

SKY BLUE

the magazine of
**Cambridge University
Scout & Guide Club**



Issue 201

Annual Dinner 2022

***“We were doing some thinking; it was a painful experience
and I will not be attempting to repeat it.”***

a CUSAGC Committee Member, CTW 2022

EDITOR'S WELCOME

Hello and welcome once again to Sky Blue!

The last year has seen the club's first trip away since 2019, the return of the famous CUSAGC lunch, and a long overdue Punt Joust. Amongst these in this issue you will find a musical interlude and even some bits which are dangerously intellectual.

It's been a pleasure and a privilege to edit this excellent magazine over the last two issues, and although I *may* not have stuck to the ostensibly termly or biannual publication cadence, I hope you will agree that what we have lacked in quantity is more than made up for in quality.

Sky Blue is arguably the ideal student publication, combining the thrilling excitement of Varsity with the highbrow content of The Tab and the wide readership of TCS. What's more, it could be *you* who maintains the reputation of Sky Blue as a magazine with high quality content submitted and compiled well in advance of publication. You know what to do – volunteer to be Sky Blue editor at the AGM!

Andrew Jenkins



COMMITTEE BITS & BOBS

Chair's report

This year in CUSAGC has far exceeded my expectations given the state of the world, CUSAGC, and my degree at the point at which I took on chairship, for which I am extremely grateful! Despite the pandemic's continual presence in everyone's lives, CUSAGC has miraculously avoided the worst of it. We haven't had any more online terms or major lockdowns, had to cancel any events, or been the source of any outbreaks (*intensely knocks on wood many times*).

We've also had a lovely boost in membership, which I am very grateful for. The Michaelmas term campfire has to be one of the year's highlights – we had fourteen people! Only four of whom were on committee! We also saw the reinstatement of some excellent CUSAGC traditions – lunches and CTW. So huge thanks are owed to Will and Andrew for all the work they've put in this year in making these amazing things happen.

Writing weekly emails has been a nice little staple of my week outside of work. I reckon they went pretty well – I learnt to use bold to combat my excessive verbosity, only got the date wrong for an event twice, and kept my increasing levels of shouting-into-the-void unhinged-ness to the postscripts (apologies to anyone who actually read them towards the end of Easter 2021...)

The other major impact CUSAGC has had on my life in this past year was organising Marathon – I think my peak has to be sitting on the floor in stores at 11pm the day before (I think, my concept of time was quite skewed at that point), laminating signs I had made not many hours ago and printed even fewer hours ago, before going home to do more printing and get two hours of sleep. But don't let that give you the wrong impression! Marathon was very fun in the end, and really wonderful when it all happened as smoothly as could be expected.

Thank you very much to all the rest of the committee, they've been amazing to work with, and even made committee meetings fun sometimes! Here's to an even better 2022/23, and hopefully one that I'll still be in Cam to see!

Emma Campbell

Treasurer's report

One could be forgiven for thinking that I do recreational society admin.

Thanks to that-which-shall-not-be-named-but-which-rhymes-with-Ovid, the society's financial records were not in their most ordered state – late in 2021 I was issued with an immense bag of folders, documents and receipts. The most pressing matter at hand was to establish a new mandate for the accounts before the venerable Emma Crickmore vanishes into the ether outside the Cambridge bubble. The mandate is the set of instructions we give to the bank that tells them who can authorise payments and changes, and thanks again to Circumstances, the accounts had not previously had a successful mandate since 2019. To

make matters worse, HSBC, who had been our bank for the last fifteen years, decided to introduce charges, meaning my eminent predecessor's pre-existing desire to find another bank was given a newfound sense of urgency.

I was nevertheless thrilled and delighted at the opportunity to put last term's *4E6: Accounting & Finance* into action, and trust that the rest of the club and committee have enjoyed hearing about accounting as much as I've loved doing it.

Andrew Jenkins

Social Secretary's report

After spending a rather odd year as social sec from 2020-21, I thought I'd give it another go as things slowly returned to normal! So far we've made the most of being able to have in-person meetings, with Easter term events well attended despite exams.

Will Vinnicombe

AAC's report

My report is that there's an AAC's report! We've done stuff! We had a fairly well-attended Freshers' Hike, hopping on a train and wandering back from Shepreth. In future I think the club should be prepared to dream a little bigger – as we discovered, the peak district is only a couple of hours away!

This is a totally subtle segue into CTW (purportedly short for Crew Training Week, Christmas Training Weekend, or similar), which we did this year as a long weekend in the Peak District

from 7-9 Jan 2022. We enjoyed that one so much that it has its own article in this publication, so you'll have to contain your excitement for the time being.

Andrew Jenkins

SAGLO's report

I spammed as many local Guiding and Scouting Groups as I can about visiting us at Freshers Fair and taking part in Marathon and Forward. I'm also co-organising Forward so I'm definitely doing enough SAGLO stuff this term.

Emma Crickmore

Quartermaster's report

I realised that this committee role and my name blend very nicely together if you ever need a way to distinguish the 2 Emma C's in the club; I will answer to "QM-ma" for the rest of the term. In more mundane news I have dried out all the tents after Marathon, making use of my long absence over the holidays and renewed our the insurance for stores even if it was addressed to *Mrs* Emma Crickmore. Most importantly I managed to fetch the awards from stores and return with my eyebrows intact!

Emma Crickmore

LENT & EASTER 2021



Since last issue of Sky Blue, we had Annual Dinner 2021 – the first (and hopefully last) bring-your-own-dinner video “Annual Dinner” with a turnout about as large as one could reasonably expect at an event of that description. We were pleased to welcome Roger Crickmore, talking about what CUSAGC was like when he and Emma’s mum were members and some of the improbable places they’d managed to get the club’s punt.

The return to physically being in Cambridge again for Easter term, with a new committee, was an immense relief and meant we could get back to real activities again, from punting to cycling and of course the noble sport of Punt Jousting...

Punt Joust



We were excited to be able to hold punt joust again this year near the end of June, however the chair once again forgot to order warm weather, so we ended up with quite a chill in the air! Nevertheless we braved on, and the water ended up being quite warm once you'd fallen in (or so we claimed), so much so that some of us even went for multiple runs to make up for the lack of jousting last year. We even had a dedicated chef for the post-joust barbecue, which was a welcome way to warm up after our swims!

Will Vinnicombe





Not shown: a particularly hair-raising bit of punt acrobatics following a high-speed collision with an out-of-control tourist.





FRESHERS' HIKE

Our wander through the Cambridgeshire countryside from Shepreth might perhaps be the easiest 8 miles I've ever walked. This walk took far less time than expected and indeed I daresay I consumed more calories in my pint in Grantchester than I burned on the walk through the county's gentle landscape. With a total ascent of 48m, max altitude of 22m and min of 6m, it's safe to say this route didn't require a mountaineering risk assessment!

That said, it was great to see new faces on the hike and we were pleased to locate a duck themed landmark in Barrington which has been a favourite of the club since the 1980s...

Andrew Jenkins



MARATHON 2021



Marathon this year was organised by Emma Campbell and me, in 1st Potton Scout Hall (which was previously used back in 2014). We were pleased to welcome 58 participants across 12 teams back to the club's first service event since Marathon 2019. It was particularly pleasing to see the event buck the trend of declining attendance in recent years, and all helpers and participants did a great job despite the foul weather.

Our base activities this year were semaphore signalling, a first-aid scenario, a category quiz, and a base where teams tested their coordination by throwing a large number of rubber ducks to one another. Many thanks to all of our helpers who gave up their Saturday morning to come and help us, especially to all the CUSAGC fogies and post-fogies, to whose experience and generous help all of our service events owe a great debt of thanks.



Congratulations to BEAST SAS who won the adults' award, and to Vortex ESU who won the Scouting Under 18's award, visiting more checkpoints than anyone else and beating several adult teams.

Andrew Jenkins



The event was an exciting opportunity to put Whittea (the club's new tea cosy) to good use.

JURISPRUDENTIAL INTERLUDE

from our token humanities student

When the Scouts were sued in negligence: examining *Barnes v Scout Association*.

Ladders. Manhunt. Capture the flag. These games were discussed fondly at Progressive Meal, where we looked back at the physical danger and potential violence that can be caused by our favourite Scouting and Guiding Games. Any Leader who has tripped over flat on their face in the treacherous game of Ladders will be all too aware of this. Subsequently, when I was reminiscing on the similarly easier times of First Year of the Law Tripos, I remembered a tort law case that dealt with this issue. For the laypersons out there, here is an overview of the decision by the Court of Appeal in *Barnes v Scout Association* [2010].¹

Given the STEM domination of CUSAGC, it is probably wise to briefly outline the tort of common law negligence. A tort is a civil wrong which causes another individual to suffer loss or harm, negligence serving as the most common tort. Negligence occurs when there is a requisite breach of a duty of care which causes loss, requiring an individual to avoid acts or omissions that may foreseeably injure another (*Donoghue v Stevenson* [1932]).²

1 *Barnes v Scout Association* [2010] EWCA Civ 1476

2 Lord Atkin, *Donoghue v Stevenson* [1932] UKHL 100

Turning to the facts of the case, the claimant was 13 years old and had been a Scout for 2 years. The game that sparked this litigation was “Objects in the Dark”, requiring Scouts to lunge perilously in the dark for a small block in the middle of the hall after having jogged around the perimeter of the hall. There was no pitch darkness as the Scouts availed of the emergency lighting. Nevertheless, the conditions were dangerous and the claimant, having chased a block towards the wall, hit a bench with his head and left shoulder. The claimant suffered considerable pain for several weeks, requiring physiotherapy for his arm for a period of time.

The pertinent issue in this case was whether Scout Association had breached their duty of care to the claimant. The tortfeasor must exercise the standard of care of a “reasonable man” (*Blyth v Birmingham Waterworks*)³, requiring a balancing of factors such as the likelihood of harm⁴, the gravity of harm⁵ and the cost of taking precautions⁶.

The trial judge had allowed the claim, and this was upheld by a majority of the Court of Appeal, finding the Scout Association negligent. This means 2 out of the 3 judges of the Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal from first instance. Smith LJ was one of these such judges. Smith LJ recognised the social utility of this “good active competitive game”⁷, additionally recognising the desirable objective of encouraging boys to attend Scouts. Nevertheless, the mere social utility of an activity is only one

3 *Blyth v Birmingham Waterworks* [1856] 11 Ex Ch 781

4 *Bolton v Stone* [1951] AC 850

5 *Paris v Stepney BC* [1951] AC 367

6 *Latimer v AEC* [1953] AC 643

7 Para 46, *Barnes v Scout Association*

consideration and one must analyse whether this benefit renders the degree of risk from the activity acceptable. Here, the social benefit did not justify the degree of risk from the activity. The crucial factor was that the game was played in the darkness, which was held to add little social value other than excitement, despite substantially increasing the risk of injury.⁸

In my view, this decision is probably correct. It is all too easy to read warnings in the tabloid press of a growing “compensation culture”, leading one to feel that the courts are ruining what is simply a fun childhood game. However, running at high speed in a dark room with various tables, benches and blocks around could foreseeably cause injury. There are plenty of games in the dark played by Scouts and Guides that do not involve such danger and the reasonable man could easily have removed the tables, for example, to reduce this risk.⁹

Not all is lost however for those who disagree with the majority’s conclusion as Jackson LJ dissented, meaning that he would have exonerated the Scout Association from liability. Jackson LJ noted games are an important part of scouting activities; children moreover enjoy the excitement arising from games in the dark. What’s more, the game had been played on many occasions without mishap, serving as an exciting activity to encourage members to remain in Scouting¹⁰. For Jackson LJ, it is not the law’s function to stamp out every socially desirable activity.

8 Para 48

9 Distinguishing *Latimer v AEC* [1953] AC 643

10 Para 32

Although there is clearly much more exciting legal analysis that could be undertaken on this decision, I realise that may not be particularly enthralling for the CUSAGC membership. I will thus restrain myself to sharing only a few more messages from this case, one being from the trial judge himself:

*“Scout leaders give of their time for nothing to the benefit of others, and I begin my judgment with that recognition of the importance of what they do.”*¹¹

After having read this article, please do not therefore go into your next planning meeting dreading the courts and lawyers who you may think will take offence to every slight risk in your Scouting games.

Moreover, there is one final message for me, found in the judgment of Jackson LJ¹²:

“To his credit, the claimant had better things to do with his time than attend the hearing of this appeal”.

Perhaps I should take some inspiration and do some work for my current papers, rather than analysing a relatively ordinary case from First Year of Tripos...

Ellie Ripley

11 Para 54

12 Para 3

THE PERILS OF SUPERVISING FOR A GUIDER

Unsurprisingly there are other members of the university involved in Scouting and Guiding and your paths often cross in unexpected ways.

Once I accidentally submitted Brownie planning meeting notes with my supervision work and discovered that my supervisor was once a Guider herself. It was also a bit of a shock when a member of staff I was talking to at the Freshers Fair recognised me and it took me a fair few hours to realise her daughter had joined my Brownie Pack the previous week. However the biggest merging of my Guiding and university lives started back in 2018 when I decided to supervise. I ended up being allocated 4 students from Jesus and then I spotted a familiar name at the bottom of the email: the Director of Studies (DoS) had entered her Guides into Forward many times including the couple I had organised.

A few weeks later I turned up to a drinks and canapé reception for 1A Nat Scis and their supervisors, aware that I was the youngest of the 2 new supervisors and that I wouldn't know anyone. I recognised Siân the DoS/Guider and she recognised me. However she was a little confused as she hadn't realised that Emma her new materials supervisor and Emma the 2016 & '18 Forward organiser were actually the same person. Later that term there was a division trip to the Space Centre Leicester and Siân approached me on the coach; I was wondering why she wanted to talk to me as our units are in completely different areas of the city and therefore rarely meeting. It was nothing to

do with Guiding instead as it was my first time supervising she came to give me some advice on how to write supervision reports. Since then Guiding talk happens at academic events and vice versa. For example:

- Promising that I will shortly write supervision reports whenever I see her at Forward.
- Grumbling about the organisation of the Guiding County STEM day at the Nat Sci dinner
- Discussing a particularly memorable line about playing with lego that I once wrote in a student's report when we met at the aforementioned STEM day
- Immediately guessing I had come straight from Brownies when I appeared late at a drinks reception wearing a blue shirt.

So you have been warned, it is impossible to keep Scouting/ Guiding away from other parts of your life!

Emma Crickmore

CTW 2022



“There's no way it will be cold enough this weekend to snow”

Will & Emma on the way to the Peak District

CTW is the club's winter trip, ostensibly an abbreviation of “Crew Training Week”, which took place this year in the Peak District. In typical CUSAGC fashion, the acronym has little to do with the actual event in that we are no longer the Rover Crew, there was little evidence of any training whatsoever, and it was a weekend not a week. Not wanting to stay anywhere too unlike Cambridge colleges, we stayed at the charming YHA Ilam Hall: a former stately home.



After a journey up in Will's two delightful Berlingoes, we wandered down to Dovedale and had a frolic in the snow.



On Saturday we took a drive further north for a jaunt up Kinder Scout. Your GCSE English teacher would have loved the pathetic fallacy when we were struck by a sudden hailstorm the instant we left our vehicles. Mercifully, the hail cleared up to rain and thick fog by the time we reached the top of Jacob's Ladder and we even managed to enjoy the view on the way back down.

After several damp CUSAGCers returned safely to the hostel, we decided to let off steam by arguing about the proper way to cook rice.



Sunday featured a gentle walk through the fields to the pub in Wetton. Emma acquired a few ovine friends on the way out, and Kitty decided she really wanted a paddle on the way back.

And just like that, our weekend was over! It was a fantastic to finally go on my first CUSAGC trip after over three years in the club, and it's fair to say I've caught the bug (the trip bug, that is, not covid!) I look forward to seeing you all on our Trip Over Easter...

Andrew Jenkins



Punting, Michaelmas 2021 – don't ask where they got that pumpkin!

QUOTES

CUSAGC have been quite a quotable bunch this year. Here are some of the best:

“Do you want money first?”

“I thought you said do you want *mummy* first!”

The usual suspects, in a committee meeting of all places!

“Well I've never worked Moulin Rouge, so I wouldn't know...”

“Should we run a CUSAGC club night?”

Social Secretary is prepared to branch out

“I think sharks of *all kinds* get a bad rep in the media”

A former Chairman old enough to know better

“Do you ever get the urge, when staring at a leftover lump of cheese, to just eat it like an apple?”

“I think at some point I should build the world's largest string instrument and live in it”

Kitty, CTW

“I've got 9 fingers and 2 thumbs. Wait no”

"Are you from Norfolk then?"

Ellie & Will, CTW

And some more quotes which will remain anonymous...

“I’ll brush my teeth in that sink. Watch me”

“How many incidents of incest are there in this episode of lunch?”

Comparing length/episodic nature of lunch with popular HBO television series Game of Thrones

"Is it still in the hole?"

I think he meant to say “is the key still in the ignition”



CTW: CHOOSE YOUR FIGHTER

Ellie



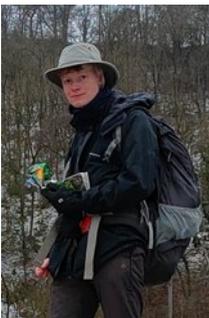
- In icy conditions can be found at the back of the pack, hoping her glacial speed will compensate for her self-described “awful” balance
- Will cause the rest of the group to panic that she’s heading towards hypothermia
- Displays very strong preference for dryness of other body parts over her feet, and will happily walk through ankle deep mud/water to avoid risk of falling over

Emma



- Is known to turn into a six-year-old in cold conditions and can be found skipping/galloping/dancing/jumping down the mountain
- Up to the point at least where we have to go uphill again and she realises her cardiovascular fitness is about 0.01% of said six-year-old’s
- Is most likely to be found penguin dancing on the spot or curled up in a corner, no in between

Andrew



- Will lose any driving-based competition (**cough-stalling-cough**), unless of course the winner is the one most willing to drive someone else’s car along country lanes
- Can be found once again downscaling the planned walking route in response to the group’s pace and/or wetness
- Extremely proud of his waterproof hat

Will



- In icy conditions can also be found at the back of the pack, doing his best to assist Ellie in her mission to not fall over, with varying success
- A key member of all singing groups formed over the weekend, inclusive of ABBA, Les Mis, and classically violent campfire songs
- Is regularly body-switched with a teenage girl, as evidenced by his Spotify and choice of paperback fiction

Matthew



- Most likely to be found 100m behind the group with his camera.
- Is nonetheless in the group's good books since the good karma of excellent photography skills far outweighs any number of pauses for catching up
- Will constantly surprise you with his ability to fit yet another commitment into his social calendar

Kitty



- Has never heard of the concept of trying to keep your feet dry when your shoes aren't waterproof
- Will roll down a snowy hill or wade across treacherous stepping stones at a moment's notice
- Can be found voicing a stunningly avant-garde thought about cheese with zero context

Jonah



- Would much rather be running these hills than walking them
- Can be found disappearing off into the distance, before running back up/down the hill with the excuse that he “couldn’t resist” what appears to be risking death
- Was extremely disappointed in his waterproof trousers for being unable to function as a sledge

Laura



- Incredibly resourceful, will use all clothing to hand, including a face mask for keeping warm, a college puffer for a raincoat, and someone else’s shoes
- Can be found saying her doctor told her a walking trip was only okay if she wasn’t at risk of falling over, whilst halfway down a stone staircase/river covered in ice and mud
- Will deliberately pick the car seat most amenable to naps

Emma Campbell

Do you ever feel lost at lunches? Confused at CTW? Pensive at Punt Joust? We can solve all your problems here at...

????? SKY BLUE ADVICE ??????



Hello dear CUSAGCers, it's me, **Teddy Owens!** I've taken a 20 minute break from hiking with the US President to answer the questions **YOU** sent in!

“Help, I'm trying to make this issue of Sky Blue look like it came out before annual dinner, but I just gave it away. How can I possibly resolve this travesty?” *Procrastinator of Peterhouse*

The key thing is not to tell anyone! Nobody needs to know annual dinner was several ~~days~~ ~~weeks~~ months ago. T.O.

“If you were stranded on a desert (and deserted) island, what 3 songs would you bring with you to listen on repeat until all marbles are well and truly lost?” *Audiophile of ARU*

By the time I finish my first go through the Rattlin' Bog, I don't think I'll need a second or third song to achieve insanity. T.O.

“Cambridge is not known for its wealth of basements. Where would you recommend we hide in the nuclear armageddon?” *Worried of Wolfson*

You ever heard of King's Bunker? You bring the corned beef, I'll bring the dirty techno. Teddy “Seshlord” Owens

“I desperately miss the endless zoom calls of Covid lockdown. Do you have any suggestions to bring Scouting and Guiding events back to the heady heights of 2020 in a post-acknowledging covid Britain?” *Freddie Funn-at-parties, Fitzwilliam*

Hi Freddie, I think the key is to make sure your internet connection is intermittent, your microphone is terrible, and the kids are all muted. T.O.

“Hi Ted, I'm having aspirations of grandeur. Could you give me an easy 3 step plan to become the next Chief Scout (and/or British monarch)?” *Machiavellian of Medwards*

The first step to sate your hunger for power is to achieve influence on a local level. How about joining the committee of a Scout & Guide club near you? T.O.

[I think that's enough advice for next 5 years or so – Ed.]

CAMPFIRE SONGS



Following Taylor Swift's re-release of her album Red, Will was inspired to put pen to paper...

Blue (Will's version)

CUSAGCing is like driving our beat up cars all the way to the peaks
Buffeted by wind, wheel arch caving in, sliding so gracefully
CUSAGCing is like trying to change their minds
Once they've already put all the rice on
Like the snow in the winter, so white, just before it melts it all

Oxford blue is dark like you've never known
Cambridge blue is greenish, all alone
Other blues are like trying to know somebody you never met
But sky blue is the best
Sky blue is the best

CUSAGCing is like realising all you ever wanted is right there in front of you
Being on committee is as easy as knowing all the words to your old campfire songs

And all the meetings are like trying to solve the codeword and realising the words are backwards
Regretting writing this, I'm wishing you had never found out how much I love this song

Oxford blue is dark like you've never known
Cambridge blue is greenish, all alone
Other blues are like trying to know somebody you never met
But sky blue is the best
The best
Just the best

You will remember us in flashbacks and echoes
Tell yourself, "It's time now, gotta let go"
But moving on from CUSAGC is impossible
Although you've still got work you should do
It's just so blue

Oxford blue is dark like you've never known
Cambridge blue is greenish, all alone
Other blues are like trying to know somebody you never met
'Cause sky blue is the best
Yeah, yeah, the best
It's the best

I've got so much work left to do
I can't do it with no sky blue
Yeah, yeah
CUSAGC is like driving our beat up cars all the way to the peaks

Will Vinnicombe

CUSAGC CODEWORD

Answers on a postcard to Will Vinnicombe – the hint is

“What are you reading?”

4	20	2	5	22		10	15	X	21	10	7	16
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5		20			20	20	14	9	10			13
10	21	21	2	7		3						4
1	J					17	Y	25	3	2	2	26
4			25			12	B					
24		16	5	13	3	25	8	24	9			11
5			24			5			5			10
6	14	24	13	14	3	2	20			23	10	10
	9		19				6					
	23				25	2	14	18	8	24	9	
		16	10	9			23					

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26