

John Gales

John was a member of the 6/12th Mitcham Sea Scouts for over 21 years. John was an Assistant Beaver Scout Leader alongside his wife Sue, who was the Beaver Leader. John became a supporter not only of the Beaver Colony but of the whole Group. At one time our Beaver Colony was the extension of the Gale family with Sue, John, their son Mark and daughter Sharon as the Leadership.

When Sue and John stepped down their son-in-law Peter, and Sharon took up the reins.

When the Scout summer camp time came along and the scouts needed a driver for the transit van the first person to turn to was John and sometimes he approached the leaders to volunteer before the camp details were finalised. Fundraising events were always supported by the whole family.

John battled his cancer for over 2 years with dignity and he will be greatly missed by our Group. He lost his battle late Friday night, 21st March.

Our sympathy goes out to Sue, Mark, Sharon, Peter and Lyn and to his grandchildren.

Leaders of the 6/12th Mitcham Sea Scout Group

Copy date for the May edition of Links is Thursday 25 April.

"A problem is solved from the moment you smile and confront it"

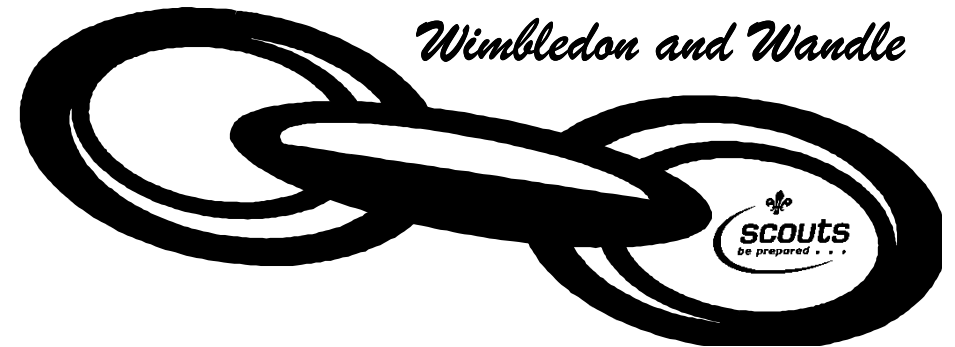
Robert BadenPowell

Links Editor

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Links

April 2014 – Issue 102

Apr 3	Last night of store before holidays	Morden Hall DHQ 7.45pm
11/12	Explorer Award Qualifying Hikes	North Downs/New Forest
13	First Aid Training	22 nd Wimbledon HQ 9am
24	District Store re-opens	
27	St George's Day Parade and Service	Wimbledon Common
May 3/4	Scouts' Backwoods Camp	Broadstone Warren
3	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
7	District AGM	1 st Lower Morden HQ 8pm
12	District Team Meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
13	Troop Scouters' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
14	Cub Scout Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
17	District Store open	Morden Hall DHQ 10am
18	Cub Football	Raynes Park High School
18	GLSW All Sections meeting	Tbc
20	Key Managers' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
21	Beaver Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm

District Commissioner

2014 being the mid-point between Scouting's Vision 2012 and Scouting's Vision Towards 2018, and given that this Vision informs policy making and planning at all levels of the Movement from National to Group, it behoves us to take the opportunity to examine the 2018 Vision, to understand it, and to decide how best to apply it practically.

Having met and spoken to a number of Scouts over the last month that competed in the County Night Exercise and Operation Red Flare and who took part in recent Platinum Award expeditions, the aspect of the Vision that sprung to mind was "Members of Scouting in 2018 will feel: Empowered..." What does that mean for our youth members?

The term "empowered", unfortunately, carries with it political connotations, particularly from late 20th century feminism, which are unhelpful when applying the term to modern day Scouting. We need to understand it simply as a succinct way of describing that which we as Leaders do to "make (our beavers/cubs/scouts/explorers) able" ie to move them along the path from dependence to *independence*; from having to rely on others, to being able to take the initiative; from being led, to leading.

When Greg and his team from St Saviour's ESU came 6th in Operation Red Flare and then a couple of weeks later blitzed their Platinum Award expedition, they demonstrated leadership, teamwork, expertise, tenacity and self-reliance, all aspects of the independence that should be the hallmark of the Scout. Their Leaders, past and present, had empowered them in the right sense of the word. Doubtless, every Leader will be able to cite similar examples.

The key here is that we enable scouts *to be* independent and to be capable of *acting* independently, because "feel(ing) empowered" is not enough. One may "feel" empowered, but one may be far from capable.

As section leaders this "making able" must underpin our programme planning; as a District it must be our *raison d'être*.

If you would like to come and share your knowledge or pick up a few tips from our in-house experts just give me a call.

There are no camp fees for Leaders, you just need to get to Broadstone Warren but, having said that, if transport is an issue, once again just give me a call.

We can also arrange for Nights Away Permit assessments by prior arrangement during this week-end.

District Scout 5-a-side Football: Thanks are once again due to Gary Baker and his team for organising the five-a-side.

Entries were well down this year so we must consider whether this event has run its course and if it should perhaps be dropped from 2015's calendar.

A couple of Leaders have cited that the problem was that it was held on Mothering Sunday but they were at the meeting last September that set this year's dates and this was the day decided on.

Congratulations go to the winners, 22nd Wimbledon.

Explorer Scout Report – Neil McLauchlan

A fun weekend was had by all for the Award Hikes Practice Weekend. There was a little rain and some wind but no really challenging weather! We are all looking forward to the Qualifying Hikes in April. Details will be out soon for the Survival Weekend.

The next Explorer Scout Leaders meeting is: Wed 4th June 2014, DHQ 8.00pm



Scout Active Support – Linda Vaudrey

Thank you to everyone who turned out for our Annual Meeting on 26th March. Thanks to Jean Gould for providing the refreshments. If you did not complete the helpers sheet for St George's Day (27th April) please you can help. The same goes for the Away Day choice for Sunday, 22nd June, either a trip to Hughenden Manor or Dover Castle. Reminder that the District AGM will be held on Wednesday 7th May. We shall be catering for this event so any help you can give will be appreciated.

Our thoughts and prayers go to the family of John Gales, 6/12th Mitcham, who sadly passed away last week. Although John was not a SASU member he and his family were always staunch supporters and helpers at our 'Kiddies Corner' at the May Fair in Morden Hall Park.



Training Dates

Date	Module	Title	Time
20 May	11	Administration**	Croydon
24 May	15	Challenging Behaviour	10.00 - 12.30
24 May	17	Activities outdoors	13.00 – 16.30
7 June	13	Growing the Movement (Leaders)	10.00 – 13.00
7 June	21	Growing the Movement (Managers)	10.00 - 16.30
21 Sept	16	Introduction to residential experiences	10.00 – 13.00
21 Sept	38A	Skills for residential experiences	14.00 – 17.00
11/12 Oct	38B	Skills for residential experiences weekend camp	tbc
26 Oct	12	Providing a balanced programme	09.30 – 13.30
26 Oct	19	International	14.30 – 16.00
16 Nov	15	Challenging behaviour	10.00 – 12.30
16 Nov	17	Activities outdoors	13.00 – 16.30
30 Nov	13	Growing the Movement (Leaders)	10.00 – 13.00
30 Nov	21	Growing the Movement (Managers)	10.00 – 16.30

Please note there are some changes from the details published last month.

All Modules will be at the 1st Lower Morden Scout Headquarters unless stated
Cost per Module is £4.00

Application forms from
Mrs J Condon 34 Arundel Avenue, Morden SM4 4DX
e.mail joan.glswtraining@btinternet.com or download from the County web site
www.glsWSCouts.org.uk/applicationforms.

** Held at 9th Croydon HQ Alverston Gardens, South Norwood, SE25 6LR (near the
Crystal Palace Football ground and just up from Selhurst Station).
For further details contact **Alison Edwards** (Alison.edwards@local.gov.uk)

First Aid Dates

13th April 22nd Wimbledon W&W District
17th May 1st Whitton Richmond
Contact Mrs Janet Drinkall 020 8669 4774 e.mail jdrinkall@sky.com

Appointments – Muriel Treagust, District Appointments Secretary

The Appointments' Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, 25th March at the
DHQ, Morden Road and the following were agreed:-

Lisa Poulton	confirmed as GSL, 16 th Morden
Tracey Galonis	confirmed as BSL, 1 st Wimbledon
Victoria Benham	ABSL, 3 rd Mitcham

The following New Warrants were agreed:

James Cameron	ASL, 9 th Wimbledon
Matthew Price	AESL, Mitcham Unit
Luke Griffin	ABSL, 8 th Morden

Change of Warrant noted for:-

Ian Wilkins	ACSL, 16 th Morden
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Also noted were:-

Malcolm Miles	Troop Section Assistant, 13 th Wimbledon – from an Occasional Helper
Fiona Miles	Beaver Section Assistant, 13 th Wimbledon – from an Occasional Helper

Our congratulations to them all.

Morden Hall DHQ Keys

The padlocks at DHQ are wearing and need to be replaced.
Will all key holders please arrange to collect new keys from the District
Store by **8th May 2014**, when the new locks will go on?

Morden Fun Day – 20 July 2014

Mission: create an exciting, adventurous *fun-day* for all the family
Vision: by inviting local organisations, charities and businesses we are
planning a day of fun and celebration to involve everyone.

Want to get involved?

Contact: Andy Butcher, Morden Funday Event Co-ordinator (Rotary Club)
help@mordenfunday.org

Section Reports

Beaver Scouts – John Tweedley



Unfortunately we have had to postpone the bike & scooter ride as the Morden Hall DHQ was booked for the proposed date in June so we hope to run this in September. The Activity day has been booked for 19th October at the 1st Lower Morden's H.Q. this will be an all day event with different age groups attending at different times.

I have started visiting colonies again and have two colonies to visit this month, if I have not yet visited your colony yet please send me some dates on which I can attend. Please note that if your colony has not any grounds to do any activities in the D.H.Q. is available at no cost and is a secure place to do outdoor activities.

Cubs - Michele McNamara



Our next event is the 7 aside football competition on Sunday 18th May at Raynes Park High School. Entries for teams should be with me by 10th May in time for the draw at the next CSL meeting on 14th May. No entries will be accepted after 10th May. Full rules and details will be sent out shortly.

As mentioned above the next CSL meeting is May 14th please do try and attend.

Scouts – Dave Bixby



County Night Exercise: Following on from the County Cooking Competition earlier in the year, Troops from Wimbledon & Wandle again gave an excellent level of support to this event providing 8 out of the 25 teams that started.

Our best placed teams were the 13th Wimbledon 6th place, 22nd Wimbledon 7th place and the 1st Merton Park A 8th place.

Congratulations to them and very well done to all of our Troops that entered. There were a large number of Leaders from our District involved in the event and I have been asked by the main organiser, our very own Tim Kerridge, to extend his very grateful thanks to everyone who helped make it a success.

Backwoods Camp: As you read this, the closing date for Scout places has been and gone but we can still accommodate a few more adults.

District Commissioner continued . . .

Finally, hearty **congratulations** to Lesley Bixby and Neil McLauchlan (Bar to the Silver Acorn), Andy Edmonds (Silver Acorn), Joan Burgess (Bar to the Award for Merit), Lee Churchill and Ray Donovan-Hill (Commendation for Good Service), whose contribution to the Movement was recently recognised by the Chief Scout!

Joe

Chairman's Chatter – Andy Edmonds

It's that time of year when attention turns to Report writing and Muriel will be chasing me for my Annual Report! Anyway, a reminder to everyone else who feeds into the District Report (especially Joe!) that the deadline was 5th April!

We are lucky to be well served by Keith Angliss, who has finalised the 2013 Financial Accounts, ready for independent examination. Thanks to Ted Aslett for his work as Examiner and to Jackie Lyons for her work over the year in keeping everything together as Treasurer. It is a relief that our Accounts will be ready for the AGM!

A last reminder then that the District AGM is on Wednesday 7th May at 1st Lower Morden, 8pm start, with food and drink to follow.

St George's Day Parade and Service

Sunday 27 April

Meet at The Causeway, Wimbledon Common at 1.30pm

The Service will commence at 2.30pm in Sacred Heart Church, Edge Hill

This is our opportunity to show off Scouting to the public so please ensure that all Leaders are in full, correct uniform and wearing their current awards and that our young members are aware that they should be looking their smartest and be on their best behaviour. Full details are on the website.

