

The Legend

Number 199



Newsletter of
North Gloucestershire Orienteering Club
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www.ngoc.org.uk



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Front cover: underemployed Mr Men from the String Course find a new role in a Living Advent Calendar, thanks to Caroline Craig

Chairman's Chat

Organiser Pat Macleod, planner John Fallows and a hardy band of NGOC members are to be congratulated for running a very successful British Night Championships on Cleeve Hill in November. Despite the high winds and snow of storm Arwen, which impeded access to one of the parking areas and made erection of the start tents impossible, the event went ahead. Afterwards, competitors reportedly enjoyed battling the elements in what was a serious physical challenge. Special thanks are due to those helpers on the night who stood for long periods in freezing winds without shelter!

NGOC runners competed in 14 of the 16 events counting towards the 2021 UK Orienteering League. The final results showed NGOC in 10th place of almost 100 clubs. I believe this is the first time that NGOC has made it into the top ten? Although many of next year's UKOL events will be in Scotland and the north, there are some that will be reasonably accessible: the JK in South Wales; the British Champs in the southeast; the Caddihoe weekend in the southwest and the November Classic weekend. A couple of days of the Lakes 5-days are also likely to be designated as UKOL races. Why not sample a few of the bigger events in 2022? There are plenty to choose from!

In 2021 Covid prevented any orienteering events until early April. This year NGOC got off to a much better start, with our traditional New Year's Day score event, this year held at Chestnut's Hill and Green Bottom (part of the larger Lightning Tree Hill map). The turnout of 138 runners comfortably beat our previous best of 133 at Bixslade in 2020. Numbers are continuing to improve, compared to our long term average of around 100 competitors for all the NYD events between 2008 and 2020. Well done to Caroline Craig who planned an appropriate challenge, as only one runner, Richard Mawer of BAOB, managed to visit all the

controls - though he was just a few seconds late! After the race there was a round of applause to congratulate club member Doug Wilson on being awarded an OBE in the New Year Honours list. Doug was honoured for services to environmental research and the Covid-19 response.

Now is a good time to decide which of the Major events you intend to compete in this year, as you can take advantage of the cheaper entry fees offered for early entrants. The cheapest entries for the British Night Championships, the British Middle Championships, the British Championships and the JK are only available until 16th January, and those for the Lakes 5-days until 31st January. Because of the threat of Covid more people are likely to opt for “staycations” this year, so holiday accommodation in the Lake District is likely to be even busier than usual. The Taunton family has already booked a house in Patterdale for the Lakes 5 in August. See you there?

If you haven't already replied to Club Captain Shirley Robinson's e-mail asking members if they want to run for the club team in the CompassSport Cup please do so! The club has been allocated to the Harlequins round, to be held in February at Postensplain in the Wyre Forest, north-west of Bewdley in Worcestershire. If there is sufficient interest the club may arrange coach travel, and entry fees will be subsidized by the club. Interestingly, I see that our only two rivals in the Cup are OD (who were 8th in the UKOL) and DVO (who were 9th) so we might just be in with a chance?!

The NGOC team organising Day 2 of JK2022 were ultimately unable to obtain all the necessary permissions for the area originally chosen. I'm pleased to say that permissions are now in place for an alternative area, Clydach Terrace, which is located close to the highest point of the recently improved A465 Heads of the Valleys Road. Volunteer Coordinator Kevin Brooker will be looking for plenty of NGOC helpers on that day. If you haven't been to a Major event before, please do try JK2022! And if you

do compete there it will help NGOC's position in the UKOL. So keep Easter 2022 free, as the JK is rarely so close to us.

I was pleased to meet new NGOC member Robert Finch (M21) at last night's Western Night League event, organised by BOK at Cannop Ponds. He has recently moved to the Cheltenham area from Southampton. I recognise that the club may not always seem particularly welcoming to new members at events, as helpers on registration and download are usually concentrating on the tasks in hand, rather than having time to chat. If you are a new club member please do make yourself known to one of the helpers who will, I'm sure, be able to direct you to a member of the Committee with time to welcome you. Please don't hesitate to raise with them any queries that you may have about orienteering in general or the club in particular.

Hope to see you at an event soon!

Paul Taunton

Some useful advice for orienteers

CARDINAL RULE:

YOU CAN NEVER NOT KNOW WHERE YOU ARE

“I know how to read a map!” but you can never know how to read a map too well. As one Special Forces soldier tells us in a hypothetical story, “Imagine you are on a night patrol, traveling over miles and miles of dense jungle. There are no terrain features, just thick sticky, wet, unforgiving brush and swamps. The enemy strikes. They have overwhelming force. Your chances of living are slim to none. Your one hope hinges on calling in close air support. Five-hundred-pound bombs, accurately delivered, will *make your day*.”

He continues, “The Air Force forward air controller [FAC] cannot identify your position through the triple-canopy jungle. You must provide accurate grid coordinates of the enemy location and your location. The enemy is now within 100 meters of your position and closing. When you provide grid coordinates to the pilot, you don’t even want to think about the consequences to your team if you are off by as much as one digit. This is not the moment to ask yourself, “Did we travel 700 meters or 750 meters?” if you are unable to provide timely and accurate information as to your location and the enemy location, the technology of our vast arsenal is rendered impotent. Accurate map reading and the skill to always know *exactly* where you are on a map is often the difference between life and death. It is no small wonder that increasingly difficult land navigation is incorporated into every phase of the Special Forces Qualification Course.

From: TO BE A U.S. ARMY GREEN BERET BY COLONEL GERALD SCHUMACHER UNITED STATES ARMY SPECIAL FORCES (RET.)

Bertie does Witney



A map of two halves

Well, I had to miss the NGOC event on the Saturday, due to family commitments – a three-line whip to wait upon a certain aunt, but there was a TVOC urban event on the Sunday at Witney, near Oxford. Funnily, I have lived in Cheltenham for absolutely yonks but had never been nearer than the A40 skirting the place so it was an opportunity to visit somewhere new in both orienteering and touristical terms.

Jeeves does not approve of urban events; this is mainly, I believe, because the punters are often allowed to wear shorts. I don't consider my knees to be particularly knobbly and I'm sure they wouldn't win a prize at Butlin's but maybe the fellow had some devastating experience concerning knees when he was young and that explains his deep-seated prejudice. I normally get Jeeves to enter me for these binges online but I did this myself when he wasn't looking and sprung it on him just the day before. He immediately adopted his stuffed frog impression and asked if I was sure that I wanted to do such a novelty event.

“Yes, Jeeves, my heart is set on it and I will be going with Ann in the two-seater. Your attendance will not be required.” (I said this last in a marked manner.) “All you need do is lay out the orienteering raiment first thing on Sunday, shorts being the order of the day, what with it being an urban event and the weather very clement.”

“Very good, sir” was uttered in a rather sniffy manner and off he biffed. I could see that I was in for a difficult couple of days on the home front; not only does Jeeves disapprove of urban events he seems to have taken a dislike to the young lady. Unlike me, who considers her an absolute pippin.

Sunday morning saw us set off early for my two minutes past ten start. I had chosen an early start time as the cunning Wooster brain predicted that there would be fewer *οι πολλοι* infesting the streets and I didn’t really want to flatten any of them during my lightning progress round the course. The satnav was jolly useful in finding the correct car park although the chap giving directions did his usual trick of interrupting me just when I was coming to the punch line of a particularly interesting anecdote.

The car park was free so we didn’t have any problems about paying and simply sauntered along to the Start. The air was still quite fresh so I was glad of my o-suit trousers. And why was I wearing my o-suit trousers rather than shorts?

“Unfortunately, sir, I would not advocate shorts for the event as I have found that the elastic of the waistband has perished and I fear that you may find yourself in the embarrassing situation of running the course with one hand holding them up. It would be difficult to hold map, compass, dibber and shorts at the same time. Also, it might draw ribald comments from any of the lower classes that might be encountered. I will endeavour to obtain some new elastic and repair the items during the week.”

Anyway, we found that the Start was ready and waiting for the first punters to one side of a pleasant open field. I think I previously mentioned the cunning Wooster brain: I was second away on Men's Open so I took good note of where the cove in front of me went. He dibbed, grabbed his map, ran ten yards, stopped to look at it and then did a 180 degree turn, ran off again and disappeared. Instead of his original direction across the open field he had darted off out of sight behind a fence. Several vital seconds saved for Bertie.

I haven't mentioned the map yet. There was a wealth of detail and it needed to be A3 and 1:5,000 to fit it all in. A football pundit would have called it a map of two halves and he would have been jolly well right. The first twelve controls were on the eastern side in a modern housing estate with lots of cul-de-sacs joined with an even larger number of footpaths. I couldn't make up my mind whether the builder had been an orienteer - as the area was ideal for posing problems as to which was the best route between two points - or, alternatively, he was intending a second career as a burglar and was giving himself plenty of escape routes.



"Here be dragons" or "East is East and West is . . ."

Bertram was doing well until control 8. That's the trouble having such a fast brain – it runs ahead and the body can't keep up (in spite of my acknowledged athleticism). I reckon that is why I went straight from 8 to 10. Luckily, I noticed just after dibbing at 10 and, luckily, number 9 was not far away so I was able to make amends without much time lost.

Well, now it was time for the other half of the map. The only way between Cogges (the eastern part) and Witney (the western part) that was allowed to the punters was a pedestrian/cycle path. I presume that there was actual land in the blank "here be dragons" spaces and that you didn't fall off the edge of the world. Or maybe it was inspired by Mr Kipling (the poet, not the other one):

*Oh, East is East, and West is West, and never the twain
shall meet,*

*Till Earth and Sky stand presently at God's great
Judgement Seat . . .*

So I ran into Witney proper and saw some of the town centre. It looked very pretty and so did some of the coffee shops and public houses. Since I had money in my pocket it did take great willpower to keep going and not join the many punters sitting at the outside tables enjoying their cappuccinos and cream cakes. Although it was still before eleven of the clock, some even seemed to be partaking of intoxicating beverages. I think it was another trick of the planner to bamboozle the runners. The course took me to the far west of the map and then back through the car park, right next to my car. I checked but the girl was still out and about.

I was tiring by this time and was glad to finish. I chatted amicably with the geezer at the said Finish, expressing my appreciation for an excellent course, and then phoned Ann. I should have said earlier that she was not orienteering but exploring the town in

search of something to blow her monthly allowance on. She answered promptly and said she was at the Finish: I looked round and she was just a few yards away so we continued our conversation face-to-face. After seeing me off she had gone into Cogges Manor Farm. About ten yards from the Start this is some kind of joint for history buffs and people who want their children to meet pigs and goats - and yet another place to sample a cappuccino. It sounded good but my feet started to go cold when she said, in a meaningful tone, that it could also be hired for weddings: "Oh, Bertie, wouldn't that be lovely!" I led the way back to the car as quickly as I could, muttering about needing a bath and a cup of tea from Jeeves.

On the way back the little man in the satnav persisted in his interruptions so, as we knew the route home, I put him away and all was peace and quiet for a while. However, we were approaching a roundabout when a muffled voice from my rucksack said "Cross the next roundabout; take the second exit." This sepulchral (if that is the word I want) voice made me do a near-world record standing, or rather sitting, jump and we nearly went into a ditch. I mean to say, what!



British Orienteering ranking points

If you have been mystified by the workings of the [British Orienteering](#) Ranking System Paul found this on the BOF website:

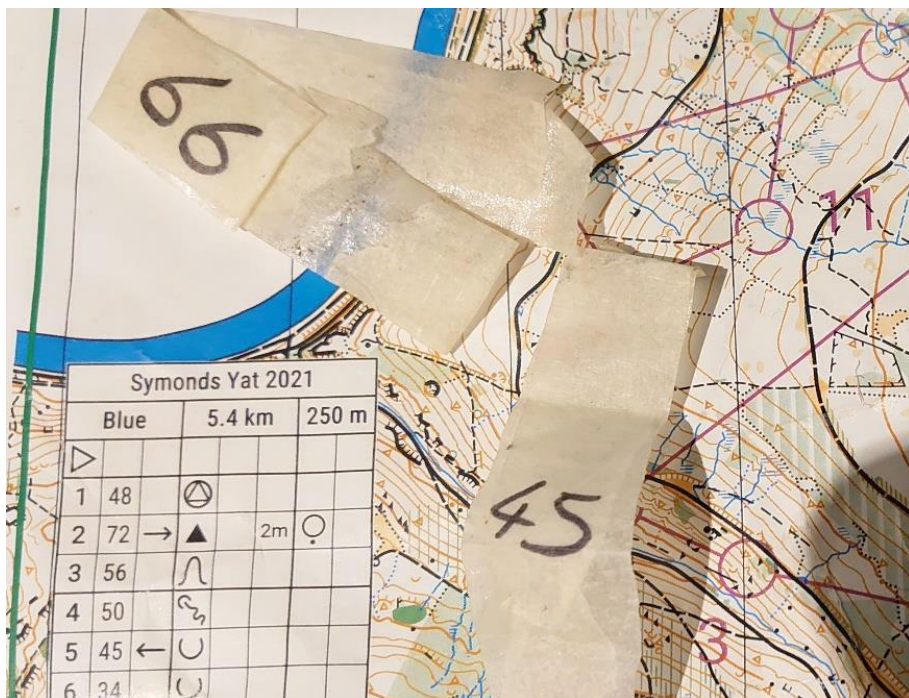
We are delighted that all members throughout the UK are now able to participate in all levels of competitions. We now feel able to work towards restoring the Ranking System to operate on the basis of your best scores in the last 12 months.

Currently, your total Ranking points are your best six Ranking scores since 15 March 2019 which was 12 months before Covid hit. By 15th July 2021, that will be a period of 28 months including 16 months (15th March 2020 to 15th July 2021) when Covid restrictions severely restricted the number and type of events that could be held.

From 15 July 2021, the system will bring forward the start date of the period on a day by day basis. On 15 July 2022, we expect to have had a full year of near normal competitions, and on that date the start date will change directly from 15 March 2020 to 15 July 2021 so that it is again 12 months.

To find your current ranking visit: [British Orienteering](#)

A reminder to control collectors



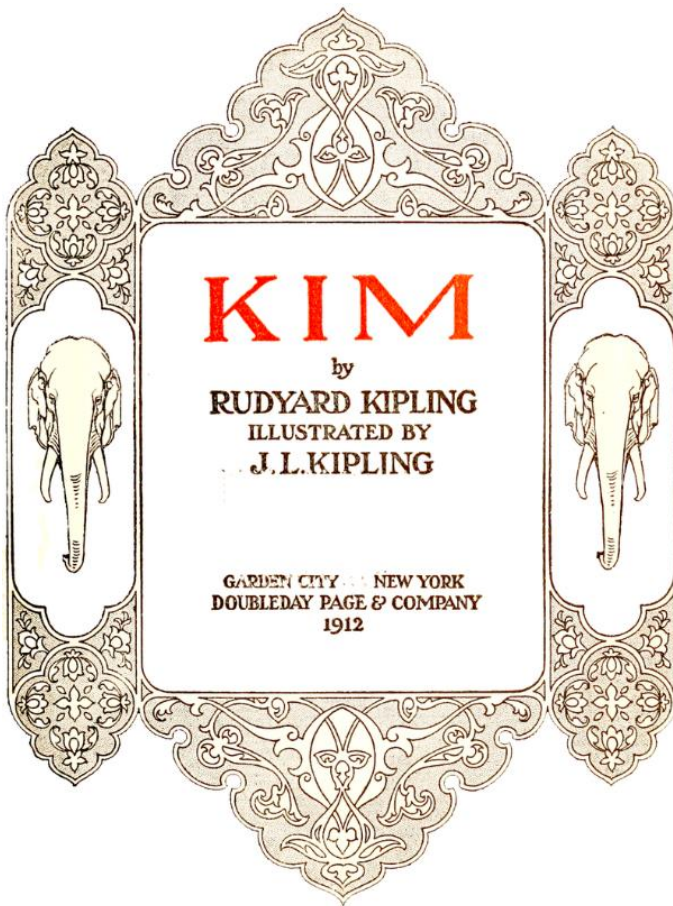
Our Volunteer Coordinator Kevin has already publicized the discount on entry fees for those people who volunteer to help at Club events. We are hoping for some new people to step forward and help during 2022. But if you volunteer to help with control collection, please remember to collect the tag which the planner used to mark the control site. A walk around the Symonds Yat area over Christmas revealed that some of the tags had not been collected after our event there on 11th December!

Paul Taunton

WORD SEARCH

In the box below there are concealed 20 names of places (in the UK) where your editor has done urban orienteering. They may be written vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and forwards or backwards. Answers are at the end of Brashings. If you would like to make it a bit easier by knowing the names you are looking for, these are listed at the beginning of Brashings.

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



Kim's Game

A good memory is very useful for orienteers. It saves time checking the description sheet to see if you have arrived at the correct control or looking at the map to tick off features such as path junctions or vegetation changes on the way there. Here we look at a game to train the memory made famous by Rudyard Kipling.

Kim's Game is named after the main character in Rudyard Kipling's eponymous novel, first published in 1901. Kimball O'Hara is a 13-year-old orphan, who lives a vagabond existence in India under British rule in the late 19th century. He earns his living by begging and running small errands on the streets of Lahore and very few realise that he is Irish by birth and not a native.

Kim comes to the attention of Colonel Creighton, an intelligence officer who begins to groom him as a spy. This is the era of the Great Game, the political conflict between Russia and Britain in Central Asia. The novel made the term "Great Game" popular and introduced the theme of great power rivalry and intrigue.

As part of his training Kim goes to spend some time with Lurgan Sahib, an agent of the British who runs a jeweller's shop, and this is where he plays what Kipling calls the Jewel Game. He plays against Lurgan Sahib's servant boy who is an adept at the game:

[Lurgan Sahib] dealt a half-handful of trifles into the tray.

"Now," said the child, waving an old newspaper. "Look on them as long as thou wilt, stranger. Count and, if need be, handle. One look is enough for *me*." He turned his back proudly.

"But what is the game?"

"When thou hast counted and handled and art sure that thou canst remember them all, I cover them with this paper, and thou must tell over the tally to Lurgan Sahib. I will write mine."

Lurgan Sahib's servant beats Kim easily over and over again.

". . . But how is it done?"

“By doing it many times over till it is done perfectly – for it is worth doing.”

. . .

They were a most mad ten days, but Kim enjoyed himself too much to reflect on their craziness. In the morning they played the Jewel Game – sometimes with veritable stones, sometimes with piles of swords and daggers, sometimes with photographs of natives. Through the afternoons he and the Hindi boy would mount guard in the shop, sitting dumb behind a carpet-bale or a screen and watching Mr Lurgan’s many and very curious visitors.

Military training

Memory training is not just used by orienteers – Kim’s Game is used in the U.S. Marines sniper school and also by the Royal Marines. The “backronym” is **K ee p I n M e m o r y**.

According to the dustjacket of *The Operators* by James Rennie, first published in 1996, the book lifts the veil shrouding Britain’s most secret military unit. Officially described as 14 Intelligence Company, it was formed in 1974 to combat terrorism in Northern Ireland. The book spends a long time describing the selection and training process, in which a good memory is essential for even seemingly irrelevant details, and includes this paragraph:

. . . the next session was a series of simple Kim’s Games, which involved trying to memorise a variety of pictures of objects, faces and places. These were set out on montage boards around the room. The subjects on the boards became progressively less obvious and less noteworthy. After studying them each for three minutes, we had to write down all that we could remember and sketch the location of each in relation to the others.

Footnote from Reginald Jeeves. I have introduced Mr Wooster to Kim's Game as part of his orienteering training but I regret to report that it has not gone well. I tried first with various orienteering items such as dibber, compass, whistle etc and my employer remembered next to nothing. After several further attempts it occurred to me to try with items taken from the contents of Mr Wooster's drinks cabinet. This was 100% successful every time so I am now wondering if I will be able to establish some connection in Mr Wooster's mind, such as it is, between orienteering items and the contents of said cabinet. I will endeavour to keep readers informed of my progress, if any.



Kipling in 1895

Orienteering and volcanos



This flyer, spotted by Paul Taunton, was presumably issued before the Cumbre Vieja eruption began on 19 September 2021. It puts NGOC's problems with falling branches and parking on muddy tracks in perspective!

Cover story:

MR MEN FIND NEW ROLE



NGOC's Mister Men, usually to be found on the String Course, have had to diversify due to the pandemic. Proving their versatility, they have been appearing in a Living Advent Calendar in Caroline Craig's village, where each night a new house (or houses) reveal(s) a decorated window. As the Mr Men have been sitting in garages for so long during the pandemic, Caroline thought they'd enjoy dressing up and putting on a nativity, so from 10 December (until banished to their garage home) they've been in two windows as shown.

Bob Teed was responsible for making the Mr Men in the 80s or 90s, and it turns out that he didn't make them in his garage, like many things, but he got classes of army apprentices learning how to work the machines (and how to paint their creations) when he was an instructor at Beachley Army Apprentices College!





Birthplace of NGOC's Mr Men

Calling all Juniors:

Colour Coded Awards

To qualify you must be within the first 50% of all starters or within 1½ times the winner's time in the results on the same colour course, 3 times in any 2 years. For WHITE courses you only need to complete the course 3 times. STRING COURSE (PURPLE) is for any young person who does not already hold any other colour award, and who has completed 3 string courses. To obtain a colour coded badge award please email Jolyon Medlock WSX with the 3 dates on which you qualified (anywhere in Britain). Jolyon can be contacted at:

jolyonmedlock@hotmail.com

The old badges were printed and not particularly attractive, but much nicer new embroidered White and Yellow badges are available now (and will soon be available for other colours):



NGOC – the early years

Clive Allen acts as archivist for British Orienteering and has kindly trawled through material he has at home in Denmark and found references to what he suspects are most of the events held in the early years of NGOC. On his next visit to the archive [in Sheffield University], he will look to see if the results and any maps are in the files from that period.

In January 1970 there was a mapping course in the Forest of Dean, led by Robin Harvey and Geoff Peck, that attracted 26 participants. Clive imagines that there is a good chance that one or two of the founder members of NGOC were present, and that it was a catalyst to the club's ability to put on events straight away.

NGOC was certainly active in putting on events in its early years. There were some illustrious winners of NGOC events too! Adrian Barnes, Tony Farnell, Alistair Wood etc. – all well-known names.

NGOC - formation and events
These are all the references that Clive could find in old editions of 'The Orienteer' and 'Stop Press' for events up to early 1975. Where winners are shown, these are of the longest Open course
First mention of the club is in February 1970 'Stop Press' (monthly BOF Newsletter at that time). Contact given is Dereck Thomson, in Alderton near Tewkesbury
First event?: 8 March 1970, 'Gloucester event at Whittington'
July 'Stop Press': 'NGOC event, 7 June' – no venue given
11 October 1970, Gloucester CATI [=come and try it], Cheltenham
18 April 1971, NGOC event, D Thompson contact address, no venue given. Won by P Nicholls with Tony Farnell second
27 June 1971, NGOC event, no venue given, won by Tony Farnell
26 September 1971, NGOC Introductory Event, Cranham

10 October 1971, NGOC event, Cheltenham, won by Alistair Wood
13 February 1972 (moved from February 6 to avoid a clash), NGOC event, no venue given, won by Tony Farnell
14 May 1972, NGOC event, no details known
16 July 1972, NGOC's maybe first Badge Event, Forest of Dean, won by Tony Farnell. There was an 'international field' because of a European event being held in the SW just before. Second in the Open class was G Østerbø, Oslo
The British Junior Championships were held in the Forest of Dean on 22 October 1972; not known if NGOC was involved in this.
7 January 1973, Sheepscombe, Cranham. Club contact AD Pritchard. Winner Joe Sherriff, second P Nicholls
29 April 1973, Queens Wood, Newent. Club contact T Campbell. Winner Adrian Barnes
20 May 1973, NGOC CATI, Cheltenham
15 July 1973, NGOC Badge Event – venue unknown, but described as “beautiful forest”, but “very wet”. Club contact T Campbell. Winner Adrian Barnes, second Mike Wells-Cole
7 October 1973, Standish Woods / Haresfield Beacon. Club contact A Taylor. Winner Alistair Wood
6 January 1974, NGOC event, Ross-on-Wye. Club contact A Campbell
2 March 1974, NGOC training event, Cleeve Hill. Club contact J Peniket
Did NGOC help at all with JK '74 – Forest of Dean? Mainly it was organised by Combined Harvesters + friends
28 April 1974, NGOC event, Brockworth / Birdlip. Winner T Wood
15 September 1974, NGOC event, Forest of Dean, winner David Roach
Training events on 4 May (Sheepscombe), 6 June (Birdlip), 7 December 1974 (Brockworth), all J Peniket
19 January 1975, NGOC event, Speech House North, winner Brian Bullen
27 April 1975, NGOC event, Staple Edge Wood, winner Adrian Barnes

THE NORTH GLOUCESTER TRAINING EVENTS

by John Peniket

The NGOC Training Events were started in 1974 with three main aims:

(1) To provide experienced orienteers with opportunities to practice techniques.

(2) To provide an informal setting for beginners to try out the sport without having to make a long journey.

(3) To encourage club members to plan and organise events.

At the outset we expected about 15–30 people to turn up, thinking that they would be mainly our own club members with hopefully one or two newcomers each month. The events now attract 80–100 entries, a happy mix of orienteers from several clubs, school parties, and beginners.

When we set about planning the first series of events, we felt strongly that they should be kept as simple as possible, since the Club's resources might easily become so overstrained by a regular monthly event that nobody would want to take on the job of organising. The plan was to keep them simple enough for one person to be able to do the whole planning and organising for one event on his own. This led to the basic format of one long (5–6km) course offering good orienteering challenges, and one short (2–3km) course simple enough for beginners and wayfarers. In practice most planners put on more courses than this. Some have tried map memory or line events, but the response to such novelties has been poor.

The simplicity of the organisation has ruled out any formal timing or results, but nobody seems to worry about that. Entrants are free to start at any time they like between 1300 and 1500. Clocks are left at the start so that competitors can time themselves. Likewise we make no attempt to provide squash or other facilities.

Organising the Organisers

The monthly programme is in the hands of one co-ordinator who prepares a programme of events six months ahead. He decides the venue for each month, secures permission, clears the dates with the Regional Fixtures Secretary, and checks that there are enough maps of each area.

A sheet with explanatory notes and travel directions for all six events is prepared every six months and sent out to all enquirers. After that the only publicity is in the *Orienteer* fixture list. Because the date (always the first Saturday in the month) and times are standardised, we have now built up a regular clientele who will ring up to ask "where this month's training event is".

The Benefits

The events are FUN! It is pleasant to make a

relatively short journey on a Saturday afternoon, to see such a lot of familiar faces, and to be able to orienteer with no competitive pressure.

One important advantage is that when beginners enquire about the sport, we are always able to invite them to an event taking place within a short time at a venue not too far away. Many schools and youth organisations have taken advantage of the informality of the events to incorporate their own introduction or competition.

A number of people who might fight shy of being involved in more serious events have been introduced to the pleasures of planning and organising.

The Snags

The events swallow up maps voraciously and at times our stocks have been critically low. It is not economic to reprint an old map for a single event, but we have used black-and-white photo-copies on occasion without too many complaints. One disadvantage of a beautiful 1976 5-colour map is that it is well-nigh useless from a photo-copying point of view, whereas two-colour maps from the distant days of 1972 photo-copy very well.

At present we are getting round the problem by cutting the maps in half so that one map serves two events. This conserves maps, challenges the planner to make the best use of a smaller area, and helps us to keep costs down (in spite of good attendances, the club has not yet made an overall profit on the events). But we are also now realising the value of small areas near to towns which can be surveyed relatively quickly and which will justify a 2-colour print specifically for informal and introductory events.

The standard of courses varies greatly with the skills and experience of the individual planners, and it is sometimes disappointing to travel to an event only to find courses which lack orienteering challenge. The Club is at the moment considering how to remedy this whilst at the same time continuing to encourage as many members as possible to try their hand at planning. It may be that Controllers have their place after all!

Although our pattern of training events may not be the right one for every club, I would like to see other clubs organising regular events along similar lines. It is surprising how little organisation falls on the shoulders of an individual if the load can be shared in this way. When the time comes that every weekend in every area there is an Orienteering event, however humble, the sport will really have arrived.

Legend for February 2007

Things you didn't know you had missed!

An embarrassing number of the general orienteering public have been doing silly things in the woods for a very long time! For those who weren't there in the 60's and 70's, or who have now forgotten, here is a selection of things that are no more.

Black and white OS maps

Before five colour maps came four colour maps, before that came three colours and before that black and white maps. The OS 1:25,000 maps with 25ft contours (that's 7.62m) was the state of the art when orienteering started in this country. If you were lucky there might be few corrections added, but often you were on your own. It is frequently alleged that people used to stop at a critical point on their courses to draw on features they could see on a distant hillside for use later on in the course. I certainly got shown how to use coloured pencils to highlight the map before you started (streams in blue for example).

Master maps

Copying your course from a master map was a standard part of all but the biggest events for many years. With practice you could save seconds if not minutes here, although you had to live with the ever-present threat of copying a control in the wrong place, or leaving it out entirely. Even this was not always disastrous since some surreptitious hanging around at key points on the course often let you follow someone to the control you had marked incorrectly. As if master maps weren't bad enough there were frequently second master maps as well. This required you to transport a writing implement around the course at least as far as

halfway. The super-organised had special short pens with safety pins taped to them. I took a lower tech. approach of stuffing a red pen down my sock. Some even used a different colour for 2nd master maps to make it easier to work out which control you should be going to. Fighting for scarce space to copy the 2nd part of your course in pouring rain under a dubious plastic shelter when you were also dripping with sweat was a recipe for mis-marking the map.

Colourless O-kit

In the dark ages there was an unwritten rule (or possibly a written rule; I'm not sure) that you should make every effort to blend into the forest and remain invisible. There was certainly an absolute (but again possibly unwritten) ban on red, to avoid looking like a control. Thus O kit was inevitably dark brown, dark green, dark blue or even black! You still see the odd O-top that has survived from this era, with an SN brown and green top being an example that I have seen recently. It's not that this faded disaster has suffered after 100 washes: it started out that colour! This all came to an abrupt end in the early 80's when SHUOC turned out in force wearing white, yellow and black. Nowadays nearly every club has moved to something a bit more colourful, one of the more striking examples being SARUM. This long expected new WIM 'strip' will bring our white, yellow and maroon colours into the 21st century.

DIY results

Many readers will be unaware that there was a time when computers did not exist. Timing at events was left to a variety of special printing clocks, wrist watches, stop watches, kitchen clocks and presumably egg timers and sun dials, if you go back far enough. But this didn't stop you seeing everybody else's results on the day. The trick was the DIY results system. You were handed a slip of paper as you finished with your finish time on. You then filled in the rest of the details, calculated your time and proudly stapled your results slip on the washing line. Or you threw your slip away in disgust, refusing to display your

ineptitude in public, and hoping that the finish team might lose your control card and thus omit you from the printed results as well. As you came through the finish your control card had a raffle ticket stapled to it, the number later correlated with the finish time for that number written down on a separate list of times. Then you had to check frequently soaked control cards for an accurate punch pattern. Oh happy days spent doing this sort of thing in falling snow!

(Reprinted from Waffle November 2006. Article by Simon Errington (HH).)

Terry Bradstock Trophy

When this trophy has been presented at recent AGMs there has been some puzzlement over its origins. A trawl through old copies of The Legend has revealed the following information.

Terry joined the club in 1976. By 1978 he had become a Grade 3 Controller. He is recorded as having been placed 16th on course B at a BOK Galloper in January of that year. His last event was run at Cranham where he achieved Silver standard. He was in his early forties when he died suddenly at work (Smiths Industries) on 2nd March 1979. Terry had gone for a run, presumably in his lunch break, when suffering from what he thought was a cold. After the run he collapsed in the shower.

Terry was not the only orienteer at around that time to make the fatal mistake of doing some strenuous training while unwell. It is a risk that many people were not aware of at the time.

The Terry Bradstock Memorial Trophy was purchased using a sum of money donated to the club. The first winner in 1980 was Andrew Lee.

John Burrows

Brashings

Word search locations

The places you are looking for are: *Bath, Bristol, Canary Wharf, Cheltenham, Chepstow, Didcot, Gloucester, Grantham, Limehouse, Lydney, Malvern, Manchester, Marlborough, Newent, Oxford, Ross-on-Wye, Rugby, Swindon, Winchester, Witney.*

The National Trust and permanent orienteering courses

Clive Caffal has commented about this article in the October 2021 Legend:

Sadly I feel I should provide a small health warning regarding two of those that were highlighted. I am a long-time volunteer ranger for the NT, primarily working at Croft Castle and sometimes other properties across the Herefordshire Countryside portfolio. I helped to install the O course at Croft - which was a lot of fun getting our 4x4 Gator into places it doesn't usually go and grappling with a powered augur (which had a mind of its own) to dig the holes for the posts! I pointed out that the map would need updating as we cleared rhodo, did conservation work and then a restoration project in the 'picturesque' Fishpool Valley. However, the local NT management's enthusiasm for the O course soon waned, reception didn't promote it to visitors and

my updated survey never got printed. The course has not been maintained and many of the control posts have disappeared - especially after the recent major felling due to ash dieback. So, while I would still recommend a visit to Croft Castle to walk the estate, don't try the O course.

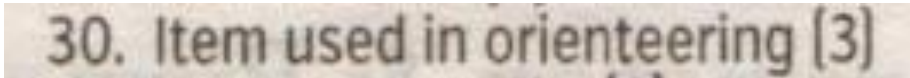
Recently I was asked to check and clean the course at Brockhampton that you featured. I was pleased to find all of the posts were still in place and in good condition. But the map hasn't been updated for years, so the vegetation and some paths have changed considerably. So, if you do go, perhaps treat it like orienteering in the 70s & 80s when there had to be hand drawn map corrections.

Complimentary report from EBOR newsletter

"British Night Championships - report from Steve W
These were held last Saturday on a new area to me, Cleeve Hill, and organised by the very hardy folk of North Gloucestershire OC. How the start officials withstood their shift in freezing temperatures and considerable wind chill I'll never know but they were still cheerful when I left the indoor assembly (complete with bar and open fires) for my start at 20.06. I lost all feeling in my ears during my 5 minutes in the start boxes but soon warmed up once on the move. It's a great area for a night champs, a bit like a much steeper and hillier version of Beverley Westwood with fewer trees and more chalk pits but just as runnable despite a few inches of snow on the ground. This made the paths tricky to find but the contour detail was very clear and well-mapped... and compass/pacing works as well in the dark as the daylight of course".

Crossword clue

I do not remember ever seeing a crossword clue in a newspaper that involved orienteering but this one appeared in the *Quick Crossword* in *The Metro* on Friday 17 December 2021:



30. Item used in orienteering (3)

I am sure you will all get the correct answer so please do not send your it to the editor or try to claim a prize!

Take a photo!

According to the Final Details of the November Classic Forestry England have introduced a new requirement:

"Control Sites - We are now required to photograph control sites before and after the event"

Paul Taunton comments: "Let's hope that idea isn't introduced in the Forest of Dean as more work for the planner!"

Forest of Dean could get environmental reserve status

An October 2021 article on the BBC website reports that the Forest of Dean Council hopes to take on a UNESCO Biosphere status to protect its natural spaces. Councillors have said it could also bring "economic benefits" to the area. The status would protect biodiversity, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and ancient monuments.

There was no mention of any effect on orienteering! For the full article click on:

[Forest of Dean could get environmental reserve status - BBC News](#)

Paul has some thoughts on night events

I went to an SYO local night event on Wednesday [10 November] at Lees Hall golf course in Sheffield (quite hilly). Very different from our typical WNL events! Four courses: Yellow, Orange, Green and Blue. A good selling point for beginners/juniors was that the whole area had a fence round, so you couldn't run off the map. Results? A total of 111 runners of whom at least 60 were juniors (and maybe a few more as several "IND"s with no ages given). Amazing to see so many people at a night event. Maybe the fenced area and good running underfoot encouraged a few people who would not otherwise dare to do a night event to give it a try? SYO certainly have developed a lot of juniors and I see that several who ran on Wednesday have entered for the British Nights which, whilst also good underfoot, may not be quite such straightforward navigation!

Word search answers:

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

British Orienteering incentive scheme Awards

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

Alex Agombar	Navigation Challenge *****
Hannah Agombar	Racing Challenge: Gold Award ** Racing Challenge: Silver Award **
Jack Hobby	Racing Challenge: Bronze Award ***** Navigation Challenge *****
Claire Horsfall	Racing Challenge: Bronze Award *****
Samuel Horsfall	Racing Challenge: Gold Award ** Racing Challenge: Silver Award **
Seth Lawson	Racing Challenge: Gold Award **** Racing Challenge: Silver Award ****
Alan Stringer	Racing Challenge: Bronze Award ***
Matthew Fautley	Racing Challenge: Bronze Award ***** Navigation Challenge *****
Alan Brown	Navigation Challenge ***
Si Read	Racing Challenge: Silver Award ***** Racing Challenge: Bronze Award *****
Hannah Bradley	Racing Challenge: Gold Award *****
Alan Stringer	Racing Challenge: Silver Award ***
Thomas Kennedy	Navigation Challenge *****

Have your say!

Are there any matters that you would like the Committee to consider? Contact the Club Secretary or any member of the Committee.

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.



"Wildlife" at New Beechenhurst