

## **13th Wimbledon Scout Group and St Saviour's Explorer Scout Unit Newsletter, April 2023**



### **Glorious Weather Meets Snowdon Adventurers**

The Scouts and Explorers had an exhilarating trip up to Snowdonia for this popular annual event. Contrary to early forecasts, the weather was fantastic - sunny with a chill in the air, perfect for walking. Despite the fact that 8 of the 21 scouts had never been on a mountain trip before, they managed to ascend the 947m Y Garn peak starting at Ogwen and scrambling up the Devil's Kitchen Gully. Meanwhile, the Explorers tackled Nantle Ridge from Rhyd Ddu.

The second day saw the Explorers tackle Tryfan from the north side before dropping down over the boulders to the south to the start of the scramble up Bristly Ridge then and a short walk up to Glyder Fach. Meanwhile the Scouts visited Copper Kingdom on the Island of Anglesey exploring what was once the largest copper mine in the world. This was followed by a coastal walk.

On the third day the Scouts walked up Snowdon via the south ridge starting and finishing at Rhyd Ddu and meeting the Explorers on the Summit who had started at Pen Y Pass and bagged Crib Goch on the way.

The evenings were spent playing games including the tradition Annual Donkey Championships won for the unprecedented third time by Reggie Bodle, with Max a worthy runner up, watched by the Scouts and Explorers several of whom glammed up for the electrifying final.



**The 2023 Snowdon team**



**Breakfast at Clogwin**



**Donkey  
Championship  
begins**



Scouts below Y Garn



Explorers tackle Bristly Ridge



Snowdon summit



Lunch on Tryfan



Explorers having tackled Crib Goch



Reggie, Three times Donkey champ

Thanks to all the leaders who made this trip possible.

Other Scout events of the term included the district paintballing day, where the Scouts' failure to win many matches was eclipsed by their enthusiasm in doing so!

The district 5-a-side football competition was more encouraging with the 13<sup>th</sup> A Team being runners-up to the 1<sup>st</sup> Lower Morden for the second year running.

They did however, triumph in the County Night Exercise achieving joint first place.

### \* \* \* **BREAKING NEWS – RECORD BREAKING DONKEY CHAMPION RETIRES** \* \* \*

The Donkey playing community was shocked this week by the revelation that reigning World Donkey Champion, Reggie Bodle, is retiring from his record-breaking career. The announcement from his agent came a fortnight after he won the coveted Donkey trophy for the third consecutive time at the 13<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon/ SSESU trip to Snowdonia.

Reggie started his career as a rookie player in 2014 and fought his way up the greasy pole of donkeying learning the dark arts of winning from previous masters and inventing a few of his own. Many said his well-known sleight of hand acquired through the world of magic (he was a member of the junior Magic Circle) gave him an unfair advantage. Others say he was just quicker on the draw when it came to pointing the finger at his opponents – he was a strong opponent of videoing games to allow action replays of the put-downs. But most Donkey veterans will acknowledge that, however he did it, he has been a worthy champion all these years.

His spokesman said "Reggie still intends to be involved in the game as a coach and mentor of up-and-coming donkeyers". However, many suspect his retirement will be like Elton John's – the first of many.

Although the stress of the game takes its toll, Reggie is still a relatively young player and experts say he could still have several years of top-level playing left in him.



## Fun Time at Explorers

The Explorers have been having serious fun this term. It included a chip shop survey in Raynes Park (the winner was disputed with the adjudicator finding themselves between a rock salmon and a hard plaice), and attempting various world records. These included stacking toilet rolls (I have not quite got to the bottom of this one), arranging spaghetti alphabetically (there is no word to describe that), sticking Post-it notes to their faces (a reminder not to try this), and speed eating chicken nuggets and marshmallows (fast food taken to a different level). No records were apparently broken.



**Explorers on a roll**



**Waiting for the Marshmallows**



**Lost for words**

The MasterChef evening was a tiny bit more sophisticated, and worth Skip's effort to come along as one of the judges.

## Beavers – Sock Puppets to Super Heroes

The Beavers were more earnest in their endeavours last term tackling the My Skills Challenge badge as well as the Creative and Animal Friend activity badges.

As part of the Animal Friend badge, they prepared for the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch by learning about garden birds and making fat balls to hang in their gardens in readiness for the count. Most of the Beavers took part in the event, so well done everyone.

Sock puppets and superheroes were also the name of the day with the creative activity badge, which were really good, if a little messy!

They also tackled the Digital Citizen badge for the first time, which was brilliantly run by our new ABSL Lukasz Sielski, who was also formally invested into the Scout Group. It's not an easy concept to get across to Beavers but Lukasz spent a long time planning and researching the badge, and the nights were a great success.

They ended the term with a first aid refresher and a great workout from Candice Pearce, one of our Beaver parents, who put everyone through their paces in our healthy living night.

They ended the term with two Beavers 'swimming up' to Cubs to continue their Scouting journey.

The highlight of the term was definitely the district Beaver laser tag day at Campaign Paintball near Cobham. All our Beavers absolutely loved it, it was a great success, and it didn't rain!



**Beavers enjoy Laser Tag**



**Beaver swimming up to cubs**



**Beavers have a work-out**



**Lukasz gets investd into the Group**

## **Cubs Have a Crafty and Productive Term**

The Cubs had another busy term in a packed program that ticked off many items for a wide variety of badges.

For the collector's badge, the Cubs brought along the items they collected and Bagheera facilitated a discussion about which their fellow Cubs found most interesting.

Baloo introduced a range of activities to raise Cubs' awareness of the risks they encounter with digital technology, enabling them to qualify for the digital citizen's badge.

For the home safety badge Chil had Baloo set up the kitchen with some dangerous scenarios for the Cubs to identify and discuss.



**Cubs being crafty**

Heading to Easter and Mothering Sunday, the Cubs learnt Origami and Chil showed them how to make jewelry from craft sticks, boiling them to shape them into bracelets. He also showed them how to cut up a tyre inner tube to make earrings. There were some great designs – a present you should never get tired of.

They also learnt some new knots, played Kim's game to get them thinking and participated in a board games evening.

Baloo also had his Wood Badge presented. This is a badge that was devised by Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting, which recognises the completion of all the modules of basic training required to be a leader in Scouting.



**More craftiness**



**Board games**



**Baloo gets his  
Wood Badge**

### **The normal reminder about subs**

Finally, subs for the Summer 2023 term are due by the end of April. If you have not yet paid, please could you do so, preferably online, and inform your section leader you have done so. Payment of £37 for the term, or £100 for the year in advance, should be paid to:

**Account Name: 13th Wimbledon Scout Group**

**Sort Code: 30-91-35**

**Account Number: 03230034**

**Bank: Lloyds**

**Reference -**

Please provide as a reference: 'Subs' then 'B/C/S' depending on section then surname e.g., SubsBSmith would be subs paid for a Beaver surname 'Smith'.

NB bank details for Explorer subs are different.

**Skip**