

# The Legend

Number 151



Newsletter of  
North Gloucestershire Orienteering Club  
May 2011

[www.ngoc.org.uk](http://www.ngoc.org.uk)

# NGOC Committee

## **Chairman**

Pat MacLeod 01594 528128  
chairman@ngoc.org.uk

## **Secretary**

Caroline Craig 01242 696443  
secretary@ngoc.org.uk

## **Treasurer**

Carol Stewart 01242 514988  
treasurer@ngoc.org.uk

## **Club Captain**

Greg Best 01242 516053  
captain@ngoc.org.uk

## **Membership Secretary**

Ellen Starling 01793 320054  
membership@ngoc.org.uk

## **Equipment Officer**

Pat MacLeod 01594 528128  
equipment@ngoc.org.uk

## **Fixtures Secretary**

Dave Hartley 01452 863805  
fixtures@ngoc.org.uk

## **Mapping Officer**

Paul Taunton 01594 529455  
mapping@ngoc.org.uk

## **Club Welfare Officer**

Gill James 01989 720122  
welfare@ngoc.org.uk

## **Club Development Officer**

*vacant*

## **Additional Members**

Pat Cameron 01684 294791  
pmcameron@tesco.net

Roger Coe 01594 510444  
randvcoe@btinternet.com

John Fallows 01684 290256  
john@greyeye.co.uk

## **Legend Editors**

Alan and Ann Brown  
01242 580096  
legend@ngoc.org.uk

## **Website**

Eddie McLarnon  
01242 673079  
webmaster@ngoc.org.uk

***Cover:*** NGOC's Galoppen at Danby Lodge on 1 May: the Planner after his work is done. (*Photograph and caption: Roger Coe*)

## **Disclaimer**

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

# Chairman's Chat

With the JK weekend, our own Galoppen, and three mini-leagues it's been a busy couple of months for orienteers and organisers. I didn't make it to the JK – too expensive in a Scottish 6 Days year - but I gather that it was a great event, and that the Irish matched, if not beat, the SWOA standards of 2010. They did have the weather in their favour though. On top of these events, we have started both of our local beginner series. The Cheltenham and Gloucester events have attracted small numbers but generally enthusiastic people who seem to have thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We have also had a few teachers who have expressed an interest in doing something for their schools. The cynical view is that they need all the help they can get now that orienteering is a formal part of the curriculum, but we might generate some genuine interest if we can build on these first contacts. We have only held one of the Wye Valley series, so it's early days for that programme. It's worth pointing out that we have not publicised the Wye Valley series on the website, as Kyla has been keen to target specific schools and families, but if you are from the Ross/Hereford area, and would like to know more, or know families who might be interested in taking part on Tuesday afternoons, then get in touch with me – [chairman@ngoc.org.uk](mailto:chairman@ngoc.org.uk).

All this activity of course means lots of effort being put in by club members to organise and help at events. We are blessed with an extremely competent set of team leaders who make organising an event a relatively straightforward task. We also have a slowly growing pool of people who are willing and able to take on organising and planning roles, as well as major helping roles, and I make no excuse for going on in every Chat about how important volunteering is. Without it – no events and no club. The Galoppen on 1<sup>st</sup> May is a good example. An encouraging number of people gave up time before the event to learn how the computing side of events works, so that we could cope without our resident computer expert – John Fallows. In time honoured fashion the first law of computing - if it can go wrong it will - duly delivered on the day, when one of the laptops failed to start. We nevertheless coped, and despite some queuing – invariably good natured rather than “tutty” – all happened as it should. This was wholly down to the efforts of Paul and Ros Taunton, Paul Bryce and

particularly Peter Foster of BOK, who had agreed to be our backup expert, but who became a data entry clerk on the day. Add Roger Coe's usual organising excellence, Tom Mills' very well regarded courses, Trevor Griffiths' (also BOK) sympathetic controlling, and some decent weather and we had a very good day.

We are coming to the end of our current season, but we do plan to hold a series of Summer Street Events, and you should hear about these shortly, elsewhere in this Legend or on the website. Which brings me to mapping.....we are starting to look for better base data for street-o maps. Footpath data is particularly difficult to get hold of, so if anyone knows any possible sources of such data, let Paul Taunton or me know. It would be great to be able to create a set of detailed street maps to give us a new option when planning our programme. My own mapping efforts using LIDAR data are currently on hold due to all the other things going on, but I have now got a marvellous set of data from Cranham Local History Society, and have managed to generate some detailed contour plots of part of Painswick Beacon, as well as elevation models which could be useful to mappers. I'll talk about this in future Legends, when I find time to fiddle with the data a bit more.

I am now gearing up seriously for the Scottish 6 Days. This means making lots of silly mistakes, retiring when the going gets too hard, and adopting a 'fast and furiously inaccurate' approach to orienteering in the no doubt vain hope that I'll get it out of my system and be cool, calm, collected and correct when I get to Oban. The 6 Days is a great orienteering event, and it's not too late to enter, so if you fancy a real orienteering challenge why not join the 20 or so of us who will be heading North at the end of July.

*Pat MacLeod*

# End of Season event – 4 June 2011.

*(Please note the change of venue from the original fixtures list.)*

## **Brockweir and The Hudnalls – an area completely new to orienteering in the scenic Lower Wye Valley.**

*For the end of season event join us for this 'multi-terrain' score event in the heart of the Wye Valley. You will be running on a 1:25,000 OS Explorer Map reproduced at 1:15,000 scale. You will need as much map detail as you can get in this intricate landscape of small meadows, woods, cottages, green lanes, hedges, streams and ancient monuments (Offa's Dyke that is - not the local residents). All routes will be on public rights of ways and highways, but watch out for those contours! You may meet a horse, sheep, badger, cyclist, rambler or motorist.*

*Picnic afterwards on the lawn at the Mackenzie Hall  
(bring-your-own).*

## **Mass start at 12 noon.**

Signposted from A466 at Brockweir Bridge (GR 538011).

*Parking on Mill Hill.*

*Enquiries:* Andy and Gill Stott, 01291 689471 or  
[apg.stott@btinternet.com](mailto:apg.stott@btinternet.com)

## Galoppen at Danby Lodge on 1 May



*Above: Don Gray dishing out the dibbers (would you hire a second-hand dibber from this man?) Below: Gary Wakerley waiting for the wounded*







*Above: Control 19 on the Brown course*  
*Below: The scenery on the way to the start*



# **Disaster at Danby Lodge!**

## *A personal view of NGOC's Galoppen on 1 May*

It all started to go wrong when I made a map reading error on the way to the event - we should have taken the next right turn after Blakeney. I was looking out for the turning to put us back on course when we saw the "o" sign directing us into the forest. After turning in we realised that this was for helpers only (I hadn't volunteered as I wasn't sure if I would be on my coastal walk or not) but there was a parking space so we just stopped and found we were only a few yards from registration. A really good start to the day. Registration was quick and painless and after a bit of a chat and taking a few photos we were off to the start.

This is where the problems started. Feeling smug after the chap a minute before me failed to dib at the "start" box and was called back I rushed to the box marked "brown" and struggled to separate the maps to take just the one. "There is one placed by the side of the box, you know." says Lin. First mistake.

Usually my next problem is finding the start triangle on the map – sometimes all the other runners are out of sight by the time I have found it. This time I spot it quickly and move off to my right and climb over a fence to find myself in some dark green. Seems a bit odd so, after struggling through some more undergrowth, I study the map and compass. 180 degree error from the start triangle! The cunning plan of cunning planner Tom Mills by making us face south at the start has worked – so in full view of the runners waiting at the start I try again and the first control is quite easy after all. *Memo*: must try this trick next time I plan a course.

All goes well until 11 or 12 which is set in a perfect carpet of bluebells. 50 Yards past the control, when it is too far to go back,



I remember that I have brought the camera and should have taken a picture for Legend.

13 (and coded 113) is a very apt number for the control where I failed to punch properly and was disqualified. I know I did not find it straight away but I am sure that I . . .

18. Went straight to this one but did not see it until I almost trod on it since the kite had fallen to the ground. But did I put it back in place to help following competitors?

22 and 23. Taking a compass bearing off a track I come to 23 first. They are close together so getting back to 22 proves easy but then finding 23 again is not. By this time I am frequently checking my watch against the course closing time.

The remainder I found easily enough and it only remained for me to learn that I had not punched properly at 13. Usually I feel pleased at the finish and it is only when I look at the results that I become despondent but today . . . Oh well, serves me right for (a) not volunteering to help, (b) parking in the helpers' area and (c) laughing at Greg at one of the Army Wednesday events when he dibbed at a wrong control. *Moral of this story:* volunteer to help out at your club's big events!

Thanks to Roger Coe for organising and Tom Mills for planning and everyone else who helped. In spite of my personal disaster I really enjoyed the course which avoided the brambles and gave some really good running off the tracks. Registration, start and download were all easy and quick.

*Alan Brown* (M59<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>)

## Orienteering board game – Finnish 1980s style



**Suunnistuspeli** (translation from Finnish: the Orienteering game) is a game to teach children how to do orienteering, by learning map denotations and the points of the compass.

The goal of the game is to go through five checkpoints on the map. The spin of compass sets the direction and the die decides the distances the player can go on the map grid. Players cannot walk over the lakes, marshes or planted fields on the map.

The game is probably from early 1980s.  
Ages 7 and up

- 1 playing board representing an orienteering map
- 1 compass (spinning wheel)
- 4 player figures
- 1 die
- 1 rule booklet in Finnish/Swedish

<http://boardgamegeek.com/boardgame/55900/suunnistuspeli>



John Fallows recently held a session at Oxstalls Campus to reveal the mysteries of SI. Apparently anyone can work it. John will be holding a further session soon so if you are interested in helping with entries and results at NGOC events please contact John at [john@greyeye.co.uk](mailto:john@greyeye.co.uk)

## **The Participation of NGOC in the Harvester, 1978 – 2000**

In 1978 the Combine Harvester Orienteering Club launched an overnight relay having been inspired by the Tio Mila, the ten stage relay in Sweden. The first UK Harvester was held at Eccleshall Wood in Sheffield and the then Chairman of NGOC, John Peniket, invited sufficient members for NGOC to have two teams. That first event was planned to have 3 or 4 legs at night and the remaining 3 or 4 in daylight. The more able teams achieved that target but lack of experience of orienteering in the dark reduced the night stages for some teams to 2 or 3. When the first leg runner is overtaken on the run in by someone ending their team's third leg, someone must have had problems. This first event was a great success and the event continued on an annual basis, usually on the weekend closest to the shortest night, with the venue going round the country. Combine Harvesters were the main organisers with local assistance for many years.

NGOC had sufficient enthusiasts for the format who encouraged the less interested to be involved for us to take part in every event in the period covered by this article. The figures quoted are my best guess using my copies of the results but I am missing those for 1996 (Dipton) and 1997 (Longmoor). Hence the need for guesswork.

The early events were a single class with 7 legs but in the mid 80s changes began and now there are three classes, the A was still 7 legs and the B similarly. The C class had been introduced with 5 stages. In the 23 events, 118 members represented NGOC and we had as many as 6 teams in 1987. On 7 occasions we sent only one team, usually when the event was distant. Our best results were in 1986 Sutton Park, and 1988, Clumber, when we won the Handicap class. (Photographs of the winning teams appeared in the January 2011 issue of Legend.) and the worst was in 1990 at Grizedale when all our three teams failed to finish. Carol Stewart was remarkable with her performance at Clumber; her mental strength was fantastic as she was out for 4 hours 33 minutes, the longest by any NGOC runner. At the other end of the scale, Terry Rutty recorded a time of 3 minutes at Grizedale; he started, left the field at the top gate and returned immediately through the bottom gate. Grizedale was a disaster; not just for NGOC. A great forest should have resulted in the best of Harvesters. As the first leg runners returned, it was clear that something was wrong. The current W21 JK and British Champion retired, Phil Green, who was British Night Champion, was another of many who did not finish. There had been some felling in the competition area and the straight

line route went through these impassable areas which were not mapped as such in the dark. It was clearly unfair and destroyed the competition. That is why Terry Rutty took his short route and it had a knock-on affect on me. I expected to do a dawn day leg but this vacillated from day to dark to day and ended as a dawn/day leg.

On to more pleasant memories; the best event was at Pembray; no, we didn't win as Terry lost his map, handed over to the next leg runner without saying anything so that he could have a 'proper' run. It was the best because the area was perfect for the event; challenging wooded sand dunes fairly mapped with clear screens as to runnability. The planner and controller got it right – fair but challenging courses to match the terrain. The weather, so important to an overnight relay, was perfect. It was warm, the sky was cloudless and dawn was beautiful with the sun rising above the last control and the beams were along the run in. People slept on the beach. Yes, definitely the best Harvester. I shall always remember Phil Jones coming in with a rapturous expression on his face at Hankley. It had been a misty night and, being a good geographer, Phil had noticed a 'temperature inversion' whilst he was out. He eulogised about it. (For those who have yet to come across a temperature inversion because you are not aware of what they are, please consult Janet Jones, Phil's Mum, who may well have taught him geography.) It would be wrong to omit Terry Rutty from NGOCs historic participation in the Harvester. He encouraged, enthused and inspired so many of us. His enthusiasm for the event is best shown by him doing all 7 stages on his own.

Finally a list of the members who participated most often. Eddie McLarnon, Terry Rutty, Jon Poole and Ian Jones recorded 10 appearances, Mike Wintersgill ran in the first 14 events, David Jones did 15 and I managed 23. At one stage Mike and I were the only two orienteers who had taken part in every Harvester running for the same club.

All the above are open to correction; they refer to Harvesters from the inception to 2000 only. I greatly miss being unable to attend; the atmosphere was superb.

*David Lee*



# Wye Valley Series

*North Gloucestershire Orienteering Club is pleased to invite you to its Wye Valley Outdoor Adventure Series, a series of events in the Hereford and Ross-on-Wye area designed to give children and their parents an exciting and challenging day out orienteering.*

*“Orienteering means maps, varied terrain and adventure. It doesn’t matter how young or old or fit you are. You can run, jog or walk, you decide your own pace. Orienteering is a sport where competitors navigate their way between control points marked on a specially drawn map.”*

*All events are on Tuesday afternoons, and some will be in town parks and sports grounds, whilst others will be out in the woods and countryside. See overleaf for details of each venue. There will be two sessions at each event:*

## **Session One:**

*Picnics & registration: 1.00pm to 2.00pm (bring your own picnic)*

*Adventure series: 1.30 to 3.00pm (start whenever you are ready). You can do one, two or three courses.*

## **Session Two:**

*Picnics & registration: 3.30pm to 4.30pm (bring your own picnic)*

*Adventure series: 4.00pm to 5.30pm (start whenever you are ready). Same courses as earlier session.*

*Courses for each session will typically last between 15 and 30 minutes.*

**Cost:** £1.00 per family/event or £5.00 for full series of 7 events if paid at first event on Tuesday 10 May.

*For more details contact:*

***Joining this Series:*** Kyla da Cunha 01432 840515 0777 1573267 or  
***Club Chairman & Organiser of Series:*** Pat MacLeod 01594 528128

## ***The Wye Valley Outdoor Adventure Series***

**10 May.** *Bishops Meadow, Hereford Swimming Pool. Park in the Leisure Centre Car Park, which is a Pay and Display car park. Then look for the NGOC banners in the sports field.*

**17 May.** *Holme Lacy College. Signposted from the entrance to Holme Lacy College in Holme Lacy village.*

**24 May.** *Wilton Sports Centre, Ross-on-Wye. Schools invited. Park in the car park beside the B4260, just over the river on the right as you approach Ross from the A49 Hereford road.*

**14 June.** *Credenhill . Signposted from the turning to Credenhill woods on the A480 on the edge of Credenhill village.*

**21 June.** *Holme Lacy College . Signposted from the entrance to Holme Lacy College in Holme Lacy village.*

**28 June.** *Bishops Meadow, Hereford. Schools invited. Park in the Leisure Centre Car Park, which is a Pay and Display car park. Then look for the NGOC banners in the sports field.*

**5 July.** *Aconbury Wood, Little Dewchurch. Signposted from both turnings off the A49 to King's Thorn.*



*For events at Holme Lacy, Credenhill and Aconbury, look for signs like this at the locations listed above.*

## JK 2011



Andy Stott  
(*Photograph: Paul Taunton*)

## **JK 2011**

This year's JK, was superbly well organised by the Northern Ireland Orienteering Association who were doing it for the first time. But personally I did not have a good time – mostly but not exclusively my fault!

As has become the standard, there was a sprint event on Good Friday at Stranmillis University in Belfast. As we walked from our car park we were given a small model map segment that we could follow as we walked the last few hundred metres to the Assembly area. There was good provision of catering on site and an excellent commentary.

The map itself was in two distinct sections – one halls of residence and the other beautiful parkland and buildings campus. I had not too bad a result but allowed myself to be put off by a photographer at one stage and then later dithered for some time over a route choice when it would have been faster just to choose one route or the other: a serious mistake in sprint orienteering.

Day 2 was on the sand dunes at an Army base on the coast near Newcastle, County Down. My style of orienteering usually consists of going roughly in the right direction and constantly relocating, either en route or at the end of the leg. That didn't work well here because the almost random dune pattern made relocation very difficult and my usual saviour of the vegetation patches did not help as a lot of the gorse had recently been burnt and you were never sure what exactly was mapped and what wasn't. Overall, not too badly placed but well behind the best in time terms.

Day 3 was open moorland at Slieve Croob. Things went well until control 8 where a small parallel error meant I approached about (what I realised later was) 80 metres too low. I realised I was not quite right on the way but didn't worry unduly as about 100 metres after my control there was a wall with a marked crossing point which I knew I'd be able to relocate from. But I couldn't manage to, despite checking where the nearby start was and carefully reading the map along the wall.

After about 10 minutes of total bewilderment (and occasional running in circles to inspect controls!) I was joined by someone else who asked if I was looking for the same control as him. He said it should be easy to find because he had another control after it also before the wall, but some distance from the crossing point. He ignored a control in plain view as it was very close to the crossing point. After a further review of the wall and the map, I realised at last what the problem was – the crossing point I could see was not the only one marked on my map. My crossing point was further up the hill and invisible because of the slope. I had never experienced this before – specially constructed ladder stile crossing points marked selectively on maps.

I learned later that a lot of competitors were confused by this unusual convention, and in fact my wife Pat fell foul of it in another way: she had a map with only one crossing point marked on it too, crossed it and then took some time to sort out getting to her next control. She realised afterwards when I recounted my problems that she had used a crossing point not on her map!

The relays were back to the sand dunes. I was determined to do better for our Men's 165+ team but got hopelessly lost again and trailed in very near the end of the first leg set of runners. Chris James who took over from me unfortunately missed out a control in the tricky buildings area probably due to the closeness of successive controls and the difficulty of making out the circles, so we were disqualified, although we didn't tell Paul Taunton until he finished!

The Ladies 165+ team of Ros Taunton (who had a good 1<sup>st</sup> leg run), Gill James and Pat Cameron were also disqualified as Pat, out 3<sup>rd</sup> in a mini-mass start, didn't manage to find all the controls. Joe and Sam Taunton recruited a girl from Sheffield to make up their team and finished with a respectable position in the ad Hoc.

I look forward to JK 2012 in Scotland and to a better set of runs!

*Neil Cameron*



## JK 2011 Sprints



Above: Chris James (rear view due to sprinting too fast for the cameraman). Below: Gill James (not quite so fast)  
(Photographs: Paul Taunton)



## JK 2011 Relays



Team Taunton relaxing after the JK Relays  
(*Photograph: Gill James*)

## Irish Mourning



Pat and I stayed on in Northern Ireland after the JK and took part in two relatively low-key additional events held in the Mourne Mountains. We were blessed with some warm and mostly sunny weather for the open moorland style courses.

The first at the Silent Valley reservoir had an unadvertised walk of over 30 minutes uphill to the start and personally I thought the planning was weak – too many controls at or very near to the top of obvious hills which tended to make many legs a rather unsatisfying uphill slog when there were many more challenging control sites all around.

The second day's event near the Trassey track into the Mournes was much better - still a lot of climb but some very tricky legs of different lengths. After four runs at the JK weekend, tired legs were the order of the day for many of us.

After Day 2 we took a longish walk up into the Mournes and were rewarded with some superb views although it was still a bit hazy.



We were surprised to find from TV during the next few days that the areas we had orienteered on had both been subject to gorse fires with considerable damage to the vegetation. Fortunately it was not the same day as the orienteering or we might have been accused of arson!

*Neil Cameron*

## **CAPTAIN'S LOG**

Spring has been a busy period for me, organising relay teams, co-organising the spring starter series and making maps for the series.

### **Relays**

Although we only managed to enter 3 teams for the JK relays at Easter, this is not so bad when you consider that these were held in Northern Ireland this year. Unfortunately, 2 of those teams were disqualified.

We also had 3 teams at the British relays near Sheffield on 15 May. The best performance came from the M60s, who finished a creditable 19th.

### **Individual Performances**

The best NGOC performance at the JK was by Neil Cameron in M65L. He finished 10<sup>th</sup> overall.

There were also several excellent individual performances at the British Championships on 14 May. The best of these were:

Joe Taunton	M21L	1st
Bob Teed	M70L	3rd
Eddie McLarnon	M60L	13th
Neil Cameron	M65L	18th

Finally, Caroline Craig was top lady for the second successive year in the Western Night League. Come on the rest of you ladies, Caroline needs some stiffer competition!

Congratulations to all the above on these excellent performances.

## **Harvester**

The next major team event is the Harvester, the overnight orienteering relay. The event will be held on the night of Saturday 16 July near Sheffield, and is for teams of 5 or 7, depending on which class(es) we enter. So far, I have 5 definite names, but it would be great to have a few more, so we could have more than one team. Some of the legs are dawn or daytime ones and some legs are easier and/or shorter than others. This means anybody can take part, including those not used to night-O. Those running daytime legs are the lucky ones, as they can get a full night's sleep beforehand!

This year, the main event is part of a programme of 4 races (the others being a middle distance race, an ultra-sprint and an urban race). All except the middle distance race will start from the same assembly arena (where we will camp). Full details at <http://www.harvesterrelay.co.uk/>

The Harvester is an experience not to miss! Please let me know if you are interested.

## **Spring Starter Series**

This series aims to encourage novices to try orienteering at areas in Cheltenham and Gloucester that are safe, simple and accessible. So far, we have had events at Gloucester Park, Cox's Meadow, Pittville Park and Crickley Hill, and quite a few newcomers have come and enjoyed the experience. The events are all held on Saturday mornings and will continue until 18 June. The club website has full details of the remaining events.

Although the courses are usually quite straightforward, any club member is welcome to come along and run themselves, or to help out, or to encourage friends and family to have a go.



## **New Maps**

I have almost finished work on the new map of The University of Gloucestershire's Park Campus. This will be used first time for the Spring Starter Series on 28 May. Although the area is not large (the map scale is 1:2000), there is plenty of variety and will be good for beginner courses, or indeed a high-intensity sprint course.

Work is finally progressing well on the map of Crickley Hill Country Park. I started this about two years ago, so it's been a long, slow process for me. The incomplete map was used on 14 May for the Starter Series, but it should be totally finished in time for the scheduled informal event next February. The intention is that a permanent orienteering course will be developed on the site.

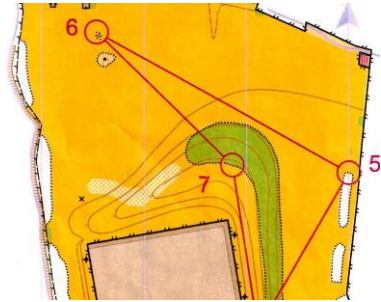
## **Reminder**

Please do not forget to book Sunday 16 October in your diaries, as this is the day of the CompassSport Trophy final. As it is the first time in the club's history that we have qualified for the final, it will be a very exciting occasion and one not to miss. The event will be held at Longshaw Estate in the Peak District, near Chesterfield, and there will be a coach trip, as long as there are enough people wanting to travel that way.

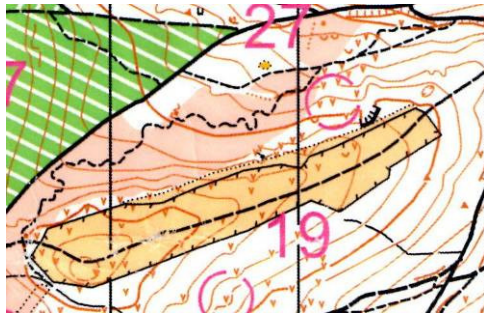
**Greg Best**

[captain@ngoc.org.uk](mailto:captain@ngoc.org.uk)

## Identify the map competition



1. If you don't recognise this one  
you should go to the NGOC summer evening events.



2. A nice area until they clear  
felled and put up a fence.



3. Not used by NGOC for some years since much of the area was restored  
to heath land.

*Answers in Brashings.*

## Canopy or canapé

The British Sprint Championships were held on a bright sunny day in April at the University of West Sussex near Brighton. The format had races for all age classes and also followed the elite model of having a qualifying race and a final.

The 1<sup>st</sup> race had a very complex start with several short legs that often involved reversing the route into a control on the way out, but with a rather more normal series of legs with route choices after we crossed into the 2<sup>nd</sup> campus.

There were several heats with a fixed number from each heat qualifying for the final and non-qualifiers running in consolation finals. The running order for the final had heat winners going off last preceded by those who were 2<sup>nd</sup> in their heats, etc, all at the usual one minute intervals.

Several of the fancied runners in my M65 class such as Michael Murray didn't qualify for the final, having mis-punched, so I started 6<sup>th</sup> last with David May starting last. The final used a different part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> campus from the qualifying races, and had a very long (in sprint terms) 2<sup>nd</sup> leg with some complex weaving between buildings being required. I managed OK until control 10 where my route was to ascend two flights of steps, and turn left through a building canopy.

Somehow, I managed to turn left after one flight of stairs and attempted to enter a building by a revolving door, mingling with participants in a cocktail party being held there by a group unconnected with the orienteering. Somewhat red-faced, I returned to my correct route having lost nearly a minute. Shortly after I finished, and knowing there were five faster qualifiers starting after me, I heard the commentator announce that someone had finished becoming the new M65 leader. I knew therefore that I could finish no higher than 3<sup>rd</sup> and, after a quick shower, we left to find a nearby tearoom.

I was therefore amazed that evening when reviewing the results to discover that I *had* finished 3<sup>rd</sup>, since the others after me had either been slower or mis-punched (as did David May, the morning leader).

It would seem my placing could have been better if I had been able to differentiate between canopy and canapé!

*Neil Cameron*

---

*Coming soon ! ! ! ! ! ! !*

Summer evening Street-O series

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

*Keep a lookout on the NGOC  
website for details!*

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Signposted</b>	<b>Organiser</b>
1 May Sun	Galoppen	Danby Lodge	SO636075	Roger Coe 01594 510444
7 May Sat	League 8	Symonds Yat	SO572128	Jeremy & Lin Callard 01873 859452
4 Jun Sat <i>(see the flyer elsewhere in Legend for full details)</i>	End of Season score <i>Mass start 1200</i>	Brockweir & The Hudnalls	SO538011	Andy Stott 01291 689471
<b>2011-2012 Season</b>				
10 Sep Sat	Chairman's Challenge	Danby Lodge	SO666066	Pat MacLeod 01594 528128
1 Oct Sat	League 1	Minchinhampton	SO858013	Alan Richards 01249 713542
15 Oct Sat	Informal	Blakeney Hill	SO666066	Pat MacLeod 01594 528128
5 Nov Sat	League 2	Mallards Pike South	SO652086	Roger Coe 01594 510444
26 Nov Sat	Informal	Sallowvallets	SO608116	Alan & Ellen Starling 01793 320054
3 Dec Sat	League 3	Flaxley Woods	SO707144	Tom Mills 01452 760451
17 Dec Sat	WNL (Western Night League) 1	Sheepscombe	SO902100	Greg Best 01242 516053
<b>2012</b>				
1 Jan Sun	New Year's Day Score	Bixslade	SO608116	Neil Cameron 01684 294791
7 Jan Sat	WNL 2	Symonds Yat	SO572128	Dave Hartley 01452 863805
21 Jan Sat	League 4	Danby Lodge	SO666066	Peter Ward 07790 669460

Enquiries to Organiser or Fixtures Secretary – Dave Hartley 01452 863805

For latest details check the NGOC website at [www.ngoc.org.uk](http://www.ngoc.org.uk)

### **NGOC Registration and start times**

Informal Events: Start times 1230-1400.

Senior £2                      Junior £1                      Non-members £3

Yellow / light green / blue courses

League Events: Registration 1130-1230      Starts from 1200-1300

Senior £4                      Junior £1

Competitors who are not members of any club £5

Yellow / orange / green / blue courses

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

See [www.westernnightleague.org.uk](http://www.westernnightleague.org.uk)

### **NGOC Spring Starter Series**

14 May Sat	Crickley Hill Country Park	SO932164	Park in lower car park. £1 parking fee
21 May Sat	St Peter's High School, Gloucester	SO833144	Park in school car park
28 May Sat	The Park, University Campus, Cheltenham	SO939209	Park in campus main car park. Follow direction signs to start area in front of main reception
11 Jun Sat	Oxstalls University Campus, Gloucester	SO847194	Park in campus car park
18 Jun Sat	Crypt Grammar School, Gloucester	SO826157	Park in school car park

Start times 1100-1200. Free entry. Yellow and Orange courses. Check NGOC website for any changes.

### **Malvern Mini-League**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Signposted</b>	<b>Organiser</b>
25 Jun Saturday	Event 8 & Prizegiving	Worcester Beacon	SO767444	Tony Knight

### **Saturday events:**

Yellow, Orange, Green and Blue courses. Best four results to count towards a competitor's cumulative score.

Registration 1130-1230      Starts from 1200-1300

Entry fee:                      Senior £4                      Junior £1

Competitors who are not members of any club £5

For more details see Harlequins Orienteering Club website.

## **British Mountainbike Orienteering (MBO) Championships**

### **Swinerton Old Park Stoke on Trent. 7/8 May 2011**

MBO currently has four distance disciplines: Long, Middle, Short and Sprint, with the 2011 event consisting of a Middle Distance event on Day 1 followed by a Sprint on Day 2. Following one of the driest March / April periods on record, all the portents suggested that Saturday's race would be very fast indeed - but that all changed following 40mm of rain on the night before the event. Slippery trails put a real emphasis on riding skills - with the plethora of treacherous tree roots an absolute delight to do battle with. The occasional deep sandy paths also needed some serious attention if a terminal front wheel slide was to be avoided.

Not that the navigational challenge should be underestimated, as the woods are well endowed with a complex network of tracks and paths which were nicely used by planner Mark Stodgell to catch out the unwary or merely tired - particularly as any error on a bike can mean serious loss of height if not recognised quickly enough. For some, the Forestry Commission introduced a further challenge by changing the felling schedule on the day resulting in some route choices being met with harvesting machinery and timber forwarders to provide mobile obstacles. Not all competitors were amused.

Walton Chasers had the results with splits on the website within hours of the final finish - impressive. Just a pity that I was unable to return to enjoy the Sprint. As a first time visitor to Stoke I was really impressed with the cycling facilities in the city. I had caught an earlyish train from New Street in order to find a scenic route to the event, with the aim of avoiding city thoroughfares and A roads as much as possible. And I wasn't disappointed, as a complimentary Stoke Cycle map was available at the station which provided a delightful route taking in the Trent & Mersey Canal, several dedicated cycle paths, a route through Trentham park and finally some quiet country lanes. And how useful it was to be able to dunk a muddy bike in the conveniently sited canal adjacent to the station before boarding the train back to Birmingham. . .

*Colin Palmer*



# Brashings

## **Summer evening Street-O series**

Keep a lookout on the NGOC website for details! Keep fit for the next orienteering season by taking part in these Wednesday evening events.

## **Fixtures list for 2011-2012 season**

Next season's fixtures list is enclosed with this edition of Legend. If you receive an email copy but would like a printed copy you can pick one up at any NGOC event or the Editor will be pleased to put a copy in the post

## **Identify the map competition - answers**

1. Oxstalls Campus, University of Gloucestershire;
2. Parkend, Forest of Dean;
3. Black Morgan's Wood, overlooking the Wye Valley.

## **South Africa's Big 5 O-Week**

If you fancy the chance of combining orienteering with a safari the South African Orienteering Federation announces the first Big 5 O-Week set for January 2012. For details visit: [www.bigfive-o.co.za](http://www.bigfive-o.co.za)

## **Have your say!**

Are there any matters that you would like the Committee to consider? Contact the Club Secretary, Caroline Craig, or any member of the Committee. The next Committee meeting is on Monday 23 May at 1930.

## **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](mailto: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.



Kerri, Catherine, Sophie and I successfully ran up 1037 steps to the top of the Gherkin building in London on Sunday 6th March! We've now raised over £900 to support the NSPCC with donations still coming in. Thanks so much for your sponsorship. Kerri raced up in just 6 minutes and 37 seconds to be the fastest woman of the event! Ian and Sophie both took just over 8 minutes and Catherine took 12 minutes 24 seconds. So all of us were quicker than the average time. Thanks for your support.

*Ian Coe, Kerri, Catherine and Sophie*