

THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY!

POSTSCRIPT'S Seventh Half-Century



ENDANGERED SPECIES!

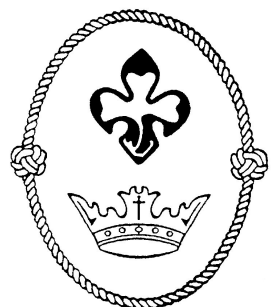
How to protect your panda

CONTROVERSY!

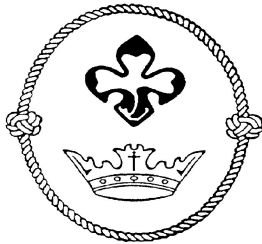
The editor tries to get us into more trouble

FILTH!

Baden-Powell's advice to growing men



postscript



Issue 350

Second of Michaelmas 2003

An OUSGG publication

Editor: Phil Alderton

- Chair: Mark Hawkins
- Chair-elect: Sam Snelson
- Treasurer: Maddy Bunce
- Secretary: Phil Alderton
- N'n'N: Jenny Robertson
- Winter Walking: Sarah Berman
- Internet: Gail Templemann
- Membership: Jenny Robertson
- SSAGO Rep.: Jenny Robertson
- Scout & Guide: Mark Hawkins
- Quartermaster: Michael Ramsden
- Old Members': Chris Seward
- Senior Member: Katherine Blundell

All correspondence and articles to postscript@ousgg.org.uk or by post/pidge to Phil Alderton, St Peter's College, Oxford. Those with his mobile number might like to make use of the 24 hour quotation hotline (send him a text message as soon as someone speaks).

Deadline for issue 351 – late Friday Seventh Week (28th November)

Any items received will be presumed to be for publication unless otherwise notified. The editor reserves the right to modify contributions on a whim. He's like that.

Views expressed in *Postscript* are those of their authors, and might not correspond to those of OUSGG or associated bodies. Or do they?

Printed and published in Oxford. Natch.

(c) Oxford University Scout and Guide Group 2003. All rights reserved. For details of our content syndication scheme please contact the editor.

You've read this far? You must be bored.

FORWARD!

Three hundred and fifty issues, eh? That's quite a lot, when you think about it. It gets scarier if you consider that every three to five years or so the membership of OUSGG more or less completely changes, meaning that bored future editors will browse through this issue and wonder who all these people are and what those in-jokes were all about. Indeed, it would not be too grand a claim to argue that the *Postscripts* you receive throughout your time here (and to which you will happily and Stakhanovitably contribute) are this OUSGG generation's gift to our successors. We'd better hope they're grateful.

I wanted to look at the very first issue of *Postscript*, but this appears to have become some kind of holy grail for us. Even the Bod doesn't have a copy. Anyone hoarding it must do so in anticipation that it'll be worth at least £10 at auction. If you've seen it lying around somewhere (say, in your tutor's room, or in the Oxford Union debating chamber), sneak us a photocopy.

Before I hand you over to this issue's literary delights, it's worth noting that our first publication, dating almost from the foundation of our forerunners, became such a success it had an inter-university reach. Sadly, a brief perusal on OLIS produced no appropriate records for that journalistic gem, *The Boy*.

Phil Alderton (St Peter's) – Editor **PS**

Inside...

<i>“Further excitement”</i>	3
<i>“Break with a snapping sound”</i>	4
<i>“Preferably surgically altered”</i>	5
<i>“Blackmail. Probably forbidden by the Scout Law.”</i>	6
<i>“Meeting was declared quorate”</i>	7

Corrections and Clarifications

Hayley Thompson writes:
 “An Apology! On behalf of the rally cooks (last time, I promise), I'd like to say a big thank you and sorry to Maddy. Not only did I neglect to thank her for getting up very early but she was also instrumental in making sure that the carnivores amongst the rally goers had meat for breakfast. So a thank you to Maddy and Libby, who's also a veggie, for all your help. Enough, let the whole bacon nightmare rest in peace!” **PS**

From the top

Mark Hawkins, *Chair*

The time is 6:30pm, and Phil the evil *PostScript* Editor's deadline is approaching. More importantly, however, I am trying to make some sense in the 10 minutes I have before heading off to the SSAGO Rally for the weekend - the big termly camp, held this time by Warwick University's Scout and Guide Club.

Well that's the apologies over with, so on a more relevant note, I hope that everyone enjoyed the fireworks and bonfire as much as I did - it certainly went off with a bang! (Sorry couldn't resist that one!). The week before we had a most enjoyable evening run by Bob Lang from GAPP, about Global Social Justice Issues. I certainly enjoyed the evening, and learnt one or two things I didn't know before; I hope you all enjoyed it too!

Looking forwards we have the Freshers Camp this weekend coming, so if you haven't put your name down for a weekend of action packed activities - climbing and shooting - and good old OUSGG company, then drop me an email so I know you will be coming.

Further excitement in the term will come in the form of the guided TV tour round Oxford – not by your TV though! Followed by the Archery evening - on *Friday* of 7th week, not Monday, see emails for details - and of course the AGM and meal! So I hope to see all of you at one of these future Monday meetings, or at NnN.

I had best close this now, as I have run out of time, and leave it to Phil your editor to correct my typos. You never know he might even make it scan! **PS**

STOP PRESS!

We are pleased to report that *finally* OUSGG have won the fancy dress competition at the rally. For some reason, at previous competitions some members' tendency to cross dress was not exciting enough for the judges... **PS**

The Sound of OUSGG

[Scene 35: The slow-moving plot suddenly picks up pace. The camera pans across open moorland. What is initially seen to be a speck grows larger as the camera approaches, revealing to the audience Alison, whilst all the while the volume of the orchestra gradually increases in volume until it hits a crescendo with...]

Alison: *The hills alive to the sound of OUSGG*

Who've been faffing around for some 80 years

The club fills my time with the sound of laughter

My heart wants to go on ev'ry trip each year

My heart wants to go on a train to the Peaks

Or dance at another group's meet.

My mind wants to run another rally

Or see some punts in our fleet.

To laugh like a brook when Phil trips and falls

After his sixth that day.

To sing through the night

The fire burning till day.

I go to the group

When my Monday's empty

I know I will hear what I've heard before.

My days will be spent

With the sound of OUSGG

And they'll faff once more.

[As she hits the final top note, she trips over a cuddly duck. Confused, she picks it up. Stuffed in its beak is a telegram.

Opening it up she looks stunned, drops it on the floor and dashes away. The camera drifts to the note. It reads:

“MAKE STORY INTERESTING AND FUNNY STOP
FIND HIDDEN SECRET OF STUDENT SCOUTING
AND GUIDING STOP MORE TO FOLLOW STOP”

We see Alison dash back to retrieve the note and her hat, which fell off during the song, and watch her scurry back to the hut. Banging on the door we hear her yell to the others]

Alison: Get up! We need to find the hidden secret of Student Scouting and Guiding.

[From an open window, a low male voice calls out]

Michael: Never mind that – who's going to make the tea?

PS

Letters

“These days of word-processing”

Dear Sir,

I am most troubled to see that in the latest edition of our esteemed magazine, "*Postscript*" (issue 349), the initial letter is in lower case.

I feel sure this style has been the subject of one of the current editor's rants in a previous issue, and hence assume that this can only be a mistake. Being the important journal that it is, the title certainly deserves its initial capital.

I also note that the postscript indicated at the end of each article is missing - indeed I am not sure why, in these days of word-processing, one would ever need a postscript at all.

Furthermore, I note the misspelling of "nap" as "knap" throughout:

"nap" - to seize, to steal.

"knap" - to snap or break with a snapping sound.

I am certain that Erik, being as he is a stuffed toy, would not break with a snapping sound (and I hope no-one will try!)

Yours pedantically,

David Ball, Ex-Keble

The editor is a hypocrite. But still right about the Scouts' hideous 'corporate identity' (sic).

“Missing from the top”

Dear Sir,

Upon receiving the latest issue of *Postscript* (issue 349), I was somewhat distressed to see that Oxford has been razed to the ground!

I can think of no other reason why the comforting sight of the Oxford skyline would be missing from the top of each page of *Postscript*.

Please reassure me that everyone in OUSGG is OK!

Yours etc,

David Ball, Ex-Keble

Slum clearance. And anyway, there's only ever been one truly great use of a skyline:



PS

Time was...

“Keep away from loose companions, whether men or girls; take on lots of other occupation and healthy exercise...Keep your thoughts off lewdness by taking up hobbies and good reading in your spare time; keep off drinks and over-smoking, over-eating, sleeping in too warm or soft a bed, since all these help to make the temptation worse.

Keep yourself clean inside and out by daily washing, and swimming if you possibly can. Constipation and neglect to keep the racial organ cleaned daily are apt to cause slight irritation which leads to trouble.

The temptation has to be fought down mainly during the few months of your changing from boyhood into manhood. If you are past that stage and have unfortunately contracted bad habits it is not too late. You can overcome them if you really try. It is never too late, but at the same time you can't be too early in curing yourself.”

Lord Baden-Powell, *Rovering to Success* (Herbet Jenkins, 1930)

PS

Panda Defence

Our resident Mafia Godfather, Sam Snelson, on protecting your panda

Is your panda constantly being stolen? Does he live with the constant fear of capture? If the answer is yes, then you should consider my 4 step plan for ensuring his safety, which I like to call "The 4 Ds of Panda Protection"

1. Disguise



The first method in preventing your panda being pandaknapped is to disguise him. As can be seen in the diagram the addition of glasses, a false moustache or simply changing his outfit can do wonders, but you don't need to stop there.

Inanimate objects provide a whole range of disguise ideas, who would consider stealing a chair, for example? If the problem is extreme, then it is possible that an entire change of identity will be required to ensure the panda's continued safety, but the panda concerned can still live a full life - past identity changing pandas have gone on to become doctors, lawyers and even MPs.

2. Decoy



Now that your panda is disguised it is time to turn his enemies' attentions elsewhere. Simple Panda decoys can be easily constructed from everyday household objects and used to lure any potential 'nappers away from the real deal.

However inevitably there will come a time when your panda is required to attend a public event or give a speech, and in this instance you should use body doubles. All you need is a sympathetic person willing to have their face painted (or preferably surgically altered) to look like your panda and they can take all the risks in public situations.

3. Defend



However the more determined pandaknappers will eventually get round these ruses and so a third line of protection needs to be considered. This involves putting a physical line of defence between any potential threats. Obviously this means making you

panda's place of residence as intruder-proof as possible by installing alarm systems, security guards and other precautions, but your panda is likely to be at his most vulnerable when he is on the move and can easily be taken unawares. Therefore upgrade his conventional form of transport to an armour plated limousine of the type used by foreign dignitaries and employ bodyguards to run alongside. Not only does this form an effective defence, but it means he will travel with the style he deserves.

4. Develop



In the unlikely event of all the above failing, the 'nappers will have got through to your panda and it will be up to him to protect himself. The average panda is quite a docile creature, eating bamboo and seldom given to anger, but it is necessary to develop this emotion in him for him to be able to

successfully execute his defence. This can be done using a pleasure-pain indoctrination system resulting with the sight of potential 'nappers triggering a Pavlovian response driving him wild with rage. Concurrent to this, train up the panda's physical attributes and condition him to consume human flesh. The end result should be a panda, who, far from helpless, can make short work of any potential attackers.

For further detail on these ideas and more, see my best-selling book, " Panda Defence : 350 Ways To Protect Your Panda" available in most good bookshops. PS

The whole God thing

Phil Alderton solves another minor issue

One of the classic political problems I've studied is the issue of group loyalty. Say you're a member of a political party or a pressure group. Throughout your time as a member you've supported its activities and aims. Suppose an issue arises and the group adopts a position you cannot accept. Is it better to remain in the group and try and reform it from the inside, or leave the group? In the former case, you bite the bullet. In the latter, you lose the benefits you might have been receiving by being a member of the group, and unless you are highly influential in the group, or people are leaving enmasse, nothing is going to change because of your action anyway.

“ My solution to this is simple ”

I was reminded of this recently whilst re-reading Jay Mechling's excellent book on Scouting in the USA, *On my honor* (sic). Now, I'm sure I do not need to remind you about the Boy Scouts of America's notorious stance on the three "Gs" (girls, gays, and God - please pay attention). Whilst I'm sure the clear majority of OUSGG would reject their awful stance (a gay is not "morally straight", you see, and thus not an "appropriate role model" for Boy Scouts), we mustn't get too high minded. For the British Scout Association also has a nasty piece of discrimination written into its rule - a *de jure* bar on atheistic leaders.

Now, *de jure* does not mean *de facto*. I know lots of Scouters, and many very good ones at that, who would disappear were this bar enforced. That it isn't suggests that the majority of people involved in Scouting see it for what it is - an ugly hangover from less-enlightened days. Except, of course, that it isn't simple. It's a requirement written in to the constitution of the World Organisation of Scout Movements. Now, WOSM is a flawed and ungainly body in the first place, but as it is written in stone, it would take a heavy about of persuasion to get it changed, as a vast majority of other Scout organisations across the globe would have to be convinced. I'm sure most of them would be perfectly happy for a harmless deletion, but there a few loopier Scout Associations (what am I saying! It is incumbent in the concept of a Scout Association that it be loopy! But I digress) in the world who would probably kick up a hell of a fuss over this. Just think of the arguments in the European Constitutional Convention about whether God should

have a cameo role in our shiny new Constitution, and you'll see what I mean.

My solution to this is simple. Blackmail. Probably forbidden by the Scout Law ("A Scout shall not send incriminating photographs to the press"), but this is politics, and, I'm afraid, that means you have to get your hands dirty. Tomorrow, the sinister, oligarchic, and unaccountable Committee of the Council should unceremoniously drop the bar. Nobody will notice, the world will not end, and I'm sure the numbers involved in British Scouting will continually to merrily plummet without interruption. If some overpaid WOSM official notices and tries to censure the Scout Association, we play our trump card. We threaten to leave. Oh, and there's little thing in 2007 that might be affected. And then we'll have them begging for mercy.

If only somebody in Gilwell had the guts..

PS

Words of Wisdom

As heard on various OUSGG events

Micheal: Sleep is the second best thing to make the world better. The first is beer. Beer make world good.

Hayley: Downstairs and wriggle wriggle wriggle.

Mark: Alison, can you get down there and wiggle it - where the poles go.

Alison: Jenny and I are going as soon as Keith's finished erecting.

Mark: If you get turned on you flash.

PS

128th F&GPC Minutes

Phil Alderton *simply does his duty*

Held on 4th November 2003 in the Three Goat's Heads

Present:

Mark Hawkins (Chair), Maddy Bunch (Treasurer), Phil Alderton (Secretary), Sam Snelson (Chair-Elect), Jenny Robertson (SSAGO Rep), Caroline Berry, Michael Ramsden

The meeting was declared quorate and opened at 17:40

Apologies

None received

Minutes from last meeting:

Mark noticed a spelling mistake. Minutes were approved.

Matters arising

Mark has written the CRB policy and emailed it to the membership secretary to place in that file - Jenny to make sure there is hard copy in there.

Phil gave accounts for summer trip - he cannot account for Keith but presumed he had done the same for his trip.

Chair-elect book - Sam is starting from scratch and others are to email him to fill in blanks

Not sure if Gail had done mailing lists

Reports:

Chair

Term more or less sorted. 7th week on Friday due to venue issues. Has mooted idea of Monday meeting too (perhaps iceskating?). He needs to book restaurant for 8th week. Just needs to sort out Freshers' Camp and transport. *ACTION: Mark to continue his duties as chair*

Chair-elect

It's in the pipeline. He has rough idea for 4 meetings - welcome back, Erik's birthday, TGM and salsa. *ACTION: Sam to plan next term*

Treasurer

Started with £275.75, spent £123.50 (includes £44 for minibus). Membership fees are flooding in. There are outstanding debts from last term. She needs a volunteer to replace Natalie as signatory, but is unsure if we need everyone to resign. Natalie has already signed authorization form. Money's being paid in. *ACTION: Maddy to find signatory*

Secretary

He sent off the registration form, but has yet to get a reply. Assumes we are registered!

SSAGO Rep:

Four are going on a rally at weekend. Mention of SSAGO fund for special scouting and guidey things.

Any other business

Membership - Jenny thinks it's going well. Roughly 9 (8 ½ interested), of which 2 staying for a year. It says in membership file not to invite freshers to NnN, but we have been. People have been coming, especially those who can't make Mondays. Caroline

wondered if the first ones should be 'private' so we can get our gossip out of the way (obviously we can't exclude those who would come in 1st week.). 2 had come to fireworks due to going to NnN before.

Someone suggested moving job descriptions to members' section on website, as well as placing up there templates for termcard, freshers' fair sign ups etc. *ACTION: Officers and former officers to see if they have any documentation that could be placed on the website*

Quartermaster - The stores still exist. We do not need rope. All of ropes are at least 4 years old. If we need rope, buy it at the time. Much of it is unusable now.

Jenny - Received questions about OUSGG via email at the start of term but haven't seen those people. She was wondering if it was acceptable to email them. Consensus was that we should try and make contact to remind people about OUSGG. *ACTION: Jenny to contact those who were interested.*

Scout and Guide liaison - Mark been in contact with Julie Davison about CRB forms. we've had problems with them being fed back to people. They are supposed to be returned via her but appear to have never reached her. Julie Davidson passed Mark's complaints to Gilwell. They've somehow gone missing between there and her.

Around 6 people were interested in leadership (but has no idea how many have taken up posts). He is still waiting to hear back from Scout DC with regards to finding leaders. One person has been put in touch with Rob. May be worth re-emailing those who expressed an interest. *ACTION: Mark to continue dealing with this.*

43rd Oxford Scouts asked if there is anyone interested (they have 3 leaders). They also asked if we would be interested in joint events - maybe not this term but next term. We agreed to forward these ideas to chair-elect.

Jeanette ____ asked for a joint campfire. We didn't think it was appropriate for a freshers' meeting.

The Scout Network commissioner inquired about joint network meetings. Again we said should do that in Hilary term. Chair-elect was reminded that sometime in Hilary CRB will need to be done. Erik's birthday was mooted as a possible date as it seemed to work last year. *ACTION: Mark and Sam to find suitable date.*

Email lists - we can get more than one person administering the lists. At moment we have people on there like Alex & Suzanne. It might be worth reminding those people who joined last year but who we haven't seen this year. The membership secretary has to tell Gail about new members to add to members@ (there is another way to add people but we're not sure if it has been enabled).

When will contact list be done? Probably before freshers' camp. *ACTION: Membership secretary to contact those who joined last year but who we haven't seen yet.*

Meeting closed at: 18:11 PS