

The Legend

Number 134



Newsletter of
North Gloucestershire Orienteering Club
July 2008

www.ngoc.org.uk

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Articles for Legend

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this edition of Legend. Send your article/pictures for the September edition to legend@ngoc.org.uk or Alan and Ann Brown, 10 Brizen Lane, Cheltenham, GL53 0NG.

Cover: "Found it at last." Greg Best at the BOKtrot at Brierley on 11 May. *Photograph (and caption): Bob Teed*

Chairman's Chat

Club Development

In the last edition I wrote about being a Focus Club for orienteering in Gloucestershire with the drive to eventually attain the Sports Council's Club Mark award. At our last committee meeting on 9th June we had a wide-ranging session to encourage committee members to produce a 'Wishlist' of ideas. This is included as a separate article in this edition of Legend. Do have a look at it and let me have your own ideas and wishes for the future.

Moving Forward in our Fixtures

Our Mini-Leagues and Informals were originally designed to be staged by one person working alone. Today things have changed very significantly making it virtually impossible to plan, control and organise an event without help. With SI people can check on results and splits with ease. This all requires more expertise.

It is perhaps the limited offer of only 3 courses that has discouraged some newcomers to come along. Not every one can launch straight into an orange course. We need to seriously consider adding white/yellow/string to more events. When my 4 year old grandson found that there was nothing for him he didn't want to come but he loves the Avon Schools and BOK events.

Working with our Neighbouring Clubs

This has involved Gill and I working quite closely with MADO helping at registration and with newcomers. It has been fun and has allowed us to get to know more of our fellow competitors. Can we emulate MADO's success within NGOC? Why not! If anyone feels that they could provide a similar outgoing approach to our events please get in touch with me or a member of the committee. We do not have to approach this in just the same way but evolve our own way.

Street Events & Chairman's Challenge

I do hope that you are having a go at our summer series? There are more events than ever before and they all work towards the Chairman's Challenge that will be in and around my home and the Village Hall in Gorsley using paths, lanes and minor roads. It is all about getting our sport nearer to the masses.

Good orienteering

Chris James

Caption Competition - answers



"The Trail-O was very technical at this year's JK". - *John Fallows*

"Now I know what is meant by a line feature." - *Don Gray*

"Drying? NO, it's the way to count the xxxxxx things." - *Bob Teed*

"Short 'O' - NGOC's latest attempt to attract navigationally-challenged beginners to the club." - *Greg Best*

"Lin tries out a prototype of a new, simpler string course." - *Neil Cameron*

"The controller felt he had no option but to highlight Rules 6.2.3 and 6.2.4 to the planner:

"6.2.3 Controls should not be sited within 30 metres of each other.

"6.2.4 Controls within 60m of each other should not be posted on similar features or on features that appear similar in the terrain."

- *Carole Sparke (HOC)*

An NGOC Wish List – Towards a Forward Plan 2008-2010

Your committee was invited on 9th June 2008 to think about where the club might be in 2 years and to put forward suggestions to move the club forward. Can you add to the following?

- Be more welcoming to newcomers, introduce them to the sport and find out what help we can give them
- Involve new members in the club – set up a 'buddy' system, using nearby members to encourage them to find a role in the club
- Find out if new members have something they particularly would like to do
- Need to find and encourage more juniors to keep the club moving on and building on our strengths
- Make events more junior friendly as well as continuing our higher level events
- Tie up Mini-leagues with Informals and making all electronic punching or at least using SI at beginning and end, possibly with short coaching sessions
- Our age range is top heavy so we must encourage our younger members but continue to use the expertise of our older members
- We need to be pro-active and follow up leads – especially with respect to possible junior links
- We must not lose good will by pushing our members too far

- Need to encourage parents to keep their youngsters involved, but also set events for people who want to orienteer
- Need to try different types of events
- We need to put on more training exercises for developing members skills (and others too!)
- Set-up regular meetings in Gloucester or Cheltenham at fixed locations
- Use small areas in parks around Cheltenham, Gloucester etc.
- Need to consider possibility of single course with SI and also the possibility of coaching
- Use path and lane maps like Gorsley as a training/coaching event and end up in the village hall to compare results and discuss route choices, etc.
- Encourage members to become Coaches

We now need to prioritise our ideas and plan to implement them with YOUR help please!

Please send your thoughts, contributions, etc to chairman@ngoc.org.uk or phone me on 01989 720122 or write to: Dalcross The Manse Lane, Gorsley, Ross-on-Wye, HR9 7SJ.

Your ideas will feed into future committee discussion in order to plan our way forward.

Chris James

The Mike Nelson BOK Trot

I doubt if the new system for sending out the start information employed by BOK will catch on. It appeared to involve putting the slips into the envelopes at random. So I knew the start time of a member of SOC. I did not find that particularly useful. I do approve of the allocation of entrants to half hour start blocks. We were warned about the Forest of Dean wild boar but they seem to have kept well away.

It was a very nice day though perhaps a little too warm for those who move a bit quicker than me. The first five controls on my course, which were on the north side of the A4136, were rather too easy, all being adjacent to line features. We were then allowed two minutes for the road crossing. This proved to be insufficient. As a result of the traffic I ended up with an extra one minute twenty-five seconds added to my time.

Control 8 on my course was in a pit which was surrounded by more pits than shown on the map. Roger Coe and I, having each checked out a couple of other pits, arrived in it together. He informed me that, although he was on a different course, he was aware that our next few legs were identical. So I watched with some delight as he sprinted off down the track way past the point at which he should have turned off for the next control. Approaching my next control I greeted him cheerfully as he passed me on the next leg, this time going in the right direction.

I pottered on uneventfully round the rest of the course until the last control. I reached the point where I expected it to be but it wasn't. So I got myself in sight of the Finish and attacked again. I arrived at exactly the same place as previously! So I continued about five yards eastwards and there it was. How frustrating. I am glad Roger was not around to laugh at me.

John Burrows



Above: The Committee hard at work at "The Severn Bore" at the 9 June meeting. Present (clockwise, starting at the empty place!) are Bob Teed, Pat Cameron, Chris James, Gill James, Alan Starling, Ellen Starling, Roger Coe, Carol Stewart, Dave Hartley, Matthew King, Pat MacLeod

Limerick (by Carol Stewart) reprinted from the June 1986 Legend:

A runner from NGOC
Who got lost at control number three
Was left for the night
Quite hidden in "fight"
Hadn't handed his stub in, had he?

Know your fellow members!



Carol Stewart, Treasurer

NGOC Constitution

Recently, John Burrows raised concerns about the NGOC Constitution: the appointment of two new club officers, neither of which was specified in the Constitution (Club Welfare Officer and Club Development Officer). John felt that an amendment to the Constitution should have been put forward and approved at the AGM before any appointments were made.

Committee response. Club Welfare Officer is not a Committee post but was given to Gill James who was already on the Committee. Club Development Officer is a role shared by Alan and Ellen Starling to help the Club maintain a high standard of events and develop new areas of expertise. Likewise, this post has not been created on the Committee, but our Development Officer has been invited to attend Committee Meetings as a co-opted member.

NWO Relay, Hardenhuish Park, Chippenham **– 29 June 2008**

It was disappointing that only eight teams entered the first event in this year's South West relay series and four of those were NWO "home" teams. As usual it was a fun event and very closely-fought! Because the location was a small, relatively easy, mostly open parkland area, the format was slightly different from previous years, using small kites and having five short sprint courses, between 1.3km and 1.8km in length, each to be run twice by different runners. Our team was 3 runners (Paul, Ros and Joe, running 3, 2 and 5 legs respectively) but some teams had to work harder, having only 2 runners. Unfortunately, there was some vandalism before the start, with 3 controls missing on the C course and at least 1 missing on a couple of the other courses. With small kites it was quite a challenge to be sure that the control was really missing, before deciding to run on! The courses were gaffled, but the sting in the tail was the fifth course for all teams, which used an overprint-only map, showing the start, control circles, lines between controls, finish and north lines only! A test of compass and pacing for the leading teams, but more of a test of observation for later runners, as

most of the controls were clearly visible from the changeover area. It's certainly an idea worth trying again in an open wooded area!

The courses raised a couple of dilemmas for me:

- Going out on the 7th leg I knew that the first control was missing, having had the same control on leg 2, – should I go there, or simply leave it out? My conscience demanded I should go there, and I did, but I wonder if everybody else did?
- And on leg 9, the final “overprint only” course, I went out in 2nd place less than a minute down, with the leading QO runner clearly visible. Ought I to navigate, or should I just follow? I navigated, although gamesmanship would probably have demanded I just tried to catch him, rather than wasting time looking at my map.

Anyway, the last leg was thrilling, as the QO runner, having set off over 2 minutes in the lead, was seen to make a 90 degree error. Joe was catching fast at this stage, but to the delight/disappointment/shouts of the watching crowd the QO runner relocated and was soon on track again. After a total of 14.8km Ian Bartlett of QO crossed the line 29 seconds ahead of Joe Taunton.

1	QO Quicksteps	96.13
2	NGOC Tauntons	96.42
3	NWO Press Gang	101.53

There are four more relay events in the SWOA series, all during July, so why not think about entering? They are all different formats, but each can guarantee a fun day out that's a bit different from our usual events! And with such a relaxed event the missing controls didn't spoil the fun.

Paul Taunton

Overleaf: Course E – “Overprint Only”!! Completed by Joe in 5:58.

MN
2007

100m

1:4000



Course E - 1.4km

- | | | |
|----|----|--------------------------|
| 1 | AB | Northern Tree |
| 2 | IA | Western Tree |
| 3 | HB | Northern Tree |
| 4 | RA | Middle Tree |
| 5 | YA | depression (eastern end) |
| 6 | GA | Sapling |
| 7 | ZA | Trim Trail |
| 8 | SA | Trim Trail |
| 9 | NB | Trim Trail |
| 10 | GB | Earth Wall |

Navigate to finish

Know your fellow members!



Andy Stott

Brashings

2008-2009 fixtures

Next season's fixtures list will be sent out with the September edition of Legend. Volunteers are still needed - contact Bill Smith on 01452 610924 or fixtures@ngoc.org.uk

COACHING - volunteers wanted

The committee is keen to encourage and support anyone who wishes to become a coach and gain the necessary qualifications and experience. Active Gloucestershire are considering running a basic course for anyone interested in becoming a club coach. There is funding available, which might lead to the course being free to NGOC members. The Club needs to have qualified coaches up to Level 2, without this we cannot provide coaching sessions for children, younger people and any other interested members. This will, in turn, help us in our aim to qualify for Clubmark and encourage more juniors to join the club and ensure its continued success for many years.

NWO - Rodborough and Minchinhampton Commons

North Wiltshire Orienteering Club (NWO) was very grateful to NGOC for use of Rodborough and Minchinhampton Commons for their 5 May Galoppen following an unexpected refusal of land access for their January event. NWO were "very pleased to take up this generous offer which included local advice from NGOC and an offer of map printing at cost."

Another caption competition?

We had some good entries for the caption competition - how about sending the Editors some photos for another????

Committee Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be on Monday 1 September 2008.

Back page

NGOC's Alan Richards was presented with this spoof cover for "HELL O!" magazine at the BOK Army awards after winning his course at Collingbourne by several minutes. The photograph of Alan was adapted from that printed in the January 2008 Legend. *"Hell O!" Cover by Mark Blackstone of BOK*

HELL O!

Bok Army edition June 2008

BokARMY veteran
smashes BAOC stars
at Collingbourne

Feature:-
Best brambles at Brierley

David Beckham names
his new dibber as
"Sallowvallets"

Pamela Stevenson reveals
her new Bristols OK Kit. P6

The magazine featuring the worst of British Celebrity Orienteering.