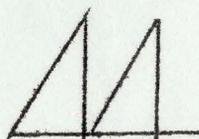


Venture



APRIL

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VENTURE 44 A sort of magazine, by, for, and about, the  
44th Gloucester (Sir Thomas Rich's) Venture  
Scout Unit.

NUMBER THIRTY TWO

APRIL 1979

EDITOR Rob Dalton.

UNIT OFFICERS

LEADERS	F.Henderson
	W.R.Spear
	Chris Pashley
CHAIRMAN	Ian Fletcher
SECRETARY	Chris Collins
TREASURER	Dave Brown
RECORDER	Jon May
EXECUTIVE	Rob Dalton
	Iain Weir
	Mark Simmons

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EDITOR'S NOTES

This issue of Venture 44 sees my term as its Editor drawing to a close. My two years' residency has been an enjoyable time during which I have learned much about 'a small circulation magazine' and in addition has been got to write the queens' english good and proper.. I would like to thank the V.S.L. for all his hard work, (especially urging me to finish articles) and to everyone who has contributed to any of the issues. My best wishes go

to my successor, Mark Simmons, who will be taking over shortly.

Should any member of the 44th fall ill during a Unit activity, he will have no worries about being cared for. Recently 14 of us attended a first aid course and then took a St John Ambulance exam, at Churchdown Scout H.Q. We thank the Churchdown Unit for inviting us to this. We all passed the test, though some were 'better' than others!

We welcome the following new members to the Unit, all of whom are taking a very active part in Unit life, Russ Watson, Stuart Bishop, Nigel Brewster, Nick Poulton, Tim Smith, and hope that they can carry on the traditions of the Unit, now in its eleventh year.

Recently we have been involved in a variety of activities, including the District Darts tournament in which Phil Champion and Dave Brown beat Stuart Bishop and VSL in the final; the First Aid Course; Cotswold Marathon - we didn't win, and an array of gardening, repairing, decorating jobs. Although we are now at the time of exams when Unit activities take a second place to school work the immediate future holds promise of archery, canoeing, orienteering, caving, initiative tests and 10 pin bowling.

Rob Dalton

### "SNOW, SNOW, THICK, THICK SNOW..."

The Unit's 1978/79 Winter Hike was along part of the Cotswold Way Footpath between Dursley and Seven Springs and was aimed at introducing some of our younger members to the delights(?) of winter walking. The party consisted of Mark Simmons, Iain Weir, Stuart Bishop and myself, the V.S.L. driving to the next evening's camp and joining us during the day at the half way mark.

So, one chilly day, not long after New Year, we came to Dursley (a seething metropolis somewhere off the A38) to find a thick carpet of snow on the ground. After about half an hour trying to find the start of the route, the V.S.L. left us to find our own way out of town. The most

(continued on page 12)

ANNUAL REPORT  
1978 1979

VENTURE SCOUT LEADER'S REPORT

Looking back over the past year there are, of course, one or two events that stand out as highlights. The most obvious one was the successful expedition held in Iceland last summer. I do not propose to dwell on this, however, for two reasons; firstly it was well covered in the "Iceland Special" edition of Venture 44, and secondly it would give a false impression of the nature of the Unit if the expedition were not put into perspective.

A summary of our activities is included later in this report, and serves to give some guide as to what the Unit gets up to. Most of the activities are of the sort indulged in by many other Venture Scout Units, although there may well be a few significant ways in which our programme and outlook varise from what many would regard as the traditional view of Scouting

I believe that it is inevitable that our approach is rather different to other Units because of the limitations imposed, and the very real advantages gained by our being a so called "Sponsored Closed Unit". We have loyalties and ties with the School, as well as to the Scout organisation as a whole. One advantage is that we have a ready communications system which cuts down on much of the formal business that is necessary in a Unit that can only meet once a fortnight or so. A disadvantage is that we can, if we are not careful, forget that we are part of the much broader national and international brotherhood of Scouting.

The major difference however, and the single factor that possibly makes our Unit unique, at least in this part of the country, is that nearly all of our members join the Unit without having previously been members of scout troops. Under these circumstances some experienced leaders may argue that we cannot run a "proper" Unit as

our members lack the necessary scouting skills and background. Experience has shown, I believe, that this is not the case, and that despite our sometimes rather unconventional outlook towards some aspects of the "traditional scouting" package", we nevertheless are doing Venture Scouting. There is a world of difference between the attitudes and needs of a group of articulate and discerning **active** young adults, working in a democratic setting and the average group of scouts or cub scouts, and consequently this must be reflected in the organisation of our Unit. The proof of the pudding is in the eating, as the old saying goes, and by sampling what we have had to offer over the years, a reasonable number of young men have developed skills, broadened their outlooks, met and overcome challenges, given service to many, and enjoyed themselves by partaking in Venture Scouting as done in the 44th style.

In concluding this part of the report, I must pay tribute to all those people without whose support and help, direct or indirect, the Unit would not be able to function; those parents who helped out with fund raising events; the school caretaker, Mr Yates, who turns a blind eye to much of our comings and goings; Mr Burrow, who runs the tuck shop which provides us with a substantial part of our annual income, and finally the staff and Headmaster of the school who support us in so many different ways.

F. Henderson

MEMBERSHIP

1975-6	Venture Scouts	23	Leaders	2
1976-7	" "	27	"	2
1977-8	" "	20	"	2
1978-9	" "	24	"	3

The figures above show a slight rise over the year but do not reflect the fact that the Unit at present is made up of two distinct groups, about half of our members are in the 18 - 19 age range, and the rest are around 16. This is a new situation for us, and as all of

our senior members are hoping to be off to further education within a few months, a great deal of responsibility will fall on the shoulders of our younger members. Fortunately I believe that this group contains some of the most enthusiastic, energetic and loyal people that have been in the Unit for some time, and I am confident that they can meet the challenge of running their own show in the coming years.

#### AWARDS

Queen's Scout

Phil Champion

Venture Award

Chris Collins

Rob Dalton

Jon May

Paul Jennings

#### FINANCIAL REPORT

The year started with a large sum of money coming in due to payments for the Iceland expedition, and also for equipment bought at considerable discount from two firms. Payments for the expedition and settlement of the other bills soon left a big hole in Unit finances. The prompt payment of subscriptions in September, coupled with an improvement in the waste paper sales situation helped to restore the balance to some degree, and the sale of our rebuilt motorcycle enabled us to repay a loan from the school fund in October.

By Christmas, however, the situation was far from satisfactory, and we had to look ahead to the prospect of increased capitation fees payable to the District. It was necessary for the Unit to raise some money quickly. At the end of January, as a joint venture with the Crick -et Club, we held a Jumble Sale at Longlevens Church Hall and made a profit of just over £150. Another long term venture was participation in the District Raffle, in which the Unit takes a 40 % share of the money raised on our ticket sales. Another source of income is the tuck

44th GLOUCESTER VENTURE SCOUT UNIT

Summary of Income and Expenditure for period April 5th 1978 to March 31st 1979

<u>Expenditure</u>	£	<u>Income</u>	£
Iceland Expedition	2320 00	Iceland expedition	2283 79
Equipment purchases	489 97	Sale of equipment	405 10
Capitation fees	54 70	Tuckshop profit shares	37 00
Hut Maintenance	44 11	Subscriptions	95 50
Entry fees	18 00	Associate subscriptions	16 00
Lottery Licence	10 00	Waste paper sales	51 51
British Waterways, canoe licences	24 00	Scrap metal sales	2 25
Cheltenham Round Table (Sponsored walk)	28 60	Sponsored walk	53 60
Gratuities, etc	15 00	Sale of Motorcycle	100 00
Venture 44	8 74	Payments for sundry jobs	21 00
" , Iceland Special deficit	17 10	Sale of wood	3 00
Christmas reunion expenses	21 74	Jumble Sale	154 00
To District Jamboree Fund	20 00	Interest on Deposit Account	4 12
Donations	5 00		
Badges, etc	4 50		
G.C.C. Canoe mould	3 00		
To S.T.R.S. Cricket Club (Jumble sale)	20 00	Carried forward from 77/78	<u>3326 87</u> 54 28
Sports equipment	6 58		
Sundries	9 61		
Bank Charges	6 01	less expenditure	<u>3381 15</u> <u>3223 66</u>
	<u>3223 66</u>	Carried forward to 79/80	<u>157 49</u>

TREASURER D.P.Brown.

Subject to audit.

N.B. Details of costing of camps and expeditions during the period, other than the Iceland expedition, are NOT included in the above figures.

shop which has re-opened this year, and is proving to be a financial success, and two enjoyable coffee evenings have also proved profitable.

All in all the year was quite complicated with a large amount of money passing through the books. Our thanks to Mr Holdaway, who takes on the daunting task of auditing each year, I hope for his sake and for that of the next treasurer that things will not be so complicated in the next twelve months!

David Brown

### THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

This is the 'ruling body' of the Unit, usually consisting of about 8 people elected annually by the whole Unit. They are responsible for the general running of the Unit, looking after the financial situation, organising fund raising, dealing with any problems that arise, and our relationships with other Units, the school, and the public. The committee comprises the leaders, chairman, secretary, treasurer, recorder, magazine editor and two fifth form representatives. We meet about threetimes a term for formal business, more frequently if necessary. Normally meetings are held in the houses of members, and they are always based on a proper format, with printed agenda, detailed minutes, and orderly discussion. After the meeting the minutes are always available for inspection by other members of the Unit, who are normally given a brief verbal report of meetings within a few days of their happening.

Chris Collins

### ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Ex-members of the Unit who have left the area but wish to retain links with the Unit may become associates on payment of an annual subscription of £1. There are now about 30 associates, plus three "honorary members" and the support that they give the Unit both financially and morally is greatly appreciated.

## SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES, 1978- 79

### Expeditions and Camps etc

- July 78. Snowdonia work project. Conservation and hill walking week - details see Venture 44 No 29.
- Aug - Sept 78. The Iceland Expedition. A party of 14 spent 2 weeks walking across the wilderness of S.W. Iceland. Details in Venture 44 "Iceland Special"
- Oct 78. Back to Bodesi, a four day visit to Snowdonia again.
- Jan 79. Winter hike along part of the Cotswold Way.

### Competitive Events.

- July 78. Black Mountains Hiking competition  
Winners for the third year in succession. (Steve Allen, Simon Weston, Phil Champion, Pete Green)
- Feb 79. Cotswold Marathon, beaten at last in to second place after five years of outright victory. (Phil Champion, Jon May, Dave Brown)

### Training Courses, etc.

During the past year members of the Unit have attended the following courses.

St John's Ambulance First Aid Courses, adult and basic

G.C.C. Personal relationships courses

G.C.C. Canoe training courses

District Scouts caving safety course

### General Activities

Caving, Forest of Dean and Mendips

Canoeing

Canoe maintenance

Basketball

5 - a - side soccer

Rock Climbing

Map reading exercises

Ice skating  
Table Tennis  
Darts

### Service Activities

Glosaid, collection and distribution of food to needy folk at Christmas  
Firewood chopping and distribution  
- nearly 100 boxes of kindling wood in the winter months  
Furniture removing  
General repairs and painting  
Gardening.

This is not an exhaustive list, but it gives some idea as to the Unit's nature and programme.

### VENTURE 44

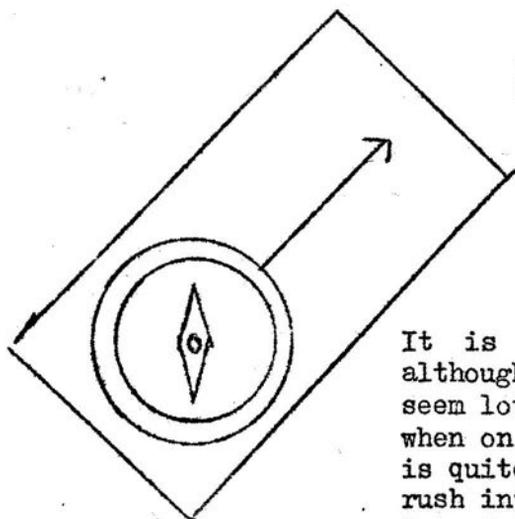
This report is incorporated into the 32nd issue of our own magazine, the first of which appeared almost exactly 10 years ago. Since the first issue it has changed somewhat both in format and content. It started off as a simple information broadsheet, but it soon expanded to include articles and reports by past and present members of the Unit. I have been doing a little research through past editions, and compiled the following statistics for what they are worth!

There have been a total of 404 pages printed in all, containing over 150 contributions other than those of the Editors and V.S.L.

There have been 66 contributors in all, with one illustrious ex-member, Steve Chalkley, having made his first in issue number 2, and his most recent in no. 31!

Contributions have come from travellers in the following countries; Afghanistan, Australia, Canada, Equador, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, India, Ireland, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland U.S.A., Venezuela and the West Indies!

The present circulation is 90 copies to members, associates and friends of the Unit.



## FROM ALL POINTS

It is a peculiar fact that although members of the Unit seem loth to wear uniform when on Scout activities, it is quite common for them to rush into a job where uniform is compulsory. Hence I was not surprised, although perhaps a little concerned to learn that both SIMON WESTON and MARK CALVER are now pounding the beat in size 15 boots - members of the constabulary. Simon is in Stroud, and Mark is still being trained. Not such good news for ANDY ROSE, who was accepted by the Dorset force, but was discovered at a last medical check to be colour blind and was therefore not able to achieve his ambition.

Another uniformed ex-member - so we are told, as he has never been SEEN in uniform - is KEITH FRANKLIN. On a recent visit home, when he proved that he is still a pretty average table tennis player, he reported that he has been successful in his recent exams at R.A.F. Cosford. Keith's old accomplice, PAUL DYER, now a happily married man has recently moved into a new house in Quedgeley. Paul's verdict on the new Clubhouse, "It lacks the character of the old hut."

Still with the uniform mob, DAVE BARNES is now stationed on H.M.S. Lewiston, up in the west of Scotland. Brother JOHN, whose parachuting exploits were described in the last issue has taken a liking to the activity. He has made a number of jumps since his first try.

Anyone who saw the big international cross-country

event shown on T.V. a few weeks ago may have spotted in the mass of runners a familiar figure, none other than PETE IRVINE, wearing, of all things, the green vest of N Ireland. What, may you ask, is a fellow who has spent his formative years in Gloucester doing running for Ireland? It appears that Pete qualifies because his father comes from Belfast. In his first full international he finished in a reasonable position, and hopes to run again soon. I am sure we all wish him the best of British (or Irish) luck!

Talking about the Irish inevitably leads on to BREN NUONAN, who I met only this afternoon in Cheltenham where he now works. Bren reports his sporting success, a more modest achievement than that of his "fellow countryman", he has been playing for Gloucester City - at skittles.

F.H.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

Snow, Snow, Thick, Thick Snow. continued from p 3.

memorable thing about that day was Iain's amazing flying karrinat (there was a very strong wind), second place to Stuart's nasty accident whilst traversing a sheet of frozen pig muck! That night was spent at a farm near Stroud

Next day we walked from Stroud to Cranhan, via the topograph on Haresfield Beacon, a well, and an interesting hexagonal farmhouse. While camping overnight in a field behind the County Scout H.Q., we experienced one of the coldest nights of the winter. Boots froze and ice formed on our sleeping bags! After the boots had been thawed over a primus stove during breakfast next morning we set off on the last day's walk to Seven Springs, encountering 6 ft deep snow drifts on the way in several places.

Despite the bitter wind, the snow was crisp and the sky bright, and we had some magnificent views as we walked across Leckchampion Hill and Charlton Kings Common. Although we covered only about 34 miles on the three day the weather made sure that it would be a trip that we will all remember

Pete Green.

