

# Around our Groups



# Flying South



Download <http://www.18plus.com/sa>

August 2004

## Awards and Trophies



- Abingdon *Meets most Mondays at The Brewery Tap 40-42 Ock Street, Abingdon OX14 5BZ from 8:00pm*
- Andover *Meets every Tuesday The Anton Arms, Salisbury Road, Andover SP10 2JN from 8:30pm*
- Didcot *Meets every Thursday at The Fleur-De-Lys, 30 Main Road, East Hagbourne, Didcot, Oxon. OX11 9LN from 7:00pm*
- Fareham & Gosport *Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesday of month at The Fareham, 54 Trinity Street, Fareham, Hants. PO16 7SA from 8:30pm and last Tuesday of month at Gosport*
- Oxford *Meets every Tuesday at The Original Swan, Oxford Road, Cowley, Oxford OX4 2LF from 8:00pm*
- Slough, Windsor and Eton *Meets every Thursday at The New College, 55 High Street, Eton, Windsor SL4 6BL from 9:00pm*
- Soton Friends *Meets every Wednesday at Jongulars Comedy Club, 2-4 High Street, Southampton SO14 2DH from 8 pm*
- South Bucks *Meets every Wednesday The Rose (restaurant room), 16 King Street, Maidenhead SL6 1EF from 8:30pm*
- Thatcham *Meets every every Wednesday at The Plough on the Green, 1 The Folly, Newbury RG14 7JF from 8:15pm*

*No group near you? If you would like to start a new group in your town please feel free to contact any member of the area committee who will be very willing to help.*

Southern Area did very well in the trophies section of the ANC this year. Slough won the National Recruitment Trophy; Southampton Friends won Best New Group; Southern Area won The Charles Padgham Training Trophy and the "Cobb Dual Purpose 2-pint Jug Mug" for best area, and to complete the haul we of course got the Norbury trophy for best magazine.

None of this of course would be possible without the hard work that you the members put in to make our area the success this it is and I am sure will continue to be. As many of you may be aware I am unlikely to be as active in events as I was due to the long awaited arrival of a baby son, Michael Bernard and while I am willing to continue to produce the magazine I will be even more in need of your support in order to fill the pages and ensure the magazine stays at the forefront of 18 plus.



Southern Area of the National Federation of 18 Plus Groups of Great Britain. Editor, Steve Crothers, 8 Coromandel, Abingdon, Oxfordshire. OX14 5QG; [stephen.crothers@ntlworld.com](mailto:stephen.crothers@ntlworld.com)

## Five go mad in Portcawl

Four friends decided to organise a weekend's caravanning holiday in Wales at the end of March 2004 and chose 'Trecco Bay' Caravan Park near the town of Porthcawl 20 miles from Cardiff. Their aim was to have as much fun as possible. The journey from Southampton to the caravan site started early on the Friday with the lads in good voice for the duration of the journey. Upon arrival four became five when Andrew joined the group. The caravan accommodation proved agreeable for all members of the group. Dan kindly agreed to make dinner after getting supplies from the main town supermarket, and then it was off to the on-site swimming pool. Later on we sampled the on-site health club facilities where the group made use of the Sauna. Later after dinner had been served (via Dan 'pasta & soup' creation) it was agreed that trying out the on-site entertainment would be the next priority. Fast forward to later and with the group dressed up and ready to go it was time to venture forth and really party. The venue chosen (from a very limited choice) was the on-site 'entertainment bar'. The music upon arrival was being provided by a live act, the lead female musician while definitely making the moves did not always have the voice. With drinks ordered and a table located the group sat down ready to enjoy the forthcoming evening's entertainment. The highlight of the evening was provided by an unexpected source when this author went for a trip while still in a seated position. The next day started early with the group waited for breakfast to arrive. It arrived eventually around lunchtime with the chef quoting the reason for delay, a less than reliable supplied oven. After the usual wait while everyone took turns to use shower and bathroom facilities it was decided that an afternoon of exercise would be in order. Next it was back to the caravan to eat, wash and dress in preparation for a night out in Cardiff. Fast forward to Cardiff and after sampling the local beverage it was time for the group to hit Jumpin' Jaks. It proved to a lucky night for one particular member of the group when a female from the local hen-night party made a significant impression. The remaining night provided enjoyable with most of the group showing off their dancing skills (or lack of) on the dance floor over the remainder of the Saturday evening. Sunday proved to be a chill out day. As far as activities go swimming proved the popular choice. Later it was back to the entertainment bar after a lack of alternatives proved a sticking point. It was a case of more of the same with the same act with female singer back from the Friday evening. The group was again given the pleasure of Andrew's company. The following day it was time to go so after an early rise and wash everyone got his or her gear together. The keys to the caravan were then handed back and the journey back to Southampton commenced.

*Soton Friends Birthday Party  
9th October 2004*



*Southern Area Training Event  
with FREE game of bowling  
17 October 2004*

*Next Issue of Flying South  
1st November 2004  
Articles to editor please*



nwtech.com



*WASH 2004  
(Weekend at Sunny Hunstanton)  
Friday 5th - Mon 8th November 2004*

*Centre Parcs Weekend  
Fri 26 - Mon 29 Nov 2004  
Sherwood Forest*



*Slough Dance  
4th December 2004*

*National Skiing Holiday  
22 - 29 January 2005*

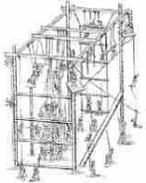


## Coming Soon



*Winchester BBQ - 21st August now in Didcot*

*Area Council Meeting  
22nd August 2004  
Basingstoke*



*EAA Multi Activity Weekend 27-30 August 2004  
Mepal Activity Centre, near Ely, Cambridgeshire  
£64.50 before 15 August 2004*

*'INSPIRE' - The Plus Training Event  
Fri 4 - Sun 6 September 2004  
Alsagar Campus near Crewe*



*Thorpe Park  
12th September 2004  
£19 in advance, £27 at the gate*

*Pefkos 2004  
Sat 18 - Sat 25 September 2004  
£359 per person*



## The View From The Trenches

My thanks to Jarrett for assembling a motley crew from various groups to the total of 15 members. My mini contingent started the day at the McDonalds just outside the entrance and then awaited the arrival of more. The National Paintball Fields is easy to get to, worries about being forced onto the M6 Toll were ultimately unfounded. The site is very well provisioned with 'play' areas including a two storey wild west town and real 'downed' helicopter. Add to this functional equipment and good marshalling, all that remains is a decent opposition.



Ah yes, the opposition. Terminators through and through, a marshal required to get most of them off the field each time. Their surprising ability to regenerate exceeded that of the mythical troll even having been sent off. I heard their gun ammunition was not necessarily paint. Further even when dead they had an amazing ability to shoot from the grave, and then we got into the pistol whipping phase too. The opposition were removed from the field at lunch time.

The food was of the best quality I have had at any paintball site, and a wider choice, just not so much of it.

The afternoon was most enjoyable, the original opposition having been detailed to go play with themselves, most befitting, we were able to enjoy a batch of honest games. While one could recount any individual action for pages and pages we'll just limit it to the two 'man of the match' awards. For the 18+ side Chris 'machine gun' Porter whose steady stream of fire throughout the day cowed much of the opposition - does it have the same effect on your bank manager Chris? And for the 'new' opposition whom required a couple of subs from our team Dave 'flag raiser' Filer for his graceful arching dive into the well and its commensurate echoing thud, some would say proving the existence of gravity waves. - By the way Dave the flag was supposed to go up the pole not join you in the well.

At £55 for the day total (in my case, perhaps not Chris's) it made for a great afternoon after a not so brilliant morning. Did we win or did we lose? I have no idea and I don't care, we took part!



# Slough Jets Ice Hockey

We went to see the Slough Jets versus the Romford Raiders at Slough's home ground, a very nice venue with plenty of seats, a shop selling official merchandise, a bar with TV screens to watch replays and skate hire if you want to venture onto the ice after the match.

Before the game started the ice had to be cleared from skate marks by a man driving a machine that took quite some time, accompanied by a countdown on the electronic score board. Then the teams came out onto the ice, Romford Raiders first while the lighting was still dimmed, then the Slough Jets to a fanfare. For each Jets player there was a head and shoulder photo on the projector screen - except for one player who just had their name and number appear, I guess he was a new player for the team. Next the referee and his team came onto the ice and were announced by name as well. After the National Anthem was played the game got under way.

A few minutes into the game the Raiders scored; as the Raiders supporters cheered the Jets supporters began to chant. An early goal happened meant the Jets had the wind knocked out of their sails and for a while the Raiders dominated possession of the puck trying to score a second, to the great dismay of the Jets they managed this. The Raiders fans thought the Jets were going to be a push over now; the Raiders were third in the league and the Jets seventh. Confidence returned to the Jets as the

managed to score just before the end of the first quarter. The Jets fans banged their hands on the perspex screens, on their drums and cheered.

The second quarter was even more successful for the Jet leading 5 to 3, a complete turn around and Jets fans were elated while fans of the Raiders shouted at their star player to get his act together. Tempers grew hot on the ice and plenty of penalties for bad behaviour ensued;

there were 3 penalties against the Raiders and 9 against the Jets to the point where one of the Jets was sent off. One Jets goal was disallowed.

The third quarter sealed success for the Jets and the game finished 7 to 3. The star player for the Jets was no 21 Matt Towalski who scored 2 goals and helped clinch a few others for the team. The star player for the Raiders was no 17 James Austin. Team photo awards were given to the star players and the English Premier Ice Hockey Cup was presented to the Jets. It was a tremendous win against a team so much higher up the league and thoroughly enjoyable.

Never seen an Ice Hockey match? It is worth going along to see one, why not suggest adding it to a future programme.



# Mayor's Picnic in the Park



Sunday the 20th June saw loads of 18 plus members gathering at the riverside park in Abingdon for the annual mayoral picnic in the park. Abingdon group had arranged a stall with a miniature Aunt Sally set in order to firstly publicise the

group and secondly raise a little money. They were ably assisted in this venture by members of Didcot, Oxford, Slough, Thatcham and Bradford. The competition was run on the basis of equal the top score so far to win a cup, advertising of course 18 plus, and a space in a knockout at the end of the day for a £20 food voucher.

There were a number of cups given out for a score of 1 out of 6 before finally the high score got dragged kicking and screaming up to 2! The final ended up being a three way competition between Adrian, Leo and a guy from the Roteract stand. Adrian was the final champion.

With reasonable support there were good opportunities for members to wander around and look at the other stands. The members from Bradford even took time out to watch the Punch and Judy show.



The whole event was reasonably well attended considering there appeared to have been very little advertising and at the end of the day Abingdon group managed to make a surplus of £10! Everyone had a nice day out, the weather was kind, most of the time and again Abingdon has made its presence felt in its home town.

On an amusing side note on the way to the event we noticed a car that was "parked" hard against a no parking sign - perhaps they did not see it?



## Your Area Committee



**Chairman:** Tina Bunyan, 21 White Leys Close, DIDCOT, Oxon.  
OX11 7LP (m) 07760 448637, (h) 01235 810361  
tina.bunyan@btopenworld.com

**Administrator:** Robert Blanks



**Treasurer:** Adrian Barnard, 21 White Leys Close, DIDCOT, Oxon.  
OX11 7LP (m) 07929 717381, (h) 01235 810361, (w) 01235  
464672. abarnard@jet.uk, adrian.barnard1@btinternet.com

**Publicity:** Steve Geary

**Training:** Richard Yeo 5 Abbots Hill, Little Ann, Andover SP11  
7PJ Tel: (m) 07799 573031



**Magazine:** Steve Crothers, 8 Coromandel, Abingdon, Oxon.  
OX14 5QG (h) 01235 203068 (m) 07799 044463  
stephen.crothers@ntlworld.com



**Assistant:** Leo Glover 10 Edgehill Close Basingstoke RG22 5AB  
(m) 07787 156465  
Email: leo.glover@btopenworld.com



**Assistant:** Paul West 8 Saxon Court, Kingsway Gardens, Andover,  
Hants.SP10 4BU Tel: (h) 01264 394233 (m) 07932 832046



*Vacancies exist for Activities, Development and Assistant posts,  
please speak to any committee member if you feel you can help*

## National Badminton

The national badminton was held on Saturday 28th February 2004 in the Magnet Leisure Centre in Maidenhead; this year the event was organised by South Bucks Plus.

There was a great turnout of over 25 members attending from around the federation. Southern Area groups involved were Abingdon, Oxford, Slough and of course South Bucks. In the three hours available we managed to arrange men's singles, women's singles and doubles.

Out of all the matches probably the most challenging was in the men's finals between Gary and Dave.

Many of the competitors managed to discover muscles that they did not realise existed! After the competition there was a general move to the greyhound public house for a well deserved relaxant drink! Here are the results:

### Men's Singles

1st	David Filer	Coventry
2nd	Gary Scrivens	South Bucks
Joint 3rd	Mike McAleer	Hounslow
	Steve Sykes	Bradford

### Ladies Singles

1st	Lara Mellor	South Bucks
2nd	Tracey Thorn	Dunstable

### Doubles

1st	David Filer	
	Peter Mann	Coventry
2nd	Andrea Scrivens	
	Gary Scrivens	South Bucks
3rd	Mike Shapcott	South Bucks
	Mike McAleer	Hounslow
4th	Steve Sykes	Bradford
	David Ireland	Coventry

# National Football

Oxford lined up their international squad originating as far afield as from Holland, and Abingdon group. Ahead of them awaited at least three qualifying matches, then the semis then the finals. The weather was bleak, wet, dull and a bit cool. The team tended not to notice this as they eyed up the opposition in their league; Barking and Dagenham, big, dangerous looking and fielding three subs. Hillingdon simply looking a



little wary and Coventry with their battle cries enacted on pitch!

Our first match was against Hillingdon, I er,... lost count of how many goals we put past them! Not a lot more to add to that one, sorry.

Next up the team we had to beat, Barking and Dagenham. An early goal was gained, the fight continued up and down the pitch, the ref asking for it to be downgraded to a struggle at some point! A second goal was placed in against them, a little too much relaxation resulted in a return goal from the kick off putting them back in with a chance. The increasingly desperate 'struggle' continued until full time with Oxford gaining a 2-1 victory,...

YES!



Coventry actually managed to put more goals past our net than the others staying level for the first part of the first half until Oxford wore them down, again the score escapes me, but Oxford won.

We attained the semi finals, our opposition from across the wire was Slough group, a manoeuvrable team with some young blood in it as well as experience. In the game Oxford proved the more organised team managing to

close the opposition down enough and make some clear space in front of goal. A slow but steady stream of goals saw Oxford through to the final,... against; Barking and Dagenham.

Oxford again managed to squeeze an early goal past them but after a lot of fighting, yes we were back at that level of intensity, they finally got an equaliser into our net. The fight continued, perhaps Oxford pushed a bit stronger being up the opposition end a bit more. Certainly a few tackles came in harder than any yet seen. At 1-1 the final whistle blew as Oxford's main goal scorer was chopped down in a tackle and removed from play. No tackles seen I will add, were ever more than an eager attempt at the ball, at no time did I see anything in any tackle that looked like an attempt on another player. There was one shirt grabbing noted preventing a break away from with the ball once, but that was all that I witnessed. Penalty shoot out time,...

YUK!

Given however our two star players were now either departed or injured it was our best option anyway. The long and the short of it? My goal attempt was saved, I let in all attempts in goal! Congratulations to Barking and Dagenham.

We retired for a marvellous spread of food, if I do say so myself. Aside from all those behind the organising and refereeing of the event I should like to also thank all those whom played. I saw a very good spirited and essentially clean standard of play and was impressed. (okay, I witnessed perhaps only 55% of the games).

The games were again followed by an excellent buffet, and then a disco in the venue.

