

VENTURE

44





Venture 44. The magazine of the 44th Gloucester
Sir Thomas Rich's School Venture Scout Unit

NUMBER 46

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EDITORIAL BOARD Yosh Cowmeadow, Jer Hobbs, Stu Bishop.

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COMMENT

Since the last magazine the unit has kept a varied programme of activities going, starting with night orienteering. The route, via Hucclecote, Barnwood & Chosen Hill was about six and a bit miles (plus any detours) leading through some very interesting mud pits, brambles, streams, etc. In the end Bri Symcox and Andy Manders finished the course first about ten minutes ahead of their nearest rivals.

In a similar vein the more maschistic members of the Unit took part in the notorious Cotswold Marathon, about which more appears later.

The night cricket (which was played and umpired in Australian style, under lights in the gym) produced creditable showings against the Strollers, who were treacherously led by none other than our A.V.S.L PPhil! In the event he led his team to three victories.

Preparations have been commencing for the summer expedition to Norway and Sweden, with deposits now paid and bookings made.

With a view to financing the visit the annual jumble sale was held at the Hall at Longlevens Church. With one week to go we had no jumble, but a last minute burst produced enough to stock two jumble sales! In the event returns were one hundred pounds. Thanks to all who helped on the day.

Another recent 'sporting event' was the District Darts tournament. 60 players and their supporters turned up at the usual venue, and the inevitable happened- 3 teams from the 44th and Phil Iles and Mike Aubrey made it to the semi finals. In the end it was the late entry team, Dave Jerrard and Rich Kerswell who ended up as winners.

As you can see a few new ideas have crept into this edition - notably the lay out of this page. If you have any observations, please contact me soon

Y.C.

NORTH WALES OCTOBER 82

After a journey of about 4 hours, 7 brave members and the V.S.L. arrive at the cottage beside Llyn Ogwen, with mixed feelings, but within half an hour we were settled in and ready for anything.

Next day, fully refreshed by the VSL's porridge, we set off to climb Tryfan, across the Glyders, down to the Devil's Kitchen and back to the faithful Bedford. It was a hot climb, but worth the view from the summit. Three people gained the freedom of Tryfan by jumping from Adam to Eve, and we all enjoyed the scramble up the Bristley Ridge.

The next day was spent playing a chess tournament and walking over to Aber Falls from Bethesda. Once there we crossed the river on ropes, all doing it safely except Rich Drew, who decide rock hopping was easier, but found that it was wetter. Back to our spacious lodgings to continue the chess tournament, eventually won by Simon H, by beating Bri Herbert in the final. We installed ourselves in the old Church Hall at Capel Curig that evening, bent over the snooker table, where breaks as high as three or four points were accumulated!

That night was a restless one; the combination of farmhouse stew with peppers and a full moon seemed to affect everyone. The howling of the wind was intermittently broken by shouts from a sleeping member of the party for directions to the door and enquires as to "if there's a pattern on it?", and the occasional grunt from the resident yeti.

Wednesday morning was spent rock-climbing on Little Tryfan, whilst Rich tried his hand at painting the walls of the cottage (a brush would have been better!)

The journey home was broken for dinner at Corwen - where we indulged in chips from the V.S.L.'s recommended chippy, which seems to be solely patronised by Scouts and geologists from S.T.R.S. Overall, it was a good trip

enjoyed by all, and we look forward to another one!

DAVE WILSON

IT'S NOT FAR NOW...

An account of four foolhardy Venture Scouts, three of whom ran, staggered, stumbled, waded, crawled, and groaned all the way around the 40 mile Cotswold Marathon course...

"It's not for now!"

"Rubbish"

So went our tittle-tattle as we stumbled along in the dark. We'd started well (one minute late), with all the team threatening to retire before the bottom of the first hill, with Andy groaning already. As we ambled up Cole avenue we were passed by the only team to overtake us - the three Baggoteers, helped along by the inevitable insults. And so down Robinswood Hill, passing Phil Brown Dave (dig those crazy leg-warmers) Seed and Jon Wright who'd left a good half hour before us, and then countless others as we sprinted to C.P.2. No duffouts yet!

We then whizzed past C.P.s 3,4,5 and 6 with the now no longer groaning Andy managing to get cramp sprinting past some teams and starting groaning again.

This year the Greenway seemed somehow to get the better of Andy and me as we panted up it, a good fifty yards behind Pad and John.

We eventually got to the top after much swearing and left the C.P. without a drink due to the complex and computer based organisation....

We skated along the ice, the first we'd met, to the road junction and up to the next C.P. Then we steamed up Bubb's Hill - the first hill we had done well, to the end of the Scout Marathon and thence into the distance until we reached Winstone where we said farewell to the gallant

Pad, who had completed 20 miles in $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

"It's not far now, I tell you"

"Bullscross!"

We hit ice again after Edgeworth and Any started to groan again as he fell over... I slipped and fell over.. ..Andy slipped and fell over.... We now hit snow up to our knees, and waded for a good mile into Bisley. We all groaned to Bull's Cross, beginning to stumble now and wishing there were more uphill stretches as the downhill ones hurt. Eventually we found the turning to Brookthorpe and finally arrived at the last but one checkpoint where we were inevitably asked if we wanted to retire - when we were within a mile or so of the finish!

In the big field John strode off as fresh as ever.

Andy and I groaned again only able to sprint from the roundabout for a time of 9 hours 59 min, John having done it 5 minutes faster.

Within two minutes of finishing we had decided to do the thing next year and win it inside 6 hours so that the Lowery Trophy should return to its true home in the hut.

BRIAN SYMCOX

FOOTNOTE(!)

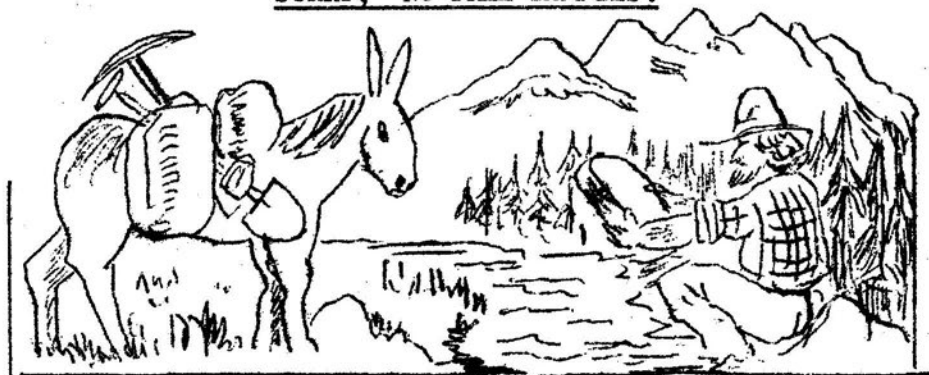
This year there were more problems before the event started than during the race itself, with people dropping out like flies from illness, and at least two of our team members were not at all well when they started! All credit then to all who took part. It would be invidious to select any one for special praise, as each of our entrants did their best and can be proud of their achievement.

Thanks also to an excellent back-up team who proved of tremendous use through the night - Stu Bishop, Simon Williams and Pat Phillips. Results on p 12.

F.H.

In N.º 44 we stated that ANDY MANDERS was working as an apprentice silversmith. Apologies to Andy for undervaluing him - he is, in fact, an apprentice Goldsmith, and he has produced for us a brief account of the material with which he works...

SORRY, NO FREE SAMPLES.



Most of our gold today is mined in South Africa. There, a new method has been invented to produce gold from the reefs where the actual amount of gold contained in the rocks is small. The mines can be extended down to a depth of 13,000 feet, and the temperature of the rock being worked can be up to 50°C.

Once the rock is broken up into small pieces by the drills, the ore is taken to a mill. Here it is crushed into fragments of rock which are about 12 cm in diameter and then, after sorting, into lumps about 2 cm across. These pieces are then mixed with water and milled to be reduced to a pulp which is passed into tanks where solutions of cyanide are added to dissolve the gold.

A gold bullion bar is refined to a minimum of 99.5% pure gold (24 carat). 18 carat gold is usually made of 75% gold, the other 25% would probably be shared between silver and copper. For white gold zinc is used, and then it is plated with the rare metal Rhodium.

One ounce of gold can be used for several things. It may be used as thin wire in a silicon chip, or in many varieties of jewellery.

To make one ounce of gold you must mine five tonnes of ore. This fact, together with its rarity, is the reason why it is so expensive to produce.

ANDY MANDERS

GOLDFACTS*GOLDFACTS*GOLDFACTS*GOLDFACTS*GOLDFACTS

DID YOU KNOW THAT

THE CARAT, the unit of weight used in measuring gold is based on the weight of a small seed, the carob bean, used for thousands of years in the east as a standard for precious stones and metals. One carat equals 0.2268 grammes.

BRITISH GOLD. Although rare in Britain, gold has been mined in Wales since Roman times. The peak period was about a hundred years ago, and in 1904 the gold extracted in the Dolgellau area weighed 19,655 ounces

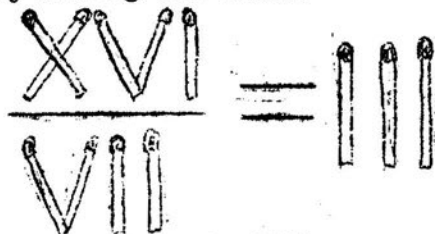
GOLD IS ONE OF THE DENSEST METALS in the world. Its density is 19.3 g/cm^3 , whereas lead, generally regarded as being pretty heavy has a density of a mere 11.3 g/cm^3 .

GOLDFACTS*GOLDFACTS*GOLDFACTS*GOLDFACTS*GOLDFACTS

THE FORTHCOMING BED-RACE ON SUNDAY THE 23rd APRIL will provide an opportunity to show off the souped-up Zededeo III. A lot of work has gone into it and our best wishes go with the brave team competing. The event will be organised by the South Cotswold and Stonehouse Round Table, with proceeds going partly to local charities and partly to our expedition fund.

YOSH'S PAGE PLUS

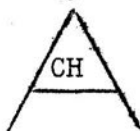
Here is a ridiculously incorrect division sum - Can you make it work just by moving one match?





10 volumes of an encyclopedia (in paperback edition) are arranged in order on a shelf. If a bookworm eats his way from page one Volume 1 to the last page of Volume 10 by the shortest route, how far does he travel? you may assume that each volume is 5 cm thick, and you can ignore the thickness of the cover.

Which country is this?



Can you go from REEF to KNOT in TEN moves, changing one letter at a time so that all the intermediates are real words?

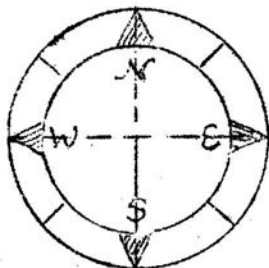


Two friends decided that they should stretch their minds and bodies, and gain a sense of moral values by joining the Venture Scout Unit. They make their decisions independently, one joining on the 1st Friday in May, and the other one day earlier.

If the boy who joined on a Friday pops into the hut every five days and the other comes in every three days, when do they first meet in the hut?

Results and solutions in the next issue, if I can work them all out!

Y.C.

FROM ALL POINTS

We had no room in the last issue for any news of our absent friends, so we will make up for it now! Firstly, more on the saga of the terrible twins of the South Atlantic. DAVE BARNES, after being shot at by sundry Argentinian aircraft in last years war, has decided that a job with the Post Office in London has more to commend it than a career in the Royal Navy, and has consequently downed his lastrum and hung up his concertina. Not only has he returned to dry land, but also he is going to get married on April 16th in Southport. We wish Dave and Anne all the best for the future.

Wedding bells a little nearer home will be ringing on May 29th at St Marks when our own A.V.S.L. PHIL BROWN and Cecilia are to be married. We are assured that the new Mrs Brown will still allow her husband out on Friday evenings, and even release him for a few weeks in summer!

Meanwhile we hear from Manchester that DAVE and JENNY BROWN are expecting their first baby in a few months, so from all of us, congratulations!

However, back to Beunos Aires..... We include later in this section a slightly censored letter sent from the sunny south by ROW LLOYD, shortly before he set off from the big city to the wilds of Patagonia.

More news from the ex-editor who took it serious-ly, ROB DAITON, writing from Newcastle-upon-Tyne...

"On a five month training scondment to the "Evening Chronicle" here before settling in Middlesbrough. Mainly court stories and 'fillers' so far - if I find another T.Dan Smith, I'll let you know! Papers seem like a good career - I owe it all to Venture 44!"

Two ex-members who have called in recently, both geologists called Chris; CHRIS COLLINS is at home at the moment doing some geology on Robinswood Hill. Several of our present members have been up on the hill helping him digging out trenches, etc. CHRIS PASHLEY seems to spend much of his time at present commuting between this realm and Scandinavia, but has found time to pen a short reflection, which we print here.

PERCEPTIONS

This may seem a strange title for an article about my job, but after reading it I hope you find that it will make some kind of sense.

I am a well-logging engineer with Gearhart-Geodata, presently employed on oil-rigs around the continental shelf in the North Sea. I have, for the last six months, worked out of Norway, which has meant me spending a few days of every trip in Norwegian hotels.

All of my friends envy the variety of my job -I work in exotic places and only for six months of the year, at that, and everyone thinks I'm very well paid. I really enjoy working on oil rigs, despite the obvious upset to your social life. Living in hotels and globetrotting is all very exciting, but becomes very tiring, and is quite a lonely existance.

This article is meant to be, I hope, an eye-opener to the different ways of looking at a particular way of living. It may appear to be very different when looked at from outside than when actually totally involved in

it.

The wisest people in the world are those who have the widest range of experience. This meant that you must try everything that you can, and find that it is valuable to be able to comprehend differing perceptions.

CHRIS PASHLEY

DONT CRY FOR ME, ARGENTINA!

Just a short note to say that I am O.K. and enjoying life despite an attempt to throw me out of the country! At present I'm looking for a new job as the British staff at the school got the chop and we were asked/told/made to leave not only the school, but also the country, but as you know I refuse to be told what to do by some jumped up school teacher! I do hope to get a teaching job as there are still a lot of Brits around, although it is difficult to get work permits (unless you know the right people!). If the worse comes to the worse, I shall have to teach English - or Welsh?

The people here are generally very very friendly and incredibly cosmopolitan, and what they say about South American women is true! (What's that then, ED) - it is pleasant just to go for a walk down the street. B.A. is quite a lively place with plenty going on including the almost daily strike, and the occasional killing during a demonstration. Life seems to go on as normal despite inflation running at 217% for last year, and about 20% a month at present. It is surprising how quickly you get used to train fares increasing weekly, but travel here is very cheap still, with the metro and urban trains at 15,000 pesos (5 cents U.S. or 1p). The peso is falling rapidly against the dollar, which is the currency everybody reckons in. It is, however, illegal to change pesos into dollars, so there is a thriving exchange black mark

-et as a hedge against inflation.

There are supposed to be some elections soon, but no chance, I think a revolution or civil war more likely so I am glad to have my ticket to Rio for rapid departure. I have sent most of my stuff home, so I am living out of a rucksack of less than 20 kg. I'm off south for a few months to Tierra del fuego, to practise my Welsh and see if I can hitch a lift back to G.B. on a nuclear sub, perhaps just stopping off at the Falklands...

Hasta La vista.

ROW LLOYD

* * * * *

Two others who have made their mark recently - MARK EVANS and MARK SIMMONS. Agricultural Mark is in the city at present and has been active in the Athletics Club. He has competed in a number of long distance races of late, with some success if the Citizen is to be believed.

Mark S. writes from Anglesey where he is on a field course, sampling the joys of S2 and S3 cleavage and other structural geological phenomena.

F.H.

COTSWOLD MARATHON 1983

Unit results.

Senior Section

10th 9 hr 59 min. John Pepperell, Brian Symcox
Andy Manders

Finished in 15 hr 01 min. Dave Seed, Jon Wright.

Scout Section

4th 4 hr 30 min. Dave Williams, Graham Dalby,
Marcus Whitmore.

