

# NEWSTRACK

## FEBRUARY 2001



### Great Moments from the Orienteering Archives No3

Lord and Lady Baden Powell hit on an idea to revolutionise the sport as we know it.

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## Judy Buckley

As Newstrack was going to press, I learned the sad news that Judy had passed away in the early hours of Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> February. I do not have any details about the funeral arrangements except that it is likely to be on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March. I am sure that Judy will be remembered in a way that her life deserves in the next issue. Everyone associated with the club will join me in expressing our sympathy to Steve, Alastair and Kim.

Ranald's column which follows was obviously written without notice of this news:

## Thoughts from the Chair

I'd like to start by congratulating Karen and Andy Jackson on the birth of Matthew in the early hours of Monday 5 February. On the Friday before Karen had been at circuit training, followed by the East Midlands Championships at Blidworth. I'm not surprised the baby was early! He probably couldn't cope with all the exercise and wanted a rest! And Karen was rumoured to be turning up for circuits again 12 days after the birth! \*

I missed the National at Burbage – working in Singapore after which Viv joined me for some time in Thailand before home for Christmas. I also missed the events at Drum Hill – our first try with electronic punching and the first event in our new Schools League. 85 participants during the day and 26 for the night event. I gather everything went well with the punching and we look forward to a similarly smooth event at Shining Cliff. However, I did manage to get to the New Year Score event on 31 December. Despite, or maybe because of, the snow we had 78 participants – most of whom gave up trying to work out Rob Shooter's complicated scoring system and just went for an enjoyable run!

As part of our annual trip south to visit relations, Viv and I stopped at the Mole Valley Badge Event at Ranmore Common on 7 January. We were greeted with an amazed "Why have you bothered coming here?" from Helen Errington and it didn't take long to find out why. Let's just say that it's a singularly unattractive area though we did both manage to get Silver times.

Back north then for the colour coded event at Holmebrook and Linacre – the first time we have combined the two areas – which attracted nearly 300 competitors. We had friends staying for the weekend and their 8 and 11 year olds found this a perfect introduction to orienteering – "lots of good quality mud!" They quickly progressed from Yellow to Orange and both thoroughly enjoyed it!

I've already mentioned the East Midlands Championships and it was great to see us with six champions announced on the day – Alex Whitehead (M10), Matthew Dickinson (M16), John Duckworth (M21), Ruth Johnson (W20), Val Johnson (W40) and Liz Godfree (W50). Subsequently – after a bit of jiggery pokery with

the results because of a misplaced control – the voided courses were reinstated so we now have two more champions – Stephen Kimberley (M40L) and John Hurley (M45L). So added congratulations to them as well. E-punching allows you to take out the affected legs and arrive at corrected results – isn't science wonderful?!

We then had the National at Beaudesert on 11 February. Quite a contrast after Blidworth. There was actually some real orienteering after the boring path runs of the week before. And, apart from the pointless slog up to the finish (why didn't they put the punching finish at the bottom of the slope instead of risking multiple coronaries?), and some unpleasant brambles, I found it worthwhile, if not exactly fun! Again, some good runs – Alex Whitehead (1<sup>st</sup> on M10A), Dave Chaffey (1<sup>st</sup> M35S), Erin Malley (2<sup>nd</sup> W12A), Evelyn Ross (2<sup>nd</sup> W45S), Liz Smith (1<sup>st</sup> W55S) and Pauline Ward (1<sup>st</sup> W55L).

The day before the National we had the next event in the Schools League at Shipley Park, as well as advertising it for beginners in the park's brochure. These events are an important part of the Club's Development Plan and, given that there were nearly 130 runs on a cold February Saturday morning, we are hopefully attracting the next generation of enthusiastic orienteers – and some of their parents! My particular thanks to Val Johnson for organizing the League and the small band of ever-willing planners and helpers who make sure the events run smoothly. The next event is at Markeaton Park on Saturday 10 March.

All the good recent results bode well for the CompassSport Cup on 18 March – but only if everyone turns up. Liz Godfree, the Club Captain, is busily collecting names as we have to pre-enter and a free coach is available to take us there. Why not come along? You would be surprised at who has managed to score in the past! Similarly, Liz is collecting names for both the JK and British relays. The more the merrier – last year we had a good numbers of teams which adds to the fun of the day.

Whilst I'm into reminders, don't forget the Club Dinner on Saturday 10 March, with our very own in-house DVO-catering! You wouldn't want to miss seeing the humiliation, sorry 'honour', of the presentation to the Sports Personality of the Year, would you? Names to Val Johnson. And a further reminder about the Organisers' Course/Seminar on Saturday 17 March – names to Mike Godfree.

**Ranald Macdonald - Chair, Derwent Valley Orienteers**

\* Further news on DVO's membership drive. Congratulations also go to the Duckworths, John and Ann-Marie who gave birth to a baby girl, Sarah Jessica, (8 lbs 11 ounces) on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, a matter of days before John was due to control Shining Cliff but after Ann-Marie had finished all the bagging. This admirable sense of timing can only bode well for the future.

## This Month I Have Been Mostly.....

I can't remember a better start to the year for orienteering than this one. I have been known in the past to complain – yes, I know it's difficult to believe – at the scarcity of events at the beginning of the year, but my 2001 Sundays have been packed full of choice events, which continue to stretch ahead into the wild blue yonder, foot and mouth permitting. Here are a few that I have enjoyed – and some I haven't – so far.

### Sutton Park - 21<sup>st</sup> January

This was definitely and literally so far as we were concerned a non-event. We didn't get farther than fifty metres from the house before the car slithered across the road like a bar of soap in a jacuzzi, floundering on the blanket of snow that greeted us as we drew back the curtains. The car was abandoned until the thaw arrived, and the day's orienteering cancelled.

Instead I did one of those jobs that have been lying around for years waiting, well, for the day that the weather made orienteering impossible. I catalogued all my maps from 1978!

There seems to be two schools of thought when it comes to archiving maps. There's the Mike Godfree/Ian Whitehead approach where maps are kept in alphabetical order, each fresh version of the map being slotted next to the previous with every new event. The alternative competing technique, as favoured by my goodself, is the chronological storing of maps, event by event, (wake up at the back), each bundle lovingly preserved in its own six-monthly folder. My collection now has a whole wing of the house, well a couple of shelves in the roof anyway, dedicated to my orienteering endeavours, until the date of my no doubt untimely demise when I can bequest the archive to the nation.

Anyway, ignoring insults of the 'Sad Dad' variety from those who purport to love me, I spent a wondrous few hours basking in the warm nostalgic glow of a trip down memory lane, during the days before even colour-coded events were invented. Can you imagine that, children. Now, whenever anyone asks 'Have we got a Cromford Moor map?', I can search through my computer archives and instantly give them a choice of about 37 (I think Cromford comfortably takes the prize for the area most favoured by the Johnson collective over the years).

Next time I'm short of material for Newstrack, I can also now regale you with a treasury of memories from days gone by. You have been warned. In fact, anybody want to start a series called 'My First Event'? No, I thought not, but no harm in asking.

## Blidworth – 4<sup>th</sup> February

My antipathy towards this area is well documented in these pages. My feelings vis a vis Blidworth are somewhat akin to those of Sherlock Holmes towards Moriarty, Dracula towards a shaft of sunlight and Superman towards Kryptonite. In fact I did once swear never to set foot within its leafy glades ever again.

So what caused me to break this solemn vow? It was certainly not the 'East Midlands Champs' label. What hope does a self-respecting M45 have whenever this competition is held in any area where Robin Hood might once have set foot? He knows that John Hurley will, upon hearing Sherwood's clarion call, awake from cryogenic hibernation and, defying rumours of premature retirement, bomb round the rides and paths to claim his inevitable prize.

No, the reason is once again a failure of the once dependable Johnson memory banks. I was deceived by the allure and promise of additional attractions with exotic names such as Heywood Oaks and Sansom Woods. Now quite why I imagined that these adjacent areas would offer pleasures of which Blidworth is so stunningly bereft I do not know. It was only as I was going through the aforementioned cataloguing that I realised that I had run on these appendages before. Their sheer overwhelming ordinariness had left me with absolutely no memory of them at all. But it was all too late, the entry form was already in the post.

I pitied the planner trying to create a silk purse of a course out of this sow's ear of an area. It is not generally known that it was not in the Antarctic but after a Green course at Blidworth that Sir Robert Falcon Scott uttered the immortal words 'Great God, this is an awful place'.

When I was much younger, I would occasionally experience in a recurrent dream the sensation of running round an interminable maze, each turn of which led to another of a succession of equally long and identical corridors. Now, forty years further on, I could relive those nightmares for real as I pounded along the labyrinthine rides of Blidworth, each turn revealing another corridor exactly the same as the previous. At least I had survived my dream intact, but Blidworth takes no prisoners. The need for variety in planning called for repeated dives into undergrowth that should be erected round high-security prisons, from which escape was only at a high cost exacted in blood and guts, unfortunately mine.

Of course the final indignity, the ultimate kick in the hindujas, was to flog round only to have the experience declared a waste of time when the M45L course was branded void due to an early misplaced control. Why couldn't they have done it earlier and saved everyone the bother?

(The course was later reinstated minus the offending control, so congratulations to, yes, John Hurley who reclaims his King of the Brambles title once again).

## Hay Wood – 10<sup>th</sup> February

Never say never. I have never been known for my enthusiasm for the so-called Short Event. I have never seen the point of paying Badge event prices for a run less than half the length. I have never seen the point of travelling long distances for a course which sees you back in the car before having broken sweat. So what was I doing at Hay Wood on a Saturday afternoon so far from Teletext? Well, with Val performing organisational duties at the Shipley Park Schools League event, that left just me to take Hilary to this round of the Futures Cup. This is another competition whose format I don't understand but, since I do know that it only involves people of whom I am literally old enough to be their father (but only in one particular case, I swear), I have never taken the trouble to find out. Hilary's position at the end of the event suggests that she still has a lot to find out about it too.

If I was going to be required to ferry an offspring on a round trip of 2½ hours, I might as well join in the fun, so I enrolled in a 'Guest Course', a term which I found vaguely demeaning in a 'it's our event but we'll graciously allow you to take part if you must' kind of way. Thus it was that I found myself yet again standing in the pouring rain waiting at another Start line.

Just because the course was less than half the length of a Brown or M45L did not mean that my capacity for mistakes was halved. They have yet to invent a course that I cannot botch without too much effort. I was possibly trying too hard but, having earlier arrived at Number Three without bothering to find Number Two, I found Four and set off in the direction of Six convincing myself that I was heading for Five. Such was my incompetence that I actually found Five, but still believed it to be Six. I then set off for Seven (are you still following this?), but since Seven was due west from Six where I thought I was, and Four was due west from Five where I actually was, I ended up back at Four, with Six still to find. Confused? Not as much as I was.

I have to confess that, this slight misunderstanding of the basics of the sport apart, I did find the experience a thoroughly enjoyable one. I had been to Hay Wood once before (on 11.01.81, 15.04.84 and 11.05.97 according to my newly computerised records) but had felt it too small for a Blue course which involved a double-circumnavigation and 2<sup>nd</sup> master maps. 3.3 km was exactly right. Hay Wood is a fairly circular area, crossed with a network of paths and ditches. You cannot run too far without hitting its outer limits. A 3 km course allowed the planner to plan courses which cut straight across these paths, so accuracy depended on direct and compass-aided running, i.e. the very skills in which I am so deficient, explaining my position at the rear of the guest list on the results board.

My reservations so far as cost and travel remain but I will not be so sniffy about Short Events in the future. Damn, another misconception bites the dust. What's the point of getting old if you can't bear unreasonable prejudices.

### **Beaudesert – 12<sup>th</sup> February**

You know it's not going to be your sort of day when you arrive at the Start, having forgotten your a compass – could happen to anyone - and have to return to your car, cursing your luck for being accommodated in the overflow car park, ten minutes farther on from everyone else. But the great thing about e-punching is that, whereas in less enlightened times, you would have been grudgingly allowed into the Late Start lane and let loose with several minutes added on to your time as an additional penalty, now they have to let you go when they can fit you in, and your course starts exactly when it should, on the first dob of your dibber, or dib of your dobber if you prefer. Ha, ha! Why does that give me such a perverse thrill of satisfaction?

There is one drawback, of course, that when they do slot you back in, there is no telling in what sort of dubious company you might find yourself. And so it was that I discovered the familiar leering visage of Robert Shooter, two minutes farther back in the Start lane. There are those who revel in the competitive edge which the proximity of a club runner gives their run. There are those who, like me, know that their run is already doomed to miserable failure, as the unforced errors queue up to leap out and catch you unawares, the beads of perspiration trickling uncomfortably down the back of your neck as you hear the Shooter Size 9s bearing inexorably down on you. And there was me only just congratulating myself for having got rid of John Hopper for another four years.

As inevitable as an Eminem expletive, it was ten minutes into my run before I even found my first control. And, as if to compound my feeling of abject failure, who should pop up at the first control ahead of me but the curs-ed Shooter himself. Of course, having spoiled a run trying to stay ahead of him, I now had to ruin it further by concentrating on getting rid of him. We spent around three-quarters of the course finding different ways to lose one another only to renew acquaintance at the next control. I felt like telling him to find his own course to run on. Robert was sticking closer than something unmentionable on the sole of my shoe – no offence – but just when I thought I'd got rid of him, I completely lost myself. I found myself standing by a huge crag but, specs having been abandoned in the pouring rain, my attempts to make sense of the details swimming before me were in vain. Robert passed me by but was he coming out of the control or going into it? You'd've thought he would've had the decency to tell me, wouldn't you?

**Graham Johnson**

## **DVO DINNER AND ANNUAL AWARDS**

Wirksworth Town Hall

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2001

From 7.00 pm onwards. Cost: £9.00

The dinner this year is brought to you by DVO Catering, a 5 course extravaganza (and that's not counting seconds) which will bring back memories of bygone years. For those members too young to remember, the dinner used to be held in the Buckleys' living room after school dining tables and chairs had replaced the furniture. The quantity of food was so huge that not only seconds but thirds were offered, and even Robert Shooter went home with a full stomach. Well the club is now too big for a living room, even minus the furniture, but Wirksworth Town Hall is a fitting venue and the food will be just as good. So ring me with your name.

Val Johnson 01773 824754

Here's some of the menu to whet your appetite:

Starters – Smoked Salmon and Cream Cheese Rolls  
Mushroom Vol-au-Vents  
Soup

Main Courses - Chilli  
Stuffed Peppers (v)  
Coq-au-Vin  
Provençal Vegetable Gratin (v)  
Pork Loin

Served with a selection of salads and jacket potatoes

A plethora of puddings plus coffee and mints

### **Team D.V.O.US tackles the Wilmot Wander**

To the uninitiated, the Wilmot Wander is a 32 mile circuit of Derby, mostly across fields, country lanes, and canal towpaths. To the wiser 'old heads', it's a long way to run just to win a bowl of stew, back where you started. Which is why we did it.

'We' were Andy Mackervoy (author), Adam Bleakman and Dave Bond, and the general aim was to run as much as we could, and aim for a 6-hour time, weather-dependant. The morning was crisp underfoot, a very heavy frost, and clear skies. It couldn't have been better, and we jogged over Chaddesden park to Spondon, and thence anti-clockwise around the circuit. Regular Wednesday



runners will know the bits over Drum Hill, Eaton Bank to the Bridge Hotel at Duffield, and Bunkers Hill to Quarndon. Then via Mackworth to Radbourne, where Michelle came to cheer us on, and skirting Mickleover to Burnaston, where Rex and Carol dished out energy bars and enthusiastic support. Adam led us out of the checkpoint revitalised !

Then the boring bit, and probably the main reason some folk don't enter again - 'The Canal'. The route follows the Trent & Mersey for about four miles from near Findern along to Swarkestone Junction, and it's boringly painful. The most welcome sight imaginable is the old fold-out table and gas stove perched by the Swarkestone lock gates, manned by a cheery Scout leader from Chaddo !

Now it was just a simple six mile plod back to base, heartily cheered by knowing that we had kept exactly on schedule all day, and a sub-six hour time was definitely on. Even Dave got a sprint on as we crossed Pride Park, and we fell into the Scout Hut in a final time of 5 hours 38 minutes - mission accomplished.

**Andy Mackervoy**

### **DVO Hard-core - you know the score**

There was a training run on the Wednesday between Christmas and New Year. It was a clear, starlit night, very cold for breathing, and from a different venue - thanks to Sue Russell. Michelle and I turned up a few minutes late, expecting the assembled throng to be champing at the bit, only to find Rob Shooter, deciding to run with Sue for a more measured pace, and Dave Bennett, contemplating the same. And that was it! Eventually Sue, Rob, and Michelle did a low-fat version, while Dave and I went for the full-on blow-out that is the hill up from the A6 at Ambergate back to Heage.

Thereafter we dipped in the hot tub under the stars, then it was down the local for a beer, to find it was quiz night. So the 'DVO Hard-core' team paid in for a laugh, and came away with a fiver (donated to Sue's fire victim support vehicle). So for the "who wants to be a fiver-aire" brigade, the questions that bolstered our egos (and Sue's coffers) were:

1. From which European country did Rwanda gain its independence ?
2. What is the capital of Mexico ?
3. Who was the female presenter of "Game for a laugh" ?
4. Which American successfully sued McDonalds for trying to copyright his name?
5. What did Cinderella leave at the ball ?

NB - there isn't a prize this time - you had to be there on the night! Answers as follows: 1. Belgium; 2. Mexico City; 3. Sarah Kennedy; 4. Ronald McDonald; 5. A glass slipper.

**Andy Mackervoy**

## **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.**

### **March 2001**

- 3rd WOA DEE NATIONAL EVENT Newborough Forest, Newborough. SH/416653.  
C2 POSTPONED
- 10<sup>th</sup> EM DVO MARKEATON PARK SCHOOLS AND YOUTH LEAGUE EVENT  
SK431454  
C5 Organiser: Mike Godfree 01332 - 515862
- 10th DVO DINNER, Wirksworth Town Hall. See elsewhere in Newstrack.
- 11th EM LEI Badge Event. Old Dry Hills, Corby. SP/946860.  
C3 Organiser: Simon Ford, 01162 598277.  
CD: 16/02/01. £6.50/£2.00 - CC £2.50/£1.50. EOD +£1.00. String course.  
Parking fee and probable bussing. CC - Y & O. <http://www.leloc.co.uk/>
- 11th WM WRE Colour Coded Event. Lizard Hill, Shifnal. SJ775108.  
C4 Lesley Norton, 01952 462260. £4.00/£1.50. Dogs on lead in car park only.
- 17th DVO ORGANISERS' COURSE, Duffield Meadows School  
See Mike Godfree and elsewhere in Newstrack
- 18th EA EAOA Compass Sport Cup 1st Round. High Lodge, Thetford. TL/811852.  
O3 See Liz Godfree and elsewhere in Newstrack
- 25th WM OD Colour Coded Event. Oversley Wood, Alcester. SP/113567.  
C4 Dave & Carolyn Marr, 01926 493627. [themarrs@ntlworld.com](mailto:themarrs@ntlworld.com) £4.00/£1.00.
- 25th EM NOC Colour Coded Event. Bestwood Country Park, Nottingham. SK/565470.  
C4 Richard Beadle, 01636 830939. £3.00/£1.00. String course. Dogs on leads.

### **April 2001**

- 1st NW LOC NATIONAL EVENT, Bigland, Ulverston. /358834.  
C2 Entries: Marion Inchmore, Newlands, Storth Road, Storth, Nr. Milnthorpe,  
Cumbria, LA7 7HS, 015395 62378. CD: 10/03/01. £9.00/£4.50, Family (2+2 or  
more) £25.00. Chq: LOC. EPS-SI. String course. Parking £1.00.
- 8th WM WCH Colour Coded Event. East Sherbrook, Stafford. SJ/995210.  
C4 Carol Dredge, 01785 611778. [sl\\_dredge@hotmail.com](mailto:sl_dredge@hotmail.com) £4.00/£1.50. String  
course. No dogs. Parking £1.00. <http://www.walton-chasers.co.uk/>

- 8th EM LEI Colour Coded Event & National Forest Trophy. Grace Dieu, Coalville. SK/440182.  
C4 Andy Portsmouth, 0116 230 1337. £3.00/£1.50. String course. Parking fee.
- 13th-16th SW **JAN KJELLSTROM ORIENTEERING FESTIVAL**  
C5 13th - JK Training Event. Soudley & Blakeney Hill Woods. SO/660104.  
C1 14th - JK INDIVIDUAL DAY 1 Lydney Park, Lydney. SO/610038.  
C1 15th - JK INDIVIDUAL DAY 2 Moseley Green, Blakeney. SO/645080.  
R1 16th - JK Relay Championship Lydney Park, Lydney. SO/610038.  
Entries closed
- 22nd WM HOC Colour Coded Event. Dudmaston, Bridgnorth. SO/747887.  
C4 David Williams, 0121 472 2296. [ddwphone@btinternet.com](mailto:ddwphone@btinternet.com) £4.00/£2.00.  
String course. Parking 50p. [freespace.virgin.net/mike.farrington/Harlequins](http://freespace.virgin.net/mike.farrington/Harlequins)
- 28th EM **DVO CROMFORD MOOR SCHOOL AND YOUTH LEAGUE EVENT**, Nr  
Wirksworth SK 291558  
Organiser: Val Johnson 01773 824754
- 29th WM PTOC Compass Sport Cup Final. Weston Heath, Market Drayton. S/J/580270.  
(well, you never know)
- 29th EM LOG Colour Coded Event & Galoppen. Bourne Woods, Colsterworth. TF/075202.  
C4 Ian Durrant, 01522 532245. [ian.durrant@lincoln.gov.uk](mailto:ian.durrant@lincoln.gov.uk) £3.00/£1.00.

## May 2001

- 5th-7th NI **BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP WEEKEND FINAL**  
C1 6th - BRITISH ORIENTEERING INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS  
Benone Strand, Limavady. GR/693365.  
Organiser: Anthony McGonigle, 028 7176 4779. [amcgonigle@compaqnet.com](mailto:amcgonigle@compaqnet.com)  
R1 7th - BRITISH RELAY CHAMPIONSHIPS. Baronscourt, Newton Stewart. GR/360830.
- 6th EM **DVO Colour Coded Event. Crich, Matlock.** SK/348516.  
C4 Stephen Wilson, 01332 850762. £3.00/£1.00, Family £7.00. String course.

## MARCH OPEN MEETING

This will be on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> March, starting at 8.15 pm on the first floor of the Queen's Head on Chesterfield Road, Belper. Runs as usual from 7.00 pm. See you there?

## **COACHING CORNER**

Three coaching opportunities are available for members of Light Green standard (or above).

1. Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March – Lake District.
2. Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April – Lake District
3. Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June – Hardwick Hall (after the C5 event)

The C5 Schools and Youth League events on Saturday mornings also offer members an ideal opportunity to try out new skills, coaches and experienced orienteers are always available to offer help and advice.

Ring Val for further information.

## **Mainly About Mosquitoes**

Ever thought what Hell would be like? For me, it would be an eternity of being slowly being eaten alive (even though, I suppose, by definition, I would actually be dead) by mosquitoes, or their closely -related Scottish cousin, the dreaded midge. A cold and wet Sunday in February orienteering round Blidworth would run it a pretty close second.

The promise of these monsters in great abundance at Fort William had a large part to play in our decision to join the exodus of a twenty-strong party of DVO members heading south in the direction of Switzerland, rather than north for the biennial Scottish 6-Days – although, never having been to Switzerland, I have no idea whether some fiendish Swiss chironomidian mutation awaits us.

However there is some form of relief at hand. Over the past year, such is my rather pathetic obsession with this pest, I have collected various scraps of information enabling me to put together my very own, personal Star Wars-type anti-mozzile system, to exterminate these unwanted guests with extreme prejudice. I have tried out none of these myself but share the following as a humanitarian gesture.

(1) Both mosquitoes and midges alike are said to be positively repelled by citronella when a few drops are added to a base of olive oil and the mixture applied and massaged into exposed areas. No idea what citronella is but it sounds like something the Body Shop might sell. There is a drawback to this – isn't there always? The concoction is apparently an enticement to elephants, who will rip open tents to reach the source of the smell. Admittedly this is likely to be a problem in Switzerland only if the local branch of the Sealed Knot try to re-enact Hannibal's trek through the Alps this August.

(2) A more expensive alternative is a product called Alfresco, as used by Robert Redford and Kirsten Scott Thomas during the filming of *The Horse Whisperer* – and if you know a more useless piece of trivia than that, then keep it to yourself. Its ingredients include melissa (what?), geranium and lavender and is especially recommended for children. It ought to be good because it costs a fiver for a 50ml bottle and £15.00 for 200ml from [www.alfresco.uk.com](http://www.alfresco.uk.com) or 020-83486704. However, after ten minutes exposure to the vampiric charm of the mcmmidge, my experience is that you will pay whatever it takes to dissuade the little blighters from sucking you dry.

(3) Just before DVO's last long weekend in Madrid, I spotted an advertisement for 'Radarcán', an intriguing electronic mosquito deterrent effective for up to 2 metres and manufactured by Servicroma, in Barcelona. It even had its own web site. Taking this as some sort of sign, I dragged Val off on our very own Spanish search for the holy grail, eventually tracking down one of these devices in a department store. The Spanish obviously take this sort of thing very seriously because there was a whole rack of anti-insect paraphernalia, including the eagerly anticipated Radarcán. Actually it was a bit disappointing in appearance, just a black plastic box about the size of a packet of Polos. However, powered by a single A4 battery, the contraption's psychology is quite devious. Apparently it's only impregnated female mozzies who bite, for nourishment, so the Radarcán imitates the sound of a male mosquito thereby repelling the female which is not interested in inter-mosquito nookie at this particular time, thank you very much. Unfortunately, or quite fortunately actually, mosquitoes are about as prevalent in Belper as elephants in Fort William, so I have absolutely no idea whether the darned thing actually works, either on mosquitoes or midges come to that. But if anyone wants to consumer-test it out in Scotland this summer, I will be intrigued to find out how effective it is.

### **Non Mi Sequire - Sono Perso Di Nuovo.**

Or freely (very) translated, "Not me squire, I'm lost again" For new readers we should explain that this follows from "Ne me suivez pas – je suis perdu". So far 20 club members have signed up for the Swiss/Italian 6 day at the end of July. If anyone else would like to join us the next closing date for entries is the end of April after which the entry fee rises again, so the fees would need to be with me by mid-April.

**Mike Godfree**

**Organisers' Course/Seminar** A reminder about this event, news of which appeared in last Newstrack. It has been rescheduled for Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> March, at Meadows School, Duffield. 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**

## **FIXTURES LIST 2002**

Below is the fixture list for 2002 which has been put together by the Fixtures Sub Committee. Here is your chance to take on the role of Planner, Controller or Organiser. Make your choice now and ring **Stuart Swalwell (01335 - 347814)**.

You do not need a qualification to be an organiser though the club is running an **Organisers' Training Day** on **Sat 17 March** (ring Mike Godfree on 01332 - 515862). So, if you haven't organised an event before, but would like to do so, then try to go on the training day, having first volunteered for an event in 2002. And if you are an experienced organiser but haven't run an event for some time, then please step forward for 2002!

There is a programmed route to becoming a Planner or Controller and more information is available from Ranaid Macdonald on 01629 - 734307.

<b>EVENT</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>PLANNER</b>	<b>CONTROLLER</b>	<b>ORGANISER</b>
Hardwick	01/01/02	Stuart Swalwell	Stuart Swalwell	Stuart Swalwell
Farley Moor	24/02/02	Tony Berwick		
Crich	21/02/02	David Skidmore and Ruth Ellis		
Calke	02/06/02			
Linacre	07/07/02			
Eckington	29/09/02			
Whitesprings	01/12/02			
Shipley	01/01/03			

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## **VAL'S COACHING TIP**

### **CONTROL CARDS**

There are many ways of carrying control cards around the course but the one I favour involves making a hole in the top left hand corner and threading a loop of elastic through the hole, the card can then be attached to the wrist. Control descriptions can be copied onto the card before your run although they will have to be abbreviated if they are to fit into the box. By doing this you leave both hands free to concentrate on the map and your compass.

More tips next time.

## DVO Summer Series Events 2001

*Summer may still feel a long way away, but we can always dream of those long sunny evenings bursting with activity, so keep this page to hand and be ready to join us for this year's summer events !*

If you want . . .

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

then put the following dates in your diary and come along to the

**DVO SUMMER EVENTS on FRIDAY EVENINGS from 6.30 - 7.30pm**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>AREA</b>
<b>1 June</b>	<b>Allestree Park, Derby</b>
<b>8 June</b>	<b>Crich Chase, Ambergate</b>
<b>15 June</b>	<b>Shipleigh Park, Heanor</b>
<b>22 June</b>	<b>Bradley Woods, Ashbourne</b>
<b>29 June</b>	<b>Markeaton Park, Derby</b>
<b>6 July</b>	<b>Bolehill, nr Chesterfield</b>
<b>13 July</b>	<b>Darley Park, Derby</b>
<b>20th July</b>	<b>Whitesprings, nr Matlock</b>

This year the Summer Events will comprise:-

- a Yellow course suitable for novice orienteers and children;
- a Light Green course for improving techniques;
- a Long course for those who want a challenge;

- and for those who like the competitive streak in orienteering, there will be a scoring system as an optional extra !

Would you like to have a go at planning/organising a low key O-event ?  
Any willing volunteers to run any one of these Friday night events should pick a date and let me know a.s.a.p !

Coaches will be available for the first part of each evening.

For further details contact Michelle Mackervoy on 01332 557892.

## **DVO WEEKEND ABROAD 2001**

It's voting time again for the annual weekend abroad. Last year 18 of us had a thoroughly enjoyable weekend in Madrid. We go from either to Saturday to Tuesday or Thursday to Sunday in the October half-term week, depending on the Karrimor and other major fixtures.

Options include (prices are quoted from the Cresta brochure but I would hope to get a better deal than this by booking flights through Trailfinders and the hotel direct):

### **From Manchester**

Athens	£372
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### **From Birmingham**

Berlin	£362
Florence	£467
Seville	£333 (subject to finding suitable flight times)
Verona	£370

### **From East Midlands**

Nice	£313
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Please let me have names and preferences by the end of March.

**Viv Macdonald** (01629 734307)

## **Odds and Sods**

**DVO On the Web** – Try the new improved DVO website at its easy-to-remember new address – [www.dvo.org](http://www.dvo.org). What could be simpler?

**Circuit Training** – Due to cancellation of Newborough, it is probable that this will take place as usual at 7.00 pm on Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March, Police HQ, Ripley. To be sure, get on DVO's e-mailing list or ring James Allen on 01773 602566.

**Coming to a Boutique near you.** The latest addition to orienteering haute couture – DVO windproof tops!

**SYO NEWS** suggests a future badge event combining the trickier west part of Burbage and the newer bit of Longshaw. What do we think?



## Your Club needs YOU

### **Compass Sport Cup - Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March East Anglia**

Names to me immediately (that means ring tonight) as I have to pre-enter. There will be very limited EOD. Cost £6/£2. Coach from Derby – FREE to DVO members. Check-in time probably 7:30 from Church Lane North, Allestree. There will be White and Yellow courses for those children who don't run Orange.

### **JK Relays – Monday 16h April, Forest of Dean**

Runs to suit all ages and abilities. Names to me by the end of February. Come and support your club. Remember the club pays £2 appearance fee to everyone running.

### **British Relays – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May, Northern Ireland**

I hope all those travelling to the British will support DVO relay teams. Names to me by Compass Sport Cup weekend. We expect to run Short Open/Womens Short teams to suit a combination of ages.

Liz Godfree 01332 515862

## SPORTS PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH

(An In-Depth Investigation by Professor Michael Gardner)

In the recent EMEWS 181, John Cooke talked about continuing the Sports Personality of the Month that had been in previous EMEWS. This made me think - when did Sports Personality of the Month start, and who has won it most often? I have therefore gone back through both EMEWS and Newstrack to find out the history and the winners.

The first Sports Personality of the Month that I can find dates back to EMEWS 55 in May 1979. John Hurley was the DVO Diarist at the time and completed his diary with the Sports Personality of the Month. It seems to have started as a fairly serious "award" as the first winners were to Paul Armstrong, for scoring the only goal in the Ashbourne Shrovetide football game and to Jenny Tennant for completing the Sydnope event on skis. The next winner was Tony Berwick for a personal best in the White Peak marathon and to Outi Borgenstrom for being World Champion. However, newer DVO members soon saw John's award heading their way for less auspicious reasons, Ian Whitehead (chicken wrestler extraordinary!), Rob Shooter (racing frisky bullocks across a field) and Mike Gardner (getting lost in a convent during an Allestree street event).

John had set the tone for SPOTM and when Graham Johnson took over as DVO Diarist in EMEWS 69, he continued the trend. In fact Graham extended it, often mentioning a number of potential nominees as well as the eventual winner. He was also the first person to award it to an inanimate object (the EMOA timing device – for causing more havoc in 10 seconds than the rest of the road crossing volunteers managed in 7 hours at the British Champs).

When Graham "retired" as DVO Diarist in November 1984 he handed over to Dave Brodie. Dave extended the SPOTM spot even further, often taking the whole of the DVO Diary to nominate DVO members who had been involved in various escapades and finishing with his nominee at the end of the diary.

Dave finished as DVO Diarist in September 1987 (EMEWS 104). A number of people were involved in writing DVO Diary and the SPOTM spot came and went. By December 1989 Alex Campbell had taken over as DVO Newstrack editor and saw a gap in the market. He introduced SPOTM in to Newstrack as a regular feature. It has remained in Newstrack as a regular nomination, with one or two missed months ever since, first under Alex and then under Graham Johnson.

Sue Russell took over as EMEWS DVO Diarist in September 1990 and re-introduced the SPOTM back in to EMEWS while she was writing the DVO Diary. Once Sue finished as DVO Diarist in December 1993, SPOTM disappeared from EMEWS for a while. However, when Mike & Liz Godfree took over as EMEWS editors (November 1994) they re-introduced it as an occasional separate section in EMEWS. Once Dai & Karen Bedwell took over EMEWS editorship in November 1997, they continued with SPOTM on a regional basis where it has remained to this day. This has occasionally meant that someone nominated in Newstrack has been awarded the following month in EMEWS. In counting nominations below I have only scored one point for a single occurrence even though it may have made both Newstrack and EMEWS.

#### **Most Nominations**

So, based on the editions of EMEWS and Newstrack that I have (and that is most of them), who has had the most nominations as SPOTM?

Before I announce the winners, in reverse order, it is only fair to point out that there have been people whom the diarists have been unwilling to nominate as they would otherwise have dominated the awards every month. People such as Steve Kalaher, Dave Clough and Rob Shooter seem to get mentioned many times, but in some cases the award has gone elsewhere for that month simply because "we can't have the same person winning every time". It is also worth pointing out that 2 of the highest ranked people are also diarists themselves, who have sometimes been loathe to nominate themselves while in charge of their pen. This probably explains why Graham Johnson doesn't top the poll!

Anyway, in reverse order the people with most nominations as SPOTM are, in joint fourth place with 4 nominations each:

**Tony Berwick** (including completing his Chatsworth map 5 days early, and saying he didn't know what to do with his spare time! (EMEWS 93)).

**Judy Buckley** (including for her excuse that she had navigated to the right spot and couldn't find the control, but when she tried again it was there, so someone must have removed it and replaced it (EMEWS 97)).

**Graham Johnson** (even though controlling the pen for much of the time Graham still manages to get in amongst the top nominees – who forgot to enter the JK? (Newstrack April 95)).

**Sue Russell** (who managed to take 2 left shoes to Badgerslade, helping her run round in circles (Newstrack Feb 97)).

**Rob Shooter** (including agreeing to run in a team at the Hardwick Hall Relays and then sleeping through the whole event (EMEWS 81)).

**Dave Walker** (including turning up in full tartan regalia for the DVO dinner (EMEWS 76)).

**Ian Whitehead** (including travelling all the way to Crewe for a BOF Committee meeting only to find he was a week early (Newstrack Dec 99)).

In third place, and top women in the poll is **Kath Whitehead** (including managing to navigate herself in to the men's showers at Belper Sports centre following a Belper Street event (EMEWS 71))

But the joint winners with 6 nominations each are:

**Dave Brodie** (including taking son Tom's control descriptions instead of his own (EMEWS 126))

**Steve Kimberley** (including eating his favourite meal, lamb's brain, while in France (EMEWS 98))

#### **Favourites**

Here are a few of my favourites that have not been mentioned previously. See if you can guess who they were, answers follow:

- 1) Travelled all the way to Ireland for a weekend of badge events but was so seasick during the crossing he wasn't well enough to compete (EMEWS 70)?
- 2) Who, while in a car wash, waited for it to start, but it didn't seem to do so, so got out to go to the garage to complain, at which point the car wash started covering said victim in foam (Newstrack Dec 98)?
- 3) Who discarded their map and made off in to the forest with the paper bag during a JK relay (EMEWS 84)?
- 4) Which couple, in the mist at Stippenstones, lead a long crocodile off in the wrong direction as they couldn't find the start (EMEWS 91)?
- 5) Who as joint planners for an event at Robin Wood drove through every lane around Matlock trying to find the area, only to be told when they asked that Robin Wood was south of Derby not near Matlock (EMEWS 95)?
- 6) Who was still waiting in the queue at the toilets when their relay leg runner appeared (EMEWS 131)?
- 7) Who was doing so well at a Summer league event in Robin Wood that he sat down just round the corner from the finish to complete the quiz and then missed their finish time as they fell asleep (EMEWS 164, Newstrack Aug 97)?
- 8) Who, in repeatedly using the electric windows on his new car during registration at Eyam, flattened his car battery and had to get a jump start (Newstrack Dec 89)?

- 9) Who at a Drum Hill Night Event, arrived at the start, only to realise they had forgotten their stub and compass so went back to their car. On 2<sup>nd</sup> attempt arrived at the start and realised they had still forgotten their stub. On third attempt, had stub and compass but had left map behind in car. On 4<sup>th</sup> attempt forgot stub – so start official let them go (Newstrack Feb 91)?
- 10) On Carsington Pastures took careful bearing and saw feature on line in distance so ran towards it. Unfortunately feature proved to be a cow that moved off (Newstrack Dec 98)?

Answers: 1 – Kevin Cunniffe, 2 – Dave Walker, 3 – Lindsay Nicklin, 4 – Roger & Debbie Wilkinson, 5 – John & Paul Seaston, 6 – Liz Godfree, 7 – Rob Shooter, 8 – Doug Dickinson, 9 – Graham Johnson, 10 – Viv MacDonald

(A more exhaustive statistical analysis of this fascinating subject will appear on DVO's website @ [www.dvo.org](http://www.dvo.org).)

### **Sports Personality of the Month February 2001**

To continue the proud tradition described above, we have no less than four nominations this month:

**Karen Jackson**, who as Ranald has already mentioned, managed to fit in a quick birth between circuit training sessions on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> February. Karen loses points though for opting out of the crunches, pluto sniffs and marine press-ups the second time round.

**The whole Jackson family**, who get a second nomination for turning up in full force at circuits last time. Matthew was content to sleep through the whole session, although I did detect the odd stretch every now and then. Five year old Nicola threw herself whole-heartedly into every exercise, although she must learn that it is not a good idea to run across the gym at the same time as everyone else is running down it. When not taking part, she acted as mentor and personal trainer to her father, with helpful encouragement such as 'Daddy's arms aren't long enough' or 'Daddy can't do it'. I thought Andy accepted this criticism with commendable restraint in the circumstances.

**Matthew Dickinson**. In last issue Matthew described his experiences at the Glenmore training camp last summer, concluding with the aspiration to achieve a place on the Halden tour next year in Sweden. If he does achieve this aim, I hope his navigation improves sufficiently to realise that Halden is in Norway!

But the winners are:

**South Wingfield Primary School** who single-handedly may cause the rules of orienteering to be re-written. Whoever invented the mobile phone probably never realised that it might one day be used at the Shipley Park Schools League Event to provide assistance in navigating between controls.