

UNIT 44th VENTURE SCOUTS



NORWAY '96
Expedition
Bergen
STAVANGER Oslo

MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 1996

Dear All,

As you have probably seen from the previous page, there has been a big change around on the executive committee board. Rather trustfully I have taken the place of the former Editor (now Secretary) Jody Ballard. As if from nowhere I have become an executive with masses of responsibility, a large folder full of notes and spare magazines has been given to me. The role of chasing up any late articles is now also part of my duties to the unit.

This magazine will (hopefully) be produced with the guidance of Jody so an extra high standard should be expected of it (fingers crossed). My first magazine will also be a special on the V.S.U. expedition to Norway. Amongst others on the expedition were Phil Reid, Andy Clifford and my self all bringing our own cameras. (Except for Phil, who carefully borrowed the school's camera, one of the advantages of taking Art, I guess). So you can all expect the standard of photo's to go up as well !

This should come together to give you a much more altogether glossy finish to the magazine (in theory at least !). Whatever, I hope you appreciate the unit's scribblings on the great time we all had in Norway.

Till next time Oli.

V44- Better than The Richian, any day !

A Departing Editor

Having logged the activities of the unit for the past two years, I felt it was time to hand it to someone younger and more capable than myself. Over the past two years I have enjoyed the writing, photography and all the other aspects of compiling the magazine. Your new editor is certainly a competent person for the job, who I am sure will raise the standard of the magazine far and above anything I or the unit could ever have imagined. Good luck and best wishes from me and the unit to Oliver Scarff, your Editor of V44

Jody Ballard- Secretary.

Chairman's Page

Well here's our Norway special. Only a couple of month's late but still it's no good changing a habit of a life time. We finally made it, it took over a years worth of planning, all of which was undertaken by Frank.

It was a trip of a lifetime and has filled us all with memories which will never be forgotten. It was enjoyed by all. It was a great honour for us all to be on Franks last trip. Before he died he told one of his friends it was one of the greatest expeditions he had been on.

For me, as it was my first time abroad, it really has given me a taste for travelling and I certainly want to back there again. Although I doubt I could ever match Franks 33 visits to Norway.

Once again I would like to thank Frank, as it is with many of the Venture Scout activities, you do not know how much time and effort Frank put into them.

Don't be sad about his death, his spirit still lives on. He is in the mountains, in the rocks, in the rain but especially, he is in you. In each of us there is a little bit of him. Take 5 minutes and think about old venturing times. He's still there !!!

Tim Andrews -Chairman.

Norway Datafile

STATUS: **Constitutional Monarchy**

AREA: **323,895 sq. km**

CAPITAL: **Oslo**

MAIN CITIES: **Bergen, Trondheim, Stavanger, Kristiansand**

POPULATION: **4,242,000**

DENSITY: **13 people per sq. km**

LIFE EXPECTANCY: **74 yr.**

INFANT MORTALITY: **6 per 1000**

LANGUAGE: **Norwegian**

RELIGION: **Protestant**

CURRENCY:

Krone

GNP: **21,850 US \$ per person**

MAIN PRODUCTS: **Crude oil, natural gas, metal products, fish**

NATIONAL DAY: **May 17th**

Joined with Denmark 1397 and Sweden 1814; independent 1905. Mountainous country. Climate modified by Gulf Stream with high rainfall and relatively

mild winters. Most people live along fjords, the coast and in the South around Oslo. Rich in natural resources. Advanced production of hydro-electic power has helped develop industry, particularly chemicals, metal products and paper. A leading European oil producer.

The Glacier

Once upon a time in Norway, nine Venture Scouts and one leader went up to see a glacier. They packed down the valley along the river flowing from underneath the glacier. We then proceeded by foot over the rocks towards the glacier, after about forty five minutes of rock hopping and wading we reached the bottom of the huge glacier. The sheer size of it was daunting.

Budor

After the long gruelling ferry journey and a day and a bit of driving, we were glad to reach our destination

This place was to be our home for the next week!!

When we first arrived there was no one at the ski resort, so Frank had to ring up our host Arvid Hansen and inform him that we had arrived.

Within a few minutes of Frank emerging from the rustic looking Norwegian "Telefon", Arvid had arrived from his home that was just 50 metres down the road.

Arvid showed us around his lovely ski resort and showed us 10 authentic log huts that were built around the 1920's and had been brought down around the lake from the surrounding mountain sides.

It was agreed that the five younger members of the unit would have a separate hut from the older members and Frank would sleep in the room next door to the kitchen, away from our huts (and our noise).

We were using the Kitchen as a base for our operations.

Budor is a fairly small ski resort with modern huts and rooms for guests and a large dining or mess hall for eating and socialising. Along with this there was a large lounge with a Piano that was masterfully played by Mark with the occasional, "Oh, I can't remember what comes next !" when he forgot how the piece he was playing carried on.

The old log huts in which we were staying were over the road (well more of a dirt track than a road, along which cars travel..... Very occasionally !!) from the resort around a very scenic lake with several small bridges crossing tributaries.

The surrounding forest provided an ideal backdrop for our exploits and certain night missions that should remain unmentioned.

Whilst staying here we were introduced to a new game called "Crown The King" that everybody promptly became fairly addicted.

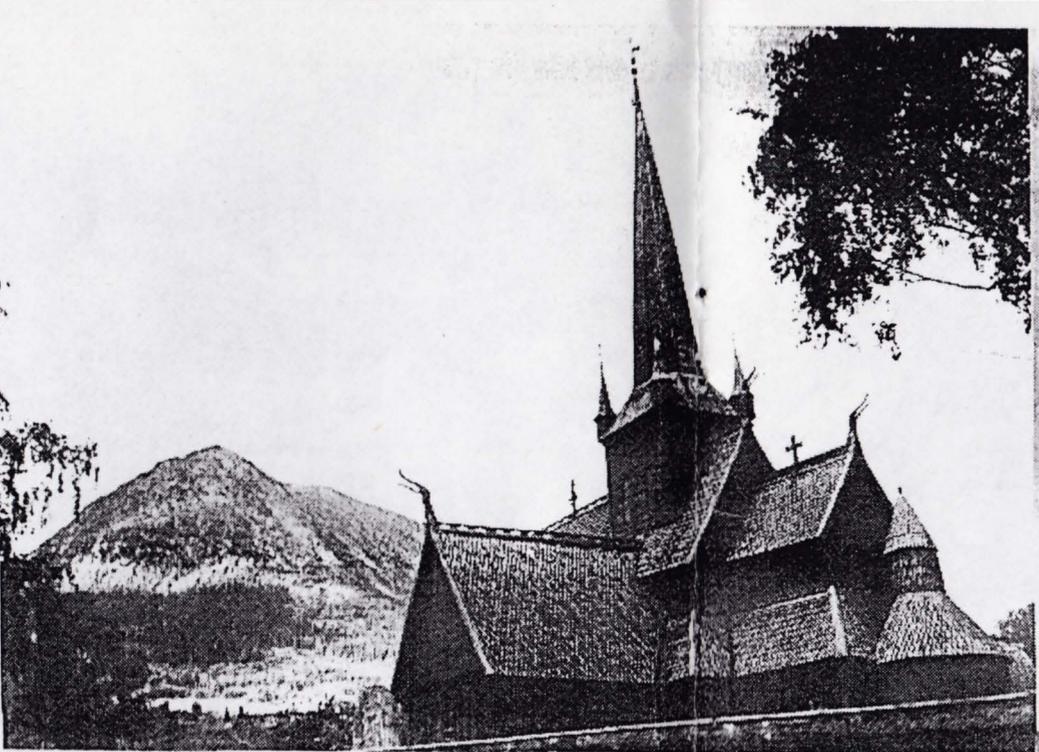
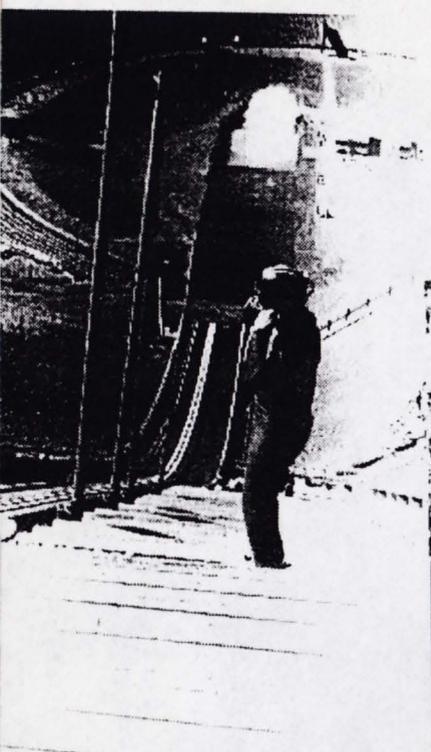
The aim of the game was to throw wooden sticks at your opponents' pins and knock them over; when all of your opponents' pins are knocked over then you must knock over the middle, largest pin. The team to do this is the winner.

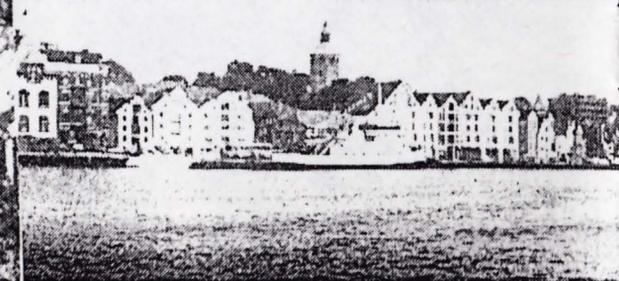
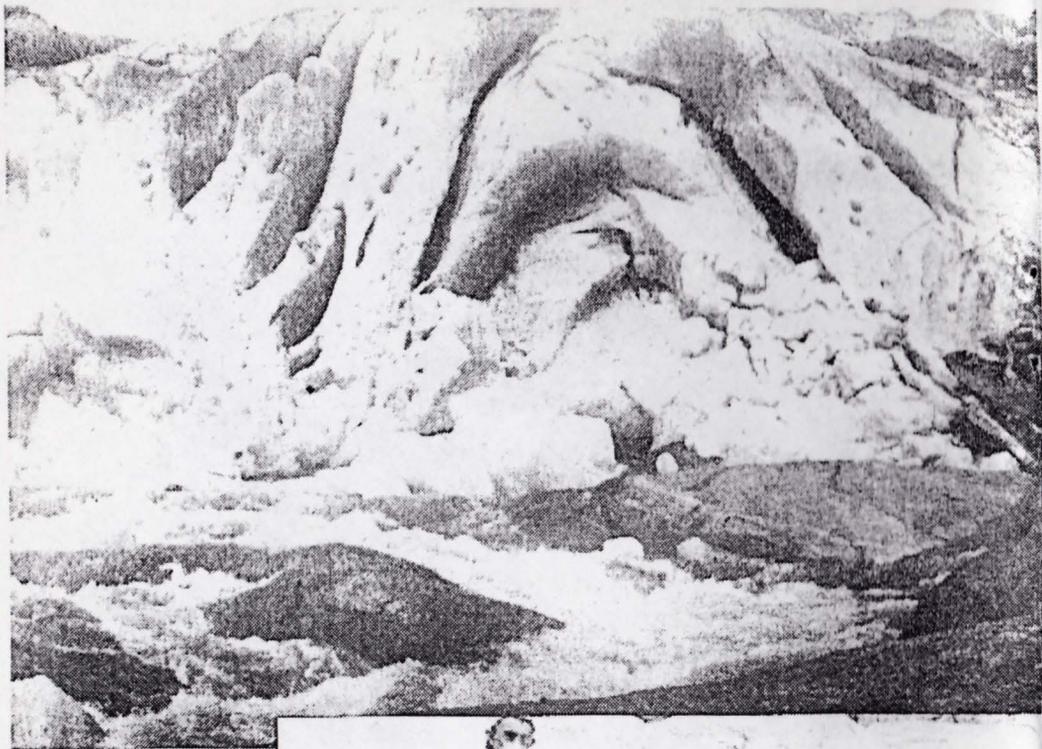
The tactics seemed to be a lot harder than we thought because depending on where the pins were thrown back depended on how much advantage you had.

Two sorts of tactics were adopted and one sort seemed rather flawed, however Tim would tell you different. I was on the winning side and feel that we were using the better tactics however some of our wins must be put down to individual error or stupidity of particular players of the opposing team.

When I say everybody I of course exclude Mark Lee.







When his team had a very very distinct advantage; they had to knock over 12 pins fairly tightly clumped together from about 2 feet away.

However Mark could not do this he threw extremely wildly and totally missed which inadvertently made all the opposing side burst out in fits of laughter and cost his team the game. Having made such a bad shot the first time, when they were in a very similar position, in fact identical, he said, "I wont miss this time!!!!", threw, and missed all 12. "This is the sort of shot that only your pet dog could miss, if it was blind and had only 1 leg."

We were very lucky to be staying at Budor because not only were we treated extremely well by our very generous host but the country side was beautiful as shown in the pictures.

On the second day when we were settled in we went for a walk up the nearest hill to see what the surrounding countryside was like and to see what the path markers were like and also whether it was easy to become lost.

The supposed paths were marked well but often merged and separated from sheep trails along the way.

We never really were lost during any time of our stay yet sometimes managed to just miss junctions that we were supposed to take.

James Cook L6R - Treasurer

Lillehammer

On one of the few days out the V.S.U. had, we (Frank) had decided to go the near by city of Lillehammer, famous for hosting the (unforgettable ?) Winter Olympics in 1994. They were certainly unforgettable after the hours of video that were played to us by our host [Arvid] about the event. This unfortunately came after a long days work demolishing his garage and the entire unit was struggling to stay awake. Whilst finding the energy to take in any of the information was near impossible.

The main spectacle that arose from the Winter Olympics was the ski jump. There were two (ski jump) hills at Lillehammer at different heights 120m and 90m.

We arrived at the top of the 120m hill and had to pay a few Kroner for a better view, which was well worth it as the view from the ski jump was quite incredible. Television does not do the hill justice, the view alone, from the top was amazing and the thought of speeding down on a pair of ski's made me admire the braveness ? (For want of a better word) of those (fools) who risk their life to jump a couple of metres further than the previous guy for a gold disc of metal!

The longest jump on the 120 hill in 1994 was 134m !!!

ON A PAIR OF SKI'S

After we all had taken our photos, and listened to some unit members boasting how, if they had had ski's then they would have gone down. You know who you are!

My stomach then persuaded me to leave the view of the hill in favour of the smaller 90m hill. Here was a rare sight, a live species of idiot jumping on the ski run. After taking more photos and observing his insanity, we headed for the town.

Oliver Scarff L6R -
Editor.

Duke of Edinburgh service work in Norway

With no details or description about what would be needed of us on the expedition, we were all glad to meet Arvid and find out what our voluntary service to the community would include.

This work was the upkeep and repairs of Arvid's Winter ski resort. Not only did the work go towards our Duke of Edinburgh's awards but also in exchange for our accommodation and evening meals for a week.

Fortunately, our work was not that difficult- most of it was the dismantling of a large wooded garage and putting the pieces in a trailer so they could be taken away and sold.

The work was quite tiring and we were occasionally congratulated with a cup of tea or soft and some waffles from Arvid's wife for which we were extremely grateful.

Our work was also very educational, Arvid Boosted Our Morale throughout the more tedious jobs by teaching us how to count in Norwegian, something which Tim found fun to do whenever there was a space in conversation !

Overall, our voluntary work helped both our team work and leadership skills and we are thankful to both Frank and Arvid for organising and channelling our efforts.

G. Edwards L6G

Climbing in Norway.

The best activity whilst in Norway which I did with the unit was climbing. We travelled by Mini-bus down a windy muddy forest tracks to a small car park.

On arrival we were all excited as for some this would be their first chance to climb on real rock. The cliffs were situated in a gorge with a river running through it. To get to the cliff face the unit had to carefully negotiate the many boulders along the bottom of the gorge, so some people got their feet wet. When we got to the cliff Frank, Phil and I decided to set up the top rope. Frank had decided to take the longer but safer route up to the top. Whilst "No Fear" Phil took the shorter, more dangerous route to the top. However after falling over at the start, Phil decided that the long route would be best. So up we went following Frank

At the top, after we had set up the top rope, Phil decided to absail down pretending to be the "Milk Tray Man"

Everyone enjoyed the climbing, and trying to stay dry. Because of the crumbling rocks falling and splashing in the water which added a little comedy. Everyone made it to the top on at least one climb. All came away very tired and ready for a next time.

-Tim Andrews U6G Chairman.

Silver Expedition - Norway 1996

The unit had decided earlier in the year that our visit to Norway would be as good an opportunity as any to complete our Duke Of Edinburgh Award Expeditions. The handbook stated "plan and carry out a three day venture in unfamiliar country including two nights camping". We thought that the plateau near Budor ski-resort fitted the regulations, as only Frank had been to Norway before, so the whole country was unfamiliar to most of the unit.

In addition to the practice and training we had undertaken in the UK we also some exploratory walks around Budor to get to know the terrain. Some of us also spent the night in a lean-to shelter in the nearby forest where we realised that it was cold at night !

Our route covered virtually the whole plateau above Elverum. The land was relatively flat but heavily forested.

The group started off in good spirits and showery rain. The scenery seen at the start was representative of the rest of the hike- coniferous forest as far as the eye can see. The going was fairly slow owing to the terrain which was either stony forest single track or boggy grassland.

On the first night we pitched our tents in the rain and had tinned 'Lapskaus' Which was to be our staple diet for the next few days. It soon earned a fitting nickname !

The rest of the hike went well (If a little slowly) with mixed weather. We managed to make most of the 'summits' in the area where we were rewarded with good views across the whole plateau and surrounding valleys. The footpaths were numerous which confused the navigation, but were very well marked in tasteful bright red and blue !

We arrived, tired, fairly hungry and well bitten at our destination where Frank picked us up and took us to the luxury of a campsite with toilets and showers- much needed after 3 days with a large rucksack !

The Himalayas for Gold ? !

Andrew Clifford -Vice Chairman

100 Club

Join the 100 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 sent 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: _____

Postcode: _____

Please make cheques payable to: **GCC Sir Thomas Rich's 44th Venture Scout Unit.**