

ND

MIXED ACTIVITIES FOR RANGERS AND
VENTURES IN STREATHAM

Various people connected with mixed activities were interviewed and this is a resume of the comments.

Mixed activities began in Streatham about six years ago when groups of Rover Scouts and Rangers combined in some activities on a small inter-unit scale.

'Modern' mixed activities started in Streatham when the Advanced Party Report altered the outlook for scouting. The new Venture Scouts went on a mixed camp with the Rangers of Streatham. The camp, the first of its kind in this district, was a resounding success and since then enthusiasm has not waned.

The benefits from mixed activities are as numerous and varied as the activities themselves. It is unnatural to separate the sexes as has been done for the last 50 years and there is nothing immoral in combining some Ranger and Venture activities. They give a broader outlook and can improve the participants' characters. Rangers and Ventures can learn as never before the capabilities and limitations of each other by working together and in such a way can learn to be more understanding and respectful to each other.

Mixed activities are also good fun.

Inter-Unit activities have been quite successful on the scale attempted so far and these can form a welcome change from normal unit evenings.

The first mixed camp was arranged by a committee of Rangers, Ventures and Leaders; (1) Ranger or Venture from each group. This committee reconvened to arrange another mixed camp at Walton Firs last year; but Streatham still had no coordinating body for mixed activities. The Mixed Camp Committee was again recalled and this time was altered in structure to become the Mixed Activities Committee for Streatham (M.A.C.) Chris Potts was also beginning to find his vocation as the Bowling League became a success.

The M.A.C. has a maximum of eight Rangers and Ventures, one representative from each Unit, and one leader from each unit.

The committee has arranged several activities which have gone well but it appears that quantity has been sacrificed to a negligible increase in quality. The committee is basically a good idea but it suffers from several drawbacks.