

The Legend

Number 139



Newsletter of
North Gloucestershire Orienteering Club
May 2009

www.ngoc.org.uk



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Cover: A weary David Lee finishing the third (Green) leg of NGOC's Mixed Ad Hoc team in the British Relays. David also ran the first (Orange) leg in the same race; Paul Taunton ran the middle leg.
Photograph: Carol Stewart

Chairman's Chat

Another New Beginning – It is all coming together!

University of Gloucestershire

Since writing in March we have moved forward at the Oxstalls Campus of the University of Gloucestershire.

1. Bob Teed has completed the new "O" map and indicated possibilities of linking to other areas.
2. We will have had our second committee meeting at the University on Monday 27th April 2009.
3. Our plans for the five Wednesday evenings in July at Oxstalls are advancing.

Gloucester Park Permanent Course

Mark Boyce's project to establish a permanent course is coming to fruition. Details of the official opening are to be found elsewhere in this edition of Legend. This is another significant development and now opens up the possibility of attracting inner city schools and residents who may not venture to the Forest of Dean or Cotswolds to come-and-try-it.

In the previous issue I asked - So what should we do for development?

I must conclude that no one has any other ideas for Club Development or perhaps you have forgotten to contact me following the last edition of Legend. I am forever hopeful – is there anyone there?

On a personal note - The end of two eras for me

Era One – Involvement at National Level

At the Federation's AGM in Belford, Northumberland on Easter Saturday I retired from the Board of Directors though I did simultaneously become a Trustee of the Federation's Trust Fund.

In total I have been in the Centre for 22 years out of the 43 years since we formed an English Association in 1966 that transformed into the present Federation in 1967 when the Scottish Orienteering Association joined us.

Era Two – Championships Competition

As a new M70 in 2009 I realize that for the first time since the early 1970s I am very unlikely to reach Championship Standard in my new age class. Both runs at the JK, as well as the British championships, defeated me though I did succeed at National Event 1 in Burnham Beeches. Now I am not looking for sympathy as we all conk out at some stage. In my case it is eyesight problems with glaucoma.

However it need not be the case if maps were surveyed and drawn to the International Federation Standard. This states that all mapping should be done at 1:15,000 with any larger scale versions being blown-up from this base. So what goes wrong? Surveyors are being tempted into putting far too much detail thus cluttering the map and making it unreadable for folks like me.

So what you might say! Well, on Easter Saturday with a time of over 90 minutes compared to the class winner with less than half that time I really felt like giving up my sport after 44 years. I wonder how many others could be similarly affected? If we all gave up the sport would suffer from a lack of experienced planners and organizers. So mappers **PLEASE** get your act together and give us uncluttered maps so that those of us with failing eyesight can have a fair chance. I am not asking for bigger and bigger scales just clear maps. (I am not getting at our own Club mappers!)

Good orienteering

Chris James - *Chairman NGOC*

Know your fellow members!



Above: Tom Mills junior and Tom Mills senior.

Below: John Shea and Roger Edwards



Interpret with care

You may have looked at the graphs published in the British Orienteering Annual Report and concluded that two of them raised issues of serious concern. I did too, but then, being a mathematician, I became a little suspicious of the messages they seem to send out. So I decided to look at them rather more critically.

First of all I took the graph showing the average age of members and extrapolated back to the year I joined orienteering - 1968. The graph implies that the average of members then would have been 22. Actually the membership at that time largely consisted of retired athletes so the average age must have been not greatly different from today's. A graph of average ages over the whole period that the sport has been practised in this country would have shown that at some times it has risen and at others it has fallen. Ever since I joined the sport there has been concern over the number of younger adults taking part.

Next I thought that it would be interesting to extrapolate forward in time from the graph. This led to the conclusion that in the year 2100 the average age of members will be 81 and just over half way through that century it will be higher than the age of the oldest resident of this country!

Clearly publishing a graph but not accompanying it with some careful analysis can be very misleading. Over the period covered by

this graph the average age of the population of this country has risen. In a sport in which people compete right up to the end of their lives it is not surprising that the average age of members reflects that demographic change.

The blip at the top end of the graph is interesting. It coincides with the move to pressurise "club only" members to become full members. It implies that the average age of "club only" members is considerably lower than that of full members. Now that is intriguing and perhaps there are lessons to be learned from that. Do younger participants consider that there is no benefit to be gained from taking out full membership?

The graph comparing each region's membership with the population of that region is of dubious significance. Estimates of population numbers are notoriously questionable. If error bars were added to this graph the differences between regions would become rather blurred. Also I suspect that there may be special reasons for some of the differences (e.g. in Northern Ireland) which may not have been given with the graph.

Finally, to illustrate how important it is to interpret graphs with care, I offer the following analysis. The average age graph is very similar to one showing the rise in use of mobile phones over the same period. Thus I confidently predict that banning the use of mobile phones would lower the average age of the membership.

John Burrows

New permanent orienteering course in Gloucester Park to open on 30 May

The fixed orienteering course in Gloucester Park previously mentioned in Legend (*January 2009 issue*) has progressed and is due to be formally opened at noon on 30 May by the leader of Gloucester City Council, Councillor Paul James. The event will include training of newcomers to the sport by resident NGOC members and should lift the profile of orienteering in the City.

Two further events have also been arranged at 2pm on Friday 19 June and at 10am on Saturday 11 July – again, with training provided by experienced NGOC members.

The course has been funded by various partners including the Primary Care Trust, Gloucester City Council, NGOC and led by Gloucester City Centre Community Partnership.

The actual course is made up of 14 fixed control points spread across the whole of Gloucester Park including part of the park in what is known as Bakers Fields across Trier way and whilst the control points are not technically challenging, it will enable newcomers to the sport to have a go and perhaps progress to NGOC membership – club champions of tomorrow! Maps will be available from the Park Keeper's Office or at the Tourist Information point in Gloucester City centre.

Mark Boyce

Further information can be obtained from Mark Boyce on 01452 536377 or markyboyce@blueyonder.co.uk

Results of caption competition



Photo 1:

*Synchronised e-punching makes
Winter Olympics bid*

Neil Cameron

*Wait your turn, Clive, we were
here first!*

Greg Best



Photo 2:

*Alan Mackenzie at Control No 44
thinks we'll believe this is his
age*

*Alan Mackenzie uses his magic
shiny pendant to find a control*

*Welsh gnome spotted in the
forest*

Neil Cameron (all three)

*This is the first time I have seen
him before I heard him.*

John Burrows

CAPTAIN'S LOG

Since my last account, our club teams have been in action at the CompassSport Cup and the JK relays.

The CSC match was held on a fine Spring day at Bullers Hill near Exeter. 13 NGOC members travelled by minibus to the event and a further 4 made their own way there. We competed in the competition for large clubs and finished third (out of 3!!). BOK won with 2390 points, Devon had 2378 and NGOC scored 1357. In spite of this, it was an enjoyable day out, and I feel that the experiment of travelling together by minibus was a success, and one the club should repeat another time. Perhaps next time, we will have enough people to justify a coach. The only negative was the journey home when the driver (yours truly) got bored with nobody to talk to, as everybody else was too worn out to keep their eyes open!

The JK was held over Easter in Northumbria, and 17 club members travelled up for the weekend. We entered 4 teams for the relays on Easter Monday, although eventually only 3 teams competed due to injuries etc. I did not take part, so thank you to Paul Taunton who organised everything up there.

Harvester Relay. Team Members Needed! This will take place this year on the night of 21st June, not too far from us on Merthyr Common in the Brecon Beacons. For those who don't know, this is an overnight relay for teams of 5 or 7. Most legs require night orienteering ability, although the last one(s) are dawn or daytime legs. For the really keen and energetic, there will be a warm-up middle distance event nearby on the Saturday afternoon!

South West Summer Relay Series. This is a series of low-key relays held by various clubs in our region over the summer. Paul Taunton and family ran in enough of them last year to be crowned as overall winners. This should give hope to the rest of us! Each relay has its own format, and teams are usually (but not always!) of either 2 or 3 runners. The organising clubs and provisional dates are as follows:

QO	31 May
WSX	21 June
NWO	28 June
BOK	5 July
Devon	19 July
WIM	26 July

If you are interested in taking part in the Harvester Relay or any of the SW Series of relays, please let me know.

Greg Best

captain@ngoc.org.uk

01242 516053



CompassSport Cup. *Above: the team at Exeter. Below: en route*



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Location	Map reference	Organiser
2-4 May Bank Holiday	Triple O Severn	Forest of Dean	-	See flyer or website for details
16 May Saturday	League 8	Cranham	SO 882130	Lin Callard 01453 843793
6 June Saturday	End of Season Novelty	Moseley Green Mass Start at 1400	SO 666061	Paul Taunton 01594 529455

Enquiries to Organiser or Fixtures Secretary – Dave Hartley 01452 863805
For latest details check the NGOC website at www.ngoc.org.uk

NGOC Registration and start times

Informal Events: Start times 1230-1400

Senior £3 Junior £1 Non-members £3

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

Senior £4 Junior £1

Competitors who are not members of any club £5

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

Senior £4 Junior £1

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

Saturday 20 June	End of Season event. Old Hills
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Courses: yellow, orange, green and blue

Registration: 1200-1300 Starts: 1230-1400

Adult/family: £4 Junior: £1

More details: www.harlequins.org.uk/MADO

Summer street “O” to be based at UoG

This summer's street “O” events will be based at the University of Gloucester's Oxstalls Campus which Bob Teed has already mapped. Details of these Wednesday evening events will be posted on the NGOC website as soon as they are finalised. If you would like to help with the organisation/planning please contact any member of the Committee.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Change of details:

Dave Hartley dave@abbotswood1.plus.com

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

Know your fellow members!



*Richard Higgs at League 6 at
The Kidnalls*



*John Coleman, planner of
League 6 at The Kidnalls*



*Derek Hobby manning
Registration at The Kidnalls*



*William Wilkinson at League 5
at Blakeney Hill*

Brashings

NGOC mini-league: 5 out of 8 to count/1000 points for organisers

Starting with the 2009-2010 season the Committee has agreed that 5 out of 8 mini-league results will count towards the mini-league tables. To help encourage organisers, 1000 points will be given to organisers of mini-league events.

"Ask me" jackets

To help competitors at events, especially newcomers to the sport, the club is to purchase a number of fluorescent jackets which can be labelled "Ask me", "Controller" etc. **Competition:** think of a good or humorous label, e.g. "Blame me", and see it printed in the next Legend. Entries to: legend@ngoc.org.uk

NYD 2009 raises £175 for charity

NGOC has donated £175 from the proceeds of our 1 January 2009 fun score event to LINC. LINC is the Leukaemia and Intensive Chemotherapy Fund, based at the Haematology Department of Cheltenham General Hospital. We had a nice letter from Dr Gill Rouse, who chairs it, to thank us. The money will go towards their current Jenner Appeal to redesign, refurbish and extend the Edward Jenner Unit at the Gloucester Royal Hospital to create a dedicated haematology day unit facility for cancer patients in Gloucestershire. Thanks to everyone who supported this event.

New first aid kits

The club will be purchasing new, pre-assembled first aid kits to replace the current miscellaneous collection of items, some of which are very old.

A colourful reason to get your Legend by email

Since most members now receive Legend by email we have decided to save money on the hard copy version by having only the front and back pages printed in colour. Another reason to read the electronic version of Legend, either as an email attachment or on the NGOC website! Please contact the Legend editor if you have any comments on this.

SINS by email

SINS is now being sent to NGOC members by email as two PDF files (the main part is produced in Word while the fixtures map is produced in CorelDraw). If you have any problems or comments on receiving SINS in this way please contact the Legend editor. (SINS, the newsletter of the SouthWestern Orienteering Association, is sent to full and local British Orienteering members but not "club only" members.)

Cleeve Hill Galoppen on 23 May 2010

An organiser and a planner are still needed for this event next season. Any volunteers? Please contact Fixtures Secretary Dave Hartley at fixtures@ngoc.org.uk or on 01452 863805.

Club caravan refurbishment: volunteer with tow bar needed

£200 is to be spent on refurbishing the club caravan which is used for the IT equipment at our larger events - and for transporting equipment. However, we now need someone to tow the caravan as the equipment officer's new car does not have a tow bar. Are there any volunteers? Please contact any member of the Committee.

Have your say!

Are there any matters that you would like the committee to consider? Contact the Club Secretary, Pat Cameron, or any member of the Committee. The next Committee meeting is on Monday 22 June 2009.

Articles for Legend

We are always looking for articles on anything to do with orienteering; digital photos are especially welcome. Send your article/pictures to legend@ngoc.org.uk or Alan and Ann Brown, 10 Brizen Lane, Cheltenham, GL53 0NG. 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.



British Relays. Above: Eddie McLarnon finishing.

Below: Ros Taunton hands over to Gill James. Photograph: Carol Stewart

