

# NEWSTRACK

## JUNE 2003



Stop Press DVO win B Class Handicap at Harvester

**NEWSTRACK** is the magazine of Derwent Valley Orienteers

**Editor:** Graham Johnson, 12 Chevin Road, Belper, Derbyshire DE56 2UW  
Telephone: (01773) 824754 e-mail: [Gmjandfam@aol.com](mailto:Gmjandfam@aol.com)

DVO Website - [www.dvo.org.uk](http://www.dvo.org.uk)

## Newstrack- An Apology

Not an apology for Newstrack as such but an apology to those who expect their Newstrack to plop through their letter box with the regularity of All-Bran. This edition comes out a month late due to technical problems - a virus and a dodgy video card - which is nothing to do with dodgy videos I hasten to add. Since Newstrack comes round on a two month cycle, the next one is not due till August, but due to holidays, will come out in early September.

## Thoughts from the Chair

For a change I thought that I'd pick up on a thread that I left dangling from the last "Thoughts from the Chair". No, not the "Inclusive Participation" bit where the Chair sets out his belief that the Club is here to provide the best possible quality orienteering, training and social events, and that every member can feel pride in the Club's achievements and has the opportunity to contribute to this success at their own level through participation in competitions, helping at events, taking a role on the Club committee or simply expressing their views either to the committee or through NEWSTRACK – no, not that thought – but rather how we did in the CompassSport Cup. Not that we won, but we did come a creditable second to NOC. Then there was the EMOA Championships at Belvoir (incidentally Bill Gates suggests I replace "Belvoir" with "Beloved" – He's obviously never run there). However, our beloved ladies did rather well with Amy Kimberley (W10), Caroline Northall (W20), Sal Chaffey (W35), Viv McDonald (W50) and Ros Bourne (W60) being declared East Midland Champions. Our chaps bagged a couple of trophies too, with John Duckworth (M35) being declared the region's M21 Champion and Andy Jackson taking M40. However, no amount of political correctness can persuade me to describe either of these two as beloved.

Moving on – to the Midland Championships at Chatsworth (no suggestions phew!). Alas the effort in putting on such a quality event drained our resources somewhat leaving little energy for a good competitive performance. Even the DVO members we have come to admire through seeing their names consistently at the top of the results listing seemed to be overawed by the occasion allowing the trophies to be scattered across the Midlands rather than nestling here in Derbyshire. But cometh the hour, cometh the man (or in this case beloved lady) in the form of Hilary Johnson who rescued our Club's pride by taking the W20 championship after coming second on the JW5L course.

The Chatsworth malaise loosened its grip slightly for the JK individual events with Matt Dickinson (M18), John Duckworth (M35), Sal Chaffey (W35) Liz Godfree (W55) and Pauline Ward (W55) all making the top 10 of their respective classes. Liz did particularly well on day 1, taking second place only 18 seconds behind the winner. But our real success came in the relay where Liz Godfree, Pauline Ward and Jen Gale won the W165+ class. Our beloved ladies do it again!!

So to the British! First, the individual event, where Liz Godfree yet again took second place in W55. And John Hawkins joined John Duckworth and Sal Chaffey in taking top 10 placings in M40, M35 and W35 respectively. The Club also had several good results in the British Relay with the DVO Sub-atomic M/W12- team taking 7<sup>th</sup> place (Simon Wright, Thomas Wright & Alex Whitehead); the DVO Mercury M45 team taking 5<sup>th</sup> place (Graham Johnson, Robert Shooter & John Hurley); DVO Chromium M40 team taking 4<sup>th</sup> place (Andy Jackson, Steve Kimberley & Ian Whitehead) and the DVO Silver M/W55+ team taking 3<sup>rd</sup> place (Doug Dickinson, Derek Gale & Liz Godfree). At last our chaps got a bit of a look in!

So coming up next are the Club Champs; the Scottish 6 days; DVO summer series, and a host of club & badge events, not to mention forays into foreign parts.

It looks like another busy summer.

**Robert Shooter, DVO Chair**

## **The Confidence Trick**

High Dam. Control 10. Trees. Thick and prickly, going on for ever and ever and ever. Aaaaaaargh!

The only thing that broke the monotony of spikey pine needles and rocky ridges in the whole twenty minutes was a flash of blue and yellow as Derek Gale ran past.

They tell me, though, that the nightmares will become less haunting in time. [That's nightmares of those young thickly planted and very prickly trees going on for ever and ever and ever, and not nightmares of Derek ...who I suspect will be pleased to hear that he has yet to feature in the dark depths of my anguished slumbers.]

Yes. I bodged number 10. Big time. This is becoming a habit. I stay very acceptably clean for more than nine tenths of every course, and then make one nice big bodge to spoil it all.

What's going on? Maybe I've been doing too much, taking it too seriously, and need a break. And maybe having made a few blunders, occasional but big, my confidence has been battered.

Confidence matters. My suspicion is that it matters much, much more than specific technical actions like aiming off, traffic lighting or pace counting.

Everybody makes mistakes. It's how you deal with them that counts. You can get out of a mess more easily, even out of seemingly endless forests of prickly young pine, if you feel deep down that you know what you are doing. It's only

when you lose that feeling that you run [or fight through pine needles] in crazy circles hoping that the control will pop up sooner or later.

There has to be a coaching message in here somewhere. Maybe we need to ease up on the techniques and work more on the positive thinking. Some of us, aspiring to maturity and machismo, are maybe a bit too dismissive of all this newfangled psychobabble stuff. Tuh! Just for wimps and crazy Californians, we say. But self-belief matters.

And it could be that there's a message for o-club culture, too. Conscious as we are that our clubmates are our sometime competitors, we can be unsupportive of each other. Can we, should we, as a club help each other to improve performance through improved self-belief? There are always the cocky so-and-soes who never experience Control 10 crises of confidence, of course, but I suspect that most of us would benefit.

What am I saying here? It sounds a bit like, Hey, man, let's be nice to each other'. Well that could be hard work, what with lifelong habits to break, but if it has a purpose it might be worth a try.

In the meantime, while the whole-body pine needle rash clears and the nightmares become less frequent you're not going to find me in a forest. I'll try to work on confidence by remembering the best runs. Then there's a test coming up in the form of the Scottish 6 day. I'll be fine as long as there are no pine trees.

Dave Brodie

## **Whatstandwell Fun Run** – Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> June 2003

This annual event is organised by DVO members John and Ann-Marie Duckworth and, this year, does not clash with anything else significant (apart from the Junior Inter-Regionals) so there should be no excuse not to have a healthy DVO representation. Registration is from 2 pm for a 2.30 pm start. The Start is from 3 Acres, near Toplane/ Hindersitch Lane Junction, up from Glen Road, Whatstandwell. There is only limited parking near the event; I usually park at the station and walk up. Entry is free, and the event is a feature of the village fete, with all that that phrase conjures up, including cream teas.

## **DVO Shop**

Just to remind those who haven't spotted the new DVO O tops. We have a stock of new tops – ordinary (£15) and all mesh (£18) – with the name of the Club in full and GBR on the back. I'm getting some more made so will have all adult sizes in the next couple of weeks. I will be at the Club Champs but if you want anything for holidays, please give me a ring. We also have a stock of DVO red biro's for 30p each.

## Dave Bennett – City Slicker

Does terrain described as "Complex city centre streets and snickleways, ruined abbeys, statues, rivers and bridges, parks with crags, and lots of tourists" sound interesting? It did to me, so on 11 May, I ran in the 3rd York city centre park race.

Starting on the riverside path, across the River Ouse from the centre of the city, the first control is also on the riverside path, on the corner of a building. Or is it? Running under Lendal Bridge, there's a large building ahead, but no control on the corner. There's also a building between the path and the river, and the control is actually on the other side of this building. It's not on the riverside path at all, but on a narrow ledge between building and river. This misreading of the map on the way to the first control slightly disorients me, so I weave between walled-in flower beds instead of continuing straight along the riverside, but easily find the slipway with control 2 at the bottom.

Inland now, an alley alongside a medieval building leads me to control 3 at the back corner of the building. Out of the alley onto the streets, a junction where five roads converge is York's equivalent of Star Posts, and I turn down a street of terraced houses. The street is a dead-end, but control 4 is in the alley between the back yards of the houses. Continuing down the alley and across a road, I have to climb a wall - there's no obvious crossing point - to get to the foot of a steep, grassy embankment. Control 5 is at the top of the embankment, at the foot of the city wall.

Next I need to get up onto the city wall path, but here the wall is too high to climb onto. Further along there is a foothold I can use whilst I pull myself up onto the wall, only to go down the next set of steps to control 6, within thickets at the base of the city wall. Through the streets again, and in a different direction through the junction of five roads, control 7 is another thicket, this one on an office forecourt.

Across Ouse Bridge into the centre of the city, at first I miss the alley between busy shops which leads to control 8, at the junction with another alley. Now through the open market, but I am confused by the muddle of alleys, buildings and unmapped market stalls, and can re-locate in the Shambles only because I have been there as a tourist. Control 9 is 'north tunnel' - where an alley passes beneath the first floor of a building - and I must take care not to run through a shop doorway which looks similar to a tunnel entrance. I continue to the end of the Shambles and into another tunnel with control 10 at the far end. (What is the IOF symbol for a tunnel?)

There is route choice to control 11, and I choose to follow the streets, although the alleys are probably the shorter route, and have to climb a wall to reach the control. Back along the Shambles and through the open market, I am confused again, but re-locate in a public square. Control 12 is 'road' and is in front of a building half way down the next street. At the end of the street is a control minder, for unlike DVO's more informal street events, EBOR are using

electronic punching here, so every vulnerable control is being watched over from a discreet distance.

I have two choices for getting around the library and choose the road to its right. But as I run along the road, I realise it is mapped as dead end - which sure enough it is. Later I'm told that the high wooden gate at the end could be climbed. Once around the other side of the library, I'm into the ruins of St Mary's Abbey. Control 13 is in a small part of the ruin which is still roofed, so is described as 'building, inside'. In Museum Gardens, a man wheeling a stack of chairs has to pause as I run through his cafe's outdoor seating area to control 14. Are you're normally allowed to run across the grass, I wonder as I find control 15 in a clump of ornamental trees. And I certainly wouldn't have trodden on the rock garden if control 16 had not been in this 'stony ground'.

Next is a longer leg along alleys leading out of the city centre, and suddenly I'm through a school gateway. Bike shed straight ahead - control 17 must be to the left - a token tree in the concrete of the school courtyard. Weave around the school buildings, ahead is a low hedge backed by two high fences - I can see other runners punching control 18 in the narrow gap between the two fences. But how to get it? The runner in front leads me to the left to get around the end of the first fence and into the gap. Now a clear run across the playing fields - except for a double row of hedges - the gate through the first hedge is easy to see, but I can't see the way through the next hedge. I go to the left but the runners already crossing the next field must have found a way through to the right. A quick look at the map confirms I'm also heading towards a gate.

At the far end of the playing fields, a nettle-infested area contains controls 19 & 20. Paths are starting to be trampled through the nettles, but I still need to concentrate as one of the paths leads to a control which isn't on my course. I'm not caught out, but some people are. The way out of the nettles is through what looks like someone's garden, but its unfenced so I don't care. Control 21 is on a concrete bunker atop an embankment - perhaps a flood defence - which crosses the playing fields, and now it's just a sprint to the finish on the other side of the river.

The next bridge is a railway bridge, but I'm not looking at the map now - I've walked along the riverside before and can remember that there is a footbridge adjoining the railway. On the narrow bridge a couple stop to let me pass, and at the far end a woman with a camera stands aside. She could be a tourist, but is more likely the official photographer, because sometime later she is standing by the finish line. Whichever, I escape being photographed and finish the enjoyable run in just 35 minutes 30 seconds for 5.6k, 7 minutes slower than the winning time.

**David Bennett**

## When Is a Depression Not a Depression?

The glib answer to this might be when it's at an LEI event, but there's more to it than that. (Anyone who's been bored witless by my trials and tribulations at Bradgate, feel free to skip this bit).

So there I was, recovering from a vile bout of involuntary corporeal explosions at the JK, trying to keep out of trouble, seeing how the other half lives and moseying round a Green at Bradgate Park. The course was meandering towards an uneventful conclusion when I came upon the last but three control. Possibly lulled into a false sense of security, I hadn't actually bothered to check what I was looking for. I headed in the general direction of a group of rocks and depressions.

There I found Tony Donaldson (of NOC) scratching his head and pronouncing the control as nicked. I glanced at my control descriptions and saw I was looking for a depression. We both stood betwixt two such depressions, neither of which contained a control. A number of options crammed themselves into my brain like pensioners at post office opening time on a Thursday. Tony Donaldson is an experienced orienteer. I could spend a few minutes searching for the control. Or I could rely on his judgement, continue on to the end and warn the planner. The last option involved least time and I took it.

It was only at the Finish that it was pointed out to me that the IOF symbol I was looking for (unusually LEI were using these for a colour-coded event) was a 'U', which is a small depression, whereas the two depressions I had been looking at were both large depressions. These have a completely separate symbol. The control hadn't been nicked at all, it was in a small depression to the NW of the first two.

It struck me that the depression is the only orienteering feature which has a separate IOF symbol depending on its size, which is strange when you consider how much the size of, say, crags vary.

My annoyance can easily be imagined, not only at myself for having been taken in but also at Tony Donaldson for (unintentionally) duping me in the first place. And there was more than a little resentment reserved for the planner too. I don't think either of us would have made the same mistake if the depression had been described as NW Depression. Whilst the purist could point out that this is strictly speaking incorrect, it still seems to me perverse to ignore the two adjacent depressions purely on the basis of their size.

There is a sting in this particular tail. The one crumb of comfort I took away from the event was that, at least when the results came out, I would not be alone in having made a pillock of myself. Well, blow me, what did I find when they were published, but Tony Donaldson near the top of the Green course, and me in splendid isolation in the bargain bin at the bottom. Which means, either LEI missed his error, or he found the control that he - and I - were looking for, after I'd left! That man has a lot to answer for.

## Not for the youngsters!

Probably many of you, like me, don't look at the rankings too avidly knowing that we'll be lingering in the lower reaches. That was until they split the Long and Short, giving those of us with little time or inclination to train, together with recurrent illness or injury, the opportunity to at least be competitive in the Short courses. So, since moving up to M50S last year I have found myself in the top 10 or so of the rankings, giving me something to aim at to maintain or even improve that position.

And now there's the Masters Cup Competition, for all classes MW35+ and based on a series of major events such as BOC, JK and Nationals. I was vaguely aware of the existence of the cup, but it was only when Alex Ross told me I was leading my class that I thought to go and look up the ranking list on the web. And there it was! I was top of M50S with 4189 points compared with 3922 by my nearest rival. Admittedly only three of us had scored from four events but it goes to show that turning up to the major events and performing reasonably well can see you right up there in the rankings.

Other top 10 places so far this year are John Duckworth (10<sup>th</sup> in M35L), Brian Ward (9<sup>th</sup> in M55S – shouldn't he be in M65S?), Doug Dickinson (10<sup>th</sup> in M55S), Anne Kimberley (5<sup>th</sup> in W40S), Liz Godfree (2<sup>nd</sup> in W55L) and Pauline Ward (3<sup>rd</sup> in W55L).

Out of curiosity I then went back to last years' results and discovered that I had finished second, only 26 points behind the winner and over 150 points ahead of the third place. Other top 10 places last year were John Duckworth (4<sup>th</sup> in M35L), Steve Buckley (5<sup>th</sup> in M55L), Doug Dickinson (2<sup>nd</sup> in M55S), Brian Ward (6<sup>th</sup> in M65S), Anne-Marie Duckworth (8<sup>th</sup> in W35L), Anne Kimberley (3<sup>rd</sup> in W40S), Evelyn Ross (9<sup>th</sup> in W45S), Liz Godfree (3<sup>rd</sup> in W50L) and Pauline Ward (2<sup>nd</sup> in W55L).

You will notice a few names here that don't normally feature in the BOF rankings but who, through attending the major events, put in some consistent performances over the year. And, whilst it may be meaningless to most people, it again gives a little harmless fun to those of us (well me, anyway) who are never going to win anything in the normal course of events but who like to compete at the larger national events as well as locally.

Ranald Macdonald



**Are you interested in money?**

Would you like to have a look into the Club accounts?

There's an opportunity for someone to certify the Club accounts. This needs to be done around the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> week of September. Further details can be obtained from John Hopper (01332 703830).



## **Letter to the Editor**

Dear Sir,

I refer to your comments in the last issue of Newstrack, concerning control 14 on the M45L course at Sherwood Pines (Control 155) and wish to make the following points:

1. This control was in an area of walk (not fight). The vegetation consisted of young deciduous trees, closely planted, with visibility better than runnability. I have been in much worse places.
2. The purpose of having a control in this sort of area is to test the competitor's ability to adapt their pace and technique appropriately.
3. The control was located 25 m from the best attack point, which was the corner of the embankment in the clearing to the NE. I checked this carefully and am satisfied that the control feature is mapped correctly. I also checked that it was correct relative to the depression to the SW.
4. The clearing to the NE has a rounded end with no distinct corner shown on the map. Your attempt to use a 'clearing corner' as an attack point was therefore inauspicious.

**John Hurley, Controller, Sherwood Pines Badge Event**

- My first thought was to deliver a devastating riposte, grabbing each point by the throat, grappling it to the floor and pulverising it into submission. My second thought was: who on earth would be interested? I went with my second thought.

Still Newstrack always welcomes correspondence, insulting or complimentary. Maybe one day, it will get some of the latter.

## **Long Distance Footpath Run - Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> September**

This year's traditional kmfest reverts to its original birthplace and becomes the Three Trigs Run. Starting from the Bear, at Alderwasley, it will scale the respective heights of Alport Heights, Crich Stand and Black Rocks before returning from when it came, a distance of 15 miles-ish (a plodder like me can just about scrape inside 3 hours for the distance). As ever, I imagine, there will be three starting groups: the casual at 8.30am, the comfortable at 9.00am and the smartish at 9.30am.

## Carsington Pastures Closed Club Event and Picnic Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2003

DVO will be holding a club event on Carsington Pastures on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2003 at which the Club Senior and Junior Champions will be decided. Three courses will be available and all club members are eligible to take part. The courses are:

Junior	- Yellow standard 1.9Km + 50m climb
Medium	- approximately 3.7Km + 120m climb
Long	- approximately 6.1Km + 190m climb

The event will follow the format of previous years, being a handicapped competition such that all competitors should finish at the same time. The senior championship trophy will be awarded to the first finisher on either the long or medium course whilst the junior trophy is awarded to the first junior to finish on the junior course.

Competitor start times are chosen by the organiser on the basis of "all known form, plus or minus a bit of luck". First starts will be from 10.30. Arrive early to check your start time which I will also try to publicise on the web beforehand.

The event will use SI electronic punching. If you don't have your own SI card DVO can lend you one for this event. Pre-marked maps will be provided.

Bring along your picnic and join the "social in the sun" (unless it's raining, in which case the picnic will be in Brassington church hall GR SK232545).

Dogs must remain in cars.

Pre enter before Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July to Robert Shooter 0115 9233945 or e-mail:- shooterfamily@hotmail.com

With: Your Name  
Course (Junior, Medium or Long)  
Class  
SI Card number (or whether you need to borrow one)

Car Parking will be SK244547.

Travel directions; - Take B5035 West from B5023 at Wirksworth Market Place (SK286540). After 350m (whilst still going up hill and just leaving Wirksworth's outskirts) take right turn onto minor road signed Brassington. Continue for 1.2km to T junction. Turn right then immediately left. The car park is a further 3km on the left.

(NB I am not taking part this year so the competition is wide open - Ed)

# CALLING ALL JUNIORS 1

An event for you.

## A LOCAL EVENT INCORPORATING DERBYSHIRE SCHOOLS ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Date:** Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2003

**Venue:** Shipley Country Park, Heanor Derbyshire.  
(Car Park charge 50p in honesty box)

**Registration:** 9.30 – 11.00

**Start Times:** 10.30 – 12.00 (Courses will close at 1.30pm)

**Cost:** £2 Adults £1 Juniors (includes SI hire)

**Courses:** All courses are entry on the day only.  
Electronic Punching will be used for the event, the cost of SI hire is included in the entry fee; lost SI cards charged at £17.

<u>Course</u>	<u>BOF Colour Coded Standard</u>	<u>School Champs Year Group</u>
A	White	Non-competitive for pairs, shadowing, coaching
B	White	Years 5 and 6
C	Yellow	Years 7 and 8
D	Orange	Years 9 and 10
E	Light Green	Years 11, 12 and 13
F	Score	Not Applicable

This event is open to all juniors as long as you go to a school in Derbyshire. You don't have to be a member of DVO, all we ask is that you have completed an off school site course applicable to your age group. Why not come along? There are prizes for the first 3 girls and boys on Courses B – E, all competitors on Course A get a certificate. There is a team prize too, requiring 6 from the same school to score on Courses B – E.

**Planner:** Mike Godfree

**Organiser:** Val Johnson 01773 824754 or E-mail gmjandfam@aol.com

**Safety:** All courses are planned to BOF guidelines. **All orienteers of all ages welcome; this is not an exclusively junior event.**

Competitors take part at their own risk. Parents and Team Leaders are responsible for making sure that competitors enter a course that is suitable for their age and ability.

## CALLING ALL JUNIORS 2

Another event just for you.

### YVETTE BAKER TROPHY ROUND 1.

This year two heats have been combined so we are to travel to Scunthorpe for East Midlands v Yorkshire & Humberside v North East

SUNDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2003

Yellow	Any M/W10	+ M/W12-14 who has not achieved level 3 gold badge
Orange	Any M/W12	+M/W14+ who has not achieved level 4 gold badge
Light Green	Any M/W14	+M/W16+ who has not achieved level 4/5 gold badge
Green	Any	

Pairs may compete on the yellow but neither may have achieved gold standard or yellow standard. I will be sent a list of juniors who have achieved the gold standard.

We will be entering a team, please contact Val if you would like to come along so that transport can be arranged.

## CALLING ALL JUNIORS 3

Congratulations to DVO juniors who have been selected to represent East Midlands region at the Inter-Regional Champs on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> June on Cannock Chase:

Matthew Dickinson  
Kate Johnson  
Amy Spencer  
Erin Malley  
Teige Malley

**Chatsworth Badge Event** £600 of the money generated by the Chatsworth event will be donated by DVO to 'Helen's Trust' or the Helen Louise Lyon Trust to give it its full name. This aims to fund the extra care needed to enable anyone living in the Hope Valley with cancer to be cared for at home in the terminal phase of their illness. We have received a letter from a trustee of the trust thanking DVO for its donation, and these thanks are passed on to everyone who took part and contributed to the success of the event.

## **Barbecue Bonanza**

If you were wondering when the present spell of fine weather is due to end, a hot tip is probably the weekend of 12-14<sup>th</sup> July because, as the DVO social whirl hits its stride, the club offers you not one but **two** barbecues in three days. Both are open to all members, but the respective organisers will I'm sure welcome a telephone call in advance to warn of your intentions:

**Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> July:** John and Joy Hopper, 44 South Avenue, Chellaston, Derby DE73 1RS 01332 702830  
From 3.00pm onwards.

**Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> July:** Viv and Ranald Macdonald, The Beeches, Sitch Lane, Oker, Matlock DE4 2JP 01629 734307  
From 7.00pm onwards.

Bring food, drink and barbecue.

## **Awards For All**

Last year the Club won an Awards For All grant from the Lottery for £2,000 towards more computer equipment, display notice boards and our own generator. I had to submit a year end report and you may be interested in the following extract:-

"The IT equipment has meant that we can process entries and results much faster at events than we could before. We can give split times between controls to participants, which is very helpful from a training point of view.

One of most successful days was the Derbyshire Adventure Youth Games in June last year when we had nearly 600 young people trying orienteering – many for the first time. This would not have been possible without the extra equipment. Derbyshire County Council made a video of the day, featuring two of the sports, orienteering and sailing.

Our target for numbers at events using electronic punching was exceeded – 3,009 compared to the target of 2,400. We also ran other events which did not use electronic punching but which increased the participation rate in the sport – these (small events, summer league and street orienteering) attracted a total of 921 participants".

**Viv Macdonald**

## Wednesday Evening Summer Runs

As usual during the summer school holidays we give our normal hosts a break from having Thursday breakfast with the smell of sweaty socks. And we start with a special event.

**Wednesday July 17<sup>th</sup>.** Crich Market Place, 7:15 p.m. mass start. This year with new questions that Margaret Keeling doesn't know the answers to! A one hour path and street score event in Crich and its environs. 50p charge for maps. It's amazing how a circuit of Crich Chase still leaves time to spare to visit Fritchley in your hour.

**24<sup>th</sup> July.** From the Malleys' at Wetton. Start at 7:30 to allow for the longer drive. Park by the toilets in Wetton and walk up to the house.

**31<sup>st</sup> July.** Meet at Black Rocks picnic site car park. 7 p.m. or somewhere on the Moray Firth.

**6<sup>th</sup> August.** Ross's, 51 Yokecliffe Drive, Wirksworth. Turn up Sumner Lane from the mini roundabout on the road out of Wirksworth towards Derby.

For following weeks see the web site for the delights of Mickleover and Ilkeston amongst others.

## Summer Series 2003

### A series of informal orienteering events for all abilities

**Courses: Yellow, Orange, Light Green & a Challenge**

**20<sup>th</sup> June Ashbourne Town Park & Street 'O'**  
Parking signed from A515 west of town centre **SK 183468**

**27<sup>th</sup> June Drum Hill, north of Derby SK 374418**  
Parking at the scout campsite, signed from B6179 in Little Eaton

**11<sup>th</sup> July Crich Chase SK 346536**  
Parking signed off B5035 between Crich & Whatstandwell

**18<sup>th</sup> July Bottom Moor, NE of Matlock SK 324632**  
Parking at Eddlestow picnic site, signed from A632, SW of Slack

### All events are Friday evenings.

starts 6.30 to 7.30pm

**Entry fee : Seniors £1 Juniors 50p**

For more information contact Michelle Mackervoy (01332) 557892

## **Odds and Sods At Large**

**Lost Property** Brian and Pauline Ward found a red, black and grey golf umbrella left in the DVO tent at the British Relay championships at Grenoside. If anyone wants to claim it, please telephone 01773 850272.

**White Rose Relays** Brian and Pauline are also appealing for a third member to make up a relay team at the White Rose Relays, Low North Park, on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> August. If anyone is interested and going to this event, can they please phone the number above.

(As an aside, I can remember a time when you could be guaranteed twenty or thirty DVO orienteers at the White Rose, and relay teams were organised in advance as for the JK and British. It used to be an automatic feature in my personal calendar, but I have not been for several years and have lost touch with DVO representation there. My enthusiasm for the event was gradually eroded a succession of events on poor terrain and in ferocious vegetation until I'd had enough, so I now find something better to do with my Bank Holiday. Perhaps someone could tell me if I'm missing anything.)

**Don't Try this at Home** In the latest Spanish thriller, Intacto – and I hardly need tell you this, because I know you'll have seen it already – a game is played involving all contestants being blindfolded and having their hands tied behind their backs, before running through a forest. The winner is the last one not to run headfirst into a tree. Is this what Mike Godfree means by a Spanish Score event? Maybe it could be adapted as a Challenge course for a future Summer Series. Maybe not.

**The Way they See Us** Rex Bleakman tells me that he recently entered a non-orienteering event, the Edale Skyline, and put his club down as DVO. The organiser was strangely ignorant of the delights of orienteering. You can imagine him scratching his head to try to understand this strange acronym. Eventually realising that it meant absolutely nothing, he concluded it must be some sort of mistake and put down the nearest abbreviation that made sense to him. Consequently Rex ran as a member of DVLA! I suppose that's what you call artistic licence.

**Relay Riddle** Mike Godfree recounts a recent tale of an M50 who'd entered an M165 team at the JK Relays but found himself let down by his two M55 colleagues. His desperate pleas resulted in the recruitment of an M21 to his cause - which only left him with the problem of finding an M90 to make up the numbers.

**Midgwatch** Longstanding readers of Newstrack will be aware of my interest, some would say obsession, with all things midge-related. This subject is particularly apposite as the spectre of seven days spent being eaten alive in the Scottish Highlands looms with its biennial regularity. Well, at last salvation may be at hand for those of us particularly susceptible to having lumps torn out of them by the little critters. I read that an Edinburgh scientist has developed the Midgeater, a five foot tall device, fuelled by bottled gas,

which creates a mix of carbon dioxide and naturally occurring chemicals to mimic human or animal breath designed to attract the orienteer's nemesis and suck it helpless into a bag. If you see me struggling around Lossiemouth with a strange-looking five foot tall contraption strapped to my back, you'll know that I've forked out the estimated £1000.00 which this gadget is expected to cost. It's a snip.

## Sports Personalities of the Month

There have been slim pickings on the SPOTM front in recent times as DVO has contrived to behave itself sensibly. I blame the Annual Dinner which serves as a reminder to everyone that their slightest diversion from the straight and narrow will be highlighted and held up for general derision. As orienteering hits its stride with the British following hard on the heels of the JK, DVO has dropped its collective guard and provided us with a rich crop of faux pas which look very much like the following:

You have to feel sorry for **Kathryn Schofield**. It was only a year ago that she featured in this very spot when she not only picked up the wrong map at the JK, but managed to run round a whole course with it before she realised. This year she was determined not to make the same mistake. She carefully memorised the correct course and made her way to the Start on Day 1. Unfortunately so intense had been her concentration on committing the right course to memory, she'd neglected to pay attention to other vital details, and turned up at Day 2's start time.

Interrupted runs feature next for **Dave Chaffey** and the **Wright Brothers** (who, trivia fans, will be celebrating the centenary of the first manned flight on 17<sup>th</sup> December this year). The former was forced to make accelerated use of the Portaloo in the Finish field partway through what would otherwise, I'm sure, have been a stunning run, as a result, he confesses, of over-consumption of isotonic drink, a side effect of which I was not previously aware. Meanwhile, the longer courses had a spectator control in the Finish field served by a refreshment point. This was also adjacent to the run-in to the final control. Neither Thomas nor Simon lost a moment in deciding that the few seconds remaining before liquid replenishment awaited them at the Finish was just too long to wait and snuck a crafty drink. Next time, boys, make sure it's not in full view of everybody.

But the winners by some distance this month, and possibly the first husband and wife joint winners, are husband and wife team, **Brian and Pauline Ward**, who dutifully downloaded the control descriptions for the British, and shortly before the event, printed them off from their computer. They even managed to print off the courses for their age class, but it was only when they'd begun their runs that they realised the courses were those from a previous Walton Chasers National event! Spectacular.