



King Size

PLUS NEWS

Magazine of the National Federation of Eighteen Plus Groups
Autumn 2004

Crawley take Gold at 4th National Treasure Hunt



The victorious Crawley team relax on the Tattershall Castle after a closely run event: they scored full marks and had to get past a tie-breaker to win

Our national mummy



Victors of vertigo



Tina gets tough



Almost 21?



National Chairman's Bitz

Hello Plussers,

Well gang, hope you are all enjoying yourselves. I have been very busy getting around the Federation, and there is a lot more to do. The restructuring process is going to take some time and there is more on this later in this issue.

So what have I been doing, well I shall tell you:

- Coventry's 40th Birthday Dance, thanks to Adam for putting me up, and a great hosted event.
- Kings Lynn Camping Weekend, my liver is still intact although drinking vodka and coke till 10am was fun.
- National Treasure Hunt was great as usual with the beer flowing and the number of competitors was excellent. Well done.
- Kirsty & Kath's house warming in Southampton, a good laugh and ended up with the cooking utensils again, but thanks for putting me up for both nights.
- Fareham's Murder Mystery was a blast, getting roped in to do some acting, but the mummy stole the show (oh – that was me), thanks.
- Halesowen's Charity Auction, with yours truly donating a cooked homemade meat pie, which I believe fetched the highest amount with two sisters fighting over it! Well organised and a great fun event.
- NEC Meeting was my first in the position as Nat Chair but hey, kept them on track (just); we made some headway and time will tell as I mentioned above.
- Amsterdam with Barnet, thanks to Mike, Mark, Lucy, Helen & Celia for their company over the weekend; doing the usual, window shopping buying those DVDs and having a laugh at other peoples' expense, you know who you are!
- Havering Group Night - playing computer games by destroying cars, good fun. Thanks for the hospitality.
- Barkingside Group Night - it was nice to see them although I was a week early, work commitments would stop me from attending their 5th birthday party the following week.
- Lara's BBQ - I have been told to mention this and thanks for putting me up for the night,



also the burgers were nice as was the beer and company.

- Barkingside Dance & BBQ - Although I did not go to the BBQ bit as I was committed at the time (sorry) I enjoyed the dance with Mark & Katie's disco.
- EAA Pitch 'n' Putt was fun and gave me a chance to get my clubs out of moth balls; hitting a 75 on a par 3 was great (for me), and thanks to the organisers and my playing partners (don't go there!)
- Soton Friends Group Night was short as I arrived later than intended, had a good chat and met some new and potential new members.
- Banbury Disco, would like to thank the organisers as I had a great time, especially with the weather being so good.
- Multi Activity Weekend, what a great time and if you missed it there's a report later in this issue, must say it was incredible. Excellent, Barry.
- Inspire, this event was greatly received by all, and it showed members that you can do anything to open a group with good team work and a great deal of advice, those that went got a certificate and can use that in your CV. Well done Francis.

So what is happening with next year's events?

- NGOOT Early May Bank Holiday Weekend – Now Get Out Of That, a challenging weekend with fun and puzzles galore.
- TAG (to be renamed) 17th – 19th June 2005 – A camping weekend with all the fun music and live entertainment, plus I think beer.

So enjoy all that is coming up, and WASH should be excellent in November; get your bookings in, if I can go you can too. Have fun and see you in the bar.

I ask one thing of all members, that is go out there and sell 18 Plus, it has its good points and bad, but we all have a great time, you know it makes sense to be a Plusser.

Wayne Fenton
National Chairman

Editor's Column

Hi everybody...

Hasn't Summer flown quickly this year! It's September already and for most of us the holiday season is almost over, although for a lucky minority of Plussers there is still the holiday in Pefkos, Rhodes, to come.

It's been a busy and an important summer for Eighteen Plus, with the NEC well on the way with vetting and analysing the various ideas put before the ANC and thereafter.

In spite of that, the goal of many a Plusser is simply to have fun and there have been many opportunities for this over the last few months; the Multi Activity Weekend, Fareham's Murder Mystery, Halesowen's Charity Slave Auction, Treasure Hunt, and Kings Lynn camp-over to name just a few. Simply check your group programme or go to our website (www.18plus.org.uk) to check out the activities of other groups, your area, or further afield. With



so much going on, and areas and groups opening their events to all Plussers more than ever before, there's no excuse for being at a loose end as the nights draw in.

Finally, thank you to all those who made kind remarks about the last Plus News, they really are much appreciated. I do hope you enjoy this bumper issue, and remember to keep the articles and piccies coming in!

See you soon

Ian Crawshaw
Editor
plusnews@18plus.org.uk

Contributions to this issue have come from Adrian Barnard, Alison Berthier, Andy Cole, Brian Taylor, Emma Brindley, Iain Parkes, Jarrett Smith, Lorraine Whiting, Lucy Smith, Mark Hewson, Matthew Dickinson, Nigel Mathewson, Paul Catterwell, Peter Sherrington, Simon and Esther George, Tina Bunyan, Wayne Fenton

EAA Splatter Day

It would seem to be human nature to wish to indulge in man to man combat from gladiators of ancient history to going on holiday in Iraq! So here we are human combat "Plus style" - the custard pie fight!! It didn't start well ... it rained, but nevertheless a large group of people formed just for this event, well to spectate actually, only a few (mad) people took part. An arena was erected (oo-er) and the fun took place in an "everybody vs everybody" darn good splattering!

Like all the most pleasurable times I've had in Plus it was over in moments. And so the water fight commenced! El-Presidente continually shot me in the groin, which was fine as I just shot him in the head!

A second round of custard pies then took place in which someone said "Let's get Joe" and though El-Presidente fought valiantly (viva El-Presidente!!) he was plastered! He then tried to



encourage the National Chair to also be covered in yuk and our cigar smoking leader ran for dear life as now the "swamp-thing" Joe hurried for an embrace. After another water fight it was time for the BBQ. Thank God I didn't need a risk assessment for putting up a gazebo! Thus the day ended with food and footy.

Everybody commented what great fun they'd had and most of the spectators said they wished they had taken part. As I said goodbye

to Havering and Mr. National Chair, an Indian family proposed I marry their two daughters (I ran off very gracefully)! Big thanks to Mat, Joe, Simon, Havering, Romford, and all others for their help in a fun day!

Brian Taylor



Who Did It?

On the 10th July 2004, 61 people gathered at Titchfield Community Centre, where Fareham and Gosport 18 Plus were holding a Murder Mystery evening, set in ancient Egypt.

After everyone had settled down with a drink, we were welcomed to the Hotel Giza in Cairo, where there had been a number of murders lately. Some members of the audience were then cast as the following characters:

Adrian Barnard - **Kha Booht**, a Kaftan-attired Egyptian hotelier, slimy character who knew how to make a buck or two;

Huw Morris - **Sir Howard Bonham-Carter**, the Earl of Cardigan, a chauvinistic, eccentric archaeologist, who had a strong welsh accent (and very good it was as well!);

Tina Bunyan - **Lady Herd of Cowes**, the black widow and mother of Sir Howard, widowed twice and a drama queen (out of character, so really tested her acting – well done!);

Wayne Fenton - **Karma Kanic**, an Egyptian tour guide and 'mummy' expert, who kept harping on about the Mummy's curse ("wotz upp" - you had to be there!!) and later on, as the Mummy itself (complete with flashing red eyes!);

Karla Burnett, who played **Cleo Patcher**, Sir Howard's side-kick and like someone out of an old black and white movie;

Nick Hollands, who played **Indiana Bones** - our exciting hero, archaeologist and adventurer;

Last, but not least ... Lorraine Brown, who played **Detective Platform of the Station** - a typical 1920's detective, wearing a trench coat, "ello, 'ello, 'ello" and all that.

Over the evening, between buffet courses, we all watched the scenes unfold and Sir Howard Bonham-Carter and Kha Booht both fell victim to the killer.

Then, using the clues, we tried to figure out the guilty one.

At the end of the evening it was revealed that Lady Herd of Cowes was the killer and she was taken away by the people in white coats.



As well as a thoroughly enjoyable evening, we raised £344.17 for our local RSPCA centre, called The Ark.

On behalf of Fareham and Gosport 18 Plus, thank you very much to everyone who attended and contributed to the huge success of the evening, but a special thanks to all the 'plusser' actors and actresses, who made the play all the more enjoyable.

Emma Brindley
Fareham and Gosport 18 Plus

Southern Area trip to the London Dungeon

The London Dungeons were visited by six members on September 11th. At this time of year you tend to be rushed through the exhibits on a guided tour of sorts, but have little time as you're herded like sheep (to the slaughter) to examine the exhibits. I only had time to note that crimes punishable by death in the 1800's included hiding someone from the revenue man and 'worrying' farm animals.



Afterwards HMS Belfast and Tower Bridge were visited. I noted a large glass rugby ball now graces London's skyline that I don't remember from 2 years ago. We examined a few things whilst there for the next London day out, which should include a Thames cruise.

Adrian Barnard

Losing their Marbles

Some say that Crawley members have been losing their marbles for years and this was finally confirmed when Neil Brennan, Debbie Hewett, Greg Kelson, Nigel Bullen, Craig Thornton, and Matthew Parr were defeated by last year's quarter finalists in the World Marbles Championship, which is held every year at the Greyhound pub in Crawley.

Neil was top shooter but the other guys had problems flicking. "I am not used to playing with such small balls in public", said Matt as he tried to shoot into the concrete ring whilst projecting with accuracy.

Crawley had got off to a good start by beating another bunch of no hopers and confidence was

running high but defeat was inevitable when a lengthy break before the next round allowed the team members to settle in at the bar and have a drink or three. "I think we lost concentration after a few pints and the training diet of bags of pork scratchings may have to be looked into if we are to mount a serious challenge next year", said team captain Nigel from the bar, where the team were quick to console themselves and prepare for their next challenge. Does



Matt Parr taking a pressure shot!

anyone know when the basket weaving championships will be held?

Peter Sherrington
Crawley 18 Plus

East meets West (or Consolidation in the L&SE Area)

Report on the London and South East Area event where 'East meets West' (or is that Crawley meets West Kent !!)

The afternoon started with the cultural element to the event, which was a tour of the Palace of Westminster. Fortunately the politicians had gone on their holidays (not politically correct version of recess) the day before, so we weren't able to voice our opinions on the extortionate amount of money that 18 Plus has had to repay the Government this year!! After a 90 minute tour, we were beginning to gasp (for a drink) so headed off in the direction of the local Wetherspoons in Whitehall.

After necking a few in there, it was time to feed the hungry and to sample the culinary delights in Chinatown. Dave Madison made an excellent choice of restaurant and we almost managed to



all choose the same menu (well there is always one isn't there)!

After filling our stomachs it was time to wash it all down with a few more beers before heading for home. This was the first area event for some while and was attended by some old and our newest member (Giles). I am not sure if Giles thought that the events in the pub were some sort of initiation ceremony, but hopefully he wasn't put off too much!!

Thank you to the organisers, Wendy Head (Crawley) and Steve Hawker (West Kent). I think the event was successful and a good time was had by (almost) all, even if a few members did return smelling like a brewery.

Andy Cole
London & South East Area Chairman



Congratulations!!



Ian & Mandy Broadbridge

Two Solihull members Ian & Mandy tied the knot at Hockley Heath Baptist Church on 10th July 2004.

Ian has been a member for 14 years and has served as Group Chairman, Mandy a member for 4 years and has served as Group Treasurer. Many Solihull members were present for the celebrations. The happy couple celebrated their honeymoon with a tour of the Rocky Mountains and a cruise around Alaska. We wish them all the best for their future life together.

Mark Hewson



Simon & Esther George

Simon George and Esther Garnett of Slough Windsor & Eton group were married at Slough Registry Office on Saturday 17 July.

Simon joined 18 Plus in 1981 and is a former National Development Officer as well as Area Chair for Thames Valley. An ex Labour Councillor, he now works for Royal Mail.

Esther joined in 1997 and was a member of Dunstable and Hounslow before joining Slough Windsor & Eton group. She is Deputy Manager of a residential home for young vulnerable adults in Windsor.

They originally met at Sharon Folley's New Year's Eve party in 2001 and fell in love after attending the weekly pub quiz nights in West Drayton, popular with Hounslow and Hillingdon members.



Noel Edmunds, Miss World, and Dodgy Aircraft!

I have recently found your site and only wished the internet and e-mail was around when I was in it!

I enjoyed 18 Plus for six years between 1974 - 1980 and the majority of friends made locally at Weston-Super-Mare 18 Plus group I am still in touch with. We supported many of the National events including Caister, Great Yarmouth and TAG at Trentham Gardens and the camping weekends at Brixham in Devon. I actually won

the Smiley Miley competition, guessed the distance the Radio 1 caravan had been pulled to Caister, and was interviewed by Noel Edmunds (who's he you might ask) on stage ON AIR; the experience of a lifetime in front of 1500 Plussers. I was host, publicity, and the dizzy heights of chairman during that time.

The Annual National Conference came to my home town in 1978 and I stood on the committee as publicity for that. The involvement

gave me the greatest pleasure (and quite a few headaches) especially when asked to organise the Miss United Kingdom to judge the Miss 18 Plus competition, her agents were the Miss World office in London, of the Eric Morley empire. Sadly on the night of the dance there was a phone call from them to say she had a bad cold and would not be coming; that would have been a feather in my cap, but to no avail. I still have the contract of engagement in my archives at home.

Gosh the memories! I seem to remember 262 delegates sat in the ballroom for the daytime business and nearly 900 for the evening dance and Miss 18 Plus competition. Needless to say the bar was well patronised and after 18 months of work at the end of the weekend I was the last out of the building with the entertainments officer of the borough council who turned the key to lock it! That was probably my claim to fame in 18 Plus. Due to the sheer hard work of the committee it was a great success.

Oh yes the 18 Plus / Club 18-30 joint venture to Majorca and you know their reputation, well after singing their silly b****y songs for a few days, we put the reps into shape and got them into the 18 Plus way, a great week, more new friends. We presented Caroline the rep with a leather hand bag and a bottle of champagne, and she was very touched by our gesture. Did anyone tell of the diverted flight to Brussels? Well, air traffic controllers in France went on strike. A new word then, we spent all day in Palma airport, then took off in an old Comet 4B; the one the tail section used to fall off. A quick descent in total darkness, traffic driving on the right hand side through the mist, 1 hour on the tarmac in Belgium to refuel. Still no clearance to fly. Then to be told they, DanAir, would put us up in a hotel, the Sheraton no less so it was £47 for the week in Majorca and £39 for one night's stay in Brussels, and then breakfast with the Captain and co-pilot! That meant more duty frees and the captain asked the front four rows

to sit in the back because the aircraft was nose heavy! Gosh the memories.

Some good came out of the debauchery and alcohol, having collapsed out of the organisation in 1980, bought a house, and joined the local hospital radio society in its early stages, I was fundraiser for them and created a training scheme for the ward visitors to go and interview patients and put the recording with their music requests on that night. I knew the Noel Edmunds experience would come in handy at some stage! Just to finish off, Sunshine Radio (Hospital Radio for Weston-Super-Mare) in conjunction with the Operatic Society produced a variety show to raise funds for us, to include scenes from Miss Saigon and Les Miserables. They asked SR members to be in it and naturally I turned down the offer?? – not on your life! The three performances raised £3400 for SR.

The Somerset November Illuminated Carnival Circuit creates the largest opportunity for charities to raise money locally and guess what... yes, got roped in on that as Weston Carnival Collections Officer.

I can happily say that turning up on a cold wet windy night in October to an 18 Plus club night in 1974 has given me so many life experiences and others so much pleasure to which I say 18 PLUS, THANK YOU.

Kind Regards,
Nigel Mathewson
The Bowler Hat, Apron, and Knees of Caister

[Although now on a smaller scale, this shows how little the Spirit of Eighteen Plus has changed. One of the nice things about Plus today is that everybody seems to know everybody else, areas and groups forming no boundaries. Plus News welcomes articles from all current and former members – Ed]

Essex Girl's Pulling Tips!

- ♥ Don't wear anything too short or revealing or the blokes will think you are a tart
- ♥ Pay compliments and try not to be rude
- ♥ Maintain an air of mystery
- ♥ Avoid blokes who ask how much you earn, or who shower you with gifts
- ♥ Take mints when you go clubbing

Lorraine Whiting - Havering Group

The Business Page

A new regular feature which will keep you up to date on the latest news concerning the future of the Federation and other important current issues

This is the second report of how and what the NEC are putting together for the restructuring of the Federation. Can I please point out that the notes below are a guideline to how the meeting went, but hope you understand that we still have a great deal of sorting out, so that we can get it just about right for all concerned. Also that staffing issues will not be published – I hope you understand the reasons for this.

We looked at the following areas:

Communication (Sub team)

At present this is a hard subject and the team has now been given some clearer guidelines to look at, however the following will be implemented and monitored immediately.

a) Message Board set up on National Website for conversation and messages, however if this is abused in anyway then the facility maybe withdrawn.

b) A business page set up in Plus News, so that this communication can be broadcast to the whole of the Federation and not just to the ONElist subscribers (Implemented).

This team will also look at costs for direct postings to all members, focusing on Plus News.

Web Design (Sub team)

This is still being worked on and is very involved, however the NEC have asked this team to produce a working model of how the site will work.

Charitable Status (Sub team)

This team is to look at Insurance for the Trustees which would be the NEC members, the benefits we would get from being charitable, and before going for charitable status, ensuring the national constitution contains all the indemnities for charitable status.

Groups, Area & National Structure

At present a great number of ideas have come out of this, including lower number of group committee positions, decrease the number of areas, introduce a Web Manager as part of the National tier. We also looked at including Activities & PRO as NEC voting

members. This is something that a number of different proposals will be putting together giving you the choice of the whole structure.

Memberships

Incentive schemes were considered. The following was also looked at and will form a number of proposals, however no figures were discussed at this time.

a) Open membership with an open age range, however groups still having the right as usual to positive vetting of new members.

b) A joining fee, discounts, renewal incentives, event discount vouchers, etc.

c) Two-tier membership scheme for participating and non participating members.

Our main concern is that the amount of work required to put all this together could mean that we have to extend our deadlines, and that the ANC 2005 will be when the proposals will be finalised. We still intend to hold group ballots prior to the ANC, as the ANC will be when we shall implement the new constitution.

We as an NEC have set up yet another meeting on the 25th Sept, where we shall hopefully get a better picture of how to present and put together the various ideas to give you and your group the choices of how your Federation moves forward.

We are running out of time and I hope you can appreciate that your Area Chairman & General Purposes Committee are giving up a great deal of their own personal time and effort in trying to bring proposals to make this Federation better and greater, however I will say that no matter how hard the NEC work it is you and your groups and members that must go out there and sell the benefits of 18 Plus to the masses. Without that, this is all a meaningless task and the Federation could fall.

Thank you for your patience, and trust us.

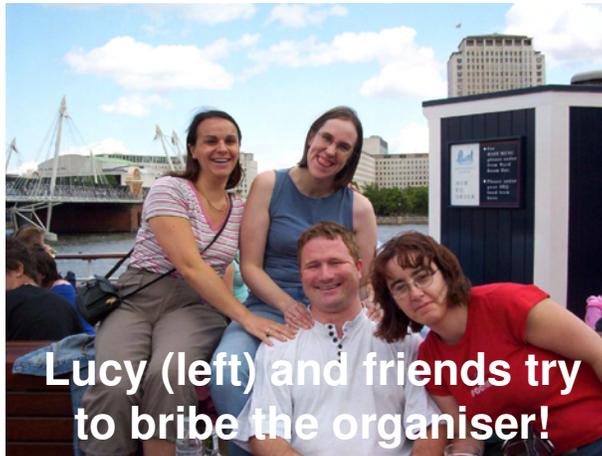
Regards
Wayne Fenton
National Chairman

Barnet on board National Treasure Hunt

On arrival in the afternoon at the Tattershall Castle, the sun was shining. Whilst waiting for the rest of my group to turn up I sat out on board of the deck and joined Ian and a few others. The groups started to come along and once my lot were all ready we set off on our route, with still no sign of any cloud or rain. Well we had a good time and a lot of walking involved saw many sights of interest and some statues that weren't part of the clues but did amuse some of us anyway. At Hyde Park we bumped into many other groups but being as they were the opposition didn't talk too much, and at this point it was chance to get a drink or an ice cream or for some a toilet stop.

With most of the answers nearly done, and fatigue starting to kick in with some of us, we made our way back along The Mall. Walking

pace was now getting slower and we had only two more statues to find. We lost two of our number as Andy headed into a McDonalds and I made my way back to the boat. A much needed glass of wine was calling!



This is where I met quite a few others who had come along to join us after the tour so it was nice to sit and drink with them, while waiting for everyone to finish. We had a really enjoyable day and we got two prizes, one for coming 3rd (we got only one answer wrong) and another prize

for having the most members that day to take part so we were very happy. A great day and evening too, many thanks to Ian for such a great event.

Lucy Smith
Barnet Plus

Be Afraid ... Be Very Afraid ... B...REAN !!!

Well the multi-talented Mr. Fenton may have moved "on to higher things" but the good news is ... Brean 2005 will go ahead and the dates you need to keep free are Fri 18 – Mon 21 March 2005. Details are still being finalised but your 2005 holiday is likely to include the following:

- Real Ale Trip
- RAW Talent Show
- Top DJ and Bands on all 3 nights



- Kite Flying



- Quizzes
- Pegging
- Parties until dawn (guaranteed)

All for just £49.50 (£1 increase on 2004)

Your organisers are two long term members and stalwart party-goers who can create the Brean atmosphere better than most: introducing Chris Page and Lara Collins!

STOP PRESS ... SLOUGH CHRISTMAS DANCE ... STOP PRESS...

Slough Windsor & Eton will be holding a Christmas Dance on Sat 4th December at the Powerleague Soccer Centre, Ragstone Road, Slough, from 7.30 to midnight (last orders just after 11). The price is £5 in advance, £6 on the

night, and £1 surcharge on non-production of membership card. Please bring a wrapped present! Contact Tina Bunyan for more information.



The ONElist ... Keeping you in touch on all matters Plus

The National 18plus Yahoogroup is where you need to be to get all the up to date news on events, issues affecting the Federation and more, as well as one of the best ways to publicise your own group or area event! Still affectionately known as the "ONElist", its co-ordinator Jarrett Smith explains...

ONElist is the National Federation's highly cost-effective way of improving communication at a national, area, regional, group, and member level.

ONElist serves as both an email-list and web based forum, as well as an extranet with various facilities including the "National Resources Online" Files Zone which serves as an online Knowledge Base for the 18 Plus community.

ONElist also serves as an alert mechanism to notify members of last minute programme changes or breaking developments within the organisation.

With 300 members subscribed, ONElist is almost guaranteed to reach every group in the Federation, when the Special Notice System is utilised sending a message to almost everyone subscribed.

Among the multiple advantages of the ONElist network are:

- No cost for hardware or software (provided by users)
- No cost for telephone or Internet connect time (borne by users)
- No cost for salaries of operators (the users)
- Large number of eyes & ears connected
- Simultaneous distribution to all subscribers.

Membership includes access to the Online Resource Library (Files Zone), Member Polls, Members List, Database (inc. Press Contacts Database), Links (massive resource of links to other organisations, resources online and much more).

Also includes access to important national information, breaking news, other members nationwide, and essential training guides and material.

PLUS -

- * Extensive 18 Plus photo albums
- * Extensive links to 18 Plus and related websites.
- * Club night events
- * Activities guides
- * Group, Area and National job descriptions
- * Classified sections - sell unwanted personal or group items online
- * Development & Training guides & info
- * Take part in an online survey
- * Keep in touch with friends
- * View member profiles, exchange photos and info via your personal Yahoo Briefcase and photo album
- * Insight into the 18 Plus archives
- * Access to National, Area and Group info and news
- * You choose email options - regular, digest, special delivery, web only.

SPECIAL NOTE: The 18 Plus Forum is open to members only.

ONElist HOME PAGE:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/18plus>

TO JOIN USE THE FOLLOWING SUBSCRIBER OPTIONS -

TRY US OUT?

18plus-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

18plus-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

Alternately - JOIN NOW!

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/18plus/subscribe>

PLEASE PASS THIS INFORMATION ON TO FELLOW MEMBERS.

Regards,

Jarrett Smith
18plus Forum Co-ordinator
18plus-owner@yahoogroups.com



A weekend to remember (or from vertigo to Vertex!)

Well the best way to start this is just to say one thing: to those that were not there, you missed out!

Friday – Arrived about 7:30 and put up tent with help from Jeff and another – thanks. Then settled down to the entertainment of watching Nikki put her tent up (that was funny). We then sat around Jeff's tent to an evening of chatting, drinking, laughing, drinking, catching up, and did I mention drinking? Then to bed early for me, but all others must have gone around 3am.

Saturday – Got up about 8am (flippin' early) and had a hot shower, and when I say hot I mean hot. Later we all met around 9:15am for a chat about the day and we were split up into teams.

Kayaking was our first activity with a leisurely trip around the lake, being shown and trained to do different tasks. One member decided to have an early bath (Martin), well he did say he needed to wash his hair but forgot the herbal shampoo. We then had a break followed by a NGOOT challenge with a few laughs trying to get through hoops as quickly as possible; our team won (makes a change). A good team-work event. Had chilli for lunch, then we had the archery with a mad individual "Pete" (more on him later), then on to the shooting which I thought was great fun.

Saturday night started slowly with a good pub meal. The dance took a little time to get going but you know me, I started dancing (I don't *think* that made anyone leave), it was a great night, and then back for a chat and more drink. Also started playing cupid to get Sam and Barry together, and the Sunday night revealed near all (well done Stud).

Sunday – Well it is good to get up after a good night / morning's drinking, was it a good idea to do "Vertex"? Barry had bugged me so much the night before; I had to actually do it. Well for those that don't know I am terrified of heights, so I managed to get up the pole to the first rung, then that was that for me as I could not do any

more. All the others went up to the top, brave members, and then it was the leap of faith, and yes I did do it, but could not do much more though, but thanks to Barry for helping me do the other things that the Vertex could supply. Well done to all.

That afternoon after some chips we had a great time windsurfing (a new thing for me), but spent most of the time in the water or reeds, however when I did manage to get on the board and stand up, I got the sail up but then what happens? The sail comes out of the board and I say hello to the water yet again. But great fun all in all.



Sunday night we had a really great quiz with Owen, a great deal of fun and I knew I should not

have given the other team that extra half point for then we would have drawn, but we all shared the prizes anyway. The event now started in anger with Sam and "Mad" Pete with the night exercise of an obstacle course where we had time trials, it was such a laugh in the dark, yes it was around 11:30pm and there was some great fun and those heels did make a difference, especially the guys. Then it was in to the indoor arena for the kids' playpen, where we had more time trials and had to encourage Jane to go and do it, she did very well, had a go too, and got pelted by balls (watch it!!!). Then we had the game of games called the Drinking Game where we all had to drink with each truth you had, and those that had done the same also had to drink. Pete had the most outrageous moments in his life, but the rest must remain between those who played as some revealing things did come out.

So that was my weekend, must admit that it was so very, very good and we had a blast, many thanks to all who organised the events during the day and special thanks to Barry Healey as he did a great job, look forward to next year as I am sure it will be even better.

Wayne Fenton
National Chairman

WASH Waffle

Hi All

Things are happening as far as WASH 2004, the 21st Anniversary, is concerned.

The Committee had an evening by the seaside recently and were invited to Searles. It seemed very surreal seeing children, not to mention sober people wandering around the place (we were suitably disgusted)!

However some of your treasured memories are all ready for you in ONLY 1 MONTH'S TIME. The ducks are still about and we are reliably informed by their military commander that they are ready to destroy the morning slumber of party-going Plussers. Pot Noodles and other culinary delicacies are awaiting purchase from the shop, and the aroma of the chip shop assailed (or is that assaulted) our senses.

Just to let you know that although the deadline of the 25th is past DON'T STOP BOOKING. We have got a real roll on at the minute with lots of groups improving on last year by bringing members who have joined since coming to last year's WASH, as well as friends who may join for next year.



The Steve Ferrigno Band appeared at WASH 2003

Special Announcement:

If you bring a 'friend' to WASH 2004 who pays £63.00 and then joins your group, WASH will refund that person the £8.00 extra they pay above a member's ticket this year. Obviously this is only open to those who have not been members for the qualification period of 12 months.

Paul Catterwell
WASH 2004 Bookings
Officer



Other Forthcoming Events 2004-05



Sat 9 th – Sun 10 th Oct	National: NEC Meeting, Newent. By invitation only
Fri 5 th – Mon 8 th Nov	National: Weekend At Sunny Hunstanton
Sat 20 th Nov	North Thames & Chiltern: Quiz
Fri 26 th – Mon 29 th Nov	Southern: Centre Parcs Weekend
Sat 11 th Dec	Northern: Christmas Disco
Sat 15 th – Sun 16 th Jan	National: NEC Meeting, Newent. Check with Area Chairman before attending
Sat 22 nd – Sat 29 th Jan	National: Skiing holiday, Bulgaria
Fri 18 th – Mar 21 st	National: Brean Sands Holiday
Fri 29 th Apr – 2 nd May	National: Now Get Out Of That (hosted by Southern)
Sat 21 st May	East Anglia: Dinner Dance
Fri 27 th – Mon 30 th May	Southern: White Water Rafting
Fri 17 th – Sun 19 th June	National: TAG (rebranded; Dalesbridge, Yorkshire)
Sat 16 th – Sun 17 th Jul	National: NEC Meeting, Newent. Check with Area Chairman before attending
Sat 17 th – Sat 24 th Sep	National: Holiday Abroad, provisionally a Greek Island

More information on these and other events may be found on the World Wide Web at www.18plus.org.uk

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