

## **Bograts 2022 – For AGM on 11 June 2023**

2022 was a great year for Bograts with Pancake races, Putt Golf, Wide Games, Off Road biking, firing flaming missiles with a trebuchet, Blind football, Making pizzas in cardboard ovens, Marshal Arts Instruction, Hiking, Kayaking, Climbing at Phasels Wood, Gutting & Cooking Mackerel, Gun Run in the Bury, a HIT session, wood chopping, running the BBQ at the Canal Festival, Dragon Boating on the Thames, KataKanus, Swimming on Hampstead Heath, Powerboating, Via Ferrata & walking on roof girders at the Quarry, Cycling back from Chesham, Sailing on Broadwater Lake, Cooking, Go-Karting, Pioneering, Woodworking, Peak Assault, I-Joan at The Globe Theatre, Canadian Canoeing, a Paraffin Torch lit Hike, Remembrance Day Parade, Mallet Making, Curry Cooking, Santa Sleigh collection, Bograts Christmas Dinner and a visit to Winter Wonderland.

The Canal Festival fundraising in 2022 allowed us to organise the highlight of the year:

## **Bograts Kandersteg Summer Expedition 2022**

Bograts all really enjoyed our Summer Expedition 2022 to Kandersteg International Scout Camp (KISC). It was expensive but given the quality of the activities, I think it was worth it.

The week starts with **International day at KISC**, this is brilliant, and the scouts live Baden Powell's dream of the all year round Jamboree. International Day starts with hundreds of people from different countries doing flag break round the football field.



The Pinkies (volunteers wearing Pink T shirts) ran a couple of games, by the end of the games the Young People were no longer in their groups, but mixing & chatting with people from other countries. Doing this at the beginning of the week is Genius as it sets the tone, and the kids make international friends they can meet up with all week.

This is followed by International Sports Afternoon, with mixed up teams playing football, volley ball, Frisbee, tug of war etc. against one another.

We tried out the **Rodelbahn mountain coaster**. It consists of a stainless steel half pipe with banked corners. Our Explorers avoided using the brakes at all to see how fast they could go, ...and only a couple of them came off the track!



We used three of our own T2 qualified Instructors to lead three hiking groups up to **Blümlisalp Hütte** at 2850m. This was certainly a challenge with 1.6Km elevation.

The Swiss scenery always looks so amazing you can hardly believe it is real. There are cows with bells on to provide an Alpine sound track.

The Hütte is next to a Glacier, in the evening there was an amazing sunset, we were above all the clouds, with just a few other peaks poking through, an amazing panoramic view.



The hike down on **Tuesday** was much faster, given the faster pace we had plenty of time to swim in **Oeschinen Lake** (very welcome given the lack of showers at the Hütte!).



The **Allmenalp Via Ferrata** has a very scary K4 rating. There are various videos on YouTube that will give you the idea (or possibly put you off!).

Stepping from a steel peg to steel peg, each only big enough for one foot, with hundreds of metres drop below you. Steel rope bridges & zip lines to cross ravines. If for any reason you cannot continue, there is one way off, but the rescue helicopter is quite expensive. Many of the unit were terrified at the beginning, became more comfortable with the heights as they progressed & were thoroughly enjoying themselves by the end.



**Grimsel Advanced Canyoning** was great. We had to abseil from the road into the canyon (again there was just the one expensive way out if you got injured). Grimsel offers some big



jumps, and a zip line to clear some rocks before you dropped off at just the right point into a deep pool.

We also hired **Mountain Bikes**, and went up the valley via the old pass. The pass is only one way at a time. Instead of traffic lights, it runs Up between O'clock and quarter past, and Down between half past and quarter to.

Some of the road has to travel where there is sheer cliff face. In these parts the road has been hacked into the cliff face so it becomes a tunnel with one open face. Some of the road way required 1<sup>st</sup> gear and standing on the pedals. We found a nice spot at our furthest point to sit & eat sandwiches, before freewheeling most of the way down.



The Pinkies run evening entertainment, we enjoyed the **Rovers Yarn**, the **Kander challenge**, the **Light Trail** and best of all the **International Camp Fire**. Their Camp Fire circle has properly banked seating for about 500 people on massive granite blocks. Many of the groups there sang, or put on comedy sketches. The Spanish & Portuguese Scouts were very impressive as they all seemed to be singing all week!

In summary I cannot recommend going to Kandersteg International Scout Camp highly enough.

If you want more details please contact Quent 07712 193849.