



DECEMBER 1992 No. 378

THE OFFICIAL BULLETIN
OF LETCHWORTH AND BALDOCK
DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A PEACEFUL NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE.

LEADER WARRANTS.

Congratulations to David Bysouth who has been awarded a Warrant with 12th. Letchworth.

2nd. Baldock Beaver Scouts.

Sheila Staines ADC Beaver Scouts invested 19 Beavers in the new Colony at 2nd. Baldock on November 14th. Debbie Dilley and Wendy Neath are the Leaders. The Beavers entertained parents and guests with a song and story.

4th. Letchworth "Friday" Colony are starting up again in January.

DISTRICT CUB SCOUT QUIZ.

TEN teams took part in this year's Quiz which was held at 8th. Letchworth HQ. Joan Ludford set the questions again, this was her last year, we thank her for all the interesting topics she has found for us.

The rounds were, Scouting, Nature, Award Training, Observation, Puzzles and Teasers.

Only NINE points separated the teams at the end. 12th. Letchworth were the winners with 1st. Baldock Templars as runners up.

1st. BALDOCK CUBS AT THE COMMONWEALTH INSTITUTE, LONDON.

On Monday 26th. October our Cub Pack went to the Commonwealth Institute in London as part of the World Friendship Badge wrk. We left our hut at 8.45am. on the coach. We returned at 5.15pm.

The first thing we did when we got there was split into groups A,B,C, We each went to a different gallery. I was in group B. We wen;, round from country to country filling in a sheet. When we finished the middle gallery we started the top gallery, then we went to the slop. Last of all we went to the bottom gallery.

I liked the models showing the way people lived in different countries. Some were life sized like the Mud Man from Papua New Guinea and some were in show cases like the slaves melting iron. I liked the way they showed you models of the transport they use. In Brunei they use boats all the time, in Canada they use Skidoos for getting across the ice.

Nick Brown. 1st. Baldock.

GRANTS AND LOANS.

Grants and loans from the Corporation must come through the Executive Committee and not straight from the Groups. This should be as a fifty/fifty basis.

1st. ASHWELL SPANISH EVENING.

During 1st. Ashwells Spanish Evening held in the Parish 'Room on November 20th, Jeremy Wilson a Venture Scout and ex Ashwell scout, presented on behalf of the Group an engraved glass bowl to Bill Pack on his retirement as GSL.

ANNUAL CENSUS. 1993

Groups will soon be receiving the-annual census forms, please ask your secretary to complete them as soon as possible and return them to Mike Johnson at,33 Cloisters Road, by 31st. January 1993 at the very latest.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS..

The annual membership subscriptions should be paid to Mike Mansfield by the 20th. March, 1993.

See next months issue of Co-ordinator for details.

DISTRICT DIARY.

DECEMBER.

- 2nd. Warrants Committee.
- 3rd. District Team.
- 10th. Executive Committee.

JANUARY.

- 11th, Scout Leaders Meeting.
Cub Scout Leaders Meeting,
- 14th. Executive Committee.

What can I say. Well how about 'wet' and 'muddy'!

I had visited the Tolmers camp on a bright Sunday morning one week prior to Green Beret and even then it looked like a swamp. On the Friday we arrived for the Green Beret challenge there was already no access to the main field even for 4 wheel drive vehicles. As the weekend unfolded it just got deeper and deeper - lovely!

The scouts" fascinated by the leaders fear of mud, fell face first at every oppoptunity. Boys love mud! There was no doubt the weekend was going to be a success win or lose, that's what it's all about.

Orienteering

In this challenge the team of six were split into three pairs according to age, the youngest pair tackled a 2 kilometre course with five check points and were penalised one check point for.e/ery ten minutes late back. The middle age group tackled a three kilometre course with penalties for being 5 minutes late whilst the oldest two had the most severe 4 kilometre course with seven check moints and had to return within 2 minutes of.the 40 minutes duration time.

Most teams found this very hard although the overall winners managed to complete all check points. A lot of leaders found it quite difficult to find their way to the start in the first place and the boys had great fun encouraging other competitors to a sprint finish down a short hill at the bottom Of which was a deepening pool of - guess what? yes mud. Gareth James one of Baldock's best, took the prize for the most spectacular mud slide finishing the event on his` back as he crossed the finish line.

The scene at the finish included several worried leaders waitina for lost pairs hours overdue, but then again as someone near the organisers tent said "well you are bound to lose one or two aren't you".

But seriously, all the boys seemed really pleased with what they had achieved even though most seemed well short of the target.

Assault Course

This appearS to have been a collection of sadistic obstacles thought up by maniac ventures and other scouting types to make the scouts as wet. muddy, cold, tired, water logged and demressed as possible. Wet and muddy maybe but tired and depressed - not a chance, you only had to stand where I was near the start of the course and listen to them screeching through the trees like some kind of crazed Tarzan to realize that they were having the time of their life. Both our teams decided this was the highlight of the event, the only way to improve it would have been to go round it twice. They were so wet and muddy that the tent filled with steam within fifteen minutes of their return and we would have asked them to get changed except that we couldn't get a word in edge ways. This was the point where our twelve boys stopped being twelve boys and became two teams, my guess is that all the support teams would have noticed the difference after the first event. Congratulations to all those who helped put it together.

So there you are. your teams are tired and hungry (well tired anyway. they can't be hungry after what they ate) happy but bemused, confused and perplexed and now they have to report to the flag pole at half past six. What's it all about? No amount of preparation, pre-planning or organisation is going to help because the plain fact is you just don't know what they are going to do.

As it turned out. it included origami, flora identification, match stick puzzles, pioneering and primus lighting to name but a few" There were fifteen bases rotating every fifteen minutes with a couple of breaks for a hot drink supplied by those marvellous, long suffering, loyal and ever more resourceful support teams

Our two intrepid challenge teams were both equipped with a billy and we wrongly assumed that when the P.L. of each team came for his hot drink he would bring it. Oh no; too simple. One team had a mug full between them and the other one had to have the entire pot of hot chocolate. The second break for refreshments was even worse, we turned up at the flag pole with nothing to offer our "troops" at all, but hoping for the return of our pot. Neither P.L. even turned up

At about half past eleven our teams returned to their tents demanding chocolate, biscuits, cake and would you believe it rice pudding (hot). As we dug around for more and more gut plug the chatter of the nigohts' events didn't stop.

Normally, my take would be that green beret represented a challenge to the average scout. This year under the severe weather conditions prevailing the challenge also included maintaining those high spirits in spite of wet feet and water logged clothes.

In our district we were well represented with 24 boys taking part in four teams. two from 1st Baldock coming 14th and 25th and two from 1st/3rd Letchworth coming 18th and 71st.

To achieve two teams in the top 20 amongst a field of 111 teams does our district credit but wherever they came all the teams that finished must have gained a great deal of satisfaction from that, for a challenge it certainly was

And even if you don't like a challenge it was still a great opportunity to play in all that lovely brown, wet mud.

Glenn Coiley 1st Baldock

"CO-ORDINATOR'S" THEATRE CRITIC AT IT AGAIN

"Another opening of another show:" That sounded like the right way to begin Letchworth & Baldock's thirtieth Gang Show.

Eager to get to the opening night this year, I was unavoidably delayed and tiptoed to my seat just as the "Little People" were coming to the end of their number. As I'm not sure what it was about, I can't make any comment on that.

Settling down hopefully, I sat back to be entertained; but after the song of the Over-Forty Fairies, I found myself leaning forward and willing the members of the Gang to enjoy the Show they were giving us. All right, I know they're not professionals, and it was only the first night, and there wasn't a full house, and there had been unexpected problems during rehearsals, but during the first half I did feel a bit disappointed.

"Carol Singers" fell flat. "Cowboy Time" was just beginning to bounce with that "Oklahoma" song and dance when it came to an end too soon, leaving us waiting for "Bedtime" and "Streets of London", which were quite well done but slow and lacking movement.

But there was the incredible item not on the programme, of the two cartoon Guardsmen - completely pointless and insane and absolutely marvellous. I was so busy trying to work out how they did it, that I almost forgot to laugh.

And then, as the ragged boys filed in through the auditorium, the magic began to work. "Food, glorious food" seemed too slow again, but it was a beautifully disciplined introduction to the selection from "Oliver", with the brightest moments being the entry of the Dodger to sing "Consider yourself", and the strong presence of Fagin himself.

In the interval, I again wished someone would find a way to put a bit of showbiz into drawing a raffle and making it fun; but I enjoyed the choc ice.

Part two began well with "Joseph". I have never seen the full "Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat", but this condensed version was quite impressive, in the spectacular colours and the quality of the singing. One should not pick out individual names from the Gang, but Brian Rosendale's stage presence is worthy of record. Perhaps we should remind younger members that scratching noses and hitching shiny trousers while someone else is singing are both rather naughty, but we'll forgive you this time.

Straight after this, the classic "Four Little Fellers" (adapted to five) was done probably as well as it ever has been, and must have warmed the hearts of all Ralph Reader loyalists. Such folk might have been sad to see more "outside" material brought into a Gang Show with "Albert and the Lion" and "The Gasman Cometh"; but I found these two innovations very pleasing, with the familiar words and all the characters brought to life in mime.

And things got better still with the medley of all the songs about rain that you could think of. Lighting effects, the natural flow from one song to the next, the appearance of Bud Flanagan and the exciting tap dancing debut by the Gene Kelly of the twenty first century, all made "It's Raining" by far the best item of the evening.

It was hard to follow, and "The Butterflies" were not really able to do it. And so we moved in to the finale with the whole cast in uniform singing at full volume at last and fairly bellowing "Crest of a Wave". That was good. If one wished for a larger cast, more scenery, and fewer people reading their lines, the great fact is that The Show Went On. With the talent that there obviously is in this District, the thirty first Gang Show could be better than ever. I am looking forward to writing a rave review.

KJ