then the first one went up which was Simon Cooper, the second one was me. We went on a Sunday and it took one hour to get there. Before we got there we could see gliders going over the top of the trees. After we had been up the grown-ups went up. We had to wait about two hours until everyone had a go. When we were up there we could see all the patches of grassland separated by hedges. He switched off the engine at 2,000 feet off the ground and started gliding down. When we landed it was quite bumpy. It was a very rough landing.

MICHAEL ROWLEY
Cub

BURGE CAMP at KINGSDOWN, DEAL (3 Leaders .. 10 Cubs .. 2 Scouts .. 1 Mum)

Due to a few transport problems this year's camp set off a day late for all but three Cubs and two Leaders. However, after the bad start the remainder of the camp was a great success.

Kingsdown camp site is situated on the top of the cliffs, above the beach at Deal. Once the Cubs had settled down and explored the camp site, one of the first items on the programme was a ramble along the beach, after a safety talk on the dangers by water and sea.

On Tuesday we had our first day out of camp to visit Deal Castle and Deal Lifeboat. At the Castle the boys were able to clamber over the cannons and explore the dungeons. After the Castle we had a picnic on the beach, and once our dinner had gone down we all cooled off with a quick dip in the sea. Back at camp whilst waiting for tea we had a cricket match.

Wednesday we spent the morning on the beach with a swim and a beachcombing game. The afternoon was spent with talks and badge work which was not strenuous as the weather was very hot.

CUBS .. CUBS .. CUBS .. CUBS

SUMMER CAMP (continued..)

Thursday morning we concentrated on Arrow and Camper Badge work, and a hike along the cliffs incorporating the country code. At 1600 hrs we all boarded the mini-bus for an outing to Dover where we visited the Hoverport and watched the ferries coming in and out, and also saw the Hydrofoil leaving. We were then treated to a sausage and chip supper. It was dark when we arrived back at camp; after a warm drink we went to bed.

Friday morning was a new experience for all the Cubs. We had a 'dry' lesson at the camp site on canoeing, and how to put on life jackets, and when everyone was confident we went down to the beach.

Friday afternoon the weather broke. We had a birthday party for Graham Rowley, who was eleven. By the evening the wind was at gale force. A few tents were being blown away from other groups. Luckily we survived the night and had the task of striking camp in a force 8 gale. After several hours work we were ready to leave. A last goodbye to the Warden, a final inspection, and we were away.

Back home to warm dry beds!

IAN and DENISE SHORTMAN

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Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will read reports of our "Sponsored Row" which took place on Saturday, 20th August. Our members do not like to boast about success, or cry about failure - this of course is as it should be. However, to set the record straight I would like to thank all sections of our Group for a marvellous show of working together.

To run an activity which needed boats - vans - cars - Cubs - Scouts - Ventures - Service Crew - parents - supporters - to have all these in the correct place at the correct time - to be seen to be accepting a challenge to do something worthwhile for fund-raising for the Group and a charity (R.N.L.I.) - to be mentioned three times on radio - reported on in five newspapers - sponsored by G.E. Newson & Sons Limited and Rentokill

.... proves that given the right incentive our members can always uphold the tradition that is 1st HAMPTON HILL (ACHILLES) SEA SCOUT GROUP.

DEN SAINSBURY-BROWN

HAMPTON HILL IN COMPETITION

What does Scouting have to offer for our high technology teenagers in these times of videos, personal stereos, tele-games, home computers, etc. etc. ??

I think every week we Scouters are faced with the competition of this high technology and we see Scouts drifting away and attendances suffering - our book numbers are 36, but an average attendance is 22 on Troop nights.

Our aims in Scouting are to provide an arena where maturing boys receive a practical experience ready for the change-over to adulthood, and it is more beneficial to both Scouters and Scouts to keep this continuity.

With the arrival of our three Instructor Scouters .. Ron Cundle, John Rumsey and Barry Skinner the presentation inside our Headquarters as well as an expanding programme is visibly obvious.

Our latest re-organisation is the formation of a sixth Patrol 'Upper Deck', headed by Patrol Leader Stewart Mitcheson and Assistant Patrol Leader Robin Mark Smith. The other five Patrols are headed as follows:-

<u>QUARTERDECK</u>	<u>MIZZEN</u>	<u>MIDSHIPS</u>	<u>PO'CASTLE</u>	<u>FORETOP</u>
P/L P. Ferguson	J. Sanders	J. Gale	J. Neilson	M. Pointer
A/P/L --	A. Miles	S. Rumsey	P. Kibble	J. de Wilde

Some of our major events in our 1983 programme have included:-

EASTER CAMP (1st - 3rd April)

Organised and run by Ian Shortman and John Roaf involving 16 Scouts under canvas.

FIGHT OWL (12th March)

This is a District Venture Unit competition, but can include some of the older Scouts by invitation - this year Simon Owen, Marcus Makarie and Stephen Yell were the guests.

ST. GEORGE'S DAY PARADE (24th April)

The only District event where all the Group attend together to re-affirm our Promise, followed by a march past. This year our Troop provided the Scout section leader, Robin Mark Smith, who recited the Scout Law.

N. INSPECTION (4th May)

We really had to scramble for this one as we only have six weeks notice, but everyone pulled out the stops and we were again deemed 'ship shape and bristol fashion' by the Inspecting Officer. Well done everyone.

SUMMER CAMP (23rd - 30th July)

Always a most memorable event, and this years was by no means least. The programme included ..

Overnight Patrol (Midships) Camp

I transported Simon Owen and his Patrol to the New Forest where they prepared camp and set up for a one night stay. Early next morning they broke camp and headed for the first ferry across the Hamble River where I met them and returned them back to our camp-site. Well done Simon Owen and Jonathan Gale.

Keith Ferguson organised and ran the boating programme, almost every day a party would go on the Hamble for a morning or afternoon boating session.

John Roaf, Keith Ferguson and myself ran an overnight ramble to start on the South Downs Way. I believe that as soon as it was dark somebody moved it!! Nevertheless we had an excellent night YAWN.

Sincere congratulations to both David Gibson and Bruce Roaf (Ventures) for running an excellent campfire, not only for our Troop but also for a visiting Guide Coy and a Welsh Cub Pack. Well done and thanks to you both.

This years 'Best Scout of the Camp' was Ben Hodgeland. Well done Ben.

SCOUTS .. SCOUTS .. SCOUTS .. SCOUTS

THREE DADS PUT ON A SPOT

"Once a month" someone said to me, and I believed them!

"How about helping out at our Scout Troop evenings on a Tuesday?
We are desperate for some help."

What a ples to a soft touch - we were hooked.

Our first Tuesday, whenever it was, for all of us meant keeping a low profile -
look, learn and listen.

Without a shadow of a doubt, for me anyway, I found myself in a corner overcome
by the noise, movement a mayhem that came from all sides at once.

Was I dismayed? NO! Shattered? YES!

I didn't know until now that a sore throat was a Scout night induced ailment,
along with the age gap syndrome. Considering it was twenty odd years ago since
I last scouted. I thought Skip was a God, or at least Superman; not so, he's
a Dad who thought - what's one night a month passing on some of the fun I
remembered.

Next a crisis - "Who is that Dad giving me orders like that?"

Before you could say dib-dib-dib, or something, we have all got peaked hats,
badges, etc. and a one night a week commitment. We must have wanted it deep
down though.

Nine months later I've been told "things are running more smoothly now."
We've at least got a Troop night that runs quite smoothly, is peppered with
games that if not perfectly run do exhibit a bit of 'Scout Spirit'; a patrol
competition that is closely followed, especially my adding up of the points;
and an inspection and flag parade that would gladden an old salts heart with
its smartness most of the time.

What comes next - who knows.

More soul searching, more realization of just how little we know, more friends
to make, and more fun to be had.

We think so - come and help us as well.

BARRY SKINNER
Instructor

SCOUT SUMMER CAMP : LYONS COPSE, SOUTHAMPTON

We arrived Saturday before lunch, set up camp and in the afternoon were shown
around the campsite. The site was in four sections - we were in the top field,
Guides were in the second, a pack of Cubs in a Hall in the third field, and the
fourth field was vacant so we used this for football and other games. There was
also woods where we played 'Y' games.

We would travel down to the harbour, and could canoe under the instruction of
Keith Ferguson or swim in the shallower water.

The best and most memorable day was the day trip to Southampton Port and a guided
tour of H.M.S. Cavalier. We also had a tour around Southampton Harbour in a ferry
boat, which the Captain let all the Scouts steer. We then had fish and chips for
dinner, and in the evening visited a local Cadet group. It was a tiring day.

Our camp fire was on Friday and the Cubs and Guides joined in.

The camp was successful due to the supervision and organization of the Scout
Leaders and Cooks.

STEWART MITCHESON

SCOUTS .. SCOUTS .. SCOUTS .. SCOUTS

AN INSTRUCTOR'S EYE VIEW

Some nine months ago, together with Barry Skinner and Ron Cundle, I was approached by Pat Cook and Dennis Sainsbury-Brown with regard to lending a hand in running Scouts on a Tuesday evening. Originally it was proposed that we would alternate and perhaps be present one or two evenings a month.

Smooth talking Dennis, aided and abetted with others in that old Navy custom (press ganging) which I thought had long died out, soon had us attending every Tuesday.

The next step was to invest us and make us Scouters/Instructors, and we certainly looked the part in our smart uniforms - The three wise men in our eyes, or the three stooges in the Scouts.

Then, as the weeks passed and we became more accepted by everyone and were able to contribute our own ideas and intentions to the Troop, we began to gain a lot of enjoyment from our new pastime. I personally have learned a great deal over the months through attending Instructional Courses which included basic camping skills, and I can assure you that to learn properly is certainly more than basic.

I have also attended functions in the District and made many new acquaintances; sat on Patrol check-points in the Surrey Downs on Day Frowl; been rock climbing in Wales; six mile hikes with young Scouts; fishing expeditions; and many other minor activities in helping Scouts to obtain their Scout Standard badge.

From being a Dad who simply dumped his son at H.Q. on a Tuesday evening, I am now a small cog in the huge wheel of Scouting, and enjoying every moment.

So, if there are any other Dads with a few hours to spare, PLEASE contact us, we could certainly use your help on the odd evening a month.

"SCOUTS PROMISE"

JOHN RUMSEY
Instructor

DAY FROWL '83

On a day which would involve scrambling through forests, and following compass bearings, there must be no better way for it to start than by getting lost on the way to the starting point. This point was Pesslake, near Shore.

Once there we checked in. My group, number 27, being the last to do this at precisely 1013 hrs. Then we were on our way.

The first check-point was great, we got to it in around twenty minutes. There we had a test of some nature - be it knots or first-aid, and if you were lucky you had a cup of soup or coffee.

Between the start and the first check-point we met Stewart Mitcheson's group. We parted for our different ways and didn't see them again (nor did anyone else) until 1700 hrs when they arrived an hour late.

The next few check-points were a lot harder taking about an hour each, but we made it in the end ... not late, but only completing 4/5 check-points out of 8. Then we had to wait for the other two 1st Hampton Hill Groups, arriving together last out of the 27 groups.

Although we did not win, it was good fun all the same.

JONOTHAN CALE

VENTURES .. VENTURES .. VENTURES .. VENTURES

We took over the Venture Unit from Den Sainsbury-Brown last February. Den has been the Venture Scout Leader for seven years, and I have been asked by the Ventures to thank Den for all he has done for the Unit and is still doing as Assistant District Commissioner (Ventures).

We were lucky that when Den asked us to take over the Unit his son Andrew was still Chairman of the Unit, and with the help of him and his committee it made our task easy. Since then Andrew and Ian Browne have left us because of age to become Service Crew members. We would like to wish them, and Keith Gale who has joined the Royal Navy, all the best in the future.

At Scout Camp we had three new members come-up into the Unit .. Marcus Makariou, Simon Owen, and Stephen Yell, and we take this opportunity to welcome them.

The job of Chairman has fallen on Bruce Rosf's shoulders, and with his new committee .. Peter Brittain, David Gibson, Simon Owen, Stephen Yell, we are looking forward to an enjoyable year. We are not going to make a long list of past events, this has been left to some of the Ventures to record in this Newsletter.

Before we go there are two people we must thank, and that is Denise and Janet for standing on cold river banks while we go canoeing, or by the base of a windy wet mountain when we are climbing or hiking; without their help we could not do venturing.

KEITH FERGUSON/IAN SHORTMAN
A/Venture Scout Leaders

VENTURE TRIP TO BETHESDA

Six Venture Scouts from 1st Hampton Hill (Peter Brittain, Stephen Cook, Paul Dart, David Gibson, John-Jacques France and Simon Owen), with Keith and Ian as leaders, set off from our HQ on Friday, 7th October, at 1830 hrs. Our first stop was at the 16th Twickenham HQ where we picked up some of their Ventures with their leader Jill. We squeezed ourselves into the minibus and started off for Bethesda, arriving about 0200 hrs. when we went straight to bed.

Next morning it was raining heavily with strong winds when we set off with a mountain leader. We walked up to the Devil's Kitchen and then climbed steeply to the summit of Glyder Fawr (999m or 3246 ft). At the top we met another Scout Group who asked for assistance because one of their Scouts was suffering from exposure. Our leader realised that if we waited for the Mountain Rescue team to reach us it would be after dark before they came; so he decided to take him by stretcher down off the mountain. Two of the Scouts were sent down to get the Mountain Rescue team and the others took our rucksacks and followed them down the mountain. Their leader made a stretcher out of rope and padding, and we started to carry him off the summit of Glyder Fawr.

After three hours, or so, we heard a helicopter but because of the low cloud could only see its lights and it was too windy for it to land. Shortly afterwards we saw the Mountain Rescue team coming to meet us when we were three-quarters of the way down from The Devil's Kitchen. They put him on to a proper stretcher, and we held onto the ropes to make sure he did not slip down the steep slope. The Mountain Rescue team took the quickest way off the mountain which meant us going through an ankle-deep bog. We finally got off the mountain about 1900 hrs.

Sunday morning was again wet and windy but, undaunted. We went climbing and abseiling which was most enjoyable. After lunch we set off home arriving back around 2100 hrs, rather tired after our exciting weekend.

I am sure our party would like to thank Keith, and Jill from 16th Twickenham, for organising the trip and doing all the driving and cooking.

SIMON OWEN

SPONSORED ROW

On Saturday, 20th August, members of the 1st Hampton Hill Cub Pack, Scout Troop, Venture Unit, and Service Crew assembled in the car-park at the Magpie Hotel, Lower Sunbury, at 0800 hrs.

At 0830 hrs four jiggers (Service Crew) collected a log of "SUPA-TIMBA" from W.H. Newson's Timberyard at Sunbury Station and carried it down to the river where it was mounted on to the Gig. Its cradle consisted of two square section pieces of wood supported between two vertical X-shaped constructions at the bow and stern of the Gig. From the cradle hung a white sign with various slogans to the effect that THE HAMPTON HILL SEA SCOUT GROUP were being sponsored by W.H. NEWSONS to carry their new product "SUPA-TIMBA" from Sunbury to their depot at Chelsea.

The first team of rowers set off, the remainder of us travelling in the Feltham School mini-bus (thanks to Pat Cook), and various cars, to the first change-over point - Molesey Lock. Accompanying the Gig on the water was Den Sainsbury-Brown's cruiser as 'rescue boat'. Each team consisted of 8 members .. 4 rowing, 1 steering, 1 lazy-bow, the remaining 2 as reserves.

Just upstream of Molesey Lock the second team took over on one of the longer stretches from Molesey to Teddington Lock. At Teddington the third team took over and rowed to the steps just above Richmond half-lock where they were replaced by the first team. At this Lock problems were encountered as the Lock-keeper was not opening the gates, but eventually after half-an-hour they were opened.

The next stop was upstream of Kew Bridge where the second team took over for another long stretch, against the tide. At Hammersmith Bridge it was a long wait but finally they turned up so then we could complete the last row to Cadogan Pier at Chelsea where the log was then carried on a very short walk to Newsons Timber yard. The overall time taken was 7 hrs. 4 mins.

Once the "log" had been delivered we had photographs taken and were provided with food and drink.

The total amount raised was £358., of which £100 is being donated to the R.N.L.I.

Our thanks to W.H. Newsons for sponsoring us, also thanks to all Cubs, Scouts, Ventures, Service Crew, Leaders and their wives who took part, but especially to Keith Ferguson and Den Sainsbury-Brown who made the whole thing possible.

STEPHEN YELL

LONDON SAILING PROJECT

During one of the three weekend sails, of which I was a Watch Leader, during August of this year we set sail for Cherbourg leaving Gosport on a Friday at 2330 hrs. After we had departed I headed my Watch in the direction of their bunks, and I also managed to get some sleep which for a Watch Leader is rare.

At 0330 hrs your truly was woken to change the Watch, and then tried to get changed myself to go on deck. Getting dressed in a small boat is hard enough, but with a Force 9 gale blowing with 15' rolling waves coming over the windward rail getting dressed without breaking any bones is a miracle.

As soon as I arrived on deck the first wave completely soaked me, which was how I stayed for the next four hours watch. During this time even the Skipper was sea-sick countless times, and this certainly did not help a young lad who had been scared of sailing and was frightened out of his life.

On arriving at Cherbourg we all went ashore for our Duty frees, this being one of the few good reasons for sailing in such strong and rough seas.

The trip back to Gosport was uneventful - so calm - so the ship was cleaned and polished.

BRUCE ROAF

VENTURES .. VENTURES .. VENTURES .. VENTURES

THE XVth WORLD JAMBOREE - ALBERTA, CANADA 1983

This July a small valley on the edge of the Rocky Mountains, near Calgary, called the Kananaskis country, was transformed overnight into a city of tents with a population of twenty-thousand Scouts, Ventures and Leaders from one-hundred-and-three countries from all corners of the World. I had the lucky chance to be among this number, and be a member of the 'UK Troop 37' from South London.

After a year's preparation and numerous training camps, on the 1st July I flew out from Gatwick Airport, not knowing what to expect.

We first stopped at Toronto where I spent four most enjoyable days with a local Scouting family. I was able to see all the sights - the C.N.Tower, Ontario Place, etc. However, all too soon we were on our way to Calgary and the start of the Jamboree 'proper'. The camp site was about two hours drive from Calgary and we arrived in the middle of the night, tired and miserable ... but this was soon changed.

The camp was on.

Our ten days at the Jamboree was split between activities organised by the Canadian Scout Association which included - motocross, western activities, archery river rafting, mountain walking, cap handy (activities which help one understand the handicapped), and pistol shooting. The rest of the time was just talking and listening to Scouts and Ventures from the other countries. Another past time was swapping 'patches' as the Americans call it (badges to us).

The time was spent fully by everyone, and the tremendous electric atmosphere was very noticeable.

After the Jamboree closed, my Troop left for Vancouver which I spent another four days in home hospitality in one of the most beautiful cities on the Pacific Coast. Then I returned home, tired, but with friends all over the World and full of an experience of a life time.

My thanks to everyone at 1st Hampton Hill for helping me to get to Canada.

DAVID GIBSON

SERVICE CREW .. SERVICE CREW .. SERVICE CREW

I hope that most of you reading this magazine have heard of the Service Crew - the latest organisation to be born from ex-members of the 1st Hampton Hill Group, but for those of you who haven't, I should perhaps fill you in on a few details

The Service Crew has been formed for about nine months now, mainly from ex-Venture Scouts who found they were losing touch with each other and Scouting after leaving Ventures. It was decided to start up a group which would keep, not just ex-Ventures but any ex-members of 1st Hampton Hill group together.

As a group we hold very little funds (around £3 last time I asked) and the money used to pay for capitation fees, sweat-shirts, postage of the Service Crew newsletters comes solely from members pockets. We started with a membership of five but have since gained new members from the ranks of Venture Scouts.

Although we have kept a fairly low profile this year, the Service Crew have attended in force, St. George's Day, Royal Navy Inspection, and the sponsored Gig Row. We helped at Night Owl by manning a check-point, and we had an entrance in both the Arun and Middlesex canoe races. We are providing a team in the sponsored "bed carry", organised by The Star, Hampton Hill, in aid of charity, and have several other ideas in the pipeline.

All in all I can safely say that the Service Crew has been a success, growing in both numbers and activity. I can only presume that we will continue to expand.

MARK WARD

Chairman for the Service Crew

GROUP SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION

On browsing through past Newsletters, way back in 1975 Mick Ward (Chairman) said "I stuck my neck out at the A.G.M. and promised we would raise £1500 within one year" well, he was right to do so, for we did, and have since gone from strength to strength.

This has not been an easy task and would certainly not have been possible without the unstinting and tireless efforts of a first-class committee and a nucleus of parents.

It was also said that we have "one of the finest Associations possible" true. But we must not sit back on our laurels. We need continued parental support if we are to maintain the H.Q. to a high standard; the constant repair and replacement of tentage, canoes and dinghies, plus many other incidentals. Now, eight years later, we aim to raise £3,000 per annum to cover these costs.

From this you will appreciate why the support of all parents is necessary in order to make our task so much easier.

Lastly, to the Scouters, our sincere thanks for your continued assistance and encouragement.

A NOT SO LITTLE STORY

THIS IS A STORY ABOUT FOUR GROUPS OF PEOPLE
NAMED EVERYBODY, SOMEBODY, ANYBODY AND NOBODY
THERE WAS AN IMPORTANT JOB TO BE DONE HELPING
THE CUBS AND SCOUTS AND EVERYBODY WAS SURE
THAT SOMEBODY WOULD DO IT.
ANYBODY COULD HAVE DONE IT, BUT NOBODY DID IT.
SOMEBODY GOT ANGRY ABOUT THAT, BECAUSE IT WAS
EVERYBODY'S JOB.
EVERYBODY THOUGHT ANYBODY COULD DO IT, BUT
NOBODY REALISED THAT EVERYBODY WOULDN'T DO IT.
IT ENDED UP THAT EVERYBODY BLAMED SOMEBODY
WHEN NOBODY DID WHAT ANYBODY COULD HAVE DONE
IN SOME WAY OR OTHER !!!
HORRAY FOR THE SCOUTERS AND SUPPORTERS

SHIRLEY SAINSBURY-BROWN
Chairman

GROUP SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION

Some of the fund raising activities

BOOK MARKET:

On three occasions during 1983 a Book Market has been held on a Saturday at the Group Headquarters, and once at Holly Road, Hampton Hill. These events have been well supported by local residents, many of whom have now become regular customers and we have made a profit of nearly £200.

We propose to continue to hold these Book Markets at regular intervals in the future, and would be pleased to hear from any parents who are able to assist once or twice a year to unpack the books on a Friday evening or help on a Saturday.

(BRIAN & LINDA BRIGNALL)

SUMMER FAYRE:

Our "indoor/outdoor" Summer Fayre which we had viewed with considerable apprehension turned out to be a great success. The work load was spread more evenly over a shorter period prior to the event, and we managed to maintain our usual high standard with, of course, a generous profit which at the end of the day totalled over £1100.

(JEAN COOK, CAROL ROAF, SHIRLEY WHITEHEAD)

SECONDS PARTY:

Following a suggestion put forward by a committee member, the committee decided to hold a 'Branded Goods Party' to help swell the Group funds. Two have been held this year, in the Spring and Autumn, and a profit of £90 was made. Fresh ideas are always welcome, and if any one does have any thoughts on fund raising please speak to one of the members of the committee.

(IRENE FRANCE, PAT DART)

JUMBLE SALES:

I know a teenage girl in Hampton who is the proud owner of a Christian Dior suit - pure wool - very fashionable grey stripe with silk lining! She did not go to London or Paris (hardly likely) but to 1st Hampton Hill Jumble Sale. I must admit it is a man's suit but modern girls do not worry about little things like that. It is that kind of find that makes Jumble Sales so appealing to so many people.

It also benefits those who give by clearing their shelves and cupboards, those who pass the happy hours searching for bargains, and in this case most of all it benefits our funds to the tune of an incredible £838 from the last two sales held in March and October of this year.

Our thanks must go to the parents who gave their time in collecting and sorting jumble.

(IRIS MITCHISON, SUSAN OWEN)

WEBB IVORY:

November 1st is two-thirds of the way through our sales campaign to supply the Group Supporters and their friends with Christmas cards and Seasonal goodies. The sales figures show quite clearly that the job is becoming more difficult; at this time in the previous three years our sales figures were ...

1980 - £2560 : 1981 - £3320 : 1982 - £1812

This year the figure is £1673

We all know the reasons, money is much tighter and competition is much greater as more Groups work in this area. Even so we need not be discouraged as the Group funds should be better off to the tune of £500/£600 at the end of the season, and that can't be bad.

If the good old days of 1981 are literally in the past, how do we maintain our position in 1984? Quite simply retain all of your old satisfied customers, and keep a sharp look out for new ones. The product is worth selling.

(TED WHITEHEAD)

GROUP SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION

VIEWS OF NEW MEMBERS:

It was way back in June when three unsuspecting ladies were approached by members of the G.S.A. committee to aid and abet them in their various fund raising functions. So far we have been involved in the Summer Fayre, a Jumble Sale, and the Christmas Fayre.

The committee are a very friendly crowd and made us very welcome. As well as having its serious side we also get a lot of laughs and look forward to helping with future fund raising events.

SUE CUNDLE, JANET FERGUSON,
LYNN RUMSEY

FINANCE:

As may be seen from the various reports above the Group Supporters Association continues to successfully raise the funds necessary to maintain a thriving Sea Scout Group such as ours.

At the end of the 1982/83 financial year we were able to present the Group at the Royal Naval Inspection evening with a cheque for £3,000. Although Webb Ivory sales were down on the previous year a useful profit of £640 was realised.

In addition to our established fund raising events of Spring and Autumn Jumble Sales and the annual Summer Fayre we are now trying the new activities of Book Markets and Branded Goods Sales which have added over £280 to our account.

Thanks are due to the committee members for their efforts during the year, and to the parents and friends of the Group for their generosity. With the number of events necessary to maintain the flow of funds additional assistance is always appreciated on these occasions and we are always pleased to receive offers of help.

GERRY PRATLEY
Treasurer

STOP PRESS:

CHRISTMAS MARKET - 19th NOVEMBER

At the time of going to print we are pleased to report a provisional profit of £392. Whilst not so good as last year, this is still a very welcome addition to our funds.

Thankyou to all those parents and friends who supported us.

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* NOTE FOR YOUR DIARY *
* SATURDAY, 4th FEBRUARY 1984 .... 7.30 pm *
* 'RACE NITE' *
* COST (including supper) TO BE ADVISED *
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