



Cliff Condon

It with great regret we report the death of Cliff at the beginning of February. He was a life-long Scout who always 'did his best'. His early days were spent at the 3rd Mitcham and he held a number of leader appointments including ADC Venture Scouts. He was a brilliant District Commissioner who did much to sort out an ailing District before the merger into Wandle and he led Wandle to great things by building a strong team around him. After his days as DC were over, he continued to support a group that had been struggling and to work tirelessly on the County Base (now 1st Lower Morden HQ) and the Morden Hall DHQ. Our thoughts and prayers are with Joan, Susan, Tracey and their family.

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Links Editor

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Wimbledon and Wandle



Links

March 2016 – Issue no. 120

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|-----------|---|--------------------------------|
| 4 - 6 Mar | Young Leaders' training | Walton Firs |
| 5 | District Store open | Morden Hall DHQ 10am |
| 5-6 | County Explorers' Red Flare | |
| 8 | Safeguarding training | 8 th Morden 8pm |
| 9 | Cub Scout Leaders' meeting | Morden Hall DHQ 8pm |
| 12 - 13 | County Scouts' Night Exercise | Polyapes |
| 15 | SASU annual meeting | Morden Hall DHQ 8pm |
| 16 | Safeguarding training | 1 st Cheam HQ |
| 19 | District Store open | Morden Hall DHQ 10am |
| 24 | No store – closed for holidays | |
| 31 | No store – Easter holidays | |
| 7 Apr | No store – Easter holidays | |
| 8 - 10 | Explorers' award practice expeditions | North and South Downs |
| 12 | Appointments sub-committee | Morden Hall DHQ |
| 13 | District Executive | Morden Hall DHQ 8pm |
| 16 | District Store open | Morden Hall DHQ 10am |
| 16 | Skills Day | 4 th Worcester Park |
| 24 | St George's Day Parade and service | |
| 30-2 May | Explorers' award qualifying expeditions | |

Red Book

If you find that someone has mislaid your copy of the Red Book or another Leader has it and you need to check some details or entry dates, the whole document is available to download on our District website. You will find it under Info/Scouts. The information is password protected so if you don't know the site password, contact me.

Our next Scout Section meeting is on Tuesday 17th May 8.00 pm at Morden Hall District HQ.

Explorer Scouts:

By the time this goes to press/email we will have had our latest leaders' meeting. We will also have had our 1st ever District Dodgeball Competition. More news later.



Several Units went to the Gang Show and I understand they all had a great time. All units that are taking part in the forthcoming Award Hike Weekends should be starting their training for both the practice and the qualifying weekends.

Please also see the reminder about Adult Leader Adventurous Training elsewhere in this copy of Links.

Scout Active Support

February has been quite a social month for us with our successful belated New Year Meal and our 'Mexican Train' evening on Wednesday 10th, although I am not sure whether Muriel knew if she was working for British Rail or Dr Beeching!



We also enjoyed an evening at the Secombe Centre watching the 'SouWest Gang Show'.

Our next event is our Annual Meeting on Tuesday, 15th March, 7.30 for 8.00 p.m., at Morden Hall HQ. ALL MEMBERS to attend please. If you cannot attend please send your apologies to either Robert or myself.

"Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible;
and suddenly you are doing the impossible."

Francis of Assisi

District Commissioner

Following on from last month's Links, the final figures are now in for the District census and, as we all had hoped, they show an overall increase in membership in every section apart from, unfortunately, Explorers. Thank-you to everyone who made the collection of data so straightforward this year and, as ever, to the indomitable Muriel Treagust for collating it all so expertly.

The number of adults grew by 9%, Beavers by 5%, Cubs by 12% and Scouts by a massive 17%. Overall, the District grew by an extremely healthy 8.41%. Particular credit must go both to the 8th Morden and to the 16th Morden, whose numbers rose by 33% and 31% respectively. Seventeen groups showed increases on last year and four groups have over 100 members, which means that we now have over 1400 scouts. The number of Young Leaders who are not attached to an explorer unit stands at 37, so, taken together with the many explorers from units who also fulfil this role, and volunteers from Guiding and DoE, we now have over 90 teenage helpers in our sections.

Huge thanks must go to all the Leaders, adult helpers and executive members who have worked so hard over the last few years to make this happen at section level and let us hope that we can sustain this growth in the years to come. The fact that the District Executive has been able to allocate money to cover the cost of this growth, and will continue to be able to do so for the foreseeable future can only help in this important endeavour.

Who better to sum up what we're about than our Founder:

"Scouting is a Movement, because it moves forward. As soon as it stops moving, it becomes an Organisation, and is no longer Scouting"

Joe

Chairman's Chatter – Andy Edmonds

There are two things that have happened since last month that need to be marked:

Firstly, the sad death of Cliff Condon, who I have known all my Scouting life, firstly through his and Joan's connections with the 3rd Mitcham and more recently since Mitcham and Morden & St Helier Districts were merged into Wandle. As DC of the then new District, he had a mammoth task and yes, there were a number of times he and I disagreed, particularly over spending money on DHQ! Time has proved his vision to be correct and those of us who knew Cliff are blessed to have known him.

Secondly, the impending departure of our DC to the position of Surrey County Commissioner. I have known Joe for the best part of 20 years and we have worked together as DC and Chairman for the last 6 years. During that time, Joe has led the District with vision and we have implemented and adapted a Development Plan, now well financed in order to support the growth of Scouting throughout the Borough. Joe will remain in post until the AGM on 4th May and that will be our chance to wish him well and to mark his contribution. Extra refreshments will be available and I promise to keep the meeting part as short as necessary!

I have had an initial meeting with Theresa Jeffrey, the County Commissioner and a process with time-scale to have someone in position by the time of our AGM on 4th May has been initiated. Details have been circulated to Key Managers and hopefully they and you will all pass on as widely as possible! By the time you read this the details and Application Form will be available via the District web site. I will be doing my best to get the word out, far and wide, in the hope that we can find, not a Joe Clone, but someone who can bring drive, inspiration and ideas. In order to build on our firm foundations, the 8% rise in youth numbers seen over the last 12 months and considerable financial resources we now have available. If anyone wants to have an informal discussion about the District or wants any background information, I am available to discuss.

We are thankful for the vision and contributions that both our District Commissioners have given us and grateful to their families for sharing them with us!

CSL Meeting – the next meeting is March 9th at Morden Hall Pk HQ please make an effort to attend or send a representative.

Scouts – Dave Bixby

Gas Bottles: One of our Troops' was desperate for a couple of Camping Gaz 907 cylinders to match their cooking stoves.

I put around a general plea and I was genuinely overwhelmed by the response.

Some 8 Groups got in touch and it was job done within a week.

My sincere thanks to all who responded.

A true demonstration, if one was needed, that Scout spirit lives.

County Cooking Competition: Once again Wimbledon and Wandle provided an out of proportion response support to the County Cooking Competition. We supplied 7 out of 23 entries and a good number of judges.

The competition was very close with only 7 points across the top 12 teams. Special congratulations are due to the 23rd Mitcham for gaining 1st and 4th places, 13th Wimbledon joint 7th place.

Well done every Troop that entered.

District 5-a-side football: The weather was windy and rather chilly for our football competition at Powerleague. It was a very busy afternoon with entries from 11 Troops. My sincere thanks go to Peter Hutton for pulling the whole thing together and providing a great tournament. Grateful thanks also to Richard Frewin, Dave Barley, Les Savage and Steve Little for acting as refs with a punishing schedule of games.

The 5th Morden look 1st and 2nd places with the 8th Morden 3rd and 1st Lower Morden 4th. Congratulations and well done to all.

The afternoon was spoilt by a couple of leaders, not Scout Section though, who were giving both a referee and their own Scouts verbal abuse. But worst of all was a parent – tall, brown hair and glasses – who subjected Dave Barley to some serious verbal abuse. Without our volunteer refs this competition will not happen and we need to come up with a solution at our next meeting in May.

County Night Exercise

Any Troops that are entering the County Night Exercise need to submit a NAN form if you intending to camp at Polyapes or even return to your HQ and crash for the rest of night.



Training

Date	Mod.		Time	Venue
19 Mar	17	Running safe activities	09.45-13.30	1Rich
19 Mar	19	International	14.30-16.00	1Rich
14 May	15	Promoting positive behaviour	09.45-12.30	1LM
14 May	13	Growing the section	13.30-16.30	1LM
24 Sept	16	Introduction to residential experiences	09.45-13.00	1LM
24 Sept	38a	Skills for residential experiences	14.00-17.00	1LM
8/9 Oct	38b	Weekend camp skills - residential		WF
23 Oct	12a/b	Planning quality programmes	09.45-17.00	4WP
27 Nov	17	International	09.45-12.30	Le
27 Nov	19	Running safe activities	13.30-17.00	Le
4 Dec	15	Promoting positive behaviour	09.45-12.30	1LM
4 Dec	12	Growing the section	13.30-16.30	1LM

Le Leander Sea Scout HQ, Kingston
1LM 1st Lower Morden, Bow Lane, Morden
WF Walton Firs, Cobham
1Rich 1st Richmond
4WP 4th Worcester Park

Application forms from

Mrs J Condon, 34 Arundel Avenue Email joan.glswtraining@btinternet.com or download from the County web site www.glsWSCouts.org.uk/applicationform

First Aid: 10th April at the 22nd Wimbledon.
Applications via Janet Drinkall (jdrinkall@sky.com).

Safeguarding: details from Alison Edwards

Marsden March

As you may remember, my father, Eric (former District Chairman and a lifelong Scouter in Merton) was diagnosed with a brain tumour back in January 2012. Though an operation to remove it was successful, the tumour came back and in July 2015 Dad sadly passed away.

He is still greatly missed by family and friends alike but to honour his memory and to thank the Marsden for their care, support and compassion the family are hoping to raise money by completing The Marsden March on Sunday 13 March this year. I'll be walking from the Royal Marsden in Chelsea (picking up more family members in King George's Playing Field on Tudor Drive) to the Royal Marsden in Belmont (near Sutton). This is a distance of 14 miles!

It would be great to see a smiling face and to hear words of encouragement along the way if you live on the route, but what our family would all appreciate would be a donation (however small) to our Just Giving page (or to The Marsden direct if that's more convenient). The Just Giving link is below. As well as the online total showing we have a considerable sum pledged on off line donations too.

<https://www.justgiving.com/Andrew-Hayward9>

If you wish to send a donation directly to me then my address can be found in the District Directory.

Donating through Just Giving is simple, fast and totally secure. Your details are safe with Just Giving – they'll never sell them on or send unwanted emails. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to the charity. So it's the most efficient way to donate – saving time and cutting costs for the charity.

Thank you once again for taking the time to visit The Team Hayward page.

Andrew Hayward
Group Scout Leader, 1st Lower Morden Scout Group

Editor's note: the 22nd Wimbledon are also doing the Marsden March en-masse. Their Justgiving page is

<https://www.justgiving.com/22WimbledonScoutGroup/>

Section reports

Beaver Scouts – John Tweedley

We have just held our **District Beaver International Badge Day**. 44 Beavers from 8 Colonies attended and we had visits from the ACC Beavers and our District Commissioner.



May I take this opportunity to thank Tracy Sterlini {5th Morden} Julia Doolan & Clare Tweedley {3rd Mitcham} for all their help in getting banners, work sheets, information on countries, models, food and learning a dance from a different country together ready for the badge day. Also to the SAS who came down to help us. My thanks go out to them.

Our next event will be the **Beaver Bike and Scooter Ride** on Sunday 20th March 2016. I am awaiting confirmation on a new venue but at this time have not heard if we can use this location. We will still use D.H.Q. as our meeting point and hopefully to do the cyclist badge at the same time.

Legoland: I know it might seem a long way off at the moment. 2nd July. but I will need to know your estimated numbers by the 4th April - that's Beaver numbers and Leader numbers - so that I can organize tickets and coaches. As I said in the last Links report, neither H.Q. nor GLSW are holding any celebrations to mark the 30th Anniversary of Beavers. So for Wimbledon and Wandle. I would like to take the District Beavers on an away day to Legoland.

Lastly could all leaders please use my Scout e-mail address which I have had for some time which is :- a.d.c.wimbledonandwandlescouts@hotmail.com and if you are new to your Beaver Colony please make sure I and Linda have your e-mail address.

Cub Scouts – Michèle McNamara

Chess Competition - This took place last Sunday with entries from 6 packs, the winners were the 19th Wimbledon Oakwood pack with 22nd Wimbledon as runners up. Thanks to Mark Steed for once again organising and running this event.



District Camp – Hopefully letters concerning this will be going out this week, if you expressed an interest in this camp and haven't received anything, please contact me.

Adult Leader Adventurous Training

I am co-ordinating the budget for Adult Leader Adventurous Training for this year and need to know who will be applying for funding. Essentially this budget is for activities that require a permit. I need all the applications by the end of March so that I can co-ordinate all the requests fairly across the District. You can then attend the training at some point this year.

Typical applications could be for Mountain Training, Water Activities, etc.

Please contact me to discuss whatever training would help you. I look forward to hearing from you.

Neil McLauchlan

07815 925116

emailbossman@btinternet.com

Appointments – Muriel Treagust

Appointments agreed in February

Jack O'Sullivan	Assistant Scout Leader	9th Wimbledon
Charlotte O'Shea	Assistant Beaver Scout Leader	22nd Wimbledon
Oliver Pusey	Assistant Explorer Scout Leader	West Barnes Unit.
John Line	Cub Scout Leader	5th Morden
Thomas Ruske	Assistant Cub Scout Leader	8th Morden

We thank them for their commitment to our District and wish them well with their Groups.

We would also like to thank Mrs. Jane Ginty for attending and assisting with the Interviews. She is the first "volunteer" to help the Appointments Committee on an Appointments Interviews evening.

Although over the past year I have been sending updates on appointments etc. through to Gilwell for updating whilst Compass was down but it appears many of them did not get actioned. If you notice any changes which should have been made to members' roles please let me know so I can rectify omissions.