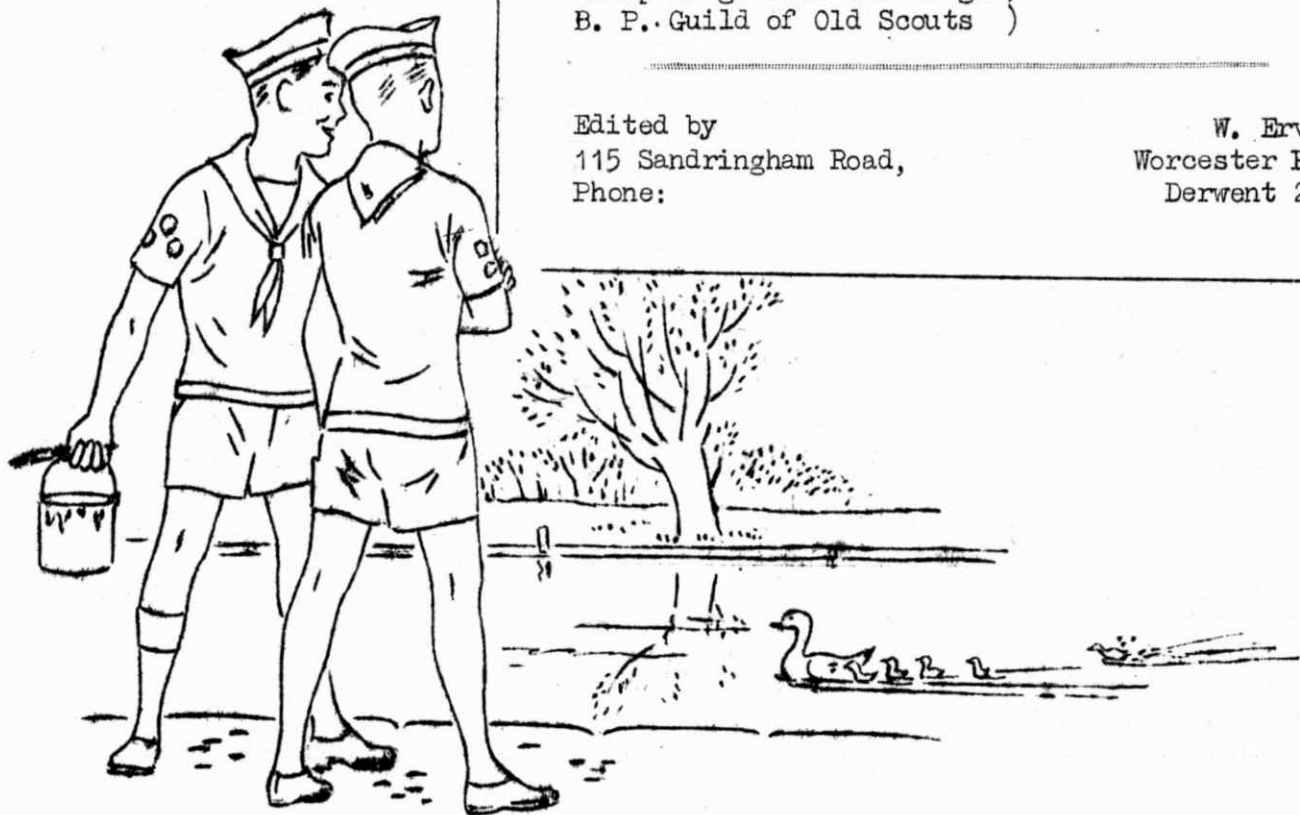


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SKIPPERS SCRAWL.

It has just been announced that the Chief Scout has awarded the Scouts' Silver Cross to Rover Bob Dodge for his life saving exploit in June last year. We all offer him our hearty congratulations on this further recognition of his gallant action.

The continuous wet weather has made the past months very difficult for everyone, and some aspects of our Scouting have suffered. In particular Winter Camping has had to be abandoned by our hardy Seniors. However there have been compensations even in the flooded state of the river as boating has gone on continuously and much experience has been gained of boat-handling under more difficult conditions than are normally encountered. Owing to heavy rain during February, "Hero" became waterlogged and through not being regularly baled, sank at her moorings. Salvage operations, calling for considerable skill and effort, were successfully carried out without having to call in outside assistance.

The bad weather has not damped our spirits, and in spite of illness, the attendance of all sections of the Group has been reasonably good, and evidence of some of the work done will be found on another page in the list of Scout Tests passed.

Plans have been made, and preparations for the coming months have been pushed ahead with vigour. Steady progress has been made week by week with repairs, painting and refitting of boats, and here we are indebted to Ron Jault for his expert assistance and advice. Under his supervision we are embarking on another boat-building effort - this time a 10'6" "Y.W. Cadet" sailing boat. It is intended to have this in an advanced stage of construction at the Hobbies Exhibition, which is being held at the Coronation Hall, Kingston from April 18th to 21st. It will be a big attraction for the public to see a boat actually under construction, and will put this Group very much in the lime-light, as apart from "Leanders" exhibit, the other Kingston Scouts are showing models, etc. in connection with Proficiency Badges, and there will be a very comprehensive collection of hobbies by various local organisations and

societies, and large crowds are expected to attend. In the "Lime-light" is the correct phrase, as I have heard that the B.B.C. are proposing to include the show in their Television Programme.

Arrangements for Summer Camps for both Senior and Junior Troops have been made some time ago, and our readers will be interested to hear that two cabin sailing boats have been booked for the Seniors for the period August 4th to August 18th for a cruise on the Norfolk Broads, and the Junior Troop will be camping from July 28th to August 4th at Waldringfield, near Ipswich. Those former members who camped there with "Leanders" in 1934 and 1935 will share my opinion that few better spots could be found for a Sea Scout Camp.

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SCOUT TESTS PASSED DURING JANUARY, FEBRUARY & MARCH.

TENDERFOOT TESTS COMPLETED: P.Butcher, B.Garnish, K.Notley, J.Potts, C.Waddell.

SECOND CLASS TESTS: T.Milne (6, thus gaining 2nd Class Badge), G.Brave (4), P.Butcher (7), G.Fennell (2), R.Johnson (3), K.Notley (2), J.Potts (1), R.Read (1), J.Stevenson (2), C.Waddell (1).

FIRST CLASS TESTS: C.Huckson (7, thus gaining 1st Class Badge), J.Clark (1), J.Evans (3), R.Garnish (8), G.Hopkins (5), D.Huckson (4), F.Moodey (5) H.Sharp (3).

CAMPER BADGE: C.Huckson.

OARSMAN BADGE: J.Clark.

SWIMMER BADGE: J.Clark, J.Evans, C.Huckson, D.Huckson.

A NAVAL OCCASION

I have attended most of the Annual Dinners of the Kingston-upon-Thames Rover Scouts, but the 31st of the series held on Saturday 27th January, 1951, will long remain an outstanding and pleasant memory. The company of 120 assembled in the Dining Saloon of "The Carnarvon Castle", at her moorings just above Hampton Court Bridge, by the Surrey bank, at eight bells in the second dog watch. R/S/L. F.T.Jenkins, the "skipper" was supported by D/C. R.G.Busbridge; Mr.C.Potter (National Organiser B.P.Guild of Old Scouts); A/D/C.(R). R. C. Walder (Richmond); A/D/C.(R). N.W.B.Lane; Mr.L.A.Knight; Mr.A.J.Loarridge (Casualties Union) an old Malden Scout; Mr.R.W.Judge, and D/R/S/L. G.T.Tame. Unfortunately the County Commissioner could not join the company, owing to illness.

The galley served an excellent meal, which was undoubtedly appreciated by the goodly number of gannets present. The opportunity was taken, during the evening, by Norman Lane to present the Barker Cup, together with the Shields (Pioneering, Swimming, Badges, and Inter-Crew Visits) to the "Water Rats". Shields were also presented to the 4th Tolworth (Cross Country, and Entertainments); 2nd Molesey (Hiking, Signalling and Inter-Crew Visits); 3rd Kingston (Ambulance); 1st Norbiton (Camping); and Kingston Schools (Inter-Crew Visits). These shields are most artistic works of heraldry, and Guy Wheatley deserves heartiest congratulations for their production.

As an ordinary A.B. (and not too able either!), I cannot adequately record my feeling of pride when I saw Rover Leader Ken Martin come forward, backed by his Crew (only one was absent) to receive the Cup, etc. Their smart bearing, which was well sustained by the correctness of uniform, was the hall-mark of what a Sea Scout Rover Crew should be.

The ceremony prompted two thoughts in my mind. Firstly, these fellows were worthily maintaining the tradition which was founded in 1909, when I recalled the birth of the 2nd Kingston, a Troop I was closely acquainted with. Secondly, here was the secret of other successes in recent times, especially the Admiralty Annual Inspection.

Another high spot of the evening was the "splicing of the main-brace". Here again, the "Water Rats" excelled. I am inclined to think that experience of the Senior Service was in evidence, as the Honoured Cup was charged with rum and orange juice. "Oh it was lovely, Mrs. Hoskins!!" The ceremonial sip left much to be desired as far as a wee swallow was concerned, and I am still puzzled as to what happened to a considerable residue after the Cup had gone the rounds! A report has reached me, that a uniformed body did proceed as requisite, carrying a small object with great care and secrecy, to an address in Neville Road, approaching the hour of mid-night of the 27th January.

When we all went ashore at six bells, the general feeling was that a good feast, in good company, had come to a happy close.

Good luck to you "Water Rats" - bon voyage, and best wishes for future success.

NOTE: Ought not the chief guest have been "piped" aboard?

* * * * *

LAUGHTER and LEARNING !

Who invented the five-day week?

Robinson Crusoe, who had all his work done by Friday!

Did you know that a train consumes $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons of coal per 100 miles? On a trip of 400 miles, from London to Glasgow or Edinburgh it consumes upwards of £35 worth.

HEARD IN THE FO'C'SLE.

Notice has been given to all Mariners that Lloyd's Signal Station at Dungeness closed down on March 24th. This will bring back memories to a number of the Group's very early members, as a Patrol of eight of them with a Chief Yeoman of Signals and one other Naval Signal Rating took over this Station on 5th August, 1914, and carried out the whole of the work for the first six or eight months of World War I, until they either joined up or were relieved by other Sea Scouts.

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Several of the visiting Sea Scouters taking part in a recent Preliminary Training Course at "Leander" Headquarters complained of feeling very sleepy during the afternoon. Was this the result of the excellence of 'Buster' Cole's cooking having induced them to have extra helpings of 'Xmas Pudding?

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After nearly six years spent in and out of hospital, Roy Marchant is now able to get about again without crutches and has made such good progress that he was able to go to Belgium for a holiday at Easter.

* * * * *

News of our Rovers serving in the Forces continues to reach us, and Christmas cards were received from Arthur Davis, Terry Ashborne, Ron Pidduck, Keith Quinnen and Bill Manning.

Ernie Southey has now arrived in Singapore, so there is a chance that he and Arthur Davis may meet if Arthur gets leave from his police duties in the jungle. Geoff Dove is now a Lance Corporal and is still at Aldershot.

Dick Riches is expecting to go to Germany shortly.

Bill Manning has just finished a fortnight's leave, getting over his exertions during a cruise to Gibraltar.

* * * * *

We were sorry to miss Mrs. Arthur Langridge and Arthur at the Social on March 16th. Unfortunately Mrs. Langridge was in Hospital, but we are pleased to hear she is now home again.

* * * * *

WHEN HELPING THE BLIND.

It was a nice sunny Sunday afternoon and I strolled over to the bowling green. Presently a blind man came and sat beside me on the seat, and we got talking, and he told me many interesting things about blind people, and gave me some tips on what to do or what not to do when in their company. He informed me that the first thing they have to overcome is the fear that there is always something in the way which they will either bump into or fall over. Then they must develop a sense of direction, and here he gave me a tip on how you can help. When a blind person stops to speak to you, all the time he is speaking, he must concentrate on the direction he was going when he stopped. Half a turn either way during the course of the conversation may cause him to walk into a wall, or into the road, when he leaves you. So whilst you are talking to him, please do not move about. Another thing my friend mentioned was that the blind like to visualise the person to whom he is speaking, and this he does by the sound of the voice, and it is wonderful how accurately he can describe the age, sex, height and class of anyone he speaks to. So do not rush your conversation.

My companion then complained about the well-meaning people who run up and grab the arm of a blind person to guide them past an obstacle, or to help them to cross the road. Please remember that when the blind are walking about they are always concentrating with their nerves keyed up, and to be suddenly seized by the arm, without warning, makes them nearly jump out of their skin. They do not like you to hold their arm at all, it is far better to let them rest their hand on your arm, they can sense your slowing down, when approaching a kerb or obstacle. When offering your services to a blind person, for which they will be grateful, please speak to them as you approach, so as to give them warning.

A blind person has many long periods when he is alone, and then he is very apt to start pitying himself and become depressed, so he is always glad of company, and my Sunday afternoon companion again gave me some useful suggestions which I pass on to you. A blind person does not like pity, he wants to feel that he can take a normal interest in everyday things, so talk to him naturally on all sorts of topics, the same as you would to anyone else. Find out what his interests are, and don't do all the talking. Encourage him to join in. Remember that he is interested in the every-day things as well as the unusual, so when

8.

walking with him, mention such things as an unusual car passing by, or a pretty girl approaching, or a battle ship off the coast when by the sea, and the price and styles of things in shop windows, etc.

When there are more than one blind person in your company, on addressing a particular member of the group, just lightly touch him, and when walking with several it becomes necessary to warn them that you are approaching an obstacle, do not suddenly break off the conversation, but just mention the fact in a casual way, whilst continuing what you were talking about. In other words, endeavour, as far as possible, to make them feel as though they are normal people. When describing events taking place, do not overdo it, as your friend will be trying to visualise the scene not only by your description, but also by his sense of "hearing", and if you keep talking incessantly, he cannot "hear" what is going on.

So much for out-of-doors, but my seat-mate had also something to say about entertaining blind people indoors. He told me that on entering a room, they try to work out in their mind, what they cannot see. The tick of a clock, or the crackle of a fire give them their direction, and they can judge the size of a room by its echoes. If someone will take them round and place their hand on the various pieces of furniture, they very soon become familiar with their surroundings. Here is a word of warning, whilst your blind visitor is staying with you do not alter the position of a chair or table.

When the time comes when it is necessary to go upstairs, you will want to grasp your friend firmly, and guide him to the top. This is not necessary or desirable. The bannister is perfectly shaped, and just the right height to guide him, so just place his hand on the bannister and leave him to it. The creak of the various stairs will tell him a lot.

To sum up, when in the company of blind persons, do not emphasise their handicap, but endeavour to make them feel that they are still able to take part in most of the normal things in life, and above all, try to make them feel that you, yourself, are glad of their company.

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"So you are a young man with both feet on the ground, eh? Well, what do you do for a living?" "I take orders from the chap with both feet on the desk!"

PARENTS' PAGEWANTED - EIGHTY SIXPENCES.

In the last issue "Arbiter", writing about the Group Committee, called attention to the Group's financial difficulties and asked for suggestions to help the Committee in solving the problem of raising an additional sum of roughly £100 per year. It has been pointed out by one of our readers that this represents a weekly sum of £2 or a contribution of 6d per week from eighty people. As the membership of the Group is approximately this number the sum needed would be achieved by a payment of 6d a week by the family of each Cub, Scout and Rover in addition to the subscriptions paid by the boys themselves. The suggestion has now been adopted by the Committee and was put forward at the Social on March 16th. It was very well received by the parents who were present with the result that 35 sixpences weekly have already been promised. The Committee asks other parents kindly to signify their willingness to contribute on the blue slip sent with this magazine so that the remaining 45 sixpences will be forthcoming. The members of the Committee have undertaken to collect regularly from those parents living in the same locality but would be glad of a few volunteers to assist them. Blue slips and names of those willing to assist in collection may be sent to 82 Eden Street, or handed to any officer of the Group.

"BOY SCOUT".

Ralph Reader's pageant Play of Scouting is being presented at the Royal Albert Hall during the week June 11th to 16th. Many of those who went with the "Leander" party to the Gang Show in December said that it would be a good idea to make up another party for "Boy Scout". Will anyone interested in this suggestion please get in touch with G/S/M. Ebbage without delay as the Box Office opens shortly, and past experience shows that unless applications for tickets are received on the first day, there is not much hope of getting a block of seats for the same evening.

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ROVER NOTES.

No doubt many of you have already heard the good news, that for the first time since the competition commenced in 1921 the Barker Cup has been won by "Leanders", or for that matter for the first time by Sea Scouts. Our final placings were Camping - 5th, Visits - tie for first place with two other crews, and Badges - 1st. I don't think any of you old "Leanders" after looking at the Group's record for last year, can say "The Troop is not what it used to be in my day".

The big event came at the Rover Dinner. The crew met at H.Q. and proceeded to the Carnarvon Castle Hotel, Hampton Court, by bus. We had intended to pull up by boat, but the river being in flood the stream was stronger than the crew. We had a good muster, 13 in all, including some of our honorary members. Dick Riches, home on leave from the Army, was also present. An excellent dinner was followed by some quite witty speeches, and then the Assistant District Commissioner for Rovers, Norman Lane, presented the Barker Cup to Ken Marti, who received it on behalf of the Crew. We were also presented with the shield for winning the Badges event. There was some concern as to who should receive the Visits shield, as three Crews had tied for first place. Norman decided first come first served, needless to say, "Leander" was first.

Previous to the dinner the "Ajax" Crew informed us that all the "Agricultural" types (land scouts) were going to pelt us with soot bombs, flour bombs, and rotten tomatoes, as we left later in the evening. Forwarned, forwarned as the saying is, we arrived with a large rucksack full of "ammo" ready to repel any would be boarders. After saying goodnight to all and sundry, we filed outside with not a hostile "agriculturalist" to be seen, only "Ajax" on the far side of the road with their rucksack. On seeing us they went into a very earnest huddle. So we observing this, broached the rucksack and everyone drew a full supply of "ammo". A pitched battle followed for a short time, both sides then beating a hasty retreat.

A programme of work is being carried out in the H.Q. The workshop has been completely cleared up and a woodrack has been built. This will now keep the workshop cleaner and there should be more room for boat repairs.

The first event in this years Barker Competition is Semaphore, so Sunday mornings are spent in speeding up the rate and knowledge of procedure of sending and receiving.

A SOCIAL EVENING.

On March 16th a social evening (at St. Peter's Hall) for Rovers, Old Scouts and Parents and friends of the Group was held. Some one must have informed the Clerk of the Weather, as it was typical "Leander" weather, raining heavily for the whole afternoon and evening. In spite of this between 70 and 80 people turned up and mainly thanks to Mr. Les Norris who organised games for all types, age and sex, everyone voted it a very enjoyable time.

The old firm of W.E. Twistem were there again for the dog race and a regatta was held with sailing boats fanned along the floor by relay teams. Musical chairs was varied by the couples dancing, and diving for the chairs when the music stopped. Great fun was caused to both the competitors and the spectators by the musical hat changing competition, and loud was the applause when Richard Day who although handicapped by his size in reaching the hats, finally won. And then there were those who were caught by the mustard-covered spoons. But the item of the evening was undoubtedly the obstacle race, so deservedly won by Ray Quartermain and his partner Miss Dorothy Bishop. At the end of the game Ray had very little clothing left and Miss Bishop certainly displayed great sportmanship during the rough handling she received.

Refreshments were served by Mr. Fentiman and his helpers, whilst Nigel supplied the music with his records and loud speaker. During the interval the Skipper announced details of the Easter, Whitsun and Summer camps and apologised for the absence of the Cubmaster, Miss P. Hollis, through illness. We hope she will soon recover and be back with us in good health. The Skipper was followed by Mr. Garnish, who, on behalf of the Group Committee, explained a scheme of weekly contributions for helping the funds and was rewarded at the end of the evening by a very generous response.

To help pay for the hall a pair of Nylons were raffled and won by Mrs. Sawkins, who very kindly handed them back to be auctioned, and Mr. Garnish by a novel form of Dutch Auction finally "knocked them down" to Mrs. Dodge. The evenings activities came to an end at 11.0 o'clock and we hope that the success of this effort will encourage the Group Committee to arrange further functions of this nature.

WHISPERINGS FROM THE JUNGLE.

I'm afraid Akela can only raise a faint howl this time owing to sickness, yet nevertheless the life of the Pack is progressing as lustily as every, I believe, I want to thank all those Cubs who have been kind enough to write to me whilst I've been away. I am very sorry that the three Cubs, Martin Spratley, Trevor Sharp and Richard Day, who were to be enrolled, have had to wait, but we will soon remedy that on my return. If I am unable to see you before the "Bob-a-Job" week commences, please do your utmost won't you, even better than you did last year.

Good Hunting,
AKELA.

B.P. GUILD OF OLD SCOUTS.

Since January 8th, 1951, "Leanders" B.P.Guild of Old Scouts has been meeting at the Clubroom every Monday evening at 8 o'clock. We've had a chat, discussed some business, and some nice games of Billiards and Table Tennis have been played. The news for those who have been unable to be with us is, Subs to be 10/- per year. This will allow us to be able to pay expenses for Rent, Light, Heat, and provide for entertainment of other Old Scout Guilds, etc. We want all ex-"Leanders" to come back into the fold, to help the Group as and when we can. The more we can help Scouting in the world the better for all of us, so if YOU are an ex-"Leander", don't be shy, turn up and roll along on a Monday evening. Don't say "I'm too old", you're not, even if you are 90!

On Monday February 12th, 1951, we entertained some Morden Rovers at the Headquarters, from Len Wild's Group. Len, as you know, is an old "Leander". It was an enjoyable evening. We are arranging some more visits from other Old Scout Branches. If you've an idea, let us know about it and we will follow it up. Help us to make this the liveliest B.P.Guild in the District. We are pleased to hear that the Rover Crew have won the Barker Competition. Jolly good show! Don Dolamore has agreed to be our Secretary, and will keep us all posted in Old Scout News.