

Story 03 Admiralty Inspections

This particular year the inspection was at the pool. We had practiced quite a great deal for the summer had been very kind. Immediately before the commander was due a local father and his young son came onto the hard. The father asked if his son could join.

Not tonight, it's our Admiralty Inspection"

The father explained a story that he could not take the boy with him, could the boy stand and watch,

I was always a sucker I said yes but he must not stray from my side for the entire evening.

Jos was planning to bring the Commander precisely at seven o'clock
As good as his word Jos's car came onto the hard at 3 minutes to seven the troop was assembled,
so that 2 bells were rung, the flag was raised precisely at seven the programme started.

I had planned a minute by minute programme.

After the initial boy by boy introduction, I cannot remember if we had girls in the Group then. A picked boat crew took the commander and Jos to the Guardship by a slightly circuitous route, allowing a few scouts and me to get to the Guardship first. The boat carrying our guests did a perfect coming alongside, and this was commented upon.

I put the kettle on the gas and watched my programme develop.

We had rigged the two wooden Rovers for oars . Pegasus was also under oars, you can only sail the two Merlins, Swanee and Orion, there were two or three canoes afloat as well.

I had prepared eight clip boards each designated for a particular crew including a Bridge Watch crew. The instructions were co-ordinates by strict clock watching.

'GS' Guardship; 'P.B'. Pulling boats;'B3' Pegasus;' M' Merlins

At:-

GS 7.30 The flags on the guardship mast would be raised, reading "Rover P"

7.33 The flags are dipped

Each Rover boat had a clip board reading

P.B. 7.33 start pulling race to the dam and back,
one lap "dam" buoy "park" buoy one lap only.

If there is time before 8.00 practice sculling over the stern

GS 8.00 Hoist "R over 2nd sub" recall for rovers.

P.B. 8.00 return to the Guardship and rig for sail

GS 8.20 Hoist "S over R"

P.B. 8.15 Push off from Guardship for sailing race
One complete lap of the pool.

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- GS 8.25 Dip flags: This was to indicate the start of the sailing race, five minutes to start.
- GS 8.30 raise flags sharply: To indicate start.
- P.B. 8.30 Start sailing race one lap
- GS 8.45 Hoist "G over R" General recall
- P.B. 8.45 What ever happens return to the Guardship

This is part of the routine. There was a second similar routine on the port Halyard for Pegasus and the canoes races, "T" rescues, performed by the canoeists. Pegasus was being sculled over the stern, Throwing a line. It was all part of the show.. All this was going as well as serving tea and biscuits. I was sitting on the lower stern deck with the new recruit showing him the "six basic knots" When the Commander leaned over the rails of the Quarter Deck "How are you running this show Griff?" A little stuck for a direct answer I glanced towards the bridge mast just in time to see and hear the squeak of the blocks. a couple of flags were being fetched down "By jove". "Your running it with flags" Little did he realise, it would have run without flags. The Second A.I. was at Killock with a show offered by the venture crowd and the "Rocket Gear" Story 07