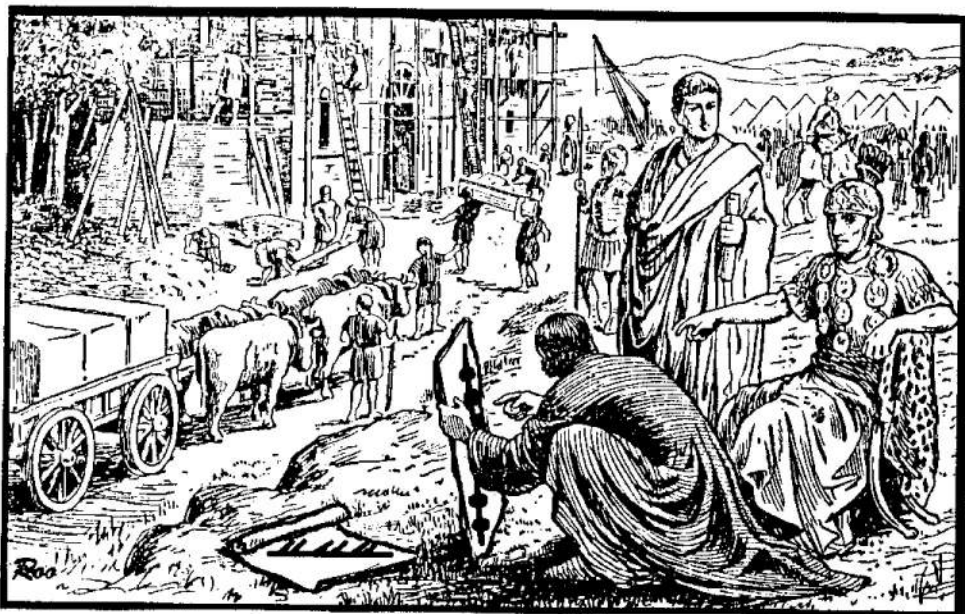


NEWSTRACK

OCTOBER 2000



Great Moments from the Orienteering Archives

No. 1: Hadrian decides on a stone wall, in preference to a high fence.

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

NEWSTRACK is on the Net on the DVO website @
<http://www.skimber.demon.co.uk/orient/dvo/newstrac/newstrac.html>

Newstrack Cover Competition

Those readers with long memories will remember a Kate-inspired competition to design a new-style Newstrack cover. The joint winners (well, the only entries actually) were Mike Godfree whose sweaty suggestion has already been featured and Andy Mackervoy whose entry appears this issue. In fact Andy can supply an apparently endless series of these - he has 340 of them on his computer, so there may be future Orienteering through the Ages covers. (I have just calculated that this will take us through to at least 2056). Who needs Ernie Williams? Thanks to Andy and Mike.

Thoughts from the Chair

Just a few comments this time and then my annual report to the AGM is reproduced elsewhere.

I've personally not done any orienteering since the summer evening event at Carsington Pastures in mid-July. Since then we have moved house (not a relaxing experience!), I've been to conferences in Germany and Sweden, and then worked in Sri Lanka for a couple of weeks during which Viv had a good holiday and I had a few day's break. All of this has seriously affected my time for running - so circuit training came as a serious shock a couple of weeks ago. However, in a masochistic sort of way I know it is good for me!

Details of the organisers' seminar on 25 November appear elsewhere in Newstrack. Mike Godfree and I hope to see a good number of new and experienced organizers there as I'm sure we all have something to learn. Our events are well organised but we mustn't become complacent about it, so sharing ideas, experiences and information will be useful.

East Midlands Orienteering Association has won lottery money to purchase an electronic punching system and we will be trying this out at the local event at Drum Hill in December prior to its use at our Badge Event at Shining Cliff in February.

Congratulations to Matthew Dickinson on being selected for the under-16 'B' tour to Glenmore in the summer. I'm sure we will see a report from Matthew soon (it's actually a condition of the Club providing financial support!) as we look forward to reading about his experiences on the tour. No doubt his results will show remarkable improvements during the autumn.

The Three Dales run saw 23 intrepid runners take part in the 15-17 mile (depending on whether they got a lift back from Haddon Hall) trip round Stanton Moor, Robin Hood's Stride, Bradford and Lathkill Dales and finishing at Rowsley for lunch in the Grouse and Claret. The weather was misty but dry and everyone

seemed to 'enjoy' it. My excuse for not running was that someone had to provide the drinks points!

Finally, my thanks to the 45+ who turned up for the AGM on such a foul evening. It was good to see so many there and to hear that our Club membership numbers are going up slightly, compared with the downward trend in the country. I am sure that the health of the Club is built on the variety of events we put on as part of our Development Plan and the reputation we are getting as being a 'family' club.

My particular thanks to Debbie Wilkinson for her time as Treasurer and welcome back to John Hopper who has agreed to fill the post for the third time! Thanks also to the rest of the Committee who have agreed to stand again for another year.

Ranald Macdonald

Chair, Derwent Valley Orienteers

Chair's Report to Annual General Meeting, 27 September 2000

I would like to welcome everyone here tonight for our Annual General Meeting. It's good to see so many of you here, particularly so many who are new to the Club. This is my second report as Chair of the Club and I am pleased to report another successful year.

The past year has seen the club actively involved in all national and local events, with relay teams entered for the British, JK, Scottish Championships and, most recently, the Harvester. The format of the Compass Sport cup saw our early exit, coming 3rd out of 8, but at least it does avoid the previous difficulties with agreeing appropriate fixtures for the competition.

I have referred to noteworthy performances in my articles in Newstrack but it is worth reminding ourselves of a few of them. At the British Championships there was a win by Doug Dickinson (following his third place at the JK), second for Kathryn Schofield and third for Liz Smith (a winner at the JK). There was an excellent win in the Women's short relay by Sal Chaffey, Ann-Marie Duckworth and Karen Jackson, and a very creditable second place in the W50 for Judy Buckley, Liz Godfree and Margaret Keeling.

Doug Dickinson also won the Club Championships in June, with Ben Humphris taking the junior trophy. We also had nine class winners at the East Midlands Championships in January and a number of good results at Nationals around the country.

Kim Buckley continues to be a regular member of the British Squad in the World Cup events. I would also like to welcome her back to the club after her brief sojourn north of the border.

The club has continued to put on a regular programme of Colour-Coded, local, summer evening and night events. Our local events continue to attract a reasonable number of youngsters and newcomers and are an important part of the Club's development activities. My particular thanks go to Val Johnson and Mike Godfree for their continued efforts in putting on so many events and arranging for helpers. Mike has also continued the momentum in mapping new areas and setting up permanent courses.

Thanks also to Viv Macdonald in her role as Publicity Officer as we have attracted quite a bit of publicity for our events this year and must continue to do so to attract new members.

A highlight of the year was the introduction of circuit training at the Derbyshire police headquarters on alternate Friday evenings during the winter. A group of 20 or so regulars have been putting themselves through the tortures that Paddy, our instructor, manages to think up for us. Funny how James Allen always seems to be on duty for those Fridays!

The East Midlands Orienteering Association has won lottery funding to purchase electronic punching. We hope to trial this at Drum Hill in December prior to using it at the Badge event at Shining Cliff in February.

My thanks also to the others on the Committee who I have not mentioned but give up the second Wednesday in each month to sit through exciting discussions about the Club Development Plan and the goings on at the East Midlands Committee. In addition they have their roles to do with finances, equipment, fixtures, etc. to carry out. We redrafted the Club Development Plan during the year and established good working relations with Pete Coddington, the Outdoor Recreation Development Officer for Derbyshire. This also resulted in us putting on an orienteering event at the Derbyshire Millennium Youth Games at Osmaston Park, which attracted several hundred children.

Social events this year included the dinner and weekend at Hartington Youth Hostel with the accompanying ritual humiliation of the Sports Personalities of the Year and other awards. Thanks again to Val for organising the weekend. The dinner next year will be on 10 March, probably at Wirksworth Town Hall, though it is likely to be just a meal cooked by the club. We also had a bowling evening and the October weekend abroad was to Venice. This year we are off to Madrid. A weekend at Centre Parcs is also forthcoming.

Congratulations also to Ann-Marie and John Duckworth on their marriage and to Roz and Andy Clayton on being made life members of the Club.

And finally, I would like to thank you all for coming here this evening, for volunteering or having your arm twisted to help at events, and urge you all to continue the same for the coming year.

Thank you.

Ranald Macdonald

Chair, Derwent Valley Orienteers

Dave Bennett Goes Mountain Bike Orienteering

Plas y Brenin – 9th August 2000

I started Croeso 2000 recovering from an injury to my right shin. After three consecutive days of M21L, my shin was still getting better but at the expense of my left knee, which squealed with pain whenever I was moving or sitting.

So it wasn't just that the Mountain Bike-O Long course was described as having "best technical track descents" that persuaded us (my team mate was Kerina Stamp from Walton Chasers) to choose the Short course – I also needed to keep myself in one piece for the following two days orienteering. And cycling is my unlucky sport, as those at this year's Hartington Bike-O may remember.

The Short course was about 10km and used a 1:20 000 version of the O-map of Cefndeuddwr. Cycle-able tracks were suitably emphasised which made it obvious that there weren't actually that many cycle-able tracks. Registration left a lot to be desired: at that speed the average colour coded event would go on until midnight. The final requirement of the event – that it should be raining the whole time – came as we were waiting to start.

The course confirmed that the area was lacking a decent network of cycle-able tracks – at first glance I naively thought that it didn't offer any route choice, and some legs didn't even include a proper decision point. Uncharitably I wonder whether cyclists are interested in navigation. But cycling does of course offer its own challenges, and I was soon learning how to slow down without losing control whilst going downhill over a surface of loose stones.

After a couple of straightforward controls we came across a lost walker, who next time will know better than to ask an orienteer. "I think my map is about 10 years old" he explained. I didn't like to say that it looked like a considerably older one-inch-to-the-mile map. I managed to make my O-map fit his map and enlightened him accordingly, to which he unfolded his map and I realised that my O-map fitted better another part of his map... I'm sure he would have got to

Dolgellau in the end.

Pedalling on, we turned off a surfaced track onto a rocky uphill track, where I felt that sooner or later I would have to get off and push, assuming of course that my knee didn't just give up completely. But to my amazement I used the gears appropriately, so despite obstacles such as cyclists on the long course going in the opposite direction, and trees and undergrowth brushing against me on both sides, I kept going and eventually the gradient eased. And so perhaps the worst was over?

Having got the climb out of the way there were some long descents to enjoy. Except the combination of ever-heavier rain and spray from the tyres was stinging my eyes so much that I couldn't bear to keep them open all the time, with a consequent lessening of speed and confidence, which didn't seem to be affecting Kerina as she raced ahead of me and out of sight until the next control.

The ninth and final control was the only one at which we considered a route choice. It was either along the forest track and onto the main road (easy but boring) or down a footpath (more interesting). If I had been map reading at this point, I would have taken us down to the main road without even considering the footpath, but Kerina had the map and doesn't believe in having a dull life. Nor was she feeling injured. So it was off the nice, wide, relatively smooth forest track and onto a narrow rutted footpath with inconsiderately placed rocks. At this point I learnt another new technique in downhill cycling, which involved keeping both hands firmly on the brakes and neither foot anywhere near the pedals, to prevent further injury as the pedals suddenly stopped every time a rock was encountered. So it was, jolting and jarring, pedalling and pushing, going slowly enough to keep control without falling off, and all the time wary of over-exerting my knee, that I eventually got to the finish, much the wiser as to the true nature of mountain biking. And also to discover that the easy but boring route into the finish would have been far quicker – well we were there only for pleasure not success. I'm sure I'll do it again, but not until time has made the memories of this event less painful

Dave Bennett

Spotted in Derby Evening Telegraph, Wednesday, 11th October 2000.

Two pupils were threatened by two men with a knife during an orienteering lesson at Sinfin Community School, as a result of which there is a petition to properly fence the school and stop school activities drifting onto adjacent waste ground. The headmaster is "considering ceasing orienteering and cross country programmes in the light of this incident. (DB)

Liz Godfree in Colorad'O'

How do you prepare for 8 days of orienteering at 8000' above sea level and in temperatures of at least 80 degrees? It's easy really. You fly out 10 days early and walk up a few mountains. Two holidays for the price of one. On our first day a short walk at 12,000' confirmed that altitude acclimatisation is not a quick business. Over the next few days we climbed four 14,000' summits – Colorado has 54 of these, most of which are surprisingly accessible to the average fell-walker – and spent all our time above 7,000'. The whole of Colorado is higher than Scafell Pike.

Orienteering American style is very laid-back. Change of start-time is not only possible but positively encouraged. "Anyone want a Green start? – There's a gap now" If you warmed up properly and arrived at the start just in time you could well find that your time had been taken by someone else. A novel but fairly obvious idea for the Chasing Start to the Sprint race was for all competitors to line up beside their stub on the result string for the Prologue.

Mass start 9 a.m.? Well, it was a mass start, so it didn't really matter what time we set off, did it? The Americans seem to like mass starts for we had one for the Long Course Champs – Capricorn length courses. I latched on to a reliable navigator – Mike and I happen to run the same course in the States - (he had the audacity to lead me astray at the second control!) and then overtook him on the uphill section to the final control. He thought I was going too far left so veered right. By the time he reached the track I was already punching the final control.

How do you keep going in these conditions? Well drinks points crop up regularly at controls (the banner may be hung on the far side of the feature but the bottles of water on the approach side rather give it away). We ran with drinks belts containing 4 bottles of water or High-5, others carried Camelbacks. When you get to a drinks control it disconcerts the person running with you if he is not carrying fluid. Does he stop and drink and thereby lose you, or does he stick with you and face dying of dehydration on the next leg. For sustenance we carried jelly babies. Have you ever left a packet of jelly babies in the car for a week of intense heat? The resultant congealed mass looks rather like classroom plasticine but slices easily, is quite palatable and avoids the squabbles over who has the green ones!

The 5 day event culminated in a Chasing Start on the final day based on cumulative time behind the winner. Sadly, to our way of thinking, all the days were similar – straight running through open prairie interspersed with intricate wooded rocky areas or thick marshy re-entrants. This impression was compounded by planning that very rarely encouraged any route choice. On day 1 I navigated straight to 'BSK' instead of '34'. 18 minutes later Mike arrived at said control, looked inside and pulled out a number '34'. Reminiscent of an East

Midlands club that has one number on a plastic tube and another on the banner. If you looked closely all the controls had BSK or Blue Star Komplex on them.

My star turn of the holiday had to be in the Crystal Relay – a 5 man affair that had to have 2 members either not male or over 40 – I was in demand for once. Our Scottish team of Interlopers was just that – 1 Interloper, 1 ex-Interloper, 2 of us with family in Interlopers and a new Edinburgh graduate. Following a sermon preached by Mikell Platt, the mastermind of the whole event, on what might befall spectators who stepped outside the 'circle of doom' i.e. the hill-top assembly area, the 10:00 mass start took place at 10:15 and I set off on the short and easy first leg. With 2 M18s in the lead followed by the teenage girls I just gave my map a cursory glance and tried to keep up. Uphill to the finish was a killer and I still had to remember to pick up a map to hand over. I finished in 6th place at the back of the first pack and Stewart raced off over the prairie. In spite of an emergency stop (too well hydrated) he came back in first place. From the changeover mound we could follow the progress of the 20 teams as they criss-crossed over the open terrain. Ian and Mike maintained first place with an increasing lead so that Rob had five minutes on a Swiss lad. At one point he seemed to be gaining on Rob but we watched as he blew a control two-thirds of the way round. Never before have I been part of a triumphant team on the run-in – but it was near the top of the hill that we joined Rob. Our Smoky Quartz crystals are proudly displayed on the mantelpiece.

You will, of course, have noticed the T-shirts. And, no, I'm not going to say there was no competition. After all I did beat one of the U.S. team members from last year's World Champs. Mike's nearest rival in M50, only a minute or two behind after 5 days commented "beaten by two teenage girls and a damn Brit".

If you get the chance, go to the Rocky Mountain 1000 day. We had 8 days of orienteering in fast runnable terrain. The trees are widely spaced with very little undergrowth and no brushings. And all within reach of some superb mountain walking in the Rockies of Colorado and Wyoming, just a short drive from Denver International Airport.

Other highlights included:

- Superb thunderstorms – viewed from the motel window.
- Cowboys attempting to round up horses who were determined not to be corralled – hearts in mouth as the horses just missed out tent!
- Early morning call – crows, Canada geese and chattering squirrels each morning at our 1st campsite.
- Dial-a-Pizza delivered not by a callow youth wobbling along on his moped but by junior executive in Toyota MR2.
- The 'wake' which we gate-crashed, inadvertently, on the summit of Mount Yale – and they didn't even offer us a glass of champagne.
- The final night – using up the remaining food by cooking a meal on the frangia – in the motel bathroom!

James Allen in 'O'va Scotia

Following on from competing in the Ontario Orienteering Championships last autumn, I was lucky enough to be able to combine this year's trip to Canada with some orienteering in Nova Scotia

The Internet had revealed a 'point-to-point' event at Hells Gate, near Wolfville, a university town about 90mins north of Halifax. A brief email exchange with Maria Jacobs, the organiser, gave directions to the point at which signing would start. We duly arrived in the area and started following the signs. Unfortunately we appeared to have arrived before the person putting the signs out and having reached, unbeknown to us, the final turn, we sailed merrily past.

Now I seemed to remember reading something in the hire-car terms and conditions that use on un-metalled roads was prohibited, but being a firm believer in 'follow original course unless instructed otherwise', we ploughed straight on. And on. The tarmac ran out and the road got rougher and rougher. After about 15 minutes of this we thought it may be that we had missed a sign. Retracing our original route we saw the sign that hadn't been there on the way up, and arrived at our first Nova Scotian event.

We weren't really sure what to expect except that it would be on a smaller scale than an event at home. I should mention at this stage that it was raining in a biblical fashion, and I'm sure that this would have affected the attendance. In the end only nine competitive units took part. They were divided into three courses, novice, intermediate and advanced.

In for a penny in for a pound, it was the advanced or nothing. This 7km course rotated around the assembly area through some, it has to be said, pretty rough stuff. As well as organising the event it fell to Maria to plan the courses and put them out. This obviously caused a little pressure on time as she returned to the assembly area looking like a drowned rat to explain that she had had to move some of the control sites. This was largely due to having to use quite an old map. How old I'm not sure. But I guess when you're trying to get orienteering off the ground with such a small participation, you can't just ring up the likes of Dave Peel and get a new map drawn and printed.

So off we went in an unrelenting downpour. No problems, until having run on an accurate bearing to the second control to arrive right on top of it, I found it had a different number. I didn't think I was in the wrong place but I ran around for about five minutes confirming my suspicions. The next control was in a particularly dense piece of forest. I found it but I'm not sure how or if it was in the right place. The next control had been removed, which opened up a largely pathed option to number 5, which was on the wrong stream junction, but not too far away as to be unfindable. Number 6 was the long leg in another Amazonian

piece of forest. Maria and I agreed on its location, but the map's rather ambitiously runnable forest was to be taken with a health pinch of salt.

Leaving 6, heading for 7, I came across the Canadian "Geroff My Land!" Apparently Canadians enjoy a right to roam we would die for, and it is not strictly necessary to obtain permission. The chap was reasonable enough, but accompanied by a rather large German Shepherd. "Is your dog friendly?" I enquired. "No". "I'll be on my way then...".

The map and forest finally defeated me at number 7. The control was on a ride junction in the middle of an area of young growth that had been burnt. 20 minutes wandering round and I couldn't find it. It turned out in post mortem that it could be easily located by attacking it from completely the opposite direction that I did.

7 to 8 was the long awaited downhill leg. So of course I slipped on a wet log and hit my arm so hard on a rock I through I'd broken it clean through. Fortunately I hadn't but I had an impressively multi-coloured 6inch bruise for some time afterwards. Leg 9 involved running past a sign saying 'No Hunting No Trespassing'. Leg 10 was in a lovely bit of rocky gully, and the run into the finish worthy of inquisitors from Spain.

I staggered into the finish absolutely completely soaked, but was very pleasantly surprised to be offered a complementary hotdog. Now that beats a cup of weak orange.

I had been around 7km in longer than I would have hoped. However I was declared the winner as I'd been to more of the controls than anybody else. DVO honour upheld.

What particularly impressed me was the dedication of a very small band of Orienteering enthusiasts. The event was staged for comfortably less than 20 people. It can't possibly have made a profit. One person took on all the roles we would have a team of twenty performing. It is an experience like this that makes you realise, despite falling numbers, how lucky we are in the UK. When you think that we can go to a national event and compete among 1000 fellow orienteers, and at a modest colour coded would be disappointed with a turn out of less than 200, our colleagues in Canada are achieving so much with so little.

Once again the welcome was fantastic. If you ever get the chance to run in North America, you should, it's what our sport is all about.

And I managed to tell this story in under 1000 words.

James Allen

Dave Walker's Fine Day at Fineshade

Editor's Warning to the easily shocked: this article contains complimentary comments about LEI.

On the Wednesday evening prior to this event whilst enjoying a post-training pint in the Scarsdale with fellow members of DVO I happened to say to all gathered there, anyone going to Fineshade on Sunday ? The response to my question was met with a stony silence followed by one or two of the usual comments about LEI events.

Well I said I think I might give it a try!

The weather forecast was favourable for Sunday in the East of England so I persuaded Maureen to rise unusually early on a Sunday morning to accompany me to the event, promising her that there might be a pleasant woodland stroll in the offing.

The journey east was a not as quiet as usual with hundreds of motor cyclists speeding in the opposite direction towards Donnington Park where the last round of this years Super-Bike series was being held. We then experienced diversions in Oakham where they were excavating the main street, followed by major roadworks on the A47 east of Uppingham.

The whole journey took one and a half hours but on arrival we parked in a high well-drained grassy field which had fine views of Wakerley Woods and the Rockingham Forest ridge. Facilities were also of a high standard with five toilet tents, anti-bacterial sprays and two bowls of water for handwashing. Registration was as usual manned by the Keelings of DVO; they seem to have some sort of identity crisis or could it be that they really only go to all the LEI events so they can enjoy Sunday lunch in a different pub?

In consideration of my injured calf muscle and general lack of fitness, I opted for the Green Course, accurately advertised at 4.95 km. with 14 controls. Just the job!

I did notice that, in addition to the map corrections, there was a note from the Controller stating that there were many features on the ground not appearing on the map and vice-versa; I suppose you can't get everything right. In confidence the Controller told that the map was 'crap'.

Off to the start and away, a good run, well planned course with good route choices through some lovely bits of forest, most enjoyable and I passed on my compliments to all concerned. If there were any deficiencies in the mapping I didn't notice them, but then there are lot of things that are on the map I don't notice anyway.

Back to the car park for lunch and another 'first' for a LEI event; provisional results were being displayed.

The sun was still shining when we left so we called in at Land's End on the return journey, not the one in Cornwall but the Factory Shop Outlet in Oakham; did not buy anything, we never do. To finish the day we stopped off at Melton Mowbray and called at Safeways for some vegetables. It was the only place open and the only place where there were signs of life.

So that is what those of you missed last Sunday a 'Fine day at Fineshade'.

Dave Walker

PS LEI still insist on using the redundant tubes from the inside of toilet rolls on which to mark the control site numbers. A little difficult to read but brownie points for recycling.

DVO Farley Moor, Matlock Colour Coded Event

Sunday 5th November 2000

By car: The event will be signed from the A632 at Amber Hill, 2½ miles north of Matlock (119/SK329626). Follows signs for 2 miles to car parking which will be along the roadside.

By public transport: Farley Moor is about 2 miles north of Matlock town centre, which served by buses from Chesterfield, Alfreton, Nottingham, Derby, Ashbourne and Buxton. To walk to the event from Matlock follow the road through Upper Hackney and Farley onto Farley Lane.

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

Registration: 1000 – 1200

Start times: 1030 – 1230

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

Terrain: Recently thinned forest with good path network, also open moorland on longer courses

Organisers: Jennifer & Derek Gale 01283 585244 or derek_gale@lineone.net

Planner: James Allen

Controller: Ranald Macdonald

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.

OCTOBER

- 21st **C4 NOC Colour Coded Event. Thieves Wood, Mansfield. SK/545575.**
R Barnes, 0115-9746044. String course. Dogs on leads.
- 22nd **C3 WRE Badge Event. Bury Ditches, Bishop's Castle. SO/304842.**
Organiser: Mike Callow, 01952 412314.
Entries: Beryl Bayliss, 1 Stackyard Lane, Egmond, Newport, Shropshire,
TF10 8JP. 01952 812345. CD: 5/10/00. £6.50/£2.00. Lim EOD
+£1.00/50p. Parking £1.00. Dogs on leads in car park.
- 29th **C2 SBOC NATIONAL EVENT. Pen-Rhwl-Wen, Brynamman.**
SN/732188. Organiser: Philip Jenkins, 01639-830065.
Entries: SafeStart (SBOC), 22 The Willows, Raglan, Usk, NP15 2HB.
CD: 7/10/00. £8.50/£3.50, Family £20.50 (2 Sen, 1 Jun) + £1.75 for each
additional Junior. Late entries +£1.00. Chq: SBOC. EPS-St. EOD CC only
Y, O & LG, £4.00/£2.00. Free String course. Dogs in car park only.
- 29th **S4 OD Score Event. Kingsbury Water Park, Kingsbury. SP/203958.**
Tony Haw, 02476-416156. £4.00/£1.00. Mass start 1100.
freespace.virgin.net/paul.furness/index.html

NOVEMBER

- 5th **C4 DVO Colour Coded Event. Farley Moor, Matlock. SK/330326.**
See Advertisement in Newstrack
- 5th **C3 SOC November Classic Badge Event. Hampton Ridge, New Forest. SU/169145.** Organiser: Bill Davidson, 023-80262284.
Entries: Peter Webb, 92 Pine Road, Chandlers Ford, Hants, SO53 1JT.
023-80261922.
CD: 15/10/00. £7.00/£2.50. Late entry +£1.00. No EOD. Chq: SOC.
- 12th **C4 AIRE Colour Coded Event. Danefield Estate, Otley. SE/206451.**
Chris Penny, 01943-839017. £3.50/£1.50. String course.
- 12th **S4 LEI Score Cup Event. Beacon Hill, Loughborough. SK/510144.**
Roger Williamson, 01509-412132. £2.50/£1.50. Lim CC & #8211; Y & O.
String course. Pay & display parking fee.

19th **C3 DEE Badge Event. Maer Hills, Newcastle-under-Lyme. SJ/785405.**
Organisers: John & Glennys Hammond, 01606-883068.
Entries: Jill Barnes, Hillcroft, 111 Station Road, Delamere, Northwich,
Ches. CW8 2HZ. 01606-888845. Email: jill@delamere111.freeserve.co.uk
CD: 4/11/00. £6.00/£2.50. Lim EOD +£1.00/50p. Chq: Deeside
Orienteering Club. String course. Lim CC – Y, O & LG
(£3.00/£1.00). String course.
Parking £1.00. Dogs on lead in CP only. Internet entries accepted.

25th **DVO Organisers' Seminar – See Elsewhere in Newstrack**

26th **C3 HOC Badge Event Postensplain, Bewdley. SO/753779.**
Organisers: John Adams & Mick Comery, 0121 4451321 (1930-2130) only
Entries: Mike Farrington, Oak Lodge, Wellington Heath, Ledbury, HR8
1NB. 01531 631220 (1900-2100 only) CD: 4/11/00. £6.50/£3.00. Lim EOD
& late entries up to 17/11/00 only +£1.50. EPS-SI. Add 75p e-card hire.
String course. Lim CC up to Orange.

DECEMBER

3rd **C2 SYO NATIONAL EVENT & Northern Championships. Burbage Moor, Sheffield. SK/290834.**
Organiser: Phil Hayward, 0114-2363003. philh@sypte.co.uk
Entries: Jenny James, 20 Riverdale Road, Sheffield, S10 3FB. 0114-
2663169. jjames@stanleyworks.com CD: 20/11/00. £8.00/£3.00. Lim EOD
+£1.00/50p. Chq: SYO. EPS-SI. String course. Parking £1.00. No dogs.

10th **C4 WCH Colour Coded Event. Pepperslade, Cannock Chase. SK/001168.**
Carol Dredge, 01785-664937. £4.00/£1.50. String. EPS-SI.

16th **C5 DVO Local Event (incorporating Derbyshire Schools League) Drum Hill, Little Eaton, Derby. SK/374422.**
Organiser: Val Johnson, 12 Chevin Road, Belper DE56 2UW. 01773
824754. e-mail: Gmjandfam@aol.com. Start times: 10.00-12.00. Entry
fee for all courses: £1.00. W,Y,O,LG & Score. No string course.

16th **N5 DVO Night Event. As above.**
Organiser: Ian Hodson, 37 Moorland View, Walton, Chesterfield S40
3DD. 01246 276871.

17th **C4 OD Colour Coded Event Hopwas Hays, Tamworth. SK/155065.**
Bob Brandon, 02476-505050. £4.00/£1.00. String course.

31st **S5 DVO Score Event, Shipley Park, Heanor**
Organiser: Robert Shooter, Rose Cottage, Cat & Fiddle Lane, West
Hallam, DE7 6HD. 0115 9322945.

Editor's (Smaller) Bit (Than Usual)

Thanks to everyone for their contributions this time round, which has made putting NEWSTRACK together much easier. This has also reduced the need for contributions from me, which is just as well really as I had lined up a rather uncomplimentary demolition of the recent Wyrley event, which would probably have got me banned from future OD events, and I rather like Bentley Woods.

One of the themes that I was going to develop and which I will mention anyway is how courses can be spoiled by thoughtless planning, or possibly just planners thinking about the wrong things.

An ideal example of this was at Clent Hills last week (south-west of Brum – the lengths I will go to when I've only orienteered once in three months). The Brown was 8.8 km and around 400 metres of climb. Having completed over 8 km, and punched the last-but-one control, my remaining route was as follows:

Up hill on public footpath, through the Finish the wrong way (marked in the wrong place on master maps too, by the way), along another public footpath, up a bank, punch at veg boundary, back down bank, back along exactly the same public footpath and then through the Finish, this time the right way round.

What!? What on earth was the planner thinking of? I've got to the first control by running through the Start before, but never the last by running through the Finish. There was an alternative route to the last control, but I'm convinced mine was the more legitimate. I just do not understand the purpose of this last control at all, except to lengthen an already very long course.

Another example of this was at Wyrley where the control after the second master maps involved 500 metres of straight line running along paths to a control on the western edge of the map followed by a leg back along exactly the same paths to a control only 150 metres away from the second master maps. What was the point, except for the purpose of adding length for length's sake?

I think that one of the reasons for this is a feeling among planners that Brown courses have to be as long as possible, preferably as long as an M21 badge event course. If the map doesn't lend itself to a long Brown, don't plan one, is my message; if necessary, abandon the idea and plan a Blue as the longest. So long as this is advertised in advance, no-one can complain at being short-changed. Less can mean more. Here endeth the lesson.

Survey of DVO members

You may be aware that the number of people in orienteering is falling throughout the UK. DVO is also seeing a decline in its membership and in the number of people at our events.

We recently carried out a survey of people who had not renewed their membership this year. We sent out 30 questionnaires and got 10 back – a good response rate!

Six have now renewed, together with another five I've seen from the membership list. Of the four others replying, one person had moved and joined another club and three no longer orienteer due to injury, age or the family now doing other things. Several people made nice comments about the Club – they thought Newstrack was very enjoyable and that the Club was very friendly and well organised.

Now we know what some people think, it would be good to know how current members feel about the Club and the level of involvement they would like. Come on, it's your chance to tell us what you think!!

Viv Macdonald

01629 734307

Questionnaire for members

I take part in events (please tick):

At least twice a month	10
At least once a month	5
Several times a year	5
Very infrequently	2
I no longer Orienteer	1

Comments:

- I'd like to come more often but this year I've had so many other commitments
- please avoid the second Sunday of each month as it clashes with my Scouts Church parade
- dropped from 5 a month on the arrival of Elizabeth

- weather and family permitting
- in winter, spring and autumn
- as often as possible

Helping at events (please tick)

I help on a regular basis	11
I help occasionally	6
I have never been able to help	1
I have never been asked to help	1
I would help regularly if asked	1
I would help occasionally if asked	4

Comments:

- I'm seldom asked
- before the baby averaged once a month, including coaching
- I suggest that organisers look through recent results and involve others as well as the regulars
- Would like to help if good notice given and can run
- I no longer help

I think the Club (please tick as many as you want):

Provides sufficient training/coaching	12
Provides enough social events	13
Is friendly/helpful	17
Communicates well with its members	15

Comments:

- I live in Burton so some social events are a bit distant
- we joined DVO in preference to LEI, based on several things but including DVO's greater emphasis on the family – village halls for JK, family entries, string courses. We don't orienteer much now because E is not the best at sleeping through the night and we often need one lazy morning a week to recharge our batteries. We're concentrating more on local events now (haven't done a pre entry in 2000) but hope to get more active again when E becomes

more reliable at night. The country wide collapse in M21 numbers has removed much of the competition element for D too. Good luck with your survey and keep up the good work.

- I would like to take a controllers' course. They seem to be thin on the ground.
- as newcomers to orienteering and new members in DVO, we've greatly enjoyed the events we've been to and have found the atmosphere at DVO events to be most friendly and helpful. We certainly plan to carry on orienteering and look forward to doing many more events and improving our standard.
- as you can see I have no gripes with the way the club is run. And the same goes to EMOA. My unfavourable comment is reserved for BOF which, since about 1985, has become less relevant to 95% of orienteers. They spend money on the wrong things and concentrate on the wrong concerns. They seem pre-occupied with reports, committee findings, implementing initiatives etc and not with providing value for money for the non-elite competitor. On the subject of money I no longer travel to big events. I can afford it but refuse to pay the very high entry fees. Years ago a big event charged 2 or 2.5 times a club event but not now. These prestige events are no better and no more enjoyable than local events – unless you win them I suppose.
- definitely friendly and helpful. Involve those who orienteer and never help
- How about asking all members if they would organise a social event – spread the load – one a month perhaps.
- Meets my needs thank you.
- Provides sufficient training but should be provided locally. Some social events are not accessible to all – need better balance.
- More training would be nice.
- Some decisions recently have been very last minute and we don't all have E mail
- More adult training and more use of the website
- I have taken a year out of the outdoor world to bring up.. and so have been out of touch with people and events. Up to a couple of

years ago I enjoyed running in events all over the country . I'm not particularly fast but I do enjoy the challenge and the friendship shown at events. Even more so on the DVO events. I have been very pleased with the club on the odd occasion that I have been out and have appreciated the newsletters keeping me in touch. I would like to help the club more and will do so when I can find a little more time. Thanks for the info and all the best to the club.

Report of Publicity Team - September 2000 – AGM

Publicity Strategy

At the end of 1999, DVO adopted a publicity strategy with the aims of:-

- retaining and increasing membership
- increasing the number of people at events
- targeting young people, novice adults, women, students, disabled people and black and ethnic minorities
- attracting visitors to Derbyshire to take part
- increasing the number of groups affiliated

Membership

We surveyed people who had not renewed their membership and members of the club.

We sent out 30 questionnaires to those not renewing. Most lived in the Matlock/Bakewell area (13) and Derby (9), 4 in other areas and 4 out of the County. We had 11 back, although from the membership list it was apparent that 12 subsequently renewed. One had moved to SUFFOC ("not as organised as DVO") and 3 no longer orienteered because of age, injury, other family interests.

We sent out 150 questionnaires to current members, with Newstrack. Twenty-two were returned. A summary of the responses is included in this issue and generally gives very positive comments about the Club, although there are issues we will look at.

Membership numbers;-

	1999 AGM	2000 AGM
No of members (total)	265	269
No of units	135	134
Local members (total)	53	58
Local members (units)	25	23
Senior members	56	54
Family	154	151
Family (units)	52	51
Junior (total)	0	3
Group (total)	2	3

Numbers at events

Cromford	319	Longshaw	600
Eyam	800	Elvaston	103
Shining Cliff	384	Whitesprings	313
Stanton Moor	271	Calke	264
Kedleston Park	136		

Flyers – around 200 distributed for each event

Press releases – these have been sent to various press and media before most events this year. It is difficult to monitor usage as we do not see all the papers. The most successful seem to be the Matlock Mercury, Derbyshire Times, Derby Evening Telegraph and Radios Derby and Peak 107.

Target Groups

Young people. A series of C5 Local events has attracted more young people to try the sport. The Millennium youth games enabled 120 schoolchildren to try their hand at a Score event. Orienteering was featured in an outdoors activity week arranged by Bolsover District Council. A Schools League is planned to build on this base.

Novice Adults. Membership figures suggest we have attracted more adults.

Students, women, disabled people and black and ethnic minorities. These have not yet been targeted.

Visitors. Leaflets and a list of summer events were sent to Tourist Information Centres at Derby, Matlock, Ripley, Matlock Bath and Bakewell. Also to libraries at Heanor, Ilkeston, Micklover, Bolsover, Clay Cross and Dronfield.

We are not sure if any new people have come to the summer events, although certainly we have attracted orienteers from other clubs.

Other publicity

- Website – Steve is continuing to develop this and it will increasingly become an important publicity tool. People coming to events are saying they found it on the website.
- Sports shops - A pack of posters, leaflets and details of forthcoming events were sent to 13 sports shops around the County.
- Sports Development Officers - A similar pack was sent to the County's nine SDOs. Some posters have been seen in Sports centres.
- Sports directories - We have entries in the directories for Chesterfield and Derbyshire Dales.
- Introductory and joining pack - We put together two packs – one to give people at their first event and one when they join the club. We put this forward to the EMOA for a prize but did not win. We will develop the pack.

Future Action

Improving the press releases, with photos, and to include human interest stories and follow up releases after events.

Develop the introductory and joining pack.

Developing the website.

BOF – try and see how the new Marketing Manager can help.

More targeted publicity.

Any more ideas, please let us know. My thanks to Val for the work with schools, Dave Bennett for the flyers and Steve for the website.

Viv Macdonald

Does anyone know the Italian for "Don't follow me I'm still lost"?

Next year's Swiss 6 Day is being held partly in the Italian speaking area of Switzerland and partly in Italy. There are 3 events in the Swiss canton of Ticino and three in the Italian province of Lombardy. So give the Scottish midges a miss and join us in Switzerland. Actually as the competition days are from 29th of July till 4th August it should be just possible for the really keen to get back in time for the Scottish 6 day although it would demand some convenient flight times. The single event centre is at Tenero at the North East tip of Lake Maggiore, only one change (at Brussels) from Waterloo International. Alternatively it is about 2 hours from Zurich or Milan. Unusually for a Swiss event transport to the events is by own car, but I am sure we would have enough cars between us for anybody going by public transport. Driving-wise it is a short hop over the St. Gotthard pass from where we were at Brunnen in 1996, so dual-carriageway all the way from Derby's inner-ring road. With a rest day on 1st August, Swiss National Day, traditionally celebrated with some spectacular fireworks, it should be a week to remember.

The event centre with camping is close to the lake. Use of the swimming pool is free for campers and there are bikes, windsurfers and canoes for hire.

To get the cheapest entries we need to enter before the end of January 2001. The fees till then are 100SF (about £40) for 18s and over, 75SF for 16s and under. I will make a club entry and arrange pitches on the event camp site for those who don't want to make their own accommodation arrangements. This will save on foreign exchange fees and ensure we all camp together. This time I will get a club entrenching tool to ward off the evening thunder-storms. Let me know if you would like more information when it is available. Meanwhile if you want to find out more for yourself the web-site is www.6giorni.ticino.com.

Any good ideas for a T-shirt design?

Mike Godfree

Electronic Punching

East Midlands OA has agreed to buy the Sport Ident system of electronic punching. It was hoped to use these at the Drum Hill Schools League event at Drum Hill on Saturday, 16th December, but apparently they will not have arrived on time. It is possible that we will try to use someone else's equipment as we are hoping to use electronic punching at the Shining Cliff (Midland Champs) Badge event on 25th Feb next year. By the way anyone can come to these schools league events; they are C5 Local events with White, Yellow, Orange, Light Green and Score courses (the latter probably consisting of all the controls on the other courses) and incorporating the Schools League. These events will mean that for most of next year, DVO will be offering up to two events a month.

Winter Wednesday Night Training

Our current hosts for the Derby area Wednesday evening training runs are:

1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month –

Meadows School, Park Road, Duffield, courtesy Rex Bleakman

2nd, 4th & 5th Wednesday of each month –

Buckleys' house, 253 Duffield Road, Allestree

Runs start about 7pm, we're normally in the pub at 9pm-ish, the local pubs being the Lord Scarsdale in Duffield and the Abbey in Darley Abbey.

The next expected change to this schedule is the Open Meeting on 13th December, the venue for which I don't yet know".

Dave Bennett

13th December Open Meeting Since the next Newstrack can't be guaranteed to come out before 13th December, I will make an executive decision and say that it will be where we've had our last two winter open meetings, at the upper room, Queen's Head, on Chesterfield Road, Belper, runs at starting at 7.00pm, open meeting starting at 8.15pm.

Organisers' Seminar

Saturday, 25th October 2000

"It could be you!" or "Well, do you know how to set up the start clock?"

We are holding a seminar for both potential and present organisers on Saturday November 25th at Duffield Meadows School. The aim is to encourage potential organisers (i.e. all of you) to take the plunge by giving you the knowledge to do the job. We shall broadly follow the syllabus of the BOF organiser's course, but with particular emphasis on the DVO aspects. Doubtless electronic punching will feature.

The day will start at 10 a.m. to finish 3ish. Bring your own lunch but tea/coffee provided. Names to Mike Godfree on 01332-515862 please.

Orienteering In Popular Culture

This contribution for the "orienteering in popular culture" series comes courtesy of (Robert Shooter and) the Welsh Tourist Board guide covering Aberystwyth and the Surrounding Area (I think the word 'popular' is being used in its loosest sense here – Over-Semantic Editor), which as the guide reminds us is at "The Heart of Welsh Culture".

It is an excellent publication describing the many interesting attractions that can be found in that part of the country, and, as tourists, we found it most useful, although for some reason the "History at a Glance" section stops in 1937 when King George VI officially opened the Library of Wales. As you can probably guess, I'm not an expert in Welsh history, or indeed history of any sort, but you can imagine my surprise to find that nothing of any note has happened since then! (Suggestions to the Welsh Tourist Board, not to me please!)

However, inspired by the guide's promise of spectacular views of the Rheidol valley and the possibility of seeing the rare red kite, I took the family to the Bwlch Nant-yr-Arian forest visitors centre. Now I do recommend the walks here for, as well as being dazzled a host of dragonflies (some could have been damselflies but it is Wales so I'll give them the benefit of the doubt), the views of the valley with all its spurs and reentrants are truly spectacular, so much so that even our children temporarily stopped complaining about the uphill climb and the fact that we were actually doing the walk backwards and so had to guess which way the arrows were pointing from. I couldn't help thinking how good it would be to orienteer on such interesting terrain with all its nooks and crannies and varied vegetation but such thoughts were dismissed when I realised how steep it was.

Instead I decided to buy one of the O-maps from the visitors centre, get myself fit and return another time. Alas even this plan had to be put to one side for, on our return, the visitors centre was full of "luvvies" filming a new video about the centre and the red kites. I need to issue a warning here to anyone who visits the centre and sees the new video, because I was asked to stand and be filmed peering through my binoculars at the red kites. Unfortunately, the half dozen red kites which had been flying around all afternoon took this moment to take their tea-break so I was actually looking at the sheep on the opposite hill but I'm sure this little deception will be remedied by some judicious editing.

All of this brings me back to the Aberystwyth and Area Tourist Information Guide which regrettably may have been subject to some less than judicious editing. For, whilst there are several permanent orienteering courses within the Aberystwyth area, there is no mention of them within the guide except for a rather nice picture of a permanent course start post intriguingly captioned as the "Nannt-y-moch monument commemorating the victory of Qwain Glyndwr against Henry IV in 1401". I just have to ask myself did this battle really take place at Markeaton Park, Allestree, Black Rocks? Robert Shooter

It's Fitness, Gym, but not as we know it

Just a reminder that Circuit Training has resumed in the Police Gym in Ripley on alternate Friday nights, the next one being lined up for Friday, 20th October, starting at 7.00pm. You too can discover muscles you didn't even know you had. Can someone please book a badminton court for 8.00pm so we don't overrun this week?

ODDS and SODS

Now there's something you don't see very often

Extract from article by Beryl Seaman in SYO News on the Swedish O Ringen:

'On the last day in the showers at the event, an area the size of half a football pitch was surrounded in plastic sheeting and open to the heavens. My abiding memory is of 5 queues of about 25 women in each, naked apart from wellies, standing in about 6 inches of mud and some of them talking into their mobiles!!!'

CompassSport Cup

Next year's First Round draw will take place at an as yet unknown venue in the mysterious Orient, well, East Anglia anyway, on Sunday, 18th March 2001. We shall be taking up cudgels against the usual suspects in the East Midlands section of the competition and a DVO charabanc may well be on the cards.

Did You Know that you can buy goods from Cotswold the Outdoor Retailer at 10% off their normal prices upon production of a British Orienteering Federation current membership card? No, nor did I.

Useless Facts to Fill a Page Up

All polar bears are left handed.

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

A crocodile cannot stick its tongue out.

Elephants are the only animals that can't jump (although I've never seen a jumping platypus. Does a slug count as an animal?)

A snail can sleep for three years.

Starfish have no brains.