

NETWORK

NETWORK

Scouting February/March 2006

Tour of beauty

Relive the Renaissance with Roverway 2006

Cash in hand

The no fuss guide to sorting your subs

Coming of age

Why Network offers such easy access to adventure

JUMP RIGHT IN

Are you ready to go MAD on a wild weekend?



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NETWORK NEWS

Network newshound **Adrian Wray** unveils what the future holds for Network, plus what's on offer this issue

The next few months will be busy for the Network Support Team, as we prepare ourselves for the publication of the Network Review. Currently the Support Team are in the process of collating the results. We have a hard act to follow, particularly after the work that has been carried out on the review by David Williamson. Our thanks should be expressed to him for his leadership of the Section, as well as to those members of the Support Team who have supported Network since its inaugural meeting.

Promote Network

Looking ahead, you will soon see a new promotional leaflet launched to promote Network to the outside world. This leaflet will be available from the Mobile Display Unit and from the Scout Information Centre. Over time, we hope to design an additional promotional leaflet or poster aimed at recruiting members from within Scouting, which should prove an ideal tool for linking Network with the Explorer Scouts.

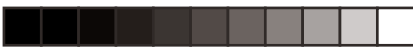
Hopefully, by the time you receive this issue, we will have also produced a uniform badge so people can proudly display that they are members of the Scout Network. This has been introduced following our numerous visits around the country last year. Details of how to obtain the badges will be sent direct to your local Network Commissioners.

Getting active

From our visits around the country, it's clear that many Network members are confused by the activity rules. To help you out, we have asked the Activities Team to provide a simple explanation of the rules, which are there to assist Network members in their participation in a range of adventurous activities (page eight).

Another groan we hear is: 'How do we get the subs from Network members?' That's a hard one to solve, but to make things easier we have asked our intrepid investigators from Merseyside to think up ways of grabbing that cash (page 12)!

So just sit back, put your feet up and have a good read of this issue! ■



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MAD FOR IT!

MAD has been a staple part of Essex Scouting for over 20 years, but in the summer its mayhem will be unleashed on the whole of the UK. Despite the impending chaos, **Bianca Cole** reveals that there is method in such madness

For the Essex Scout Network calendar, the last weekend in June is the annual slot for the county's biggest Network camping weekend. Essex members looking for a weekend of fun, laughter and amazing activities head off to MAD – the event not to be missed.

MAD weekend has been held in Essex for well over 20 years. The event's popularity is reflected by the unique legends that it has spawned. Any member who has been to MAD will be able to enthuse about the size and ingredients of a MAD burger. They'll also be able to understand the one-hour time difference of MAD time, ensuring that every party always seems to take place at a later time than it's supposed too.

MADUK 2006 – not just for Essex

Until now, this unique experience has only been available to residents of Essex. But with last summer's event being such a success, the rest of the UK now has the chance to join in the fun with the first ever MADUK.

MADUK 2006 will also provide a unique opportunity to get involved with how the weekend pans out. Some of the arrangements will be up for discussion and will be voted for on the county online forums, where previous polls have included the choice of the late night film and even the theme for future events.

MADUK 2006 will feature a whole host of new and exciting events tailored to excite and inspire. Already in place are fencing lessons

from a top England coach, a mass *It's A Knockout* competition, Ultimate Frisbee, volleyball, football, climbing, kayaking and a variety of crafts to keep your hands busy throughout the day.

Fun and food

When night falls, the fun will begin with an emergency services themed disco. This is likely to see a parade of uniforms, from dishy doctors and naughty nurses, to fit fireman. It's also likely to persuade a number of 'imaginative' guys to cross-dress. The lonely hearts will be in for a treat, as a *Blind Date* contest is set to come to their aid. Evenings will also involve music from both live bands and DJs, plus a chill-out zone will provide people with the opportunity to escape for a little break if necessary.

When over 90 per cent of participants make full use of the MAD Rock Café, you know it must be a winner. It operates on a ticket system. The tickets are purchased before the event at a reasonable price and the café provides an easy option for reluctant cooks and a wide range of foods, from salads to curry or, of course, the infamous MAD burger. Log on to the MADUK website and take stock of everything from the ingredients list of the famous burger to prices and how to get hold of meal tickets.





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Find out more

Visit the MADUK website at www.essexscouts.org.uk/maduk as this will be the oracle of information as the event approaches. Sign-up for the mailing list and you'll be updated as new information is released. On the website you'll also find a detailed guide to the event, application forms, online forums and travel details.

If, like us, you're up for a laugh, enjoy the great outdoors in summer and you want to meet people, relax and party on a campsite exclusively held with activities and fun for Network members, then grab your diary and make MADUK your event of choice for 2006. ■

MAD

Further information

MADUK 2006 is to be held from Friday 23 June to Sunday 25 June 2006 at Skreens Park Activity Centre, Chelmsford, Essex. The cost of a ticket is £25 and includes entry into MADUK and all event, camping and activity fees. Visit www.essexscouts.org.uk/maduk for more information.



Essex County's legendary MAD event will offer loads of activities when it opens its doors to the whole UK in June





LOVE IS IN THE AIR



Love. After thousands of years of sonnets, songs and text messages it remained one of life's mysteries – until now. With the matchmaking skills of Cilla Black and Cupid combined, **Adrian Wray** is here to help you woo the object of your desire this Valentine's Day

We couldn't let this issue pass without having a little fun in reminding you of the origin of St Valentine's Day – that 'special' day that helps keep the card companies in the black, and halves the world's forestation all in one fell swoop. Not that I'm cynical about it or anything.

There are varying opinions as to the origin of St Valentine's Day. Some claim that it originated from St Valentine, martyred in Roman times for refusing to give up Christianity. He died on 14 February 269AD.

Legend also states that St Valentine left a farewell note for the jailer's daughter, who had befriended him, and signed the note 'From Your Valentine'.

Others say that St Valentine served as a priest at the temple during the reign of Emperor Claudius. Claudius had Valentine jailed for defying him (in what way no one is quite sure). In 469AD, Pope Gelasius set aside 14 February to honour St Valentine.

Gradually 14 February became the date for exchanging love messages

and St Valentine became the Patron Saint of lovers.

Valentine traditions

Hundreds of years ago, children dressed up as adults on Valentine's Day and went from home to home singing: 'Good morning to you Valentine; curl your locks as I do mine; two before and three behind; good morning to you Valentine.'

In Wales, on 14 February, wooden love spoons used to be carved and given as gifts. Hearts, keys and keyholes were favourite decorations on the spoons. The decoration meant, 'unlock my heart'.

In the Middle Ages, young men and women drew names from a bowl to see who their Valentine would be. They would wear these names on their sleeves for one week. Hence, to wear your heart on your sleeve now means that it is easy for other people to know how you are feeling.





Network's top five dating tips

1. Chat up lines aren't 'the business'

Sadly, your witty patter is a very small part of your attractiveness. In fact, it's your posture, gaze and relaxed feel that most women will find alluring.

Our conclusion? Dump the Oscar Wilde book of clever verse and try to make small, gradual body movements, not jerky ones. Women don't like that.

2. The eyes have it

In an experiment carried out in America, two strangers were asked to stare into each other's eyes without talking for four minutes. Afterwards, many couples revealed that they'd felt real deep feelings for each other.

Our conclusion? Keep looking at your date. Even if you have to feign interest in them!

3. Copycat

Mirroring is what psychologists call it when people seem to be copying each other's body movements. Our animal instincts (yes, it really is all down to instinct!) know that the other person is interested in us.

Our conclusion? Are you copying each other? Then you like each other.

4. Check out

There is no point wasting your time on someone who is not interested, but don't mistake nervousness for lack of interest. Check out the feet. If their feet are facing

you then it means that they are still interested in you.

Our conclusion? Never make a quick decision about your potential dates.

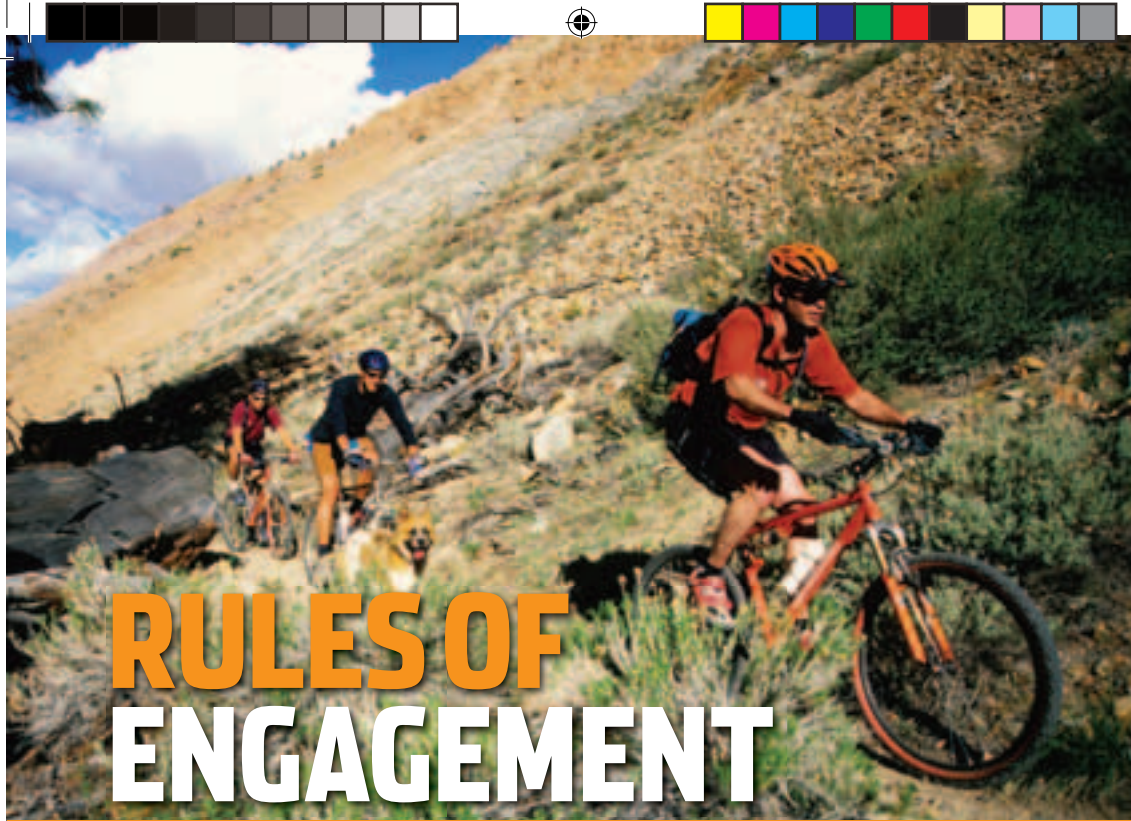
5. Don't forget your card

Finally, if you are taking that special person out for an expensive meal, don't forget that from the 14 February you will need to remember that pin number of your chip and pin credit card! ■

Network's favourite chat-up lines (as heard at Gilwell Reunion)

- Are you from Tennessee, because you're the only 10 I see?
- Pardon me, but I seem to have lost my telephone number. Can I borrow yours?
- How was heaven when you left?
- I know why Solomon had 600 wives – because he never found you.
- Do you have a map? Because I keep getting lost in your eyes.
- Was your father a thief? Because someone stole the stars from the sky and put them in your eyes.





RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

Activities, and adventurous activities in particular, are at the core of what Scouting has to offer. With spring and summer just around the corner, it's the ideal opportunity for Networks to get out and about. We thought we would shed some light on how Scouting's rules for adventurous activities apply to Scout Network Members.

A new beginning

The creation of Scout Network in 2002, a Section completely made up of people the law recognises to be adults, led to the introduction of a new activity rule within the Adventurous Activity Permit

When it comes to exciting activities, age allows the Network Section superior access to adventure than its younger Scouting counterparts. **Steve Gibson** clarifies the rules that make it even easier to have fun after the age of 18

Scheme. The new rule provided the opportunity for Scout Network members to undertake adventurous activities without the rigidity of rules that are required for the younger Sections. The changes recognised that the Permit Scheme and associated rules were really developed to look after the interests of young people. It also acknowledged that adults are recognised

in law as being able to make an informed decision of their own as to whether they'd like to take part in an activity.

In broad terms, the rules require that the Network member coordinating the activity provides information to all those taking part on what the activities involve. Participants are then able to make their own informed decision on



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whether they wish to take part in the activity and sign an acknowledgment of risk statement that clearly shows they have given consent. There is a simple factsheet and guidance card available for participants to give them some idea of what they should be looking at before giving consent. This means that people with activity authorisation are not required to run activities for Scout Network members.

The benefit of all this is that it makes the process easier for Scout Network members to take part in adventurous activities within Scouting, rather than them taking part as a 'group of friends' outside of Scouting. This means

they can make use of expert Scouting guidance and advice, facilities, equipment, skills, knowledge and insurance that would otherwise be unavailable.

Activate the adventure

Any adventurous activities for Network members require the formal consent of the relevant Commissioner. That could be the County/Area Scout Network Commissioner or another nominated person.

All participants will be required to sign an acknowledgement of risk statement and must read the factsheet FS120087 that provides the necessary information in order for Network members to make a

balanced decision.

Visit www.scoutbase.org.uk/library/hqdocs/facts/pdfs/fs120087.pdf where the factsheet and statement can be downloaded.

You will find that depending on the activity being undertaken, some rules will still apply. Again, full details are included within the above factsheet.

Remember, to support Network members and other adults taking part in activities, a guidance card has been produced and each and every participant must be provided with a copy. Visit www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/activities/over18s.htm to download a form.

Where there is a member of the activity under the age of 18 years, the full Activity Permit Scheme applies.

Benefits

There are some key benefits to the rules. The main ones being that they allow the formation of the Scout Network programme by easing the process of organising adventurous activities and also help promote the fact that you don't stop having fun at the age of 18. The rules also treat Network members as the mature and responsible adults that they clearly are, as well as ensuring that the relevant Commissioner is aware that the Network is undertaking activities. ■





THE ITALIAN JOB



OK, so there may not be Michael Caine or the minis, but Roverway 2006 still offers a rip-roaring ride through Italy. **Chris Wall** reveals exactly what's in store



Roverway 2006 is an international Scouting and Guiding event for the European Region open to Scout Network members and Explorer Scouts aged 16 to 22 years. The event will take place in Italy between the 6-14 August 2006.

So, what is it?

Passion, pizza, football, wine and olive oil are just a few of the things that might spring to mind when you think of Italy. At Roverway you will discover a lot more. The event is to be split into two parts; the first will be a celebration of Italy and everything Italian. During the first five days, participants will work in teams to complete an expedition

through one of the country's 20 provinces. Each of the 100 different routes will be designed around one of five special themes.

Having completed the expedition, all of the teams will assemble on one site, near the city of Florence, for the second half of the event. There they will participate in a wide range of activities organised around a central theme – the Italian Renaissance!


Beyond the tweed

For many Network members, the Renaissance may conjure up little more than a vague awareness of something old and forgotten, the dusty domain of bearded professors. However, in

looking beyond the tweed, we discover that the Renaissance was actually about working together. The word means 'rebirth' and the idea began in Italy in the late 15th Century.

All areas of human experience were represented – from architecture, science and medicine, to music, art and politics. Perhaps some kind of modern equivalent might see David Blunkett, Stephen Hawking, Tracey Emin and Sir Norman Foster, getting together to form an ABBA tribute band? OK, so that might not actually do wonders for the enlightenment of mankind, but you get the idea.

Anyway, with all this in mind, the aim of Roverway is to learn about each other and to work together.





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Action from last year's Roverway trip to Italy



The Roverway team

Roverway participants are being asked to apply in teams of at least five people, each of which must contain a minimum of one person aged over 18 years. If you have a team already, that's great. However, we are aware that entering a team may be problematic for some. If you are on your own or in a small group, this should not be a reason to stop you from attending the event. The UK Contingent team are currently developing a way to form new teams and will be happy to put people in touch with each other. Contact Chris@Roverway2006.org.uk for more information.

What does it cost?

At the time of going to print, a formal payment scheme, together with the final UK Contingent fee for Roverway, is still to be finalised. But visit www.roverway2006.org.uk for an update.

How do I get there?

Firstly, you should be aware that the cost of travel to and from Italy is not included in the Roverway price. The most important reason for this is flexibility. Roverway teams will be required to

start their travels from several different locations across Italy. Therefore, it is unlikely that one contingent will be able to arrange a discounted group booking on airlines. Consequently, arranging your own transport is likely to be the cheapest option for everyone. Nevertheless, the UK Contingent Team will ensure that you have all the information you need to do this and will be available to answer any queries or deal with any concerns.

What will I get from Roverway?

At one level, you will be able to use Roverway as a means of ticking off hiking and residential sections of the Queen's Scout Award and Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Beyond this, it's up to you! Rest assured, Italy is a land to savour. Add this to the buzz of international Scouting and you are sure to have an unforgettable experience.

How do I sign up?

Whether you are on your own or already in a team, now is the time to register. To do so and for more information, contact Chris Wall, the UK Contingent Leader at chris@roverway2006.org.uk. ■






THE ESSENTIAL COLLECTION

Sorting out your Group's subs can be a headache. But it needn't be. Merseyside Network's **Lee Allwood** explains why the membership fee is so crucial and offers tips to ensure prompt payment

Money and the Scout Network Section can sometimes be seen as being a bit like water and oil. In other words, they just don't mix. However, we know that all Networks are dependant on the membership fees being paid in order to cover their own overheads and continue providing their programme of activities.

Often the question is asked, 'Why do I have to pay a membership fee?'

'Well, why do I?'

Policy, Organisation and Rules states that in order to be a registered Member of The Scout Association, you have to pay the yearly membership fee. This is non-negotiable and is vital to ensure Members are correctly insured and covered legally.

For many Networks we've spoken to, collecting the yearly subscription is something many coordinators or Leaders

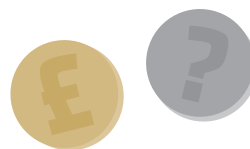
often dread. The excuses are quite amusing. One member of Lonsdale Network in West Lancashire reportedly said: 'I've only been to two meetings this year so can I just pay a fiver?'

I'm sure this is something many people have heard, and the response to this comment is simple: it's all or nothing. You don't pay for membership to a gym, use it twice a year, then go and ask for three quarters of your money back!





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As well as the issue of actually getting the money in, there is also the issue of affordability. We know the story; a lot of Network members are students and can't afford a tin of beans, let alone their Network fees. However, there are ways of making the fee a little easier to swallow.

Some Counties have taken the action of removing the County levy for all Network members who are registered with the Network and who pay their own Membership fee (for example, not paid for by a group due to being a Leader). Another method being used by other Networks is to spread the fee across quarters, or months, rather than one large payment per year.

From the Networks we have spoken to one thing is certain: if your programme is attractive and varied enough, the vast majority will happily pay their subs (when reminded!), because they know they are getting value for money. If Network members are provided with exciting and challenging camps, activities and opportunities, then collecting the membership fee can simply become a minor issue. You'll wonder what you were so worried about. ■

A little encouragement

Thankfully, there are ways of encouraging Network members to pay their fees on time and with a minimum of fuss. Merseyside Network use their County Network Administrator to collect the yearly membership fee, and the payment of this fee is based on whether a member is registered or not. This takes away some of the personal issues and awkwardness, which

can arise when Network members themselves have to collect the money.

We know that some Network members have to collect the subs for their areas and it can sometimes be difficult to have to keep approaching people for money. So it may be more effective if the County Treasurer, District Commissioner or County Scout Network Commissioner sends out the letter, or collects the money.



Network diary dates 2006

Here's where you find out about events open to all Network members or events that we think you might be interested in. Please let us know of any upcoming events by emailing Scout.
network@scout.org.uk

MARCH

3-4 March
WHISKY LIVE
ROYAL HORTICULTURAL
HALLS, LONDON
01603 633 808

9-25 March
**GLASGOW COMEDY
FESTIVAL**
GLASGOW
0141 552 2070

APRIL

28 April-1 May
ISLE OF MAN GATHERING
A FULL WEEKEND OF
ACTIVITIES AND
FUN FROM AIR
RIFLE SHOOTING TO
QUAD BIKING
WITH GORGE WALKING
SOMEWHERE IN
THE MIDDLE!
(ACTIVITIES AT
ADDITIONAL COST)!

For further details contact
iomgathering@manx.net

JUNE

16-18 June
PUB SCOUT FESTIVAL
COVENTRY
www.pubscoutfestival.co.uk

23-25 June
MADUK
SKREENS PARK,
CHELMSFORD, ESSEX
Maduk@essexscouts.org.uk

JULY/AUGUST

29 July-5 Aug
NAILER 2006
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
SCOUTING'S
INTERNATIONAL CAMP
01536 517 539

29 July-5 Aug
NORJAM 2006
NORFOLK SCOUTING'S
INTERNATIONAL CAMP
01603 866 814

30 July-6 Aug
**NATIONAL SCOUT &
GUIDE ORCHESTRA**
01189 341 939

AUGUST

1-17 Aug
GREATER LONDON

**MIDDLESEX WEST
EXPLORER BELT
SWITZERLAND 2006**
SWITZERLAND
coordinator@explorerbelt.
scoutnetwork.info

6-14 Aug
ROVERWAY 2006
FLORENCE
ITALY
info@roverway2006.org.uk

6-13 Aug
CAM JAM 2006
CAMBRIDGESHIRE
SCOUTING'S
INTERNATIONAL CAMP
01487 711 366

OCTOBER

21-22 Oct
**JAMBOREE ON THE
INTERNET (JOTI)**
WORLDWIDE
www.joti.org

DECEMBER

17 Dec
SNOWBALL
BRITANNIA SACHAS HOTEL
MANCHESTER
heatherdykes
@hotmail.com

SCOUT SHOPS SPECIAL OFFER!

FREE
baseball cap
(value £4.50) when
you spend £10 on an
Explorer/Network
Navigator.



Offer runs during Feb/March 2006 only.