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NEWSTRACK

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Alastair Buckley competes for England against Belgium in the recent Interland event

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Thoughts from the Chair

There's a fair amount of orienteering happening now with the highlight being the JK in Southern England over the Easter weekend. No doubt there will be a write-up elsewhere but congratulations to all those who did well - either in their placings or in achieving what they set out to do. DVOers who came in the top ten of their class were Teige Malley (2nd in M10A), Alex Whitehead (2nd in M10B), Doug Dickinson (2nd in M50S), Tony Seaston (4th in M60S), Erin Malley (5th in W10A), Jessica Whitehead (7th in W10A), Val Johnson (9th in W40L) and Liz Smith (7th in W55S). Similar congratulations to relay teams who finished 3rd in the Women's Short, 10th in the Men's 120+, 3rd in the Women's 120+, 4th in the M/W 40- and 7th in the Mini Relay M/W12-.

The JK wasn't a great weekend for me but no doubt some of you had stories to tell. Too late now but why not put pen to paper (or, as in my case, fingers to keyboard) and tell us about your blinder of a run, most novel excuses for your latest disaster or whimsical jottings on the beauty of the bluebells on your courses at this time of year! Graham is always pleased to receive contributions from new writers and, you never know, you could become the proud keeper of the Journalist of the Year Award for 1999!

The Club Dinner at the end of February was a resounding success so thanks once again to Val Johnson for organising it and to the staff at Hartington Youth Hostel for the excellent meal. As well as walks, runs and attempts to win Sports Personality of the Year for next year (see elsewhere for details) the weekend saw the annual club awards. The winners were as follows:

DVO Orienteer of the Year 1998:	Kim Buckley
DVO Junior Orienteer of the Year 1998:	Matthew Dickinson
Most Improved Orienteer 1998:	Liz Godfree
Most Enthusiastic Newcomers 1998:	James and Janice Allen
Journalist of the Year 1998:	John Hawkins

The Sports Personality of the Year for 1998 was a keenly fought competition with no shortage of worthy contenders. The final results were as follows:

- 1st Alex Whitehead - whilst lost on his M10 course at the British Championships asked for help from "a man on a bike with some maps" - the Controller! (21 votes)
- 2nd Kath Whitehead - mistook Great Gable for a cloud - or the other way round - on the Saunders. (18 votes)
- 3rd equal - Rob Shooter - for running along the road to the Start at Whitesprings and then following the tapes back towards registration - only to meet Ranald coming in the opposite direction on his way to the start. (17 votes)

3rd equal - Sal and Dave Chaffey - for sitting at a drinks point on the 3 trigs drinks point wondering why no-one was coming - they had got the wrong weekend! (17 votes)

There were 10 other close contenders who, no doubt, will continue to strive to achieve the title "Sports Personality of the Year"! Well done Alex!

Finally, you will also read elsewhere of the Club's success in winning lottery money through the "Awards for all" scheme. Thanks to Mike Godfree for his efforts in putting the bid together which, together with the progress on permanent courses reported in the latest EMEWS and the various events we are putting on for teachers and schools, will go a long way in meeting many of the aims of our development plan.

Ranald Macdonald, Chair, Derwent Valley Orienteers

Nurturing Novices – Mike Godfree

It was good to see so many children going through the start at Whitesprings, both family groups and youth groups. But as so often it was disappointing to see that in so many cases only one of the pair (and in some cases three or even four) had a map. As an experienced orienteer would you expect to look only at the map when your partner allowed you to? Of course not, and what happens is that one child might actually navigate and the other one or two will merely follow. At best they will be allowed a grudging look at the map when the leader realises that he no longer knows where he is.

Relocating on a map like that is a skill taught to elite orienteers on squad training sessions not something for novices. Novices are better encouraged to keep contact with the map, orientating it and thumbing it so they always know where they are. They can only do that if they have a map of their own. Similarly with some of the family groups, Dad was carrying the map and you suspect that for the children orienteering means being dragged along whilst Dad navigates. Not a good introduction to the sport.

So if you are involved with advising any youth groups to come to an event or to use a permanent course, can you encourage them to purchase a map each? Likewise if you are sending your friends to an event. That way all the participants will gain a lot more from the experience.

Another worrying occurrence was the obviously novice families tackling Blue or Brown. It's only 6km they said and we've got until 2:30. So again, if you are encouraging your friends to come, try and point out that the more technical

courses may look short but the controls are not on the paths and involve some slow navigation through the worst bits of the forest. We would surely prefer that they came away feeling that next time they will try something more challenging than having to retire because it was far tougher than they expected.

At every event we get plenty of beginners so somewhere along the line the publicity is working. But very few of them seem to convert into even occasional orienteers. I think we need to be looking at making their first event or two a more enjoyable experience. Perhaps some of the newcomers to the club might like to comment on how they were nearly put off. We might learn a lot about how others see us!

Mike Godfree

Liz Godfree Plays 'Hookey'

Sunday 28th March - will it be Eckington, Double Dumpling or - - -? Decisions become easier as Mike arranged a couple of days working in Glasgow. I could visit my parents and Chris would have a cheap trip home from Edinburgh and on to J.K. A good forecast encouraged us to spend the weekend en route in the Lake District.

Saturday was a superb day. We parked with all the other walkers at Patterdale and did a circuit of Helvellyn. Visibility was good, temperature perfectly acceptable for the time of year - the brave (or foolhardy) were in shorts!

Sunday's forecast was uncertain, so rather than risk getting soaked on the high fells we went orienteering - just for a change. Border Liners were holding a low - key colour - coded event on High Pike. However, as it was a Cumbrian Galoppen event there was electronic punching - Sport-ident. We duly hired our e-cards - 50p (£14 to replace lost ones or to purchase your own). And then the quandary? To wear over or under gloves? I invariably remove gloves half - way round a course, but always draw up the controls on the map without them!

Start times were allocated at the Start (just as well when the declared 15 minute walk to the Start took 25 minutes) by the one Start official. Thanks to electronic punching you started when ready and there was a space at the Master Maps.

High Pike seemed a familiar area and was recognised by Mike as being part of the Capricorn map of the Back of Skiddaw. So, not only were we playing hookey from Eckington we were training for this year's Capricorn! The Planner certainly thought so for the Blue course had only 10 controls in 7.5 km with 210 m of climb. I contoured across rough moorland like a haggis, went up and over and failed to keep up with others on the long descent at the end.

Punching was slick and easy with a reassuring bleep and flash. The only hiccough came at the end when the computer refused to print out splits.

And the weather? It was cool and although I removed my pertex early on I never once thought about taking off my gloves. Early runners had a dry run. Later folks had to contend with an increasingly strong wind and accompanying rain.

VERDICT This electronic punching system seems so much more efficient with far less man-power required - so long as everything is working correctly.

P.S. Smart colour printed results arrived within the week. Sadly, there were no individual splits - those are available on the web-site -- for those who have access to it.

Liz Godfree

Comic ReLeith – JK99

(I wasn't going to mention the JK, still trying to forget it, but Ranaid has built up your expectations so much in his opening salvo that I feel I just can't let you down, so here goes).

What is the most important control of the whole year? I feel that there's a good case for saying that it must be the first control on the first day of the JK. How do I make that out? Well, it has to be a control at a multi-day cumulative event -- which don't come any more prestigious than the JK - where you can wear one messed-up control like a ball and chain for the whole weekend. All of which is by way of preamble to the picture of me, seven minutes into Day 1, standing in a clearing scratching my head and having not the faintest clue where I was. And this on a first control also serving the W14s, which Kate reckoned she took four minutes to find. As I pondered my predicament, it felt strange to be the only immobile feature in a tableau of frenzied activity as competitors homed in unerringly on their first strikes of the day.

And I saw my JK, as so many had before it, my hopes and my expectations, recede into the distance faster than Clive Anderson's hairline. The gulf already opening up between me and 150 other M40s became a chasm. It's at times like these I wonder why I bother.

This was by far the best of the three areas with two sections in particular littered with pits, depressions, re-entrants and niches designed to catch the unwary. Yes, that's me again. The biggest disappointment was that these two areas were in the south of the area and the length of the M40L meant that we were diverted in the second part of the course round the less interesting northern half. In contrast,

Val's course being 2km+ shorter was able to meander and take advantage of the lower half's choicest features.

My run was chiefly memorable for the time when, the shortest distance between two controls being along the road, I was blissfully running along it when an irate orienteer burst from the undergrowth and accused me of cheating by running along an out of bounds area. Pausing only to reflect that if I was cheating, I was not making a very good job of it judging by the time already elapsed since my distantly remembered start time, I challenged my accuser to show where the map indicated the road being out of bounds. He pointed angrily to one of sixty-one 'X's printed over the roads, and I had to confess that perhaps there were rather a lot of what I had previously regarded as crossing points!

As you will by now have appreciated, my early disaster more or less set the tone for the day and I never really recovered. This was compounded by the perpetual drizzle throughout the day, of the sort which causes insoluble dilemmas for the spectacle wearer. Do you continue bespectacled and have not a clue where you're going, rather like driving through pouring rain without the wipers on? Or do you discard and plunge on regardless, able to see neither map nor the ground in front of you, and therefore still not a clue where you're going?

And so I resided in the magnificent position of 137th out of 148 overnight. The most surprising aspect of this is that there were over 10 poor souls who'd had an even worse run than me.

Day 2 was an altogether different kettle of fish, much more familiar to the East Midlander, being topographed purely with the head-down no-nonsense orienteer, of which I am proud to count myself one, in mind. It was more or less a case of pointing yourself in the right direction and waiting till you tripped over the control. The longer starters began on Holmbury Hill and then crossed the road to Winterfold and Pitch Hill. This second area consisted of a series of parallel re-entrants so that eventually you felt giddy as you rode the big dipper between controls. Sick bags should have been provided for the weak of stomach.

A pretty near perfect run was spoilt by a bingo clearing after the road crossing – I met many old friends as we all searched desperately for it – and by me falling for the oldest planner's trick in the book. This is where the course is made to cross back on itself so the unwary orienteer – him again – gets confused and finds himself at control 15 instead of 11. Anyway, despite this, I clawed my way to a more respectable but hardly commendable 117th overall, 79th on the day. Desperate to find something of which I could be proud, I searched the results to see whether I could claim the little-known but highly prestigious award of M40L-With-the-Most-Improved-Run-On-Day-2 but even this small pleasure was denied to me – some New Zealander managed to come 153rd on Day 1 and then 73rd on Day 2.

First impression of the relays was bemusement that such a godforsaken place could ever have been chosen in the first place. The assembly looked like a discarded Dr Who set, an old lagoon set in the middle of scorched earth that a pneumatic drill would have had trouble penetrating. Which was just as well as we weren't allowed to put our club tent up. But instead, as luck would have it, we were yards away from the final control for all courses and able to cheer as each successful DVO team came home. It's been a long time since anyone could put the words 'successful' and 'DVO relay teams' in the same sentence without inviting scorn and ridicule but, as Ranald has already related, twelve members and four DVO teams went away bearing mugs at the end of the day.

If any DVO member is still wondering where his or her map is from the JK, the chances are that we've got it at Johnson Towers so give us a bell before they're donated to the budge's cage.

And Now a comment on one particular aspect of the JK from a car-less Dave Bennett:

So where was the JK?

I do not own a car, but Surrey has a good public transport network. The two National Events in Surrey earlier this year were both within easy walking distance of a station, so I was hoping that I would be able to get to the JK events without having to scrounge a lift. Unfortunately, in an attempt to prevent competitors driving to the events from the wrong direction, the individual events were described only as 'signposted so many miles down country lanes from the A25' which is no real use for working out what is the nearest station or bus stop.

Now those determined to approach the events from the wrong direction by car could fairly quickly have driven up and down a few country lanes till they found an O sign, but doing the same on foot could take hours rather minutes. So it was only the relay event that I was able to get to without arranging a lift, and even though it was only a mile from Blackwater station the event details still assumed everyone would want to come by car.

I wouldn't expect many car owners would prefer to travel to events by public transport, but where there is a choice it is surely sensible to mention it.

Dave Bennett

Feeling The Strine – 11th April 1999)

Another of those confounded fixture dilemmas I keep going on about. Thieves Wood or Strines? Well, not much of a dilemma actually. Some time in the past something very unpleasant must have happened to me at Thieves Wood - and, come to that, as regular readers of Newstrack will know, Blidworth also - because the very mention of these two words in conjunction is enough to send me into Pavlovian convulsions, even though it must be ten years since I last brought myself to set foot in the area. Actually we did have a particular reason to venture north rather than east on this occasion. Earlier in the year, in January, the same Strines club event was due to be held (still can't bring myself to call them colour-coded, but it's only been about 15 years now so there's time yet; for similar reasons I refuse to call linesmen, referee's assistants. Viva la revolucion!) and the whole family had set out on a wintry morn and made it to the Strines turn-off before being turned back on account of snow making parking rather than orienteering impossible.

This was the same event resurrected – fittingly a week after Easter – and apparently for a third time – even He didn't manage that! The most surprising aspect of the event was that anyone outside SYO bothered to turn up because this was probably the least advertised club event of all time. It didn't appear on the BOF fixtures list, or in EMEWS, and I didn't even see flyers for it at the JK. I only found out about it because it appeared on the list Val brought home from DVO's fixtures sub-committee.

I was beginning to think that it was a phantom phixture but Dave Skidmore mentioned it in a telephone conversation the day before, so I confirmed it from the SYO web-site. Just to show off, I downloaded the details in one of those compressed file thingies. I mention this so I can justify an excursion down a metaphorical side street – I'm afraid this is a feature of declining years so you'll just have to get used to it. I was very impressed with the rapidity with which the JK results were put up on the web site over the Easter weekend but I like to have a maunder through the results like some people go through the Sunday papers. I still take a (healthy) interest in who's hot in W55 even though I will never, barring an unforeseeable accident, compete there. So why can't I just download the whole shooting match in one of those compressed file thingies instead of having to download each class separately? This is particularly irksome on Relay results when, in a family of five, you have to download five lots of team results and then spend ages finding your way round innumerable individual courses till you stumble on the ones you and your loved ones competed in. Just asking.

(continues on page 13)

(The two pages on the back of the fixtures list comprise an article written by Andy Mackervoy last year on the Scout Orienteering badge which I have unforgivably held over for not just one but two issues. My abject apologies to Andy)

3. A visible means of gauging their development, and (hopefully) improvement at Orienteering, and so become absorbed into the fabric of the club.

So how do we cover these ? The first need is to make the various agencies aware of what the sport is, does, and can offer. The Schools event at Shipley was well attended, but it would be interesting to see how many different schools/groups supplied the 100-odd competitors. Despite copying all 16 Derby North Scout troops, mine was the only one there. I'll try again for Crich in January. Maybe another approach may be to offer teachers/youth leaders a FREE come and try it event, without kids, where they learn what it's about, and how they can use Orienteering as a resource in their wider work. Because I'm sure fear of appearing ignorant in front of the youngsters is a deterrent to some adults.

As for regular exposure to the sport: The world moves too fast for today's youth to retain an interest in anything new for more than a fortnight, without re-experiencing it. And if you don't believe this lack of retention, ask any 12 year old to say what they did last week..! So a SERIES of informal, easy-to-follow, accessible events is required, spaced at no more than fortnightly intervals over a two month period. Which may be the catalyst towards a long-term interest.

As for measurable achievement, this could come from a league structure, but more simply by climbing a ladder of attainment. For example:

- come to a local event and successfully complete a course.
- Spend a session being instructed by a club coach in some aspect of the sport.
- reach a 'badge standard' at a local event.
- attend a full Orienteering event, and successfully complete your course.

Doesn't this sound like the Scout's badge ?

And then we present the successful young person with a personalised certificate, information pack all about membership of DVO and BOF, and where to go from here.

So in conclusion, the thoughts of Scout Leader Andy are:

1. Put on a 'Leader/Teacher only' event (subsidised) to get to the real motivators.
2. Keep the summer events, but call it the Summer Series. Alternate weeks to be geared to novice Orienteers, and fulfilling the table of attainment above.
3. The in-between weeks to be a combination trivia/yellow/light green event principally for club members (but not excluding novices if they wish to come along)

FIXTURES

The list below shows the more local events plus a few major events. For a more comprehensive list see EMEWS or BOF listing. If you are uncertain about an event, check with the organiser stated. The writer cannot accept responsibility for wasted journeys!

May

1-2 YH Yorkshire Relish Weekend

Sat: EPOC Short Race, Haw Park, Wakefield (SE 355148);

Starts from 12 pm. £4.00/2.00; Chqs to "East Pennine Orienteering Club"

SEF to:- Juliet Morgan, 23 Stopford Avenue, Sandal, Wakefield, WF2 6RH.

CD 19/4. Late entries by phone or e-mail, limited EOD (£1 surcharge).

Organiser:- David Morgan 01924 258579. (david.morgan19@virgin.net)

Sun: SYO Badge Event, Wharnccliffe, Sheffield, signed from A61 near

Grenoside village (SK 336935); £5.00/2.00; chqs to "South Yorkshire

Orienteers"; SEF to:- Wendy Smallwood, Rivlyn, 2 Main Road,

Grindleford, Hope Valley, S32 2JN. 01433 630184; CD 19/4; late entries

by phone, lim EOD (£1 surcharge). Lim colour & string. Dogs on leash in

Assembly & can be walked in woods. Org:- Charlie Adams 0114 230 4852

8-9 NW British Orienteering Championships, southern Lake District

Closing date was 8th April

15th EM LEI Colour Coded Event, Bradgate Park, 5 miles south of Loughborough.

Sat C4 Map 129/523116 (Hunts Hill car park). White to Blue

Organiser:- Bob Titterton 01455-552648

16th EM NOC Little John Relays, Colwick Park, 2 miles East of centre of Nottingham.

Sun R5 Signed from SK 595395 (junction of Daleside Road and Racecourse Road)

Long, Medium, and Short Relays. Reg: 10.00 to 10.50 am. Mass Start 11.00am

Colour:- White, Yellow, Orange. Org: Helen & Mike O'Neil (0115) 944 1592

22nd EM DVO Schools and Youth Groups Event, Holmebrook Valley, 2 miles NW of

Sat C5 Chesterfield. Signed from B6051 at SK 360730. 3 courses:- White to Orange

Help available. Starts from 10.30 to 12.30. Org: Val Johnson 01773-824754

23rd WM RAFO and COBOC Badge Event, Lickey Hills Country Park, 10 miles

Sun C3 SW of Birmingham Centre. Parking at Beacon Hill (SO 987759). CD 10/5

£5.00/2.00. Lim EOD (£1 surcharge). SEF to:- Mike Edwards, NHOM,

HMS Warrior, Sandy Lane, Northwood, Middx, HA6 3HP. 01923-838861

OR e-mail (preferred) madmike@globalnet.co.uk

Lim Colour, EOD only. Organiser:- Glynn Roberts(COBOC) 01675-475638

29-31 WM Springtime in Shropshire. Event Centre at Ludlow School

Day 1 (Sat) WYE Badge at Shobdon, 37 km SW of Ludlow.

Organiser:- John Richards 01432-352929. e-mail: john.richards1@virgin.net

Day 2 (Sun) Wrekin Badge at Colstey Wood & Bury Ditches, 23 km NW of Ludlow

Organiser:- Colin Roscoe 01743-368830

FIXTURES

Day 3 (Mon) **HOC Badge at Titterstone Clee Hill**, 10km E of Ludlow

Organiser: - Steve Chiverton 01905-769341

£6.00/2.50 per day. CD 9/5. Late entries and lim EOD £1 surcharge per day.

Entry: - Safestart, 22 The Willows, Raglan, Gwent, NP15 2HB. 01291-690702

Chqs "SINS 99". Event Co-ordinator: Charlie Nelson 01527 545030

June

- 6th EM DVO Colour Coded Event, Calke Park**, 7 miles south of Derby.
Sun C4 Follow brown tourist signs. From the new A50 (Derby Southern by-pass) take A514 south to Ticknall. Entrance in village (SK 356240). White to Brown and String. Organisers: - Jennifer and Derek Gale 01283-585244
- 12th EM LEI Colour Coded Event, Beacon Hill**, 3 miles south west of Loughborough.
Sat C4 Signed from B591 at map ref 129/510144. White to Blue
Organiser: Roger Williamson 01509-412132
- 15th EM DVO Introduction to Orienteering- for Teachers.** Indoor and outdoor sessions
Tues National Stone Centre and Black Rocks (off B5036, 1 mile N of Wirksworth)
From 4.30 pm. For further information, ring Val Johnson 01773-824754
- 19th EM Footpath Relay.** Entries and further details: contact Sal Chaffey 01773-825418
- 20th EM DVO Club Championship. Longshaw**, 6 miles north east of Bakewell.
Sun C5 All DVO members are invited to participate. Handicaps will be allocated to give everyone an equal chance. Starts from around 11.00am, picnic lunch afterwards. To enter, contact Liz Godfree (01332-515862) before 12th June.
- 27th WM HOC Colour Coded Event, Sandwell Valley**, West Bromwich. (no details)

July

- 4th EM DVO Colour Coded Event, Carsington**, 2 miles west of Wirksworth, Derbys
Sun C4 Signed off the Via Gellia (A5012 Cromford to Newhaven road). SK 262564
Yellow to Brown. No dogs. Organiser: Val Johnson 01773-824754
- 11th EM LEI Colour Coded Event, Burrough Hill**, 4 miles south of Melton Mowbray
Sun C4 Map ref 129/766115. White to Brown. Org. Chris Phillips 0116-255-0330

DVO Summer League - Friday Evenings from 4th June to 23rd July

For details see elsewhere in Newstrack



The Scout Orienteering Badge

with thanks to Ann-Marie's coaching course.

It was a grotty wet Saturday in June. Well, weren't they all this year? And on Allestree Park we had six Scouts, 'Roo' and Michelle Mackervoy, and Ann-Marie Priston, going through our paces, puddles, and long grass, in the cause of an 1" square piece of green cloth. Because at long last, the Scout Association has woken up to Orienteering as being more than a compass-and-pacing activity, and put together a syllabus for a badge. For the members of the 135th Derby (Broadway Baptist) this proved a fairly simple, if overly damp, challenge.

The badge is in two parts - pre-'O', and actual orienteering:

Firstly, know about the correct clothing to wear, and the dangers to be aware of, when being active in wild / desolate places. Like Allestree Park... and also the Country Code.

Then have an understanding of control sites, attack points, aiming-off, and using the box method with a compass, to get around an object such as a marsh. All covered on Troop evenings.

Finally, be able to copy from a master map correctly, and successfully complete a pucker event. That was the Sunday after, when it was wet. (Weren't they all?) We duly acquired the first Orienteer Badge holders in the District, five on that Sunday, and the sixth (who had a birthday party instead on that day) who ran at Darley Park on the Summer League.

Which leads me nicely to...

the Summer League

Putting my personal hat on, I thoroughly enjoy trotting round a small area, using my diminutive grey matter on diverse 'anorak' subjects to steal a march on my more Orientated, but less trivia-minded colleagues. I even won at one Friday event once - my only peak to date, and being due entirely to a knowledge of sporting commentators and their famous sayings. So long live the trivial event.

But now to put my old Scout beret back on (I've still got it even though the Association dropped them 10 years ago!) For young newcomers to get involved in the sport, I would suggest that they require three key elements:

1. Someone to actively support their participation, be it a teacher, Scout leader, parent, or simply an older friend - Someone with the transportation, a self-interest in Orienteering, as well as wishing to share their leisure time to help the youngster(s).
2. Regular exposure to the sport, to progress from raw novice being spoon-fed, to someone who can move through the mire of registration, start boxes, and finish funnels unaided.

Where was I? Ah, yes. Numbers at Strines. I was quite grateful that this was a relatively poorly attended fixture – only us, DS, Ann Armistead, Barrie Stephens and the mysterious Man-With-No-Surname Shane, from DVOland - because parking was as usual on the road, and Sod's Law dictated that late arrivals had to traipse five minutes back along the road to registration, before returning to their cars, getting ready and retracing their steps to pass registration again and continue on a further five minutes to the Start.

This was an event where it was more vital than most to mark down map corrections, of which there were two types – felled areas and out of bounds, both substantial. The out of bounds were not only the most complex areas but also the most runnable – Sod's Law strikes again. The reason was that we were sharing the area with a Paintball event. Although my course circumnavigated the area and missed the offending paintballers, the blood-curdling screams of the participants in this strange ritual could clearly be heard through the forest. I have always believed that there must be some serious mental deficiency in someone who dresses up in silly clothing and spends Sunday morning running pell-mell around some godforsaken forest. Why can't they take up a sensible sport like orienteering, for heaven's sake?

I have always told (kidded?) myself that I will know when I am getting old – and that is when I opt for a Blue course instead of my habitual Brown. Well, if that is the criteria for senility, then the Golden Compass Rest Home can only be just around the corner. I took one look at the choice between 8.9 km / 400m + climb and 5.1 km / 250 m, and the rest came easy. As I waited for my 11.40 start time, no one had finished the Brown (2nd competitor took 94 minutes). I don't know where the planner sent the Brown course but I saw more than enough of Strines during the Blue to start to make me think wistfully of Thieves Wood! Strines has after all been used as a Badge event area in the past but its C3 status is a long treasured memory based on today's experience, not helped by a five year old map. Some areas mature well with time but Strines, like seventies pop stars, is not one of them.

I had sympathy with the planner who had to cope with completely unreasonable restrictions on the areas through which he could plan: sympathy that lasted only until Number 12, which involved fighting through undergrowth the Spanish Inquisition would have passed over as too inhumane a weapon of torture, down to and through a stream, and up the other side to a crag, only to have to repeat the same experience all over again in order to find some highly questionable veg boundary on the other side. As a pleasurable experience, only repeated listening of Chris de Burgh records ranks lower. BUT at least I did complete the course, unlike some W40 I could mention, who, on taking five paces towards Number 12, visibly blanched and retired rather than face the prospect of a leg closely approximating the orienteering equivalent of enforced toe-nail removal.

DVO Wins Lottery!

We heard on 13th April, just as this issue of Newstrack was going to press, that DVO's application for £2390 from the English Sports Council has been successful. The grant is for instructional videos, books and other coaching materials, also for coaching fees and computer hardware and software for mapping. The focus of the grant is the schools event at Holmebrook on 22nd May and the teachers' evening at Cromford on 15th June. The grant will help us to stage these events and equip us to provide follow up support such as mapping and coaching.

We didn't even have to buy a lottery ticket! But the application process does involve a considerable amount of effort that makes you wonder if buying tickets might be an easier way.

Mike Godfree

How others see us 1

Having finished the brown course at Cannock on Sunday (18 April) I was talking to a number of NOC members. They were discussing the usual excuses, like:

"Did you see that control in the reentrant? Yes, that one hidden behind a tree – Cripes, it was as bad as a DVO event."

At this point I thought they might be going a little far and so I questioned them.

The reply came. "At a DVO event they hide the controls so well you can be in the right depression and still not see the flag!"

I of course suggested that this was not the case but was out-voted 4 to 1.

In any case it didn't matter since I thrashed them all soundly – in the orienteering sense I hasten to add.

John Hawkins

(Is this the only known use of the word 'Cripes' outside of a Billy Bunter book ?)

How others see us 2

At Hardwick, Ted Smith was stopped by some passers-through who wanted to know what was going on. Ted patiently explained the essentials of the sport of orienteering, but was evidently having problems getting through.

His audience then looked around at the strangely garbed collective making their way to the Start, and the penny finally dropped.

"Oh, it's a Charity Event !"

DVO Club Handicap Championships - 99

Date Sunday 20th June
Place Longshaw
Time Morning (see below)

The club champs are open to ALL members of DVO. The aim is to handicap (by calculated start time) so that ideally everybody finishes at 12:30. i.e. if you are thought to be a slow runner you will start earlier than a fast one. Therefore, especially as entry is free, there is really no excuse for you not to run.

The short course of yellow/orange standard is for children only and the winner receives the Lithuanian Trophy. Everyone else runs medium (green) or long (blue/brown) for the Yardley Trophy, a magnificent lump of Derbyshire calcite.

Enter on the form below (or a £10 note if you want a good/bad handicap!). Note the event is by pre-entry ONLY by 13th June please to allow for overprinting of maps and careful consideration of your handicap, based on recent results. Please do not enter and then fail to turn up without the courtesy of a phone call.

Picnic lunch and games afterwards as well as prize-giving. Look out for exact venue details in the next EMEWS

To:
Liz Godfree, 26 Rangemore Close, Mickleover, DERBY DE3 5JU.

Entry for DVO club handicap champs.

Name M45)	Course (short/medium/long)	Age Class (e.g.
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____

Relays: JK, British and Hallamshire Harriers

Footpath Relay

Here are the results from the participation of DVO's eleven teams at the JK Relays at Hawley and Hornley. The terrain was very fast and there was a good, sandy arena for viewing the run-in and the spectator control. The club came away with quite a few JK mugs for doing well in the junior and women's classes. One member of an M120+ team was heard to say that they were the first team from North of the Watford Gap!

D: Women's Short

1 86:37 BL Bloomers 32:58 (2) 25:43 (2) 27:56 (1) 9G,8J,8F
3 98:41 DVO Bamford 32:45 (1) 28:41 (3) 37:15 (3) 8F,8J,9G
Sal Chaffey, Kathryn Schofield, Ann Marie Priston

E: Men Total Age 120+

1 103:48 SN SN5 39:31 (1) 26:54 (3) 37:23 (1) 6I,7E, 5H
10 116:00 DVO Millstone 43:52 (20) 28:51 (11) 43:17 (10) 7H, 5E, 6I
Steve Kimberley, Ian Whitehead, John Hurley
16 120:26 DVO Froggatt 40:02 (6) 35:27 (14) 44:57 (16) 7H, 5E, 6I
John Duckworth, Ted Smith, Paul Armstrong
21 122:34 DVO Curbar 48:06 (44) 31:34 (30) 42:54 (21) 5I, 6E, 7H
Steve Buckley, Graham Johnson, Andy Jackson
n/c 155:55 DVO HARLAND 66:44 (-) 33:42(-) 55:29 (-) 6I, 7E, 5H
Dave Bennett, Dave Clough, Mike Godfree

F: Women Total Age 120+

1 111:15 SLOW & Sensibility 41:29 (2) 27:57 (1) 41:49 (1) 9C, 8L, 8D
3 117:04 DVO Baslow 41:52 (3) 30:55 (2) 44:17 (3) 8D, 8L, 9C
Karen Jackson, Judy Buckley, Val Johnson
34 198:11 DVO Stanage 80:03* (34) 53:30 (34) 64:38 (34) 8C, 8L, 9D
Sue Russell, Ann Kimberley, Liz Godfree
(Sue's time included 30 minutes attending a casualty in the forest)

K: Women Total Age 48-

1 88:29 1672 SOS SOSlinky 33:39 (2) 20:15 (2) 34:35 (1) 8G, O, 9F
11 128:46 1664 DVO Burbage 54:34 (12) 31:20 (13) 42:52 (11) 8G, O, 9F
Ruth, Kate & Hilary Johnson

L: M/W Total Age 40-

1 49:36 TVOC Thames Toddlers 20:06 (7) 12:52 (7) 16:38 (1) O,Y,O
4 51:54 DVO Birchen's 17:29 (1) 12:59 (3) 21:26 (4) O,Y,O
Matthew Armstrong, Daniel Kimberley, Emma Whitehead

M: Mini Relay, M/W 12-

1 34:21 GO GO-Kids 12:21 (3) 10:55 (1) 11:05 (1) Y,Y,Y
7 42:20 DVO Millies Mad Mob 14:42 (11) 15:37 (9) 12:01 (7) Y,Y,Y
The Malley family, order unknown

N: Mixed Ad Hoc

1 77:12 619 ALTAIR Altair 36:57 (52) 26:06 (21) 14:09 (1) 9C,M,O
55 117:09 638 DVO Gardoms 30:54 (25) 46:19 (53) 39:56 (55) M,O,9C
Kath Whitehead, Andrea Simms, Dave Chaffey
n/c 155:55 4090 DVO HARLAND 66:44 (-) 33:42 (-) 55:29 (-) 6I,7E,5H
Some more Malleys, order unknown

British Relay Teams (9th May, Holker Estate)

A, Men's Premier

DERWENT: John Duckworth (M21), John Malley(M40), Andy Jackson (M35)

B, Women's Premier

AMBER: Karen Jackson (W35), Michelle Mackervoy (W21), Sal Chaffey (W21)

D, M40

ECCLESBOURNE: S Kimberley (M40), Graham Johnson (M40), John Hurley (M40)

E, M45

NOE: Paul Armstrong (M45), Ranaid Macdonald (M45), Doug Dickinson (M50)

F, M50

LATHKILL: Steve Buckley (M50), Ted Smith (M55), Mike Godfree (M50)

H, W40

WYE: Kath Whitehead (W40), Viv Macdonald (W45), Val Johnson (W40)

J, W50

MANIFOLD: Judy Buckley (W50), Debbie Wilkinson (W50), Liz Godfree (W50)

N, Women's Short

DOVE: Ann Marie Priston (W21), Kathryn Schofield (W21), Sue Russell (W35)

U, Junior Ad Hoc (total age M/W40-; Lt Green, Orange, Yellow)

BRADFORD: Hilary Johnson (W16), Emma Whitehead (W14), Jessica Whitehead (W10)

MACKWORTH: Kate Johnson (W14), Matthew Dickinson (W14), Daniel Kimberley (M12)

Unplaced yet, possibly T (ad hoc)/Reserves

ASHOP: Tony Berwick (M60), Dave Bennett (M21), Ann Kimberley (W35), R. Johnson (W18), Dave Chaffey(M35)

Hallamshire Harriers Footpath Relay (Sat 19th June)

There is one more place available for DVO to be able to enter a team of 20 (otherwise one of you will have to run twice) - or, if demand is strong, we can enter a second team, but this looks unlikely.

The start (at 8.30 am) and finish are at Redmires Playing Fields on the western edge of Sheffield. The total distance will be approx 120km with legs of 'varying distance and difficulty'.

The following have already entered and I will distribute maps and route info as soon as I receive them from the organiser. There is a fee of £1 per runner.

Tony Berwick, Val, Graham & Kate Johnson, Judy & Steve Buckley, Sue Russell, Viv and Randal Macdonald, Michelle Mackervoy, David McGivern, John Hopper, John Duckworth, Steve & Daniel Kimberley, James Allen, Brian Denness, John Hurley and Paul Wright.

Open Meeting

The next open meeting will pre-date the next NEWSTRACK so make a note in your diaries that it will be on Wednesday, 9th June 1999. It being the summer when we like to take advantage of Derbyshire's greatest asset, we'll be meeting at the Bear at Alderwasley for a run at 7.00pm followed by the meeting at 8.15. Hopefully we'll be able to use the showers intended for campers as at the Three Trigs Run. If you don't fancy the run, turn up for the pint afterwards. As ever, all welcome.

DVO Campsites

The British. If campers want a communal DVO campsite, then the place to go to - or avoid! - is Waterson Ground Farm, Outgate, Ambleside MR 096/351994. 40 pitches. 1st right (the book says '1st rd' but I'm assuming it's '1st rt') after Outgate on B5286 heading towards Ambleside Ring Mrs. M Rose on 01539 436225 and mention DVO and Val Johnson's name. They're very selective apparently (but obviously not that selective)

Springtime In Shropshire No 'official' DVO site because there is an actual official site at Ludlow School, at very cheap prices, making an alternative redundant.

DVO Summer Evening Events 1999

Do you want ...

- ... to improve your navigation skills to eliminate mistakes at O-events?
- ... a run somewhere different from your usual exercise routine ?
- ... something for all the family to do on those long summer evenings ?
- ... to pound away the stresses and strains after a hard working week ?

If YES put the following dates in your diary and come along to the
DVO SUMMER EVENTS on FRIDAY EVENINGS at around 6.30pm .

DATE	AREA
4 June	Allestree Park, N. Derby SK 341405
11 June	Catton Park, 2miles S. of Walton-on-Trent SK 206153
25 June	Bradley Wood, E.Ashbourne SK 197463
2 July	Drum Hill, N. Derby SK 374422
9 July	Elvaston Country Park, S.Derby SK 412332
16 July	Carsington Pastures, 2miles W of Wirksworth SK245547
23 July	Cromford Moor, Black Rocks top car park SK 291557

This year the Summer Events will comprise :-

- a Yellow course suitable for novice orienteers and children;
 - a Light Green course for improving techniques;
 - a Long course for those who want a challenge;
- and for those who like the competitive streak in orienteering, there will be a scoring system as an optional extra !

I am looking forward to some enjoyable running in the evening sunshine (fingers crossed!) and on two of DVO's newest areas - hope to see some new faces too !

For more information about these Summer Evening Events please contact
Michelle Mackervoy on 01332 557892 .

Schools Orienteering Event

Saturday, 22nd May, Holmebrook Valley Park, N/W Chesterfield (SK360730)

DVO are staging an event especially for school and youth groups. Start Times: 10.30 - 12.30. White, Yellow Orange Courses available and aimed at children from 8 upwards. Anyone fitting this description welcome - they don't have to come as part of a school group. Cost = £1.00 allowing participation as many courses as they like. Advice and assistance available from coaches and experienced orienteers. Please give Val a ring in advance on 01773 824754.

ODDS AND SODS

Sports Personality of the Month There can be only one winner of this award this month, and it has the added bonus of involving a member of DVO but having nothing to do with orienteering. So there was **Josh Hawkins** sat innocently in his bedroom happily lighting joss sticks, as teenagers are wont to do, and discarding the extinguished sticks in his waste paper bin. Except they weren't quite as extinguished as our bright boy thought, were they? The net result was a visit from the Fire Brigade, a bedroom severely in need of redecoration and a feature in the Derby Evening Telegraph.

Congratulations to DVO member (yes, he's still with us despite his northerly gravitation) Alastair Buckley who was not only first on M21 in the recent international event against Belgium, but also repeated the feat at the British University Champs (BUSF) the weekend after Easter, both as an individual and as a member of the winning relay team.

It's Alastair who makes it as NEWSTRACK's first cover star, thanks to Judy. Although the quality of the photograph will no doubt deteriorate in the photocopying process, I would like to brighten up future NEWSTRACKs with relevant photos so if anyone cares to donate them, please do.

Five-a-Side Football If anyone, male or female, is interested in a spot of five-a-side, please contact Social Sec Dave Clough on 01773 520229, giving preferred night and, if there is enough demand, Dave will book Ripley Leisure Centre.

Orienteering For Teachers Tuesday, 15th June. Indoor and outdoor sessions from 4.30 pm onwards at National Stone Centre, Black Rocks, Cromford. These are designed to introduce the sport to the classroom. If you are a teacher or you think that your school would benefit, please contact Val for further information.

Scottish Relays Sunday 30th May Is anybody else going to the Scottish Champs on 29th May and interested in a relay run the following day? If so, contact **Mike Godfree** on 01332-515862

Question:- Who was Ann Armistead running with at the training session at Carsington when she said "it's difficult to pace count when you're talking"?

Clue:- Margaret Keeling wasn't there (MG).