

NEWSTRACK
DECEMBER 1995

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THE EDITOR'S BIT

As we consign 1995 to history's dustbin, we look forward to 1996 and find that someone must have been reading my moans about the thinness of the orienteering calendar in the first few weeks of last year because there is a veritable cornucopia of events to satisfy all tastes, with no less than 6 badge event closing dates falling in January alone - including the JK which falls on 8th January, so beware. On 11th Feb, for example, you can choose from two badge events at Yateholme or The Wrekin or NOC's Blidworth colour-coded event. The only problem is finding the money to pay for all these events...

NEWSTRACK wishes all DVO members a successful New Year - unless they are M40s.

Report on the 1995 BOF Delegate Conference - Part 2

The second part of the conference was given over to a discussion of the environmental impact of orienteering, land access problems and what measures should be taken in response to these.

In 1991, Brian Parker predicted an apocalyptic future where orienteering was banned completely between April and August or September and outlawed altogether on any area with an SSSI on or adjacent to it, with any unusual flora, fauna or geology or under pressures from excessive public access. The consequences of this might be selection for champs, closed regional events, no orienteering in the Lakes, New Forest or National Parks, JK only every two years in Scotland with selected entry and an increase in coincidental club events.

Four years later, he examined "progress" towards Armageddon by noting an increase in the number of events with number limits and the abandonment of the planned JK in Dartmoor. Erik Peckett, the SW JK co-ordinator, explained this latter development was due to the authorities insisting on a numbers limit of 1250 and the event not taking place during the school holidays.

In view of the increasing difficulties in obtaining permission for the use of areas for large-scale, prestigious events, Erik recognised that consideration had to be given to ways of working within these constraints or seeking to avoid them by anticipating the problems and taking steps to prevent them arising. He considered a number of ways of doing this:

1. Reduction or Spreading of Numbers.

1. Extending start-times over 5-6 hours. The problems of this measure is an increase in unfairness of the competition, for example due to changing weather conditions (e.g. the recent S. Wales National Event), the development of elephant tracks over

a longer period of time and the practical disadvantages of having to prepare for very early start times.

2. Parallel courses for two halves of the same age group, e.g. M40L. This would mean 2 M40L Champions.

3. Introduce an extra class, e.g. M40 Elite. This increases the number of courses and introduces problems of defining and selecting the Elite class.

4. Splitting the Champs (there was a surprising amount of support for this option and I got the feeling that this may well be the shape of the future). One suggested split was Juniors from 10-17, Seniors 17-40 and Vets 40+ (representing a numbers ratio of approx 1:3:2). The advantages are smaller numbers, smaller areas, less organisation/helpers per event. Disadvantages are transport to events for juniors whose parents have no run, champs taking up 3 dates and events rather than 1, more organisation/helpers overall, lack of atmosphere, no relays.

5. Do away with Short Courses. Lesser numbers but problems with people running up and with partners who run L and S.

6. Limit numbers to 30-50 per class. This would reduce the event to about 1000 and increase the status of the event.

However there would be the problem of selecting the 30-40, increased costs, decreased profitability and relays becoming impractical.

2. Selection

Possible options were:

1. The ranking lists - overwhelmingly rejected by everyone, which made me wonder just what purpose the ranking lists serve anyway.

2. First Come, First Served - also rejected as unfair and too arbitrary.

3. Regional Champs - in the old style, pre-National days when we had Southern, Midland, Northern etc. Champ events open to everyone on national event standard areas by and large. (This made me smile as I was never in favour of getting rid of these in the first place).

4. Association Champs. As I understood the distinction between this and No. 3, this involved closed competitions, the winners of which went forward to the Champs, whereas under 3, you could qualify at any one of the regional champs.

The last option would cause a problem for the officials, those who were ill, injured, abroad so there would have to be some sort of committee letting through "wild cards".

3. The JK

This was treated differently in view of its traditional "festival" status and entry from abroad. Measures discussed included:

1. Raising entry fee - universally disapproved as too crude and discriminating.

2. Designating certain areas as for use for the JK only.

3. Having 2 JKs in different parts of the country.

4. Changing the time of year.

5. Only having the event every other year.

Next up was David Thomas, BOF Chairman, espousing the virtues of the club event under the heading of "Small is Beautiful". The problem with large events are that they are perceived by the public/environmentalists as intrinsically damaging and give a bad impression with their sprawling car parks and flooding of an area for a short period of time. This, by the way, has indirectly led to the Ashdown Forest National Event being on the last day of the year; permission can only be obtained for it in Nov/Dec and this is the only Sunday free.

If one large badge event were replaced by, say, four colour-coded events in the same area, the advantages would be easier car-parking, reduced travel, easier to find officials, fewer courses, smaller areas, easier and quicker results, less annoyance to landowners, less (perceived) environmental damage, compliance with number restrictions and cheaper prices. The disadvantages would be less profit, slower use of map stocks, need for four sets of officials and more requests for land permission.

After listening to this deluge of ideas, we all split up into groups and reported back later.

Generally the feeling was that the JK would cease to be a competition worthy of the name if anyone tampered with it to the serious extent proposed, e.g. moving it away from Easter, so the message was "Hands off the JK". However it was recognised that the days of the British being open to all may be numbered and, of all the options for change, it was preferred to have qualifying races on a regional level as a means of entry. A BOF committee - surprise, surprise - is now looking into ways of limiting numbers for the British.

Where overwhelming numbers at events, particularly badge events, is a problem, like the South-East, there was a general vote in favour of holding coincident colour-coded events as counter-attractions (not sure whether instead of or as well as).

These discussions threw up many other interesting topics too. there was a suggestion at one point that all badge events should be banned but this was generally jumped on. Just as surprising was the hostility towards the CompassSport Cup which was felt to have outgrown its original purpose and now to be a bad influence, distorting colour-coded events. the days of this competition may well be numbered.

Finally one idea approved which I think should be universally adopted is the separation of female results in colour-coded events. Most women probably compete at Green or Brown level, but their achievements are lost in the huge number of male competitors on the same course. Comparisons with their counterparts would still be possible if the results were separated but the achievement of, say, the first woman on Blue would be emphasised this way in the same way as the first Blue male. Worth thinking about but perhaps the women themselves should decide.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Your report in the last Newstrack on the Club Delegate Conference rightly highlights DVO's poor record in the field of junior development. However all is not gloom and doom. One of your points is that we should be mapping school grounds. This is exactly the purpose of the East Midland's Schools Development Project. As a result of grants from that project the following schools in Derbyshire have had maps produced: Stancliffe Hall (Darley Dale), The Meadows Primary (Duffield), Ecclesbourne, Derby University (including Murray Park & Mackworth College), Abbotsholme and Etwall Primary. In addition mapping of St. Benedicts (Derby), Derby High School for Girls and Spitewinter Scout Campsite is underway. Before the scheme started maps were produced of Sinfin Community School and Sinfin Moor Park, the latter with help from Derby City Council. Most of these are full colour maps. The project also provides in-service training for the teachers to ensure that they are aware of good practice.

In addition, as I highlighted last time, the club has created 5 permanent courses which schools and other youth groups make extensive use of. So on the whole the facilities are there for those who wish to make use of them.

What I would like to see happen is more small areas mapped and equipped with permanent courses that can be used at any time with a minimum of preparation by teachers and leaders. As ever the money is available so long as someone is prepared to spend the time on negotiations.

Mike Godfree

DVO GOES SWISS IN '96

We now have the entry details for the Swiss 6 days, 3rd - 10th August. At least a dozen people have already expressed interest in going to the event. The entry fees are not quite as horrendous as we might have thought, about £90.00 for the 6 days, but remember this includes compulsory transport from the event centre by various means. The generally favoured arrangement would seem to be to use the event campsite but you can choose any other type of accommodation. as Brunnen is well served by public transport, it would be feasible to leave your car at home. the Swiss Karrimor is being held in the week before so why not combine the two.

As the entries are on a first come, first served basis and have to be in and paid in full by mid April anyway I propose to make a club entry by the end of February. I will be asking all those interested to pay an approximate equivalent in sterling before then. If you would like a copy of the information let me know.

Mike Godfree (01332-515862)

SATURDAY. 24TH FEBRUARY 1995 (Day before National at Wharnccliffe)

Sheffield University Short Races at Beeley Woods

Pre-Entry by 9th February 1996 to:
Alastair Buckley,
4 Eastwood Road, Sheffield S11 8QE
(01142) 667369

Four courses: M/W17-, M/W Open, M/W40+, M/W B-course (easy).
Fees: £3.50 and £1.50.

White Peak Waltz I have a full set of results which are too bulky to reproduce in toto in NEWSTRACK. They include everybody's time, how well they did in relation to anyone else on that leg and how well the teams were doing at any stage in the race. If anyone is interested in receiving a copy, please give me a ring and I'll shove a set in the post.

1996 Social Events

Saturday 27th January

Burn's Supper (Soup, Haggis/Nut McRoast, Tatties, Neeps, Pud)

7.30pm for 8.00pm
Wirksworth Town Hall
£2.50 per head
Names and money to Val Johnson by 20th Jan at latest.
Cheques payable to "DVO"

Saturday 17th February

DVO PARTY - for children of all ages

- PARTY GAMES - PARTY HATS - PARTY JELLY -
- PARTY FOOD - PARTY BAGS - PARTY FUN -
- 5-7PM -
- FREE -

Names to Val asap. DVO Kitchens will organise the food i.e. Val will approach you at events with a list.

THE 1995 NEWSTRACK READERS SURVEY

Those attending the last Duffield Road training run before Christmas were presented with the following questions:

- (1) What was the best event of 1995?
- (2) What was the best DVO event of 1995?
- (3) What was the worst event of 1995?
- (4) What was your personal high in 1995?
- (5) What was your personal low in 1995?
- (6) What is your ambition for 1996?

These were the responses:

Sue Russell -

- (1) Lowe Alpine Mountain Marathon
- (2) Cromford Moor
- (3) British Relay Champs - got stuck in bog
- (4) Starting the KIMM
- (5) Last control of KIMM
- (6) Top 100 ranking in W21

Ann-Marie Priston -

- (1) British Individual Champs
- (2) Kedleston Night Event
- (3) Hopwas Wood
- (4) Saunders MM
- (5) Welsh National Event - 2 controls in 1 1/2 hours!
- (6) Do Saunders, Karrimor and Polaris - with Kath.

Judy Buckley -

- (1) Polaris and Karrimor
- (2) Cromford
- (3) British Individual Champs
- (4) 8th in JK - 9 days after op
- (5) British again
- (6) To be in 4 ranking lists

Steve Buckley -

- (1) Scottish 6-Days
- (2) Stanton Moor
- (3) Welsh National Event - late start in mist.
- (4) Running and winning KIMM - without a sac.
- (5) Nipping down to Pembrey to run in flooded (knee-deep), newly felled area.
- (6) Top 10 in Vets World Champs in Spain

Kim Buckley -

- (1) British Individual Champs
- (2) Drum Hill, Summer League
- (3) World Junior Relays
- (4) Short Race, Junior World Champs
- (6) To Beat Dad every time I run against him

Tony Berwick -

- (1) British Champs
- (2) Longshaw (nice to have change of Start and Finish)
- (3) DVO Club Champs (sorry Steve!)
- (4) Top of Alport Heights on DVO training run (you weren't supposed to take this literally, Tony)
- (5) Score event in Wales following National
- (6) To keep orienteering and well enough to go into M60 in 97

Dave Brodie -

- (1) British Individual Champs
- (2) Stanton Moor
- (3) That Welsh National Event again
- (4) Beating Graham Johnson at the Scottish 6 days
- (5) Graham Johnson beating me by 32 secs at Bethacarr Moor
- (6) To do better at the Scottish 6-Day (but there isn't one in 96, Dave) and to reach Championship standard at least once in M45

Graham Johnson -

- (1) British Individual Champs and Bethacarr
- (2) Crich Chase
- (3) New Years Day WCH Score Event
- (4) Doing a PB for the Ashbourne Hill Race on my 40th birthday
- (5) Only beating Dave Brodie by 32 secs at Bethacarr Moor
- (6) To manage one decent run on one decent area (please)

Paul Wright -

- (1) British Individual Champs
- (2) Crich Chase
- (3) Grace Dieu Badge
- (4) 57min on M35S at Stanhope
- (6) To get better - and beat Val Johnson

Val Johnson -

- (1) British Individual Champs - superb area
- (2) Longshaw
- (3) Harvester - because of my terrible run there
- (4) Joint equal - finishing the British/4th on Day 1 at JK/clean run at Sherwood Pines, E Midland Champs
- (5) Missing Scottish 6 Days on the one year it didn't rain
- (6) Top 5 in W35 in USA next summer

Odds and Sods

SPORTS PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH

Our phone often rings with requests for information about DVO or orienteering in general, but this was one of the better ones. Mike, we've come to Sussex for the weekend but have left the event details behind in Two Dales, have you got a fixture list with the organiser's phone number? So Viv, a dozen people to Bruges, Amsterdam or Paris - no problem (although come to think of it she did leave two behind in Paris!), but two to the South of England!

SPORTS PERSA FAMILY OF THE MONTH

Special mention must be made of the DVO family who achieved a level of incompetence beyond the call of duty at Linacre:

Mum copied down the wrong depression on the first half of Brown;

Dad copied the first half of Brown and the second half of Blue at the master maps;

Daughter copied down Green, having entered Light Green.

Unfortunately, this family happens to be the one that I am a member of, and I am getting a bit fed up with constantly nominating myself for this wretched award. I want you all to make a special effort to rectify this monopoly next and adopt the motto: Do something thick in '96 - and make sure I get to know about it.

I was somewhat taken aback when Kim Buckley confessed to me that she was a SEXPOT. However she quickly explained that this stands for Sheffield EX-Polytechnic Orienteering Team.

Steve Buckley's Mum's Handy Sewing Hint. I can't remember how this came up in conversation but you know how difficult lycra is to repair once ripped, well Steve Buckley's mum sticks the rip together first using electrician's tape on the reverse and then sews the rip up with a sewing machine. I can't remember whether and how she gets rid of the tape though.

Overheard 1 At the Dove Dale Dash from a spectator just as we plunged into the Dove:

"So what's it all in aid of then?"

Overheard 2 From a NOC orienteer at Linacre:

"It's good here isn't it?" ???

Well Done to Silva. The internal workings of my year-old Silva compass recently and inexplicably fell apart so, more in hope than expectation, I returned it to Silva. A couple of weeks later, the compass was returned, fully repaired at no cost and now works perfectly. What is more the pro-forma accompanying the compass suggested that similar treatment would have been given to the compass had it been returned with a bubble - in my experience the single most common fault rendering a compass unusable. If anyone is successful in getting Silva to repair bubbles, I would be interested. I have previously assumed that this fault was irreparable but even if Silva will only do it in return for payment, it could still be cheaper than buying a replacement.

FIXTURES

- 30th December Chasing Sprint Event, Sutton Park, SP/118975
Closing Date for entries passed. Tel: 01972 455142
- 31st December DVO Bottom Moor (Matlock East) Score Event
SK330626 11am mass start. £2/£1/£5 family
Organiser: Tim Norris, Dairy Cottage, Highcliffe, Eyam
S30 1QT (01433 631891)
- 1996
- 1st January MDOC Score Event, Lyme Park SJ/965824
Organiser: E Speak (12625) 876076
- 14th January LEI Wakerley Woods C-C (EM Galoppen)
Awaiting confirmation. Kevin Bradley 01162 - 640722.
- 14th January SYO West Haigh Woods C-C SE/417084
- 21st January NOC Budby Badge Event - Robin Hood Trophy
Steven Wright, 76 Padleys Lane, Burton Joyce, Nottingham
NG14 5BW (01159) 313592 CD: 06/01/96 £5.00/£2.50 Chq: NOC
- 28th January DVO Calke Park C-C SK/356240
Organiser: Dave Walker, 6 Malin Close, Alvaston, Derby
DE2 0HG (01332) 574003 White-Brown + String £2/£1/£5
- 3rd February (Saturday) Allestree Park Night Event (EM Night
League SK352409
Organiser: Martin Brown, 34 Larges Street, Derby DE1 1DN
(01332) 294876 Long & Medium £2.00/£1.00.
- 4th February WCH Hawksmoor & Dimmingsdale Badge Event
SK/059437. Dennis Keley, 76 Victoria Way, Walton on the
Hill, Stafford ST17 ONX (01785) 661373 CD: 16/01/96.
£5.00/£2.50 Chq: Walton Chasers
- 10th February NOC Blidworth Night Event SK/590530
Ray Barnes (01159) 326720
- 11th February NOC Blidworth C-C Event SK/590530
Phil Pittson (01159) 326720
- 11th February EPOC Yateholme Badge Event SE/121067
Tina Williams, 8 Glenfields, Netherton, Wakefield WF4 4SH
CD: 21/01/96 £4.50/£1.50 Chq: EPOC
- 11th February WRE The Wrekin Badge Event SJ/628091
Safestart (WRE), PO Box 22, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13
2ZZ CD: 18/01/96 £5.00/£2.59/£13.00 Chq: Safestart
- 18th February OD Bentley Woods Badge Event SP/298983
Hilary Simpson, 181 Loxley Road, Stratford-Upon-Avon CV37
7DU CD: 28/01/96 £5.00/£2.50 Chq: Octavian Droobers
- 24th February Sheffield Univ. Short Races, Beeley Woods.
See details elsewhere in NEWSTRACK.
- 25th February SYO Wharnccliffe National Event SK/326941
Derek & Wendy Smallwood, 129 Lydgate Lane, Sheffield S10
5FN (01142) 668959 CD: 29/01/96 £7.75/£2.50 Chq: SYO
- 10th March DVO Crich Chase C-C SK/331543
Organiser: Kathryn Griffiths, 2 Chase Road, Ambergate, B
Belper DE56 2HA White-Brown + String £2/£1/£5 family
- 16th March (Saturday) DVO Drum Hill Short Race (part of Xanda
East Midland Short Series. Special Entry form available
from events in the New Year.
- 28th April DVO Allestree Park C-C
- 12th May DVO Stanton Moor C-C
- 23rd June DVO Shipley Park Relays