

SSAGO News

2003 Edition

Well it's been quite a year for SSAGO this year and as promised we are bringing you SSAGO News to let you know of some of things that have been going on. You'll find pen pictures of all the committee members for the year so that you can say you knew us when we're rich and famous. There are also some quick reports from rallies, random comments and a bit from SAGGA.

Introducing the Exec

Name: Martin James "Comedy" Whelan

Age: 21 (going on 45)

Position: Chairperson (a.k.a. Crisis Manager)

Club: Loughborough

Studying: Politics with Geography (finalist)

Most likely to say: "Sorry, that's my fault"

Least likely to say: "I've had enough"

Hidden talents: Representing Loughborough in University Challenge regional selection (they lost). FA registered referee since 1995. Can be known to bore to death!

Favourite food: Garlic mushrooms, Pepperoni pizza or salmon.

Name: Hannah "Spanner" Watts

Age: 23 (ouch!)

Position: Secretary

Club: hanger-on at Cardiff

Current Occupation: Support Worker for Adults with learning difficulties and challenging behaviour

Most likely to say: "Has anyone seen my screw-top red?"

Least likely to say: "Hung over in a reps meeting? I didn't touch a drop last night!"

Hidden talents: Can down a pint in seconds and has a penchant for odd shaped balls

Favourite food: Chocolate or Ice Cream, preferably both, at the same time

Name: Susan "Susie" Howells

Age: 21 ish

Position: Members Officer

Club: Somewhere between Derby and being an Indie

Studying: just finished BSc Geography

Most likely to say: "I'm stressed"

Least likely to say: "the angle of the triangle is proportionate to the sum..."

Hidden talents: Giving out advice to people. Being a good friend.

Favourite food: Graham's chocolate cakes amongst other things.

Name: Graham Michael "Not my fault" Johnson

Age: 21

Position: Treasurer

Club: Leicester

Studying: Combined Arts (finalist)

Most likely to say: "I'm not being funny but..."

Least likely to say: "Have you got change for a £50 note?"

Hidden talents: Playing the guitar and making nice Chocolate cakes

Favourite food: Sweet and Sour Pork

Name: James William "Bob the Builder" Child

Age: 21

Position: Publicity Officer

Club: Leeds

Studying: Civil Engineering with Construction Management MEng

Most likely to say: "Of course getting the exec to do karaoke is a good idea!"

Least likely to say: "I wish I was born a Lancastrian"

Hidden talents: Sometimes has the urge to go blond, has an alarmingly large vocal range when doing karaoke, and has passed Grade 8 Clarinet

Favourite food: Pizza or Chocolate (depending on the wind direction)

Gold Rally – July 5th – 7th

It was quite a novelty to arrive on a dry firm campsite in daylight at Nottingham University's sports ground. A good number of SSAGO members gathered for the final rally of term. The campfire burned well into the small hours of Saturday.

The morning activity was to walk around the Nottingham University campus doing small challenges en-route. These consisted of getting through an electric fence without touching it etc.

The afternoon activity – PUB CRAWL! ...Possibly the best pub-crawl yet, with a small amount of people and large amounts of beer, a good time was had by all! This pub-crawl saw the birth of Borris the pub-crawl mascot. He consists of a teddy bear from a charity shop, a shoe off the side of a street, numerous items from outdoors and a signed strappy top of everyone who was on the pub-crawl. It was ended up award to James Child, who felt slightly ill after the pub-crawl.

An excellent rally all round and congratulations to Andy Langton who attended his graduation ceremony the morning before running his rally

Le Rally – November 15th-17th 2002

Over 200 members were in a rainswept and mudbound Bramhope for the ULALA rally in November '02. Despite unfortunate problems with the local trains, everyone managed to end up in northern Leeds without too many issues.

The rain managed to keep away long enough for the usual afternoon's activities (even if certain people decided to get lost!) but couldn't dampen spirits at was was to be Rannygazoo's last barn dance in their present form. Once they had been made life members of SSAGO the barn dance kicked off the usual amusing scenes (what was Helmet trying to do??) for the Saturday night.

Sunday had the novelty of seeing chariots being used to transport team members amongst other things and the use of bananas as weapons of torture. You could almost say most people enjoyed their visit to the frozen North!

Do something different this summer?

If you want to do something service-based this summer, but want something different to the usual jamboree service crew, why not be staff at GaSCiT 2003...?

This summer, a team from SAGGA are running a patrol-based camp for Scouts and Guides who have not camped before. Between 25th and 29th July, Scouts and Guides (and their leaders!) will descend on Beaudesert Park campsite, near Cannock, Staffordshire for GaSCiT 2003 (Guides And Scouts CampIng Together).

We want the Scouts and Guides to leave GaSCiT 2003 with skills that they can use again, and lots of happy memories. For this, we need YOUR help! Each patrol will be supported by an adult member of staff, who will help them with the day-to-day routines of camp.

We will also be running a full balanced programme, including patrol and whole camp activities alongside adventurous and traditional camp activities. This means that we'll need lots of staff!! Whether you have specialist activity skills, or just a lot of enthusiasm and the patience to work with young teenagers, then come along.

In 2000, SAGGA ran a GaSCiT camp at Kibblestone, Staffs., and several SSAGO members went along to work with patrols and to help with activities. It was a great laugh and very rewarding - we had lots of fun and made many new friends.

To find out more, our website is www.gascit.org.uk , or get in touch with me (email camp@gascit.org.uk) You won't regret it!!

Mad Emuss.

Le Rally Comments

Reginald the radiator is doing fine, currently residing in the outhouse of our President. (His original place of abode was in one of the first year halls, but the cleaners there didn't share our appreciation of him and requested his removal at the end of term). He is currently awaiting his promised facelift, to be done in Warwick colours, and will no doubt be making an appearance in the near future.

On a more serious note - all who attended both rallies had a fantastic weekend and as we put together our own rally we appreciate more and more the hard work that goes into making rallies such a success. Fiona (Warwick SSAGO)

A note to all those confused people – Reginald was liberated from a skip on the scavenger hunt and presented as a booby prize to Warwick for humorous behaviour (or something like that)

Southampton SSAGO

Wehey...I think we're almost there. We were a club of about 12 members, only 6 or 7 of which regularly attended events, when I accepted the position as Chair. At the time I told everyone I'd got a few aims to fulfil before I handed over to another unsuspecting victim, not least the introduction of a sweatshirt and mascot and increasing the number of members to 20. This last item especially received a laugh, along with several doubtful look. Well, Southampton SSAGO now has at least 25 regular members, a couple of logo tops and a mascot...not bad going really. So far this term we've gone bowling, had a campfire of somewhat unorthodox songs (in true SSAGO fashion), and completed a series of particularly messy games (the champion of which has to be Richard), with plenty of events still to come. We're also taking 16 people to the ULALA Le Rally, most of whom are still Rally virgins, so this is definitely a huge achievement for us. I'd just quickly like to thank everyone for their continuing support, especially Helen, without whom we couldn't have got this far. See you all at the Rally, and watch out 'cause Southampton SSAGO are most definitely here. to stay

Grahams random comments from the Midlands

This year I have been happy to maintain the role of the SSAGO treasurer, mostly pissed curled up round a campfire...erm.

I have been busy trying to increase sales of revenue by sending out emails trying to drum up business (we have a nice line in SSAGO merchandise (Treas@ssago.org.uk for details...)). I have been looking over the accounts for this year and sorting out bits and pieces and moonlighting as clubs list sorter...(for a time...).

Also Looking at rallies and making sure that we do not continue to make a loss. Any questions to the above email address... I have been going to events (mostly in the midlands) and have promoted the good name of SSAGO to all of the heathens who do not know what we are, and also to those who have forgotten (are we not memorable?) and otherwise mostly helping a local clubs in need of help and support...

Graham Johnson - SSAGO Treasurer 2002-2003

Random Comments

BUSAG is still alive and kicking and ready to cause havoc near you!

The year started well for LUUSAG with a lot of interest and many signers-up at fresher's fair, in no small part due to those of us willing to sit at a little table for hours on end making pix of James in his spiky hat look interesting...

Last year one of the situations was 'the Queen of England has her hand bag stolen by Tinky Winky and the A Team come to the rescue.'

a lot of our members also attended a weekend walking in snowdonia, which was wet but fun, although swimming in the Irish sea in October is not recommended!!

Oxford's PostScript Quotes

Thank you to Oxford for their issues of PostScript. Here are some excellent quotes.

:Rob: I need to go and join Christina in the bushes

Alison: You have to suck for quite a long time before you get any liquid

Phil: Don't wrestle a chimney sweep.

Tristram (to Alison): Bend over and swallow

Christina: Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, but I don't have one.

Chris: Can I stroke Sam?

Rob: You have to be really careful not to slip it out in front of cubs.

Chairs corner

As my two years on the Exec comes to an end I must take this rare opportunity to thank everyone who has kept me sane, particularly over the last six months which have been particularly hard for me personally. Particular thanks to James and Hannah for filling in for me during my two periods out during the autumn term. Thanks also to Susie and Graham for their work over the year. Special thanks must also be extended to Sarah Norton who filled the role of representative to SAGGA during the autumn term and assisted greatly in the administration during the last term.

SSAGO has built on the strong legacy left by the 2000-01 committee lead by Ali Hutchinson and last years committee headed up by Pam, by successfully developing a number of new clubs and the continued increased interest in the rallies. A number of existing clubs have been re-invigorated by the efforts of a number of dedicated individuals but there is not room here to thank them all. The current Exec will leave a strong growing organisation which in my opinion is increasingly important in the provision of Scouting and Guiding post 18.

Publicity is something which is particularly important for the organisation, so events at the last rally do not help, and do threaten the continuation of national events if similar behaviour persists. I would hope some of what occurred was not due to SSAGO members as there is some doubt for one of the incidents, and if they were that it was a one-off.

Finally although I hope to finish my course at Loughborough in the next couple of months I will try and keep involved in SSAGO, but as I intend to move to Scotland to further my education and train as a secondary school teacher it may be difficult due to the long distances. Thanks to everyone.

James's clippings from the Press Office floor

This year has been an interesting one to say the least in terms of public perceptions, what with a big Viking bear (thanks Dave!) spreading the word in Thailand for us and two articles in Scouting Magazine helping us to recruit new members.

In September, the exec landed on what has become the yearly publicity stunt at the Gilwell Reunion with great enthusiasm armed with silly hats, obscenely yellow t-shirts (thanks Graham) and a certain exec member's hair dyed peroxide blond (ok, it was me, I admit it!). Other than the usual stall (with amusing pictures of Cardiff SSAGS), we managed to spread the word via many renditions of random stuff at the kareoke (maybe YMCA wasn't a good choice though...). Our singing was so good we ended up mentioned in Reunion Extra, the free newsletter. Maybe some of that was due to a certain Mr Simon Keen of CUSAGC fame being their roving reporter? I must get round to paying his bribe...er...fee!

On a personal front I have been busy with satisfying your urges when it comes to poster consumption and amusing myself with the website. It will get an update before the AGM I promise, as long as I don't end up doing to it what I did back in March when it disappeared from the web for a week! Other than that my achievements for the year have been to prove that incorrectly stacked Edam can kill and that I can last a rally without losing my voice!

Take care, enjoy the remainder of the year and remember that there is always someone out there worse off than you. The organisers of rallies for instance!

Until next time

James Child – SSAGO Publicity Officer 2002-2003

Credits

With thanks to Hannah for the making and collating of this edition of SSAGO News

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Thanks also to anyone else who gave input in any way.

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