

NEWSTRACK

AUGUST 1997

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On the Net @

<http://www.skimber.demon.co.uk/orient/dvo/newstrac/newstrac.htm>

Scottish Six Days

Day 1 - Drummond Hill - Best Area of the Week Steve Buckley has this theory that the organisers of the Scottish Six days always stick the best areas at either end of the week leaving the dross for the middle. There was some support for this theory at Breadalbane '97. Day 1's Drummond Hill was the one that came closest to achieving the rarely attained combination of runnability with technicality. If I had a complaint - and don't I always - it was that the course followed too predictable a pattern, taking you out along one side of the hill and bringing you back on the other so the orienteering was to a degree a contouring exercise; possibly to make the courses more varied would have involved too much climb.

Day 2 - Rannoch - Best Planned Course of the Week At first glance this map seemed to have too much Green in it to make for an enjoyable but challenging run but this was the best fun and probably not coincidentally the best run I had all week. The planner ensured the courses steered clear of the handrail paths and the mapper had done his job well in recording the frequent changes of vegetation. Best map. Best planned course. Best run. Oh dear, things can only get worse, and they did.

Day 3 - Leachdann Tom na Croich - Most Unpronounceable Area of the Week It is not often that you can put your finger on that moment when what seemed to be going swimmingly - i.e. the previously unattained heights of 32nd on M40L - suddenly went pear-shaped but that moment came just before control 3 on Day 3. I had hit controls 2 and 3 just about as perfectly as any human being has a right to hope for and had overtaken 2-Minutes and 3-Minutes Ahead of Me into the bargain. The vegetation boundary leading to No. 3 sashayed its hips and pouted coquettishly in my direction. I surrendered to its fragrant charms (the story of my life, I wish). Sucker! It wasn't a vegetation boundary at all but a ride masquerading as such. I disappeared into the undergrowth and emerged only when my confidence and hopes of a third good run had been irreparably shattered not only for the day but indeed for the rest of the week. I never recovered and still do not know whether the damage to my self-esteem will ever allow me to venture beyond an Orange again.

But for an alternative view of Day 3, over to Sal Chaffey:

'Invisible rides, bingo boulders, ferocious fallen trees - why do I always make mistakes on short legs? And long legs? Leg 5 - 6 was a 1.5 km epic with no path potential at all. It took me half an hour, which makes for 20 minutes per kilometre. Good job the other legs were a bit faster. Not as bad as Rannoch Forest which was a 2 hour epic. Hope it's a day to discard.'

Day 4 - Creag Vinian - Most Fly-Infested Forest Also Second Most Grotty Forest and Second Worst Planned Event. This started off brightly with Leg 2 possibly the Best Planned Leg of the Week - no matter whom you spoke to, they had all chosen a different way to get to Control 2. But this did not last. After Control 5, over 50% of the course was path running - I didn't come all this way to run on a path, thank you - and such forest as the planning did allow us to run through, was covered with brashings as impenetrable as the debris littering my daughters' bedroom floor. 'Blidworth on a Slope' was my comment at the Finish, although since I vowed never to set foot in Blidworth again over ten years ago, I may be doing it a disservice.

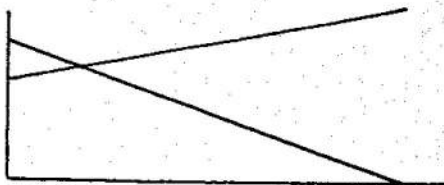
Day 5 - Dunalastair- The Golden Raspberry Award This got everyone's unanimous vote for the area they hope never to have to run on again for as long as they orienteer. One Scandinavian orienteer swore that he had never been on such a diabolical area in thirty years of orienteering - obviously a man who's never visited the East Midlands then. The main problem was the vegetation - a lethal cocktail of 2 metre high bracken and something called bog myrtle, a sort of Scottish bilberry bush except twice as high and dense. (As an interesting aside, Helen Finlayson swears by this as a insect-repellent and was seen rubbing it enthusiastically on to her face to prove the point. I merely swore at it, but certainly found it repellent). To add to these difficulties the planner had carefully selected as many controls as possible in the middle of the bracken to make everyone's task in finding them that much harder. Grown men were seen climbing trees to increase their slim chances of finding the wretched things!

What I want to know is 'why?' . Why was this area selected in preference to the many other candidates around? Apparently this area was used only 2 years ago for the Scottish Champs when uncomplimentary things were said about it even then - and that must have been before the worst of the bracken. I thought that one of the aims of the Scottish was to develop new areas and update old maps. This was neither.

DVO's three earliest start times were in the second half of the week and the three most bracken-ravaged areas were also the last three events. This gave those with early starts an even greater advantage than otherwise - our course on Day 5 was won by a whopping 6 minute margin - with consequent prejudice to everyone's points total - by a late-starter whose contemporaries also filled the next five places. The selection of this area and the nature of the planning reduced the competition to a lottery.

Day 6 - Birnam Wood - The Final Straw Macbeth was defeated by Birnam Wood and so was I.

Gratuitous Graphic



Graham Johnson and Ian Whitehead's Six Day Performance - Which is which ?

Innovation of the Week Gone are the days of finishing a run in an advanced state of dehydration and waiting gasping whilst the queue for the trickle of orange juice slowly dwindles. This will shortly be a sight of the past, or will if I have my way. Behold the Day of the Pump-Action Orange Juice Dispenser is nigh ! This bit of state-of-the art gadgetry requires a drinks carrier with a hole at one end rather than the side but it fits snugly over this and, with a few depressions of the pump, delivers enough oomph to ensure your elixir is delivered foaming into your waiting plastic cup quicker than the next interest rate rise. Even a child can operate it, and do they not like doing just that. John Hopper, put DVO's order in NOW !

Feeblest Excuse of the Week Kath Whitehead's explanation for a poor run on Day 2 was that her concentration was broken by a man 'making a rude noise' in the Start Lane.

Irritant of the Week was undoubtedly the start order for each day. DVO were, split starters apart, all grouped in the same 40 minute band throughout the week. Fair enough, but the Start list was arranged so that, no matter whether you were early, late or middle starts, you were almost always within one or two minutes of the same people, and therefore chasing them \ being chased by them all week too. The thought of John Hurley 3 - 4 minutes behind me for six consecutive events is not one I care to entertain for the foreseeable future, I can tell you. The peculiar thing was that the computer had chosen to arrange everyone in order of their Christian name so that on one day everyone in Steve Buckley's lane was called Steve. There were two competing theories for the recurrent anomaly - a computer breakdown meant start times had to be reshaped at short notice or alternatively the job was done by someone with no prior knowledge of orienteering. The smart money was on the second.

Hero of the Week (Alternatively Jammie-Dodger of the Week) was Ranaid Macdonald who on Day 5 on the abominable Dunalastair gave up his run to attend to a Belgian girl who had the misfortune to step on a bee's nest and was hyperventilating in a state of shock from stings. Ranaid accompanied her to the road and retired, thereby sparing himself the agonies inflicted on the rest of us.

Six Days of Scottish String Courses

by Amelia Shooter (aged 5years)

Day 1

I went to running and I went on the string course. It was very steep. There were ten controls. I took 18 mins and I got a certificate.

Day 2

I raced before my brother. It was not that steep, and it was all in the shade.

Day 3

It was a Pocahontas string course. It was not at all in the shade. I saw a jet. I took 12 1/2 mins.

Day 4

I went on the string course. There were Beauty and the Beast pictures. It was in a pine wood with cones and needles on the ground.

Day 5

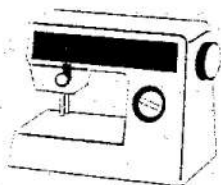
We had a haggis hunt today on the string course. The grass was long. I went on the off string course as well.

Day 6

I went on the Macbeth string course. I did the off string. I had a t-shirt.

(Thanks, Amelia)

The Return of Cook's Corner



Val's Birthday Cake

Following the overwhelming success of this culinary delight at the Scottish 6 days (which deprived me of at least a week's supply of cake for my pack-up the following week), here is the much-requested recipe.

150g butter or margarine
175g golden syrup
170ml milk
250g currants
125g sultanas
125g chopped dates
125g raisins

50g chopped mixed peel
250g plain flour
2 tsp ground mixed spice
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp bicarb of soda
2 eggs beaten
250g marzipan

Grease and line a deep 18cm cake tin with a double layer of greaseproof paper. Tie a layer of brown paper around the outside.

Put the fat, syrup, milk and fruit in a pan and heat slowly until the fat has melted, simmer gently for 5 mins stirring occasionally then remove from the heat and cool.

Sift the flour, spice and soda into a bowl, add the syrup mixture and the eggs and beat together thoroughly.

Place half the mixture into the tin, roll out the marzipan and place on top. Place the remaining mixture on top of the marzipan making sure it is all covered.

Bake in preheated cool oven, 150 C (300 F), Gas mark 2 for 2 - 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours or until a skewer in the middle comes out clean. Turn out onto a wire rack to cool.

N.B. I vary the fruit content according to what the Health Food shop has, the cake in Scotland did not have any dates in it but did have mixed Glacé fruit. I have also successfully substituted soft brown sugar for the syrup.

JWOC 97 Leopoldsburg Belgium

Following two good races at the British selection for the Junior World Championships, I kept up the fine 6 year DVO tradition of having at least one runner in the British team.

Travelling out via the fast ferry from Ramsgate to Ostende we arrived at our army barrack accommodation in the military town of Leopoldsburg in north-east Belgium. For the next two days we hopped over the border to Holland for the second 2 days of the Holland 3-day.

Following a relaxing day off, JWOC started with the model event and my first introduction to electronic punching. At first this was a little slow but soon I was running through controls without stopping like everyone else. The evening saw the procession through town to the opening ceremony.

Next day saw the first of many early starts as I was off at 9.13 for the short race qualification. A mistake at the difficult first control but an otherwise clean run put me 2 mins off qualification for the A final despite running 5.16mins/km (sub 5m/k was needed to make the final). After a lunch of what looked like an uncooked beef burger (none of the Brits ate it) we had the finals. With just being in the B final I decided to take it a bit easier and eventually finished up in 98th place. The British lads showed they could race with the best in the world with Sigg Gould finishing 8th and Anthony Squire in 15th.

After a much needed rest day we were hoping for another good team performance at the classic race. It turned out to be a hot day so I was happy about being the second starter at 9.32. It was a tough race and I didn't do particularly well and throughout the day I saw my name slip down the results board. In the end I was second Brit in 102nd place, with two of the team retiring. The girls did better with Abi Weeds having the best run of the day in 27th place.

The relays came the next day and hotter than the classic. The two Brits on first leg came back in 24th and 25th place. Again I wasn't running very well but fortunately I only dropped the team by one place to 25th. The last leg runners did a good job and brought us back 13th first team and my team as 8th-second team.

The final event of the week was the banquet which was enjoyed by all however they had done during the week.

Thanks to DVO for giving me some money to get to both the selection races and JWOC itself.

Chris Godfree

P.S. Who will be keeping up the DVO tradition next year?

DERWENT VALLEY ORIENTEERS - FUTURE EVENTS

Sat 13th Sept Longshaw DVO Badge Event (Day1 of Twin Peaks 97)

Signed from Calver on A623 and from Hathersage on A625. Car park B6521 entrance (SK265801) with access from North ONLY.

Entries to:- Twin Peak 97, 7 Ashbourne Court, Glossop SK13 8RT

Copy of entry form for both Days 1 and 2 on the back of this sheet -

Closing date 11th August. EOD surcharge. Colour to Light Green.

Enquiries to D & J Gale (01283-585244)

Day 2 is at Errwood (near Buxton) Sun 14th Sept, organised by MDOC.

Sun 5th Oct Shipley - Colour Coded Event - 5km NW of Ilkeston (SK 431453)

Organiser:- Keith Langhorn

Sat 6th Dec Drum Hill - Night Event - 7km N of Derby (SK 374418)

Organiser:- Volunteer required

Sun 7th Dec Eckington - Colour Coded (new area) - 10km NE of Chesterfield

Organiser:- Steve Kimberley (01246- 233575)

OTHER EVENTS

Sat 20th Sept Three Trigs Run (Alport, Crich, & Cromford)

Meet at " The Bear" pub at Alderwasley for 15 mile run! Starts in groups after 8.30 am. Food available at "The Bear" afterwards. We can use their showers and toilet facilities.

Further details from Organiser :- Val Johnson (01773 - 824754)

Sat 18th Oct Mountain Bike O (provisional)

Further details from Organiser :- Dave Walker (01332 - 574003)

1. Role of Derwent Valley Orienteers

The role of DVO is to provide orienteering opportunities within the County of Derbyshire (excluding the High Peak District), through the provision of orienteering fixtures, training and coaching.

The DVO committee is elected to provide the driving force necessary to ensure that orienteering is made available to as many individuals as possible within the catchment area. A member of the club also acts as a representative within the EMOA and through this association to BOF.

2. DVO Objectives

The major objectives in order of priority are:

- 2.1 Provision of an appropriate coaching structure.
- 2.2 Provision of recreational orienteering.
- 2.3 Provision of guidance for local schools.
- 2.4 Provision of competitive orienteering.
- 2.5 Land access and the environment.
- 2.6 Improve communications throughout the club.

3. Provision of appropriate coaching structure

3.1 Provide a "coaching clinic" at local C4 events. (To be established at all events from Jan 1997 as part of the Organiser's/Controller's role.)

3.2 Provide annual coaching sessions for: novice, intermediate and advanced level orienteers. (At least one event at each level to be arranged each year by the Club Coaching Coordinator.)

3.3 Institute a "Club Coaching Coordinator" to act as a co-ordinator for the provision of a full coaching programme. (Select at AGM if possible, otherwise find a volunteer as soon as possible, this whole structure relies upon finding a suitable candidate and is seen as essential to the development of the club.)

3.4 Provide opportunity for debriefing after events. (Include with the "coaching clinic".)

3.5 Use some Wednesday nights as training opportunities. (A suitable timetable should be proposed by the Club Coaching Coordinator - again this does not mean that the Club Coaching Coordinator has to run these sessions - rather obtain volunteers to do so.)

3.6 Produce guide-lines for a payment scheme for coaches (both internal and external). (A suitable remuneration regime should make the finding of volunteer coaches for all activities more straightforward.)

4. Provision of recreational orienteering

4.1 Continue to provide an orienteering event approximately every 6 weeks from September to June. (This number of events has proven to be manageable with the officials and help available within the club.)

4.2 Replace at least one colour coded event each year with a training event. (These to remain open to any orienteer but to be advertised as "novelty" or "training" events, such as brown only maps, etc. This can be low key, eg. Sat event.)

4.3 Run at least one event with self-timing and results. (Use this to evaluate the possibility of running such events, thereby reducing the number of helpers required and possibly increasing the events which can be organized.)

4.4 Maintain the Summer League programme through May - July.

4.5 Introduce regular junior activities. (Requires the combined input of the Club Coaching Coordinator and the Fixtures sub-committee - adults will, of course, be welcome at these events but in a supportive role.)

4.6 Produce guide-lines for a payment scheme for mappers (both internal and external). (A standardised remuneration regime will prevent potential conflict between the use of internal and external mappers, and should make the planning and budgeting of mapping more straightforward.)

4.7 Continue to manage and increase the number of permanent courses in the area.

5. Provision of guidance for local schools

5.1 Provide mapping support for schools throughout the area. (Make use of external funding whenever possible and provide surveyors/cartographers to assist schools in mapping of grounds, local parks and woods.)

5.2 Produce a study pack for introducing orienteering exercises to teachers. (EMOA have been active in this area resources may well be available from this source.)

5.3 Introduce orienteering to at least one school each year. (By providing maps and coaching to establish a programme within a school, the individual schools can be provided with the wherewithal to run their own programmes in future years enabling another school to be targeted.)

5.4 Obtain/produce a list of all local schools. (This to be used as the basis for mailshots promoting any schemes available, such as funding and junior activities run by DVO.)

6. Provision of competitive orienteering

6.1 Continue to provide 3 Badge events every 2 years.

6.2 Participate in the National Event Scheme and JK/BOC as required by EMOA.

6.3 Enter teams in relay events. (This is the responsibility of the Club Captain, but requires the cooperation of club members wishing to participate in such events.)

6.4 All competitive events hosted should make provision for junior orienteers through suitable courses including a string course.

6.5 Provide courses for disabled orienteers on at least one occasion each year.

7. Land access and the environment

7.1 Each area to have a land access negotiator. (Continuity of these individuals helps to maintain contact and ease access negotiations for existing areas.)

7.2 Compile a list of suitable car parking venues for Matlock East/West and Whitesprings areas. (Perhaps a separate parking access negotiator is required for these areas.)

7.3 A booklet of sensitive land area information to be compiled for planners and controllers. (Information obtained by land access negotiators, planners and fixtures sub committee should all be assembled into one comprehensive booklet.)

7.4 Bussing of club members to events to be considered. (Particularly for Compass Sport Cup and National Events where large numbers of club members are likely to be interested.)

7.5 Landowners considering orienteering access to be invited to visit an event in order to see the extent of "damage" incurred by orienteering. (Such invitations to be organized by the relevant land access negotiators, and the fixtures sub-committee.)

8. Improve communications throughout the club

8.1 Through Newstrack.

8.2 Through use of the club notice board. (This needs to go to as many events as possible, not just DVO events, and would be made more visible by the hanging of the banner on a suitable pole. Movement between events needs to be monitored by one person to ensure maximum coverage and provide up to date information.)

8.3 By provision of a club tent (with banner) at National events. (A pole on which to hang the banner would be appreciated. Arranging for the presence of the club tent is under the auspices of the club captain.)

8.4 Through the use of a "new member mentoring" scheme. (This too needs a volunteer coordinator to match existing active members with new members as they join.)

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLE

As we approach another AGM I felt it was appropriate to spend a few minutes reviewing the year. First a BIG THANK YOU to everyone in the club who has contributed in any way this year, but particularly to all the planners, organizers and controllers without whom we would be unable to provide a single event.

There are two notable club successes from the last twelve months:

- BOC 97
- DVO Development Plan

For the former another thank you to everyone who contributed in any way, but particularly to Viv and Ranald Macdonald for ensuring that the relay event ran so smoothly. For the latter I intend to assess the extent to which we have progressed our plan at the AGM. A full copy follows.

Another big issue will be discussed at the AGM. Timing has made it difficult to put an official proposal to you but.....

Lea Woods is being sold to the Woodland Trust who are looking for contributions to fund the purchase from a local residents group. It has been suggested that DVO should contribute up to £5,000 to the Woodland Trust to help them with this purchase. To date it seems that they would not be adverse to a certain amount of orienteering taking place each year. Obviously our agreement to contribute will depend upon the level of access we can be assured. In the absence of any other specific proposal I suggest to you that DVO should consider the option of contributing to the Woodland Trust dependant upon the access agreements which can be negotiated.

Please, please, please come to the AGM on the 24th September at Belper Sports Centre starting at 20.15 prompt, to discuss this proposal and elect the new committee.

DVO DEVELOPMENT PLAN OVERVIEW

This plan is intended to prioritise development work for Derwent Valley Orienteers. Many of the objectives set out in the plan are long-term and will require work during future years.

The plan has been based upon that of the East Midland Orienteering Association, with its content coming from the ideas of the club members generated over the last 12 months including an Open Meeting Workshop on the subject.

Wednesday Summer Evening Runs

As usual during the school holidays we will give our normal hosts a rest. Meet at 7p.m. (apart from 23rd & 30th July at 7:30 p.m.). For directions or to check for any alterations ring the organiser noted or Mike Godfree.

- 23rd July The Malleys', Croft Cottage, Ilam. Phone 01335 350467
Grid Ref 135510. (Turn right into lane in front of school). NB meet at 7:30 p.m.
- 30th July Foremark Reservoir, organiser Dave Walker, 01332 574003
Grid Ref 334223 (On A514 between Ticknall and Swadlincote). NB meet at 7:30 p.m.
- 6th August High Peak Junction Car Park, organiser ?
Grid Ref 315561 (On minor road between Cromford and Holloway)
- 13th August The Tryners', The Lilies, Via Gellia, Grange Mill. Phone 01629 650053
Grid Ref 245570 (On A5??? Between Cromford and Newhaven, about 1mile on Cromford side of Grange Mill.
- 20th August The Godfree's, 26 Rangemore Close, Mickleover Phone 01332 515862
Grid Ref 310356. From Station Road take Onslow Road to east at 30/40 signs, last right, then first right.
- 27th August John & Ann-Marie, 6 Mills Court, Crich. Phone 01773 856824
Grid Ref 348544. Park in Crich Market Place and go south west.
- 3rd Sept The Gardners', 3 Gatcombe Close, Oakwood. Phone 01332 665671
- 10th Sept Normal service resumes at the Buckleys'. NB Committee meeting
- Then as usual, 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesday at Buckleys' and 2nd and 4th Wednesday at Wilkinsons'. Except for AGM and business meetings.

APPEAL FOR ORGANISERS, PLANNERS, CONTROLLERS

Below is a list of DVO events and officials up to the middle of next year. Events don't just happen by themselves! We need organisers, planners, and controllers to make them happen. As you will notice from the blank spaces, we still have a number of vacancies for event officials. Don't just hopefully leave it to someone else. Please give the Fixtures Secretary Tony Seaston a call on 01332-514000 and volunteer! If you feel that you haven't got enough experience, then volunteer to be an assistant organiser or planner to gain the necessary experience. Experience can also be gained by offering to help at events. Don't wait to be asked; ring the organiser who would be delighted to hear from you!

Date	Area	Event Type	Organiser	Planner	Controller
Sat 13 Sep 97	Longshaw (Twin Peaks)	Badge	D & J Gale	John Malley Ranald	Dave Morgan
Sun 5 Oct 97	Shipley Park	Colour	Keith Langhorn	Kim Buxton	Mike Gardner
Sat 6 Dec 97	Drum Hill	Night Event			
Sun 7 Dec 97	Eckington	Colour	Steve Kimberley	Dave McGivern	Dave Clough
Thur 1 Jan 98	Ashbourne Bradley Wood	Score	Stuart Swalwell	Stuart Swalwell	—
Sat 24 Jan 98	Calke Park	Night Event			
Sun 15 Feb 98	Shining Cliff	Badge	V. MacDonald M. Keeling	Dave Brodie	Peter Hubberstey
Sat 21 Mar 98	Cromford	Colour	Jayne Malley	Tony Berwick	Paul Wright
Sun 26 Apr 98	Stanton Moor	Colour			John Hopper
Sun 31 May 98	Allestree Park	Colour			
Sun 12 July 98	Kedleston Park	Colour			

LOST - DVO'S COURSE PLANNING NOTES

DVO purchased at vast expense, 3 copies of Course Planning by Graham Nilsen; only one copy can now be traced. Would previous Planners please check whether they have them, and return them to Tony Seaston ASAP, thanks.

Letter to the Editor

In response to Graham's editorial in the last Newstrack, I would like to make a few comments about some of the club's activities.

Firstly, the Summer League. If numbers are dropping off then either the format is wrong or the novelty has worn off. A few years ago I attended every Friday I could but a mixture of end-of-week fatigue, Friday evening travel, other weekend commitments and the uncertainty of how silly the novelty would be meant that I took the decision not to attend at all.

However to be positive, there are a number of suggestions I would like to make. Why not drop the Summer 'League' in favour of a series of 'summer events' ? If the events remain on Friday, there must be something of around Light Green standard so that we can use the session for introducing novice adults to the sport. Even if the event has a novelty element to it, this should be in addition to the orienteering element, whether it be technique training, a score event or a 'normal' competition.

Secondly, the Club Championships. It was disappointing to see so few there, despite the previous commitments of many stalwarts. Very few of the recent influx of new members took part. Why ? Maybe it wasn't sold as an event for all club members, whatever their standard. Perhaps the thought of having to plan and organise the subsequent year's event puts some people off. Whatever the reason, this should be the premier 'Club' event in terms of both the competition and the following social. One suggestion might be for committee members to cascade phone calls to all members to encourage their participation.

The particular Saturday chosen was difficult for many. However we need to know the preferred day and time. Personally I was quite happy with the date chosen but the weekend before or after would have ruled me out. Which brings us back to Friday, Wednesday (the Club night !) or even a Sunday morning as this is a period when there are few clashing O-events.

Finally the Cromford Relays. As with any event, there is a considerable amount of effort involved in planning and organising this and it can be quite demoralising when few people turn up. The Cromford Relays has developed into a family event which may not appeal to those without children. Perhaps it is time to give this a rest and, if there is interest, organise a 'family day', to include short races and a picnic. With the Long Distance Footpath Relays and the 3 Trigs currently in vogue, there is nothing wrong in letting other events lapse.

Ronald Macdonald

(The views expressed in this letter are personal but have been discussed with and supported by some other DVO members.)

British Relay Championships - Chatsworth Estate - **18th May 1997**

Many DVO members, family and friends who helped at Chatsworth may not get to see the comments in the results booklet (which has not been published at the time of writing). Consequently, we have decided to reproduce our comments and those of the controller so that everyone to whom they apply can read them.

Unfortunately a number of people offered to help on the day and then failed to turn up. If changed circumstances mean that you are unable to turn up to any event where you have agreed to help, PLEASE let the organiser or the team leader know so that substitutes can be found - even though this is often very difficult.

However the level of commitment from DVO for the British was considerable and the success of the day was testimony to everyone's hard work before, on and after the event.

Once again, our thanks.

Ranald and Viv Macdonald

Relay Co-Organisers' Comments

The sun finally shone, large numbers of people seemed to be there and enjoying themselves, and we stood around a lot of the time wondering whether we should be seen to be doing more. However, after two years of careful planning and the normal high level of commitment from our colleagues in Derwent Valley Orienteers, we should not have been surprised at how smoothly it all went.

We must thank John Hurley and Richard Payne for their gentle nudges at the tiller at times. Their advice was always supportive and allowed compromises to be easily arrived at to the obvious benefit of the event.

Our Team and Deputy Team Leaders were magnificent and ably supported by their band of willing helpers on the day - some of whom were not even orienteers or DVO members. All senior DVO members gave up the opportunity to run the relays and many didn't run on the Saturday. When we started organising, we made twenty phone calls to fill our twenty major roles and not one person refused the offer of a lifetime!

We should perhaps apologise to our Team Leaders for the number of meetings and volume of paperwork; but what do you expect when you get an academic

and a local government officer to organise things! A word of apology is also due to those whom we persuaded to take on a job on the understanding that it was not too onerous (honest, Rex, we didn't realise that Registration was going to be about the most time-consuming task of all!).

Our thanks go to their Graces, the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, for the use of Chatsworth and to His Grace for presenting the prizes. We hope everyone agrees that the location was splendid, with a compact site and a wonderful view of the runners streaming down the hillside to the final control and along the run-in to the finish. Our thanks to John Oliver, the Comptroller, and his staff for their co-operation and for providing help we didn't ask for but was certainly welcome. Thanks to Councillor Martin Doughty for also presenting the prizes.

We must also apologise for the upset caused to some by the announcement of the Women's Open result. An error and confusion had been compounded to the point that a CUOC team was announced as winners, despite having declared themselves as non-competitive. Following justifiable complaints, the situation was investigated and the trophy awarded to ERYRI as Women's Open winners for 1997. Hopefully everyone will be satisfied with this decision and the consequent promotion of the following two teams.

One of the nicest aspects of the day was the large number of enthusiastic children who ran the string course; surely a hopeful sign for the health of orienteering in the future (and a source of potential volunteers for the British Championships in the next millennium!)

Ranald and Viv Macdonald

Controller's Comments

What a great sport orienteering is! Within a couple of weeks of doing battle against each other in the Compass Sport Cup DVO and NOC were working together to produce a superb British Relay Event at Chatsworth.

The car park and assembly area must have seemed a dream to most organisers used to having to cope with the usual sloping muddy field together with a long walk to the competition area. The assembly area was chosen for its logistics and opportunity for spectators to watch the starts, changeover and finish. DVO led by Ranald and Viv Macdonald did themselves proud on the organisation side and I have to say I had total confidence in them as early as my first meeting a year or so before the event. These were the professionals!

Although Chatsworth is not particularly technical I am sure you will agree it proved to be a suitable area for the British Relays. By joining good running with

combining start times you, the customers, were provided with competitive orienteering which was fast and furious and produced fair champions on the day.

Having planned a British Relay myself a few years ago I know how complicated the event can be and how the risk of something going wrong is much greater than with an individual event. This is due to the greater number of course combinations (62), as well as the mammoth exercise of co-ordinating the labelling of maps and paper bags. An awful lot can go wrong.

Therefore there is a great deal of credit to Eric for getting all this right, and the winning times, and to him, ably assisted by Alan Beardsley, that all the 114 controls were in the right place, correctly marked on the day. I have enjoyed working with both Eric and Alan over the last year or so.

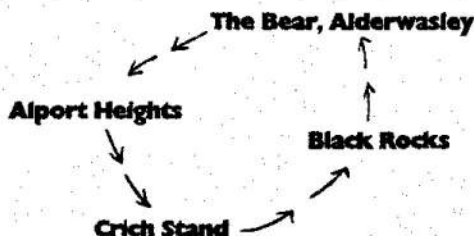
Finally I would specifically draw attention to the results service of Mike Napier. Having produced all the necessary labels and printouts prior to the event Mike, supported by DVO helpers on the day, was able to provide on the day results with prize giving in line with times published - and all this a day after providing the results service to the individual day.

Richard Payne

Sports Personality of the Month

The final Summer League event of the summer was at Robin Wood. It was a Score event with penalty points for time spent over 45 minutes. Nearly everyone was back except Robert Shooter who'd been out for quite some time beyond his allotted span and, were it anyone else, we might have been concerned but eventually he did reappear, looking a little shamefaced. It seems that, having a few minutes to spare before his time was up, he had lain down for a few minutes and promptly nodded off! (And I thought it was the hare who was supposed to fall asleep).

3 TRIGS RUN



Fancy a longish run with a fair amount of climb followed by a pub lunch? Well here's your chance - on Saturday 19th September the second annual 3 Trigs run is set to take place.

OK, I'll come clean with the distance - it's around the 15 mile mark. As for the climb, well no one has worked that one out yet, but you do cross the Derwent Valley twice.

The idea is that from 8 o'clock in the morning at intervals of about 30 minutes, groups of runners of similar speed will set off, the fastest going last, with the aim of visiting the 3 trig points in the set order. Maps are provided to show the best way between the points but don't worry about getting lost; there will be enough runners who know their way around. The run is not intended to be a race but a social event.

Christina Wright has volunteered to provide a drinks station at Crich Stand - any other offer of help, especially at the top of Black Rocks, would be most welcome. To give you an idea of the times to expect, last year, on a very hot day, the range was between 2 and 4 hours.

Ring me if you're still not sure or would like to know who else is coming so that you know what time to turn up.

Val Johnson

P.S. There are showers at the pub that we are able to use.

An Advertisement

FOR SALE. A complete set of 'Orienteer's and 'CompassSport's from May 1972 to November 1992 - 127 issues in all - are available for sale at the bargain price of £20.00. All proceeds to go to charity. Please apply to Barrie Bibby on 01629 825344.

FIXTURES

September

- 6th (Saturday) LEI Burbage Common & Woods, Hinckley LE/446954
Organiser: Steve Davidson 01509 507748
- 7th SYO Blackamoor & Burbage Long O, Sheffield. SK/299798
11, 16 and 20 km courses.
Organiser: Gordon Whittlestone. 0114-236-0926
- Twin Peaks Weekend**
- 13th DVO Longshaw Badge Event } See separate information inside.
14th MDOC Errwood Badge Event }
- 20th (Saturday) Three Trigs Run - See separate information inside.
- 21st LOG Lincoln South Common Local Event. (Lincoln High Street !)
Organiser: Ian Durrant 01522 532245
- 28th WCH Oldacre Colour-Coded Event, Cannock Chase. SJ/978170
Organiser: George Baker. 01785-251294

October

- 5th DVO Shipley Park Colour-coded event, Heanor - see inside.
- 12th LEI Outwoods Colour-coded event, Loughbrough. LE/516176
Organiser: Chris Phillips. 0116-255-0330
- 18th WCH Hednesford Hills Night event, Cannock. SK/009128