

UNIT 44th VENTURE  
SCOUTS

MAGAZINE  
APRIL 1997

# Executive Positions for 1997.

Leaders:- David Proudlove  
Phil Brown  
Matt Wilton

Chairman:- Andrew Clifford

Secretary:- Oliver Scarff

Treasurer:- James Cook

Editor:- Adam Griffiths

Quartermaster:- Will Godwin

Tuckshop Manager:- Gareth Edwards

Hut Manager:- Alex Dorn

Positional Posts:- Dave Fry  
David Clifford



## Editors Page.



Hi, I'm Adam, your new Editor for at least the next year. I now have loads of responsibility within the Unit, I've been given a massive folder full of past notes and magazines to read through, to help with ideas for future publications.

From the previous page it's obvious to see that there have been quite a few big changes within the Unit.

I have taken over from Oliver Scarff, the Editor of the last magazine. He will hopefully be giving me a bit of guidance and advice with the magazine until I have the hang of things, however, it shouldn't be too much of a problem!

The magazines of the future will be the best yet so watch out!

Until the next time, Adam Griffiths.  
V44 Editor.



## *Chairman's Note*



The new year sees a new Executive Committee and, as a result a new Chairman. We see the new 'generation' taking their positions as the upper sixth stand down to concentrate on their important exams this summer. This has not meant that we have lost their valuable support which they have promised to continue to give in the future when time permits.

I'd particularly like to express my thanks, on behalf of the unit to Tim for the true dedication he has shown, both as chairman and as a hardworking member previously. He has played a tremendous part in the coordination of many successful unit activities. His close work with Frank and the other senior members has undoubtedly brightened the horizons of the people he has worked with, both in and out of the Unit. We wish him well for the future and congratulate him on the recognition he has already received in the form of school honours.

1997 has started off eventfully and looks set to continue in the same fashion. Highlights so far have been success in the county swimming gala and to an even greater extent on the Cotswold Marathon and also at the weekend in the Forest of Bowland. Plans for the rest of the year centre around the planned expedition to the Beara Peninsula, Republic Of Ireland.

We also aim to get all members who wish to participate involved in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. The 44th certainly seems to be going strong and I hope that I can keep up the good work where Tim has left off.

Phil Brown and David Proudlove have given a lot of their time as leaders to keep the Unit running strongly. They have been assisted by ex-member Matt Wilton who has been a great help over the past few months, but now is off overseas on his new job venture. Best of luck Matt!

Andy Clifford Chairman.

## **Cotswold Marathon Report.**

On the 7th/8th Febuary this year the unit entered a record number of four teams in the annual Marathon.

Two Year 10 teams entered the 18 mile scout category, both succesfully completing the course. Adam Griffiths, Andrew Norman and Alex Dorn finished

in 4hrs 20mins whilst Nick Wright, Perran Spear and Ben Panting also came in with a respectable time of 5hrs 05mins.

The unit entered 2 teams for the full 38 mile marathon, one in the senior category and one in the junior category. Both teams achieved success, with the senior team consisting of Tim Andrews, Phil Reid and Mark Gilmore coming second overall and winning their category outright with a time of 7hrs 57 mins. The junior team comprising of Andrew Clifford, Oli Scarff and Gareth Edwards also managed to win their category with a winning time of 10hrs 23 mins.

Congratulations also go to Dan Wright who, having led one of the year ten teams through the 18 mile course, then carried on to complete the 38 mile course in one of the fastest solo times, 11hrs 51mins. Congratulations to them all and good luck next year. Well Done !

Andrew Clifford Chairman.



## Mr Proudlove.

I needed a few moments to think about what I might write when the Editor first asked me to pen a piece for the Unit's magazine. Then, in true harassed teacher's style I forgot all about the request for a couple of months! Displaying the dogged determination so well shown by many of the 44th's members I was pursued, caught and am now settling to the task set by the aforementioned official.

As a newcomer to Venture Scouting I had and still have a lot to learn. My only experience of the scouting movement was a three week "try-out" at a cub pack in Pembrokeshire many years ago. I clearly remember several problems about the organization. Firstly, I was unable to polish my shoes brightly enough for Akela AND arrive at inspection without unacceptable amounts of polish also under my fingernails. Shiny shoes, or clean fingernails, and never the twain did meet. Secondly, despite jumping a new personal best of, well it had to be a couple of feet at least, in a high jump competition I failed to be awarded the appropriate badge because, "my membership papers hadn't come through yet". I recall giving Akela my best icy stare.

Finally and most deeply etched on my psyche, was the evening playing murderball - a cross between rugby and Greco-Roman wrestling really - with the Brownies.

Continued in three pages.

# Community work in the Forest of Bowland.

The Venture Scout Unit was invited by a former member of the unit, Justin Sargent, now working for the Ministry Of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to help with enviromental work in the Forest of Bowland during the Easter holidays.

We were put up in a Youth Hostel Association camping barn which, although freezing at night, was a barrel of laughs .

The day after the journey we were straight to work clearing rhododendron bushes that were over whelming a 400 year old forest.

With three very large bonfires we cleared quite a large area. After the days work we had just enough time to go swimming in the local pool, at Clitheroe.

We all slept well despite the heavy snoring! The next morning was more clearing with a brief interval when Tim Andrews, Andy Clifford and Oli Scarff started playing soldiers with sticks.

Once again the day eventually ended with another visit to the local swimming pool to freshen-up after a long sweaty day of hard labour. We had to use showers here as there were none at the barn where we were staying.

Everyone was exhausted by now and we set off home early the following day, having really enjoyed the weekend's activities.

David Clifford.





In a subsequent rugby “career” of 15 years I would never be roughed up, kicked, shoved and outrun (due to a knee injury which I suffered from a skateboard accident, of course) as I was then.

The scouts motto of, “be prepared”, was simply not sufficient here, “be very scared”, was more appropriate. No, the life of a cub was not for me. I resigned myself, at the age of eight, to be a loner!

And so to the autumn of 1996, and my arrival as a new geography teacher at Rich’s. The very untimely death of Frank Henderson led to me being re-introduced to the scouting movement in general, and the 44th Gloucester VSU in particular. I have been impressed right from the start with the dedication of the members of the 44th, no doubt forged by Frank’s ceaseless devotion to Venture Scouting. The unit seems to run itself to a large degree thanks to energetic and capable management from the Executive Committee. Members are always on the lookout for opportunities to further their Duke of Edinburgh Award aspirations, and this involves activities as varied as hiking in remote mountains and pulling up rhododendrons. The impact of being a Venture Scout in the 44th’s is obviously a lasting one. I have met many “Old Ventures”, in the past months, and they all talked with great affection of their time in the Unit.

I am sure that the long, and very proud tradition of the 44th VSU will continue. The steady stream of requests from pupils throughout the school for information about enrolling goes on, and plans for future expeditions and service projects are always being hatched. With such enthusiasm and dedication in evidence, I would not be surprised if the organisers of next year’s Cotswold Marathon send the entrants from the 44th on a different, extra long course from all the other competitors. I doubt the results would change though!

**Mr Proudlove Warrant Leader**



## Cotswold Marathon

Training: Training was well underway a few months before the event when the more experienced scouts taught the new arrivals the routes and lessons to be learnt about the marathon. We walked most of the routes in the training, apart from one section above Churchdown, where one team nearly got lost. Eventually we got fed up with walking the route just to learn it. So we decided to ride it on our mountain bikes. This was a lot quicker and easier than walking it. Well, it was meant to be easier, but it was just our luck that between the group we got nine punctures.

In case we got lost we practiced orienteering using compasses and maps to enable us to get back on the route and continue.

The event: The day was getting closer, we were getting nervous then all of a sudden we were at the starting line, the starter said "Go", we did and the first thing that myself and team mate said was which way do we go? While saying this we were going in opposite directions. But we got ourselves together and on we went. To start with it was cold but eventually as the night wore on we found ourselves walking in t-shirts.

As our team were going through Hucclecote, our elite team who had started over an hour after us caught us up. They were going to run the whole Marathon and basically they did! The team comprised of Tim Andrews, Philip Reid and Mark Gilmore. They completed the marathon in just under 8hrs, the full 38 mile route. Our team comprising of myself (Adam Griffiths), Alex Dorn and Andrew Norman completed the half marathon in just over 4 hrs.

There was also another Year 10 team which comprised of Nick Wright, Ben Panting and Perran Spear which was lead by the stunt man himself, Daniel Wright, from the Upper Sixth.

The trophy winners were the Lower Sixth team which consisted of the Chairman Andy Clifford, Oliver Scarff and Gareth Edwards. They received the junior trophy. Well done to them all. Good luck next year.

### **Mr Henderson Memorial.**

With the building of the new section on the school it was decided that there would be a memorial to Mr Henderson in the new Landscaped Quad.

Some of the money we received from the Mr Henderson memorial fund will go towards a plaque with an appropriate engraving on it.

The plaque will be situated next to a Norwegian Spruce, in the landscaped area of quiet reading and study.

James Cook (Treasurer)



# Bouldering

Some of us in the unit have decided to try and build some bouldering walls in the existing store room of the scout hut. We thought that it was such a pain going to the Warehouse that we would Build our own boulder and as it is, the store room only contains junk. So we got stuck in, cleared it all out and started undergoing the painful process of designing and making the hand holds. Lets just hope it all goes to plan, think of all that free climbing we could have!!!!

## The District Swimming Gala 1997.

The swimming gala was held on Saturday the 25th of January at Gloucester Leisure Centre. Well done to the two teams who entered, the Upper Sixth team and the Year 10 team. Congratulations to the Upper Sixth team who came away with overall 3rd in the team event, just beating the Year 10 team who came in at 4th. However special congratulations should go to Phil Reid who came 2nd in the frontcrawl, Andrew Norman who won a 3rd place for individual breaststroke and also myself who came 1st in the diving event. I will now go to the county championships on March 8th.

### Refurbishments.

Over the Christmas holidays three members of the unit Adam Griffiths, Oliver Scarff and James Cook got together and repainted the tuckshop, including the interior units. We were also grateful to obtain new carpet for the scout hut, we have now nearly finished fitting it with help coming mainly from Phil Reid !

# 100 Club.

Join the hundred club and help support the 44th Gloucester Venture Scout Unit. It costs just £12 a year and you could win £25 a month, or £300 a year if you're that lucky! If you want to join simply fill in the form below and send it to us at:

**44th Gloucester V.S.U.  
Sir Thomas Rich's School  
Oakleaze  
Longlevens  
Gloucester  
GL2 0LF**

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please make cheques payable to: **GCC Sir  
Thomas Rich's Venture Scout Unit.**