

NEWSTRACK

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NEWSTRACK is the magazine of Derwent Valley Orienteers

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(Andy Mackervoy did give me a cover but it was ages ago and I've lost it)

Final Thoughts from the Chair

These are my final 'thoughts' as I will have completed my 3 years as Chair at the AGM in September. I have found it an interesting time leading the Club through what are quite difficult times for orienteering. With membership declining nationally, we have done well to hold up our numbers, though the full results of food and mouth disease will take some time to filter through. However, the last three years have very much been a team effort and I would like to thank those who have given a considerable amount of their time and energy on the Committee as well as at events. The Club only survives because a relatively small group of people are prepared to plan, organise, control, map, coach, look after equipment, produce newsletters and carry out the other roles essential for the smooth running of a voluntary organization. It's rather invidious to mention names, but I really must thank Val Johnson and Mike Godfree for their exceptional efforts over the last couple of years (supported, as in my case, by equally involved 'other halves' – Graham, Liz and Viv). Awards for All funding, our involvement with the Derbyshire and Peak District Sport and Recreation Forum, the Schools League and our development activities in general have owed much to their, and some others', enthusiasm for what goes on locally.

My thanks also to Mike Gardner (Secretary) and Michelle Mackervoy (Equipment Officer), both of who will be standing down at the AGM. This is obviously the point at which I make the usual plea for new blood on the Committee – or even the return of some old blood - to carry out these, and any other, important roles. Details of the AGM, on 29 September, appear elsewhere in Newstrack, but it would be wonderful to see a repeat of the amazing turnout we had last year. If you would like to get involved, please give me a call before the AGM or turn up on the evening to volunteer.

This summer saw a short burst of orienteering for those of us not able to make the events in France, Belgium or Lithuania. A group of us took part in the Swiss 6-day event – T-shirts on display at various forthcoming opportunities. With three days in Switzerland (generally good quality technical orienteering) and another three in Italy (described by some as 'a long Orange course') the lack of really challenging orienteering was more than compensated for by the warm weather, Italian food, quite spectacular thunderstorms in the evenings, dozens of firework displays on Swiss National Day and the opportunity to stay on in Italy afterwards. Reports of this and the Scottish 6-day appear elsewhere in Newstrack.

As orienteering hopefully gets going again in the autumn – though looking at the DEFRA (previously MAFF) website there seems to be a long tail of cases of foot and mouth – we have decided to keep going with Friday night circuit training as people feel it has been beneficial (though it doesn't always seem so at the time!). I am also planning another long run on Saturday 29 September. Starting again at the Grouse and Claret at Rowsley, this time we will go north and take in the edges – Chatsworth, Birchens, Baslow, White Edge and maybe back along

Frogatt and Curbar and then through Chatsworth Park. This should allow people to decide on their own length of run and I'll suggest a 10 and 15-mile route. We can normally get showers at the pub afterwards, the food is good there and there is a children's playground for those so inclined!

The next year sees us hopefully putting on two Badge events (Chatsworth and Shining Cliff), a number of Colour Coded and Night events, and quite a number of local (C5 in the jargon) events as part of the Schools League. All of these require the usual officials and helpers so contact Stuart Swalwell if you want to volunteer. We hope organize a coaching trip to the National Orienteering Centre at Glenmore Lodge near Aviemore as well as more local coaching on Cannock Chase. However, if there is something we are not doing that you think we should, then you have to talk to someone on the committee – and perhaps even volunteer to organize it yourself!

So, that's it from me. I hope to keep an active role in the Club but I already have quite a lot to do as a BOF Councillor and Vice-Chair of the East Midlands Orienteering Association! There are real challenges ahead for the Club as we seem to find it difficult to recruit and keep new youngsters. This is where the Schools League is important, though we mustn't neglect the recruitment of new adult orienteers – who often bring their own juniors with them.

Happy orienteering!

Ranald Macdonald
Chair, Derwent Valley Orienteers

Thoughts From The (Editor's Arm)Chair

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Ranald for his dependable and erudite contributions over the last three years. I look forward to similar contributions from whichever Chair succeeds him (don't I Robert).

Annual General Meeting – 26th September 2001

Notice is given that the AGM will take place at Belper Sports Centre from 8.15 pm on the above date. This year's meeting looks like being more interesting than usual because of the number of officers standing down. As well as a new Chair, we're looking for a new secretary and equipment officer. Better turn up or it could be YOU.

Locaber 2001 (or the Story of Hobbling Kathy) - Steve Kimberley

it wasn't a good start to the Scottish. You know when you enter it that the weather is either going to be great or it is going to chuck it down with rain. This one was different. It chucked it down before the event. As a result the campsite was waterlogged even before we arrived. Thankfully there was a commercial site next door, which actually didn't cost much more.

Day One - Achdelieu - and after being bussed to the event a lot of very nervous people walked to the start of the event. For some the novelty of orienteering on complicated and rough terrain was too much. Certainly Ian Whitehead found it so; not only did he spend twenty minutes looking for the first control, but he was even told where he was by his wife (hobbling Kathy) who started after him. (That's the best piece of news I've heard in a long time - Ed). Eventually it was all too much for him and he retired along with a couple of other members of his family. Hobbling Kathy however made it all the way round despite her unusual locomotion technique. Not bad considering only 10 weeks after knee surgery.

The area was mainly moorland, with a few areas of woodland and a complicated stream structure. It certainly tested all of us who had not orienteered for a while. The juniors were told to follow streams, which they might not be able to see but would be able to hear (and presumably fall in.)

Day Two, and Strathmashie was a very eventful day as far as the DVO contingent was concerned. Surprisingly no one retired and Ian Whitehead regained his supremacy amongst DVO's M45's. (Now, you've spoiled it - Ed). However, despite the rough and varied terrain, most people had better runs on this second day. The excitement was reserved for the string course. Gwyneth Shooter, whilst looking after three kids on the string, managed to fall over and chip a part of her elbow. Hobbling Kathy seemed to be getting quicker and now was getting up to fast walking pace. One thing to be wary of was the many rides. These must have been quite boggy at the start of the event but by the time we got out there, they were so wet and marshy that it was sometimes quicker to go through the forest instead.

After Gwyneth's 4 hour stint in Fort William Hospital, it was decided that the end of the bone had splintered but no-one could quite decide what to do about it. A decision would be made in the morning to see whether she had to go to Inverness for an operation.

Day Three never really got off the ground as far as the Shooters were concerned. On the way to the event, they received a phone call from Inverness. The decision had been made that they wanted to operate and put her arm in pins for three weeks. Not surprisingly the decision was changed and the Shooters turned around, packed up and were on their way to Derby so Gwyneth could at least spend three weeks in traction at a more convenient location. There was a vague

suggestion that another member of the M45 DVO contingent had made the phone call so that Rob was eliminated from the inter club competition, but it was soon realised that no one took Rob's capabilities that seriously! Good wishes and a speedy recovery to Gwyneth.

Ardchattan (Day 3 area) was new to orienteering and was mainly an open moorland hill with most courses being confined to the south facing slopes. The walk to the start was 1.2km with 130m of climb and unfortunately that set the pattern for the course. My first leg was about 1km with 125m of climb. The M45s had an even longer leg with more climb again. Despite this, the running was faster than the other days and times per km came down. That is except for those who got lost. Because there were no paths on the main moor, many people found it difficult to relocate once they became lost. Hobbling Kathy found it faster again, but, due to her style of hobbling, the downhill was harder than the uphill.

After the rest day it was a return to Strathmashie for Day 4. The planners tried hard to make the courses different and as a result the starts were some distance away. Inevitably however with the same finish area being used, the final few controls were over the same area as day 2. Despite this second go at the area, I was no better than the first time round; I still found the rides confusing and boggy - and even found one which was mid thigh deep.

Those on the shorter courses found that they had a lot more woodland than on Day 2. This was not to everyone's liking. Hobbling Kathy in particular found the going slow in the brashings-thick forest. Better things were hoped for Day 5.

And so it proved to be. Even though Arisaig was again open moorland, it was the most technically challenging of all the areas. And to top it off, the weather, apart from an odd heavy shower, was the best of the week. From the finish / Assembly area you could see your last controls in a small but technical area. So followed a discussion of which one was yours! I decided in the end which one mine was, and the fact that I could use the gent's urinal as a reference point for it. There was a long hard climb to the start, but this was rewarded once you got there by beautiful views over to Eigg, Rhum and Skye. Some of us were even fortunate enough to see the steam train below us that went just past the assembly area. One thing you couldn't see from the start was your course because the start triangle was just on the horizon. The area was very challenging and many people were soon making big mistakes. Two examples will serve to illustrate this:

a) I set off one minute behind someone else on my course, whom I knew had taken about 10 minutes slower than me, each of the previous days. I set off with every confidence of passing him soon. And so it happened that I passed him on the way to number one. Unfortunately I also passed him on the way to 2,4, 8 and 10. By 10 I was getting used to the area and I went away from him, eventually beating him by 15 minutes. Most of the time I was losing it in the control circle.

b) Ian Whitehead and John Hurley set off about five minutes apart. They found themselves both unsure of where they were and looking for a control in the same area. Only after they finished did they discover that, when they saw one another, they were actually looking for two different controls. Ian was South East of his control whilst John was South West of his. Both were about 100 metres away from where they wanted to be. They went round a lot of the course in sight of one another and unfortunately Ian perhaps felt the pressure and failed to realise that he had a control between 9 and 11 so was disqualified for missing a control. With only one more day to go he only had three counting days.

All this, of course, was no obstacle to the best runners who still managed not to make any mistakes, but the gaps behind them were a lot bigger. Hobbling Kathy, despite worries about the climb to the start, got round with no major problems and scored some useful points.

The last day was Fersit, a mixed open/forest area near Tulloch Station. Rather disappointingly this was also the day with the longest courses and with the most climb. Despite this, fast times were being posted right from the start. This was mainly because most of the area seemed very easy after Arisaig. There was only one area of bracken-topped moranic deposits in which you could lose a lot of time, the rest was quite easy. Ian Whitehead got his last counter whilst hobbling Kathy, though feeling the effects of the previous days, still got round with no major problems. The DVO contingent had early starts that day so most of us left before knowing the final results, but at least it meant we left before the rain got worse.

Overall I would have to rate this Scottish as an average one. The weather wasn't brilliant though it generally stayed dry at the events (at least this meant the midges were quite quiet). The areas were OK but not that exciting (apart from Arisaig) and certainly I would have preferred not going to Strathmashie twice but you have to congratulate the Scots for putting on the whole six days when just over one month before it was unclear whether it could be held at all.

Next Six Day promises a bit better as it is on the Moray coast with the centre at Nairn. Perhaps see you there.

Steve Kimberley

PS Gwyneth is back in Derby and after a visit to DRI to remove some bone splinters is recovering well.

Swiss Family Jackson

Attending a multi-day O event with 2 children (Matthew and Nicola) and camping could have been a real challenge. The weather could be wet, the camp site disorganised and the organisers might not understand the concept of the 'split start' that we are so used to over here. As it was, the weather was superb with the major problem being avoiding sunburn and dehydration, the campsite and facilities were excellent (including 3 swimming pools) and we did have sort of split starts.

Going with DVO was also a tremendous help especially in talking to, playing with and generally keeping an eye on the children. It is for this help that we would like to thank all of those that went to the Italian/Swiss 6 days for their patience and help in both entertaining all of the young children (Nicola and Matthew Jackson and Sarah Duckworth) and in assisting the parents in getting to our starts on time without too much stress.

Special thanks must go to James Allen who looked after Sarah when John had to go to his start. It was the first time he had ever held a baby and there was no one else around. John convinced him that someone would be back soon. If Derbyshire police require someone to look after a crèche he obviously has some talent.

A special thanks must also go to Graham Johnson for competing in the 7th event of the week. At the campsite Nicola drew a map, hung controls and wrote descriptions for a course around the tents. Graham enthusiastically ran round this after a full week's orienteering. The trick appeared to be to look for the tape stuck on walls and fences at ~2 foot not the more usual 5 foot.

And the orienteering? There was one superb area high in the mountains with 5 areas that were good. Some of them were similar to Forest of Dean areas. My running was patchy, as always, but it was great fun. Put together it was a most enjoyable week.

Andy Jackson (thanks on behalf of the Andy, Karen, Ann Marie and John)

Heidi Hi – DVO Goes to Switlerly

Never been to Switzerland before. In my ignorance, I had visions of a land of snow-capped peaks and cows in meadows, the climate mild and changeable in summer, These impressions were admittedly derived largely from the Sound of Music, which was, of course, set in Austria. Ignorance indeed. Two of my lasting memories of the Sei Giorni (it means 6 Days, you know) will be:

Memory 1. It is the end of my run on Day 3. I emerge from the relative cool of

the forest into the steaming cauldron of the Finish/Assembly field. I negotiate the ordeal by fire known as the sprint (hal) to the finish control and stumble to the DVO encampment where I gulp down my precious bottle of spring water. There is not a handkerchief of shade in the whole field, not a breath of wind, and we all cling pathetically to the shadow of the stalks of maize around the edge. It is in excess of 35 degrees and I sway unsteadily as the scene shimmers in a haze of relentless heat. Yup, it was hot.

Memory 2. It is the evening of Day 6. I am standing with four other DVO stalwarts hanging on for dear life to John and Ann Marie's gazebo (think Raj Quartet and Kipling – the poet, not the cakes). We have become used to the evening thunderstorm ambushing us from the mountains, but this is different. A twister! The rain lashes down in torrents, partnered by a tornado that whips anything not tied down and discards it indiscriminately. The gazebo is open-sided and we stand in the pitch black, illuminated by sporadic explosions of lightning, deafened by thunder, plastered to the skin, wondering when it will end and how long we can hang on. Kansas here we come!

(It is worth noting that John is the only Duckworth present – Ann Marie claims to be stranded in the showers whilst Sarah sleeps, well, like a baby whilst about her hell cracks open).

So was it worth it, this revolutionary break from the almost uninterrupted twenty year cycle of Scottish 6-Days (although there were some who were unable to resist breaking the habit, who headed northwards, like salmon obeying the centuries-old call of nature, forging relentlessly along the Gulf Stream, to fetch up on the shores off Fort William for yet a further four days of frolics)? From the point of view of an unforgettable holiday, undoubtedly yes. From the point of view of good orienteering, well, it was a game of two halves, Brian.

The six day formula was split 50:50 between the two countries. By common consent, the best three days were One, Four and Six, uncoincidentally all north of the border – and being extremely particular, I would have to say that only Day Four was truly exceptional, justifying DVO's – or at least 25 of its finest – travelling across half of Europe for. Day 4 involved an hour's travel up to just below the San Bernadino Pass to gain access to cooler sub-Alpine slopes, resembling the best of the Lake District except with more trees, and cow bells. Here was the fiercest examination of orienteering skills where continuous contact with the map and fast running brought their just desserts. Unfortunately it was my orienteering skills which desserted me. I orienteered like a pudding.

I don't wish to be Italianist here but, whilst the remaining areas were all of a standard which we would have been overjoyed to run on if they were in the East Midlands, none made the heart sing, none instilled a longing to return in years to come. Whilst no-one could claim to have been swissled, the overall impression was of being offered a dip into the Thornton's Continental and then being tossed

a bag of Roses. Now Roses are all very well – especially the hazelnuts in caramel in those purple cellophane wrappers – but wouldn't everyone prefer to let loose on the Viennese truffles?

It seemed particularly perverse on Day Two, to send us all on a two hour journey over the border, braving traffic jams and Italian drivers, to bring us an area of the standard of, say, a Springtime in Shropshire event (so sadly missed this year; F and M isn't all bad news) when less than half that distance would have uncovered jewels of the carat of Days 4 and 6.

Like the past, another country is, well, another country and they do things differently there, which is, of course, one of the reasons for going. Now, having used my dobber (did you know that Italian for 'Sport Ident card' is 'Sport Ident card'?) for over a year now, I thought that I'd just about grasped the basics of the technique – which is, after all, shove it in the hole, wait for the beep and scarp. Day 1 saw me poised for action, dobber at the ready, when 10.25 sounded. Off I went, leisurely jogging to the start control, following the flags conveniently leading the way, ready to plunge my digital appendage into the appropriate orifice and to kick-start my personal Grand Tour, only to find – nothing! A start control but no box. It was only gradually that it dawned on me that the clock had already started to tick some time previously, the second I crossed the line in fact. Not the best of starts to a week when the somewhat harsh 5-out-of-6-events-to-count rule left you with little margin for error.

I felt sorry for James Allen who'd brought a laptop and assorted peripherals with him with a view to providing us all with a breakdown of our individual performances but couldn't download from dobber to clobber without a start point. It meant he had little to do in the evening except play with the electronic step to his campervan (step folds up, step folds down, step folds up etc. etc.).

Many of the minor differences in practice were evident at the Start, and became part of the daily routine by the end of the week. You got used to not seeing a map of the area (no entry-on-the-day colour-coded courses meant no-one running around with blank map) until one minute to go when you were allowed a full minute to plan the route to the first few controls - much more civilised than the British dash to the map and desperate search to find where the planner's stuck the start triangle. The map too was printed on Tyvek-type paper, doing away with pluggy bags. Much more environmentally friendly, much less hassle for the planner, but if you drop it in a muddy puddle, very difficult to clean! Fortunately it never rained during the events (message to the Scottish 6 Days – ner, ner ne ner ner) and we never got chance to test the true water-resistant qualities of the paper.

Each day, the same team supervised the Start and Finish, regardless of the venue. I came to look forward each day to the frankly wonderful way in which Laura Number 2 recited 'Trecento trenta e tre cinquant'a' as she checked off my

FIXTURES

The list below shows the more local events plus a few major events. For a more comprehensive list see EMEWS or the BOF website. **All events are subject to cancellation at very short notice due to foot and mouth restrictions. Please check on websites or with organisers before travelling.**

September 2001

- 8th-9th NW MDOC Twin Peak 2001 Weekend
C2 8th - Day 1 NATIONAL EVENT & VHI Individual. Macclesfield Forest, Macclesfield. SJ/970715.
C3 9th - Day 2 Badge Event. Macclesfield Forest, Macclesfield. SJ/970715.
Organiser & Entries: Sue Birkinshaw, 221 Hale Road, Hale, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA15 8DN. 0161 980 5068. sbirkinshaw@cssystems.net CD: 16/08/01. Day 1 - £8.50/£3.00. Day 2 - £5.50/£2.00. No EOD & no late entry by post. Chq: MDOC. Special Twin Peak entry form from Organiser but Internet entry preferred, via www.mdoc.org.uk using credit/debit cards. After 16/08/01 entry only through internet. Last date 05/09/01 (Late +£1.00/50p after 30/08/01). EPS-SI. String course. Parking £1.00. Lim CC courses. Dogs on lead in car park only. <http://www.mdoc.org.uk/>
- 15th YH Footpath Relay, Sheffield
See elsewhere in Newstrack
- 16th WM WCH Colour Coded Event. Hednesford Hills, Hednesford. SK/005128.
C4 Ray Collins, 01785 243192. £4.00/£1.50, SI card hire £1.00. EPS-SI. Parking £1.00. Dogs on lead in car park only. <http://www.walton-chasers.co.uk/>
- 16th EM NOC Limited Colour Coded & CATI. Bulwell Hall Park, Nottingham. SK/538461.
C5 Ray Barnes, 0115 974 6044. frombof@noc-uk.org £3.50/£1.50. String course. White to Light Green courses only. Dogs on lead. <http://www.noc-uk.org/>
- 23rd EM DVO Colour Coded Event. Cromford, Matlock. SK/290558.
C4 Ian & Tracey Grant, 01629 580781. tandi@grant200.fsnet.co.uk £3.00/£1.00, Family £7.00. String course. See elsewhere in Newstrack.
- 26th EM DVO AGM, Belper Sports Centre – 8.15 pm
29th EM DVO Three Edges Run.
See elsewhere in Newstrack.
- 30th WM WRE Colour Coded Event & Yvette Baker Trophy - WM Round. Telford Town park, Telford. SJ/698077.
C4 Lesley Norton, 01952 462260. £4.00/£1.50. CC course up to Blue only. www.jwrighton@freeserve.co.uk/wrekin.html

October 2001

- 6th EM DVO Schools and Youth League Event, Poulter Country Park
Val Johnson 01773 824754 or Gmjandfam@aol.com. See Elsewhere in Newstrack

- 7th WM POTOC Colour Coded Event & West Midlands Galoppen. Park Hall, Stoke-on-Trent. SJ/928447.
C4 Geoffrey Hollins, 01782 503385. £3.50/£1.50. String course.
- 14th EM **DVO Badge Event.** Chatsworth, Bakewell. SK/270680.
C3 Organiser: Brian Ward, 01773 850272.
Entries: Mike Godfree, 26 Rangemore Close, Mickleover, Derby, DE3 5JU, 01332 515862 (before 2100). M.Godfree@x400.icl.co.uk CD: 24/09/01. £7.50/£3.00, Family £18.00. Lim EOD. Chq: DVO. String course. Parking £1.00. Lim CC - W, Y & O.
SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION
- 21st WOA **DEE NATIONAL EVENT, WRE & Incorporating BOC Individual Championships 2001 & Welsh Championships.** Newborough Forest, Newborough. SH/416653.
C2 Organiser: David Beattie, 01244 373185. beattie@davidjane.u-net.com
Entries: Robin Tilston, Whitegates, 69 Liverpool Road, Chester, CH2 1AW, 01244 380057. robintilston@talk21.com CD: 20/09/01 (see below) £9.00/£4.50. No EOD. Chq: Deeside OC. EPS-SI. String course. Parking £1.00. Lim CC courses. Dogs on lead. CD for new entries (subject to availability) is 20/09/01 (this is date of receipt, not postmark, and has no tolerance).
- 28th EM **NOC Colour Coded Event & Yvette Baker Trophy EM Round.** Sherwood Forest West, Mansfield. SK/806664.
C4 Ray Barnes, 0115 974 6044. frombof@noc-uk.org £3.50/£1.50. EPS-SI. String course. <http://www.noc-uk.org/>

November 2001

- 11th WM OD Colour Coded Event. Arley Wood, Nuneaton. SP/275910.
C4 Pam & Alan King, 02476 714205. £4.00/£1.00. String course. freespace.virgin.net/paul.furness/index.html
- 11th EM LOG Colour Coded Event & Galoppen. Bourne Woods, Bourne. TF/075202.
C4 Ian Durrant, 01522 532245. ian.durrant@lincoln.gov.uk £3.00/£1.00. String course. Dogs on lead. No Red course.
- 17th EM **British Schools Training Event, Thieves Wood, Mansfield**
DVO organising/planning. No run but help will be required
- 25th WM **HOC Badge Event & WM Galoppen.** Kinver Edge, Kinver. SO/837828.
C3 Organiser: Ian Chafer & Tom Roach, 0121 258 0378 (IC)/0121 353 0978 (TR). i-chafer@district-audit.gov.uk £7.50/£3.00. EPS-SI

December 2001

- 02 EM **DVO Colour-coded Event, Eyam.**
C4 Ian Durrant, 01522 532245. ian.durrant@lincoln.gov.uk £3.00/£1.00. String course.

Sport Ident card – but enough of my private fantasies.

This was a truly international event with 27 different nations represented. There was a wide variety of Pythonesque names competing. Just on the courses that the Johnsons did, there was Ludomir Poklup, Orsolya Scultety, Karin Moosberger (mmmmm), Claudia Rothweiler and Vidmantas Arasimavicius (watch the fur fly when those two get together), not to mention my two personal favourites – Rolf Pfiz and Siegmund Wunderlich. Wow.

No account of a multi-day event would be complete without a tale of a Johnson mishap, and I promise not to disappoint. Considering the virtually complete absence of orienteering this year, it has to be said that 2001 has not been kind to me and I'm hoping to get back to regular orienteering before I end up in hospital (too late!). There were those miserabilists who'd opened a book on how many days my crystal ankle would hold out, given its earlier failure to negotiate the hazardous terrain of the Allestree Park car park, but it was with some satisfaction that I approached the Finish on Day 5 in the knowledge that I had made it that far without serious incident.. It was at that very moment that a stray branch snagged the trusty Johnson spectacles and whisked them from my noble profile (Extract from insurance claim form – Where was the object before being lost? Answer: on my nose). A few second's search failed to reveal their presence so I completed my course and then rounded up a truly International Rescue force who spent the next hour combing the forest with as little success as an English Test side. Surely there's only so far that a pair of specs can be flung even by the springiest branch? The search had to be abandoned, but thanks, Ann Marie, anyway.

This left me with the not inconsiderable task of overcoming the combined disabilities of myopia, hypermetropia, astigmatism and a lazy eye with the aid of a pair of prescription sunglasses – not a lot of use in the middle of Fight, or terrano impassibile as the Italians more accurately refer to it. You also look a pillock walking down Alfreton High Street in the pouring rain when you get back.

However as so often in the past, Southdown's Barrie Pearson, practically a DVO honorary member, rose to the challenge and offered his third (!) spare pair which matched my right eye sufficiently to make a sixth day viable once more.

All to no avail. The run across the top of the ridge and descent down the other side in humid conditions caused sweat to pour into my eyes and to splash across the lenses. Blinded I missed out Control 12, the simplest of features, and the dreaded words 'Codice d'errore' told me I'd been disqualified. Now, every single day had to count, and, of course, Day 6 would have been my best day by far. I was condemned to the realms of the three digits instead of the giddy heights of 93rd (I beat Rolf Pfiz though). I must have been evil in a former life.

Memories. The 200 metre near-vertical climb to the Start on Day 6 – for M10s and W65s alike – and the glorious view over Tenero from the top. The coolness

of Lake Maggiore on a trip by boat from Stresa to Locarno. My desperate search with Ranald for the last but one control on Day 1, each of us misleading the other. The insouciant flick of the wrist of the Italian border guards as they waved us through. The sight of Rex Bleakman and Liz Godfree tripping the light fantastic at the pizzeria as Rex's three years at the Victor Sylvester School of Dancing finally paid off. The thrill of Nicola Jackson's carefully mapped course at the campsite (Control 3 – Bucket and Spade). The spectacular view of fireworks, near and far, across the lake on the Swiss National Day from the DVO flat high up in the hills. These are the memories that will keep me warm as I shiver to change in some chill East Midlands car park field next February.

Three Edges Run – Saturday, 29th September 2001

DVO's now traditional long footpath run will take place on the above date. We've had the Three Trigs, we've had the three Dales, now for the three Edges. This informal run will follow two routes planned by Ranald covering around 10 and 15 miles. Starts will all be from the Grouse and Claret at Rowsley between 8.30 am and 9.30 pm. Based on previous years, the Margaret Keeling Group will start at 8.30, the Mike Godfree Group will start at 9.00 and the John Duckworth Group will start at 9.30. All times approximate. Which do you most resemble? Don't know too much about the precise routes but they will obviously head north in a general Chatsworth, Curbar/White Edgey sort of direction.

Grouse and Claret features include free showers and slap-up meal at the end. You will need it. More details nearer the time at www.dvo.org.uk or from Ranald on 01629 734307.

Latest from the DVO Collection

For those living on planet Zog, or just not been to a DVO event in the last 6 months (shame on you), the latest addition to the DVO wardrobe is the very stylish outdoor jacket, including hood, integral bum bag and the de rigueur DVO logo on the front, in fashionable blue and gold – it's the new black, you know – as seen on the catwalks of Tenero and Fort William. While stocks last, these will be available from the DVO emporium cunningly disguised as Viv and Ranald's campervan, at Cromford Moor on 23rd September.

Apparently – and I couldn't believe this either – there is someone out there with a top who hasn't paid for it! Cheque to Viv asap please – or Newstrack may have to name and shame.

I was looking through a Port Vale catalogue this week, as you do. You can buy Port Vale slippers. Now there's a thought. DVO slippers for armchair planning.

SUMMER SERIES 2001

Well, dare I say it, the summer months are nearly gone and another season of orienteering draws to a close. This year's Summer Series was a watered down programme for well known reasons, but it was good to see both newcomers and oldhanders turning up on the four Friday evenings to have a go at orienteering or challenge their somewhat rusty O-skills.

Thank you to everyone who took part in this annual series of events, I hope you enjoyed it and maybe even learnt something new. A big thank you to the organisers, who automatically gain 50 points for their event, and without their time and ideas our informal events could not run !

DVO is always looking for ways to develop orienteering, so if you have any fresh ideas or suggestions for the format of the Summer Series to encourage more club members and new orienteers to participate, please let me know (Michelle Mackervoy 01332 557892) – hope to see you at next year's Summer Series !

For those who like the competitive streak of the Summer League the overall results are as follows – descending points awarded for position at each event starting with 50 points for the winner of each course.

WELL DONE ! to Dave Goodrich, Dave Walker and Liz Godfree .

Michelle Mackervoy

	<u>Allestree</u>	<u>Markeaton</u>	<u>Darley</u>	<u>Chaddesden</u>	<u>Total Points</u>
<u>YELLOW</u>					
Dave Goodrich	47	49	50		146
Jessica Gale	49	45	45		139
Daniel Webster			49	49	98
James Baker			49	49	98
Amy Kimberley		45		50	95
Nicola Jackson	49	45			94
James Blake	50				50
Amy Spencer		50			50
James Venner		48			48
Alan Venner		47			47
James Lilley			47		47
Jack Venner		46			46
Alan Lilley			46		46
Shooter Family			44		44

LIGHT GREEN

					Total Points
Dave Walker	47		50	50	147
Ronald Macdonald	44	50	48		142
Claire Gale	43	49	44		136
Jen Gale	41	48	42		131
Emily Hopper		47		48	95
Karen Jackson	45		49		94
Viv Macdonald	42		45		87
Andy Jackson	50				50
Mike Godfree	49				49
Daniel Kimberley				49	49
Val Johnson	48				48
Dave Skidmore			47		47
Malc Spencer			47		47
James Allen	46				46
Michelle Mackervoy			43		43

LONG CHALLENGE

			Total Points		
Liz Godfree		48	45	44	45
Dave Bennett		50	50	46	146
John Hopper	50	47		39	136
Mike Godfree		41	46	49	136
Graham Johnson	46		45	38	129
Derek Gale	47	39		42	128
Val Johnson		49	47		96
Steve Kimberley		48		48	96
Michelle Mackervoy	50	44			94
Pauline Ward		50	43		93
Brian Ward		50	42		92
Rachel Davis	44			43	87
Mark Thomson		40		44	84
Andy Jackson		36	48		84
Andy Mackervoy			50		50
Kim Buckley				50	50
Mike Gardner				50	50
Mick Lucking	49				49
Rob Smith			49		49
Steve Buckley				47	47
Brian Denness		46			46
Rob McPherson	45				45
Hilary Johnson		43			43
Anne Kimberley		42			42
Terry Peach				41	41
Jennifer Gale				40	40
James Allen		38			38
Malcolm Spencer		37			37
Karen Jackson		35			35

Poulter Country Park Permanent Course Open

After many delays DVO has another permanent course, but where is it I hear you ask. Well, Poulter Country Park sounds better than Langwith Colliery Reclamation Site, but that probably doesn't help much either. If you follow the A632 east from Chesterfield through Bolsover towards Worksop and Clumber Park, just before leaving Derbyshire, you go through Nether Langwith.. The County Council has converted a good square kilometre of mine tips into a complex of enclosures and open spaces, and called it a country park. There are no facilities except that it has its very own station, Langwith Whaley Thorns, on the Robin Hood line from Nottingham to Worksop.

The District of Bolsover was persuaded to fund the mapping and the permanent course. The County Council was willing to help so long as it didn't involve any expenditure, and provided two maps. One was the landscape artist's plan of what he intended the workmen to plant, the other was a computer map extract from the Ordnance Survey. Unfortunately the workmen didn't seem to have paid much attention to the plan and the OS hadn't been back since it was a coal tip. So the former was misleading and the latter could have equally been a map of Antarctica.

So Steve Kimberley and I, ably supported by the Traffic Support Unit of Derbyshire Police, spent a fascinating two days last summer doing a fundamental survey of the area. Steve then drew the map. Andy Mackervoy engraved the numbers and letters on the posts and all was ready to go - until Foot & Mouth closed the park. Not that there are any animals and I don't suppose the locals took much notice.

So finally in July, I went to plant the posts. 21 back-breaking holes and a few explanations to the local dog walkers later, the job was done. This is the first permanent course where I have had to plant all the posts; my theory about burying more of the post than you can see above ground foundered on the hard rock layer one spade down.

Now it is your turn. Saturday 6th October marks the formal opening with a Local Event. There will be white, yellow, orange and light green courses. I can assure you that, whilst not highly complex orienteering, it is deceptive. One enclosure looks much like another and the rolling shape of the hills hides the view. There will also be a presentation of the prizes for this year's Schools League.

Mike Godfree

(Newsflash - May go up to Blue with electronic punching - Ed)

Cromford Moor & Black Rocks Colour Coded Event

(near Matlock, Derbyshire)

Sunday 23rd September 2001

By car: Signed from the A6/B5035 junction (SK331544) at Whatstandwell, between Derby and Matlock. Car park fee 50p.

By public transport: Train or bus service TP to Whatstandwell from Derby, Nottingham, Matlock, then 1½ mile walk.

Cost: Seniors £3 (DVO or BOF members), £4 (non-members); Juniors/Students £1; Family £7 (DVO or BOF members), £9 (non-members).

Registration: 1000 - 1200

Start: 1030 - 1230

Courses: String, White, Yellow, Orange, Light Green, Green, Blue, Brown

Terrain: Wooded hillside, steep in places

No dogs allowed

Organisers: Ian & Tracey Grant 01629 580781 tandi@grant200.fsnet.co.uk

Planner: Andy Mackervoy

Controller: John Hawkins

Planning of events is still limited by land access restrictions imposed to prevent the spread of foot-and-mouth disease.

NEWSFLASH: Electronic Punching to be used! Bring your own dobber or hire one for £0.50 extra.

2001 Club Champs

These were held on Linacre on 15th July. Congrats to the senior winner, Paul Robinson and the junior winner, Thomas Wright. Shortage of space prevents printing of full results, but they're on the website.

Circuits

Masochists can put Friday, 7th September in their diaries. Circuit training will resume at 7.00 pm at the usual venue, gymnasium at Police HQ, Ripley.

Footpath Relay - Saturday 15th September

I now have the leg lengths and maps for the footpath relay. This takes the form of 4 loops each of 5 legs based on the Grouse Inn at Longshaw.

Contact me as soon as possible, or better still come to Wednesday evening training to select your run and collect your map and directions. I strongly recommend that you recce it before you race, especially as the route is not always the obvious one. Please note the mass start times for each loop – this year the loops will start at fixed times, no running through by the leading teams.

I have entered 2 teams so folks are welcome to run 2 legs either consecutively (beware road crossing handovers!) or separately. But remember it is a handicap race so I may have to do some juggling – old ladies score well, young fit M21s don't!

Leg	Start	Grid ref	Length	Climb	Descen t	Fixed start
1	Grouse Inn	258779	2.6Km	70m	50m	8:00
2	Longshaw Lodge	266799	3.5Km	85m	5m	
3	Upper Burbage Bridge	261830	7.0Km	105m	145m	
4	A57(Moscar Lodge)	231879	7.1Km	150m	110m	
5	Upper Burbage Bridge	261830	5.7Km	5m	110m	
6	Grouse Inn	258779	1.3Km	0	170m	10:00
7	** Grindleford	245778	3.5Km	10m	0	
8	** Leadmill Bridge	234806	4.0Km	10m	0	
9	Shatton	203826	8.7Km	360m	130m	
10	Bretton PH	201779	6.6Km	225m	305m	
11	Grouse Inn	258779	4.1Km	120m	185m	12:00
12	New Road	234759	3.0Km	125m	85m	
13	Eyam Car Park	216767	4.6Km	230m	120m	
14	Longstone Edge	205732	6.6Km	95m	310m	
15	Calver	247745	4.7Km	200m	25m	
16	Grouse Inn	258779	4.8Km	95m	70m	14:00
17	Curbar Gap (navigation required)	262747	4.0Km	55m	60m	
18	** A621	289772	3.2Km	90m	100m	
19	Shillito Wood Car Park (complicated route)	296750	11.3Km	460m	365m	
20	** B6450/B6055 Jct	269795	2.7Km	20m	90m	

** - Handover is by signal across road.

Liz Godfree 01332 515862

Wednesday Evening Runs

- 29th August John & Anne-Marie Duckworth, The Homestead, Glen Road, Crich Carr, Whatstandwell 01773 856824 SK337542
Park at Whatstandwell station on A6, use bridge to footpath, right at road then left, then keep right.
- 5th September Robert & Gwyneth Shooter, Rose Cottage, Cat & Fiddle Lane, West Hallam. 0115 932 2945 SK431403
- 12th September Buckleys', 253 Duffield Road, Allestree. 01332-552664 – Committee meeting

Then normal service resumes. 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at Duffield Meadows Primary School, 2nd, 4th & 5th Wednesdays at Allestree except 26th September will be AGM at Belper Sports Centre, 12th December will be open meeting at the Queen's Head, Chesterfield Road, Belper. Programme may also change during school holidays.

Mike Godfree's Travel Tip

Next time your train is delayed at St Pancras, visit the British Library next door to the station. There's a free exhibition of maps running until next April called the "Lie of the Land". The double meaning is intentional. No orienteering maps on display (although they do get a copy of all our maps) but some fascinating material especially from the Cold War and the World War.

(Newstrack Editor adds: I have often (twice) slipped into the British Library, unfortunately not for any intellectual purpose, but because their toilets are free, unlike those at St Pancras, and of a hugely superior standard. One of the permanent exhibitions at the Library features a recording of the voice of someone like Florence Nightingale (probably not her but some similarly famous Victorian). It's quite creepy hearing the voice across the ages of someone with whom you only familiar as a picture on a page.

Newstrack - All this and the occasional bit of orienteering news too. Do you know, I saw John Birkin in Sainsbury's this weekend. John is a Life Member, though hasn't seriously orienteered in years. As such, he's entitled to a free Newstrack but doesn't get one because I haven't got his address. Well, I offered to send him one in return for this information, but he just wasn't interested. How extraordinary.

Newstrack – you can't even give it away.)

SCHOOLS AND YOUTH GROUP LEAGUE 2002

Day	Date	Area	Starts
Saturday	18.2.02	Farley Moor (Matlock)	10.30 - 11.30am
Saturday	9.3.02	Shipley Park	10.30 - 11.30am
Thursday	5.4.02	Bottom Moor (Matlock)	4.00 - 5.00pm
Saturday	18.5.02	Holmbrook Valley Park (Chesterfield)	1.30 - 2.30pm
Sunday	2.6.02	Calke Park	10.30 - 12.30

All dates are to be confirmed, please check via the DVO website – www.dvo.org.uk - or the organiser – Val Johnson 01773 824754

The league is a series of events open to all youngsters at school in Derbyshire. All events are open to individuals as well as organised school or youth group teams so why not give it a go? Certificates to all who take part and prizes for class winners and the overall winning team.

All events are planned according to British Orienteering Federation safety guidelines and are especially suitable for beginners. For a copy of the rules contact the organiser

Sports Personality of the Month

Dave Brodie changed into his running gear for a Wednesday night run and just before leaving home, grabbed a change of clothes that he'd put in a carrier bag on the table. Later, having completed his run, he found he'd brought the wrong carrier bag - the one containing that night's tea. I never did find out whether he went home and ate his shorts.

The natives were very friendly in Switzerland. **Rex Bleakman** had not been in Locarno for very long before two nice young ladies approached him and volunteered to show him a good time. Rex politely declined the offer, pointing out that he was quite capable of having a good time by himself.

Congratulations to Sal and Dave Chaffey on the birth of Sarah.

Congratulations too to Matthew Dickinson on making the GB Junior Training Squad, somewhere Scandinavian.