

# PostScript

SO LONG, AND THANKS FOR  
ALL THE FISH

JAFFA CAKES



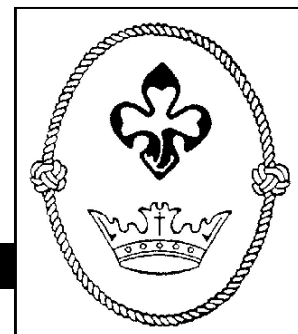
**A GIRL'S GUIDE TO CROQUET** *Or how revision actually became the more attractive option for Roger.*

**THE NOBLE ART OF PUNTING** *The definitive guide, as sent in by **Chris Wood**.*

**WORLD CUP SURVIVAL GUIDE** *Enjoy the summer with **Maddy's** guide.*

**PLUS** *Sudoku puzzles, many, many lists, reports and your favourite – F&GPC minutes.*

ISSUE 375, ISSUE 3 OF TRINITY TERM 2006



# PostScript



**Issue 3, Trinity Term 2006**

An OUSGG Publication.

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Any items received will be presumed to be for publication unless otherwise notified. The editor reserves the right to modify contributions.

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# WELCOME

## EDITORIAL

Well, my final issue, and how packed it is. An article from nearly every member – I'm very impressed. We must be in the running for one of the longest PostScript's ever written.

I wish a fond farewell to all of those that are leaving us this year – you will be missed. Good luck, and hope we see you all again in the near future!

Thank you to all those of you who have helped me over the year – whether it be by sending articles, proof reading or simply giving advice. Finally, big thank you to Alistair, who thought he'd managed to get rid of PostScript for good last year, but has ended up helping photocopy it.

Have a great summer, whatever you're doing – and I hope to see lots of you on the IOW for the Summer Trip!

*Luke Cartey (St. Catherine's)  
PostScript Editor*

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## CHAIR'S REPORT

Hello to everyone, for the last time - those of you finished with things-of-doom, well done, and those of you still suffering: we haven't forgotten about you, good luck!

The weather has been very kind to us these last couple of weeks of term, even if Frisbee and Twister (though not the pizzas!) did have to be abandoned in favour of The Muppets. Punting was good fun, and we only had one of us trying to be a fish so I count that as a success in my book. Croquet, however, was lovely and sunny, and I think that the "Girls' Rules" we invented should be established as an official alternative to the so-called "proper" rules!

This term is now officially over, having had the TGM and meal, so all that is left is to look forward to the Summer Trip and for me to say that I hope everyone has enjoyed this term as much as I have, despite my sometime-lack of organisation. Thanks must go to all of you for helping and generally being lovely people, and especially to Gillian for picking up the pieces when I fell apart a bit and organising things for me.

Have a wonderful summer, and I hope to see some of you in Paris next year!

*Hannah Mycock (Exeter) – Chair*



## NECKERS!

**Andrew Freer** puts on his salesman hat.

It strikes me I need to write an article, and since all the puns of "a", "the", and "ye" have been used, this is an article of clothing. The Necker:



Only £6. Only 3 left in stock.

Buy a badge for only 71p (more stock will soon be ordered, once suppliers are found)

Just email your SSAGO rep, or membership sec, or anyone else who sounds likely to be Andrew.

Items of SSAGO branded clothing are also available.

## SUMMER TRIP

Summer is drawing ever closer, and with it OUSGG's invasion of the Isle of Wight. (That's the place in the big splodge, so you know where to direct your guided missiles at.) All you need to do to partake of this wonderful opportunity, with fine cuisine and excellent company almost guaranteed, is fill in the form in the last issue and return it to me. For more details of the trip have a look at the last issue of postscript, or e-mail me and ask ([summertrip@ousgg.org.uk](mailto:summertrip@ousgg.org.uk)). Hope to see lots of you in September!



# LETTERS

*Sir,*

I think it's about time we re-introduced the concept of inviting honoured guests to the Annual Dinner. For the benefit of next year's organisers, therefore, I have helpfully attached a list of people they might wish to contact to make next year's shindig even more memorable than usual.

*Yours finally,*

*Philip Alderton*

*College of St Peter-le-Bailey in the University of Oxford*

PS: Some guests might only be able to attend through a little necromancy, but the clowns at SSAGO haven't banned that pastime. Yet.

## **1. His Imperial Majesty Emperor Norton I of the United States of America, Protector of Mexico.**

Frankly, any guy who declares himself Emperor and is accepted as such by the good people of San Francisco deserves a venerated place in the OUSGG Book of Heroes for such guile. Pity he didn't leave an heir, really.

## **2. Nikola Tesla**

Physics and Engineering genius, and responsible for much of the modern world, apparently. Oh, and he allegedly invented a Mega-Death Ray, too, which might make curing Annual Dinner Hangovers at the Punt and Picnic a bit more tolerable.

## **3. Lee Harvey Oswald**

There's some things that we need clearing up.

## **4. Genghis Khan and Attila the Hun**

A good double act, who both rode the rubber-chicken circuit for many years spreading bon homie, joy, rape, and pillaging to millions.

## **5. The Chuckle Brothers**

'Nuff said.

*As half of the newly elected Annual Dinner Organisers, I'll be sure we attempt to invite all of them.*

## Minutes of the 137th Meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee

Held at 8:00 pm on Friday 5th May 2006 at The Royal Oak.

Present:

Alistair Green (Secretary)

Hannah Mycock (Chair)

Luke Cartey (Treasurer, *PostScript* Editor, Internet Officer and Chair-Elect)

Timothy Driscoll

Gillian Bradley

Andrew Freer (Quartermaster and Membership Secretary)

Keith Crothers

Apologies:

Sarah Berman

Philip Alderton

Jacqueline Bradley

Caroline Berry

Michael Ramsden

*Meeting started at 20:16.*

### Approval of minutes

Luke does not particularly like the phrasing "wants to be Michaelmas Term Chair". He thinks it was "Luke was bullied into being Michaelmas Term Chair".

Nonetheless the minutes were unanimously approved.

### Matters arising

Jacqui has shredded the old receipts, as Andrew requested. Old members' fees stayed unchanged.

The Safari Supper might be organised after Andrew's exams, possibly in Michaelmas.

Alistair did write a report for the Old Members' newsletter.

### Officers' Reports

**Chair**

Everything's going fine. We have had two meetings; people turned up and seemed to enjoy it, or I've been told that they've enjoyed it. Nobody's died. Minibuses are sorted for Monday's theatre trip. The entire term is planned!

**Chair-Elect**

I have not done a huge amount yet, but I have thought about it. I've got the kind of standard ones - possibly the Gang Show 6th week. The pipeline is in all of the colours of the rainbow.

**Treasurer**

We have not been billed for the Annual Dinner yet, but this is how the accounts stood at the end of April:

Main account £691.22, which means that we are currently £300 up on last year (although some expenses are still unpaid.)

Events account £384.51

Ex-Members' account approximately £319

Total £1395.22

Easter Activity has £45 left over. Should we give out refunds or pay it into the Events Account?

*[Keith arrived at this point.]*

Keith is not bothered about getting £4.39 back.

Gillian feels that £45 is too much to simply hold on to.

**Secretary**

We are re-registered with the Proctors, and also they have sent us some potentially important news:

"As a result of a change in the Rules Committee Regulations effective from 1 October 2006, students registered to read for diplomas and certificates in the University's Department for Continuing Education are eligible to become full members of registered clubs, and to hold office, alongside matriculated students."

Although they suggest that constitutional amendments may be required, in our case that should not be necessary as we admit "any person... subject to Proctorial Regulations".

The University Security Services can now provide assistance with CRB checks. Their helpline number is 01865 272941 (or just 72941 if you have an internal phone).

And finally... Since the TGM, I have slimmed down the secretary's file considerably by getting rid of a decade's worth of outdated minibus hire information, contact details for the Clubs Committee at their previous office and so on.

**SSAGO Rep**

Booking is now open for the "Pirates of Caribbean vs. Robin Hood: Men In Tights" Rally. Its [web site](#) was updated today. The beer tasting tent will probably get booked up very quickly! Other activities include mountain biking, a walk to that great big oak thing that's held up by scaffolding, doing nothing in the afternoon (if you want to go into Nottingham or something, I guess), and the option to do some work on the site. The dates are 30 June - 2nd July.

Andrew will be in Germany then, so he needs someone else to go to the Reps' Meeting for him.

Gillian pointed out that it clashes with Varsity cricket.

**Future of Stores**

*[Due to the imminent closure of the Clubs Committee Office at Littlegate House, it was decided at the Hilary TGM that Andrew should look into alternative places to keep our stores, and report back to the F&GPC.]*

There have been several suggestions. One of them was that we should keep our stores with Peter Lund, who is a former Senior Member of the Group - but he is getting on a bit, and it would be a last-ditch effort to get the stores put somewhere.

Jonathan has suggested buying a shed to put in someone's garden, and then moving it every year. There are a number of reasons why I think this is a bad idea, which include: Fire, damp, vandalism, the fact that sheds don't last very long, the fact that they cost around about £100 each, and you have to have someone with a garden. And, yes, you do have to dismantle it and move it every year.

I have been in contact with local Scouting and had an offer of a place from the 22nd Oxford. It should be big enough to fit all our stuff in, provided that we air our tents out every so often - apparently it is slightly liable to damp, but it should not be too bad. We can get that for free, on condition that we might be around should they need help.

If anything goes wrong with that then an alternative troop is the 36th - which is further out, on Iffley Road, but directly on a bus route.

**Action:** Move to 22nd Oxford at the end of term (9th Week) when people have cars. Also cull any tents that are not serviceable - ask permission to pitch them outside the Scout hut.

Also we cannot use any of our climbing rope for climbing as we do not know how old it is. It could be used for other purposes such as pioneering.

**Motion:**

***"That the election of the Annual Dinner Organiser be moved from the AGM in Michaelmas to the Trinity TGM."***

Proposed by: Jacqui Bradley

Seconded by: Sarah Berman

The idea behind this is that it would make organisation easier by allowing more time for booking. Also the dinner would be organised by somebody who has been to one before, rather than by a fresher. Both these things are particularly important for the big 5-yearly dinners.

**The motion was passed unanimously. Action:** Jacqui's proposed constitutional amendment to be published in *PostScript* and discussed at the TGM.

**Any Other Business**

Andrew does not have the Membership Secretary's folder yet. CRB checks need to be carried out at some point. He will have to organise Fresher's Fair early, before he goes to Germany. Photographs will be required for this - Phil still has last year's.

We need to recruit a Chair-Elect for Michaelmas.

**Meeting closed at 20:45.**

# WORLD CUP SURVIVAL GUIDE

*The only World Cup guide you'll need this summer, thanks to **Maddy Bunce**.*

Yes, this summer need not be one of football related boredom. The key to happiness does not lie in 'Football Widow' isolated spa breaks. No, the trick is to embrace the World Cup. And here's how to do it:

Remember on match days you get the world to yourself. So take your mat, sun cream, a good magazine, a jug of Pimms and a friend out in the sun (just remember to avoid beer gardens!)

All the newspapers seem to be obsessed with metatarsals, so use this as an excuse to buy trashy magazines. I was horrified to find Beckham, in football kit- not Gucci, in my magazine yesterday. However revulsion turned to delight when I discovered it was part of a competition to win his height in shoes!

There is nothing like feeling smug. The World Cup has made Victoria's bunions front page news. Rejoice that although you will never be as thin as her, or have her Christian Louboutins, at least you don't have deformed feet and can wear your strappy sandals with pride.

The World Cup is a time when you can celebrate your fashion superiority. I was in Tesco yesterday and was initially horrified to find most of the staff wearing vile nylon unfitted England shirts. The upside was that it made all the ones in their normal uniform look quite stylish. And if the blue Tesco shirts looked quite stylish, then by comparison I was Carrie Bradshaw.

Here's a little treat in case all this football talk is getting a bit too much:



If you truly embrace the World Cup you will see so many benefits: a suntan, 6'2" of new shoes, uninterrupted Vogue reading, and the belief that you are an effortlessly well-dressed style goddess. So come on girls, join with me in hoping England stay in as long as possible, bar actually winning of course.

# THE NOBLE ART OF PUNTING

**Chris Wood** is a complete pain and has decided to send in the world's longest article. Honestly.

Well it is time for another Postscript and apparently I have to write something to go in it, but having now finished exams I have forgotten everything that I know, and I mean everything, so I will have to write about an experience that I have undergone since Saturday afternoon, and I am sure we are all fed up of football, Sunday was spent watching The O.C., and when I say spent I meant over 9 hours of O.C. so there is not much else to write about from then and today is Monday and all I have done today is picnic and punt, so Ladies and Gentlemen I bring you Chris's ultimate guide to Punting. Now I know I am prone to write long comprehensive reports of various events in my life and as Luke wants 12 pages I feel that I should make no exceptions this time, so sit down, put the kettle on and get ready (obviously not necessarily in that order).

In the beginning punting was invented by a St Edmund Hall engineer in the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century but only became really popular in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> as a way for the rich to fritter more hours away at the river (although why they would need to do this when there are so many boats that can be rowed on the river, I don't know), The university looked on punting as akin to gambling and drinking as one of the scourges of academic discipline, and in the 1880s the vice-chancellor reputedly tried to ban punts from Oxford. He was defeated by an overwhelming protest from the Master of St Edmund Hall who claimed: "I consider passing time on punts as a

far less damaging waste of youthful minds than many other activities tolerated and promoted by this university, not least of which is the acceptance of scholars to read for a degree in physics." Since then punting has become a popular pass time for academics and tourists alike.

So what is a punt and how would one propel this mysterious beast?

A punt is a boat that has been built for maximum speed through the water, this is achieved by the streamlined hull that cuts through the water, and when enough speed has been gained a hydroplane effect lifts the hull from under the water and the punt effectively glides over the water, allowing speeds of up to 3mph (downstream) to be attained. There is also a large spoiler on the back of the punt to add extra down force to the stern of the boat to allow for more grip in the corners. The punt is propelled using a large wooden or metal pole (or at competition level a carbon fibre alternative can be used) that is usually between 17 and 17.1 mm long, depending on the punter. The extra length can be a huge benefit when in deep water to allow the punter to reach the river bed or to get extra push from there pole. However a compromise has to be struck between weight and length to achieve top speeds. A formula has been derived by a St Peters physicist to find out what the best length of a punt pole is, coming up with the following result:

$$L = \frac{\partial\Omega\beta(\alpha\sigma\sqrt{\omega})}{2\mu\pi\mu}$$

where  $\partial\Omega$  is the height to mass ratio of the punters right arm  
 $\alpha\sigma\sqrt{\omega}$  is the length of punt multiplied by the density of the pole multiplied by the square root of the natural frequency of the pole  
 $\mu$  is the diameter of the pole  
 $\mu$  is the number of passengers on the punt  
 $\beta$  is the bollocks factor



The technique of a punting is as follows:

1. Hold the punt pole absolutely vertical to your right above the water, with your right hand just above waist height, and your left above it, high enough to prevent the pole overbalancing. You now want to angle the pole *forwards* slightly, i.e. with the top of the pole further forward than the bottom, so that you will be able to push back and move the punt forwards.
2. Position the bottom of the pole above the water close to the right side of the punt, about level with your right foot. Then just let the pole slide down through your fingers until it hits the bottom.
3. Push backwards on the pole, and move the punt forwards. As you move, the angle between the river bed and the pole gets shallower, and pushing on the pole will have a greater effect. Move hand over hand up the pole until you reach the end.
4. At this point you need to determine if you are going straight or not. An experienced punter can face forward at all times, and placing the pole becomes as intuitive as changing gear in a car. In the early stages, however, you may be looking down at what you are doing with your punt pole. If so, you must look forward again at the end of the stroke to see if you are going forwards. If so, fine, proceed to next step. If not, you need to steer by using the pole as a rudder: leave the pole trailing in the water, lower your hands so that as much of the pole as possible is submerged. Then turn the pole to the left and the punt will go right, turn to the right and it will go left.. It is important to make sure that you are heading straight before the next stroke, otherwise the error gets much harder to correct.
5. Once you are satisfied that you are going more or less straight, you can begin the retrieval. Simply lift the pole out of the water, hand over hand. As you haul it up, start lifting it vertical again. You want to lift the pole so that it just about clears the water.
6. Now repeat from the beginning. And you are punting.

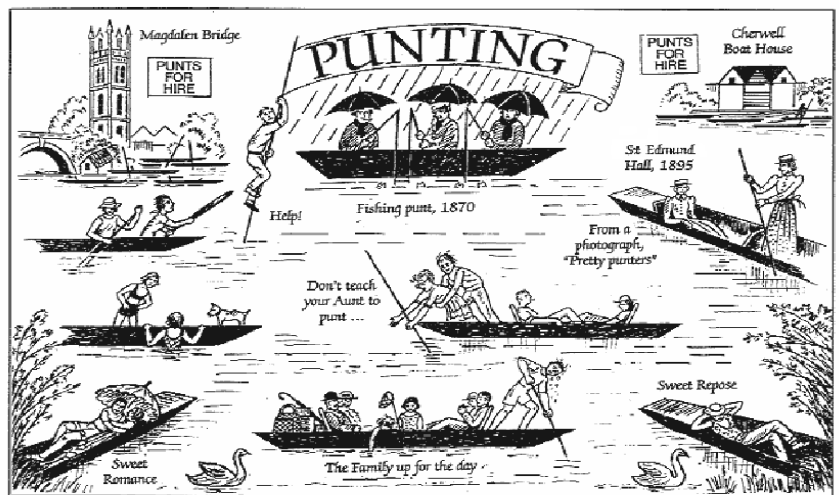
Common mistakes

1. Standing on the Cambridge end of the punt (the flat platform end). If you do this then you are far more likely to fall in and it also means that you have less pole length in that water for the push.
2. Dropping the pole in completely vertically. If you do this from stationary you will not have enough leverage to push backwards and propel the punt forwards. Initially you will go nowhere, then the usual result is that the punt starts to spin round.
3. Tilting the pole on a left-right plane, most commonly by putting the bottom of the pole in too far to your right, whilst its top extends above your head. If you do this you end up pushing sideways as well as backwards. Consequence: the stern moves to the left, the bow heads right, and you go off course. You must try hard to keep the pole vertical in a left-right plane.
4. Not correcting after each stroke. If you are turning at the start of the stroke, it is quite hard to go straight, let alone correct, on the next stroke unless you have mastered steering by pole placement (see below). You really want to straighten the punt up by the rudder method before your next stroke.



### Some general punting advice

1. Don't do the Nick – using the banks to push you back in the direction you want to go, so you proceed down the river in the punt in a zig zag formation
2. Choose the pole over the punt if the pole becomes stuck, you don't want to lose it as it is your only means of propulsion and is far more expensive to replace a pole than a punt (which you can always steal from some other college)
3. Don't choose the punt and inform the passengers who are in the punt so that they can take evasive action (like photographing you without the pole), it is better to jump ship or use the paddle to do a complete loop of the river – turning around will admit defeat so try and find a way back to where you dropped it, and then simply pluck it out of the water when you go past.
4. Don't stay in the punt if you see a crash is inevitable – obviously better out than in – that is why lifejackets are supplied on aircraft.
5. Sticking to the conventions of the river (such as passing on the left) – it is far better if you are in the middle then there is a much smaller chance you will come into contact with the bank – making you look a far more experienced punter than all the others that crash into the bank.
6. Take an adequate supply of Pimms – it is fuel for the punt and without it you won't go anywhere.
7. Wear some clothing that shows you are a member of the University – a gown can be used or simply a shirt with Oxford on it will do – tourists will look up to you as a divine creature and will seek your advice on all things punt
8. Make sure that you are situated as far from the punter as possible and face backwards – not only is there a far smaller chance you will be called up to do any actual punting but you don't want to get wet from the drips of the pole.
9. Make sure that you take the punt out of the jetty and that you are also punting when you return it – this will make the people who are watching think that you have been doing all the work for the whole trip and creates a similar illusion as wearing of sub-fusc to your knowledge of punting.



All the facts mentioned in this article are true so far as the Author knows and he has done some extensive research on the matter, and has been a well respected member of the punting community for several years. If anyone has any queries or would like to find out more information about the science of punting then you can visit the author's personal website at [www.puntingbollocks.co.uk/tellmemorecrap](http://www.puntingbollocks.co.uk/tellmemorecrap)

## *The Ten Most Important Things I Learned At University, I Learned From OUSGG, by Alistair Green*

1. Pandas are an endangered species mainly because people keep trying to steal them, and often succeed.
  2. In the game of Aunt Sally, it is much safer to throw the stick underarm than like a boomerang.
  3. Chickens can be defrosted remarkably quickly at the end of a day's hiking.
  4. " $x = x + 1$ " looks simple enough, but it can be the most confusing equation in all of mathematics.
  5. When making custard, always add plenty of milk. Otherwise you may get something that looks remarkably like scrambled eggs.
  6. There is probably a market for Dangerously Addictive Pontiff Pants, but it would be unwise to invest in the Erotic Celtic Fortune Neck-Tie.
  7. Torture chambers are unsuitable for wheelchair users.
  8. Beards taste salty. Apparently.
  9. Never, ever ask Gillian to collect nominations for committee posts if you don't have a good excuse for not becoming chair-elect.
  10. It's never too late to write an article for Postscript. Even if you started it five minutes after the deadline, and the deadline was midnight.
- 

### **SCOUT NETWORK**

Well it is quarter to twelve on a Monday evening and I thought it would be a good idea to write something for PS! Not really a sensible idea with work tomorrow especially as I was away camping all weekend...

... I was away with my Scout Network ([www.onnward.net](http://www.onnward.net)) from Worcester at the Pub Scout Festival held by Coventry Scout Network (aka the Pub Scouts) just outside Kenilworth (for those bothered about West Midlands geography). I found out about the event at the SSAGO AGM and since it is not a million miles away from Worcester Onnward Scout Network decided to go. The weekend started with an Xmas themed disco complete with fancy dress competition which Andy from our group won the Santa section of. The Saturday was a scorcher and started at 11am (enough time for the hang-over to have cleared) with a variety of activities on offer from inflatable boxing to crafts and laser clay pigeon shooting. My favourite was the rotating climbing wall which tilted to simulate overhangs. Saturday concluded with live music in the evening. Sunday again was a cloudless day ... so running about and doing inter-network sports is just what we needed! (As well as lots of water).

Apologies for the randomness but the point was that there were lots of SSAGO people there who I recognised and events like this which can be thought of as Network's equivalent of Rallies (but with a slightly different format) are a great way to spend a weekend and meet new people. There were lots of groups plugging similar events such as Essex's MADUK (23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> June [www.essexscouts.org.uk](http://www.essexscouts.org.uk)), Avon's Intense (15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> September [www.avonscouts.org.uk/intense](http://www.avonscouts.org.uk/intense)) and CATVOG's SnowJam. You never know you might meet someone you know from SSAGO there or even be inspired to organise one yourself.

Enough randomness, time for bed. Edit as you will Mr PS Editor.

*Mark Hawkins (Ex-Queen's and Onnward Scout Network).*

*13<sup>th</sup> June 2006.*

# A FRESHER'S YEAR OF OUSGG

**Nick Scroton** gives us his overview of the year.

It was with some trepidation that I found myself in St. John's College, less than a week after arriving at university. Coming to Oxford was about new friends, new experiences, and new challenges, surely it wasn't about Scouting. I arrived just in time, and was pleasantly surprised by the people I saw that were also thinking of taking the plunge. I spotted Chris, who had been the first person I'd met at Teddy Hall on a staircase queuing for registration and also two fellow geologists, not that I was sure who they were!

It wasn't the presentation that had me convinced, nor surprisingly the cake. It was the time just after the meeting proper in the Lamb & Flag, where I read through the book of previous weekly meetings. This wasn't scouts! This was just a group of people doing something random every week. I was up for that!!!

It wasn't easy, the first few weeks, to settle into OUSGG. Having two fellow fresher Teddies, and for a couple of weeks, two fellow geologists certainly helped. I got the feeling that in recruiting Chris, Lizzy and me, that it was all or nothing, you either got all of us, or none of us. The first term's events had some memorable moments; being threatened by Gillian with a pint poured over my head for not being able to tell the truth convincingly enough after just the second meeting, I could have also easily been seriously injured when hit on the leg by a firework just four weeks in.

So it came to the TGM, and I volunteered, somewhat foolishly for the post of Annual Dinner Organiser, I had been part of the group for eight weeks and was already putting myself in the firing line. The Annual Dinner was an organisational experience to say the least. And it gave me my first taste of dealing with old members, those people who were essentially more part of the group than I was, but, at the same time, less so, if you get my drift. Having finally found a venue within term-time, which was a challenge in itself, I set about hammering out the details, hoping that everything would somehow

come together in the few weeks that I had left to organise it, and trying to leave as little work as possible to the ever helpful Jacqui. Somehow, I made it to Pembroke, having absolutely no idea as to what was going on or inclination to sort it out having been on minibuses, coaches and buses since 5:00 that morning. Deciding that there was no way we were going to have place cards printed and then not used I took the decision to swap people around for dessert. It paid off, thankfully, for a while I was dreading the response!!! Overall the evening was a great success, I got my first Flossy and I was under budget too, success!

By the end of the second term I had volunteered to host NnN for the term, not quite realising just how much work it involved and pretty much not being able to sit down for an hour and a half whilst rushing to the Newsagent to buy milk, making drinks and trying to find time to have lunch myself. But I got to spend time with Eri>|, so it balances out!!

The moment that you guys had me sold was probably one of the first times I went to NnN, about half way through the Michaelmas term. It was a much better chance to get to know some people and one of the great successes of the group. I came to learn that perhaps the Thursday meetings became just as important if not more important for the group than the Monday ones. It also enabled me to keep up an often lacklustre appearance record on Mondays without losing touch with the group. On top of that I also went for Postscript distributor, probably a mistake but we shall see!

Perhaps the major thing that awaits me is going on a vacation trip, I am yet to take the plunge, just how weird can it be?

So here I am, three terms on and having just finished exams yesterday, no longer a fresher. Having dealt with the Annual Dinner, NnN, PostScript distributing and contemplating at some point editing postscript and chairmanship in 2007, I think I may be a fully fledged member of the group, just think, they'll be a new batch of fresher's come October.

# HENRY KELLY PARADOX

*Phil Alderton brings us his PostScript swansong.*

Bow your legs before the all-mighty vengeance of ...

## *The Henry Kelly Paradox*

Imagine, if you will, inadvertently pouring rat poison in the smoothie you were trying to make. Maybe you'd left it out after laying some traps but it was too close to the gin bottle you meant to reach for, perhaps. Anyhow, you take a few mouthfuls of your concoction before you realise your rather major error. A swift bout of vomiting and stomach-pumping later and you've successfully removed the mixture from your body before it could do too much harm. To celebrate, you decide to make yourself the smoothie you'd wanted in the first place, and accidentally pour some quadruple strength weed killer in, which turns out to be so effective that you die. Painfully and quickly. Congratulations - dubious thought experiments asides, you have just discovered for yourself the Henry Kelly Paradox.

The Henry Kelly Paradox is a social phenomenon that has puzzled scholars for centuries. To put it succinctly, a Henry Kelly Paradox is the name given to the replacement of something abysmal by something that is, contrary to all expectations, worse. Thus in the example above, the removal of the poison is expected to prevent an agonising death, but its replacement by the weed killer kills you. Essentially, if you believe that something is the reason for crapness and that its removal or replacement would prove beneficial, but the actual replacement is worse, you have created a Henry Kelly Paradox.

The Paradox is named after the former Classic FM Disc Jockey Henry Kelly, for the circumstances of his removal became paradoxical. The Classic FM morning programme had for a long time been presented by him: at first in the mid-morning, and then an extended breakfast programme. Kelly was terrible. Really terrible. We're talking 'permanently preventing your radio from getting anywhere near 100MHz' terrible. Up there with the greatest sins of humanity. Heck, for the racing trips introduced by gallopy music and the sound of horses being whipped he

deserves to burn in the annals of Broadcasting Infamy forever. Removing Henry Kelly, therefore, would be a Good Thing. Classic FM would lose a major element of their crapness. In June 2003, the executioner finally came a-knocking and Kelly was off the air. To the crashing disappointment of millions, Simon Bates, his replacement, was far, far worse. Hence the paradox.

Once the Paradox was first observed, it has been applied to many other situations. Recently discovered evidence suggests that the assassination of Julius Caesar, causing a bloody civil war and the death of the Republic, is one of the earliest known occurrences of the Paradox. Shakespeare himself is said to allude to it when Cassius ponders "'Twas ever the fate of Kellius" ['Julius Caesar', Act 23, Scene 5 - most modern revivals omit this key scene].

Some argue that the removal of Geri Halliwell from the Spice Girls' line-up caused the Paradox to occur. Whether this is the case or not depends on whether it was the Spice Girls as a set or an individual Spice Girl that was the cause of the misery that was 'Spiceworld'. Personally, I blame Sporty.

A disputed appearance of the Henry Kelly Paradox occurred during the reign of his namesake, King Henry VIII. He caused a rare recurring Paradox by continually replacing wives. Yet modern scholarship contends that the King himself, and not Catherine, Anne, Jane, Catherine, Ann, and the other one, were the root cause of his crapness, making this not an incident when the Paradox happened. Although he was followed by the sickly Edward and the bloody Mary, so perhaps we can cite this example after all.

We, can though, say with confidence that the replacement of the Conservative Government in

1997 by Labour is now retro-actively seen as a classic example of the Henry Kelly Paradox in all its miserable glory. This era also sees the revival of the related Dr Kelly Paradox, but as thinking about the Hutton Report is not good for my blood pressure, we'll leave the discussion of that for another time.

Due to the risks inherent in the invocation of the Henry Kelly Paradox (reputation, life, etc), care must be taken both in the removal of the cause of

crapness, and in its possible replacement. The Paradox can strike at any moment.

Oh, and this is my last article for 'Postscript'. Hmm...

*Thanks Phil – I think I speak for all when I say we've enjoyed your many articles down the years.*  
*Ed.*

## REFLECTIONS

**Sarah Berman** reflects on her time in OUSGG.

The prospect of imminently leaving Oxford has caused me to look back rather a lot recently, and to think about all the things I will miss when I finally walk out of the bubble. I may have done a squillion different things during my time here and perhaps wasn't the most regular attendee of OUSGG meetings, but I have a huge number of fantastic memories, including....

- A very drunk Tristram smashing Hayley's bike helmet at one of my very early meetings.
- Meeting Mr Seward for the first time, when his dedication to OUSGG extended to turning up to OUSGG in sub fusc and glitter following his DPhil viva.
- Travelling to my first Winter Walking in Alison's mini with the windscreen wiper continually falling off.
- Needing Libby's GPS to tell us quite how far off-course we were in the car on the way to a walk, and proceeding to faff for hours about what to do now.
- The Name Game and Steve Crane, on the same WW.
- The manic baguette-making operation at the Oxford Rally, when the bread arrived late. I have never seen sandwiches made so quickly and doubt I ever will!
- Many a pint of tea in the fabulous walkers' café (whose name escapes me) at the foot of Snowdon on WW 03-04.
- Never quite knowing what went on in the famous drying room, but not being quite as confused or curious as Phil.
- Coffee in my room at the end of a safari supper turning into a mammoth OUSGG (especially Jenny and Tristram) drinking session.
- The 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner – much panic was had by me and Caroline, but people came, ate and danced and even seemed to enjoy themselves!
- Wading in the mud at WW 04-05.
- Mafia. Never trust Sam.
- The annual question of 'who is Flossy'?
- Missing the fun of May Morning last year despite staying up all night after the annual dinner, as I was just too tired, drunk and crabby. Sorry to anyone I was rude to that night!
- Luke's marvellous invention of *Quotescript*, and Phil and Gillian's remarkable domination of the league table.
- This year's post Annual Dinner party. Carnage, but yes my flatmates are still talking to me!

To all those who have contributed to a fantastic four years, I can't thank you enough. I will miss the group immensely, and intend to make up for it by teaching the teenagers of New Zealand how to faff with great effect. Be sure to keep me posted on events in Oxford, and I look forward to becoming your Southern Hemisphere correspondent and seeing you all at WW 07-08!

# A GIRL'S GUIDE TO CROQUET

*Or how revision actually became the more attractive option for Roger...*

1. Find three other equally matched girls. During the picking of croquet teams, these can be identified by the careful, considered inspection of the grass just to the right of their feet.
2. Look at the colour balls your team will be paying with. Identify each ball with a girl wearing that colour. Black jumper? Black ball! Blue trousers? Blue ball! Please note it is best not to include underwear in this (see rule 9).
3. Listen intently to the official rules and the difference between a croquet and a roquet shot. Try *\*very\** hard not to be distracted by wondering if roquet really is a real word or not. Or by passing squirrels.
  - 3.a. *Turn up late and realise you missed all the discussion of shots. Wave the stick thing (you missed what it was called) around anyway.*
4. When you break the above rule, carry on nodding sagely and, for added authenticity, add in a few 'mhmm's.
5. Stride confidently to the starting position, having paused to tie your shoe laces/ tie your hair up/ wipe a smudge from your eye. This gives you the advantage that although you weren't actually listening, you have copied everybody else and are at least heading in the right direction.
6. Hold your croquet bat/mallet/racquet/weapon of mass destruction confidently, preferably lean on it for added nonchalance.
7. Rely on an expert (Roger) to start you off.
8. Swing your bat/mallet/racquet/WMD in the air in an effort to 'line it up' with the correct ball (you'll know which one this is by your jumper/trousers/hair colour). Three swings should do the trick. Smack the ball regardless.
9. Very quickly it will become someone else's turn. You will know who this is by your expert (Roger) telling you which ball to hit next. Match this to your clothing. Repeat step 8.
10. Carry on this process until someone gets their ball close to a hoop. Celebrate in girly fashion. Repeat step 8 for the next 15 minutes until either you have persuaded your ball to go through the far-too-small hoop, or your fellow team mates deem you to have put enough effort in and pretend it has gone through.
11. Sometimes it will be necessary to smack someone else's ball away from where they want to be. Do not do this because it's not friendly. Instead, club together to come up with a plan action that will involve both of you being in a good position.
  - 11.a *Preferably, make this all 4 of you, even if you are in 2 teams. We don't like all this competitiveness.*
12. By this stage your expert will have been driven to distraction and will be on the edge of the grass/lawn/pitch/green revising so devise your own strategy for play, playing to everyone's strengths but remembering that you are all girls and should be playing nicely. Disregard the official rules about which way a hoop must be played and reverse the direction according to how close to the hoop a ball is.

13. Eventually you will have played all the hoops and you will have to aim for the stump in the middle. Here rule 10 can be put into effect.

14. Again, celebrate in girly fashion.

Thank you for organising the evening Roger, we are very sorry we made you do more revision to escape our ineptitude!

## THE TGM – A REPORT

**Tim Driscoll** prepares for his new role.

Having just been elected as Secretary for next year, I suppose I should get used to writing the minutes for things like the TGM. So, as something of a warm up, here's a (brief) account of the Trinity TGM 2006 (the one yesterday as I'm writing this).

People turned up in the Mitre more or less on time, and there were quite a few of us indeed. We gave Michael honorary membership, so he could vote on (and stand for) the elections, and pretty quickly passed the Constitutional Amendment to elect the Annual Dinner Organiser in Trinity (i.e., later on that meeting). People stood for posts, bullied by Gillian in some cases, and we even had the thrill of a contested election for several posts (commiserations to those who didn't get the posts they were after) after a certain amount of husting had taken place.

Various officers gave reports, and by and large it seems that there were no real problems. Andrew was unable to make the meeting and sent in reports and postal votes for the posts he was standing for, and this also dealt neatly with the discussion on "future of stores" item that was due later, thus saving us all a bit of time/headaches.

Oh, and due to her bullying so many people into standing, we elected Gillian as Scapegoat.

## OUSGG SU-DOKU

**Sarah Berman** sets us a puzzler – Create Erik T. Pand(a) in this 9x9 grid.

	T	R			I		E	
	I	K		P				T
P							K	
			N	E		T		K
	E	T	I		P			
N		P		T	K			A
			E					P
I				R		D	A	
	A					K	N	

*This idea is a blatant steal from "Cricket Su Doku" in "The Wisden Cricketer". The writer takes no credit whatsoever.*



**Lizzy Horne** brings us this PostScript exclusive.

*The following article proof was “liberated”, at great personal risk, from a filthy dumpster parked around the back of the main office of Chronicle Books, San Francisco.*

First proof sets [The WORST-CASE SCENARIO Survival Handbook: OUSGG]

## HOW TO NOT WRITE A POSTSCRIPT ARTICLE

### ✪ Stall for time.

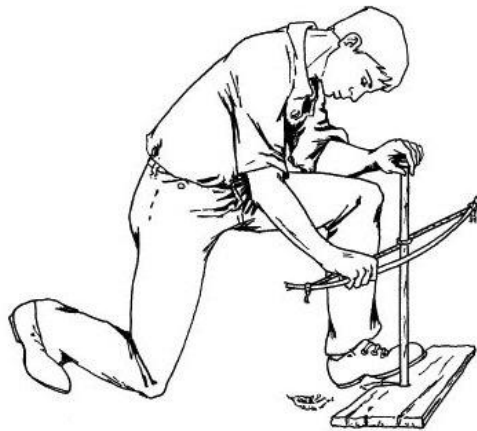
Explain that you haven't yet found a suitably inspiring subject for an article, but that you are on the lookout. Be sure to sound enthusiastic at all times.

### ✪ Encourage others to write articles.

If the pages are already packed full to bursting, the editor is less likely to mind your not contributing an article.

### ✪ Provide photos.

Sending photos to the editor will give the illusion of application while requiring very little effort. Take care not to send in any photos of yourself. Discourage others from submitting potentially embarrassing and/or incriminating photographs by taking items of clothing hostage.



*Setting fire to something or someone is no longer considered an acceptable way of postponing having to write the article, unless the Drill and Bow technique is used.*

### ✪ Be the subject of articles.

As long as your name appears somewhere in an article, readers will be less likely to notice your lack of authorship.

### ✪ Miss deadlines.

Talk about your proposed article, but fail to finish it off by the time of the next deadline. Agree to finish it and send it off early

### ✪ Do not attend any meetings, trips or events.

Lack of attendance instantly disqualifies you from writing up minutes, reports and summaries. Warning! Does not work if your name is Nick.

## HOW TO WRITE A POSTSCRIPT ARTICLE

✧ **Wait until the end of Trinity.**

As all members are required to submit something, stalling for any longer would be pointless. Publication in the Trinity edition furthermore ensures that your article will be buried in the biggest issue of the year.

✧ **Don't reveal the contents of your article to anyone.**

Discussion hampers the flow of the creative juices, and may jeopardise completion of the article.

✧ **Incorporate the writing of the article into your daily routine.**

Writing is far more interesting than revision for e\*\*\*s, so use it as a means to avoid revision, sleep, unpleasant household duties and tutorial preparation. If colleagues complain, ignore them. You are a writer, and your first priority must always be to your Art.

✧ **Find a good topic.**

Ideally, this will be startlingly original, blindingly interesting and a suitable vehicle for the demonstration of your erudition, wit and eloquence. But this is not an ideal world.

✧ **Find the editor's Achilles Heel**

Mentioning an editor's bailiwick may help to distract them from making too many alterations to the article before it goes to print jaffa cakes jaffa cakes jaffa cakes jaffa cakes. (*You've got me – Ed.*)

✧ **Avoid distractions.**

Write in an environment free from all diversions. Avoid trying to write on your computer, in your room, while watching or competing in a sporting event (especially water sports), or during a tutorial. Seek out unexciting locations such as the Law section of your college library, a police holding cell, or the back row of your last Mathematics revision lecture of the term.



*This is not a suitable environment in which to attempt to finish the article.*

✧ **Use stimuli.**

Coffee, Diet Coke, neat vodka, absinthe and ginger beer can all aid in clearing writer's block. Be careful not to overdo it.

✧ **Bite the bullet.**

Just sit down and write the damn article and stop putting it off, you joker.

# KIT ORDER

We are planning to do a kit order at the start of the summer, so if you're wanting a new t-shirt for the summer trip, (which will of course be fantastic!), or feel you should let some smart new kit to help impress the fresher's, now is your opportunity.

For anybody new to OUSGG kit, there are basically three design options:

- 1) The OUSGG crest embroidered as a little logo
- 2) The OUSGG crest embroidered a bit bigger with the words 'Oxford University' above it and 'Scout and Guide Group' underneath
- 3) The screen printed design - logo on the front and the Erik with Oxford Spires picture on the back.

You can have these on anything in the Shirtworks clothing catalogue. Popular items in the past have been t-shirts, sweatshirts, polo shirts, rugby tops, fleeces, hats, waterproof jackets, and the infamous Erik tea towels.

As a general rule, t-shirts area bit under £10, rugby shirts are a bit over £20 and hoodys are between £15 and £20 but this depends on how many we order and what kind of design you have on it.

We do need at least ten people to want something screen printed for Shirtworks to agree to do any screen printing. We will contact Shirtworks soon for exact colours and prices, and then email with more details, but if people want to start expressing vague interest, please do. For the full catalogue of what they have available visit

[www.shirtworks.co.uk/catalogue.asp](http://www.shirtworks.co.uk/catalogue.asp)

Jacqui and Michael

*Option 1: Small Embroidered Logo*



*Option 3: Screen Printed Logo:*



*Option 1*



*Option 2*



*Option 3*

*Option 2: Embroidered Logo with text*



*Option 3: Screen Printed Logo, Back*

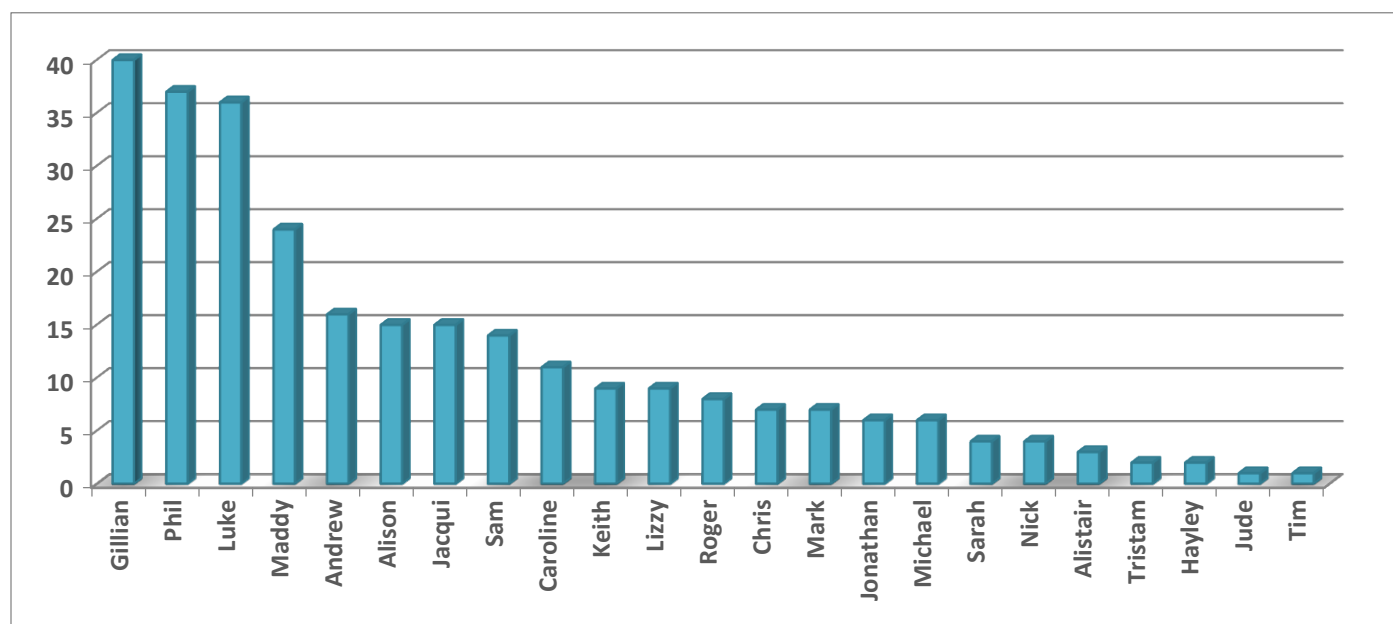


# The Last Quote

- Andrew:** Well, it's the people who are evil not the pineapple.
- Gillian:** I'll stand up as we go under Magdalen bridge and take my trousers off!
- Andrew:** It's always my Mum's birthday on the 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Lizzy:** Hello, Nick's phone. *(to Nick)* Your one o'clock's here.
- Nick:** Lizzy, why's your swimming costume in the NnN box?
- Nick:** Who's milking whose...?
- Lizzy:** Naked guy, it's all about naked guy.
- Lizzy** *(to Jacqui)*: Your sister has stolen my husband!
- Hayley:** I might like the little hip waggle.
- Luke:** We had a couple of times where my ball was vibrating inside the hoop...actually it was Caroline's.
- Jacqui:** I'm sure Phil should be fathering a large...
- Jacqui** *(about Luke's sibling)*: It's either a Rosie or it's a boy.
- Luke** *(to Gillian)*: Your plait is about as exciting as it gets.
- Lizzy:** Nick reminds me of Jesus

## The Quotes League

1. Gillian	40
2. Phil	37
3. Luke	36
4. Maddy	24
5. Andrew	16
6. Alison	15
6. Jacqui	15
8. Sam	14
9. Caroline	11
10. Keith	9
10. Lizzy	9
12. Roger	8
13. Chris	7
13. Mark	7
15. Jonathan	6
15. Michael	6
17. Sarah	4
17. Nick	4
19. Alistair	3
20. Tristram	2
20. Hayley	2
22. Jude	1
23. Tim	1



# THANK YOU

I know this isn't the most sensible of places to say this, and some people might not know what I'm on about, but I was asked for an article, so it seemed as good as any. It's also going to be written in my normal dippy way, so apologies for anyone who requires a translation.

Anyway, some of you might have realised by now that I've had a mad 2 and a bit years (almost as long as an Oxford degree!) working on my Queen's Guide award. Finally, it eventually got completed (just after Easter Activity), and was (assuming I don't bolt between writing the article and post script being printed) presented on Wed 8th week.

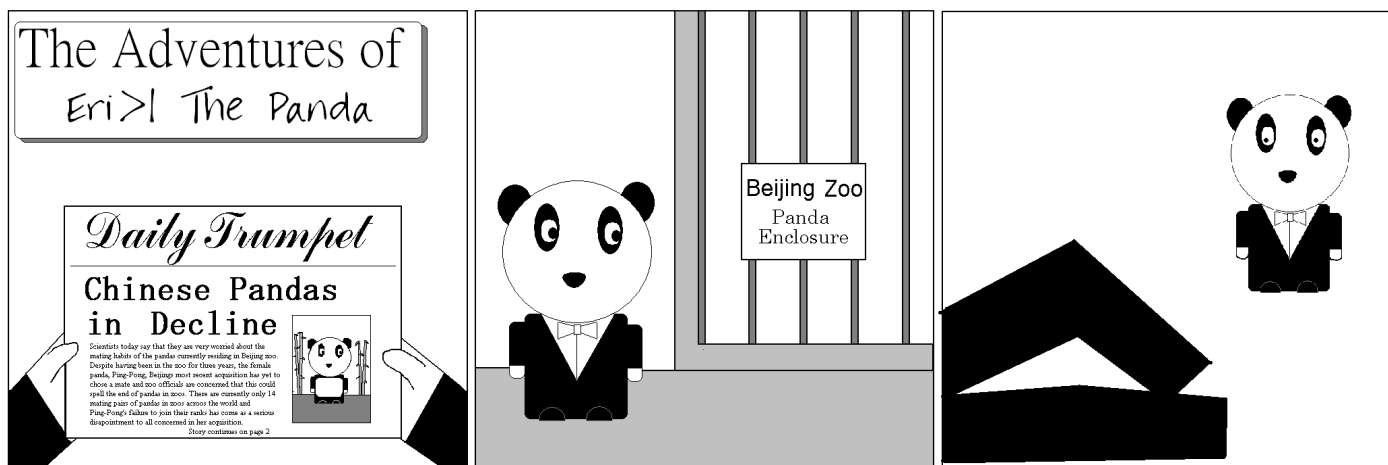


Many people have coped with my stressing over little things (such as a computer that refuses to turn an image 90 degrees) and pushing me to actually finish, rather than throw a tantrum at it. For this, I would like to say thank you. I'm not going to name names, I'd just forget important people, like Erik, but I hope you all know you're appreciated. So much for not naming names, I really do have to thank Jacqui, who's been there for me through the entire lot, down to writing coherent sections in my sign off book and getting dragged in to brownies when we had a leadership crisis!

Right, enough of the sentiments. For anyone still reading, while it has it's stressful moments, it's led me to do an awful lot of wonderful things that I would never have previously done and make some really great friends. If you've got the time, I would suggest it's definitely worth starting (ok, for scouts out there, you could always do the Queen's Scout award, even if it does look easier!).

Go For It and look 4ward to supr!sing yourself!

**Caroline Berry**



Yeah, so it's a bit of a cop out, but Luke's pestering for articles and I had this lying around so I thought I might as well send it in. (For those old members who remember them, just try and forget what state I left Erik in. Continuity was never one of my strong points. *Sam Snelson*)

## GOOD BYE!

Have a great summer!

