

The Legend

Number 201



Newsletter of
North Gloucestershire Orienteering Club
July 2022

www.ngoc.org.uk



NGOC Committee

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The above shows the committee structure following the 2021 AGM

Front cover: a memorial event for Chris James was held at Ledbury on 22 May, which raised £700 for charity. Here is Chris at an event in 2011 (photo: Wendy Carlyle). More inside.

Chairman's Chat

In the last issue of Legend in April I was looking forward to the JK, but that now seems long ago - since then we have had the Tamar Triple over the Jubilee Holiday and Midsummer on Gower to keep us busy! So this is my first opportunity formally to thank Joe Parkinson, Richard Cronin and all the rest of the NGOC team organising, planning and helping at the JK Middle Race on Day 2 at Clydach Terrace. An excellent day's orienteering! And it was good to see nine NGOC teams running in the relays at Caerwent on Day 4, including one team in the prestigious JK Trophy. One team was non-competitive, because of an incorrect mix of ages, but seven of the other eight teams had successful results. The highest team placing was 11th in the Senior Women's class – well done Vanessa, Judith and Rose! It certainly was an enjoyable day.

At first glance, 38 NGOC helpers on our day at Clydach may seem quite low, compared to a reported membership of 157. However, this total includes juniors, people who have given up orienteering but retain their membership for old times' sake, and others who rarely compete and then only at local events. Looking at the British Orienteering ranking lists (which show the number of Regional events people have attended) only about half of our members (86) have attended three events or more in the last two years, and so could be considered reasonably active club members. As the JK takes place over a Bank Holiday weekend (and a school holiday) many people are likely to have other family commitments during the weekend. In my view, the fact that very nearly half of our active members did give up their time to help on the day shows a good club spirit. Special thanks are due to the ten NGOC members who came to help on the day but didn't get a run themselves!

Thanks are due to Clive Caffall for his planning of the Chris James Memorial race in Ledbury, Judith Taylor for controlling and to the other club members for donating raffle prizes and helping at the event. Gill provided a display of Chris's maps dating back into the 1960s which drew a lot of attention. The raffle and cake stall were well supported, with over £700 being raised in aid of Chris's charities. The event was supported by Chris's family, with his son Pete coming all the way from France. Gill wrote to thank the club: "Many thanks for putting on such a tribute to Chris. I was overwhelmed by the response and the amount raised in his memory."

On several occasions since 2018, at events on good areas where facilities such as toilets and sufficient parking have been available, the club has taken the opportunity to upgrade Local League events to Regional status. We have used mainly NGOC Controllers for these upgraded League events. The Committee were aware of the Rule for a Regional event that *"The Controller must be Grade C or above and preferably from a different club to the one staging the event"* but we had assumed the word "preferably" gave us sufficient leeway to look at each event on its merits and then decide ourselves whom to appoint. However, it has recently been pointed out to us by SWOA that Appendix C to the Rules demands that if the Controller is from the organising club the Association must approve the appointment. NGOC has written to SWOA requesting that the three Controllers already appointed for NGOC Regional events later this year be approved. Also, we will, in future, endeavour to appoint Controllers from neighbouring clubs. If this proves not possible we will request SWOA approval before using an NGOC Controller.

Good news! Congratulations to the two NGOC members who were successful in the annual British Orienteering awards: Greg Best won the Bonington Trophy for his contribution to mapping; and Pat Macleod won the Development & Innovation Award for working with Peter Effeney the Australian developer of the Maprun app, to help many UK clubs to use it for virtual events

during the pandemic. Commiserations to Carol and Rose who were worthy nominees, but didn't win this time.

This year NGOC has got off to a slow start in the UK Orienteering League, as many of the events have been in Scotland or the north, but nevertheless we are now in 23rd place, of almost 100 clubs. Currently our highest placed individual is Rebecca Ward who has scored 366 points from 8 races, putting her into third place in W20 (and 67th place overall, a good achievement considering there are 2,351 orienteers in the table). Several of the UKOL events later this year are nearer, so why not sample a few of these bigger events in 2022 and help NGOC beat our last year's 10th place?

There are now 22 NGOC members entered for the Lakes 5-days, but entries close on 24th July, so you need to act quickly if you want to go. Two of the days count for the UKOL, so you can help boost our placing! See you there?

The Lakes event ends on Friday 12th August at Helsington Barrows, close to the M6. I mentioned in my last Chat that this year's Harvester relay starts the next day, in Dumfries, only 90 minutes from Kendal, just over the Scottish border. The legs are both night and day, and of varying length and difficulty, so there is usually something to suit everybody. Please get in touch with Shirley if you would like to join an NGOC team.

Shirley Robinson has arrangements in hand for bussing our CompassSport Cup team to Stirling for the final on 16th October 2022. We hope to be sharing our coach with Harlequins, who are not our direct competitors, as they are running in the Trophy competition. The event will be hosted by Forth Valley Orienteers at Devilla Forest. We need at least 25 runners to field a full team, so please let Shirley know if you decide you do want to go, either by coach (the cost of which will be reduced by a subsidy from Club funds) or travelling independently.

Finally, I'd like to send our best wishes to the adventurous group of runners, organised by Tom Mills, who are heading for the O-Ringen week in Sweden on 23rd July. Good luck to Tom, Isaac Gorman (Tom's grandson), Ginny Hudson, Kim Liggett, Sheila Miklausic, Pat MacLeod, Ian Phillips and Ted McDonald (BOK). I've just looked back at an interesting report in the October 1998 Legend which details a previous trip by Tom to the O-Ringen, so I am looking forward to hearing about the 2022 trip!

Paul Taunton



First leg runners opening their maps at the start of the 2x2 relay in the dunes at Whiteford Burrows on 26 June, part of the SBOC Midsummer on Gower weekend. Three NGOC runners are visible: Tom, Judith and Ros. (Photo: Paul Taunton)



This was an urban race, part of the SEOUL series, at Ledbury on 22 May with a new map by Clive Caffall. As well as the race there was a cake sale and a raffle to raise money for two charities close to Chris's heart – Cancer Research and the Orienteering Foundation; these raised £700. There was also a display outlining Chris's many contributions to UK orienteering.

That well-known sportsman and NGOC member, B. Wooster Esq, "done good" in the raffle, winning a bottle of single malt and an NGOC jacket. Despite claiming that his raffle-winning skills are even worse than his orienteering skills he appears to have made a profit on the day, even with entry and petrol costs taken into account. Bertie gave credit for this success to his man, Jeeves, who advised him to buy a large number of tickets.

The race itself was well attended, with 170 entries spread well over the different courses. On the Brown course the planner, Clive, made full use of the area on his map with the Start and several controls very close to the map edges!

All in all a very successful event and thanks to all who helped!



On the edge: Control 2

NEW MAP - NEW AREA

Look out for Tom Mills' League 1 event scheduled for Saturday 14 January 2023. It will be on the new area of Welshbury Hill and the next-door area of Flaxley (previously mapped by Bob Teed and Tom).

Welshbury

Welshbury Hill, near Mitcheldean, is topped by an Iron Age hill fort, thought to have been built by the Celts and dates back to 1600 BC. It is reputed to be the place where the Dobunni tribe staged its last battle against the Romans after a long-running guerilla war. Nearby is an ancient spring known as St Anthony's Well.

Flaxley Woods

Flaxley, spelt Flaxlea in 1163, means a "clearing where flax is grown". From Old English fleax + leah.

Flaxley is an area associated with charcoal burning since 1120. The woods contain more charcoal burning platforms than anywhere else in the Forest of Dean. In 1629 the Crown ordered 610 guns for Holland from Gunn's Mill, many of which were ultimately used in the English Civil War.



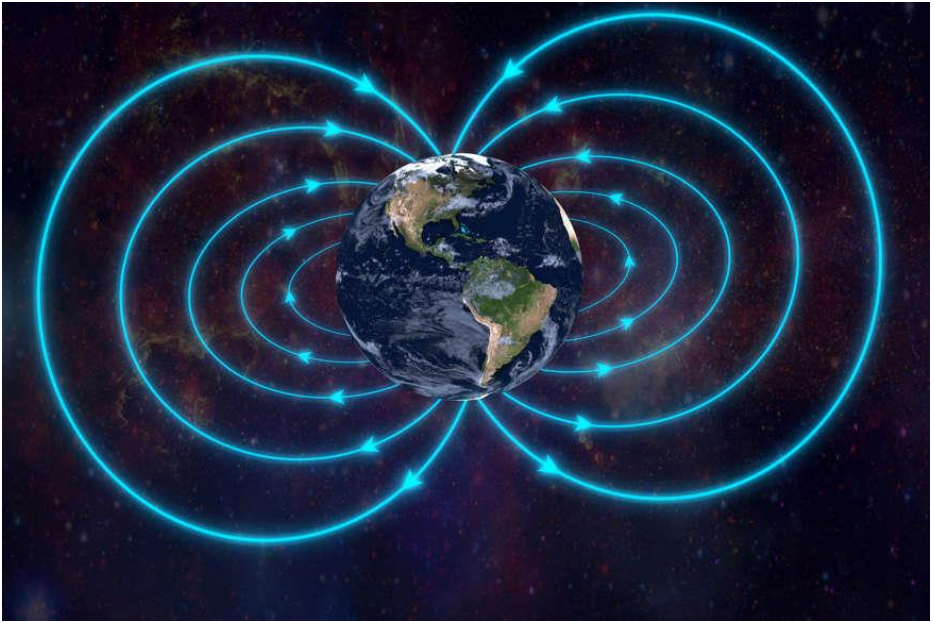
*Part of the
Orange
course from
a previous
event on
Flaxley*

WORD SEARCH

In the box below there are concealed the names of 20 different orienteering clubs. 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.

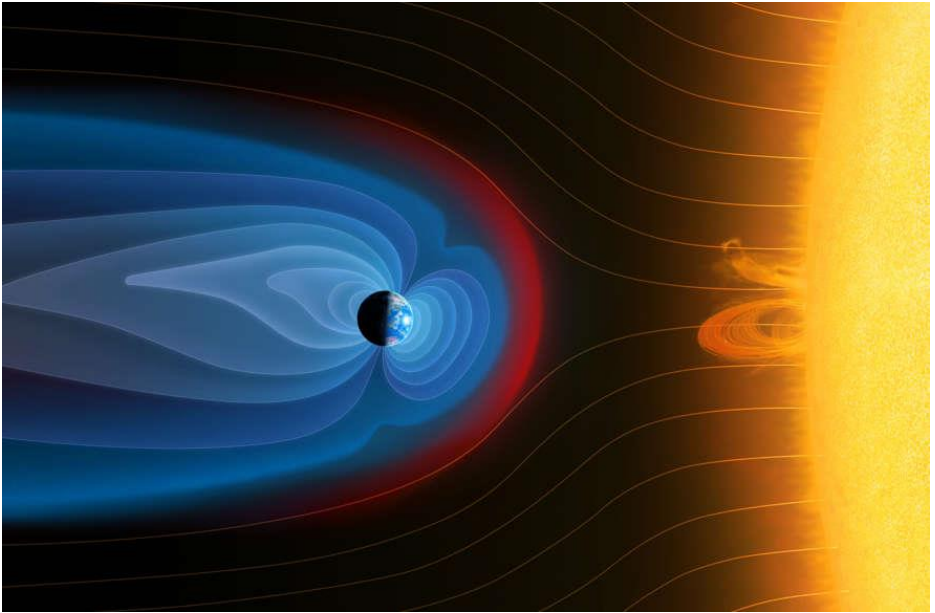
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MAGNETIC POLE REVERSAL



Magnetic field reversal happens when the North Pole and South Pole switch positions and is a natural phenomenon that has already happened several times to our planet. It usually occurs every 200,000 to 300,000 years but the last time this happened was 773,000 years ago. This was discovered by French geophysicist Bernard Brunhes in 1906, while he studied magnetism in lava rocks.

Earth's magnetic field starts in the Earth's core and expands towards outer space in what is known as the magnetosphere. The magnetosphere is a layer that surrounds the Earth and creates an electromagnetic shield that protects our planet from the stream of charged particles that come from the Sun, known as solar winds. Solar winds and other cosmic rays are harmful to life on Earth.



When the solar winds are too intense they create a disturbance in the Earth's atmosphere near the poles and these result in the light displays known as the Aurora Borealis in the Arctic and the Aurora Australis in the Antarctic.



Earth's magnetic field is weakening

According to a 2016 study the Earth's magnetic field is becoming weaker and this could affect its ability to shield us against cosmic rays.

Wandering North Pole

Earth's magnetic field is also moving, from Canada to Russia. In 1904 it was moving about 9 miles per annum but in 1939 it sped up and in 2007 it began to move faster still - around 34 miles per annum; it is estimated that the Magnetic North Pole will be in Siberia by 2040.

Effects of magnetic pole reversal

Not much is known about the effects of previous magnetic pole reversals but, along with the weakening of Earth's magnetic field, humanity could be exposed to cosmic rays and these could affect the technology that we use every day. However, scientists estimate that it could take at least 20,000 years for the magnetic poles to switch completely.

[Earth's magnetic poles are flipping: Are we in danger? \(msn.com\)](http://msn.com)



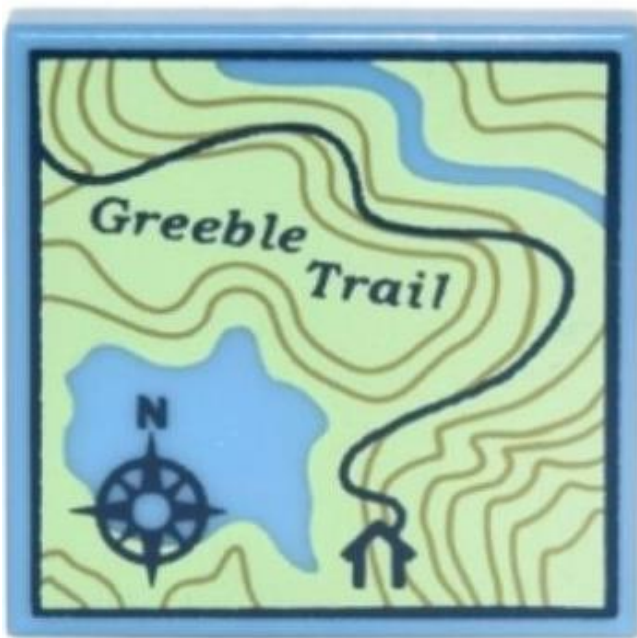
Lego and orienteering



Lego adventure man



Lost Lego adventure man



Country and urban maps



More Lego map tiles

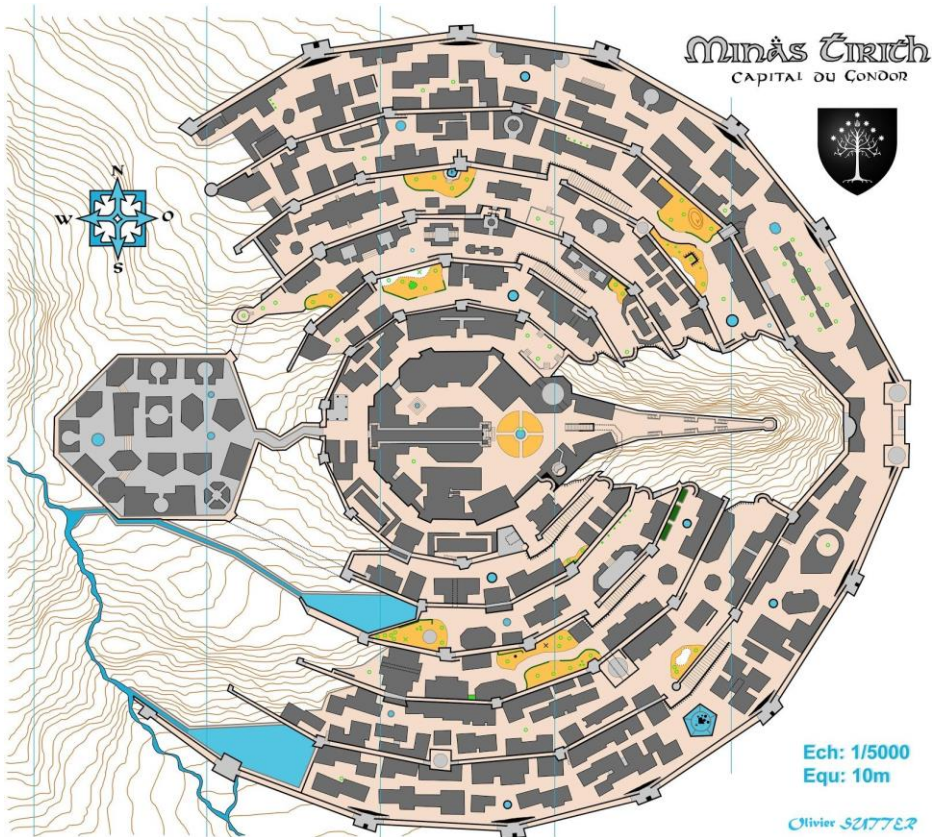


Lego orienteering scene

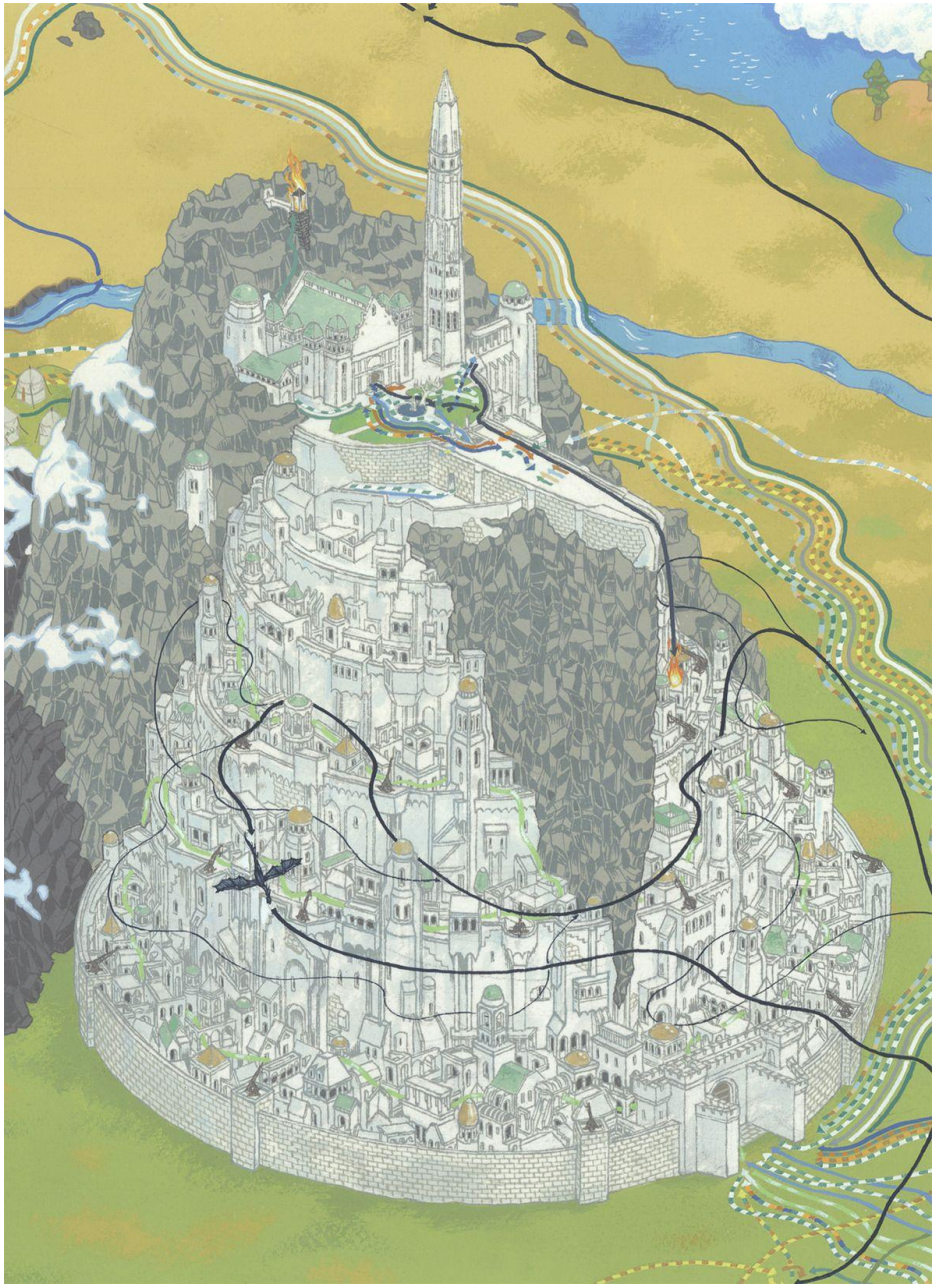


Map as used by Bilbo Baggins . . .

LORD OF THE MAPS



Orienteering map of Minas Tirith found on the web



Minas Tirith: note the excessive amount of climb

Drayton Down Relay

NGOC was represented at this Army event on Wednesday 13 April by Kim, Alan and Tom. A team name had to be chosen and Kim suggested several film names and North by Northwest was chosen.



Tom sets off

The flyer described the area as “A very runnable mainly open / rough open area interspersed with large areas of hard standing. There are areas of mixed woodland and a good network of tracks. Bounded by the A303 to the south and divided into two parts by ‘The Street’ running N / S.”

Courses	Distance	Climb	Controls
Long	6.2km	40mtr	20
Medium	5.2km	40mtr	17
Short	4.3km	25mtr	14

The area on the map was purchased by the War Department in 1943 for use as a military training area. Three camps were built (and one more to the south of the main road). The three asphalt parade grounds and other areas of hard standing remain but the buildings are long gone. The last of the camp huts was gifted to

the parish in the 1970s when the MoD closed the barracks. It was relocated to the recreation ground where it was used as a sports pavilion until August 2020 when it was burnt down following a lightning strike.



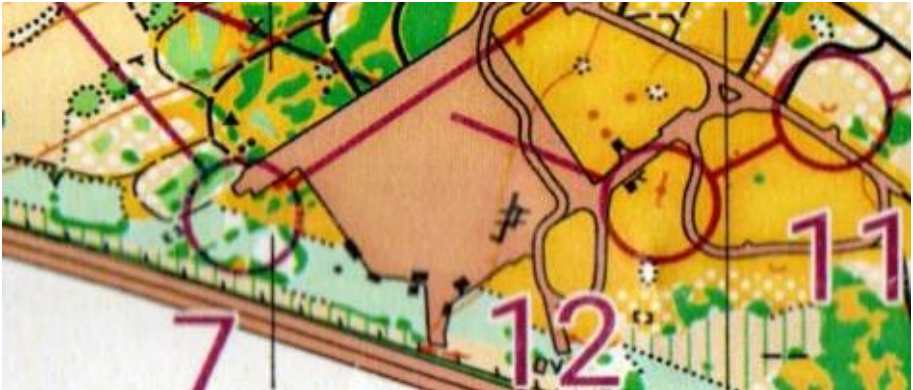
Western parade ground

The westernmost parade ground has road markings for junctions, roundabouts etc, presumably for driver training.



Middle parade ground

The middle parade ground was where we parked. The Start, Finish and Handover were on the eastern side of the tarmac so it was about two hundred yards to get to the Start Triangle.



Eastern parade ground

The eastern parade ground, across the busy road from 'The Street' appears to be a go-kart racing track with associated buildings, tyre crash barriers and Tannoy.

All the team had run here before and Alan remembers doing a "map memory" course in 2013 where a small section of map was attached to each control showing the location of the next control. Each runner could spend as much time as they liked working out a route to said control and then trying to remember it before setting off.

Since it is quite an open area several controls were ideal to find simply by using a compass bearing. However, a baseplate compass would have been much better than Alan's thumb compass as the compass could have been "set" to the correct direction – not easy with a fixed thumb compass!

Alan also remembers running some way towards a control only to realise that he had forgotten some vital detail and had to return to

the previous control to study it again. And finding his way back to that control was not easy either!

For today's relay there was a briefing half an hour before the mass start. One important point was that the Start Triangle was 200 yards away at the opposite end of the parade ground. It was also pointed out that runners might not want to run there if it took them in the wrong direction! So, when Alan started he didn't immediately run but studied the map, decided that he did want to visit the Start Triangle after all and vainly set out to catch up the other runners!

The course was not difficult to navigate and the kites were easily visible but Alan was slowed down by a stiff calf muscle and he eventually limped home to hand over to Tom on the medium course. Because Alan had been so slow Kim was allowed to start her short leg before Tom returned. Not seeing Kim ready for the hand over caused Tom some consternation and he slowed down on the run-in to look towards our car to see if Kim was still in it.



Kim runs across the middle parade ground towards the Finish

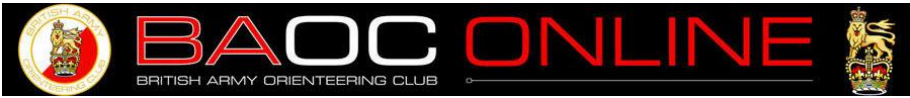


Kim runs into the Finish

An interesting incident occurred while Alan was out on his course – near the extreme east end of the map Alan encountered a runner *sans* map, who asked where was Registration? About half a mile in that direction. After several more controls and getting near to the Registration/Start/Finish area Alan saw the chap again – this time running with a map and looking a lot happier.

Although North by Northwest came 16 out of 17 finishers there were four teams who were DSQ. The weather forecast had given a fair chance of rain but this held off and by the time of the prize-giving it was hot and sunny. Overall, a very enjoyable event.





Military League South

MLS events are held most Wednesdays and winter events usually offer **Brown**, **Blue**, **Short Green**, **Light Green**, **Long Orange** and **Score** courses. Civilians are most welcome as they boost the numbers (and the finances!) and many civvies help with putting on the events. The event areas are mainly Army training areas and mostly runnable and free from brambles.

Events are held in a large number of locations, mainly in the Fareham and Salisbury Plain areas. Recent events have used Barossa (next to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst) and Trenchard Lines (a sort of urban in the military camp at Upavon). Last year there was an urban event in Winchester.

There are portaloos and a very good burger van. The scoring system is EMIT. Entry fees for civvies is £7.50, juniors £5.50 and EMIT hire is £1.50.

If you have a free Wednesday why not come along? If you're retired why not come along every Wednesday? All NGOC and BOK members are automatically considered part of the informal (and free!) club BOK Army, which organises the occasional walk with pub lunch and sometimes an informal event for when there is no Army event.

The British Army Orienteering Club (BAOC) website is:

[Civilian and Military Orienteering for soldiers | BAO Online](#)

Bertie in a mess at the MLS

If you are one of the better element who are never happier than when curled up with the works of B. Wooster, you possibly came across a previous slab of these reminiscences of mine in the last newsletter in which in I dealt with an event at the Range Danger Area at Barossa. I'm sorry to say that I was rather slow round the course and took over three hours. Not only that but I was awarded just one – yes, one – point out of a possible 100 towards my total for this season's Military League South. Three hours hard toil for just one point. I mean to say, is it fair? Is it just? But don't get me started . . .

Jeeves recently asked me which of my latest exploits I was going to write about for this edition of Legend.

“Well, Jeeves, I'm absolutely stumped, don't you know? I like to write about my orienteering triumphs but almost every event lately has turned to ashes. I like to be optimistic and positive and what not but it's hardly encouraging to my loyal readers to be presented with a list of disasters.”

“Well, sir, if you would pardon me, I disagree. I think it would be encouraging to your readers to see that you are not put off by your many, or constant, failures . . . they might be inspired to know that you refuse to be defeated by setbacks and you could quote the late Alfred Lord Tennyson “. . . that men may rise on stepping-stones of their dead selves to higher things.”

“You have a point, Jeeves, but I think setback would be a better word than failure. I certainly don't want to give the impression of being a constant failure. Absolutely!”

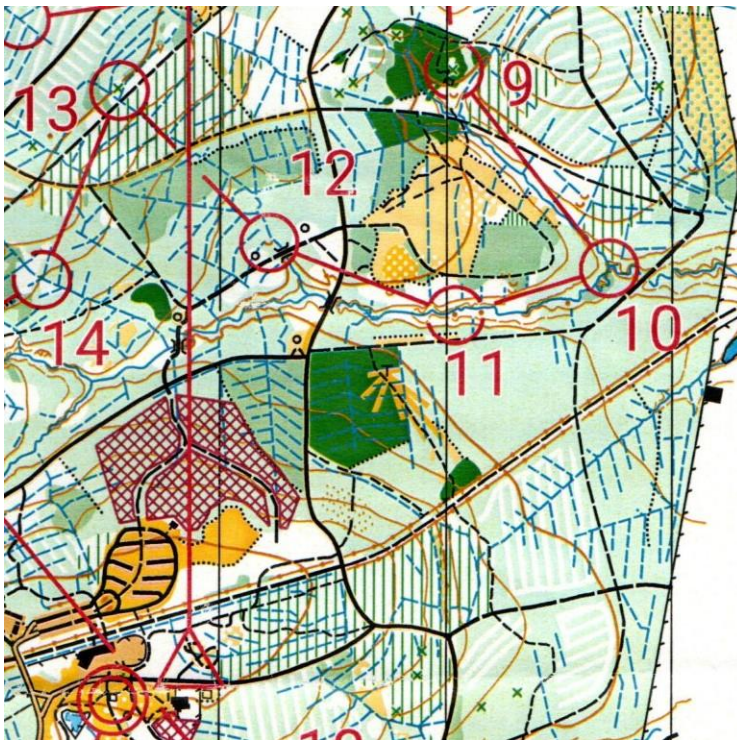
“As you wish, sir.” And he coughed in a disagreeing sort of way.

I then said that I would settle down to think intensely about his suggestion for an article and asked him to bring me a coffee in half an hour.

“Here is your coffee, sir. I trust you had a refreshing nap?”

I gave a rebuking sort of look but it was wasted as he was already oozing off to his lair in the kitchen. Anyway, here goes.

ALICE HOLT COUNTRY PARK – 26 January



Disembarking from the car I felt strangely relaxed (or should it be lethargic?). Lots of green areas on the map so lots of track running, which should have suited Bertram. I found the first few controls easily enough but then began to get a pain in the old tum. Tried to ignore it but it got worse and when I came across a

big patch of dark green near number 9 I dived into it. When I emerged I felt groggy and even more lethargic. Luckily the Start and Finish were in the middle of the map so I decided that discretion was the better part of valour and went slowly to the Finish, dibbing a couple more walking controls on the way.

The chappie in his lair in the Download van was in deep conflagration with another chappie so I downloaded, picked up my slip and sidled off, not wishing to draw any attention to myself. But I had only gone a few yards when Mr Download emerged and said in a stentorian voice: "I say, Bertie, do you realise that you've missed controls 13 to 22? You've only done half the course!"

I explained, in broken terms, my predicament, if that is the word I want, and he disappeared back into his van muttering something about "snowflakes"; rather puzzling as it was quite a warm day. As I retreated with bowed head and sunken shoulders I could feel about 57 pairs of orienteering eyes, from the crowd surging round the van, boring into the back of my neck. Until that moment I had always thought that orienteers hang around Download so that they have a ready audience for their accounts of how they fared getting around the course but I now suspect that most are there on the chance of having a cheap laugh at some unfortunate who has made a bloomer.

I had started my run promptly so as not to keep the others waiting after they had completed their courses but I was now kicking my heels waiting for them. It did not seem a good idea to consume anything apart from a sip or two of water so I sat in the car and watched dogs taking their owners for walks.

Tiring of dog watching I began to wonder if I should have completed the course at a slow walk. I soon dismissed the idea as this would have taken so long that when I returned to the car park there would probably have been no car – just a forlorn rucksack with a note pinned to it:

"Dear Bertie,

Sorry, but we couldn't wait any longer as we would have missed opening time at The Compass & Dibber, you know, the one that's just opened in Gloucester. But there's a train station (it's only two miles to walk) with a good service to London every 30 minutes. Did you have a good run?

CN next week?"

It reminded me of my stays in country houses. Invited for a couple of weeks I usually find that, after about two days, my hosts turn the conversation round to transport, particularly how frequent and reliable is the train service to London from the local station. Just a short, pleasant stroll across the fields and would I like to borrow a map?

HAWLEY – 16 February



Simply put I could not find 14. Obviously, I had approached from the east but, not seeing the control, had ended up on the track near the horse jump. Undismayed I took a compass bearing from the said h. j. and, for a distance of 50 yards, it should have been easy to find. After returning twice to the jump to try again I had to give up as time was of the essence. I didn't want to suffer what Jeeves would call the disapprobation of my fellow travellers. What he really means is that I did not want to get back to the car

to find them standing around looking cold and fed up and tapping their feet and constantly checking their watches; not to mention the chilly and monosyllabic atmosphere in the car on the way home.

I successfully went round the rest of the course but I am sure that at least some of my readers know how dispiriting it is to have to find another 12 controls when DSQ is guaranteed on the printout at Download.

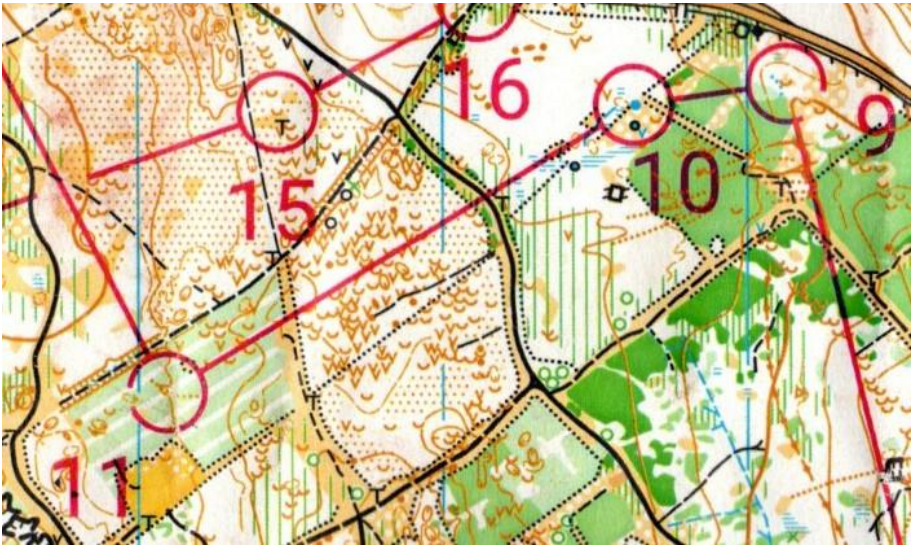
LYDNEY PARK – 23 February

This was a joint effort between NGOC and BAOC to say thanks to BAOC for all the events they put on which benefit NGOC members (mainly the old duffers' section of NGOC or those, like myself, who don't need to work for a living). Even Bertram helped out in the car park before the event, thanks to Jeeves volunteering me to help. Bertram had put on his best welcoming smile and directed arriving punters to the parking spaces. I was a bit pipped, however, when some fellow drove in and, after stating that he wasn't interested in orienteering, asked how to get to the local hospital. I mean to say, it was a bit thick, or to put it in officialese I didn't consider that giving directions to the local hospital was in the job description.

Eventually the swarms of cars dwindled and I ankled over to the Start. I breezed round the course, apart from poor compass work to 18.

Here I would like to point out that the flyer for this event had stated something along the lines of "mainly nice open woodland, spiffing underfoot." And I would agree that this was the appearance from a distance. However, on a close encounter, there were large areas of low, treacherous brambles. I say treacherous because they had shed their leaves, leaving almost invisible stems with vicious thorns. My socks, shoes, shoelaces and gaiters, not to mention my ankles, were seriously

incommoded. 5 to 6 took me 13:44 and was more like an obstacle course or even “Go Ape” as I had to negotiate innumerable fallen trees.

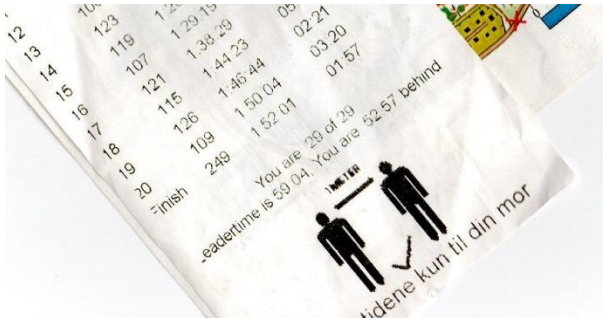


But I did enjoy myself and eventually finished. At Download I was just about to lift my printout when a hand appeared from stage left and snatched it. A military-sounding voice said in a triumphant tone: “Aha! You’re missing number 10. Did you visit it? Have you a backup card? Let’s have look at your map” and the same hand reappeared, taking my map this time. “There it is,” (pointing) “do you remember visiting it?”

I was reeling by this time and it was only the press of bodies surging round me, attracted by the prospect of a laugh at someone else’s expense, that prevented me from falling. Peering at the map, my map, mind you, over someone else’s shoulder, I had to admit that I didn’t remember it and must have gone straight from 9 to 11, even if 10 was almost in a straight line between the two. Guffaws were guffawed, tactless remarks made and I tottered off to the car, a broken man, carrying a slip of paper with the letters D, S and Q writ large.

“Oh, Bertie darling, where have you been? I’ve been back from my Orange course for ever such a long time. Poo! What a pong! Get straight in the car and open your window; I’ll drop you off at home and Jeeves can run a hot bath, or maybe two, for you.”

MYTCHETT – 16 March



A great triumph. The Brown course successfully completed in less than twice the winner’s time; 29th position out of 29.

WINDMILL HILL – 6 April

Well, after various disasters, I actually followed Jeeves’ advice and entered the Long Orange. “A successful run over a shorter distance will restore your confidence and your appetite for the sport, sir.”


And, of course, Jeeves was right. I started slowly and deliberately and found the first control easily. I then went straight to all the other controls, a thing I had never done before in all my puff. Some scoffers might point out that, at many controls, I was guided by the presence of other chappies who were just about to dib or actually dibbing but I think that it was about time that Bertram had a slice of luck.

At the end I struggled up the steep slope from 17 to the Finish and sauntered to Download, hoping against hope that the printout would not say “You are currently 12 out of 12”. It said something I had never seen before and don’t expect to see again: “You are current leader!!!”. Those are not my exclamation

marks and, if anyone doubts me, they can examine the slip that is framed and on the wall above my drinks cabinet. I stared incredulously but there was no hand grabbing the slip back, saying that the machine had made a mistake.

15	53	44:24	02:40
16	63	44:24	02:40
17	62	46:22	01:58
Finish	249	48:33	02:11

You are current leader!!!



Back at the old homestead I was too excited to eat and kept badgering Jeeves to look at the laptop to see if the results were “up”, as I believe is the correct term. After what seemed like an eternity the fellow reappeared with a printout and handed it to me on the tray usually reserved for my glass of B and S. I snatched it up quickly and came closer than I have ever been to saying “Tra-la-la!”: Bertram’s name was at the top, winning by 11 minutes.

“May I offer my congratulations, sir? A very creditable achievement.”

“Thank you, Jeeves; wouldn't it be nice if I could win every week like that?”

"That might not be a good idea, sir. May I remind you of the words that Herodotus, who died about 425 B.C., attributed to the Egyptian king Amasis:

'I know that the gods are jealous for I cannot remember that I ever heard of any man who, having been constantly successful, did not at last utterly perish.' "

from the . . . **RBOC Archive**

From the July 2012 Legend:



World Trail Orienteering Championships Day 2. Chris James at the microphone



Chris commentating (Photograph: Gill James)



From the November 2011 Legend (Photograph: Wendy Carlyle)

Answers to the caption competition in the January 2011 Legend. Chris addressing the punters just before the start of the Chairman's Challenge.



"And I am pleased to add that in addition to the 13 colour courses, NGOC now offers a 10km string course." *(Richard Higgs)*

"Last one left standing!" *(Sandy Cowan, Kerno)*

"Chris was adamant the flood would arrive any minute." *(Nick Barrable, CompassSport)*

"Another value-for-money NGOC event - the Long String course used the whole 5km reel of string!" *(John Bennison, COBOC)*

"Pyjama party at the kindergarten" *(Greg Best)*

"I can see the first control from here." *(Peter Poole)*

"I can be Tableperson when I retire as Chairperson." *(Peter Poole)*

"Now hear this, this is your Chairman speaking . . ." *(Peter Poole)*

"Gill, how do I get down?" *(Peter Poole)*

From the November 2011 Legend:

Alan Brown Changes Colour

For many years, our illustrious Legend editor had believed that if you're born a Brown then you must run the Brown. Although this belief has meant value for money running, with long distances and even longer times, it has meant lack of success in the ratings and frequent appearances on the lower reaches of the results.

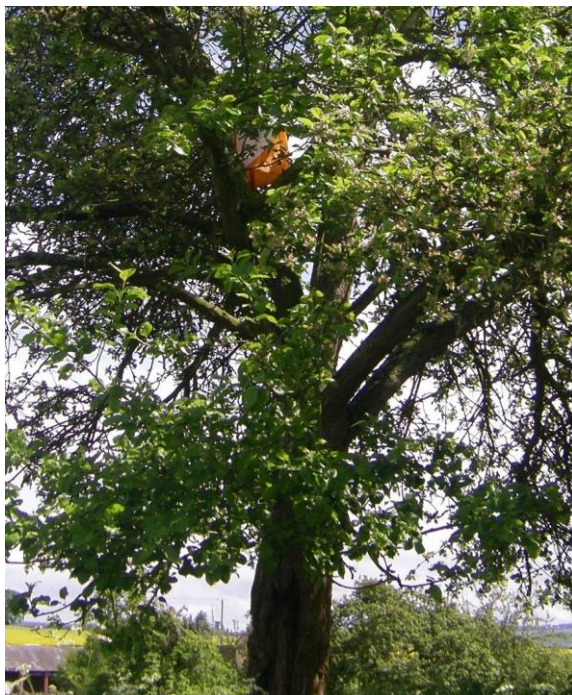
However, I am pleased to report that Mr Brown has finally seen the light and realised that he is also allowed to compete in courses other than his namesake colour. The Spring Series held in Cheltenham and Gloucester was intended for newcomers to try our sport, but this did not put off Alan, and it was at these events that he finally found his niche and long-awaited success by running Yellow and Orange. At Crickley Hill Alan came 1st on Yellow, while his wife, Ann won the Orange. Encouraged by this result and determined to go one better (and beat his wife?), he ran twice at The Park Campus, winning both Yellow and Orange. This feat was repeated at the next event at Oxstalls campus, again winning Yellow and Orange.

You may think that Alan will have learnt from all this success and will in future keep to non-Brown courses, but I am disappointed to report that this has proved not to be the case. For only the weekend after I travelled with Alan to HOC's regional event at Breakneck Bank, and Alan could not resist the allure of his namesake. The result? 19th out of 19 on Brown. Normal service resumed!

Greg Best

Next page: from the March 2010 Legend:

Caption competition entries from the January Legend:



"The high winds made some controls more tricky than usual" (*Greg Best*)

"I've heard of kite flying, but this is ridiculous" (*Pat & Neil Cameron*)

"Advice to planners: place your white course controls where they are easily seen" (*Pat & Neil Cameron*)

"High as a kite." (*Don Gray*)

"Very special vegetation feature." (*Don Gray*)

"Scientists studying animal intelligence were disappointed with the results of the Bird-O trial." (*Jeremy Riley*)



(*Paul Taunton*)

Brashings

Word search clubs

The clubs you are looking for are: *Airienteers, Auld Reekie, Derwent Valley, Edinburgh University, Greater Manchester, Guildford, Happy Herts, Interlopers, Isle of Man, Leicestershire, Loch Eck, Northern Navigators, Potteries, Norfolk, Roxburgh Reivers, Solway, Tinto, South East Lancs, Walton Chasers, West Cumberland.*

Notes:

Auld Reekie is a traditional nickname for Edinburgh, from the Scots word reek meaning smoke (not, as is often assumed, smell).

Border **reivers** (as in Roxburgh **Reivers**) were raiders along the Anglo-Scottish border from the late 13th century to the beginning of the 17th century. They included both Scottish and English people, and they raided the entire Border country without regard to their victims' nationality. Their heyday was in the last hundred years of their existence, during the time of the House of Stuart in the Kingdom of Scotland and the House of Tudor in the Kingdom of England. (Wikipedia)

In 1525, the reivers had become such a nuisance that the then Archbishop of Glasgow, Gavin Dunbar, put a curse upon all the reivers of the borderlands. The curse has often been called the "mother of all curses" and was more than 1000 words long. It was read aloud from pulpits of churches throughout the border region:

I curse thair heid and all the haris of thair heid; I curse thair face, thair ene [eyes], thair mouth, thair neise, thair tounge, thair teith, thair crag [neck], thair schulderis, thair breist, thair hert, thair stomok, thair bak, thair wame [womb], thair armes, thair leggis, thair handis, thair feit, and everilk part of thair body, frae the top of thair heid to the soill of thair feit, befor and behind, within and without. I curse them gangand [going], and I curse them rydand [riding], I curse thaim standand, and I curse thaim sittand; I curse them etand [eating], I curse thaim drinkand, I curse thaim walkland, I curse thaim sleepand, I curse thaim rysand, I curse thaim lyand; I curse thaim at hame, I curse thaim [..away..] fra hame, I curse them within the house, I curse thaim without the house, I curse thair wiffis, thair barnis [children], and thair servandis participand with thaim in thair deides I wary [curse] thair cornys, thair catales, thair woll, thair scheip, thair horse, thair swyne, thair geise [geese], thair hennys, and all thair quyk gude [livestock]. Etc, etc . . .

Tinto. Does anyone know the origin of this club name?

Secret compass

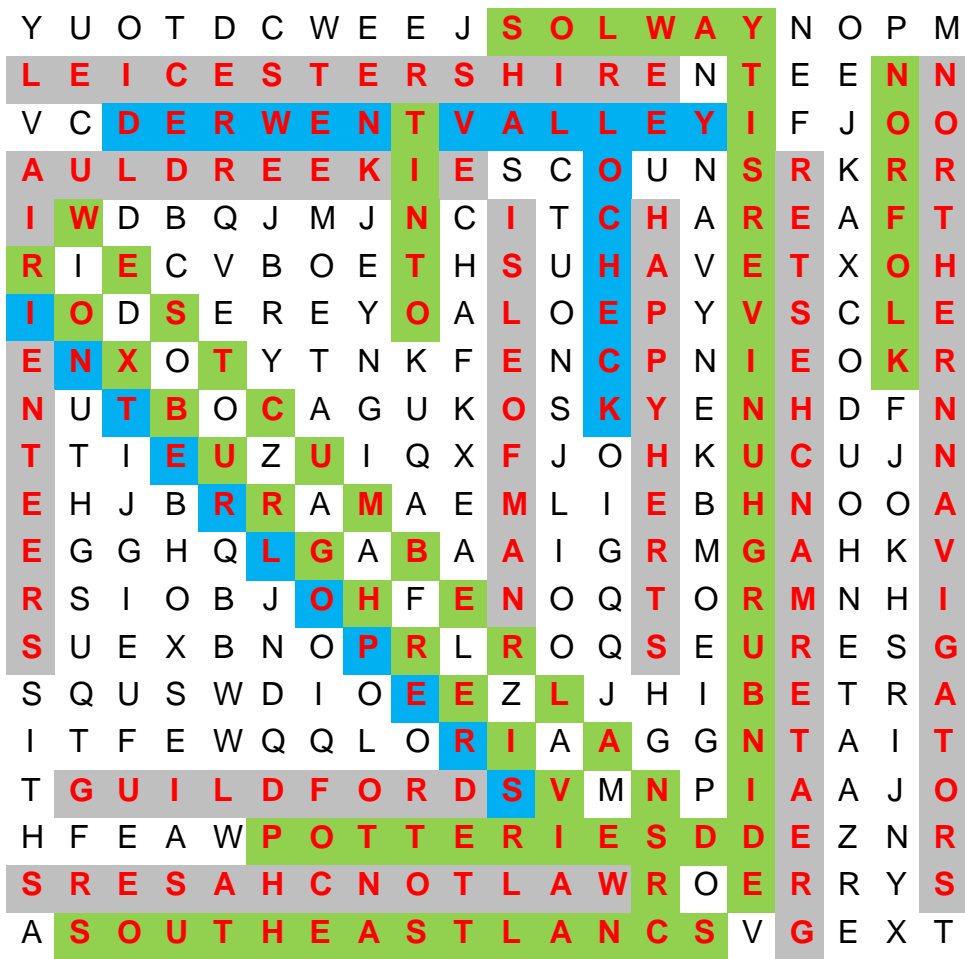
The "Forces News" channel has a short item about a secret compass carried by air crew in World War 2 to help them navigate home if they were shot down. The compass is made from two metal trouser buttons: the top button has a projection on which to place the upper, magnetic button which swivels to indicate north. It is not beyond the realms of possibility that this could have inspired Ian Fleming to create "Q" in the James Bond novels. To view the item on YouTube click on this link:

[The WW2 buttons with a BIG secret - and their link with James Bond - YouTube](#)

The secret of long car journeys

On the journey TO the event everyone is wide awake and talking about how well they will run and the time passes quickly. On the journey FROM the event the mood is not always so upbeat and something is needed to combat tiredness (especially in the case of the driver) and stop minds from dwelling on mistakes and "what-might-have-been". The Officer Commanding the NGOC contingent of BOK Army (Major Tom Mills) has come up with a very practical solution to maintaining the troops' morale: a quiz book bought cheaply at *The Works*. An NCO in the rear of the vehicle is detailed to read out the questions and a lively debate always ensues as to the correct answers. If the book is a "multiple choice" affair he does not read out the choices until everyone has given their ideas - there are always some very "interesting" answers that are not among the listed possibilities.

Word search answers:



British Orienteering incentive scheme Awards

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

Thomas Kennedy	Racing Challenge: Bronze Award ***** Racing Challenge: Silver Award *****
James Agombar	Racing Challenge: Bronze Award ***** Navigation Challenge *****
Colette Du Toit	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.



