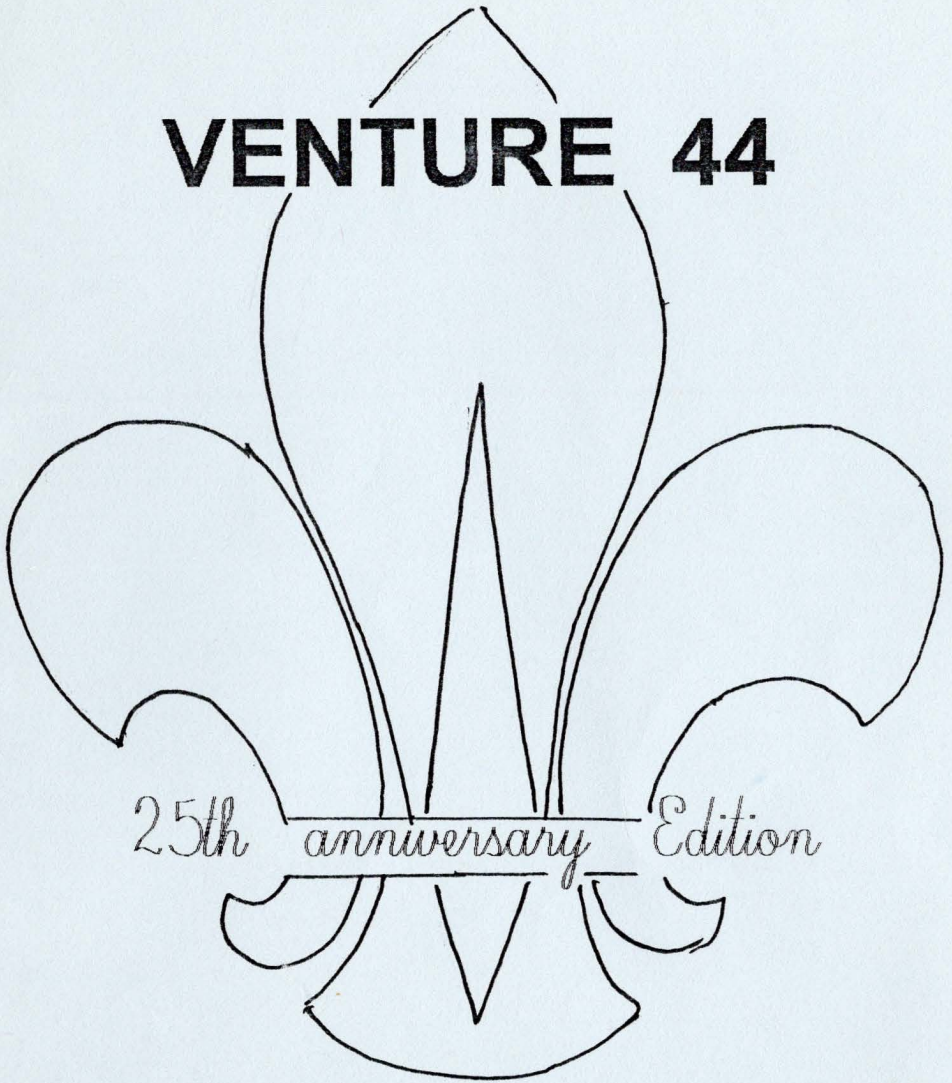


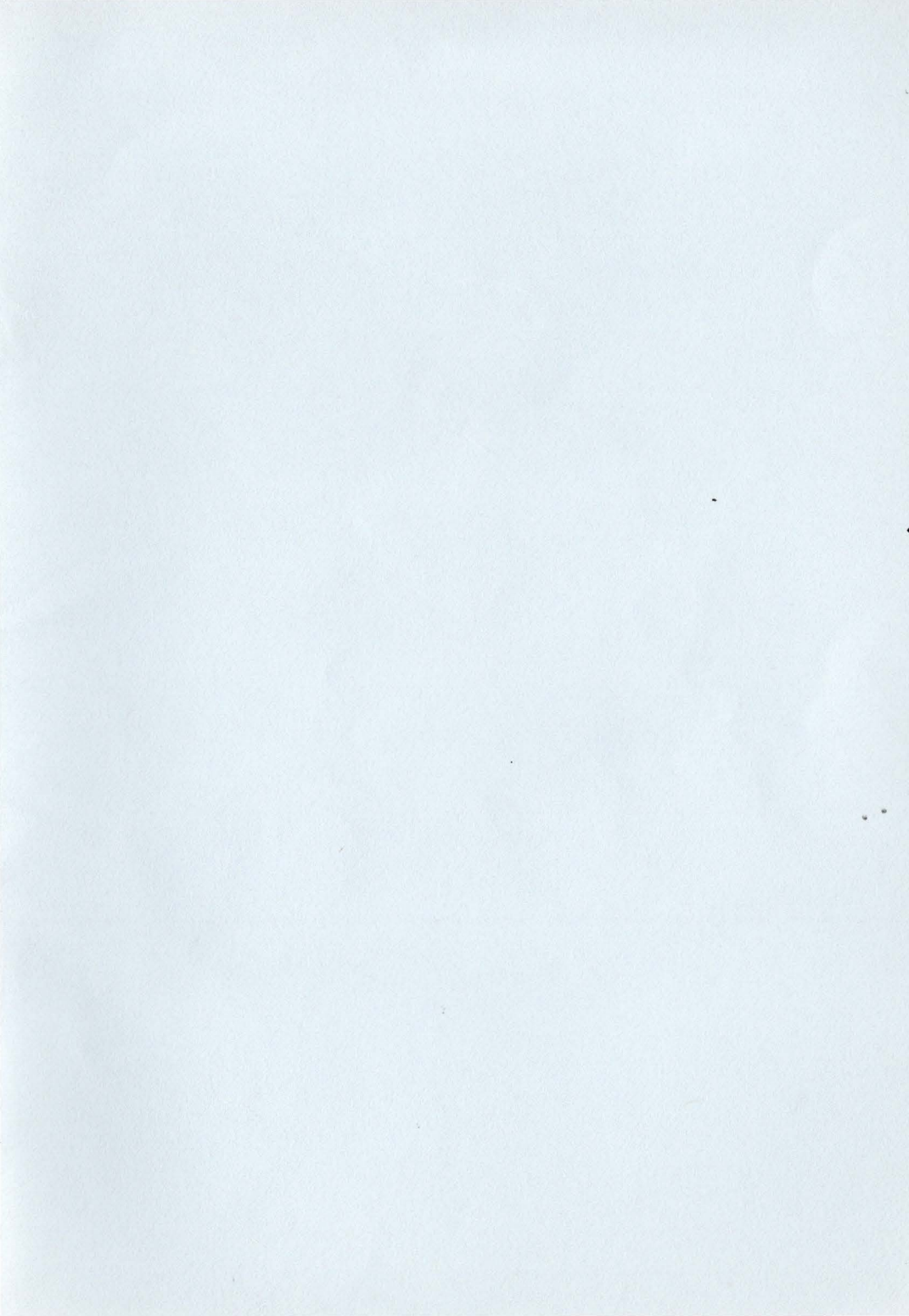
VENTURE 44



25th anniversary Edition

Number 75

May 94



VENTURE 44

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MAY 1994

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

UNIT OFFICERS

Leaders	Frank Henderson
	Alan Quinn
	Phil Brown
Chairmen	Tim Andrews
	Luke Hemming
Secretary	Mark Gilmore
Treasurer	Adam Bradley
Quartermaster	Dave Frodin
Sports Sec	Jody Bevan

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UNIT NEWS

That famous "map ride" has cropped up again. Readers may recall that a report in a letter to parent's made it onto Radio 4's "The News Quiz" Venture scouts had cycled across an O S map - very droll! Following a write up in issue 73, the "Scouting" magazine published this No prizes for spotting the error this time!

Programme idea Let's kick off with a programme idea (sensible, if the title is programme idea.) courtesy of the 44th Gloucester V S.U .

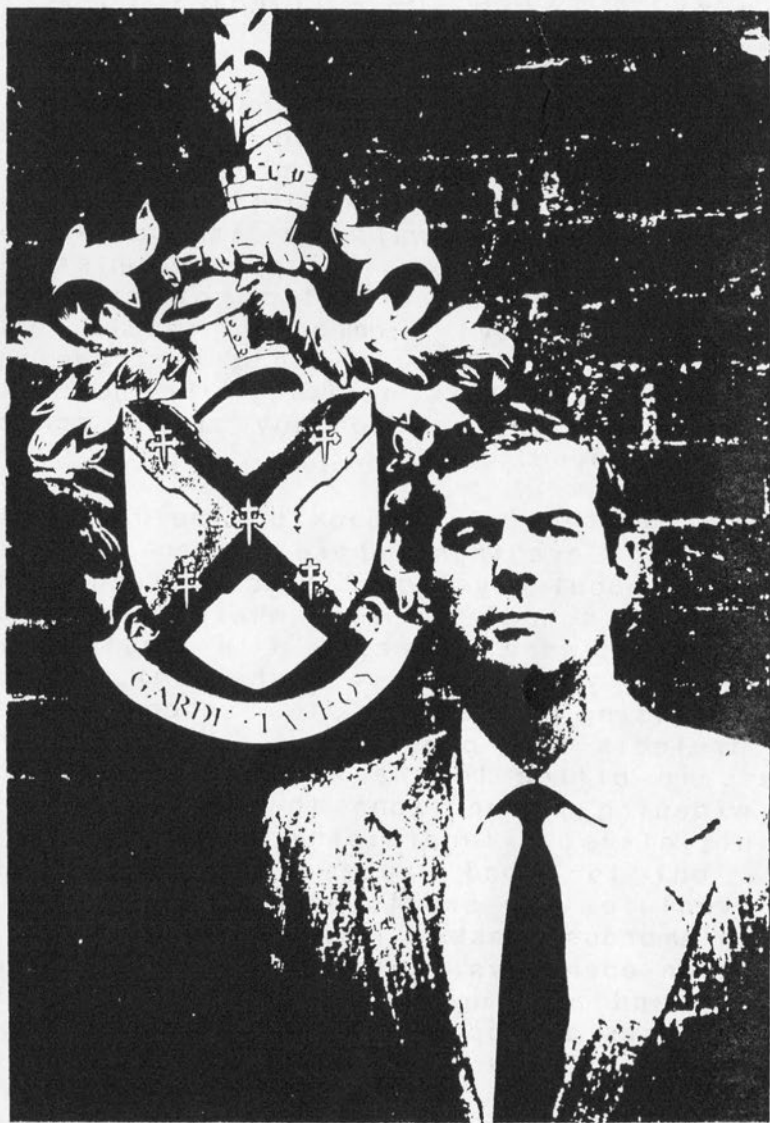
'Why not try a sponsored cycle ride across an Ordnance Survey map? Pick up a 1 50,000 map, and cycle the 40km (64 miles) represented by the width of it in as straight a line as possible ' Say no more

The Unit is at present making quiet progress and recent activities include canoeing, climbing and work on our sailing dinghy Two major activities in the form of the Cotswold Marathon and the sponsored pool match are described in this issue

The major current news item is the fact that our headmaster, Mr Jarvis, after a comparatively short period of four years at Rich's is moving on to a new challenge as head of a large and very successful school in Orpington, Kent.

During the time Mr Jarvis has been here he has revitalised the school by his inspirational and dynamic leadership He has been a good friend of the Unit, and will be greatly missed. We wish him and his family all the best and thank him for all he has done in raising the spirit and confidence of Sir Thomas Rich's

F.H.



FROM THE HEADMASTER

When I first arrived at the school signs of the famous Venture Scouts began to appear; mountain bikers in the prospectus, a prestigious Nansen award from a Norwegian expedition which found itself on my study wall, a ramshackle blue structure into which boys disappeared mysteriously at lunchtime, a collection of canoes and mention of our boys tremendous reputation in beds and on rafts. Clearly I had to investigate and found behind this activity the ubiquitous Frank Henderson on whom so many of the school's activities depend.

Four years later I look back on the interesting presentation evenings where often more was discovered about boys' qualities and achievement than a dozen school reports, where other facets of character were revealed (I shall always remember Snowy the pensive fisherman) I recall an outstanding Captain of the school and some fine prefects who owed not a little of their success in office to the scout training. Apart from widening of horizons through expeditions, the initiative in fundraising, not just for the scouts but for good causes like the Chamwells canal venture, the scouts have been on hand for less glamorous tasks looking after the car parking on open days, helping at the Old Richian reunions and playing a big part in the school Summer Fayres and pool fundraising. Last but not least certainly for the pupils of the school is the Tuck Shop which thanks to FH and the Venture Scouts has provided keenly priced confectionery and many other goodies for the hungry hordes at breaks.

I am pleased that we have been able to construct jointly through school and scout fundraising, a new Headquarters which, though architecturally less romantic than the old, has the clear advantages of being waterproof and not on the verge of falling down. The Unit will, I know, continue to give opportunities for pupils in the school to share adventures and expeditions which demand initiative and co-operative spirit where the skills of living and working together are developed. The benefits are there for each individual but also for the school community. Rich's is lucky to have such a group as part of the school. I wish you all well for the future and many happy days bedracing, rafting, climbing and cycling up (and down) the steepest hills.

A.J.

THE COTSWOLD MARATHON

Did we do it? Last year, Matt and Jim gave the rest of us something to aim for. With a slightly smaller team than previously, Tim Andrews, Gaz Hughes, Dan Batie and myself took on this challenge - the second time for Gaz and me.

We got off to an early start at about 5.30 p.m. The settled weather, which remained throughout, allowed us to get off to what I thought was a speedy start, but instead we decided as we crossed the first bit of grass that there was no chance we could ever finish. When Dan had consumed all his food and was tucking in to his emergency rations we arrived at the top of Robinswood Hill. Our first check, and whacked already, with only another fifteen to go!

Navigation was not a problem, we (I) knew where we were going without the map after crossing a muddy field outside Upton I took the group past my house on our way through Hucclecote to relieve my homesickness. I have to admit that my route finding over Chosen Hill was an on the spot decision to walk almost all the way around it's base before ascending to the checkpoint at the church. It would probably have been better to have stuck to the well-trodden path, but at least it added novelty to a familiar site.

Dan resisted the temptation to supplement his food with a bag of chips at Churchdown, and we went on towards the Greenway. At the top is the best checkpoint inside an old army base where we stayed for a while. It was now a bit nippy, so before we left we put on every item of clothing we had. A hundred yards later it came off again!

Skipping out a few miles, and several of our Mars bars eaten by Dan, the pace really dropped, but we were slowly and unsurely we were ticking off the miles and checkpoints. On the longest stretch beyond Winstone the mood was lively as we were past halfway, and now I decided to jump in a puddle to splash the rest. What I had not taken into account was that it was one in the morning and very cold. The apparently ordinary pool of water on the roadside was now a menacing sheet of ice just waiting to try to kill someone. After the laughter ceased we decided on a rest (another) on the frozen grass verge. Unfortunatly, Frank chose that moment to drive by. What a pleasure to see a friendly face, but no chance of a lift I'm afraid!

Hours later, on the way to Edge I gave up and had a half hour kip. With only a few miles to go some might say this was stupid, but it gave me

the will to finish. The final main road descent was really steep and we were trashed. It took us 45 minutes to travel half a mile, our feet were almost stuck to the ground. The last mile or so near Murray Hall saw us lifted as a friendly face reappeared. Practically everyone else had finished and gone home as we came in in around thirteen hours. All Frank could think of was how much faster we would be next year, but all we could think of was a nice warm bed. It was a great achievement!

Dave Frodin

And now for some audience participation

In Number 74 we asked YOU, the reader to let us know what YOU wanted to see in Venture 44. We asked YOU if YOU wanted new features (actually it came out as new features, but so what?

We print below, in full YOUR response to the V44 Reader's charter

Thank you from the editorial team!

ALAS POOR YORICK...



The Year 10 English trip to Germany

During the autumn term of '93 our Year 10 English set studied Hamlet as part of our G.C.S.E coursework, and entered a competition run by the Globe Theatre based on the play. We had to perform "a creative piece", and after a lot of research and time Mrs Barnes put together "A Question of Madness". After a performance at St Peter's, along with four other schools we were selected as one of six English schools to participate in a Shakespeare Festival held in Bremen.

We left school one Thursday evening and after changing coach in London we spent the night and much of Friday travelling. Apart from myself, both Phil Reid and Jody Bevan from the Unit were in the party. On Friday evening we watched a play in Bremen during which most of us fell asleep. We spent that night in the Youth hostel, but got little sleep due to the talking which lasted into the early hours.

On Saturday we performed our plays, most of which were quite amusing, particularly those from students from Denmark. As it a "festival" no one won, as such, but we felt that our play was just as good as any of those performed by the Danish, German and Polish students. It was on Sunday morning that we had to listen to an extremely boring lecture entitled "The lack of future in Hamlet", and again many people fell asleep, after yet another late night!

On Sunday afternoon we left and headed back towards Calais. The coach journey was tiring but we enjoyed ourselves. However the ferry crossing was very rough and many people were sick. Then on to London Bridge on the Eurodoubledecker, and after a short wait were on the coach heading for Gloucester. We arrived very tired, but having gained a lot of experience in theatre, and having had a very enjoyable time.

Mark Gilmore

SPONSORED POOL MATCH

On the 21st of January a team of venture Scouts from the Unit set off on the hazardous journey to the offices of Laurentian Life in Barnwood for the eagerly awaited sponsored pool match. The proceeds of the event went towards the funding of the Chamwells school/ Rich's canal holiday project. The idea of the match came round when Laurentian kindly donated a pool table to us, and we thought we should do something jointly with them to help a local charity.

The match itself proved to be very competitive. All the games, apart from the first one, were

played as doubles, but after I had (superbly) given the V.S.U. a one nil lead, things started to go wrong. Laurentian steadily pulled away until they led by 6 - 1, but we fought back, and in the end they won by 12 - 7.

Our sponsorship raised £250, and in all well over £300 went to the chosen cause. On behalf of the Unit, I would like to express our gratitude to Laurentian Life for their superb hospitality during the evening, especially Mrs Harding who set the match up. We were provided with a buffet, a cake, and T-shirts, plus a snooker scoreboard to commemorate what was a very enjoyable evening.

Jody Bevan



SPORTS REPORT

Recently the Unit accepted a challenge from the Javelin V.S.U to play a 5-a-side soccer match. In fact we rustled up two teams and despite the fact that the opposition was physically bigger the Unit ran out clear winners, coming out top in five of the six matches played.

The present generation of the unit tend to be a sporty lot, and last season, apart from playing for school teams several members have performed regularly in local clubs. At soccer, Jody Bevan and Luke Hemming have starred in Longlevens youth teams, and both have also played in senior teams (along with their respective fathers!)

Other stars of the colour pages of the "pink un" for Kings FC of Cheltenham are ex-members James Callen and Ian Fletcher (still playing despite his advanced age and increasing waistline (sorry Ian!))

With the oval ball, Gaz Hughes has featured with the Old Richians under 15s, and he was on the bench when that team won the county cup. Recent ex-members who have played representative rugby include Brad Salter, Gloucester colts, and Sam Cambridge, who played a county colts match in the same team as the Queen's grandson, Peter Phillips!

There are times when sporting commitments mean that members cannot get involved in some of the Unit's activities, but taking a positive view, regular participation in a team sport can be used as an element in the Venture Scout award scheme.

One of the sports stars of recent years at the school, and also one of the unit's record breaking bed racers is Panji Grainger, now in his first year at Salford University. Panji could often be found before school in the morning in the gym with his walkman and basketball. His dedication has paid off richly as he is now seen as one of leading players in the country, as the clip from the Citizen below shows.

He's simply the best

GLOUCESTER basketball player Panji Grainger (19) has been named as the English Basketball Association's Young Player of the Year.

Grainger played five seasons in the Junior national League with Gloster Jets, captaining the team to the National Cup Final in 1993.

Premier

For the past two seasons he has also played with Swindon Sonics in men's Division Two of the national league and was voted to the Division All Star team in his last season.

Grainger's education at Salford University led him to join Manchester Giants in the Budweiser League (the national premier division).

The Giants have had a successful season, reaching



■ Young Player of the Year Panji Grainger. His coach Paul Christensen says: 'Panji is an outstanding prospect.'

the finals of the Russell Athletic WICB Tournament and the Basketball League Cup and Grainger has forced his way into the starting line-up ahead of senior internationals and other players with several years' experience at the top level.

Grainger has represented England at four different age levels from under 15 to Under 23 and has competed at two European championships.

Gloster Jet and England Junior team coach Paul Christensen said: "Panji is an outstanding prospect, not only because of the quality of his play but also because of his tremendous intensity and commitment, and his total dedication to reach the top.

"He has been and will continue to be an inspiration to young local players who will try to emulate his achievements.

"Many people will have thought Panji's decision to join Manchester over ambitious, but, once again, he has proved that his talent and dedication are equal to the task. I feel extremely fortunate to have worked with him."

FROM ALL POINTS

From that fount of local knowledge, the Gloucester Citizen

A former pupil of Sir Thomas Rich's School, Ian Heathcock, has received an honours degree in engineering from Manchester University. He studied there after a spell at Gloscat, and now works at Nuclear Electric where he recently received their Graduate of the Year award.

The big social event of the season so far has been the wedding in Greater Manchester of Dave and Karen Wilson early in May. Gathered to see the happy couple down the aisle were a number of ex-members: PADDY SMITH, about to become a father, and SIMON HAWKINS, already a father, were present with wives Mandi and Kath. From the S E of the country RICH DREW (Guildford) and BRIAN HERBERT (somewhere in deepest Kent) joined the party. It was good to see the Northern Spain gang from ten years ago united over some good English ale!

In the last issue we heard that PAUL VENN was in the fruit and veg trade, but sad to relate he has become an entry in the small business closure statistics. Meanwhile brother SIMON is in Gloucester doing some practical training for his degree course at Plymouth.

Also back in Gloucester, and working out of Wickwar is PAT PHILLIPS, at present living with younger brother PHIL in Longlevens.

Another resident of Longlevens at present at college in sunny Luton is MIKE CHESHIRE. Mike produced earlier this year a video for his media

studies course, which was made to promote the Unit. Despite problems of synchronising some of our activities with Mike having the camera, the video was completed, and a copy recently came to us. It is worth seeing, as Mike has produced a really marvellous creation which would do credit to a professional agency. Anyone wanting to view it should contact me at school.

F.H.

25 years of VENTURE 44

It was in April 1969 that the first thin 5 page edition of Venture 44 crept coyly from the Roneo (or was it Gestetner) duplicator. Since then it has got bigger, and perhaps better. Technology has played its part, and the long carriage type writer has gone to be replaced by the PC, and the photocopier enables us to produce (still fuzzy) pictures.

In issue no 50 (which came out exactly 10 years ago edited by Yosh Cowmeadow) some statistics were printed, which will now be updated.

Number of issues	75
Number of pages	1095
Number of contributors	139
Number of articles, etc	400+

Articles and correspondance have come from members and ex members all over the world, from

AFGHANISTAN ARGENTINA AUSTRALIA AUSTRIA
 ABU DHABI BELGIUM BOLIVIA
 CANADA CHILE COLUMBIA CZECHOSLOVAKIA
 EGYPT EQUADOR FINLAND FRANCE
 GERMANY HOLLAND
 ICELAND IRELAND INDIA ISRAEL
 KENYA NEPAL NORWAY PAKISTAN PERU
 SOUTH AFRICA SWITZERLAND SWEDEN
 THAILAND U A R. U S A U S S R
 VENEZUALA VIETNAM ZAMBIA

This issue will be enjoyed by readers in

BANGKOK BATH BIRMINGHAM BRISTOL BROMLEY
 CARDIFF COVENTRY FETCHAM GUILDFORD GERRARDS
 CROSS HEREFORD LONDON LUTON MANCHESTER
 MAIDSTONE MARGATE MILTON KEYNES NEATH
 NEWCASTLE ON TYNE NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME OSLO
 PERTH (W A) PLYMOUTH SOLIHULL STROUD
 TUNBRIDGE WELLS WATFORD WEYMOUTH WINSFORD
 WIMBLEDON

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

As indicated earlier the school is losing its headmaster, Mr Tony Jarvis. It was hoped that by now it would be possible to publish the name of the new head. However following the deliberations of the governing body it has been decided to postpone the appointment until next spring. In the meantime the school will be lead by present deputy head Mr Ian Kellie. Mr Kellie is well known and respected by many ex-members and the present unit, all of whom will join me in wishing him well and pledging our whole hearted support in the months to come

F.H.

100 CLUB

Dear Club Member,

your subscription has run out ! If you wish to rejoin and have a chance to win £25 in one of our monthly draws, please fill in the form below and return it to:

The V.S.L.,
44th Gloucester VSU,
Sir Thomas Rich's School,
Oaklease,
Gloucester,
GL4 0LF.

I wish to join/rejoin the 44th Gloucester 100 Club. I enclose my subscription (£1 per month; £12 per year) Cheques payable to 44th Gloucester V.S.U.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____

44th Gloucester Venture Scout Unit

100 Club Membership Certificate.

Number 23 Renewal date 31 May 95

Draw takes place on the first of each month. Prize TWENTY FIVE POUNDS.

Recieved with thanks f.12 Signed *F. H. H. H.*

