

## NGOC AGM 2012 – Reports from Committee Members

### **NGOC Chairman's Report for 2012**

In the absence of a Development Officer I will use this report to cover not only my activities as chairman, but also our development activities.

2012 has been a busy year for the club. We have:

- ⤴ Put on over 30 events, including a successful Summer programme, and a number of events in support of other bodies such as the Winchcombe Walking Festival, the Olympic Torch Relay, and the Pied Piper appeal;
- ⤴ Donated something over £600 to various charities over the season, including the Woodland Trust, Macmillan Cancer Nurses, the Pied Piper Appeal, and Help for Heroes;
- ⤴ Updated the website, giving it a new look and better and more accessible maintenance facilities;
- ⤴ Introduced a new club top, to general approval within the club and externally;
- ⤴ Introduced an area/event archive to provide more and better information to our event organisers and planners;
- ⤴ Introduced an 'adviser' scheme to help maintain the highest standards of local event planning and organising;
- ⤴ Run training sessions for organisers and planners, and updated our planning and organising documentation to make it easier for club volunteers to put on high quality events;
- ⤴ Continued our search for new areas. We have brought 2 new areas into use, Flaxley Woods and Hartpury College; we have developed some great urban maps; we are working towards mapping Woodchester Park, and have had various discussions with BOF and data suppliers on economic access to LIDAR data to make mapping and remapping quicker and more accurate.

This activity results in a dynamic and locally successful club with an outstanding reputation amongst our neighbouring clubs, and I hope wider, for offering high quality orienteering. I have often been very pleasantly surprised at the warmth of comments and compliments from non-club members on the standard and atmosphere of our events.

All of this is due entirely to the time and effort put in by the committee and our volunteers, and on your behalf I would like to thank them all sincerely for making the club the success that it continues to be. In particular, I'd like to thank all the new planners and organisers who have come forward to plan and run events. Dave Hartley has done a brilliant job in finding people to support the growing fixture list, but we still need more volunteers, and I hope the success of the programme, together with the steps we have taken to make the job easier and more fun, will prompt a few more of you to sign up.

However, we have been less successful in other respects. Under the guidance of Caroline Gay, BOF Participation Manager for the West of England, in January BOF appointed coaches in Cheltenham and Gloucester to develop community-O programmes. I don't think these have gone particularly well, and we have had no contact with them, which reflects poorly, I think, on both us for not trying harder, and them for not approaching us. Whatever the case, community-O has not worked on our patch, and I have been advised recently that BOF funding for these programmes has been terminated. Caroline Gay's contract has been terminated early, and BOF is reviewing its plans in the light of the funding challenges it now faces, so we are on our own again for the time being, and, I suspect, for some time to come.

Furthermore we remain an aging club. We still have almost no juniors, and few M/W21-40s, both of these facts condemning us to nowhere in competitive fields such as the CompassSport Cup and the ranking lists. I suspect that for most of us this does not matter – we enjoy ourselves and are happy with our own personal challenges – but I think it does matter for the future of the club, and we need to keep trying to find ways to fill these gaps in our ranks.

One of the main reasons for this lack of success, in my view, is that we lack two key resources – a dynamic lead coach, and a publicist – and I shall keep trying to find volunteers for these key roles.

Looking forward, however, and putting aside these disappointments, I have a feeling, from talking to people at events, that we have a good few people lined up to join the Club when the dust has settled on the new BOF membership arrangements, and I am confident that our development efforts may be starting to pay off. The changes to the BOF renewal schedule mean that newcomers wishing to join the club are being advised to wait until 1 November before joining the club for 2013, so it's not until after that that we will be able to tell whether our programme has had much effect in finding new members. I would like to think that the Summer programme contributed to this, and I propose that we extend our regular fixture list to include a regular Summer programme, rather than relying on a few ad hoc, ill-publicised, evening events, as we have tended to do in the past.

As a further boost to the fixture list, we have agreed to host the 2014 Caddihoe Chase, with the Senior Home Internationals run in parallel. It is some years since we last hosted a major event, and it is time we did our bit again.

The fixture list aside, our other main pre-occupation for the coming year will, I think, be mapping. We risk over-use of our existing areas, and some of these are deteriorating anyway as orienteering terrain, so we need to keep on looking for new areas, and revisiting older, unused ones, whilst also taking advantage of new data and technology to keep our existing maps at the standard required for our events.

Outside the forest, changes at BOF level mean changes to club membership categories and fees. These we will discuss and vote on at the AGM, so I won't take space here to discuss them, other than to say that the Committee is wholly in favour of the shift from membership to participation based funding for BOF, and recommends that the club adopt a similar approach.

Lastly, I'd like to say a particular word of thanks to the committee for all the work they put in to keep the club going, and especially to Dave Hartley, who has decided to stand down after a very successful and effective spell as Fixtures Secretary.

And as a final final word I would also like to say how pleased I am to see Carol Stewart at her normal place at the committee table after her horrific crash on her way home from the Chairman's Challenge. I am sure you all join me in wishing her a fast and complete recovery.

Pat Macleod

## **Secretary's Report 2011-2012**

The committee has met five times this year at the Oxstalls campus. Two courses have been given, by John Fallows and Paul Taunton, on controlling and planning, which were very well received by those who attended.

I have dealt with various items of correspondence, mostly emails, mostly from British Orienteering, SWOA and people interested in coming to our events.

Having discussed designs and prices of club tops with a number of orienteering clothing companies, and displayed their samples at events, we had decided that Trimtex offered the best option. After seeking the views of the club through a survey, I chose the design which the most people were happy with. People placed orders

at various events and via email. We added some extra tops, to allow people who hadn't pre-ordered to still buy one, bringing the number up to 46. They were delivered and distributed and the majority of comments have been very positive. We intend to put a second order in soon, including more long-sleeved tops. Requests for sizes are very welcome.

Caroline Craig, September 2012

## **Treasurer's report to 2012 AGM**

The earlier AGM and my road accident mean that there has not been time to have the Accounts examined before the AGM, but I do not anticipate any problems. At the AGM you will be invited to approve the accounts subject to examination.

The Income and Expenditure page shows what happened during the year, with figures for last year down the left-hand side for comparison. The Balance Sheet shows how last year's results affect our overall financial position.

Bottom line: another good year, even though we ended with a slightly higher loss than last year. Given the remaining stock of our new O-tops, the loss on the season is about equivalent to the club subsidy for the tops. We are due some money from Croeso, though this will largely go to refund entry fees for the NGOC helpers.

## **Income and Expenditure**

### **General Income** (everything except income from events)

Membership - practically identical to last year, but as the rate had increased for 2012 this represents a slight fall in members overall.

Mapping - the apparent large increase over last year is due to receipt of £320 for the Hartpury map. We no longer print maps for other clubs on a regular basis.

SI hire - not so much this year, but still a useful source of income.

Forest Challenge - Alan's game is still selling, though more slowly.

Calendars - a new venture, slightly under priced and a little late in the year - we had about 30 left.

Interest on our Deposit Account remains at an amazing 60p a quarter!

### **Routine Expenditure** (all the things it takes to keep us going, apart from spending on events)

Committee expenditure is now at a more realistic level - please don't hesitate to claim for postage/printer cartridges etc.

Subscriptions - as we paid the club's Brit-O affiliation for 2012 in the previous year, this looks low.

Mapping - consumables (waterproof paper and toner cartridges) are quite expensive, but now we are not doing large print runs for other clubs overall costs have fallen. Only one new map this year, Crickley Hill.

Legend costs continue to fall as Alan now prints the small number of paper copies needed.

Forest Challenge - we made a donation of £300 to the Woodland Trust from profits on the game.

Development - Mostly leaflets/fliers. Lower this year as we were not supporting the Wye Valley group to such an extent as last year, so less travelling.

'Other' under Sundries covers such items as web hosting, AGM duplicating and the Torch Relay event at the racecourse.

Our Routine Expenditure far exceeds our General Income, because we derive most of our income from events.

## **Events**

Income from all our events except the WNL was up on the previous year, with expenditure similar to last year, so this together with a healthy surplus on our summer series meant an increased profit on events. The end result was a loss on the year of just over £372. This is very satisfactory, given we have made donations of £566 during the year - £150 from NYD to Ultrasport's charity; £300 to Woodland Trust from Forest Challenge; and £116 - the total takings - to Pied Piper for the event on Crickley Hill.

From January 2013 event levies for both Brit-O and SWOA will be charged for every participant, effectively £1.60 per person (with 3 juniors equivalent to one senior). At present the first 65 (Brit-O) and first 30 (SWOA) attract no levy. I propose that we raise the Senior Informal fee to £4 (same price as Minileague) but keep the other Saturday fees the same. When we see the full effect of the new levy scheme we can decide whether to raise all Saturday fees from September 2013.

## **Balance sheet**

The second page shows our overall financial position. Despite the small loss we still have over £10000 in cash assets, so are in a healthy position.

## **Club Membership fees**

We raised our club membership fees for this year and expected to retain those fees for 2013, because of the time lag between the date for inputs on fees to Brit-O and our AGM. However, Brit-O have put back the date by which they need our input and we brought the AGM forward so that we can agree fees for 2013. We feel a club fee is still appropriate, as there are ongoing non-event expenses we need to cover, and I propose fees of £4 for seniors but still free for juniors. Brit-O and SWOA will have only Senior and Junior individual membership from 2013 (ie no Family or Group membership), with no distinction between Local and National Brit-O membership; clubs may retain Family/Group forms of membership if they wish, but there would be no easy way to link these to Brit-O membership. Under the proposal for club fees, a 'family' with 2 adults would pay £8 for the two seniors and nothing for the juniors, instead of the current £9 family fee, so there seems little reason to retain a separate 'family' category. Brit-O dropped Group membership some time ago so unless there are compelling reasons for the club to retain this category I suggest we also drop it. 'Club-only' membership, at the same rates,

will of course be available to full members of other clubs who wish to join NGOC as a second club.

Carol Stewart  
26 September 2012

### Membership Secretary Report for 2012 AGM

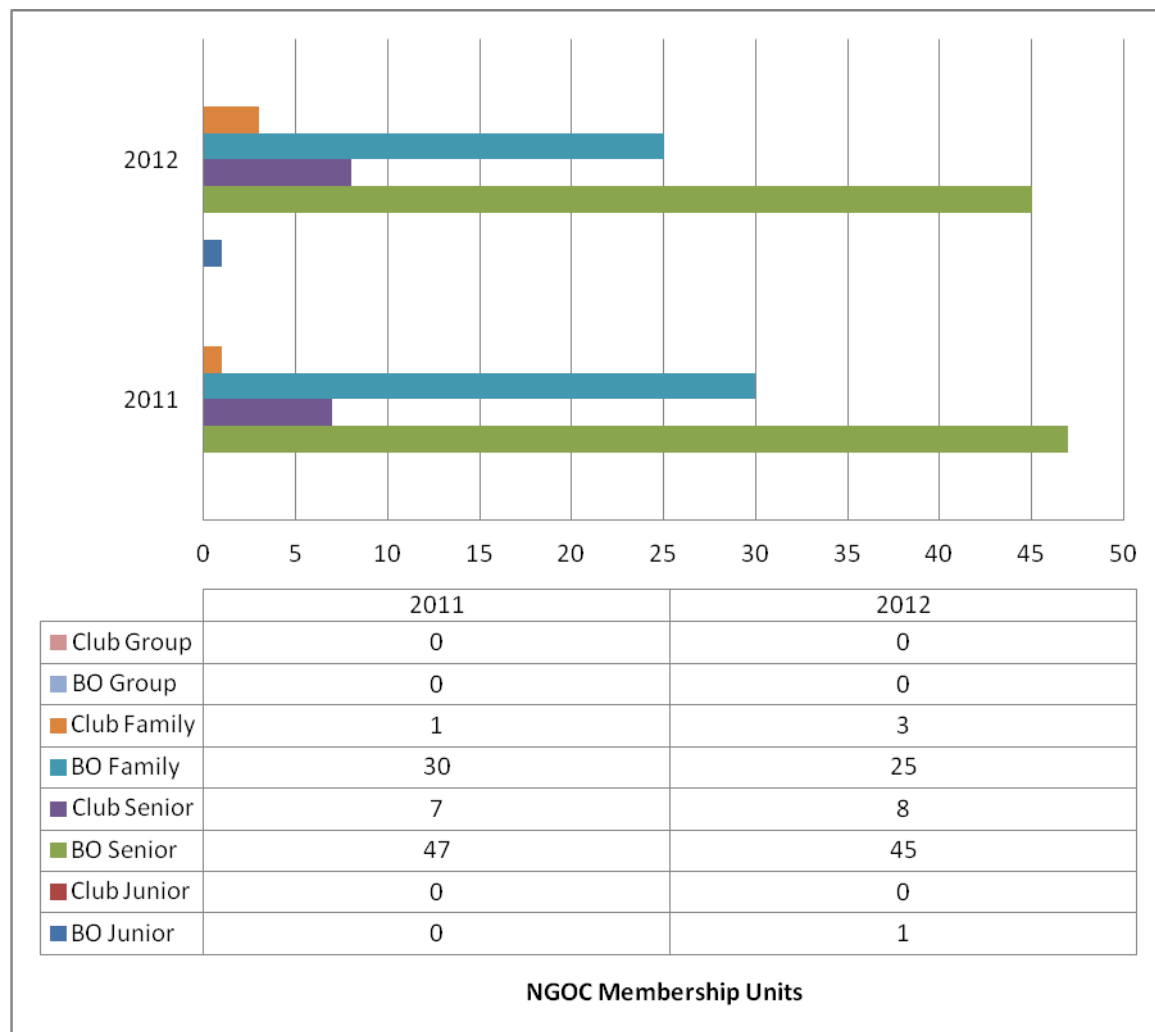
Membership analysed by membership units and age categories is documented below for the current and previous years. Membership has shown a small fall with 8 new membership units offset by a number of lapsed members. There has been a number of recent enquiries from prospective members who have indicated a desire to join on or after 1<sup>st</sup> November to take advantage of 2013 membership.

NGOC membership units:

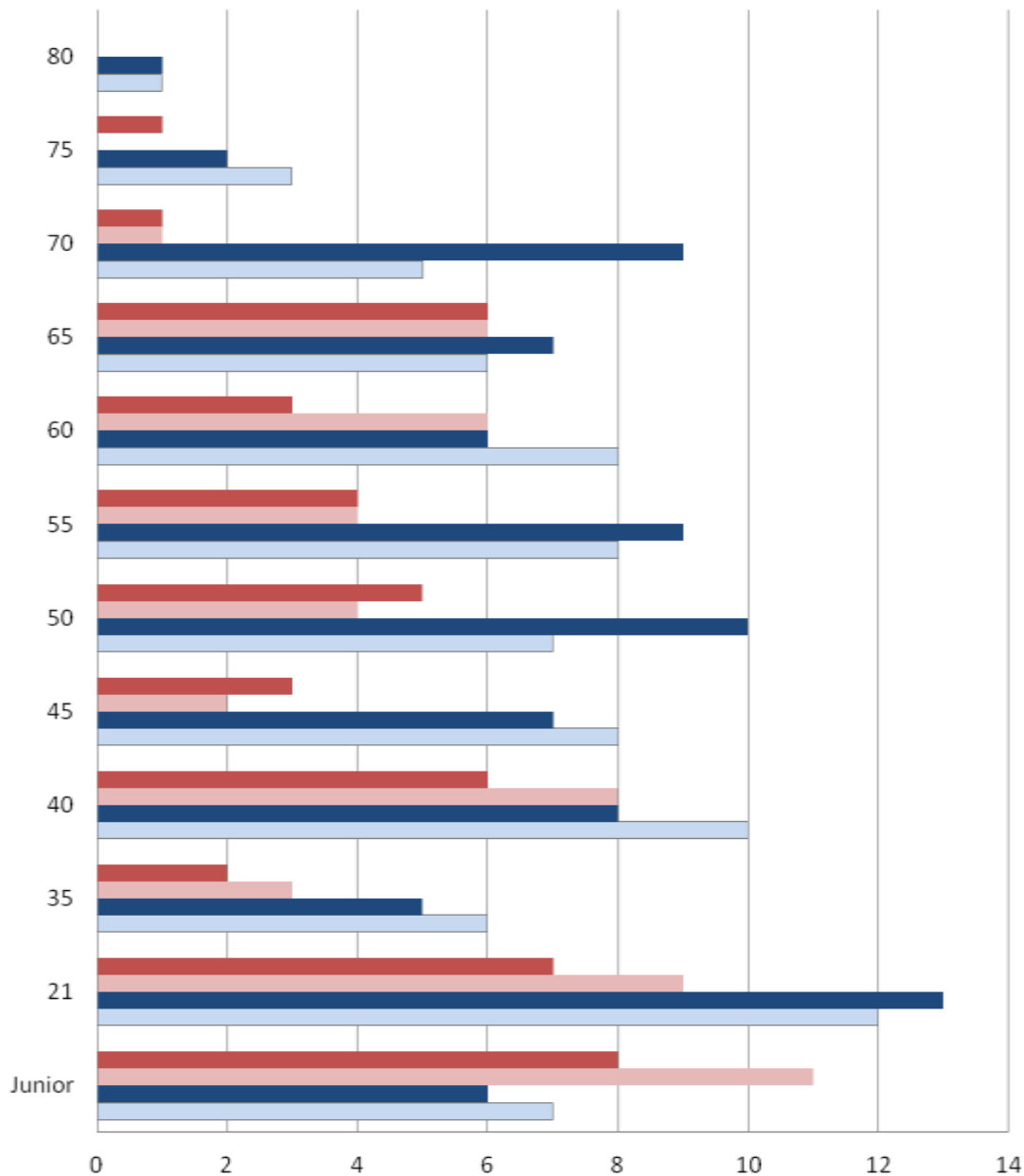
	Junior	Senior	Family	Group	Total
2012	1	53	28	0	82
2011	0	54	30	0	84

Membe  
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units  
by

British Orienteering (BO) and Club only categories:



## NGOC membership by age classification and gender 2011 - 2012



	Junior	21	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80
■ W 2012	8	7	2	6	3	5	4	3	6	1	1	0
■ W 2011	11	9	3	8	2	4	4	6	6	1	0	0
■ M 2012	6	13	5	8	7	10	9	6	7	9	2	1
■ M 2011	7	12	6	10	8	7	8	8	6	5	3	1

## **FIXTURES REPORT 2011-2012**

The Autumn, Winter and Spring programme comprised:-

8 League events (one doubling as a Galoppen)

4 Informal Training events

3 Western Night League events

Chairman's Challenge

New Year's Day event

End of Season event

Once again our events have been well supported and our Summer programme went well. We are grateful to all landowners for their cooperation and especially grateful to all those club members who gave their time so willingly to put on some excellent events.

Dave Hartley, Fixtures Secretary

## **Mapping Officer's Report for 2012 AGM**

### **Note to Event Planners**

If you didn't come to the talk on course planning that I gave here back in August have a look at the club website, as the slides I used are available there. The presentation had two objectives:

- to help ensure that your planning provides a challenge appropriate to the standard expected by the competitors; and
- **to help you plan an event that is easy for you (the planner and organiser) to manage on the day.**

As we do not have a controller for most of our NGOC events I see it as part of my remit to carry out a check of the course maps before I print them. This includes checking that control descriptions are correct, lines and circles are cut so important detail is not hidden and control numbers are legible. Some planners have asked for additional guidance, but I don't normally criticise planning unless I'm asked.

### **Map Printing**

This year the printer clock reading has advanced from almost 44,000 pages to almost 50,000. The total of around 6,000 pages, a little more than last year, includes not just maps, but also control descriptions, instructions, entry forms and flyers.

A total of about 35 "events" printed this year, almost exclusively for NGOC, with only a very few for other groups such as BOK army, Pied Piper appeal event and the Winchcombe walking festival. I now avoid printing maps for other clubs as I don't have enough time. I found the NGOC summer season events a challenge, with 2 events to print some weeks, though overall the total number of events printed was slightly down, from around 40 last year.

The printer is running OK. We have made savings by re-using the backs of waterproof maps left over from previous events both for maps and for control descriptions. This seems to be acceptable as I have had no complaints. I have a good stock of re-useable paper.

## Map Updates and New Maps

Currently our maps are in OCAD9 format, but I can save versions as OCAD8 so that people with the earlier version (like Greg) can work on them. Updating of maps has been ongoing, generally by Planners passing me maps marked with corrections.

Several new maps have been used for the first time during this season:

**Flaxley**, survey & OCAD by Bob Teed, first used for Minileague in Dec. 2011, & a summer event.  
**Hartpury College**, Old paper base map, survey by Neil & Tom, OCAD by Bob, used for a summer event.

**Park Campus, Cheltenham**, survey and OCAD by Greg Best, used for a summer event.

**Crickley Hill, Cheltenham**, survey & OCAD by Greg (with assistance from Pat Macleod re LIDAR, and thanks to the Cranham Local history Society for providing the data). The map has already been used several times. Greg has developed a POC in association with the ranger – and the posts are in!

**Wye Valley Woodlands**, a joint effort by Dudley Budden of BOK and Pete Ward, first used for the BOK Long-O, but soon to be used for an NGOC Minileague event.

## Mapping Developments

Pat Macleod has been looking at future mapping developments so this section of the report is thanks to him. The club has recently purchased OCAD11, which can be installed on the 2 club laptops, and has the facility to develop contours from digital LIDAR data. This seems to be a good way forward to get new accurate base maps, but some problems have been identified and are, as yet, unsolved (1) we are considered a commercial user so LIDAR data costs £120/km<sup>2</sup> making it only viable for important maps for larger events, (2) there are gaps in the LIDAR coverage of two areas we had hoped to re-map soon, Lightning Tree Hill and Soudley Ponds, & (3) the license terms for the data are very restrictive. We are exploring the options of slightly lower resolution (and hence cheaper) data.

## NGOC Equipment Report for 2012

There is little to report on the equipment front. We have not had to purchase any major items of equipment, and the existing kit has stood up to normal use fairly well.

We lent our map boxes to Croeso 2012, and all were returned intact.

We have, however, purchased a single OCAD 11 licence, and are in the process of obtaining a new battery for the older club laptop, which will enable us to install and run OCAD 11 on the two machines allowed for the single user licence.

The Summer series was improved through use of secure controls attached to street furniture etc using Gripples. We have a limited number of controls, and the wire currently used to secure them frays and becomes unusable after a few uses, so the number of controls will be increased (from 20 to 30) before the next Summer series, and the wire will be replaced with longer use plastic coated wire.

Otherwise we have no plans at present for any further equipment expenses, other than for normal wear and tear replacements.

Pat Macleod



# Captain's Annual Report 2012

This year, the club managed to send teams to all of the 4 main senior team events (JK relays, British Relays, Harvester Relay and Compass Sport Trophy). Sadly, we still lack enough active juniors to be able to send a team to any of the junior team events, which is a shame.

As usual, the first team event of the year (in February) was the **Compass Sport Cup**, also known as the British Club Championships. After 2 years in the Trophy competition for smaller clubs, we were re-graded back to a "large" club, meaning we had to take part in the more competitive Cup competition. We selected to take part in the regional qualifying round at Brerton Spurs on Cannock Chase, a most enjoyable area to run on. The team had another excellent turn-out of 39 club members, many of whom travelled on the team bus from Oxstalls. In spite of this, we could only manage 8<sup>th</sup> out of 8 teams, which was disappointing after last year's appearance in the final. It would be helpful to find some more juniors – sounds familiar?

At Easter, **the JK** was held far away in Scotland, which restricted the number of participants from NGOC, and hence in the relays too. We had just 2 teams competing. The men's team of Joe Taunton, Neil Cameron and Chris James managed to come 35<sup>th</sup> out of 44 on men's short, while the ladies team of Heather Findlay, Gill Stott and Pat Cameron mis-punched. The captain was not present, so thanks to Neil for deputising.

The **British Relays** were held in May in the Lake District. Again, we managed just 2 teams, but we did manage better results. On men's short, Neil Cameron, Joe Taunton and Gill Stott (!) came 11<sup>th</sup> out of 32 and on mixed ad-hoc, Ros Taunton, David Lee and Paul Taunton finished 29<sup>th</sup> of 46 teams. Again, the captain was conspicuous by his absence, so thanks to Paul for standing in on the day.

The final team event of the season was the **Harvester Relay** on 1<sup>st</sup> July at the military training area of Bordon Heaths in Hampshire. As usual, the captain made sure to be there for this one. We entered one team in the 7 leg A event, consisting of the captain, Dave Jones, Steve Williams, Joe Parkinson, Joe Taunton, Heather Findlay and Patrick Wooddisse. Unfortunately, the captain retired with an exhausted lamp and wounded pride, and together with one other mis-punch this meant we came bottom of the pile.

Although it is not a team competition, it was good to see 28 club members at **CROESO** in Aberystwyth in July. Weather-wise, we enjoyed the best week of the summer. The best performance was Pete Ward 10<sup>th</sup> on M40L. Other good results were had by Andy Stott, Gill Stott and Bob Teed.

**Next year**, the team competitions will all be relatively close to home, so no excuses please when I come recruiting. Compass Sport qualification round will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> February, at a venue not yet decided, and the final would be in the Forest of Dean. At Easter, the JK will be in the Chilterns and the British Champs will be held in May in Surrey. The Harvester is even closer, at Eastnor. As always, there is plenty to look forward to.

Greg Best.

## **AGM report for 2012 – Legend**

### **Legend** - *newsletter*

Usual 6 copies issued over the last year. Thank you to all who contributed. If anyone has anything they think might be of interest to club members – long articles, short articles, snippets for “Brashings” or photographs – please send to me. All hard copies (about 20) are printed at home to save money. Future copies will now be stapled as I have recently purchased a long reach stapler!

### **Forest Challenge!** - *orienteering board game*

Over 260 sold since 2010. £300 of profits have recently been donated to the Woodland Trust - details will appear in the November Legend. (First profits went in 2011 to help flood victims in Pakistan.) This year the price has been raised to £8-00 from £7-50 and postage to £2-00 from £1-50 to reflect increased costs. The game is on sale tonight if you haven't got your copy yet!

### **Spoof-O** - *orienteering in poems and prose*

The series of o-reports and poems – done in the style of famous authors such as Enid Blyton, Raymond Chandler and P G Wodehouse – that have appeared in Legend in the last year have now been collected together and published in a booklet; proceeds to the SW Junior Squad. 44 pages for £2-00 (£2-50 if posted). On sale tonight!

## **NGOC – Welfare Officer's Report - AGM – 8<sup>th</sup> October 2012**

I have no incidents or concerns to report with regard to the club or local level.

At a National level I have joined the Welfare & Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults Steering Group with Judith Holt, who is a director of BOF as chairman. We are due to have a central meeting once a year and others contact electronically. Recently a self-evaluation of where British Orienteering stands against the new Framework for Safeguarding Children in and through sport has been completed and this will be used to help consolidate the requirements at club level for each of the home nations. We hope to simplify documentation rather than have wordy legalise.

There are more changes due to take place on CRB clearances within the next couple of months and after that we will be able to evaluate who needs clearance.

Gill James  
28.09.2012