

*"Promise me you will always remember -
You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem and smarter than you think"
Christopher Robin to Pooh*



Links

June 2011 - Issue no. 74

June 8	County AGM	Twickenham
11	Cubeaver Jambo	
11-12	Scout Camping Assessment	Park Farm
11	Mitcham Carnival	
17-19	Chaos Activity Camp	Tolmers
July 3	Scouts Raft Race	Ravensbury Park from 12 noon
6	District Executive	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
9	Sports Day	Wimbledon Park
13	CSLs' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
16	Beaver Sports	Hillcross School
20	Beaver Leaders' meeting	Morden Hall DHQ 8pm
21	Last night of Store for the summer	
23	SAS BBQ	Buckleigh Avenue
Sept 15	Store re-opens	

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District Commissioner

Thanks to Paul Atkins and his team, the SAS, the 9th Wimbledon and the Band for a memorable St George's Day parade last month. Some 800 members were present, as were Guides and parents, filling the Sacred Heart church and renewing their Promises with gusto.

Our Promise is the bedrock on which B-P built our remarkable Movement and we ignore it at our peril. We must ensure that every Beaver, Cub, Scout and Explorer memorises it prior to investiture and, more importantly, fully understands what they are saying. The implications of the Promise are manifold, but at the simplest level, our scouts need to understand that they are making a personal commitment to a way of living, which will enhance both their own lives and the lives of those around them, be it at the section meeting, at camp, at home or in the wider world. It needs to be the cornerstone of every section's behaviour code and that may well be the ideal time to explore it with our scouts.

Two people who have lived that Promise to the full have recently decided to step back from "full-time" Scouting. Kath McLauchlan, who many will know as the "Wimbledon" Badge Secretary, and John Smith (ADC Band) have given decades of great service to the Movement and we are grateful for all that they have both done to support Scouting during that time. We wish them well, although it's a fair bet that they'll never be far away from the action!

Finally, congratulations to DCSL Peter Pan (aka Graham Fairclough 22nd Wimbledon) who will receive his Award of Merit next month!

Joe

Third Mitcham Scout Group

90th Celebrations 10th July 2011

You are cordially invited to the following

9.45am Church parade at St Barnabas Church

Gorringe Park Avenue Mitcham CR4

12.00pm H.Q. Woodland Way Mitcham CR4 2DZ

Light refreshments

12.30pm Group A.G.M.

1.30pm Bar-B-Cue and Nostalgic Afternoon

R.S.V.P e-mail johngsl@hotmail.com

Post John Tweedley 113 Nimrod Road Streatham London SW16 6 TH

Open Evenings week beginning 4th July

Beavers Monday 6.30-7.45 Scouts Wednesday 7.00-9.00

Cubs Thursday 6.45-8.15

A Safeguarding awareness course, which is mandatory for all members, is to be held on 16th June, 8.00 p.m. at Bow Lane. Names to David, please, as soon as possible. (Tel No 8395 1885).

The BBQ will again be held at Jean and David's on 23rd July £7.00 per head - bring own drink. Names to Jean Gould as soon as possible, please, telephone number as above.

We hope you all have a good summer and look forward to seeing members at as many events as possible.



County Website

The new County website is now up and running but what would you find useful to have on it? Let Martin Whiting know - it can only be improved if the users make constructive criticism and pass on their ideas.

Morden Hall DHQ

Do you lack outdoor space for tent pitching and firelighting?

Why not hold your Section meeting in the grounds of the District HQ?

Ring Betty Cronk on 8393 6233 or email bettycronk@tiscali.co.uk to book.

Chairman's Chatter - Andy Edmonds

"Thank You" to everyone who came to the District AGM and to those who made positive comments to me on the day and for your emails afterwards. This role is difficult in that one doesn't get to see happy smiling faces on a Troop night, to act as an encouragement when the paperwork and bureaucracy becomes overwhelming. It is gratifying to receive such words of encouragement and support.

You will be aware that Keith Angliss has "stepped into the breach" (AGAIN!) and is busy getting our Accounts in order and ready for audit. They will be presented as soon as possible to meet our legal obligations. Whilst I am now advertising for a new Treasurer, Keith has kindly agreed to ensure that 2011 Accounts will be available for next years AGM. In conjunction with John Young, who continues to do all the day to day requirements, this will ensure our new Treasurer gets the best possible support and handover.

"Thank You" also to Dave Gould and the SAS who have offered to help out with grass cutting at Morden Hall DHQ and looking after the Mary White Memorial Garden.

The District now has two mess tents with extensions, stored at KBH. Speak to Brian Whalebone our District Quartermaster, but, as he said at the AGM, a bit (meaning a lot!) more notice than a couple of hours please!! It is good to know that Brian is now mobile again.

The District Executive has reviewed the options as regards the 20th Mitcham's equipment and the future of the 20th Headquarters in consultation with the 23rd Mitcham. It has been agreed that the best interests of Scouting in Pollards Hill would be served by merging the two Groups. Effectively this puts things back where they were in the 1950's, when the 23rd was formed after splitting from the 20th. The process will be formally discussed and agreed at AGMs to be arranged for both Groups at The Reg Woolmer Hall.

The Executive has been involved in discussions with other District Executives via the County Executive, in order to agree a common approach to funding Jamborees from 2015. This has implications for everyone as future contingents will be selected on a County basis by merit over a

selection weekend. In the future 50% of places will be allocated to Districts based on their combined Scout and Explorer numbers as a percentage of County's. The remaining 50% of places will be allocated without reference to their District of origin. The question of any financial support is still up for agreement.

Safer Transport Team

Neeley Smith and Ryan Scammell are Police Officers based at Morden Police Office. They are attached to the Safer Transport Team, which is a joint Metropolitan Police and Transport for London initiative. The remit of the team is to interact with the public and patrol buses and the transport interchange points focusing on local problems such as cycle theft and anti social behaviour.

They are willing to come to Group or Section meetings to talk about their work, discuss safety on the transport network and general personal safety. There could be a few freebies as well.

If you would like them to come and visit you, please contact them:
PC Neeley Smith 3111ST c/o Morden Police Office, tel 0208 649 3125 or 07825386725 or by email to Ryan.Scammell@met.police.uk_

District Headquarters telephone

I understand that the telephone at the Morden Hall DHQ is to be removed so will everyone who rings to check stock items and place orders on a Thursday evening please ensure that you have Brian's and Lesley's mobile numbers.



District Sports

9th July at Wimbledon Park Sports Arena

This event is now well established and the format works very well. Peter Hutton has sent out details and the programme and all the information is available on the Wimbledon and Wandle website.

If you have any queries or you can help on the day, please contact Peter. It would be good to see more Groups represented this year.

Athletes' Badge Testing - As I explained at the CSL meeting I am still trying to find a suitable venue for this and please note the proposed date on the website is incorrect. Further information will follow if I find a suitable venue.

Cub/Beaver Funday June 11th - I have passed on details to date from County, if you are attending, please keep checking your e-mails as further information will be sent shortly re pick up times etc.

Scout Report - Dave Bixby

Raft Race: Please let me know if your Troop will be entering the raft race, which is on 2 July, by 26 June, so I can ensure that I have sufficient equipment available. I have had one offer of help to transport the drums and staves to the park - thank you Tim - but is any one else available with a large vehicle, please? Don't forget, this is a FUN event and must not be taken too seriously!



NAN forms: As summer camp approaches, please make sure that you get your NAN form in plenty of time - a minimum of two weeks before you leave is required but it is worth doing it well in advance so that it doesn't get forgotten in the last minute preparations. Without a NAN form, if anything goes wrong NO-ONE will support you.

Scout Active Support - Linda Vaudrey

We all enjoyed our visit to the Brighton Pavilion on Saturday 21st May and, after a good lunch, we strolled along in the sunshine. A pity a few more members didn't attend as you missed a good day out. Many thanks to Jean for organising and Allan for driving us there.



The tickets for the Beating the Retreat on 9th June will be distributed shortly.

Unfortunately, the Summer Meal, on 12th June, has had to be cancelled due to lack of response.

Volunteers will be needed for Sports Day on 9th July, to be held at Wimbledon. Please let David know if you can help on the day.

Thank you . . .

. . . to Tony Webb who has photocopied and distributed the paper copies of Links for the last 7 years. Tony has now given up this job and any future changes in the numbers of paper copies required should be sent to the Editor, please.

Do you actually need a paper copy? We know many people like to have one to take to meetings etc. and we are often told that Leaders get the email notification through but don't bother to read the newsletter on line. However, there is a printable version available on the website. Please consider whether your Group needs all the paper copies it gets and, if not, let us know and we can amend what we send you - if you want more, that is not a problem either, so long as Links gets read by as many Scouters and supporters as possible.

Orienteering

Orienteering is a challenging outdoor adventure sport, combining physical and mental skills. The aim is to navigate in sequence between control points marked on a unique orienteering map and decide the best route to complete the course in the quickest time.

The County is running a training course for Scouts on 26th June at Ham Riverside Lands, Richmond. The contact for this is Robin Burr ACC Scouts robin.burr@virgin.net

Did you know that Morden Hall Park has a permanent orienteering course and you can buy the maps from the National Trust Shop for £1?

Archery and Air Rifle Shooting

If you would like to spend an evening doing archery and/or air rifle shooting, contact Lee Robinson of the 1st Morden to discuss times and terms: robinsonlt@hotmail.co.uk

Trek Carts

Many trek carts languish in the back of sheds because the wheels are damaged. Phillip Gregson is a Wheelwright and Country Craftsman and can repair/replace trek cart wheels. Visit www.wheelwrighting.co.uk

Training Dates

08 Jun	7.45-10.15	11	Administration (Section Leaders)
15 Jun	7.45-10.15	15	Challenging Behaviour
22 Jun	7.45-10.15	17	Activities outdoors
05 Jul	7.45-10.15	16	Nights Away
12 Jul	7.45-10.15	19	International
24 Sep	9.30-1.30	12	Providing a Balanced Programme - Bow Lane
01 Oct	10am-1pm	16	Nights Away - Bow Lane
01 Oct	2pm-4.30	38	Nights Away Residential "A" (must attend "B") Bow Lane
15/16 Oct	Residential	38	Nights Away Residential "B" (must attend A) Bears Wood
23 Oct	10.00-11.15	08	Skills of Leadership
23 Oct	11.30-12.30	09	Working with Adults
23 Oct	1.30-2.30	14	Young People today
23 Oct	2.45-4.30	15	Challenging Behaviour
20 Nov	10am-12	19	International
20 Nov	1pm-4pm	17	Activities outdoors
26 Nov	10am-1pm	13	Growing the Movement (Section Leaders)
26 Nov	10am-4.30	21	Growing the Movement (Managers)

Unless it states otherwise in the Training Dates, the training modules are held at Morden Hall DHQ and are limited to 20 participants.

Contact Alison Edwards or Joan Condon for more information.

First Aid courses are booked through Janet Drinkall, telephone 020 8669 4774, email janet.drinkall@glswscouts.org.uk.

Section Reports

Beavers - Andrew Hayward

Thanks to everyone who came to the meeting on 16 May. It was a really positive meeting where many things were agreed and planned. Exciting times ahead!



Dates for your diary:

Beaver Sports Day, Saturday 16 July 2-4pm (set up from 12.30-1pm)
Hillcross Primary School, Ashridge Way, Morden, SM4 4EE

This will be a fun event where colonies will be mixed together and will visit bases trying their hand at various activities! Parents are also welcome to come along, to picnic and have fun!

Various bases have already been decided and volunteers have offered to man these but can you help man the others?? A list will be emailed/posted detailing what the events are and where help is needed. Would a group like to run a refreshment tent??

Trip to RAF Museum, Hendon, Saturday 12 November

This has now been confirmed with the museum and the coach company. Cost £10 per Beaver which includes coach travel, air activities badge and a simulator ride.

Letters explaining these events in further detail will be emailed and posted out to you shortly.

Many thanks to the 2nd Morden & 5th Morden for allowing me to visit them: I had a great time mucking in!

If you have any queries, please contact me.

Cub Report - Michèle McNamara



7 aside football competition - Thanks to all those who attended either as players, leaders or officials for making this such a pleasant day. Apart from one very heavy shower, the weather even behaved itself. 11 teams entered and congratulations to the 5th Morden for winning and the 11th Mitcham for coming runners up. Congratulations also to the 13th Wimbledon & 22nd Wimbledon for coming 3rd & 4th respectively.

Payment for Uniform and Badges

From the end of June, cheque cards will no longer be valid to guarantee payment of cheques.

The Executive has decided that the Store and Badge Secretary can still accept personal cheques but will need the name and address of the individual and the Group name on the back.

Please continue to encourage your parents to buy uniforms from the Store but could you remind them that we do not have the facilities to accept cards and payment must be made by cash or cheque.

Badges - Lesley Bixby

Apologies for the delay in getting badges recently - Scout Shops have been having one of their periodic change-arounds and this has slowed down their turnover of orders. Hopefully they will be back to normal soon.

Store

- Men and youths' **activity shorts** have been redesigned to give zipped side and back pockets for additional security, large belt loops to allow for the new Scout belt and a zipped internal security pocket on left leg. Men's £20 Youth's £14
- The Scouting Adventure Annual 2012
Packed full of activities, information outdoor adventures jokes and puzzles: order now, available mid-August
RRP £7.99: our price £5.59
- Please note that the ladies activity shorts have been withdrawn and replaced with cropped trousers £23.

Maps

Are you ever struggling to find copies of maps to teach your members map reading? Please help yourself to as many as you like from the DHQ.

New telephone numbers

Dave Hodges has recently changed his phone number to 07913 638 649 and Alan Green's is now 07980 856 268.