



DUE SOUTH

The Southern Area Magazine - Summer 2006

SO 'TOM GET ROCKY!



Also in this issue:

Skiing Revisited - Hedgehop - Aunt Sally

Outdoor Pursuits Weekend - Badminton

ROCKY HORROR SHOW

It was Thursday, 13 April 2006, an evening never to be forgotten, says Shelly!

It started at Kirsty's house at 4 o'clock. I arrived with a fancy dress outfit, a crimper and high heeled boots. Kirsty and I proceeded to crimp my hair. Once this long task had been completed, the next step was to slip into our fancy dress outfits, put on lots of thick dark make up and big hair.

At 6pm, Rich arrived from work, rather reluctant to put on his fancy dress. When he eventually emerged wearing thick black glasses, shirt, fish net tights, and frilly, girly knickers, I realised why! What made it worse was he hadn't shaved his legs: ahhhhhhh!!!



Ian arrived, wearing ordinary clothes. We were not impressed! His excuse was he hadn't had time to go to the fancy dress shop. I didn't think so!!! To his horror we managed to find him a corset and a skirt to wear. This fitted him perfectly, which was worrying. To top this off we draped a feather boa around this neck.

We all bundled into my car (the guys not wearing a coat, started to realise just what us women have to go through on a night out; they were freezing). Claire (not wearing fancy dress) met us at the restaurant, Toscas. She did not get away spending the evening in only her civvies as we had brought along a feather bower and hat for her. Dining in fancy dress was quite fun with people stopping and staring as they walked past the restaurant.

Once we finished our meal, the lab-coat-wearing Tim met us outside the Mayflower Theatre. Taking some photographs of ourselves in skimpy dress we enjoyed seeing how everyone else going that evening had dressed themselves... up or down. I think the boys enjoyed it more, what with lots of women in their underwear.

We were soon seated and doing the Time Warp again!!! Heckling at the appropriate places and singing along and having a fantastic time.

The evening did not stop there however as we decided to continue the night out in Flares. The bouncer was very worried when he saw the state of us but let us in! I bought myself a pair of 70's sunglasses which did not in any way go well with my Magenta maids outfit. I did quite like the barman who was wearing them and it seemed a good idea at the time!

We found more Rocky Horror partygoers and joined them on the platform and danced the night away. Ian actually got dragged away from us by his feather bower by a lovely young lady. We boogied until the feet of Kirsty and myself hurt due to the ridiculously high heeled shoes we were wearing.

The evening ended with everyone piling into the back of my car, my stereo turned up loud and singing our hearts out! It was a memorable evening and we all had so much fun, I would definitely do it again.

Shelly Silsbury, So'ton Friends

Weddings



Recently, David Groos and Mayke Schraders from So'ton Friends tied the proverbial knot in their native Netherlands. David has a new job in Dubai, so the group will be losing two popular members.

Their departure will reduce the number of Dutch members of SF by two thirds!



Simon Good & Kath Bloe of Abingdon group have announced their engagement.

They are seen here in fancy dress at Brean 2005 with Simon brandishing his cross to repel Kath's devilish forces... but somehow Kath just can't bring herself to look evil!

Matt Palmer & Julie Morgan of So'ton also recently tied the knot and at the time of writing are on honeymoon.

Treasure Hunt

The National Treasure Hunt was held in London in July. South Bucks. group came third out of ten teams.

South Bucks. are seen here with the London Eye in the background & fronted by the ever-present Mike Shapcott.



Beach BBQ

This popular annual event was held once again at Sandbanks, Poole and was organised by Abingdon group. The pictures show Pete from Didcot trying to look shorter than usual (quote Adrian Barnard) and the sandcastle 'Badger Palace' before the location was taken for setting up the barbeque.



Plus Skiing Holidays have been going for longer than you probably realise.....

Adrian Barnard takes a look back.

Now coming up to its 18th birthday, I figured that the annual skiing holiday might merit a look back on in brief. Next year it is to be held in the Italian Alps, not a venue tried before so no doubt some new experiences might be found there. In the meantime here's a snap shot of its history.

It was started by a long departed Didcot member by the name of Mark who one day mentioned, "I've booked everyone in on a skiing holiday!" It became apparent very quickly that he meant he really had paid every Didcot member's deposit up front out of his own pocket and sort of imagined all the members there would be happy to go skiing! A rapid journey to the travel agents the next morning saw a renegotiation of the cash handed over to cover the three who agreed to go; Mark, Julie and myself.

The hotel we attended had fantastic postcards of its heyday in the mid sixties, but that was it - it's prime time was the mid sixties, while acceptable it had seen better days. It did sport a 22lb Russian Blue domestic moggie which slept wherever it wanted to.



Cats that big actually start getting scary! The skiing holiday bumped along in that vein for a few years with three or four, and once, six attendees. The big hotel closed down and we started jumping around the various other hotels in St. Wolfgang making for a change. The great thing about being at the same place all the time is you know the best deals you can get and in the final two years in Austria numbers picked up significantly into the teens.

The last year there saw a visit to where the Austrians 'hang out', ie. it's not in any of the brochures but it's there all the same. The final leg is one of those deceptive slopes where all references suggest it's not too bad... I believe it was Howard who found himself hurtling through the ticket hall at 40mph plus and nearly clearing the road the other side while his now detached skis carried on regardless. It was a different experience to the slopes we'd been used to. I got to 'ski' past a school party of Austrians with them all laughing and their instructor shouting "That is



how not to do it!" (in German) - I was on my belly with the skis over my head, but I was travelling downhill in a controlled manner so why should I worry, Dave had just put the video camera away too luckily.

The Euro was introduced and the holiday price leapt from £500 to £700, we headed for

eastern Europe. The first year in Bulgaria was interesting, the odd expensive limo pulling up to the shanty-like shops and big bruisers visiting the owners with brief cases, that sort of thing. We chanced a second year - never go less than 4* in Bulgaria by the way. Much investment actually seemed to have reached the resort this year and the opportunity to go skiing off snow cats, skidooring and much more besides was still there.

It's third year saw a lot more hotels both built and building, yet with little piste improvement, it was getting crowded, so next year it's Italy. In summary, some thoughts and lessons learned from years of skiing:

- Never share a room with anyone called Pete!
- Never try to out-drink anyone called Pete!
- Cliffs win out over buses every time.



- Learn how to stop before you start.
- Take a good book, you're going where the snow is, you might get snowed in.
- If one of your party goes missing, check the staff toilets.
- If a bunch of skinheads are calling you names from below the balcony do you:
 - a) spit on them and run
 - b) ignore them
 - c) spit on them and stand there!
- Don't try to be clever unless you really are.
- Never follow anyone called Dave down something labelled 'black'.



Photos from 2002 & 2004.

Adrian Barnard, Thatcham

Southern Area Hedgehop

Fancy spending a dark winter's evening hopping over hedges? Well it's not quite that strenuous, but you might need to crawl *through* some....



This year's Hedgehop was again run from the Didcot group's venue in East Hagbourne, Oxon, on 25th February.

For a Hedgehop, the participants are dropped off at a layby & have to find their way about five miles back to the pub whilst filling in the answers to a sheet of clues & without being noticed by spotters, both in cars and on foot. The winner is the group which gets back in a short time with a large number of correct answers... and a low number of spottings!

Being spotted outside the villages carries the penalty of 9 minutes added to the final timing, whilst being spotted in a 30mph 'safe zone' results in one minute being subtracted to order to discourage people from hiding in private gardens.



A clue missed or wrongly answered carries an 11 minute penalty.

This year, there were seven teams plus eight spotters & time keepers, formed from 11 groups; Abingdon, Coventry, Didcot, Dunstable, Fareham, Leamington, Oxford, Slough, Southampton, South Bucks. & Thatcham.

The Chief Spotter was Adrian Barnard, who was particularly observant, even spotting those making their way into roadside bushes for relief!

Pictured below are the South Bucks. entrants who came first this year.



Due South Editor



The annual Plus Outdoor Pursuits Weekend was held in the Lake district at the end of May.

Since many of the members were from Southern Area, a selection of photos is presented here. These were taken from video footage of the weekend.

The camping barn at Rosthwaite.



Tracy on a walkway at 'GoApe!'.

Tracy, always the performer, detaching herself from an aerial cableway.





A reflective moment for Ralph.

Lisa, Steve & Ralph at Hadrian's Wall.



The group on a walk following GoApe.



The view up the valley beyond Rothwaite.



2006 was another successful year for the Badminton competition run by South Bucks.

National Badminton was run by South Bucks on 18th February. It was well attended by most of the groups in southern area with

increased numbers from last year. Gary Scrivens from South Bucks flew the flag for the area by winning the men's singles with a resounding result in the final. Unfortunately the rest of the top 4 places went to the Midlands lads.

In the ladies singles the Sutton Coldfield lasses were on top form and despite their best efforts the best placement we achieved was from Andrea Scrivens also from South Bucks in joint 3rd / 4th place.

The doubles was another hard fought contest with the top 2 places again dominated by the Midlands. However we did save face with both 3rd and 4th positions with the pairings of Mike Shapcott and Andy Mellor, and Andrea and Gary Scrivens all from South Bucks.

Looks as though we'll all have to keep our racquets dusted and put in some more practice before next years competition if we want to put those Midlanders in their place!! The event was rounded off with everyone meeting up for some good food and some medicinal alcohol. If it didn't help ease the aching muscles at least it helped us forget the pain!!

Hope to see some old faces and lots of new ones next year.

Lara Mellor, South Bucks.

Aunt Sally



This year's Southern Area Aunt Sally was held on 12th August in Abingdon.

Aunt Sally is a traditional game where players attempt to knock a dolly off a post with a set of six wooden sticks.

The game goes back at least as far as the 17th century & is played mainly around Oxford where there are a number of leagues. 14th century manuscripts show a game with two skittles, one more difficult to hit than the other & it may be that Aunt Sally is a development of this where only the kingpin has been retained.

Results: 1st: Thatcham (6), 2nd: Oxford (5),
3rd: Abingdon (4), 4th: Didcot (3).

Due South Editor

Editor

Due South is edited by Rod Ormston, So'ton Friends group.

Please send any article submissions to web@southampton-plus.org.uk.
Comments on this issue are also welcomed.

I would like to Thank Richard Mahaffey for an entertaining National Plus News; his issue was awaited to ensure no duplication of subject material.

Come & join us!

Visit www.18plus.org.uk/sa for group contact details!

