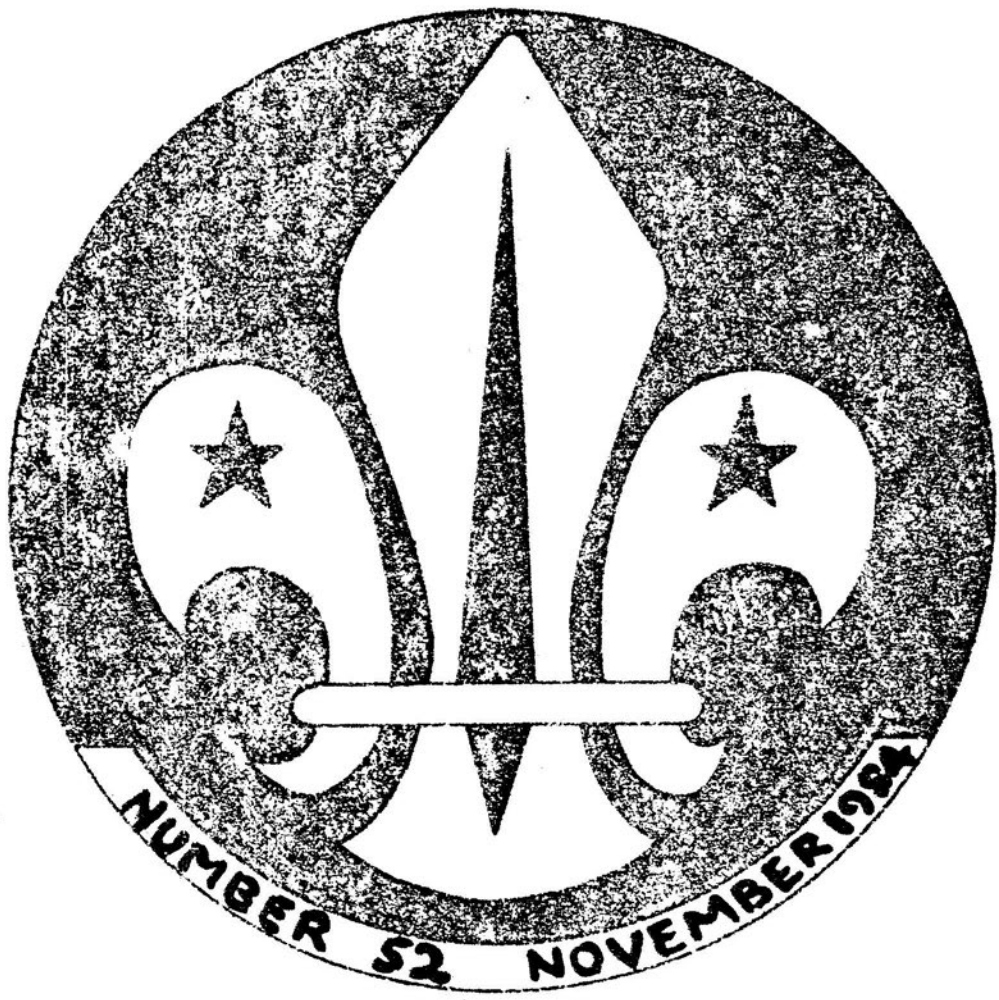


VENTURE

44



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

NUMBER 52

NOVEMBER 1984

EDITOR Steve Catchick

UNIT OFFICERS

Leaders	F.Henderson
	P.J.Brown
Chairman	Graham Dalby
Secretary	Jason Stone
Treasurer	Dave Wright
Recorder	Stewart James
Quartermaster	Dave Williams
Elected members	Rich Booth
	Ian Heathcock
	Dereck Dalby

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EDITORIAL

When you were reading through the list of names at the front of the magazine you may or may not have noticed that the Executive committee has a new set of members and also Venture 44 has a new editor, namely me-me being Stephen Catchick.

What happened to Yosh Cowmeadow you may be thinking to yourselves? (Will we ever know?)

It was after the completion of the last magazine that Yosh decided that as he was leaving school it would be a good idea for someone still at school to take over as editor of Venture 44. He removed his visor and placed it in front of the likely candidates, i.e. fifth form members present in the committee. "Any volunteers to do the job?" asked the V.S.L. hopefully. No one replied. A silence descended on the meeting, so in the end I offered my services, hoping that somebody more eloquent might stand in and take my place. They dián't, and therefore I ended up as editor. Ironically, I left school at the same time as Yosh, so are there any volunteers?

COMMENT

The events so far this term seem to have been largely successful. There was a large turn out for a gym evening when we played basketbaKl and football. It was good fun with few casualties, although no-one knew the rules of basketball and we didn't realise it was a non-contact sport! The raft race was well supported, even though our team finished 16th out of 16! The slide show on Spain attracted an audience of 50, and the slides on Wales and kit demonstration were appreciated by those of us about to set out on our first major Unit expedition. Opinions differ on the Chilli con carne and beef stew prepared on our "cook-in". Thanks to Cecilia and Phil for organising that!

As you can see from the first page many of the new executive have had no previous experience, but we hope to do our best and keep up the high standard set by the last committee in running the Unit.

Jason Stone

THE COLD RAFT RACE or THE FRIDGE ON THE RIVER WYE.

A party of eight of us arrived at Ross-on-Wye just before midday and found facilities for off-loading of rafts cramped, to say the least. Raft and equipment was unloaded and dumped on the river bank.

What were we doing, you may wonder. Well, we entered this years raft race organised by the Churchdown Venture Unit from Ross to Lydbrook. We were on a borrowed craft which had been acquired for our use by Dave Wilson, who wisely declined to actually take part in the event.

We began the assembly of the vessel whilst the V.S.L went to park the Bedford in a public house car park... Though lacking the technical knowledge of raft construction (believing that square lashing is some type of corporal punishment) our assembly team made best to rig up the raft, until the V.S.L. returned, and we had to start all over again.

The construction of the raft was as follows: six large barrels and three small ones strapped to the under side of a rather heavy wooden frame.

At last it was time to go and the raft was carried to the water's edge with some difficulty, due to its over bearing weight, where it was heaved into the water and all of us tried getting on it, near enough submerging the craft! This was probably due to our heavy weight crew which consisted of myself, Steve Catchick, Rich Booth and Dave Williams.

Within minutes we had been overtaken by about eight rafts, and we were thinking that our raft handled very badly. Argument then ensued on board on how to steer it,

where the faster water was, and who wasn't working! Positions had to be adjusted and in the end I found that the only way to keep my corner stable was to put my legs into the cold water!

Soon we had been overtaken by most rafts. Our moment of glory came when we overtook a raft which was letting in water and nearly capsized as we went past. However to our dismay it later overtook us while one crew member bailed it out with a bucket.

At a bridge near the end of the course we saw our entire gang of four supporters, who, as we sped past all shouted that we were not working hard enough!

Too near the end of the race we found that it was as quick, if not quicker, to float rather than paddle, but finally we finished, a despondant last - cold, tired and seeking revenge on a certain person whose idea it was to participate in the race, but when the time came did not compete. He came as a spectator, and but for the presence of the V.S.L. he may well have taken an unwanted dip in the Wye.

I think that the Unit should participate in the event next year, but we certainly need to construct a better raft. Finally, our thanks to Chris Williams and to the Churchdown Unit for their excellent organisation.

Stewart James

Comment on issue Number 50

..I have mentioned VENTURE 44, the magazine of the 44th Gloucester Sir Thomas Rich's School Unit, in the past.. but have to congratulate them on their 50th edition.... Well done!!

Venture Scout Supplement, "Scouting" Sept.

Congratulations to the 44th on the 50th edition of their Unit magazine "Venture 44", and it is not true that you need A level English to read it!! Sorry 44th.

D.C. in District newsletter, Outlook. July.

NOTES AND NEWS

It is a very pleasant duty to report that during the summer no fewer than seven of our senior members have gained their Queen's Scout Award, namely Rich Kerswell, Brian Herbert, Yosh Cowmeadow, Dave Wilson, Paddy Smith, Jon Wright and Simon Hawkins. Congratulations to all of them for a well earned honour.

Much has happened since the last ordinary issue of the magazine, particularly in regard to the composition of the unit, as a large number of established members have left. Fortunately the spaces vacated are now being taken up, and it is another pleasant duty to welcome four new members this month in the form of Steve Clutterbuck, Gary Ellis, Neil Hawkins and Mark Venn. All four attended the half term activity in Wales, more of which in the next issue.

But what of the old guard? The nine people who have formed the backbone of the unit for the past few years have all moved on to Universities and Colleges. Before I report on their destinations, it might be appropriate to reflect on the impact they have had on the unit, and the influence that the unit has had on them. They have been loyal, reliable, enthusiastic and adventurous - it has been a pleasure to work with them. They have put a great deal in, and I hope gained much in doing so. What has the unit done for them? I am not in the best position to say, but it might be worth looking at the aims of the Scout Association "To encourage the physical, mental and spiritual development of young people so that they may take a constructive place in society." I believe that these young men will certainly take a constructive place in society, and are a credit to the movement.

The ever cheerful RICH DREW has gone to Guildford to study engineering, a subject that seems popular this year as the terrible twins BRI HERBERT and JON WRIGHT are also aiming to be engineers. Both are now in London at Imperial College. Also in London (U.C.L.) is our erst while editor YOSH COWMEADOW, meditating in Ecology and

44th Gloucester Venture Scout Unit

Summary of Income and Expenditure for period April 23rd 1983 to April 30th 1984

<u>INCOME</u>	£	£	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	£	£
Membership subscriptions	305.50	(247)	Capitation Fees	125.15	(140)
Associate subscriptions	54.80	(68)	Equipment	409.79	(277)
Bed race	250.70	(49)	Bed race expenses	48.67	(50)
Canoe Club	24.00		Canoes and equip.	267.57	(277)
Richian Two, Shop sales	253.50	(158)	Richian Two expenses	216.43	(130)
Donations, etc	120.06		Donation to Railway Soc (Sue Ryder)	35.00	(20)
Jazz Concert takings	45.64		Other donations	120.00	(50)
Naturalist Soc, Bar profit	39.79		Hut maintenance	90.59	
Jumble Sale	110.48	(103)	Leisure Centre expenses	57.25	(79)
Friends of School - for heaters	37.50		Stationery	14.42	(8)
Disco takings	297.71	(244)	Disco expenses	104.50	(97)
Sweat shirt sales	57.50	(52)	Sweat shirt purchases	95.00	
Norway payments	1660.00		Norway expenses	2280.00	
Share of Shop profit	604.55	(466)	Deposit, Spain	50.00	
Interest, Deposit acc.	36.02	(22)	Other expedition subsidies	52.02	
Sundries	18.37	(10)	Bank commission	4.96	(3)
			Venture 44	55.34	(42)
Total Income	<u>3916.12</u>	<u>(2303)</u>	Entry Fees	10.00	(47)
			Transport etc	4.58	(30)
Brought forward	<u>795.25</u>		Hire of equipment	8.00	
Total	<u>4711.37</u>		Reunion expenses	15.60	
			Gratuities etc	4.60	
			Sundries	33.98	
Deficit exp over income	<u>187.34</u>		Total Expenditure	<u>4103.46</u>	<u>(1894)</u>
			Balance carried forward	<u>607.91</u>	
				<u>4711.37</u>	

N.B. Appropriate 1982/83 figures in brackets
Accounts present by treasurer, Patrick M. Smith

Audited and found correct in accordance with vouchers etc. 1st June 1984. J.D. Holdaway, Hon Auditor.

tasting. He has been to the occasional lecture too. Ex executive members SIMON HAWKINS and DAVE WILSON are both now studying Geology, Simon at Swansea, and Dave at Portsmouth, maintaining a traditional link between the 44th and degrees in Geology. Why should that be?

Finally to the three senior members who have between them done 12 years service in the unit. PADDY SMITH who has been Sports and Social secretary and recently our treasurer has gone to Southampton to read Maths. Paddy will be remembered for his ability to get on with every body, his tenacious skills at football, and the habit of sleeping through some of the finest scenery in Europe...

RICH KERSWELL seems to have been a permanent feature on the executive - actually he has been on the committee for four years, starting as a quite and introspective novice then two years as an extremely efficient treasurer before becoming a most effective chairman who has commanded the respect of everyone in the unit. Rich is now a Scholar at Emmanuel College Cambridge, reading Maths.

BRI SYMCOX has attended every unit expedition since he joined, and has hardly ever missed a Friday night meeting. He has given 100% and his positive attitude and enthusiasm has been a major factor in the unit's progress of late. He has done a fine job as secretary this year, a job not made easier by his having to cope with a nagging back injury that has kept him off the mountains since the end of last summer. Brian is now at Bristol University reading law.

I am sure that all the present members will join me in thanking those mentioned above for their contribution to the unit, and wish them every success in the future.

F.H.

THE NEXT ISSUE of VENTURE 44 is already being prepared! It will be rather different to the usual format, as it will feature a series of articles on one topic. What it is, you will have to eagerly await, wont you!

FROM ALL POINTS

As this item did not appear in the last issue, it is somewhat longer than usual. During the past few months a large number of ex-members have been in touch bringing news of their present whereabouts and prospects.

On the academic front, several stalwarts have just completed degree courses - IAIN WEIR has left Swansea, much to the relief of the Welsh nation, with a degree in Chemical Engineering and is at present back home "resting" as they say in theatrical circles. RUSS WATSON has been luckier, after completing his degree at Coventry he has gained a job at Kingston on Thames with British Aerospace. Another member of the same year, MARK SIMMONS has finished his degree at Leicester and is now at U.C.L. on an M.Sc. course in Micropalaeontology. Mark is staying with big brother IAN (Simmons of the Foreign Office) The Official Secrets Act prevents us from saying that he is a second secretary in the East African section. During the summer Ian teamed up with MARK GOBLE for a canoe trip down the Wye (trying to recreate summer of 1974?)

Two others who canoed down the Wye ten years ago were GEORGE SANCHEZ and ANGUS KING. I had a phone call from George recently; after several years teaching in I.L.E.A he has moved to a private school at Chesham. He married two years ago, with Ian as best man. Angus is back from Africa and is now in London, where his wife is training as a doctor. The information about Angus comes from his brother-in-law SIMON LAPINGTON. Readers will be sorry to learn that Simon was involved in a serious road accident in August. A small deputation from the unit went up to Llandudno to visit him in hospital, but Simon is now at home at Bodesi, although still unable to walk. I am sure that all of us wish Simon the very best and a speedy and complete recovery.

SIMON WILLIAMS enjoyed the 1983 expedition so much that when ERNEST DAVIES mentioned that some help may be

needed at Krattebøl this summer, Simon was off to spend three months at N.I.C. A report on his activities there will appear in a later edition. News of some of Simon's contemporaries - DAVE JERRARD is now at Plymouth Poly together with KEITH SANDEPS, both doing a Geography and Geology degree course. JOHN PEPPERELL, at Huddersfield, has transferred on to a degree course, and is still a keen motorcyclist. Ex-secretary JER HOBBS is due to go to Bath to start a nursing course in January. Our other tame nurse, IAN FLETCHER, is still at Charing Cross, but he is now working in an intensive care ward.

PHIL CHAMPION gets down to Gloucester now and again, he is now with Birmingham City Council supervising M.S.C. workers on various tasks for the Parks department. He is enjoying his work, but needs a larger motorcycle to get around from site to site. Any offers?

It was good to make contact with another stalwart of the Unit from days gone by in the form of JOHN BARNES. Still with T.H.Wall Ltd at present, John is now chief buyer of non food and packaging material at Walls. You may wonder what else an ice cream factory needs - well a most unlikely order John had to place was for some white trilby hats. After a nationwide search, he was directed by a manufacturer back to our fair city, where the supplier turned out to be none other than JAKE DAVIES. Jake is still in business with his father, and made to local paper recently when he went on a rugby tour of Hong-Kong. Rumours that he was arrested by DARRELL JONES have been denied! Contemporary of Darrell, GARY BEAMISH has called in recently, before returning to South Africa where he works with a mining company.

PAT PHILLIPS has been back in Gloucester recently - he is enjoying his work in the "wholesale food distribution trade" (NOT selling broken biscuits, we are told!). STU BISHOP is still at Cheltenham Tech on a Building Technology course

Whilst in Leicester a few weeks ago, I met up with CHRIS COLLINS, who is employed by Leicester museum.

I understand that Chris is planning to get married next June. Another of Chris's contemporaries, DAVE BROWN was back in Gloucester last month to act as Godfather to RACHEL SARAH ELIZABETH, daughter of big brother PHIL and CECILIA.

I was delighted to receive a phone call the other day from STEVE CHALKLEY, who is still teaching in South Wales. He was seeking news of AL ROBBINS, who is selling and buying forests in Scotland still. But I was most pleasantly surprised by a visit from ANDY CHALKLEY. He is back in England after a long and eventful overland trip through South East Asia, China, Russia and Eastern Europe from his home in Western Australia. We hope to be able to publish some of his travellers tales in a later issue.

Another traveller, CHRIS PASHLEY, is now based in Gloucester again, but still doing 2 week stints on North Sea oil rigs, and finally someone who never seems to be able to stop travelling, PETE GREEN. I get regular cards from all over the world from Pete, who seems to be on a very rapid ship. He provides the final article for this issue.

F.H.

GO WELL, GO SHELL!

Mention the name "Shell" and people immediately think of oil; but that is only half the story. As an officer on board ships in the Shell fleet (the largest shipping fleet in the world), I've come into contact with a few of the lesser known aspects of the company's operations. At present I am serving on board the "Rapana", a 240000 tonne VLOOC (Very large oil/ore carrier). The ship is designed to carry either crude oil or ironore. At present we are on a six voyage charter carrying iron ore from Brazil to Europe. The ore comes in three grades, "fines" (like sand), "pellets" (10 mm diameter), and straight ore (lumps of rock). This voyage we have a full cargo of the fines, loaded at two ports, Tubarao in the south, and Rio de Janeiro.

The cargo is loaded via high speed conveyor belts and at Tubarao we averaged 13000 tonnes per hour (that is $3\frac{1}{2}$ tonnes every second! Even more impressive are the holds on the ship, 85 ft. deep, 75 ft. wide and 120 ft. long - large enough for the crew to play five a side football in on the ballast trip to Brazil. There are 6 holds in all.

The discharge takes rather longer though. Compared with a day for loading, discharging can take a week or longer, as the ore is too heavy to 'suck out' and has to be lifted by mechanical grabs on overhead gantries, only 25 tonnes at a time. Once the level is down in the hold to near the bottom, large bulldozers are lowered to push the remaining ore into big heaps so that the grab can "get its teeth into" them.

The ship has a crew of 32 - Captain, 3 deck officers (I am one), 7 engineering officers, Radio officer, Chief Steward, 5 catering staff and 14 sailors. She is 1092 ft long, 150 ft wide and 90 ft deep. The accomodation block is 6 storeys high, and the lift goes down a further 9 floors to the engine room. The engine produces 32000 h.p. and needs 140 tonnes of fuel oil a day at 15 knots. That is 90 gallons a mile, but when you think about it, it is a pretty cheap way of moving a quarter of a million tons of cargo around.

Peter Green, 3rd Officer, S.S.Rapana,
Rio de Janeiro, July 1984.

CHRISTMAS REUNION, 1984.

We will be holding our Annual get together this year on

SUNDAY 23rd DECEMBER.

at

S.T.R.S. BOWLS CLUB PAVILION

Outside caterers will be providing a Buffet, and so we would like some idea of numbers, so we would be grateful if ex-members could let us know if they will be coming.



