

# The Legend

Number 137



Newsletter of  
North Gloucestershire Orienteering Club  
January 2009

[www.ngoc.org.uk](http://www.ngoc.org.uk)

# NGOC Committee

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**Disclaimer:** Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the North Gloucestershire Orienteering Club.

**Articles for Legend:** We are always looking for articles on anything to do with orienteering; digital photos are especially welcome. Send your article/pictures to [legend@ngoc.org.uk](mailto:legend@ngoc.org.uk) or Alan and Ann Brown, 10 Brizen Lane, Cheltenham, GL53 0NG. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this edition of Legend.

**Cover:** Young orienteers in the forest. *Photo: Chris James*

# Chairman's Chat

## *New Year & a New Beginning*

One only has to take a peek at what some other clubs are doing and achieving to be inspired. Have a look at The Federation's website and at "Focus" and "Compass Sport". Put this into the British Orienteering Federation's Whole Sport Plan framework of the 3 P's - More People, More Places, More Podiums and let us see what WE can do as a Club with a few New Year Resolutions.

## *Why should we bother?*

Whether we like it or not we are subject to more and more legislation set up by the Government. There are more limitations on what we can do and how we can do it. There is only support from Sports Councils if we are seen to be increasing participation and following best practice. The world around us looks for excitement and innovation. If we do not attempt to join in then we will be left in a backwater slowly drifting into oblivion.

## *So what should we do?*

1. Become a Sports Council's "Clubmark" recognized club.

We are working towards this standard that means that schools, local councils and landowners will all accept us as an organisation that can be supported and trusted.

2. We can become more accessible.

We need more and better publicity. Can you help us in your part of the Club's area?

We need a regular Club base where people can find us on, say, a weekly basis.

We now have the strong possibility of a base for weekly meetings. Matt Lloyd is a new Senior Lecturer in Sports Education at the University of Gloucestershire based at the Oxstall Campus on the edge of Gloucester. He may well be able to offer us an excellent place to meet at Oxstall, with gym and changing facilities and in due course an 'O' map of the campus. With such facilities we could meet one evening weekly for training and social activities.

3. We can attract more families and schools.

We can follow the MADDO and Bristol example by providing more obvious help for newcomers at our events, or, indeed those returning after an absence from the sport. "Ask Me"!

Now that orienteering is included in the school curriculum there is a whole framework set up to encourage participation with many teachers qualifying as Orienteering Coaches. They are already beginning to look for ways of extending into our events. For example, Kyla da Cunha is bringing children from the Ross-on-Wye area to our events. Let's see if we can encourage a similar participation from Cheltenham, Cirencester, The Forest, Gloucester and Stroud Schools to form our own School's Mini League. If children come along, there is a chance that their parents will also come and feel they would like to have a go.

## A Prosperous New Year

Please do join me and the NGOC Committee in helping to make these things happen.

Good orienteering in 2009 and beyond.

Chris James - *Chairman NGOC*

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## **MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

### **Welcome to the following new members:**

Rose Davis  
65 Hafodarthan Road, Llanhilleth, Abertillery, NP13 2RZ  
01495 214402

Andrew Pedder  
4 Court House Gardens, Cam, Dursley, GL11 5LP  
01453 549066                      07725 039539                      [andypedder@aol.com](mailto:andypedder@aol.com)

Gordon and Calum Smillie  
5 Fleckers Drive, Hatherley GL51 3BB  
01242 242250                      07742 318422                      [g.smillie@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:g.smillie@blueyonder.co.uk)

### **Change of details:**

Nesbit family: Garden Flat, 18 Elmdale Road, Tyndalls Park, Bristol, BS8 1SF  
John Fallows: [john@greyeye.co.uk](mailto:john@greyeye.co.uk)  
Derek Hobby: [dhobby@btinternet.com](mailto:dhobby@btinternet.com)  
Colin Parsons: [parsons\\_colin@sky.com](mailto:parsons_colin@sky.com)

*Changed your email address, phone number or postal address? Don't forget to tell the Membership Secretary!*

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Location	Map reference	Organiser
1 Jan Thursday	New Year's Day Score	Parkend Mass start at 1100	SO 608079	Alan Brown 01242 580096
11 Jan Sunday	Galoppen	Cranham	SO 882130	John Fallows 01684 290256
17 Jan Saturday	WNL 2	Symonds Yat	SO 573118	Tom Mills 01452 760451
31 Jan Saturday	League 4	Sallowvallets	SO 607116	Alan Richards 01249 713542
7 Feb Saturday	WNL 3	Painswick	SO 870118	Dave Hartley 01452 863805
7 Mar Saturday	League 5	Blakeney Hill	SO 667067	Andy Stott 01291 689471

Enquiries to Organiser or Fixtures Secretary – Dave Hartley 01452 863805

For latest details check the NGOC website at [www.ngoc.org.uk](http://www.ngoc.org.uk)

### **NGOC Registration and start times**

Informal Events: Start times 1230-1400

Senior £3                  Junior £1                  Non-members £3

League Events: Registration 1130-1230 Starts from 1230-1330

Senior £4                  Junior £1

Competitors who are not members of any club £5

Night Events Registration from 1800 – or when it's dark!

Senior £4                  Junior £1

### **MADO (Malvern and District Orienteers – part of Harlequins) Mini-League**

Saturday 10 January	Event 3. Wyche Ridge
Saturday 21 February	Event 4. Hollybed Common
Saturday 21 March	Event 5. Eastnor and Malvern South

Courses: yellow, orange, green and blue

Registration: 1200-1300                  Starts: 1230-1400

Adult/family: £4                  Junior: £1

More details: [www.harlequins.org.uk/MADO](http://www.harlequins.org.uk/MADO)

**Important:** League 5 at the Kidnalls has been *provisionally* rearranged for Saturday 21 March as League 6. Please check the website or contact the organiser nearer the day.

## Our new Club Captain, Greg Best, writes . . .

My first introduction to the sport of orienteering was 30 years ago at school in Bristol. We competed in the Avon Schools League, and I rather enjoyed it, so I readily signed up with the orienteering club when I moved to Lancaster University. While my friends lay in bed nursing hangovers on Sunday mornings, I regularly forced myself to get up and onto the club bus for the frequent trips to the Lakes and Dales of Northern England. This cemented my enthusiasm and I have continued orienteering while never challenging the higher ranks in the sport ever since! After uni, I joined BOK for a while, and then I lived and worked overseas for many years, thus having the good fortune of taking part in plenty of orienteering in Norway, Sweden and France. Finally, I joined NGOC after we moved to Cheltenham 10 years ago.

Orienteering has never been my only or even main sport, and so has always been squeezed in around rugby matches, hockey matches, cycling trips and so on. These days, I also have to fit it around family life and running the hotel we own. You will often see me on a Saturday arriving at a league event smelling of bacon fat, and then, after running, quickly changing in the back of the car into hockey kit, dashing off to arrive at the match just in time. Or other times, dashing from a hockey match to a night O event. Luckily, my wife is forgiving!

I have derived much pleasure from orienteering over the years, so it seems right to give something back to the sport via organising events, and now becoming club captain. Alan, your editor, asked me what my aims are in the post. My first reaction was that I must turn NGOC into the best, most successful orienteering club on the planet and win the Compass Sport Cup, British relays and World Club Championship. Then I awoke from this dream, and took a realism pill!

After some further thought, I know that the priority must be to try various ways of encouraging new people to have a go at our sport, particularly young people and families. Some of these will eventually become club members and this will make the captain's role easier as we will have a bigger group of people willing to compete in the team events (relays and Compass Sport Cup). More people mean more points scored, and perhaps success will breed further success. I would also like to take the welcome opportunity presented by these team events to add a more social side to what is usually a very individual sport. This can be achieved by travelling to the event together as a group, by sharing cars or even by hiring a coach or minibus. The club tent will be the meeting place during the event and there could be a picnic or pub visit after the event.

# New Orienteering Course in Gloucester Park

After several years work, agreement and funding has now been secured for a fixed orienteering course in Gloucester Park. The work is being led by the City Centre Community Partnership (CCCP) in Gloucester in association with other key partners, including NGOC. Work will soon commence in mapping the park and controls will be installed next spring ready for a formal opening event following by several training events led by NGOC.

The local Primary Care Trust (PCT) have provided 80% of the funding and the project will be managed by a member of the PCT who is also a long-standing member of NGOC.

The course will be used by the PCT to help in their obesity strategy and will also be promoted by the local health centre. It is expected that this initiative will introduce new people to the sport who will in turn progress to become members of NGOC. Once the course is open and operational, its use will be evaluated and, if deemed successful, further courses are planned for other parks in the Gloucester area.

Further details can be obtained from NGOC member Mark Boyce on 01452 536377.

Mark Boyce

## Brashings

### Legend colours

We are starting the New Year by having on the front page of Legend the club colours of green, white and violet (the same as the suffragettes G(reen) W(hite) V(iolet) = G(ive) W(omen) the V(ote).

### Have your say!

Are there any matters that you would like the committee to consider? Contact the Club Secretary, Pat Cameron, or any member of the Committee. The next Committee meeting is on Monday 23 February 2009.

### Back page

Know your fellow members! Long-time member Rodney Archard at his informal at Bixslade on 22 November.

