

100 Hour Centenary Camp 2007

Stoke Poges Camp Site was the venue for this event from 25th to 29th May, to celebrate the Centenary of Scouting. It was supported better than I had anticipated, with cubs, scouts and explorer scouts from 6 Groups, together with 1 leader and 2 scouts from 1st/6th Edgware troop. These were split into four subcamps positioned in the Scout field. Some of us arrived on Friday night to set up, with the rest arriving early on the Saturday. The Camp was officially opened at 11 am on Saturday by Lily Carter, escorted by her son, John. Lily had her first warrant in 1938 and has been involved in District Scouting ever since, and it was a great honour to have her with us on such a special day. Our President, John Matthews, and Secretary, Anthony Phillips, were also present and our thanks go to Anthony's wife, Monica, for providing a wonderful cake to mark the occasion. In the afternoon all took part in the Centenary Sports with a series of events organised by John Barber, incorporating a 100 Theme in some of them. A barbecue was held in the evening for everyone and was followed by an open air disco, including a fancy dress competition which was enjoyed by all until the rain hit us about 9.30 pm. Sunday morning started with the rain still hammering down and there was concern over the Carnival Day arrangements, especially as the Beavers were joining us for the day. I needn't have worried as all 100 hr centenary camp took place, with the circus skills having to move inside the Lair, but the mobile climbing wall, bouncy castle, sumo wrestling, gladiator duels, model train layout, and all the sideshows carried on despite the continuing rain, and was enjoyed by all.

We also had a tuck shop, and Roy Gosling sold badges in the Lair, which both attracted a lot of attention. It just shows that members of the Scout Organisation can overcome all conditions and handicaps and made what could have been a disaster into a roaring success; my praise to all who were present - it was great to see. Once the Beavers had gone home Chris Cosstick led a Scouts Own, again in pouring rain, followed by a very energetic camp fire led by John Barber - all appeared to thoroughly enjoy themselves, with the rain getting heavier and heavier. About 9.30 pm on top of the intense rain the site was hit by a mini tornado and, unfortunately, some of the tents were blown down and carried across the field. Leaders of some of the Groups worst hit decided that it would be sensible to arrange for their Cubs and Scouts to be collected by parents, and by 11.30 pm all those going had been collected. On Monday morning in the cold light of day the damage to the camp was there for all to see and the rain that had started on Saturday was still persisting, so it was decided that the programmes for

Monday and Tuesday would be cancelled. All the remaining Cubs, Scouts, Explorer Scouts and Leaders, retrieved their equipment and struck camp and departed, except for a hardy group of 10 from 1st and 7th Hanwell who stuck it out until 4.00 pm on Tuesday - my congratulations to them all as they achieved the 100 HOURS.

Over the weekend there were more than 220 people either camping or visiting the site, and I must thank every Beaver, Cub, Scout, Explorer Scout, Leader, Helper and Parent, for making this a camp that will be remembered for a long time to come for a variety of different reasons.

My special thanks must go to the organising team of John Foxwell, John Barber, Dave Folkard, Jenny Salmon, Martina O'Brien and Carol Bowron, without whom this would not have been possible. I must also mention the great work carried out over the weekend by Pete Balls, Paul Phillips, Steve Douglas and Jim Vaux.

I am sorry if I have missed anyone out but it is impossible to mention everyone.

What a great weekend, or was it?

**JOHN SEAR
ADC SCOUTS**