

1ST SANDLEHEATH SEA SCOUT GROUP



WATERLINES

Jan 2007

New Year Edition

Solent Scout Regattas

Well done Scouts and Explorers who competed at the Solent Regatta at Testwood in September.

We came back with 2 trophies, for the Scout under 12½ Coypu and the Scout under 14 Coypu classes. These can be added to the District Football shield which the Scouts won on the previous Friday evening and the Longridge dragon-boating shield from a few weeks prior.

Many thanks to all the leaders, parents, friends etc who came along to help. Once again we played a major part in running the Regatta.

Everyone did well, some were brilliant. Our two Scout coypu pulling crews who came away unbeaten were the stars – the under 14 crew refusing to share the shield and insisting on pulling off for the trophy. They won, in a memorable race at the end of the regatta – going over the line just a few feet in front of Hamble, and on the point of exhaustion – having given everything.

Special thanks to Jack Davison and Callum Hull, who competed in the under 18 category, so that the Explorers covered all classes.

Thanks to everyone for a great day.

Ros White – Group Scout Leader

Small Groups Trophy (Scouts)

Place	Group	Points
1	Milford & Keyhaven	83
2	6 th Hamble	81
3=	1 st Sandleheath	71
3=	1 st Barton	71
5	1 st Park Gate	46
6	4 th Eling	44
7	13 th Southampton	32
8	10 th Christchurch	22
9	9 th Lymington	13
10	2 nd Fareham	-140

Scouts

Place	Group	Points
1	6 th Hamble	162
2	9 th Lymington	157
3	1 st Sandleheath	152
4	1 st Barton	120
5	13 th Southampton	96
6	Milford & Keyhaven	92
7	2 nd Fareham	85
8	4 th Eling	80
9	1 st Park Gate	50
10	10 th Christchurch	22

Explorer Scouts

Place	Group	Points
1	6 th Hamble	142
2	Sea Dragon (Fareham)	106
3	Milford & Keyhaven	87
4	1 st Sandleheath	81
5	9 th Lymington	67
6	10 th Christchurch	58
7	Southampton City	52
8	25 th Southampton	51
9	1 st Park Gate	22
10	4 th Eling	14



Charlie, Sam and Pete
– the winning under 14 Coypu crew

The regatta at Testwood is dedicated to canoeing and pulling events. Sailing events are held earlier in the year at Blashford, and here Sandleheath crews also did very well.

Scouts

Place	Group	Points
1	9 th Lymington	0
2	1 st Sandleheath	17.7
3	6 th Hamble	22
4	10 th Christchurch	36.1
5	Milford & Keyhaven	42.7
6	4 th Netley	67.4
7	4 th Eling	78.7

Explorer Scouts

Place	Group	Points
1	1 st Sandleheath	6
2	6 th Hamble	27.4
3	4 th Hythe	43.7
4	4 th Eling	51.7
5	10 th Christchurch	68.4
3	Southampton	85.7



Sailing at the Solent Regatta

Other Events

In 2006 the Scouts didn't limit themselves to just competing in the Solent Scout Regattas. They also took part in both the Basingstoke Canal Challenge & Longridge Dragon Boat Championships, and in both of these events they did exceptionally well.

The Basingstoke Canal Challenge was the day after the Testwood Regatta, yet Sam Hinton, Katrina Miller and Ellie Stacey (under the watchful eye of David Miller) managed to not only find the energy to take part – but also to come away with the team trophy. Well done!

A few weeks earlier was the Dragon Boat Championships at Longridge. With their only practice prior to the event coming in the form of a day's dragon boating on summer camp, the Scout team got off to a slightly shaky start in the first race. However they quickly got into form and made it to the final of the mixed class, coming 3rd overall (being beaten by teams from 6th Harrow and Batchworth). Again, everyone who took part should be congratulated on an outstanding performance.



The Sandleheath team at Blashford

Bag Pack

The bag pack at the Co-op before Christmas raised £245. Many thanks to all the Scouts and Explorers who were there. Well done!



Sandleheath returning from a race at Longridge

Beavers and Cubs

We're very fortunate to have available to us the facilities and safe training environment at Blashford. One of the advantages of these facilities is that it makes it possible for us to provide water activity experience evenings to the Cubs and Beavers – something that many Sea Scout Groups are not able to do.

Here are some photographs from one such evening in June 2006. Many thanks to Jacqui Ingram for providing them.



Well done

Well done to Graham Bland on passing his BCU 5* earlier this month and to Stephen White for passing his Institute of Advanced Motorists Advanced Driving Test in August and his Mountain Leader assessment (at Plas-y-Brenin) in September.

District Cub Swimming Gala

On Saturday 14th October Ringwood recreation centre swimming pool was taken over by every cub pack in the District. Although only having a team of 4, none of who are more than 9 years of age, we did pretty well against stiff opposition. Our downfall was in the open field relay races where all other teams were made up of 10 year olds. Special congratulations go to Alex Davenport who won both of his backstroke races and came a commendable 3rd when racing freestyle against a field that was at least a year older than him. The other team members who all came away with some points for Sandleheath were Edward Basquette, Daniel Poyntz-Wright and Jordan Hatcher. Well done!

Richard Farr – Cub Leader

Grants

We are extremely pleased with our success rate this year, as you will see from the applications below.

We applied for, and received, a grant from the HCC Project development Fund of £727.00 towards the cost of two new Canadian canoes and associated equipment.

The Scouts applied for, and received, £2400.00 from the Youth Opportunity Fund for a new Canoe trailer. Also a successful application for £1130.00 was made to Trinity House Fund for the purchase of a Pico.

The Explorers applied for, and received, £4900.00 from the Youth Opportunity Fund towards the cost of their trip to Kandersteg in August. They also applied to the John Barron European Studies Trust and were very fortunate to receive £1000.00 towards the cost of the trip.

We are made aware of these grants mainly by reading the local press, but if you are aware of any other grants you feel we would be eligible for then please do let me know, and we will apply. This is our main income when it comes to being able to purchase the larger items, needed to replace older equipment and give more children the opportunity to take part.

Mandie Dawson (01425 653256)

Subscriptions and Gift Aid

A big thank you to the parents who pay their subscriptions quickly, this makes the financial issues surrounding running our Scout Group that much easier. If you have any difficulty with regards to paying the subscriptions please do let me know, as there is a Salisbury based charity that we can apply to help with the cost.

Please, if applicable, do complete the Gift Aid form – as last year we received £2363.00. This is a fantastic amount and means nearly two new Picos for our fleet, just because you took the time to complete the Gift Aid form at the bottom of the subscription letter.

Mandie Dawson – Subscription Treasurer

Extreme Kayaking

We're very grateful to the members of Ringwood Canoe who assist in our canoeing instruction, and who tolerate Scouts "gate-crashing" some of their trips and events. One thing that this relationship helps us offer is some white-water experiences for the Scouts, such as a recent trip on the River Dart.

Andrew Bland, who has been involved with the Scout Group as a Scout, Explorer Scout and now Canoe Instructor has taken things a bit further than most. He is spending much of his gap year Kayaking in New Zealand, and you can read about his experiences on his blog at <http://wwandy.blogspot.com/>. As part of this he has kayaked the Huka Falls, and you can see a very impressive series of photos of this at: <http://www.ringwood.canoe.btinternet.co.uk/Huka2.wmv>



Jake on the River Dart, he's got a few more years to practice before trying the Huka Falls!

Scout Camp



Summer camp this year was held in July near Shalfleet, on the Isle of Wight.

Tuesday, 25: Andy was already on-site, where he had been doing food shopping, keeping an eye on the boats and selecting the best site for his tent.

The vehicles going to camp were booked on the 8:15 ferry, from where we were able to wave to Richard as he got Jimbo's rib ready for the journey over. Once on site the vehicles unloaded canoes, trailers and other kit and then returned to Yarmouth in time to collect the Scouts - who arrived on a later ferry.

The Scouts arrived in Yarmouth on the ferry at 10:45, amazingly they'd all arrived in Lymington on time for the 10:15 ferry and no Scouts (or any of their kit) had been lost en-route. Not everyone could fit in the vehicles so a shuttle was required to get everyone to camp.

It was then approaching lunchtime and the high-tide required to be able to use the boats, whose moorings dried at low-tide. The Scouts took advantage of the water to row and canoe. Tents were put up later in the afternoon, which was then followed by a blindfold-trail (complete with quite a lot of cheating) and then dinner. Dinner was followed by a careful inspection of the Scouts' washing up (which was generally acceptable), their drying up (which generally left more to be desired) and their mess tent (which looked like it had been the stage for a chimpanzee tea party, evidently closer supervision was required). David insisted on calling Ben 'Oliver', of "Please, Sir, can I have some more" fame. He continued to do this with sufficient regularity that several of the leaders believed that Oliver was his real name.

In the evening there was a wide-game (German spotlight was as popular as ever).

Wednesday, 26: The main activity of the day was dragon-boating at the UKSA in Cowes. The Scouts were driven part way, from where they walked the remaining few kilometres pausing for lunch by the River Medina.

While the Scouts and most of the Leaders were out of the way Jimbo decided to convert the steering on his rib from the traditional cable style to a more advanced (and messy) hydraulic system. Ably assisted by Richard, Dave and Kerry this went well, although:

- Getting the old cable out eventually required cutting it - no turning back and putting things as they were now!
- Steering is easier with the hydraulics 'wired' the correct way around. At least there are only two possibilities to try.
- The boat got rather covered in hydraulic fluid. Apparently bleeding the system into a bottle with holes in the bottom has disadvantages.

For everyone else dragon boating filled the afternoon, and I'm pleased to say that when given the opportunity the leaders team beat the best the Scouts could muster. Everyone was then shuttled back to Camp, while a few drops of rain with a thunderstorm in the background threatened to disrupt the plans for the evening. They also disrupted the car shuttle slightly, as towards the end of the shuttle we discovered Nigel AWOL. It turned out that a windscreen wiper failure had forced him to wait out the rain.

Nick and Mandie arrived to take responsibility for shopping and catering, with their first challenge being to scour the island for a dustbin for use in the Scouts' mess tent. The, possibly misguided, hope being that this would reduce the amount of mess in the mess tent.

The rain abated, and so it was decided to go ahead with the evening as planned - a beach barbecue at Colwell Bay. Everyone stayed on the beach until the light began to fade and so we started the return journey, which as ever was a shuttle. As the first to depart walked up the path from the beach the southern part of the sky became visible, and with it a spectacular thunderstorm. This made completion of the shuttle more urgent, to avoid everyone getting very wet, but of course took Nigel's car out of the running again. Nearly everyone was back on camp before the storm hit properly, so only the last few were forced into the shelter of the public toilets at Colwell Bay. A resident of Colwell Bay took pity on the remaining leaders, providing them with beer and offers of shelter.

After returning to site soup was provided before everyone retired to bed.

Thursday, 27: The morning activities were split, with the Explorers shooting and the Scouts climbing and going on a nature walk with Paul.

In the afternoon the Scouts were split between sailing and rowing, and the Explorers canoed. Some of the Explorers canoed to Yarmouth, from where they were collected and driven back to camp. After their activities the Scouts went swimming in Newport, at a pool they were pleased to discover had a water-slide.

In the evening the Explorers got their chance on the climbing tower, while the Scout played Buzz.



Friday, 28: The Explorers had a tour of the aircraft factory and Bembridge, while the Scouts had another chance to climb and to undertake some leadership and teamwork challenges arranged by Jimbo.

In the afternoon there were more water activities, everyone doing something different to the previous day. It was the Explorers turn to row, though I saw more swimming than rowing. The Scouts who were sailing got to experience different conditions to those normally found on the lake at Spinnaker, and have hopefully gained some confidence. Richard decided that he'd help with the lack of water at low tide by dredging the channel - via the unorthodox method of driving off without taking the anchor in.

Ros arrived, by bike, to tidy the equipment in the leaders' mess tent and find all the items that we thought we hadn't remembered to bring.

The evening provided the Explorers turn to clean off in the swimming pool, while the Scouts had a scavenger hunt to earn points with which they could buy kit to make a flag pole. Sorry, attempt to make a flag pole. Only one was standing when the judging took place. A second one had been standing until some last minute adjustments meant that it fell.

Saturday 29: The traditional low ropes course was set up by David and Stephen while everyone else got up and had breakfast. This allowed time for everyone to get a chance at it during the morning. When not on the course the Scouts had a chance to shoot,

and to attempt more of Jimbo's leadership challenges or play ball games.



In the afternoon there were more water activities, everyone getting the chance to do whatever activity they hadn't done so far. This meant that it was the Explorers turn to sail, where the winds caused several capsizes. Sally tried to spear a yacht as she righted her boat while the wind and tide were carrying her rapidly towards it, prompting some surprised looks from its owner.

After the activities there was a talk on calling for help at sea, followed by a demonstration of flares by Jimbo.

Sunday 30: After breakfast and packing, everyone was driven to Freshwater Bay for lunch and then a walk to Yarmouth. In Yarmouth they had an hour to buy presents/postcards/etc, before meeting for the 4pm ferry. During the crossing we were able to wave to David and Sharon Miller who were canoeing back, and were entering the Lymington River at about the same time as the ferry. All the Scouts and vehicles were safely back in Lymington at 4:30.

While the Scouts had an uneventful crossing, the leaders attempting to get the boats back fared less well. The Feva had capsized while being towed up the creek, and had de-masted itself in the process. Even without the Feva and 420 the wind and waves made the tow across the solent difficult, and it was eventually decided to leave the boats on the island and collect them later.

A big thank you must go to all the Leaders and helpers on camp, that enabled us to provide such a wide range of activities. Dragon-boating was the only activity that required us to use an external centre and their instructors, and being able to run so many activities ourselves allows for both greater flexibility in the programme and also allows us to keep the cost of camp as low as possible.

Stephen White – Asst Scout Leader

Kayak Expedition

During the Isle of Wight Scout Camp, a group of five Explorers went on a sea kayak expedition round the coast from Newtown Creek to Yarmouth. Led by David Miller, we set off in our boats down Newtown creek. It was planned that we would go with the tide that sweeps round the coast of the island, making for a reasonably fast journey to Colwell Bay, stopping at various points on the coast as we went.

We set off at about three o'clock in the afternoon. Three of us were in sea kayaks, and three in Dancers, the best boat for long journeys apart from a sea kayak. We were told about all the safety checks to be made on a kayak before setting off, and taught about how best to pack the dry bags so they didn't leak an important lesson as we were taking all of our dry clothes with us in the boats!

From Corf Scout Camp, we paddled up to the entrance of Newtown Creek and then went west, towards Yarmouth. Once out on the open sea, we realised that the trip was going to be harder work than we had initially thought; despite the strong tide, the wind was blowing us back towards Newtown Creek. We couldn't go as fast as we'd hoped, so decided to shorten the trip so that we would get to Yarmouth, not Colwell Bay for seven o'clock.

We stopped for a break at a beach about half way to Yarmouth. It wasn't a beach that could be reached by land easily, because of all the erosion and landslides on the coast, but it was fine to bring the kayaks onto. After making a useful seat out of all the crates and pieces of wood washed up, it was time to continue to Yarmouth. Before reaching Yarmouth, another stop was made for boat swaps so that everyone could try out a sea kayak. I swapped into a Dancer which, as expected, was much harder work over long distances compared to the sea kayak.

Finally we arrived at Yarmouth. The port was busy, with the Wightlink Ferries and all the other boats travelling in and out. Being in kayaks, we did not have right of way, so careful negotiation was required to get across the path of the boats and to somewhere that we could land. David got us all through safely and we enjoyed the last bit of the journey - paddling up into Yarmouth, looking forwards to a bag of chips when we got there!

Ellie Stacey – Explorer Scout

Group Programme – 2007

January	Saturday, 20th	Canoeing at Spetisbury (8:30am) Canoeing pool session (New Milton, 5:30pm)
February	Saturday, 3rd Sunday, 4th Saturday, 24th	Chick Law Competition (Scout, Sandheath, 2 - 5pm) Caving for D. of E. physical recreation (Mendip) S.A.L.L.I.E. Night Hike (Scouts/Explorers/Leaders)
March	Friday, 2nd - Sunday, 4th Sunday, 11th Saturday, 17th & Sunday, 18th Saturday, 24th	County Winter Camp (Ferry Crofts) District Cub Football (2 - 4pm) H.S.C.C. caving days (Mendip) Scout Centre spring clean
April		
May	Wednesday, 2nd Thursday, 3rd Friday, 4th - Sunday, 6th Friday, 11th - Sunday, 13th Saturday, 12th & Sunday, 13th Saturday, 19th	Caving for D. of E. physical recreation (S.R.T. practice, Lyons Copse) First week of water activities at Spinnaker (6:30pm) District St George's activity D. of E. bronze assessed & silver practise expeditions (New Forest) H.S.C.C. caving & climbing days (Mendip) Group AGM, Activity day and Hog Roast (provisional)
June	Friday, 8th - Sunday, 10th Tuesday, 12th Saturday, 16th Friday, 22nd - Sunday, 24th Saturday, 30th	100 years of Scouting family camp (Harry's Island) Water Activities (at Spinnaker, Beavers 5:30 - 7pm, Cubs 6:30 - 8pm) Family day and barbecue at Spinnaker Cub Camp (Harry's Island) Solent Sailing Regatta (Spinnaker)
July	Sunday, 22nd - Friday, 27th	Scout Camp (Torbay)
August	Tuesday, 7th - Friday, 17th	Explorer Camp (Kandersteg, Switzerland)
September	Saturday, 1st Tuesday, 11th Saturday, 22nd Sunday, 30th	Dragon Boat Championships at Longridge Water Activities (at Spinnaker, Beavers 5:30 - 7pm, Cubs 6:30 - 8pm) Solent Regatta at Testwood Lakes Basingstoke canal challenge
October		

The group website contains many of these reports and results, sometimes in more detail than could be reproduced here, as well as over 1,000 photographs from different events over the years. Google for "Sandheath Scouts", or go to

<http://trillian.randomstuff.org.uk/~stephen/scouts/>

Annual reports for all sections, to go in the A.G.M. Edition of Waterlines, should be sent to the editor by Wednesday 2nd May.



1st Sandleheath Sea Scout Group

Useful Phone Numbers & Addresses

Page not available online.

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