

NEWS FROM THE CLUBS

MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY.

Michaelmas Term at Manchester has been a busy one for the club, an active and varied programme attracting a large number of people. At registration our membership was an all time record - the number of paid up members being 95 (a number finally established by a harassed Treasurer). We cannot boast that all ninety-five members are active but we do have fifty to sixty who are active or semi-active. Our term's programme started with the Freshers' Social - the Freshers' outnumbered the rest! The Social was run on the usual lines - tea, introductions, dancing and games and the evening being rounded off by a sing-song.

Inter-varsity Rallies have proved very popular with the club and a large number attended the Rally at Ilkley - but how disappointing for a club of 95 to get only ten places! We appreciate the difficulties that Leeds and Newcastle had to face and would like to thank them for their efforts to "squeeze us in". Our Freshers' Hiking weekend was held at Edale and 34 members were present for the whole weekend and joined by five more on the Sunday. Three hikes of varying difficulty each day catered for everybody, but even then we had to allow a fourth on the Sunday for the "crocks".

Another successful venture this term has been the weekly discussion meeting. These meetings have been held after lectures and have proved very popular. Moreover they have attracted people who, because of their other interests, have not got the time to devote to the more active pastimes of the club. Topics have been varied, ranging from the more general problem of Scouting and Guiding to the more specific problems posed by questions from the Scout Wood Badge Part I. Hikes, a talk, a visit to a Magistrate's court and to the Crown courts, and a Folk Badge instruction Evening have filled the gaps. On December 7th - 8th the club organised a night hike for Senior Scouts of Manchester - we couldn't have chosen a worse weekend for it rained all day and night!

Our End-of-Term Social was held on December 6th and we welcomed visitors from Sheffield, Leeds, Liverpool and N. Staffs, as well as a number of old members. The whole evening was run at "top speed" and enjoyed by all. During the Christmas vacation a party hiked in the Lake District and vac. activities are planned for Easter and the Summer.

Trevor Smith



LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY.

This year the number of Freshers who came to our Freshers' Tea was less than in previous years but they seem to be making up in quality what they lack in quantity. Our Opening Hike was along the banks of the Mersey, not as some would think among the well known docks of Liverpool but along the lesser known, but much pleasanter stretch of shore between Hale and Speke. This was rounded off by a visit to the flat of Avril Clarke and Mary Attewell where we enjoyed hot dogs and coffee.

During the term we have had a variety of speakers. To mention two in particular:- Mr Rankin, a local schoolmaster and naturalist gave us an interesting talk on Wild Life in Wirral. Among other things he told us of the work he had been doing on ringing bats. This is a new line of research and he asked if any of us knew of colonies of bats to let him know. If anyone reading this has any information on bat colonies perhaps they would let me know so that I could pass the information on to Mr Rankin. Dr Flett combines lecturing in Mathematics with a keen interest in Scottish Dancing. He gave us a very interesting talk on Collecting Folk Dances in Scotland. He illustrated his talk with demonstrations by a group wearing costume for the part. He himself danced the Liverpool Hornpipe which he had discovered in his collecting. Other speakers included a local J.P., the Methodist Student Chaplain, a Guider to tell us about the World Camp and an R.S.P.C.A. Inspector.

A few of our members were at the Oxford Hallowe'en party and at the Leeds-Newcastle Rally. A carload accepted Manchester's invitation to their party. A group of the Club went to the Caernarvonshire Guides camp site, Felin Bach, for the weekend January 3rd - 6th. Next term we are looking forward to our own Christmas Party and to the Gilwell Rally where we hope to be well represented. We begin the term by paying our annual visit to the pantomime. The choice this year between Tommy Steele at the Royal Court and Ruby Murray at the Empire. We chose the latter ... I wonder why!

Marjorie Wells

ALSAGER TRAINING COLLEGE

This club was only started at the beginning of this academic year and is now officially registered at the respective H.Q.'s. There is a membership of about 20 and as they are all first year there will be a larger membership of all the newcomers to the college. As we are all training to be Teachers, we are naturally interested as to the effect that Scouting and Guiding has on children and a number of members help with the Troops, Companies and Packs in the village. Also some members give help to some spastic children nearby.

One member went to the Conference at Guide H.Q. during the Christmas vacation and some useful hints were acquired. Now, however, we are all running short of ideas as to what to do and how to attract other members of the Movements in the College to the club. Has anyone any helpful suggestions please?

Gilliam le Fèvre

ST. KATHERINE'S TRAINING COLLEGE (TOTTENHAM)

Although the fire in S. Katherine's college had rendered the Guide Club half strength it was by no means half spirit and its meetings were held as planned. The first meeting on 'The Windsor Camp' proved most interesting. Talks, illustrated by transparencies and photographs, were given by members who had been at the camp.

Six weeks later, the now confined quarters of the college were milling with 1st year students. Members of the Guide Movement were cordially welcomed by the club at an informal and friendly meeting at which athletic prowess showed in active games and brains were taxed in identifying odd objects photographed from very odd angles. A visit to the college of St. Mark and St. John for a camp fire was most enjoyable as was also a visit to the Gang Show. This term it is hoped to have another full programme of activities.



Bristol Scout and Guide Club enjoyed the usual activities during the Autumn Term. An attempt was made to balance the social activities with those of a more serious nature. Interesting discussions followed a talk by our Honorary Lady President on 'Scouting and Guiding for All' and also took place during a campfire held by Redland College Club.

BRISTOL UNIVERSITY

Co-operation between the club and the Rover Crew provided us with an enjoyable evening on J.I.M. at which many colour slides were shown. Members from Exeter and Redland Training College Clubs were represented at our annual weekend at Stowey in Somerset. Once again we proved that there is no limit to the number that can be packed into a small village hall! Our programme there included social activities on the Saturday night, a short night hike and a typical muddy hike on the Sunday.

The club's Annual Dinner was held this term, after which we held the usual social activities plus an added attraction, a showing of the Rally film and some film shot by an ex-member during a tour of duty in Canada with the R.A.F. The annual camp is due to be held during the Easter vacation and next August a party from the club are visiting Scandinavia for a walking tour. The co-operation within the club may be seen in that four 'club' marriages are due to take place later this year!!

Elizabeth Rogers



With a large influx of freshers, the Autumn Term went off to a good start with the Fresher's Hike and the Carnival, at which members appeared with red, green, yellow and blue faces, representing Scouts and Guides from many Planets at "Jamboree 2057".

BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY

Our speakers during the term dealt with Scout and Guide topics and the final meeting of the term took the form of discussions on some of these topics. Three saddlesore cyclists spent a weekend at Shrewsbury, but fortunately our transport to the Ilkley Rally was much more comfortable, being an Xxstxn Dormobile!! Visits to the Birmingham Mint (no free samples) and the Bolshoi Ballet Film were much enjoyed, and the term came to an end with a "sub-zero" night hike and the Christmas Party.

G. Brian Johnson



WESTMINSTER TRAINING

COLLEGE.

At the recent conference of scouts and guides in Training Colleges it was stated by some of the representatives that no practical scouting was done. If this is the case in other college crews and clubs I think that they may be interested in hearing of a way in which six members of the 41st Westminster Rover Crew (Westminster College) spent a recent weekend.

We visited Gilwell as a service patrol. Arriving on Saturday afternoon we were shown into the "Swan Hut" where we were to sleep on camp beds. After 'bedding in' we set to work with a patrol from Battersea tackling a wide range of jobs including bridge building, ditch clearing, painting, re-hafting axes, clearing sites, and cleaning stores etc. These and other tasks made a complete change from college life, and we are all looking forward to our next visit when we hope to take a larger patrol.

At Gilwell food was prepared for us in the White House where we dined with the permanent staff and other visitors. The only kit required was uniform, pyjamas, washing kit and old clothes. Our services are only required for two or three weekends per year. If any other crew is interested they will find that the demands are not exorbitant and an enjoyable, and cheap, weekend may be had. All I.H.Q. or County sites would welcome offers of help, and it is one way in which colleges can get down to some practical scouting.

Bernard Meldrum

CONFERENCE OF SCOUT AND GUIDE REPRESENTATIVES FROM TRAINING COLLEGES

On January 3rd, 1958, a conference for training college students was held at Guide Headquarters in London, twenty-five colleges being represented.

In the morning the Director of Education for Liverpool, Mr H.S. Magnay, gave a talk on "Scouting and Guiding and Teaching", in which he said that there had been no contribution to Education in his experience equal to that of Baden-Powell. The Movement had been a major influence in the transformation of Education over the past fifty years. The patrol system had led, indirectly, to group activities; the Law had given a code of conduct; handicrafts were now a common feature and the idea of service was spreading. The Movement was a pioneer in improving international relations. Next he discussed the influence of the school troops or company and asked whether a Scout and Guide Club in a school might not fill the same purpose or a better one. In concluding he asked us which was the better, in our opinion, for a training college - a Rover Crew and Cadet Company or a Club. By the end of the conference it had been suggested that a club had advantages in the crowded programme of college life in that all sections of the Movements were catered for, a Guider or R.S.L. was not necessary and that it made less demands upon time. Indeed, "If only we had the time", might easily have been the theme of the conference - it was repeated so often.

After lunch Miss Ursula Smith and Mr Charles Wood both spoke on how the H.Q.'s could help us and put forward various problems and suggestions. The reports of the discussion groups which followed can perhaps be summarised thus:-

- The Individual Unit - must be open to all students regardless of whether or not they are members of either movement. Care should be taken in deciding whether or not to wear uniform at a particular meeting. The publicising of the club to Freshers was emphasised.
- Locally - There should be better contact with local associations than is often the case at present, but students should not undertake the responsibility for a troop, company or pack.
- Regionally - Examples of co-operation between university and college clubs in the same area were cited. Regional Federations of clubs in one or two adjacent universities and colleges attached to their Institutes of Education, with joint meetings twice a year, were suggested.
- Nationally - It was decided that, subject to the sanction of both H.Q.'s, a weeks camp for training college students would be held at the end of August - the site probably in Staffordshire. A provisional offer, by members of SAGGA; Borough Road, London, Dudley and Redland College, Bristol, to form a committee to organise the camp was accepted.

The conference was an undoubted success in that several positive steps were taken and that those who attended it went home satisfied and enthusiastic.

A. D. G.