

Summer Camp – Walesby Forest Scout Centre 1999

Saturday 7th August

We arrived at Walesby Forest Scout camp at 3.00pm and the Scouts started to set up camp in the dry. The camp covers 250 acres, mostly open ground, we were camped in one of their fields. After dinner, Stevo started the weeks Patrol competition, and the leaders started the rota for the 'Pegs' competition – eating with the Scouts and marking for food preparation, hygiene, quality of the meal and ambience.

Sunday

It had rained all night, but started to stop during the morning. After breakfast the Scouts started to build their camp gadgets, ready to be marked on Tuesday evening. They had to build at least 5 and they would be marked for usefulness and originality. Chris Stone, one of our Venture Scouts, arrived for the week.

We went climbing up a very original climbing wall, it was an old pylon clad in sheets of ply, it really gave a new meaning to the Scouts being live wires! There were two walls, we did the 25', the 45' was either rained off or booked for the rest of the week.

The heavy rain soon started again, and after dinner the Scouts started to play Monopoly or cards games.

Monday

It rained all night and after breakfast the Scouts went horse riding in the rain, whilst the girls went shopping to a huge ASDA in Mansfield. After lunch the Scouts returned to Monopoly or making bows and arrows out of bamboo canes.

During the afternoon the rain started to stop and the Scouts went off to Robin Hood's Cave on the River Maun. I decided to explore the site and to my horror found the Scouts in the cave, next to the river that had risen by about 2 feet and had a fierce current. The only way into the cave was by a submerged ledge that some of the Scouts had ventured along. After retrieving them from this perilous situation, I said they could go to another spot on the river that they said was much calmer. But even here the water level had risen, but I allowed them to paddle in the water tethered to each other.

The rain soon returned and after dinner we all gathered in the mess tent for games, and Chris and Lamo's toast.

Emile, earlier in the day, had transformed a previously blacked frying pan into its original gleaming state. During the evening, we introduced 80 bonus points for similar gleaming frying pan from the three patrols. The Scouts instantly moved into the store tent that was doubling as a Chinese laundry with all the wet clothing huge up to dry, they then took it in turns to clean the frying pans with Brillo's – this continued during the rest of the week.

Tuesday

Again it rained all night and we held a kit inspection in their tents after breakfast. Latter in the morning we went to Doncaster to visit The Dome leisure pool where they managed to lose Robert Sanguy's cloths for nearly an hour. Later in the afternoon we played rounders and we at long last saw the Sun! We went back to the camp site and ate our Fish & Chips and prepared the Summer puddings for Wednesday nights dinner.

Wednesday – Robin Hood's backwoods day & the Eclipse

After breakfast we prepared for the Eclipse and the Scouts made final adjustments to their bows and arrows. The Sun shone occasionally through the clouds, but mostly it was behind clouds sufficiently thick enough for us to see the Sun & the Moon without any eye protection. It went a bit dark, but noticeably colder. The Scouts had made cardboard ovens and baked bread for lunch, Chris Stone made an upside down pudding. After lunch we held our bow &

arrow competition, Emile's was the most accurate and Robert's arrow went the furthest. We then went off to real archery where Martyn Sanguy got the highest mark.

We held the Patrol incident hike later in the evening, the hand held radio's were very useful.

Thursday

It started wet, but by lunch time the rain had stopped. We marked the gadgets during the morning delayed from Tuesday. After lunch the Scouts went rafting on the lake on the campsite, that was pea green in colour and about 2 foot deep. After the Scouts had had a shower on their return from rafting, we started the cooking competition. It was decided for a change that the leaders, Emile, Stevo, Chris and myself would enter the competition and the girls, acting also as judges, would eat with the boys.

On several nights, the camp held a disco for the Scouts, Sam Milsom amazed the audience with his disco dancing skills – this is his gymnastic routine. On their return the Scouts slept in their bivey's for the night. Stevo, Emile & Chris found the leaders retreat serving various different ales.

Friday

Due to the inclement weather, we had not held either the Kubb or Volleyball competitions. Today the Sun shone and we held both these competitions and had a full kit inspection to the dismay of the Scouts – Chris James soap was still in its wrapper. Lions won the Kubb & Eagles the Volleyball. Fortunately we did not have any sharp grass and the Volleyball was not punctured.

It was Sueo's birthday.

We went air rifle shooting in the afternoon to complete our archery & shooting competitions. Emile and Ang won overall with 49 points, Robert was the best of the Scouts, with 42 points

Tony arrived in the early evening and the Scouts had a wide game. Due to the high chance of rain, we decided to take down some of the tents during the evening.

Saturday

It was dry and we were able to pack dry tents. Soon after 1.00pm we were on the road home and returned at 5.00pm in the wet.

Best Patrol – Eagles: James Wolff, Ellis Stanyon, Sam Milsom, Phil 'Frying Pan' Percy & Sean Healy.

Cooking Competition – Lions: Ben Milsom, Robert Sanguy, Mark Fiander & Adam Percy

Incident Night Hike – Cobras: Michael Johnson, Chris James, James Leighs & Martyn Sanguy

Frying Pan awards – Phil Percy & James Leighs

The leaders: Mike & Angela Day, Stevo & Sues Leighs, Jane & Emile Sanguy, Chris Stone and Tony Wolff for a short while.

Mike Day

Scout Leader – August 1999