

THE WIGAN SELF-SUPPORTING FLAGSTAFF

Gear Required: 6 Staves
 8 Lashings
 1 Pulley Block (optional)
 70 ft. Light Line

Let us begin by saying the obvious, that we hope one day a Troop will be able to erect their flagstaff on Wigan Pier, thereby changing the course of history or, at least, the course of a stock joke.

You will note from the gear list that all that is required is six staves, lashings, light line and a pulley block and, in fact, you could dispense with the pulley block by using a loop of rope, but a pulley is more efficient.

We think this is a particularly good project. There are many occasions when Scouting is operating in a hall and it is not possible to have an effective flagstaff for flag break. Things draped from rafters always look like—well—things draped from rafters. It may be that a Scout display is being staged in the Town Hall or in a Church Hall, and to have the full effect of the opening ceremony you do need to have a flag break, and that means a flag pole.

The Wigan Flagstaff has two great merits in our view. It is easy to construct - a patrol should be able to make a satisfactory job in ten minutes - and it is self-supporting so we do not have to bore holes in the dance floor or in the Town Council's mural paintings. It can be put up and used, taken down, and taken away without causing the least distress even to the most exacting caretaker.

Just a few words about the construction: —

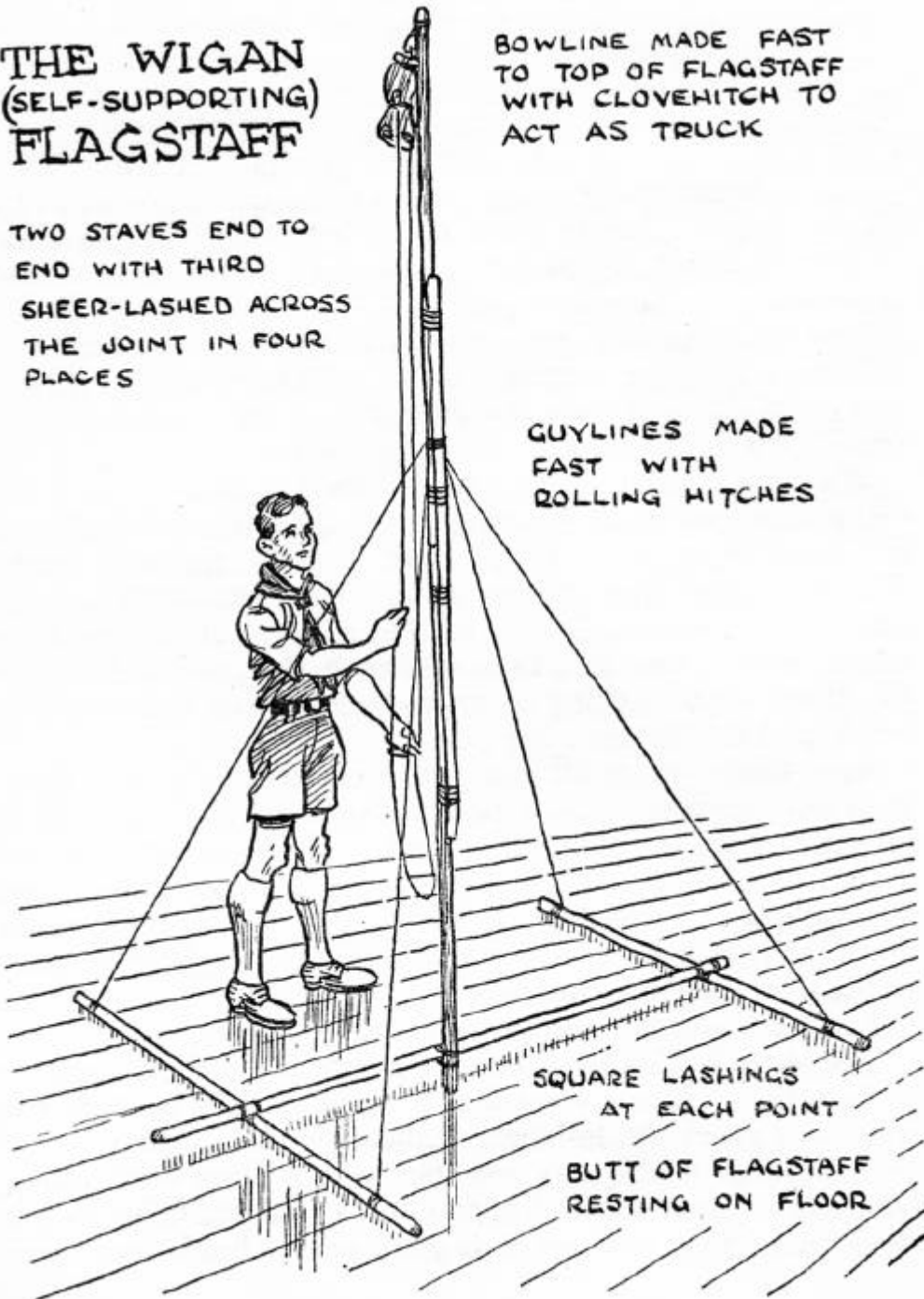
The sheer lashing by which the height is obtained needs to be very tight. It is a good idea to drive wedges between the spars to tighten the lashings. Remember that when you use sheer lashings in this way you start with a clove hitch round both spars. There are no trapping turns, and you finish with a clove hitch round both spars. ***If you have the headroom there is no reason why you should not add another section***, but it is as well to estimate correctly before you build the flagpole. I remember very vividly my first indoor flagstaff put up in a huge Church Hall for a Parents' Evening. We did some wonderful lashing, but our enthusiasm was far in excess of our judgement and the evening had to be spent with a precariously placed flagstaff at an angle of 45° with the flag drooping disconsolately from it.

THE WIGAN (SELF-SUPPORTING) FLAGSTAFF

TWO STAVES END TO
END WITH THIRD
SHEER-LASHED ACROSS
THE JOINT IN FOUR
PLACES

BOWLINE MADE FAST
TO TOP OF FLAGSTAFF
WITH CLOVEHITCH TO
ACT AS TRUCK

GUYLINES MADE
FAST WITH
ROLLING HITCHES



SQUARE LASHINGS
AT EACH POINT

BUTT OF FLAGSTAFF
RESTING ON FLOOR