

The Legend

Number 186



**Newsletter of
North Gloucestershire Orienteering Club
January 2019**

www.ngoc.org.uk

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Cover: Did you know that NGOC adopted a redundant O.S. trig point in 1994? Bob Teed has been caring for it for most of that time - read all about it inside. (Photograph: Bob Teed)

Chairman's Chat

First of all a very happy New Year to you all, slightly belated by the time this edition of Legend appears. Since the last chat very little has happened compared to this time last year. We had a very useful committee meeting back in December where we were able to consolidate our thoughts after the AGM a few weeks earlier.

Amongst the topics were the forthcoming event at Woodchester which was to include an inaugural Trail event with a twist. In this case the opportunity to cut across country with the aid of a map should any of the runners wish to deviate and beat (or cheat as someone put it) the trail. This proved very successful attracting over 30 competitors some from as far afield as Wales. A big cheer for Doug and Pat who devised and created this event.

The orienteering event itself was an overwhelming success beating the attendance for a local event for over 10 years. Another big cheer and well done to Sheila the planner, Caroline the advisor and Greg the permissions negotiator for all of the months of hard work they all put in. What we need to do now is tease out the factors that made a difference in terms of attendance and capitalise on them.

The weekend of the 20th of January saw the club Galoppen. To digress for a moment, this name is soon to change and I am of the personal point of view that this is none too soon. Spelling it is always a conundrum apart from the title. Anyway another big cheer for Andy Stott who put on a great day, once again, after a lot of hard work. I had intended to do a Green with my duff foot in tow but Green was big on popularity so with no map available I did a Blue. Really enjoyed it.

Before I finish I suppose I must make a small comment on the Radio Gloucestershire interview. As the committee members

know I was convinced this might be a disaster. This was very worrying given that I did not want to embarrass the club or the sport. It seemed that what came out of my mouth was not connected to what was going on in my head. Surprise, surprise! By some miracle a coherent interview emerged. Diligent editing and perhaps adrenaline overriding panic make for a pleasant result.

Tom

CAPTION COMPETITION



Paul Taunton at the British Championships. Apart from Ginny Hudson's suggestion: "*Surely not sloping off for an early cup of tea?*" the only further caption came from Paul himself:

"Some joker has put an NGOC top on one of Antony Gormley's statues!" (*Paul Taunton*)

A fabulous family day!

New Year and new start they say! Time to make the most of the weekends so instead of the usual household chores we decided to take Grampy Tom (Mills) up on the offer of attending an NGOC event at Thistledown Farm.



After an hour of 'are we there yet' from the kids we arrived at what is certainly a gem of a place.

Having not attended an event for a while it was a good excuse to get out for a bit of a run to blow those Christmas and New Year cobwebs away! So glad we did too. Finn (9 years) Logan (7 years) and their cousin Poppy (10 years) had a fantastic time as did the adults!

Starting off with the Mr Men course was the perfect way to get them warmed up and into the swing of things. They shot off from the start, swizzing around full of energy (much more than their parents!) and soon decided after getting a stitch or two that they needed to slow down!!

Next it was onto the Yellow Course and a little more thought required via the adults and their 'very rusty' map reading skills. The course was great to get the kids looking at the maps and the direction to go in. What a site for them to run in, so much space, woodland and water! After a few mistakes initially we all soon got into it, running through the fields and then onto the woodland, the kids building up their excitement each time to get the next point.

The course was just right for their age group, each point not too difficult to find and apart from the slight distraction of the rope swings in the woodland they did amazingly well and made good time. They finished with smiles on their faces and keen to do more! If it wasn't for the call for some lunch and a hot brew, we probably would have done too!



What a perfect day it was for us all. Great to be out in the fresh air, rounded off with a visit to the lovely café on site and some rather nice cake!



Not only did we all love the Orienteering which we certainly will be back to enjoy more of, but we also found a cracking campsite which we hope to return to when the weather warms up!



Thank you to all, especially the organisers who were all very helpful. It was a top day!

Trevor Mills

Dr Thorndyke would have made an excellent orienteer

R Austin Freeman, 1862-1943, was a writer of detective stories whose main character was Dr Thorndyke, a Sherlock Holmes type. Obviously he has to have his Dr Watson, in this case Dr Jervis. The stories are noted for their genuine and often obscure, points of scientific knowledge but also for their realism when describing places.

When orienteering are you a Dr Thorndyke? :-

“It was all very well for Thorndyke, who had apparently transferred the six-inch map bodily to his consciousness; he knew exactly where he was at any given moment.”

Or a Dr Jervis? :-

“But to me, when once we had left the plain high road, all sense of direction was lost and I was aware only of a bewildering succession of abominably steep lanes, cart-tracks and footpaths, which we scrambled up or stumbled down until we became finally and hopelessly submerged in a wood.”

In one book, published in 1936, “The Penrose Mystery”, the two of them together with Polton, Thorndyke’s assistant, set out from London by train to Canterbury and then take the bus to Godmersham as part of their investigations. When I dug out the 1989 O.S. map I was able to follow their route – although it is not quite so clear after they enter the woods. If you check the contours you will see that he has his ups and downs correct as well.

“Here [Godmersham] we got out and walked forward until we came to the crossroads beyond the village, where Thorndyke turned to the right and led the way along the by-road. Presently we passed underneath a railway line and then, as the road made a sharp turn to the right, followed it along the bottom of a valley nearly parallel to the railway. About half a mile further on, another by-road led off to the left and, as Thorndyke turned off into it, my sense of direction began to get somewhat confused. It was quite a good road and fairly level, but its windings made it difficult to keep a “dead reckoning,” and when, half a mile along it yet another by-road led off from it to the left at right angles –

into which Thorndyke turned confidently – and then made a right-angle turn to the right, I abandoned all attempts to keep count of our direction.



“Along this road we trudged for three-quarters of a mile, still keeping fairly on the level. But then the ground began to rise sharply and the road zig-zagged more than ever. A mile or so further on we passed through a village, and I found myself casting a slightly wistful glance at a couple of rustics who were seated on a bench outside the inn, sustaining themselves with beer and conversation. But Thorndyke plodded on relentlessly, and when, a few hundred yards beyond the village, we came to yet another cross-road, he finished me off by taking the turning to the left.

“ ‘I suppose, Thorndyke,’ said I, when we had toiled up this road for half a mile and he halted to look around, “you know where you are.” . . . [*Thorndyke produces a map*] . . .

“ ‘That is the village [*Sole Street*] at the bottom and this is the road we are on. You see that it peters out, more or less, when it enters the wood.’

“I compared the section of map with the visible objects and was able to identify a farm-house across the fields on our right and a considerable wood which we were approaching.

“ ‘Yes,’ I said, ‘it is clear enough so far, though it doesn’t mean much to me. What is the significance of the pencilled cross by the roadside?’

“ ‘That,’ he replied, ‘marks the spot, as nearly as I could locate it from the evidence at the inquest, where the old woman was killed.’ . . .

“Half a mile further on, we came to a fork in the road, the left-hand branch being little more than a cart-track. Into this Thorndyke turned unhesitatingly; . . . This road, however, after crossing a considerable open space, took a sharp, right-angle turn to the left opposite a pair of cottages, but its original direction was continued by a broad footpath. Thorndyke first followed the road in its new direction where it entered and crossed a narrow strip of wood, but, after careful examination of the ruts in the wood, he came back and explored the footpath. .

“The footpath passed along the front of the cottages, still in the open, but presently it skirted the edge of the wood. . . .

“We continued our progress slowly [*they are looking for the tracks of a cart*] for another hundred yards . . . we could see the faint, but clearly distinguishable, tracks of some wheeled vehicle which had turned off the path on to the rough turf of the open field. . . .

“We followed the tracks, not without difficulty across the wide meadow until we reached another belt of woodland. Here the

tracks entered the wood by a footpath, and were easy enough to follow on the soft earth. The path continued for about a furlong and then emerged into the open, where it crossed a small grass-covered space; and, following it, we were still able to distinguish the wheel-tracks by its sides. When it reached the edge of the wood, the footpath turned sharply to the right, keeping in the open. But here the tracks left the path and plunged straight into the wood, which was fairly free from undergrowth. Following the comparatively deep ruts which the wheels had made in the soft leaf-mould, we advanced by a rather tortuous route about a couple of hundred yards into the wood.”

[In the wood Jervis finds an abandoned entrenching tool that had been used to dig illegally into a long barrow – Jullieberrie’s Grave, to be seen on the map.] . . .

“I must confess that I was profoundly impressed. Once more Thorndyke had achieved what had seemed to me an impossibility. Not only had he traced the route that the car had followed, but he had clearly established the identity of the car. Moreover, he had settled the place from which the car had started in a country which he had never seen, working by inference and aided only by the map. It was a remarkable performance even for Thorndyke.”

(The complete collection of Dr Thorndyke books is available on Kindle for 49 pence – or the printed books for considerably more!)



Codeword puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
D						C						

14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
					K		Q		

A B ~~C~~ ~~D~~ E F G H I ~~J~~ ~~K~~ L M N O P ~~Q~~ R S T U V W ~~X~~ Y ~~Z~~

NGOC's latest orienteering challenge. You may already have seen this type of puzzle in newspapers and the Radio Times. The idea is to fill in each square with one letter; the number already printed in the square always represents the same letter. The words on the grid are all associated with orienteering, mainly but not exclusively terms used for control descriptions.

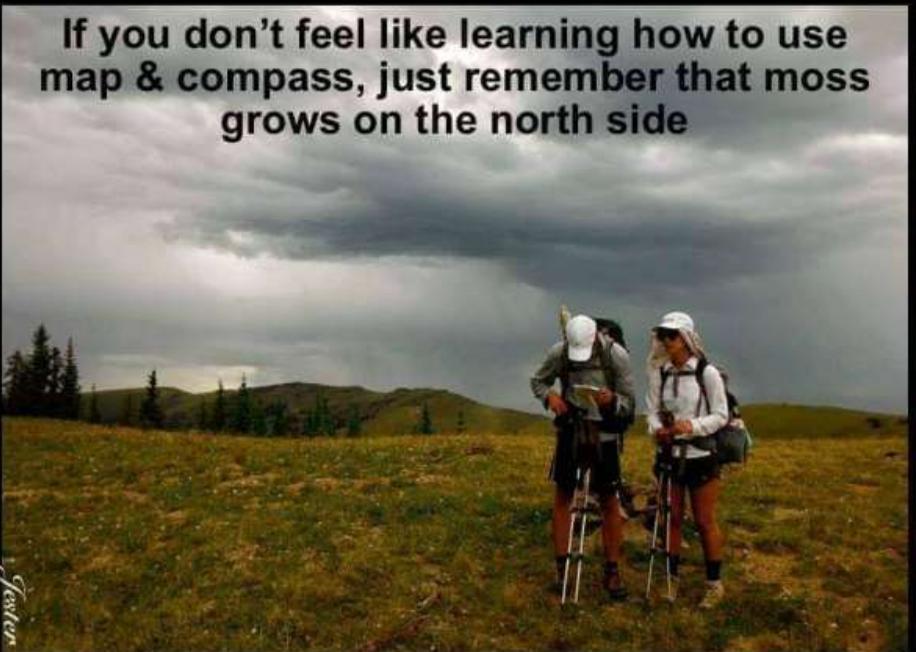
Once you think you have identified a letter (say 13 stands for U) write in U in each box on the grid with the number 13, cross off U in the A-Z bar above and write U next to 13 in the box above that. This helps you keep track of how far you have got.

To start you off you have been given the letters **C**, **D**, **K** and **Q** and these have been added to the grid. The letters **J**, **X** and **Z** have not been used.

The solution is at the end of the newsletter in *Brashings*

C ⁷	2	18	6	22	15	10	5		D ¹	15	11
20											
10	6	22	22	20	12	9	6	22	3	17	
8		20									
22		13	22	11	6	10		3			
20		5						14		Q ²¹	
2		17	18	D ¹	5	18		13		13	
		20						22		6	
		14								22	
	23	18	5	11	20	13	10	D ¹	6	22	4
		10			23			18		4	
					18			14			
18	6	3	8	18	22	10		22	13	15	10
6		17			5			18			20
22		6		8	22	18	18	3			22
8		2			20			3			8
17		2			12		14	15	8		17
11	22	20	K ¹⁹	18	10			20			12
6		12						10			18
10				12			3				3
K ¹⁹				6			8				8
		14	6	8	17		20		16		C ⁷
14				18			10		15		20
2	20	12	18	22			4		18		22
6				17			5		2		10
8		16	20	20	8	11	22	15	D ¹	5	18
16				2			20			13	22
20				18			13				2
22						K ¹⁹	10	20	2	2	
9	15	D ¹	D ¹	2	18		D ¹				4

**If you don't feel like learning how to use
map & compass, just remember that moss
grows on the north side**



**of the bodies of previous people who didn't
feel like learning how to use map & compass.**

NGOC's very own trig pillar



Bob Teed has carefully cleared the area round the trig pillar and given it a coat of paint. One can see that it has been a long time since the trig point was used for its intended purpose because the trees growing up round it obscure the view towards other trig pillars.

When their trig pillars became redundant the Ordnance Survey, a bit like BT with their red phone boxes, put them up for adoption to help preserve this part of the UK's survey heritage.

From “*Trig pillar adoption – information for adopters*”:

“Ordnance Survey found it necessary to establish triangulation stations on private land during the course of the survey of Great Britain, and most of them were built between 1939 and 1959.

“Modern satellite positioning technology (the US Global Positioning System) has been used to establish a new national network of control stations. Intervisibility between survey control stations, which led to their creation as outlined above, is no longer a requirement.

“This means that, in terms of Ordnance Survey’s day to day survey requirements almost 5,000 triangulation pillars are now redundant. Individuals and members of organisations have volunteered to continue maintenance of these redundant trig pillars . . . “

NGOC adopted one of these pillars in 1994 and Bob Teed, in accordance with the agreement with the Ordnance Survey, visits it once a year to check on it and occasionally paint it (with lead-free paint). “The adopter must therefore ensure that the pillar is in good repair so that it looks tidy in the environment in which it is sited”.

One year Bob was doing his painting duty when a lady walked past. After complimenting Bob on what a good job he was doing she enquired whether he was going to display a “wet paint” sign. Being in such a rural area Bob replied that he did not think it necessary.

Lady: “Someone might come along and get paint on their clothes; a dog might brush against it.”

Bob: “But dogs can’t read.”

Exit lady stage left.

If you want to visit “our” trig pillar to see if the paint has dried it is in grid square ST9955, 1:50,000 sheet 162. If you would like to take over the yearly inspection and occasional painting regime please see Bob.



Ordnance Survey

Romsey Road, Maybush, Southampton SO9 4DH
Tel: Dial direct or Switchboard 0703 792000 Fax: 0703 792452

Trig Pillar Adoption 7 | 9 | 93 | 2295

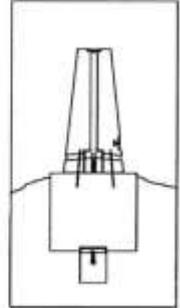
Further to our recent letter concerning the above, I am pleased to advise you that the following pillar has been provisionally allocated to you:

TIDENHAM PARK ST5599

This, of course, is subject to any necessary approval being given by the landowner for right of access. This sadly may take some time, I hope therefore that you will continue to bear with us.

Carol Owen, Assistant Press Officer

IPR 10321 0293



Card from the O.S. informing which pillar has been allocated to us. The diagram on the right of the card shows how much of the structure is actually underground.



Ordnance Survey

Ordnance Survey
Romsey Road
SOUTHAMPTON
United Kingdom
SO16 4GU

Trig Pillar Report Card

Pillar Name..... Date visited.....

NGRef..... Our Reference.....

Pillar Condition	GOOD	SURFACE CRACKING	DEEP CRACKING	*		
	UPRIGHT	LEANING	FALLEN OVER	GONE		
Flush Bracket	INTACT	MISSING	Pillar Painted?		YES	NO
Theodolite Fitting	INTACT	MISSING	*			
Ground Condition	GOOD	ERODED	MADE UP	*		
Need extra cards?	YES	NO	*			

* Delete as necessary

Changed your address? Do let us know.

Please Print Your Name Thanks for the card.

DS200560196



Amongst the other paperwork supplied by the Ordnance Survey was a supply of report cards; one has to be returned annually by the adopter to record the pillar's condition.



Ordnance Survey

*This is in recognition of
the adoption of*

.....
Tidenham Park
.....

*Trig Pillar
by*

North Gloucestershire Orienteering Club
.....

.....
14 July 1994
.....

Director General

David Rhind



A New Year's resolution

A New Year and my aim is in sight – to be able to jog around the courses at the 2019 Scottish 6 days being held in Strathearn, between 28 July and 3 August.

I'm not bad at the map reading bit. My route choices tend to be based on what my body can cope with!

So far on my journey I have lost over 30kg and aiming for another 20kg before my August goal. Recently I have been able to jog around the courses too rather than walk - mainly on the flat but experimenting with up and down hill. My physicality gives me extra momentum downhill . . . I have to ensure I can stop! The same mass makes it harder to get up hills – I look forward to minimal huffing and puffing in a few months.

My personal attack points started with: finish with no mispunching, progressing through: finish without getting lost, not be last, and now starting to jog when I can.

I'm into my seventh year of orienteering with NGOC. I've always loved maps and finding my way: I fondly remember as a child in the back of a Morris Minor following the route in an AA travel book and telling my Dad he'd gone the wrong way! More recently, I've gained a reputation for setting up children's treasure hunts around friends' homes – it's often the first thing asked as I walk through the door!

Back to this year's 6-day event, which will be my first. Every other year it is held in Scotland, with Wales and England taking turns with the other. During my orienteering years I have heard all about the 6-day events from other NGOC comrades and now I am running my first. Having attended the JK a few times, the buzz of a national event which attracts runners from all over the world is something to experience. I am so looking forward to it.

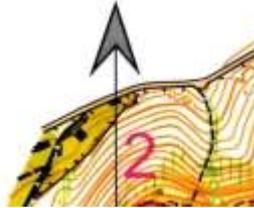
And to make it even more special, I'm staying in a property that looks like a castle with over 20 other orienteers! There are going to be loads of discussions on route choice and terrain over dinner. I volunteered to cook one night – little do they know what's in store . . .

Suas air a 'bheinn a tha sinn a' dol !

Hìls Nìcholls

Bertie's

British Camp



blunders

“Your orienteering kit is laid out ready for you in your room, sir. May I enquire which course you intend to compete in?”

“The jolly old Brown course, of course, Jeeves. I don't know why you ask, I always go for the longest and most difficult.”

“Is that wise, sir, considering your state of fitness? It is the Malverns and the climb is stated as 350 metres. If one takes a metre to be approximately 39.36 inches that works out at 1,248 feet, a considerable height.”

“There's no need to talk in that soupy voice, Jeeves, I am quite fit enough to complete the course. You seem to forget that one of the Wooster ancestors was at Agincourt, or it may have been Crecy, so orienteering is a walk in the park for an intrepid member of this particular clan. Besides I happen to know that Mr Best is also planning to run the Brown and I want to show him once and for all who is the better orienteer. I also happen to know that Daisy will be accompanying him and she will slow him down.”

“Daisy, sir?”

“Daisy the dog. She will slow him down. As you very well know, Jeeves, dogs like to stop constantly and sniff things and, er, so on and so forth. That will give me an advantage.”

“But Mr Best, if I may be allowed to mention it, sir, is a far more accomplished orienteer than yourself; a betting man who studies form assiduously would place his money on Mr Best every time.”

“Really, Jeeves, how can you believe that? Fake noos, that’s what my friend Donald would call it, fake noos.”

I gave the fellow a withering look and biffed off to get changed. As it happened I was getting a lift with Hils and Mr Best and Daisy and, during the car journey, I let it be known that I might just run the Brown. I did this in a self-deprecatory sort of way (if that is the correct term) as if I was not taking it very seriously, just to lull my rival into a false sense of security. My ruse seemed to work very well: Mr Best, and indeed Daisy, seemed very relaxed, almost nonchalant, not realising the subtle Wooster trap.

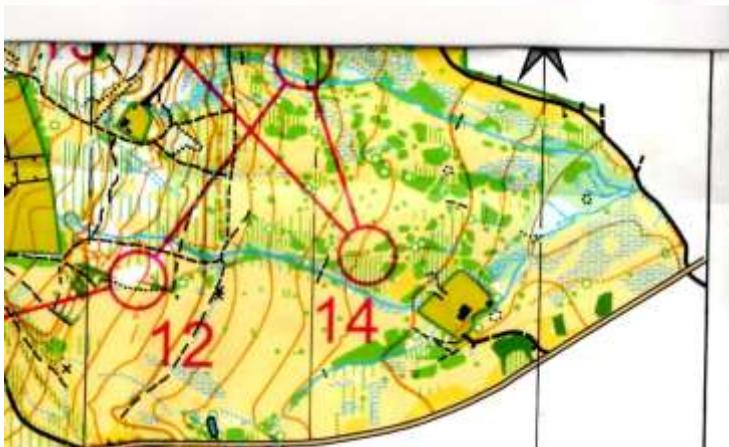
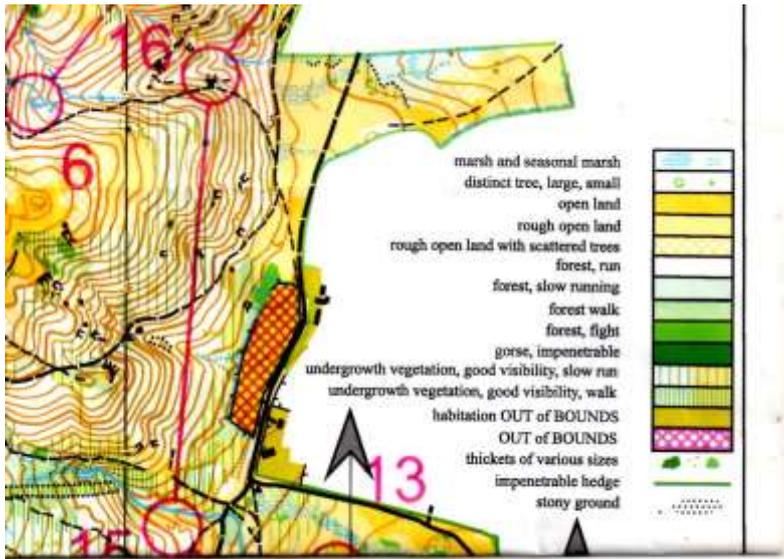
At the car park I rushed to pay my money and ankleed over to the Start; I didn’t want to give a certain person the chance of following me. On the way to the Start I passed a group of coves in running kit and listening in to their conversation it appeared that they were all runners who were going to have a first go at orienteering. Full marks to HOC, I thought, but it would be years before they reached the Wooster standard of navigation - if ever.

The first six controls all went swimmingly but then came number 7 and I set off with no clear plan apart from a vague compass bearing. How it was possible for anyone to wander around that small area for nearly half an hour without coming across the control – even by accident – I don’t know. When I eventually reached it I was tired and frustrated but the indomitable Wooster spirit made me continue.

I must say that I was glad that I didn’t have one of those GPS things one can upload to RouteGadget – a shopping trolley would make more of a straight line than one of Wooster’s compass bearings.

All went well again until number 15 and it really was bad luck this time – even Jeeves agreed. I just happened to have the map folded with

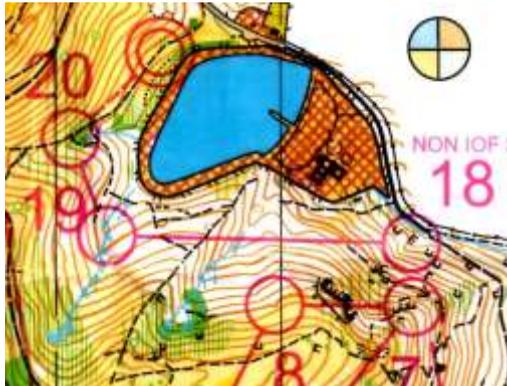
number 15 on the fold and therefore not so obvious. So Bertram went straight from 14 to 16, only realising his error when he got to 16. By this time he was even more tired and it was too far to go back to 15 so he simply carried on.



Be careful how you fold the map

The third and final – I almost said fatal – error was number 19. I went up the first re-entrant (influenced by some fast chaps who looked like

they knew what they were doing) instead of the second. Looking for the SI box marked 60 I found 64 and then 63. It was only when I had a discussion with someone else who was also looking for 60 that we decided that we were in the wrong valley.



Don't go up the wrong valley

I plodded on to the last control and then the Finish. Back in the car park the first fellow I saw was Mr Best, already changed and looking even more nonchalant.

So was Hils. “We haven’t been waiting long, Bertie, only half an hour or maybe a bit longer.”

Like so many times before it was a contrite and humble Bertram who changed quickly and collapsed into the car to go home.

I cannot deceive my readers by pretending that I was not low in spirits when I crossed the Wooster threshold. But the sight of Jeeves standing there respectfully next to the little table with the cocktail ingredients and the sound of hot water running in the bathroom alleviated my gloom.

“Good evening, sir, which would you like first – your cocktail or hot bath?”

“Jeeves, am I glad to see you. I have a better idea: wait until I am in the bath and then serve my cocktail while I am still soaking. I have been tried today like I have never been tried before.”

“Events did not unfold as favourably as you had anticipated, sir?”

“They certainly did not, Jeeves. Of all the bally bad luck . . .” and I poured out my sorrows.

“Most disturbing, sir” was all he could say before adding “However, may I draw your attention to a saying of the Emperor Marcus Aurelius? He said: ‘Does aught befall you? It is good. It is part of the destiny of the Universe ordained for you from the beginning.’”

“He said that, did he?”

“Yes, sir.”

“Well, you can tell him from me, he's an ass!”

“Very good, sir.”



Letter to the Editor

Dear Ed

At our Woodchester event, whilst I was checking where not to put my feet, I noticed some rather beautiful red fungi. Does anyone know the name for this particular species and is it edible?

Yours

Hils Nicholls

Brashings

Codeword solution

Across (from top left): clearing, dib, narrow marsh, urban, hedge, veg boundary, eastern, ruin, trees, pit, broken, path, lower, footbridge, knoll, middle.

Down (from top left): control, rough open, spur, quarry, overgrown, depression, earthbank, shallow, northwest corner, waterhole, stony ground, field, platform, gully.

British Orienteering incentive scheme Awards

Congratulations to the following members who have been awarded incentive scheme certificates for their performances at orienteering events:

Alex Evans	Navigation Challenge *****
Stephen Lee	Racing Challenge: Bronze Award ***** Navigation Challenge *****
Andrew Pedder	Racing Challenge: Silver Award *****
Hilary Nicholls	Racing Challenge: Bronze Award *****
Michelle Ward	Racing Challenge: Bronze Award ***
Jess Miklausic	Navigation Challenge ***
Ginny Hudson	Racing Challenge: Silver Award ***** Racing Challenge: Gold Award *****
Jessica Ward	Racing Challenge: Gold Award *****
Seth Lawson	Navigation Challenge ***

BOF rules update

BOF rules were updated from the beginning of January: the main thing we need to be aware of for our usual events is the need to show the likely ACTUAL running distance for Urban events, rather than straight line distance from Purple Pen. For all the rules visit:

<https://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/rules>

(Thanks to Paul Taunton)

BOF discounts

Don't forget that membership discounts and offers are detailed on the sheet that comes with your 2019 membership card, including 15% off at Cotswold Outdoors and 10% off at Up & Running. (I have used mine already and saved more than the annual BOF membership fee on a pair of (expensive) walking boots - Ed.).

Have your say!

Are there any matters that you would like the Committee to consider? Contact the Club Secretary, Kim Liggett, or any member of the Committee. The next Committee meeting is on 4 March.

Articles for Legend

We are always looking for articles and photographs on anything to do with orienteering. Send your article/pictures to legend@ngoc.org.uk. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this edition of Legend.

Disclaimer

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