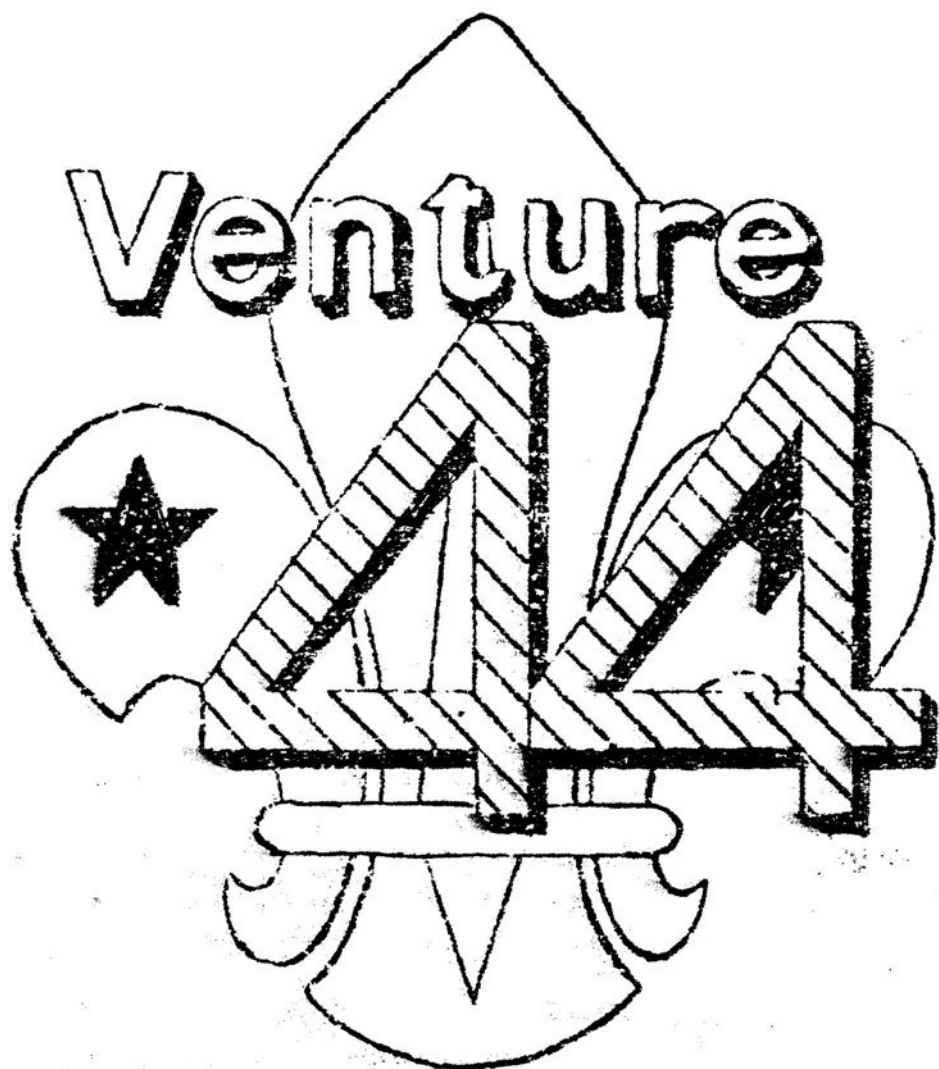
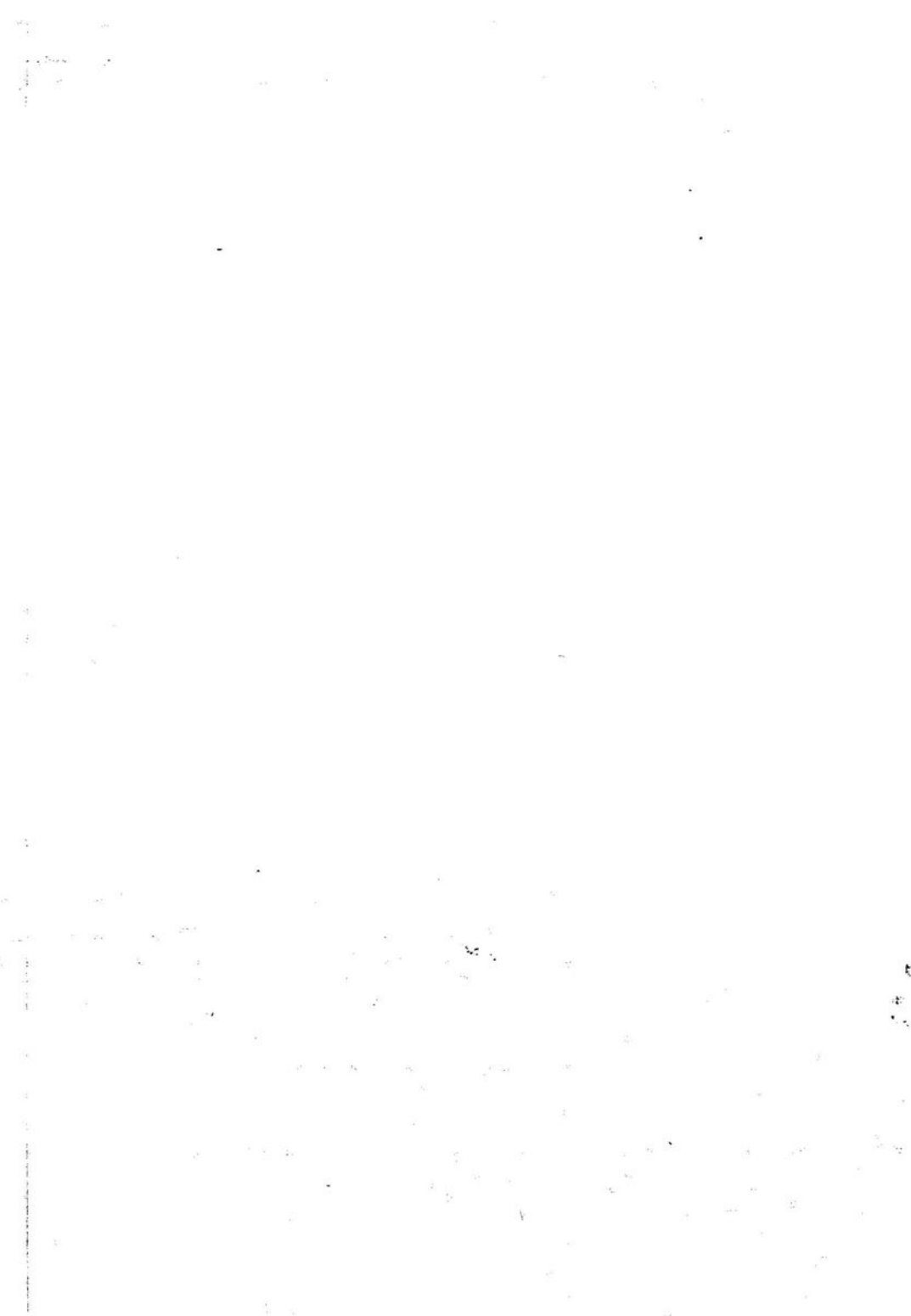


# Venture



NUMBER FORTY THREE

MAY 1982



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

NUMBER FORTY THREE

MAY 1982

EDITOR Jer Hobbs

UNIT OFFICERS

Leaders	Frank Henderson Phil Brown
Chairman	Fat Phillips
Senior Member	Stuart Bishop
Secretary	Dave Jerrard
Treasurer	Richard Kerswell
Recorder	Nick Iliffe
Exec members	Hugo Ashby Paddy Smith Steve Gunsworth
Quartermaster	Brian Symcox

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EDITORIAL

At last an edition the timing of which has not been dictated by the need to meet a deadline. This issue may give more of a chance for displaying the literary master-ship of some of the people involved in the unit. I certainly found working on it most interesting.

I think that I can speak for all members and friends of the unit when I say that we were all extremely concerned about the injury sustained by the V.S.L. on his recent visit to Norway. We are glad to see that he is now back on his feet. He has been sorely missed from the unit and also at school - I know that these are the feelings of many. Let's hope that he is back to his usual form quickly!

Whilst the V.S.L. was flat on his back a number of our lads were, rather appropriately, taking part in the annual bed race on the Gloucester Trading Estate. An account of this is included in this issue.

We would like to welcome Richard Drew and Yosha Cowmeadow to the unit, and I am confident that they will soon be involved fully in our activities.

You may remember that an edition of Venture 44 was entered in a competition in "Scouting" magazine. You may be pleased to learn that although not winning, we got a "Highly Commended" - it makes all the effort worthwhile.

Finally, I would like to close by wishing well to all members who are about to start their exams.

Jer Hobbs

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SPORTS REPORT

The District 5-a-side Football tournament was held eventually at the end of March at Beaufort Sports Centre. Sixteen teams competed for the handsome trophy donated

by the Quedgeley Unit last year. Following the highly competitive group matches the four teams that qualified for the semi-finals comprised Quedgeley, Churchdown, and the 44th 'A' and 'D' teams.

Churchdown beat the D team of Dave Jerrard, Rich Kerswell, Jer Hobbs, Bruce Radford and Pad Smith by 1-0, but the 'A' team of Phil Brown, Jon May, Paul Venn, Iain Weir, Ian Fletcher and Phil Phillips, who played bravely and were full of commitment through the evening, won 2-0 to reach the final. In the final game one unfortunate error by our longest haired player gave Churchdown the one goal that proved sufficient. We consequently surrendered the trophy to a very deserving Churchdown team and naturally look forward to next year when we will reclaim it yet again!

Our two teams that didn't make the finals were the 'C' team of Pat Phillips, Russ Watson, Nigel Brewster, Nick Poulton and myself, beaten only by the eventual winners, and the 'B' team of Kev Manley, Andy Manders, Jon Wright, Simon Hawkins and Nige Holden.

A second district event that proved as popular as ever was the Darts Tournament, held as usual at the Bowls Pavilion. Over 20 teams entered, representing most of the units in the district. The 44th's prowess in this most energetic and concentration sapping sport was very evident with 5 out of the 8 quarter finalists coming from the unit. The semifinals were contested between the V.S.L. and myself, Dave Jerrard and Hugo Ashby, Nick Poulton and Mark Collins (38th) and Phil Iles and partner (46th). In the final Nick and Mark met the 46th pair. Steady, but sometimes sparkling play by the former team won them the right to consider themselves to be the best 'darters' in the district. The 44th consequently keeps its hands, or at least one hand on the prestigious trophy for yet another year.

Stu Bishop.

THE ADVENTURES OF ZEBEDEE II

At 11.06 a.m. on the 25th of April ten foolhardy members started out on the 10 mile Bed Race organised by the Stroud and District Round Table, aiming to raise money for Cancer research.

It was amazing that we even got to the course at the Hucclecote Trading Estate with the bed, let alone finish as two days before the event we didn't even have a bed! Through the help of Mr Middleton we acquired a 1981 bed from Wycliffe Motors, minus rear wheels. It did, however have a steering column and other sophistications. On the Friday night (typical) we decided to do something about the rear end, so we removed one of the wheels from the canoe trailer. It took all of ten minutes - too good to be true, we thought - but when we got to the second one we found two bolts rusted solid. Thanks to John P's seemingly tireless left arm after half an hour of sawing he removed one, and nearly an hour later in almost total darkness he jubilantly rolled it into the workshop without anyone noticing, as we were deep in discussion with our technical advisor and long suffering caretaker, Glyn Jones. We pretended to understand the more complicated instructions, but eventually, with borrowed G clamps and centre punches we setup the suspension units so that Mr Middleton could weld them next morning. Then we looked at our watches and realised that it WAS the next morning.

On Saturday evening Pat single-handedly completed the preparation. Next day Phil arrived with the Bedford, and we hoisted the bed onto the van. We were low on fuel so we tore around Longlevens looking for a filling station that was (a) open, and (b) high enough for us to get into - much to the mystification of the passers by!

We arrived at 10.45 fifteen minutes to the massed start - only to discover one of the tyres was flat! We found a pump and lustily inflated the tyre and raced to the line with Pat at the wheel shouting "wait for us!!"

The team consisted of Pat, Stuart, Dom, Dave Wilson, Bri Herbert, Andy, Steve, Jon Wright, Rich Drew and myself.

"We'll show them all" we thought, and set off into the distance, but after 500 yards we were knackered and slowed to a walk, to be passed by several beds. After the first 2 mile lap, we missed out on the drinks, so we all vowed to get some next time around. However there were only two girls with 4 drinks for 10 people, so 6 were unlucky. Next lap, we decided to stop, but we felt much the worse for it as we ran off again into the scorching sun. On lap three we discovered the tactic of walking  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles then running the  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile through the crowd so that they thought we had run the whole way!

At the start of the race we had loaded a quantity of ammunition - eggs, tomatoes and flour, but unlike the previous year we seemed to be the only armed bed, so it was a bit one sided until a bed passed us and showered us with something nasty from a squeeze bottle.

We finished in 1 hour 45 minutes - not bad for ten miles pushing a bed with a flat tyre, we thought, and to celebrate the spare ammunition was thrown at me!

Brian Symcox

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### LIFE IN A WEST GERMAN CITY...ALMOST!

Having journeyed via the Netherlands to West Germany expecting to spend a fortnight with friends in Göttingen - a rather drab city in mid Germany - you can imagine my surprise when, on meeting my hosts, they said we would be travelling the following day to the Italian Alps for Easter. The opportunity of walking in the world renowned mountains was just the tonic to restore my stomach which I had seemed to leave behind on the channel ferry.

Next day, after eleven hours in a powerful merc towing a caravan at speeds which would have had the lads  
(continued on page 8)

44th GLOUCESTER VENTURE SCOUT UNIT

Summary of Income and Expenditure for period April 1st 1981 to March 31st 1982

<u>INCOME</u>	£	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	£
Subscriptions	185.00	Capitation Fees	115.25
Associate Subs	56.50	Equipment purchases	174.67
Tuck Shop profits	326.31	Hut repairs, etc	80.14
Barn Dance	130.12	To Tuck Shop, York Exp.	115.22
Jumble Sale	119.67	Entry fees	60.00
Sponsored canoe event	181.86	Canoe purchase for N.I.C.C.	196.65
Sale of tents	150.00	Training courses, etc	34.00
Expedition, Scotland	332.00	Expenses, Scotland	315.52
Sale of Sweat Shirts	30.00	Purchase of Sweat shirts, etc	80.09
Old Richians Assoc.	35.00	Donation, Cancer Research	10.00
Sale of drinks	9.00	District Scout Project	50.00
Sundry income	36.00	Venture 44	33.80
Intrest on Deposit Ace	16.31	Photocopying	8.46
		Gifts, etc	13.94
		Purchase of drinks, etc	6.59
Total	1607.77	Display panels	18.82
		Transport costs	32.15
		Leisure Centre	53.70
balance b/f from 1980/81	219.56	Maps, etc	9.00
		Bank Charges	3.17
		Total expenditure	1431.66
		balance c/f to 82/83	395.67
			<u>1827.33</u>
Total	<u>1827.33</u>		

Treasurer; Richard Kerswell

Audited and found correct in accordance with vouchers etc. 29th April 1982. J.D.Holdaway.



continued from page 5)

from Bamfurlong smuggly rubbing their hands together, we were in Merano in the Bolzano district of Italy. En route to the vinyards and orchards we passed through Munich and the Austrian city of Innsbruck - most impressive, with the European Bridge and the Olympic ski jump - this faces directly on to the cemetery! When we finally arriv-ed we found Merano shrouded in a heat haze which didn't lift for three days.

During our stay we ventured several times onto the mountains, encountering several difficult moments, and twice crossed the snowline in training shoes! Walking occupied most of the daylight hours leaving the evenings free for sampling the delights of real Italian ice cream and real Italian red wine in a real Italian beer kellar - all at give away prices.

For the whole time that we were there the daytime temperature did not drop below 70° F, so it was no wonder that I was not too happy when the time to return to Germany came. Ah well, C'est la vie.

In the final few days I managed to "do" the town and pay a visit to one of the seedier joints in the area - leaving me in no fit state to travel! However the wander-er eventually returned home with his big red nose with some fantastic experiences under his belt. There were several really memorable moments - like the time that there were six of us perched on a tractor, driven by an elderly gent, reputedly the wrong side of eighty, up a mountain track nearly as rough as Lansdown Road - with a 1500ft drop on one side; or the time I had a lift, the back person of 3, on a motorbike - without a helmet - going at about a ton, from a young Italian....

Now everyone says "So how was Germany?...."

Jer Hobbs.

Material for the next issue by June 30th, please.

### STARS ON ICE

Recently a few of us, inspired by the successes of Torville and Dean, went to Bristol to try their luck at ice-skating. Having donned our skates we advanced warily towards the ice - for some it was the first attempt - but soon must picked up the technique. Others who had skated before were a bit rusty, but a quick demonstration by the V.S.L. prompted them into activity. After a short time cramp and sore backsides resulted in some of the less hardy individuals to go "elsewhere" whilst others rested during an interval during which we were treated to a display of speed skating.

The more frequent tumbles towards the end of the evening were solely due to human obstructions on the ice presumably caused through fatigue, Unfortunately pools of icy water began to appear on the surface ensuring a thorough soaking of the less skillful. Also, it was with great sorrow that we learned of the absence of the Avon Arrows ice hockey team scouts, for it was felt that after the night's showing, several of my colleagues may have had a future in the game!

Finally I'd like to give a quick plug - I expected to return bruised - or in plaster - but that was not so. If like me you have not skated before, next time that a trip is organised, be brave and have a go!

Rob Holford.

### SUMMER EXPEDITION 1982

This summer the Unit will be heading for Scotland once more, to visit some of the more northerly islands. the dates are August 9th to 21st. There are vacancies so any associate members who may wish to come along are asked to contact the V.S.L. as soon as possible. The cost will be £45 for active members and £50 for associates. further details available on request.

F.H.

BRIDGE OVER THE RIVER.

When I was a lad, and we lived in a shoe-box by the M4, I wanted to be a pilot in the R.A.F., but due to circumstances well within my control, I found that I was not entirely suited - which, with the present situation 8000 miles away, is probably a good thing from my point of view. So with the knowledge that my only occupational idea was useless, I resigned myself to looking for some -thing else, and after 13 months of fruitless searching I stumbled on the firm of Sir Kenneth McAlpine and Sons.

Macs are building the northern by-pass. By now I was prepared to do anything just to get some money - mercenary, I know, but what the hell! I went along to the site office on Thursday and filled in all the necessary paperwork. I was told they would be in touch, and indeed they were at 8.30 a.m. next Monday.

Well pleased with myself I got ready and went down to Over, where they are building the largest of the nine bridges on the by-pass. I was taken to the engineer's office and introduced to Alan, the engineer I was to work with. "Hello, you're the new chap are you?" he said.

"No" I said, "I've been working here for eons, you just haven't noticed me!"

"If you are going to be funny, you can \*\*\*\* \*\*"

Good start, I thought, I can see I won't be here for long.... but I was wrong, and settled down to what was to become a daily round of cards and wandering around on site. At first there was plenty to do, my job being helping the engineer and fetching and carrying (very exciting) but after 2 or 3 weeks, the work seemed to dry up and there were times when all we would do all day was to measure a few lines on the bridge (about 5 minutes work)

To keep yourself occupied during slack periods it was best to stride purposefully about the site, stopping to chat to people, making it look as if you are carrying messages.

The blokes on the site are interested mainly in one thing and that's breaks - tea, dinner, any time when no work has to be done. An example of this was when two men carrying a board along a side road by the site, and one shouts that it's dinner time; they drop the board in the road and left it covering a cattle grid. We then spent the afternoon trying to round up a dozen cows.

Now my time on the bridge is over, and I have been transferred to labs (impressed, eh?) where we test materials used on site. I was taken to the lab on a Monday - I met the materials engineer who asked "Are you the new chap?"... "No, I've been here for cons....."

To be continued.

Paul Venn

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### FROM ALL POINTS

News this time of some of the "travelling people" A postcard has arrived from Nepal wishing the unit a happy new year (Buddhist style). The sender, John Kearsey, is out in the countryside there using his engineering skills for V.S.O. John will give us a fuller account of his experiences in a later issue.

Back in England (or rather in Wales) after an extended stay down under, Steve and Denise Chalkley have now got itchy feet again and are planning to get back to the Foster's Lager and Kangaroo sandwiches as soon as they can afford it.

Another associate member who is now considering a visit to the antipodes is Row Lloyd, who achieved some local fame recently by featuring in the "Citizen". Those who know Row will be surprised that it was not under the heading "Police wish to interview..." but a reference to his ill-fated attempt to get to his new job in, of all places, Buenos Aires. As this is being written it seems very unlikely that he will be taking up his post there,

hence his decision to try his luck in Australia.

During Row's time in the unit his erstwhile companion was usually Dave Barnes, now Lieutenant Barnes R.N. His brother John told me last week that he had heard that his ship is heading for the South Atlantic. I am sure everyone will join me in hoping that the unfortunate affair in that troubled area will be speedily settled without any bloodshed, and that Dave returns safe and well together with all the servicemen in the task force.

On a more cheerful note it has been good to hear of two of our geologists recently. Chris Pashley has a job working with, of all things mud; he is at present in the scottish oil capital, Aberdeen. The other Chris - Chris Collins called in the other day on his way to London. He hopes for a research post at Imperial College after finishing his degree at Cardiff. Cardiff may well be the next port of call for ex-editor Rob Dalton who hopes to do a course in journalism after completing his degree at Nottingham.

Nigel Brewster involved in a sandwich course at university has moved to Harrogate, although rumours that he appeared in the Eurovision song contest are denied. How anyone who knows that Nige is tone deaf with absolutely no musical talent could have thought that he might be in such a competition.... although thinking about it....

Finally, many of our associate members will now be involved in exams, and I would like to take this chance of wishing you all success. Let us know how you get on, and remember that if you wish to keep receiving Venture 44, let us know of any change of address

F.H.

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Anyone wishing to borrow tents and other camping kit this summer should contact the quartermaster or V.S.L. as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.



