

1st HAMPTON HILL SEA SCOUT GROUP

ACHILLES



HMS ACHILLES

1985

December

CHANGE OF GROUP SCOUT LEADER

It is with particular regret that we have to release Dennis Sainsbury-Brown from his position as our Group Scout Leader. Dennis suffers considerable discomfort and pain these days from a medical condition known, loosely, as "a frozen shoulder"; his Doctor has literally "twisted his arm" (an unfortunate colloquism in this case) to drop some of his outside commitments and concentrate on job and family.

Dennis joined us as a new member of our Group Supporters Association way back in June 1974 (you know - the committee that his wife Shirley now chairs) He was very active in those days with the planning and building supervision of our new H.Q. at 84 Station Road, and thanks to Dennis it has never yet been broken into, although we have had some near misses.

Later on his "arm was twisted" to go into uniform and help with the Troop; more "arm twisting" and he found himself as Venture Group Leader (or Chief Vulture!)

Next, the District Commissioner "twisted his arm" to take on as Scouter-in-Charge in January 1983 when Ron Sparks resigned, and he was confirmed as Group Scout Leader in March 1984.

Dennis, we know that you will be rooting for us with your good arm, and we do hope that in due course it will be with both again. We are sort of sorry if 1st Hampton Hill Sea Scout Groups "arm twisting" had anything to do with it.

Finally, to our new Scouter-in-Charge, John Roaf, whom some of you know (some as .. Smokestack and some as Shirley-baiter!) ... Welcome and thanks sincerely for having your "arm twisted" We wish you well with the new job and we all expect to support you until you have made yourself a decent whip!!

E.V. WHITEHEAD
Chairman

SWAN SONG

After eleven years which started as a parent and ended as Group Scout Leader, regretfully I have found it necessary to hand in my resignation to the District Commissioner.

May I take this opportunity to pass on my thanks to so many people who have helped - counselled - guided - and in many cases become great friends. Many of the Mums who I called on to sell Webb Ivory all those years ago are still helping and supporting at our Fetes, Jumble Sales, Markets, etc.

Some of those Dads who have been kind enough to help with transport from the day their lads came into Cubs, or Scouts, are still helping even though the sons are now too old even for Ventures. Others who were young Scouts when I joined are now Scouters, some even having their own families.

When I joined the Group Scout meetings were held at the Congregational Church Hall and the Cubs in Carlisle School, and Ventures when they started met in one of the original members homes.

What changes we have seen, and how lucky are our lads - although I am not sure whether they, or their parents appreciate the tremendous amount of work and fund raising that has been necessary by so many people to bring the Group to the very high standard that it is today.

Finally, may I thank all those lads, and now the lassies, who have passed through the different Sections of the Group during the past eleven years.....

It is through seeing all their achievements which make our efforts so worthwhile.

FENNIS SAINSBURY-BROWN
"BIG TESCO"

GROUP SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION:

PARENTS OF CUBS AND SCOUTS WHERE ARE YOU ??

The Group Supporters need your help when we have our fund raising activities. Any time you can spare to give a hand would be greatly appreciated. The money raised at Jumble Sales, Book Markets, May Fayre, Christmas Fayre, etc., is to enable your boys to go boating and camping using new, safe, and expensive equipment; also to maintain the H.Q.

Besides fund raising we also have "fun" events which are greatly enjoyed by all those who come (unfortunately not well supported by parents). We would like to see more of you at these events for the more that come, the more funds are raised and we need to raise at least £3,000 a year - even sending along a tin, a jar, or unwanted gifts, for the Tombola stall would help (and will be quite harmless). Please help us to help your children.

If anyone could suggest new ideas for fund raising or "fun" evenings, please let us know.

Above is some of the views given by the committee members, who all work extremely hard but we would like all parents to appreciate that our task would be so much easier if we had more support. Nothing is more disappointing than to spend many evenings and weekends arranging activities and then getting very little support.

To those regular parents who support us, our very sincere thanks.

A point of interest is that the sons of 80% of the committee have now left the Group, many of them moved away with their jobs or married, but still the parents continue .. not, I assure you, because we 'roped' them in but because they enjoy belonging to 11H; as one member has written

"I was approached about a year ago and asked if I would like to join the fund raising committee - I readily agreed. Well I went to the first meeting not knowing what to expect, and was made to feel so welcome that I can honestly say it has been a year of fun and so many laughs.

I did not realise that fund raising could be so much fun, plus hard work as well.

Thanks for a super year."

So, who knows, perhaps we will be lucky enough to have other Mums, or Dads, or perhaps both, decide to "give us a try".

NOTES FOR YOUR DIARY : 1986

1st February	.....	Race Nite
8th February	.....	Book Market
13th February	.....	Fun With Milk and Crem Cookery Demonstration by Milk Marketing
1st March	.....	Jumble Sale
8th March	.....	Book Market
20th March	.....	Fashion Show
18th May	.....	May Fayre

MONTH-by- MONTH with the CUBS : 1985

JANUARY:

Quiet start to the year with the programmes being geared towards work for Paul and Andy's Wood Badge.

FEBRUARY:

We held a video afternoon, swimming badge exam and a badge afternoon. Many badges were gained this month, and we also continued with the Arrow work.

MARCH:

Two main projects this month: Spy School - the joint activity with 3rd Hampton Hill Gold, and the Camp-Fire evening for members and parents of all sections.

APRIL

A light hearted match against the Ventures resulted in a seven-six win to the Cubs; a visit from a blind lady and her dog, and a puppy walker with puppy resulted in the Cubs deciding to start a Guide Dog Fund; the annual St.George's Day Parade resulted in an excellent turnout in numbers and uniform from the Cubs.

MAY:

This month saw the first of this years camps for Cubs - 30 boys at Chalfont Heights; also the first presentation for a few years of the Wood Badges to Cub Leaders in our Pack; also our first fund raising event for the Guide Dog Fund at the May Fayre.

JUNE:

One thing dominated this month .. TWICKEREE, the big District camp where all sections and all Groups in the District camp as one. As one of the Cubs wrote ...

"Twickeree this year was really quite good, but it rained a lot. We camped on the largest site but there was one bad thing, it was the longest way from the toilets. Saturday was a day where nothing was really done because it kept raining. On Sunday we had been picked to do a Grand Howl, we shouted for all we were worth, and it must have been quite good because everyone applauded. Then we did a scene about Egypt."

JULY:

If June was dominated by Twickeree, then July was dominated by that other planning nightmare, the R.N.INSPECTION. Nearly all the Cubs attended and there were big cheers when we were told that we had passed.

AUGUST:

The third camp of the year was held at Broadstone Warren where it rained most of the time, but by now the boys were beginning to get used to it and had a great time, especially the day's visit to the Steam Railway on the Bluebell Line.

SEPTEMBER:

The Cubs formed the new traditional Guard of Honour at Andrew and Dawn's wedding. Andrew then had two weeks away for the honeymoon which prompted one person to say, in jest, .."the lengths some people will go through to avoid Cubs!" Needless to say, Dawn did let Andy come back to Cubs; we sincerely wish them all the best in their married life.

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MONTH-by-MONTH with the CUBS : 1985

OCTOBER:

Change are afoot in the Group so we used this month to try some new ideas and bring in some new people.

NOVEMBER:

This month parents are being used to help train boys in badge work, and organising the Carol Service, but the big news is we are no longer the youngsters, we have a new section "The Beavers". The newsletter is produced and plans are made for 1986.

THE CUB LEADER TEAM
Paul Andy Carol
Ian Nicole

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HAVE YOU HEARD ???

HAS YOUR SON MENTIONED

the two new pulling dinghys that have at last been purchased at a cost of £500 each, and we have also had our Gig rebuilt at a cost of £700. Well done to our 'fund raisers'.

It is hard to raise the money, but oh how quickly it is spent.

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We have recently heard that Lt. Comdr. John Scott R.N., the Inspecting Officer who talked to so many of you at the R.N. Inspection, has been ill and unable to carry out Inspections.

We trust that he will soon be returned to good health and duties, and that we will see him at our next R.N. Inspection.

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WELCOME TO THE BEAVER COLONY

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FATHER & SON CAMP AT POLYAPES

Dads can make brilliant sandwiches, cook hearty breakfasts, and collect large quantities of wood for the fire. How do I know? Because I was there at the Father and Son camp in May of this year at Polyapes, and I saw it happen.

It was an apprehensive five Dads who sat down with Ian Shortman, Stepehn Yell and helpers, who were to provision us and keep an eagle eye on our attempts at Patrol camping. That first evening at the H.Q. we were given a camp list and programme of events, all of which looked formidable to us 'sprog'. We had camped before of course with blow-up beds, chairs, cookers, wives, and all the usual comforts - but look out lads, our Patrol will be the best.

File it high and pack it in - cars loaded to the roof, and above, set off on Friday around eightish. We all go to Polyapes, Site 13, OH NO !! Suddenly a great pile of gear was dumped down and we were told to get on with it... "not that way Pete, I'm sure its inside out"; "Doug get those pegs in a straight line, we'll lose points if we're not careful" it was a competition you see against our sons, judged, impartially of course, by the Ventures. It's surprising just how quickly a bare clearing can suddenly become a home, when your tents are up, the fires going, your beddings inside laid out and looking ship-shape (well we are Sea Scouts Dads).

Snore, grunt, more snores .. that's the first night over. At breakfast our first natural appeared in the shape of Dallas's Dad who did the breakfast - in fact most of the cooking over the weekend.

Maybe I'm getting a bit long in the tooth for this sort of thing, but three games of Rounders, Frizball and Handball over the net all in one day got to bits of me that even Heineken hasn't remedied.

Doug Richards does things with an axe that would make a Canadian Lumberjack envious, just don't get him going on about the tooth settings of the bush saw, our wood pile was constantly stocked to capacity. A safe area was roped off and a number of kitchen gadgets to make our life easier appeared on that first morning as if by magic. Sandwiches for dinner, and Pete Wall have no fear, we'll always find you a job at picnic time .. they were tasty tasty, very very tasty.

Compass trail, pioneering, logs and ropes, jumping imaginary chasams, mugs full of water with string through the handle threaded round trees, bushes and stinging nettles, kit inspections with the clipboard and critical eyes following you everywhere.

Saturday night it rained, well thundered to be more accurate. We never got wet but the Scouts did.

A fifth Dad, Makarious, lent a hand on Saturday and Sunday and took over the job of Fire Stocker and Billy Can Cleaner. Talking of Billies, I can tell you that ours went back cleaner than they came, not without a few curses about Dougs railway sleeper and its evil smelling tar it constantly oozed; mind you it lit well first thing in the morning.

Its over, were packed up with only the dining shelters to dry out; the final parade; the clipboard again; and Stephen Yell rightly so awards the Dads patrol a plaque for their efforts and brilliant performances. The Scouts give us a big cheer .. it was a cheer, wasn't it?

Thankyou Ventures, Leaders, and Hampton Hill Scout Group.

SUMMER CAMP 1985 - BROADSTONE WARREN

"Water on site" said John is a high priority on the site we choose, as we picked our way through the last of the Winter snows.

This was Broadstone Warren for a second year, different requirements, different site for our combined camp of Scouts and Cubs in early August. The theme for this camp was to be Robin Hood's men and the Sheriff of Nottingham. The Scouts' tents being named .. Will Scarlet, Little John, and Friar Tuck.

Water was on site in that week of August, and not just at the stand-pipe. The heavens opened to our arrival, which we hoped was a passing shower.

John already encamped had picked a prime position, and so we all started setting up the rest of the tentage, widely spread.

By the evening the rains came, and this became the norm for the next week, with the sun, when it penetrated the site, an unusual feature.

With the rains continuing the following day streams began to flow through the camp, trenches were needed to be dug and a major diverting of a stream by the sub-contractors of McAlpine, Ron and Barry, averted major flooding to one part of the site.

On the third day we began to look like a gipsy encampment with the polythene sheeting over the Scouters tents, and damp bedding hanging over every piece of line to dry - between the monsoons. A sheet of canvas was produced about this time and set up in a cluster of Birch trees, this was going to be the focal meeting point due to the wet weather. It was about this time we decided to move the cook tent as it was a bit damp inside "under foot" (mud up to our ankles).

Barry produced some staves and the Scouts began to whittle shapes in the wood .. this would keep them going for the rest of the camp at odd times. Monday evening was spent with the Guides in their hut at an indoor camp-fire, a good evening was had by all. An unusual occurrence took place on the Tuesday, the SUN SHONE ALL DAY, and we took the opportunity to go to the Bluebell Railway, an interesting day

The Cubs did the same trip on Wednesday but the wet weather had returned and as we had decided to have our Sports Day when the Cubs were away we started the proceedings despite the continuous down-pour, starting with the Javelin. Everyone took part in all events but we had to stop due to the ground becoming dangerous after a few events, with the intention of a continuation next day .. weather permitting.

Thursday was the finish of the Sports, between showers, and the preparation for the two hikes. On Thursday afternoon some Scouts and Guides did a split day hike, returning to camp after the first part and cooked their own meal. The second part of the hike took place on Friday morning. The other hike took the form of a night hike, again with Scouts and Guides, through the Ashdown Forest and along a disused railway track. This was very enjoyable in both cases as it was carried out in the rain - without any grouching.

To complete the week an attempt to set up an aerial runway across the ravine, on the afternoon of Friday; time did not allow us to try it out as it had to be passed by the Safety Officer and it was too late in the day.

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SUMMER CAMP 1985 - BROADSTONE WARREN

An impromptu camp-fire (shsh, it had stopped raining) went down very well with everyone .. Cubs, Scouts, Leaders and the Galley Slaves, all joining in to finish off a camp to remember.

Saturday, so soon already, saw a camp site disappear very quickly, before it had time to start to rain.

FOOTNOTE:

To the Galley Slaves .. Jean, Sue and Alex, well done girls for a varied menu under extremely trying conditions, see you in '86.

RON CUNDLE.

THOUGHTS !!

You start in the Cubs when you're only eight.
And its at this time you learn your fate
They say that Scouting is great fun
You go to camp come rain or sun
You learn to sew whatever is torn
After football matches on a Saturday morn
In cups of tea you'll soon be proficient
And your knotting of reefs will be quite efficient
You'll form a circle to shout DOB DOB
And earn pack funds doing 'Bob-a-Job'

It's onto Scouts you'll go at eleven
Long trousers and Guides - you'll think you're in heaven
At camp you'll sleep on ground so hard
And eat your meals whether cooked or charred.

At nearly sixteen its booze and Bangers
It's called "The Ventures" and full of dangers

With top of the list "The Service Crew"
A motley bunch, of more than a few

So if you want to lead a life of plenty
Not one thats boring and often empty
Go for SCOUTING - 'cause like I said
It's better than spending your weekends in bed.

DEBORAH
SAINSPUEY-BROWN
(ex Akela)

VENTURES VENTURES VENTURES VENTURES

1984-1985 was a very busy year for the Unit - for the first time we have been able to compete in events as a mixed Unit. The programme has been very full, including diverse subjects such as cooking; off-shore sailing; canoe building; boating; hiking; we could go on, and on

We have had a lot of successful activities with a few triumphs - Simon Owen third in the Hare and Hounds Canoe Race; and third place in "Night Owl" .. the best the Unit has ever done.

We both hope that next year will be just as exciting as this year has been.

Ian and Denise Shortman

TWICKEREE : 22nd/23rd June 1985:

Ventures who went : Natalie Bromfield Stephen Cook Claire Fielder
 Simon Owen Ian and Denise Shortman Sally Shortman
 Stephen Yell

On the Friday night four of us helped to put up tents and were responsible, with 1st Whitton Venture Unit, for security patrol.

On Saturday morning the Cubs, Scouts, Service Crew and remaining Scouters came down to put up more tents.

Twickeree opened to the public at 2.00 pm on Saturday, with an official opening by the Mayor of Richmond-upon-Thames. Saturday evening there was a camp-fire for everyone and afterwards 1HH held their own camp-fire in one of the tents due to bad weather - most enjoyable.

Sunday was the Cubs' pageant, our Cubs portraying Egypt.

Twickeree closed at 5.00 pm on Sunday and everyone packed up camp very quickly anxious to be going home after such a 'wet' weekend.

Claire Fielder

SPONSORED CANOE

Saturday, 3rd August, our Venture Scout Unit participated in a sponsored Canoe. We had to canoe 50 miles from Reading to Hampton.

As we were using the K.2. there were three pairs of canoeists, and these were:

Glenise Cox and Stephen Cook
Elaine Haughton and Simon Owen
Sally Shortman and Stephen Yell

We took it in turns to cover distances averaging five miles. Ian Shortman canoed with us from Reading until we reached the outskirts of Windsor, in his own canoe, and then doubled up with Natalie Bromfield to do the last leg from Walton to Hampton.

The weather was very changesble, we even had hail stones, but at least the water was quite flat.

Two Service Crew and Dads ferried us from point-to-point, and gave us a lot of encouragement. It was very strenuous and we were all very subdued when we were not canoeing. In total it took about eleven hours and we raised approximately £120 for the R.N.L.I. and our Group.

VENTURES VENTURES VENTURES VENTURES

CUBS FOOTBALL:

It was a bitterly cold Saturday morning when the more athletic members of our Unit turned out to the 'sporting event of the year' ... playing football with the Cubs.

Once the posts were erected and we had all changed, the game commenced. We played half-an-hour each way. Well, five minutes football and twenty-five minutes recovering. After a rough, but enjoyable, game the Cubs won 8 - 7, plus they only lost one player in the skirmishes.

Well done Cubs - we'll beat you next year.

Stephen Cook

HOUNSLOW MARATHON:

Sunday, 29th August, three Ventures ... Natalie Bromfield, Elaine Houghton, and Marcus Makariou, helped out at the Hounslow Marathon. We had to hand the drinks out. It was the first hot day for weeks, the Runners were asking for water to be tipped over them, which ended in us all getting a soaking. We made the most of this by throwing water over each other - much to the enjoyment of the Runners.

ARUN CANOE RACE:

Four Ventures entered for this, and we had a Manager too!! After checking-in we revitalised ourselves with mars bars and drinks, then had a briefing, and then our canoes were checked.

Fortunately all four of us were in the same race, but as we meandered up river, the gaps were opened between us all.

We all managed to finish the course - Sally being the first lady in the clan to finish. Well done, Sally.

SUMMER CAMP: KINGSDOWN:

Participants : Ruth Boaler Natalie Bromfield Stephen Cook
Elaine Houghton Marcus Makariou Simon Owen
Sally Shortman Stephen Yell Glenise Cox

We left the Scout H.Q. on 16th August around 7.30 pm and found our way to the campsite. On arrival we pitched our tents in the dark and eventually got to bed gone midnight.

The following morning we arose at 6 am, very tired, and set off for a day trip to France (Calais).

The remainder of the week was spent swimming and canoeing in the sea; walking along the cliff tops, and day trips to neighbouring towns. One day we made a raft and entered a contest along with the rest of those at the Kingsdown campsite. We did not win but our raft must have been the most ingenious for it included a sail.

A good time was had by all involved but the next week was spent recovering.

Natalie Bromfield

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