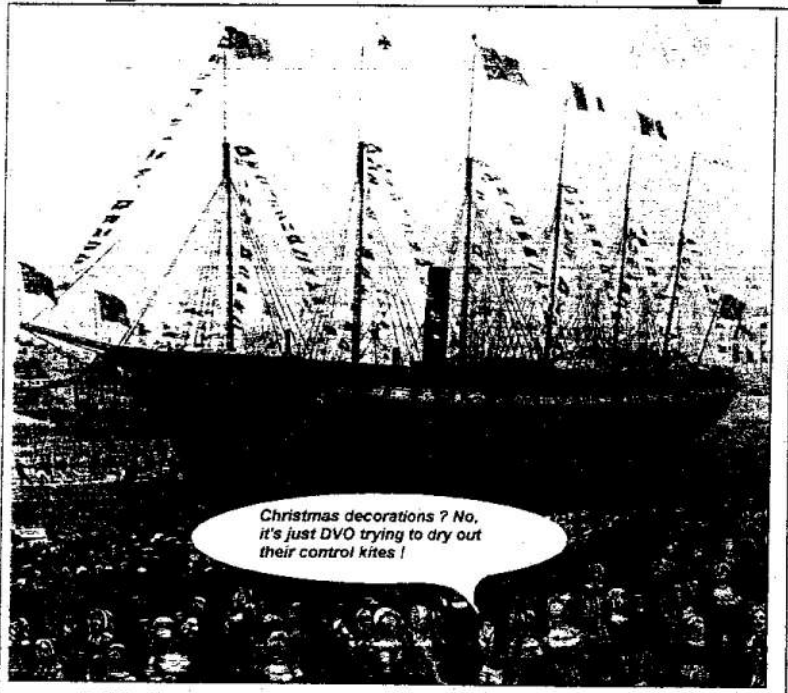


NEWSTRACK

DECEMBER 2000



*Great Moments from the Orienteering Archives No2
The 'SS Great Britain' is launched to a cynical crowd*

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Thoughts from the Chair

Oh, well. Another year gone! And at last I've started orienteering again. A couple of nice Badge Events at Hope Woodlands and Maer Hills – well I thought they were, at least. At the former, the mini bus shuttle worked very well and the slog up towards Win Hill meant that we got straight into the forest. It was surprisingly runnable as the routes meant that I didn't have to run along the muddy tracks, and there was relatively little undergrowth. At Maer Hills many complained about the brambles and the long path runs. Again, I didn't find it so bad and had quite a reasonable run.

Longshaw went very well, despite losing our car park the day before. Luckily the Fox House let us park behind the pub – as it happened unbeknown to the manager who came storming out on the Sunday to confront us. The collection for parking and the potential for lots of additional customers soon mollified him. The move meant that there was a rather dangerous road crossing but everyone seemed to cope with that.

My first attempt at controlling was at Farley Moor, which hasn't improved much from the extensive forestry work. However, quite a good number of people seemed to have enjoyed themselves or at least were happy to have got out for a run. And at least the kids seemed to enjoy the mud!

Unfortunately, we had to postpone the organisers' seminar as people hadn't let us know in time to confirm the school. We have reorganised for next year so please let Mike know at least two weeks before the date.

There's lots to look forward to in the New Year – not least the JK in the Forest of Dean and the British Championships in Northern Ireland, as well as quite a number of Badge and National events. And with the prospect of the Swiss/Italian 6-day in the summer – or the World Masters in Lithuania/Scottish 6-day at Fort William – there's plenty to be going on with. However, for most us it's the opportunity to get out and orienteer on a regular basis without traveling too far that we look forward to and it's for this reason we are continuing to put on a regular programme of local events, many of them intended to encourage newcomers to the sport. But these events only happen because of the involvement of volunteers. So, why not make a New Year's resolution to offer to help at a number of events during the year to take some of the pressure off some of the stalwarts who have to do more than their fair share of the work?

So, with the prospect of lots of orienteering in the year ahead I'd like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Ranald Macdonald

Chair, Derwent Valley Orienteers

Thomas Wright (M10) at the British Schools Champs

I enjoyed the British School Champs 2000. I did course B5. The best bit was when I went to 4 to 5, 6 and 7 because it was runnable, for me any way. I also liked it when I had a bowl of chilli and pitta bread with cheese. I also liked it when I finished. I ran with Fritchley C of E Primary School. The people I ran with were Jake Keen, Simon Humphris, Danny Elliot and Simon Wright. We ran with printed numbers on our shirts, I had 493 and Simon W had 492. I met Jamie Stevenson and he signed a poster for me and Simon W. Everyone got a medal when they finished. Fritchley came 4th in B5. The place where we ran was Storthes Hall, Huddersfield.

Fritchley Primary School came 11th overall and a very creditable (and just out of the medals) fourth in the Year 5 boys (Thomas, Simon and Simon Humphris) competition. In addition to Fritchley, DVO was indirectly represented at the BSOA Champs by Matthew Dickinson running for Loughborough Grammar School who came 7th in the individual B11(Boys Year 11) competition and by Thomas Kempton. Thomas, running for Nottingham High School, came 18th in the individual B11 competition and was a scorer in his school's fifth place in the competition for senior schools with over 600 pupils.

The British Schools Orienteering Championships 2001 will be hosted by the East Midlands OA. The championships will be held at Sherwood Pines (Clipstone to seasoned orienteers).

(Thanks to Paul Wright)

Glenmore 2000 – Matthew Dickinson

There I was, in the car, coming back from France when there was a phone call on our mobile, for me! I thought that now it was the Thursday and Glenmore started on the Saturday, I could never get on the tour in a million years. However, the call was to say that I had been selected just two days before the start of the tour.

At the station, I walked onto the train excited, nervous (thinking...what will the coaches think of me?). By the end of the journey, I was bored, bored being the operative word. Do you know how long train journeys to north Scotland are???? Tom Billam (NOC) and I arrived at Glenmore Lodge to find two wooden villas where we were to be sleeping for the next seven nights. We thought that it was going to be a peaceful evening, but NO, we had to run around a dark, dismal, wet forest for about half an hour to get "warmed up" for the weeks training. Then we all went inside, had dinner and opted to have showers and watch TV. The

next day was wet. Well it was Scotland! The day went well, lots of things learnt and lots of fun had, brilliant!

The next few days passed like a flash with exercises like bearings, pacing, visualisation and all the things that an orienteer needs to use when out on a course. It started to brighten up. On the Wednesday the three other tour groups came round to have a lecture on 'injury' by a doctor at Glenmore Lodge. It was very interesting and we learnt about how we must report an injury straight away and not ignore it. Then we all ate our separate dinners and played Football/Frisbee (even though Glenmore members did not play Frisbee). The football match was Glenmore and Grantown girls against Lagganlia and Grantown Lads. Yes, we won!

During our spare time we went to the canoeing indoor pool and played water polo, went in the sauna, watched TV or played games together.

At the end of the day we had to go to a 'team talk' session where we discussed the days activities and how to become better orienteers. These were really good because we all shared ideas and learnt about nutrition, training and skills.

Since then I have shown improvement as my results at the Welsh 5-Day event showed. Up until the last day, I held off all other British competitors and was in 5th position. However, I made a bit of a mess on the last day and finished in 6th overall with David West, the only British competitor ahead of me. The Swedes and Belgians, as usual, took the first few places. A pretty good result after a hard week's training in Scotland. I also finished third at the White Rose weekend. I feel that I learnt a lot from my experiences at Glenmore and it has given me the courage to train harder so that next year I am hopeful of a place on the Halden tour in Sweden.

A Month of Sundays

It's not just the weather that's been biblical of late, so has the orienteering. After three months of famine, when the competition was about as beguiling as a plague of boils, we have just enjoyed a feast of badge events, four in a row, flowing like milk and honey.

There will be a recurrent theme running (ha, ha) through these reports. Much has been written in the last few months about the advent of electronic punching but an equally far-reaching innovation has been the influence of the Net. I was able to enter the family for both Hope Woodlands and Maer Hills, sitting in front of my computer screen. No more filling in envelopes or cheques, just a click of a few keys and a press of a button. Actually it was a bit faffier than this. Like many others I suppose, at the beginning of each year, I complete an SEF complete with five sets of age classes, BOF numbers and e-punch numbers, and photocopy this for repeated use, saving hours of tedious and repetitive form

filling. The forms on the net automatically provide the BOF number for the first name, ie me, but the rest has to be entered manually, which is a bit of a pain. No doubt in the future someone will devise a system (please) so that typing any name will instantly fill out that person's particulars.

Entry by Net incurs a 50p fee, presumably to cover the cost of sending out details by post, but if the site is organised correctly, there's no need for this. Hope and Maer printed in advance not only final details and start lists but also complete control descriptions. The former meant that you not only knew when you set off but also who was just behind you - and it's always useful to know how long it could take before John Hopper is breathing down the back of your neck. The latter is potentially the most revolutionary improvement, because it means literally the end of all on-the-day control copying. Think back to all the times you've crouched on a freezing cold day, in the pouring rain, trying to squeeze between crowds of orienteers to catch a glimpse of some flimsy piece of paper twisting infuriatingly in the gale. I hope that within 12 months downloading control descriptions this way will become the norm.

Gone are the days too of waiting for weeks for results from some long forgotten event to fall on the doormat - unless you go to Client Hills of course. I've become used now to logging on some time during Sunday evening and being able to read not only where I came but also being able to compare everyone's splits. A neat touch is putting officials' comments on too, obviously not on the day but some time later, during the week. Too often, online results are all you get, so the substitution for the hard copy that comes through the post is not complete.

Hope Woodlands - 12th November

This is one of my favourite areas. Some areas you feel a natural affinity for, those you can rely on for a good run no matter how many times you come. Hagg Side is another one, on the other side of the valley, but sadly not used for nearly ten years now. Then there are the areas which are the antithesis of this, where you're doomed forever to fail, no matter how hard or how many times you try. Penhale Sands and Craig a Barns (in fact anything more complicated than Blidworth) would fall into this category for me.

I like the sheer runnability of Hope so that, although 75% of the course is spent contouring along a slope steeper than the decline in value of dot.com shares, it's never a struggle to maintain a decent momentum. I like the variety of the terrain too, and in particular that beautiful bit of runnable woodland at the top of the slope about halfway down the map, which is a joy to run on.

This event was advertised as subject to a limit of 400 and likely to be the last for some time so I was particularly determined to go. Last time we went (bunking off from a Matlock West C4 as I recall) we had to walk about two miles from Edale, up the sides of two valleys, to reach the Start. We were again parking at Edale

but this time with the luxury of a minibus to take us to a point only 15 minutes away. This event was at the height of the floods, and whilst the danger of inundation from a site not unadjacent to the top of Win Hill was slight, the blast of an icy wind made conditions at the Start uncomfortable to say the least.

The Johnson family was out in maximum force, which was just as well really since the back seat of our car provided 100% of the W18A and 50% of the W16A Classes. Without the Johnson contribution, these classes would have looked very sad indeed, W18A non-existent. This was not an unusual phenomenon either; the following week at Maer Hills, there were 4 on W18A, and at Postensplain, we were back to Ruth and Hilary again. This is the first time that I can recall noticing the much-reported decline in juniors. Up to now there has always been reasonable competition in the girl's classes, but what is the value of winning a two person race? By Burbage, the National event, numbers were back up to 20, so the question is where did the missing 18 go at Hope.

I had a fairly dependable run (a triumph of experience over Hope?) with three mistakes, one entirely due loss of concentration during a pelt down a hillside, two due to the planner's inclination to hide controls so they were invisible unless you approached in one particular direction. It's not clever to stick them behind trees, you know.

As I was reading the officials' comments in the results afterwards, I tut-tutted as I read that certain irresponsible competitors had endangered the future use of the area through having jumped over a fence instead of using a designated crossing point. Then, as I read on, I realised that one of the miscreants must have been me! How could I have come to commit this calumny?

The start control was through a wall and over a stile. Route to control 1 entailed either ploughing through green forest or going back over the stile and running along a flat, vegetation-free path, hopping over a fence and homing in on the control. I never gave the legitimacy of hurdling the fence a second thought, never regarded my behaviour as remotely reprehensible. The fence stood in between me and the control, and jumping over it was simply the obvious way of removing the obstacle from the equation, one less thing to think about. Sure, there was a warning buried in the pre-event details to use only marked crossing points but who remembers such details when planning dictates the shortest and fastest route to a control is over an easily vaulted fence? (Not me, evidently). The nearest crossing point to control one involved running past the control and then doubling back to it. If the future of an event depends on strict use of marked crossing points, surely it should be a priority of the planning to ensure that use of any other method gives the competitor a disadvantage.

E-friendliness rating:

Maer Hills – 19th November

I was particularly looking forward to this event because I had convinced myself that it was, to me, a completely new area, and there aren't many in the Midlands that I can say that about. The route to the event from Derby has the added bonus of affording you a splendid view of Stoke City's magnificent Britannia Stadium, resplendent on the hillside and well worth the trip in itself. It was only as we passed over the M6 that the surroundings started to take on a worryingly familiar appearance. As we approached the car parking field, the penny dropped with a resounding thud (can pennies thud?) as I recalled the horrendous run from my only previous visit which my subconscious had successfully erased from my memory banks.

Fortunately we started in a completely different part of the map and I was able to approach my previous Bermuda Triangle from a completely different direction, thereby fooling myself, a surprisingly easy task, into believing that I was running on a different area (don't tell me the truth, I might never find out).

I quickly learnt the most important rule to success at Maer Hills - never stray from a path unless you have to. My first control was in a reentrant, shared with the W14As. True to the spirit of no-nonsense, head-down orienteering that I represent, I dived headlong into the undergrowth and started to wade. I was still drowning in a sea of brambles and tangles when I saw the W14 who'd started with me and who'd had the common sense to run down an adjacent path, tiptoe daintily into the control, and disappear, leaving me to flounder helplessly but a little wiser in her wake.

The course I did last time and this both had a long and boring path run from one side of the map to the other. On the previous occasion, this had been a necessity because we were using old-fashioned punches (remember them, eh?), and planning had to avoid giving the unscrupulous the opportunity to take controls out of turn. Now planners have to adopt what Kim Buckley would call a new mindset. There are still areas which lend themselves to long legs, which give genuine route choice and an advantage to those who exercise their discretion wisely. There are others (of which you will have guessed, Maer Hills is one) where long legs are simply a tedious and unimaginative way of using up kilometres. The danger is not so much of making a mistake along them, but of dropping off to sleep halfway. Within reason, e-punching mean you can plan the most testing courses without regard to how close one control might be to another visited earlier, and planners need to think about this (IMHO).

This event, and Hope, featured another innovative feature likely to become the norm in future – the completely unmanned finish. Hope's last control was in the middle of a field with no tent or official in sight. This may seem anti-climactic but an electronic finish punch means your course is over and locked inside your

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. If you are uncertain about an event, check with organiser stated. Newstrack cannot accept responsibility for wasted journeys.

December 2000

- 31st **DVO Score Event. Shipley** – See advert elsewhere in Newstrack.
Robert Shooter, 0115 932 2945. £3.00/£1.00, Family £7.00.
Mass start 1100. No CC courses.

January 2001

- 6th **MDOC Charity Head to Head Race. Lyme Park, Disley. SJ/964823.**
F Rose, 0151 430 2003. £4.00/£2.00. Mass start 1130. CC – Yellow only
- 7th **NOC Colour Coded Event. Walesby, Ollerton. SK/670702.**
Gill Hatfield, 0115 9814101. £3.00/£1.00. String course. Dogs on leads.
- 13th **LEI Night Badge Event & Midland Night Championships.
Ratby Woodlands, Groby. SK/519068.**
Organiser & Entries: Kevin Bradley, 8 Westfield Close, Rearsby, Leicester,
LE7 8YD. 01664 424163. CD: 28/12/00. £5.50/£2.00. EOD +£1.00.
Chq: Leicestershire Orienteering Club. Starts 1800 – 2000.
- 14th **LEI Colour Coded Event. Ratby Woodlands, Groby. SK/519068.**
Alastair Paterson, 0116 287 6873. £2.50/£1.50.
- 21st **OD Badge Event. Sutton Park, Sutton Coldfield. SP/109971.**
Organiser: Tony Feltbower, 01926-864465. tonyfeltb@aol.com
Entries: Hilary & Trevor Simpson, 181 Loxley Road, Stratford-on-Avon,
CV37 7DU. 01789-266343. tsimpson@tesco.net CD: 21/12/00.
£7.00/£2.00. Lim EOD. Chq: Octavian Droobers. String course. Lim CC
courses. <http://freespace.virgin.net/paul.furness/index.html>
- 21st **LOG Colour Coded Event. Stapleford Woods, Newark. SK/860565.**
Ian Durrant, 01522 532245. ian.durrant@lincoln.gov.uk £3.00/£1.00.
- 28th **DVO Colour Coded Event. Holmebrook, Chesterfield. SK/361731.**
Andy Hawkins, 0115 854 2634. £3.00/£1.00, Family £7.00. String course.
First event on new combined Holmebrook and Linacre map.

February

- 3rd **NOC Short Races. Thieves Wood, Mansfield. SK/545575.**
Organiser: Derek Mills, 0115 9264023. Dogs on leads. £5.00/£2.50.

- 4th **NOC Badge Event and East Midlands Championships.** Blidworth/Haywood/Sansom, Mansfield. SK/590520.
Organiser: Helen O'Neil, 0115 9441592. String course. £7.00/£3.50 (£11.00/£5.00 for both days) CD:15.01.01 EPS-SI. Chq: Nottinghamshire Orienteering Club. See www.noc-uk.org/ for both events.
- 10th **DVO Shipley Park Schools and Youth League Event** SK431454
Organiser: Val Johnson – 01773 824754
- 11th **WCH NATIONAL EVENT & Future Champions Cup Race.** Beaudesert & Rawnsley, Cannock. SK/079142.
Organiser: Rod Niven, 01785 662486. Entries: David Schofield, 6 Elm Avenue, Walton on the Hill, Stafford, ST17 0NA. 01785 604472. david.schofield@teiinco.co.uk CD: 20/1/01. £8.00/£3.00. Family £19.00. No EOD but late entry + £2.00/£1.00. Chq: Walton Chasers. EPS-SI. String course, Dogs on leads, Parking £1.00, Lim CC – W, Y & O.
- 18th **SMOC Badge Event.** Silverstone Woods, Towcester. SP/675431.
Organiser: Roger Williams, 01280-847824.
Entries: Helen Nisbet, 2 Hopkins Close, Milton Keynes Village, Bucks, MK10 9AS. 01908-242014. h.nisbet@virgin.net CD: 10/12/00. £6.00/£3.00. Lim EOD +£1.00/50p. Chq: SMOC. EPS-SI. String course.
- 25th **DVO Badge Event & Midland Championships. Shining Cliff, Ambergate** SK/331543.
Organiser: Rex Bleakman, 01283-733363. Entries: Mike Godfree, 26 Rangemore Close, Mickleover, Derby, DE3 5JU. 01332-515862. m.godfree@x400.icl.co.uk CD: 5/2/01. £6.50/£3.00. Lim EOD +£1.00. Chq: DVO Orienteering Club. String course. Lim CC courses.

March

- 3rd **DEE NATIONAL EVENT, World Ranking Event, UK Cup & FCC.** Newborough, Anglesey. SH/416653. Organiser: David Beattie, 01244 373185. beattie@davidjane.u-net.com
Entries on SEF: Robin Tilston, 69 Liverpool Road, Chester, CH2 1AW. 01244 380057. robintilston@talk21.com CD: 7/2/01. £9.00/£4.50. No EOD for National. Chq: Deeside OC. EPS-SI. String course. Lim CC courses. Dogs on leads. Parking £1.00. Entry also via website www.deeside-orienteeing-club.org.uk
- 10th **DVO Markeaton Park Schools and Youth League event** SK431454
Organiser: Val Johnson – 01773 824754
- 17th **DVO Organisers' Course.** Probably at Duffield Meadow Schools.

dobber. You can have a lazy saunter back to the assembly field before downloading at leisure at a point adjacent to the Results display. You can even get changed first if you want. End of frantic unpinning of control cards, stapling of raffle tickets, ferrying stubs from remote Starts and to equally remote Assembly fields.

E-friendliness rating:

Postersplain – 26th November

This was an awfully long way, beyond the wilder reaches of Kidderminster, but I had good memories of it from my previous visit on 25th May 1997, although this may have simply been the euphoric aftermath of the previous day's pilgrimage to Wembley to watch the Third Division Play-off Finals (don't snigger please).

Some people felt that the course planning left something to be desired but I had no complaints myself. The area features a holiday park in the middle and some Ministry of Defence installation in the south-west which all the long courses have to go round, but the area is very fast and undulating, and I thoroughly enjoyed it right up to the point when I returned home and logged on to the results in the evening to find myself completely absent, as if I'd never been there at all. I mean, what's the point of having a good run if nobody knows about it.

Anyone can make a mistake so I bunged off a quick reminder of my existence to the organiser, and then found an already delivered e-mail, telling me I'd forgotten to download. Well, excuse me, I may do some stupid things at times but even I know results are not transmitted by telepathy. What was curious was that of the four recipients of this e-mail, three were in DVO, Alex Ross and Ted Smith being the other two. Now at least one of these is a reasonably intelligent human being, so the chance of all three of us being struck by amnesia was remote.

It transpired that the organisers had set up a system which required you to download twice, once for your splits, once for the results, but didn't bother to tell anybody about this in advance. Thus, I, having downloaded once as at every previous e-event and obtained my splits, had wandered off in blissful ignorance back to the car. (I still don't know why it was necessary to do it twice).

All this took the shine off an enjoyable event – although to the credit of the organisers, they did accept that, in retrospect, people should have been asked to download first before getting their splits, and they did eventually put my result and splits up a week later after I'd sent them through to them.

E-friendliness rating: (loses one for the download cockup).

Burbage - 2nd December

This should have been the climax of the four week burst of badge events, a National event on DVO's doorstep. but somehow the words Burbage Moor and National, like Jim Davidson and comedy, do not sit together very well. Burbage is Burbage is Burbage, and no matter what label you attach to it, the pulse does not race any quicker. Don't get me wrong, Burbage is a perfectly acceptable badge event area. It's just that the 'National' label was once supposed to indicate some hallmark of quality. Fish and chips are still fish and chips even if you do wrap them in fancy paper. (I was rather amused by area being described as including 'Lady Canning's Plantation', which rather conjured up images of tea on the lawn during the last days of the Raj. You're more likely to meet Macbeth's witches on the blasted heath of Burbage Moor than Lady Canning I should think).

There were bonuses to this event. A new area to the north, full of complex little depressions and reentrants, placed right at the end of the course when the brain was starting to hurt as much as the lungs, did cause more than a few headless chicken impressions. A decent new car park field was available almost seconds from the Start too, so we didn't have to park along the road adjacent to Blackamoor as on previous occasions, and this no doubt introduced the delights of fresh areas of Burbage to competitors with shorter courses (you can tell I'm trying very hard to be positive here).

The problem with the medium to long courses is that many of the interesting areas of Burbage lie out of reach on the west of the area, and those which remain are separated by stretches of long, boring moorland about as exciting as a trip to Wath on Dearne. Ironically, the courses would have been more challenging had the weather maintained its atrocious standard of late, but the day was fine and clear so controls on the moor stood out like Crich Stand, and if you still didn't see them, there was always a stream of people coming away from or going into them to help you.

The 'National' label does work though. It attracts a field of the quality that you only see at such events. Perhaps this is just as well, the thought of competing (ha!) against the likes of Colin Dickson, winner of our M45L by a massive 8 minutes, every week is just soul-destroying. Over the previous three weeks, I'd been managing runs of a quality that I wasn't actually ashamed of, but despite a run spoiled only by a three-minute error near the end, I still found myself near the middle of the pack, reminded again of my true mediocrity. Ho hum.

E-friendliness Rating: (no web site, no e-entry, no advance start list, descriptions sent through post, but results up pretty promptly. Maybe I'm spoilt).

Organisers' Course/Seminar

I am sorry that this didn't take place in December as planned. A week before the event I had had no interest at all, then by the day a few people had said they would like to come. It is rescheduled for **Saturday, 17th March**, probably at the same venue. I will assume that all those interested last time will be coming so it will definitely go ahead. But more people are needed. Our fixture list shows that we need at least a dozen organisers every year as well as planners and controllers. So don't leave it to the same people all the time. This day is especially to give you the confidence to take the job on. I also hope that some experienced organisers will also come to share their experiences and learn more about electronic punching.

Mike Godfree 01332-515862

DVO SHIPLEY PARK SCORE EVENT (Heanor)

Sunday 31st December 2000

By car: Follow brown tourist signs to Shipley Park (129/SK432454) from the A608 (Derby Road), ½ mile west of Heanor town centre.

By public transport: Buses from Nottingham, Ripley, Mansfield, Ilkeston to Heanor town centre (services 20, 248, Rainbow 1), then 1 mile walk to Shipley Park.

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

Registration: 1030 - 1045 in the Visitor Centre car park
Start: Mass start at 1100

Courses: 45 minute score course, novelty score course
Terrain: Open Parkland
No restrictions on dogs

Organiser & Planner: Rob Shooter 0115 932 2945

Bigland National - 1st April 2001

Last year, for the coaching weekend, some of us hired a caravan to the west of Windermere. If anyone is interested in making a weekend of it for this event, let me or Val know fairly soon and, if there's enough interest, we'll do the same again.

Entries for Midland Champs at Shining Cliff

25th February 2000

Would club members please enter as usual with half the fee but including either your SI card number or 75p hire if you don't have your own? Do so by the closing date of 5th February or you may find there are no spare maps on the day. Helpers will be able to start 10:00-10:30 or at the end of the public starts to suit your job on the day – another of the advantages of e-punching. Offers of help to Rex Bleakman on 01283 733363.

Mike Godfree

JK and British Relays

I will need names for the JK at the Forest of Dean and for the British in Northern Ireland before the next Newstrack (mid-February). There is a relay place for every club member, you do not have to be an elite orienteer. Don't wait to be asked, there are no gold plated invitations. The club has a policy of subsidising your relay entry by £2 so why not take advantage of the treasurer! At the time of writing Airmiles had seats from both East Midlands and Birmingham to Belfast around the British weekend.

Liz Godfree 01332-515862

Compass Sport Cup

Our first round match is at Holt Forest, Brandon, Suffolk (not at Colchester as we previously thought) on Sunday 18th March. The open meeting agreed to provide a free coach so long as enough people agree to use it. We are likely to need to leave Ailestree about 7:30 a.m. and return about 5 p.m. We could conceivably pick up at Leicester Services en route. As entries need to be in by February 28th I need your entry fee by 21st February at the very latest and this will confirm your place on the coach. Unfortunately the entry fee is not yet known so ring first to confirm how much to send.

Liz Godfree 01332-515862

2001 Club Dinner

The venue for the past few years, Hartington Hall is not available this year so we are reverting to the formula of less sophisticated days, no not Judy Buckley's lounge, but using Wirksworth Town Hall. The date is Saturday 10th March, (busy day, the third Schools League event takes place in the morning on Markeaton Park). The meal will be prepared by DVO Catering. Prices will be published in next Newstrack – around the £10.00 mark.

Names please to Val (01773) 824754 by 10th February please.

SwissWatch.*

A number of you have expressed interest in going to Switzerland/Italy rather than be eaten by the midges at the Scottish 6-days. The details were in the last Newstrack or you can look at www.6giorni.ticino.com. The cheap entries finish at the end of January so I need your money by mid January if you are willing to commit by then. Assuming the exchange rate is still about 2.4 Swiss Francs to the pound, then the fees I need are:

Adult entry	£42
Junior entry	£32 (up to and including M/W 15 only)
25 sq metre camp pitch	£84
50 sq metre camp pitch	£167
Camper van	£167

There is a 15SF fee to pay for the total entry so I have rounded up the figures slightly, any surplus will go towards the T-shirts.

If we don't have enough cars between us to get to the events, I assume we can pay for event transport when we get there. I will need to know what age class you wish to run and your SI card number. There look like being a number of us running the same courses so James and I plan to take a laptop and our own download station, from which we produce our own split analysis.

Mike Godfree 01332-515862

* Warning: A trip to Switzerland gives Newstrack an unmissable opportunity to plunder its catalogue of stereotypical puns so watch (there it goes again) out for crushingly obvious references to clocks, cuckoos, roils, gnomes and triangular shaped chocolate bars in the forthcoming months.

Schools and Youth League

On the back of this copy of Newstrack, you will find details of the Derbyshire Schools and Youth League. The first event at Drum Hill on Saturday, 16th December, using EMOA's newly acquired Sportldent e-punching system, was successful and 74 competitive runs were recorded. Thanks to Mike Napier's software, results were almost instantaneous too.

These events are not just for official school teams but are ideal for families and newcomers alike, offering courses from White through Yellow and Orange to Light Green, and possibly a Score. With club coaches and experienced orienteers on hand to help, anyone can use these events to pick up some new skills or practise some old ones. The next event is on Saturday, 10th February at Shipley Park.

JK2001 Accommodation

Thanks to the good offices of Andy Jackson, DVO have already got accommodation lined up for this year's event. Every year we like to do a little better than the last, and this year, well next year, we hope to cap all preceding venues with one with – showers! Beaver Lodge, headquarters of the First Forest Scout Group at Parkend in the middle of the Forest of Dean, comes with its own brochure. In the History Section, we are told that the original building was constructed in 1947 but rebuilt following a fire in 1994. Boasting a main hall, 8m x 8m, and two smaller store rooms (for the kids?!) it can house up to 60 and sits in its own grounds with room for up to 40 campers. Bordered on three sides by forest with a stream through the centre (not literally surely, perhaps that's what they mean by running water), the lodge's facilities include 2 cookers, 2 fridges as well as toilets and the aforementioned showers. An added attraction is said to be orienteering within five miles, which should be handy. All for £36.00 per night.

There is one drawback – the use of chainsaws on site is strictly forbidden.

Mercia Fell Runners Club Cannock Chase Run Saturday 6th January 2001.

Run off those Christmas Pudding / Oh no, not another visit from Aunty Nellie blues with a 15 mile jog over Sherbrook and Beaudesert. Some navigation required (!). Start at 11.00 am from Broc Hill Car Park (GR 973200). Pre-entries to Richard Day, 27 St Mary's Road, Little Haywood, Stafford ST18 0QG with cheques of £4.00 to Richard Day.

New Tent for Old. Following the sad demise of the last one at Holmbrook, DVO now has a new club tent, which is blue, but has the old DVO lettering on the back.

Congratulations to Karen Jackson on attaining Grade 3 Controller status.

A Load of Bull. Although some didn't even notice any change from normal (this adjective being used in its loosest sense), those of us with a perverse sense of humour derived much pleasure from the sight of Steve Kimberley finishing the Burbage Moor National Event with his face covered in cow product. Most of us slowly mature with age but it would seem that Steve manures with age. There was speculation as to what Steve was trying to achieve. Was he trying to slow down the aging process? Was this simply a physical expression of his excremental run? Perhaps poor old Steve had been reading too many tips in women's magazines. Evidently Anne's sense of smell isn't all it used to be. (With thanks to Disgusted of Darley Abbey).

NEWSTRACK WISHES ALL ITS READERS A
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A COMPETITIVE NEW
YEAR

DERBYSHIRE YOUTH GROUPS ORIENTEERING LEAGUE 2001

1.	Sat. 16.12.00	Drum Hill, Little Eaton, Derby.	SK/374422 Parking at the Scout Campsite.
2.	Sat 10.2.01	Snipley Country Park, Heanor.	SK431454 Parking at the Visitors Centre.
3.	Sat 10.3.01	Markeaton Park, Derby	SK 335370 Parking off Markeaton island.
4.	Sat 28.4.01	Black Rocks, Cromford/Wirksworth	SK 291558 Parking in main car park
5.	Sat 16.6.01	Hardwick Hall	SK 453640 Parking in car park at bottom of the park.

There may be a car park fee charged at the events. Please inform the organiser if you intend to bring a coach to the events.

All events allow entry on the day; registration opens at 10.00am with start times from 10.30-12.30am. Help for beginners can be arranged, please contact the organiser.

All courses are £1.	
WHICH COURSE SHOULD I BE RUNNING?	
School Year	Course
Up to year 5/6	White
7/8	Yellow
9/10	Orange
11/12/13	Light Green

FORMAT

The league is aimed at children of school year 5 and older, but younger children may take part. There will be four courses of differing lengths and technical difficulty corresponding to White, Yellow, Orange and Light Green British Orienteering Federation Standards. A White course is entirely on paths with a control at every decision point and is usually less than 2km. A Yellow course is entirely on line features, there will not be a control at every junction and the distance will be about 2.5km. An Orange course will include some controls close to, but not on, line features and there will be chances to cut across between paths. The more technical Light Green course will be around 3.5km in length and require navigation off the paths in order to visit the controls.

Young people will normally run the course appropriate to their age and run singly. Those lacking experience may run a simpler course or run as part of a pair. Runners on the same course will start at one-minute intervals; runners from the same group on the same course will start four minutes apart. A runner may only count for a prize on one course.

Group Leaders and helpers may compete if they wish.

SCORING

At each event the winner on each course will be awarded 100 points, the second 99 and so on. Competitors running as a pair are both awarded the points. Those running in groups of three or more or with adult help do not score. A competitor's three best scores will be added together and prizes will be awarded to the first three boys and girls in each age class. Certificates to all who take part. A group's point score for each event will be the sum of the six best individual scores from that group. A team trophy will be awarded to the group with the highest cumulative points score from their best three events.