

the

May 2017

# LEGEND

*the magazine of North Gloucestershire*

*Sun, Snakes and Snow - Portugal  
O-Meet*

*NGOC Tops Elite Podium in Paris*

*50 Years of British Orienteering:  
Chris James, David Lee, Pat  
Macleod*

*New Westonbirt POC*

*CSC Heats - Cwm Lickey*

*PLUS!*

*Club News*

*Chairman's Chat*

*Captain's Log*

*Member Profile*

*League Latest*

*Results*

*...and more!*





# contents & editorial

## contents

- 2 - Editorial
- 3 - Club News
- 4 - Captain's Log
- 5 - Chairman's Chat,  
The JK
- 6 - Westonbirt POC
- 7 - Elite Podium in Paris
- 8 - Member Profile
- 10 - Portugal O-Meet
- 12 - CSC Heats
- 14 - 50 Years of British  
Orienteering
- 15 - A Personal Perspective
- 18 - Orienteering in 2067
- 19 - Orienteering Futures
- 22 - The Downfall of  
Orienteering
- 24 - League Latest
- 25 - Club Championships
- 26 - Recent Results
- 27 - Forthcoming Events
- 28 - Rankings, Committee &  
Contacts

### *HUGE thanks to this issue's*

*contributors:* Greg Best, Richard Cronin, Chris James, Chris Johnson (BOK), David Lee, Pat Macleod, Allan McCall, Richard Purkis, Andy Stott, Gill Stott, Paul Taunton, and all the event photographers who do a great job capturing us in action.

## cover photo

Alan Pucill (M55) looking very swift at the last control in the CSC Heats, Cwm Lickey.

*Welcome to another action-packed edition of Legend! This issue has a bit of a theme* - as it's the Golden Anniversary of British Orienteering, I asked some of our club members to offer their thoughts on the development of orienteering in the UK over the past 50 years, and what they think the next 50 years might hold. Our "Fifty Years" series of articles starts on page 14.

There's been so much going on over the past few months that it's been difficult to squeeze everything in. So please forgive me if you wanted to see more in-depth analysis of the JK or the British Champs. If you've been to a major event - please, please do send a short report about it to [legend@ngoc.org.uk](mailto:legend@ngoc.org.uk).

Our club members have ventured far and wide. Richard Purkis' account of Portugal O-Meet on page 10 is a great read, and Caroline and Tom's exploits on the City Race Euro Tour (in Paris and Antwerp) are pretty impressive! Our own NGOC League events continue to be resoundingly successful, with Greg's new Leckhampton map and venue being a particular highlight of the year so far.

So, sit back and enjoy this edition! Thanks again to everyone who has contributed to it, and in particular to Allan McCall who has to put up with living in an uncleaned house with a tired and tetchy wife whilst Legend is in production :-)

This issue's caption competition features an individual who has got off rather lightly so far in terms of Legend exposure! John Fallows stars in this gem from the Cwm Lickey CSC Heats ...



"John found the Cwm Lickey slag heaps to be a bit of a strain", "John creates an unmapped knoll to confuse later competitors", and ... "I've got something to read and a throne with a view, but this would have gone so much better if I'd remembered to pull down my tracksters ..."

## New Members

Welcome (and welcome back!) to the following new members and re-joiners: Jeremy Callard, Guy Cooper, Danieal Edwards, Paul Horsfall, Lawrence Jones, Phil Jones, Nikola Poole, Peter Poole, Sandra Powell, Gordon Smillie and Calum Smillie. Hope to see you all out in the forest soon!

## Congratulations, John and Jess Miklausic!

The newest potential competitor on the string course is Dylan Jack William Miklausic, born on 17<sup>th</sup> April weighing 6lb 15oz. Mum and baby are both doing well, and rumour has it that Dad has not allowed this latest addition to the family to interrupt his orienteering mission! Congrats also to Granny Sheila on this newest member of the Miklausic clan.

## New wording - Juniors and Road Crossings

After much debate, the Committee has decided that NGOC event organisers must enforce the BOF rule on under-16's competing on courses with road crossings - i.e. that juniors under this age must not compete on such courses. Yellow and Orange courses will be planned to ensure that they do not cross any roads, and every effort will be made to ensure that Green courses do not do so either.

However, in some of our areas it is impossible to plan Green and longer courses without one or more road crossings, and at these events under 16's will not be permitted to compete on these courses. Please make sure you read the pre-event details - published on the Events page of the club website - carefully so that you are aware of suitable courses available at each event.

## Tutshill School World Orienteering Day

As part of World Orienteering Day on 24<sup>th</sup> May, a group of NGOC members hosted a series of activities at Tutshill School. The school has already begun to participate in local events and has also had numerous competitors in the ASO league. Vanessa Lawson organised and planned a wide range of activities, including string and sprint courses. Pat Macleod, Gill Stott, Jeremy Cowen and Paul Murrin - assisted by Neil and Clare Grant of SWOC - did an excellent job in introducing the

sport to potential stars of the future and the day was a huge success.

## NGOC on the Dragon's Back

Mark Roderick took part in the monumental Dragon's Back race - traversing the toughest terrain in Wales and crossing Snowdonia, the Moelwyns, the Rhinogs and Cadair Idris. Mark completed about 150km of distance and a whopping 10km of ascent before having to retire late on Day 3 at Machynlleth. Getting so far through a race of this magnitude is an immense achievement and Legend is hugely proud to be able to congratulate a club member on a such an epic effort. Recover well, Mark!

## Beware of the Ticks ...

Tick season is here once again, with several runners reporting minor infestations after the SinS May Bank Holiday event. Check rigorously after events, and be aware that ticks will happily migrate over you to find bare skin - even with full body cover they can find a way in! Correct removal is very important to ensure that the tick's mouth parts are not left behind, which can lead to septicaemia or tick-borne diseases. Remove carefully with tweezers or a tick removal tool - check on bada-uk.org for more information.

*Three Men and a Map - NGOC ventures into Dragon Country at SWOC's Sugarloaf event*



## We need YOUR articles, news and photos!

Been to any good events lately? Or perhaps you've done a walking trip, or a fell race, or have a great idea for a training session. Why not write it up for Legend?! It doesn't have to be Pulitzer-winning stuff; just a few paragraphs to share your experiences with your fellow club members. Likewise, if you've got any photos from NGOC events or from fixtures further afield, send them in! Just email [legend@ngoc.org.uk](mailto:legend@ngoc.org.uk). Next issue will be out in September, so please send articles by the beginning of the month.



# captain's log

It's always nice to report on good news – so it's great that so many of you have been having fantastic runs over the last few months, and I've been picking out the best to put in the weekly emails. There's no need to repeat them all here, but I will highlight a couple of our younger members: Seth Lawson as our sole Welsh Champion at Merthyr Mawr back in March, and Rebecca Ward, whose running speed has increased massively over the last few months, has recently stepped up to running the Green course and is already often the fastest female on the course. Well done to both of you – and everyone else who has been performing well so far this year.

The other big piece of good news to report is our success in the CompassSport Cup. Yes – we may have qualified by default but we had a strong team despite key absences; against any club but Bristol we would have performed well. Please keep 22<sup>nd</sup> October free to attend the final in Devon, and use the next few months to train hard!

The League has carried on and we are now 5 races in to 2017. Tom B leads Tom C on the Blue, BOK imposter Tom D in 3<sup>rd</sup> means we haven't locked out all the top spots. Peter Watson missed Painswick so has slipped a place on Green but should be able to take it back once he has a full set of counting scores, whilst Steven Harris is close

behind. In reverse situation to her brother, Rosie Watson now tops Orange from Jack Hobby having attended the full set so far. Andy Creber still leads both tables in the Club Championship – he's sure to make a mistake soon... Caroline Craig is top female.

With regard to team competitions, the JK has come and gone and our sole relay team was in a strong second position

overnight relay – we had 5 teams last year! The Harvester will be in the Lake District over the last weekend of June – two people have suggested they would like to do this (in addition to Cotswold Way!). If anyone else is interested please get in touch with me ASAP and I will arrange an entry.

Closer to home, the South West relay series starts on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> June in Swindon. This series historically has low attendance and the winners are usually the ones who turn up to the most – please let's support at least the local races! We last won back in 2006. I will be sending reminders by email but please do let me know if you will be going and entering yourself, or want me to put in a team. See <http://www.sworienteeringassociation.co.uk/relay.php>



on Men's Short early on. Sadly, the distance to this, and the British Champs in the Lakes (note I'm writing before this happens) has meant we haven't been well represented this year. But there are plenty more relay races still to come. We have entered one team for the Cotswold Way Relay – first choice for place will be the 10 names that made themselves known to me on asking. We can also enter the Harvester

We are coming close to the start of our summer evening races, and these are a perfect way to introduce newcomers to our sport – please do spread the word amongst your friends and runners, and share/invite people to our Facebook events. A growing and active club will make my job harder – but it's a problem I'd like to have!



*I think this month's chat should be sub titled 'Chairman's lost ramblings in Shropshire and Wales'.* I have just got back from Springtime in Shropshire, which as usual was a well run and pleasant three days, put on by Hoc and Wrekin Orienteers.

I arrived in the area on Friday, and had a recce of Long Mynd, which was bathed in glorious sunshine, little did I know in the words of the song 'What a difference a day makes, 24 hours'. Saturday saw mizzle on the Mynd and the prospect of some interesting navigational detours. I set off, as the mist hit the deck. Setting my compass and vowing to follow it, I completely drifted of course and found a patch of ground, which fitted my expectations, but was nowhere near No 1 control. After 36 minutes, I finally got there. After getting my head on, I made it to my all time boo boo control. I could see my next control across the steep valley from No 4. Looking at the map, contouring round would have been the

sensible option. I said this to myself and even mentioned it to a fellow orienteer, who was close by. I even saw that person set off contouring, as I went down the valley and up the other side. Completely wasted after the unnecessary climb, I managed to finish the rest without any problems.

Day 2 in Nash woods, went better from a navigational point

*It's orange and white, Gary, but it's not actually a control*



of view, but my legs were not in the game. After a pleasant chat with John Fielder as we made our way to control 3, the only problem was the platform in the ferns, but watching the traffic flow helped there. To top it all I had a puncture as I left the parking field. To all those that stopped and inquired, thank you. I had the nuts off and the car jacked up, but could I get the wheel off :-)

Day 3 was always going to be a slog, just getting to the start up that hill, but Brampton Bryan is always worth it. Admin was going to be key, anything that stopped the flow of getting to the start and encouraging you to rap, was put to the back of the mind. So, I stood at the start tired, in need of a boost, to get me through the day and there it was, Ginny's brilliant smile.

It was good to see Club members at Sins and despite the weather, not at its best, a great weekend.

*Gary*

## The JK 2017



Photo: Paul Taunton

In the M21E class, Richard Purkis was 21<sup>st</sup> in the sprint and 42<sup>nd</sup> overall for the two "forest" days. Pete Ward had consistently good runs on Days 2 and 3, finishing in 10<sup>th</sup> place on both days and 10<sup>th</sup> overall in the very competitive M45 class. Also in M45, Andy Monro was 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Sprint and 16<sup>th</sup> in the Middle. Paul Taunton (M65) achieved 39<sup>th</sup> place in both the Sprint and the Overall. In M75, Chris James was 16<sup>th</sup> in the Sprint and Bob Teed 30<sup>th</sup> in Saturday's Middle distance. David Lee (M80) also completed both the Sprint and Middle days, finishing 6<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.

For the ladies, Jessica Ward had a great run to finish 1<sup>st</sup> in the W12B middle distance and then in 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall. Sister Rebecca also had an excellent run on the Saturday to finish 17<sup>th</sup> out of 50 competitors in W14A, and was 21<sup>st</sup> overall. Michelle Ward, running on W45S, finished 9<sup>th</sup> overall (15<sup>th</sup> on day 1 and 10<sup>th</sup> on day 2). Ros Taunton was 19<sup>th</sup> in the W65 Sprint and 24<sup>th</sup> Overall. Gill James was 21<sup>st</sup> W70 in the Sprint.

Our lone Relay team of Richard Purkis and Ros & Paul Taunton were 39<sup>th</sup> in Mens Short.



# westonbirt arboretum POC

*Westonbirt - the National Arboretum, opens two permanent orienteering courses.*

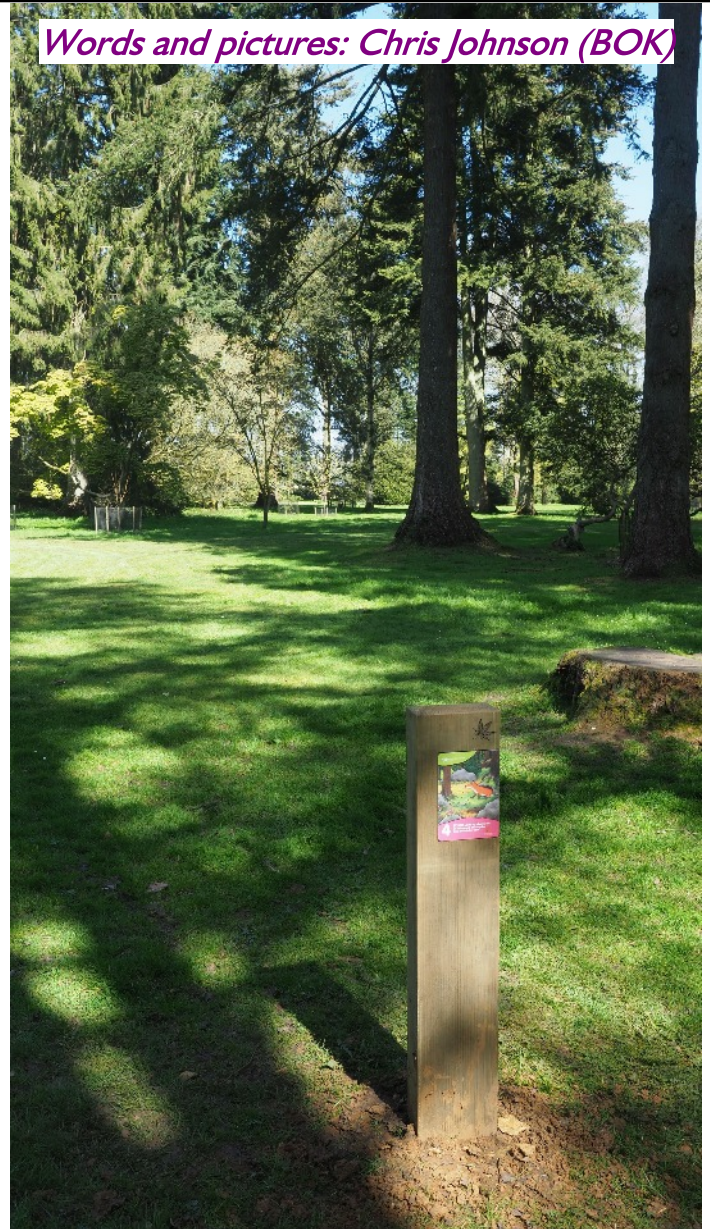
Westonbirt Arboretum is a unique site containing over 16,000 specimen trees of 1,700 different species just south of Tetbury in Gloucestershire. An earlier map of the site was recently extended to include the Old Arboretum, completing the orienteering map of the whole 600-acre area of technically complex woodland and open ground.

The Forestry Commission has now opened two permanent orienteering courses onsite, designed to act both as navigational challenges and as learning experiences for visitors. Visitors who go over the spectacular 250m STIHL Treetop Walkway into Silk Wood will be able to enjoy short and long 'Plant Hunter Orienteering' courses using the conventional orienteering map of the area. The control posts are enhanced

by providing information about famous plant hunters and their work; so orienteering is mixed with a bit of history and botany.

A simpler 'Gruffalo Orienteering' map is available for the course in the Old Arboretum and Downs. This map is in a format also used in other FC forests around the country, and uses a simplified version of a conventional orienteering map in which all wooded areas are coloured green and open areas yellow, while only the most significant point features are shown on the map and contours are omitted. In score format, the control

*Words and pictures: Chris Johnson (BOK)*



posts provide information about the woodland and its creatures.

Although the courses have been laid out with youngsters in mind, they will provide a challenge for orienteers of all ages and abilities. Westonbirt is now a major visitor attraction with appropriate facilities that can be enjoyed by all ages and levels of fitness. More details about the orienteering courses and downloadable maps can be found at:

[www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt-orienteering](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt-orienteering)



# ngoc tops elite podium



Caroline takes top spot!

Photos: Paris City Race

*Two intrepid NGOC members decided to spend the weekend of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of May in the most romantic city in the world - not eating candlelit dinners or enjoying the opera, but orienteering in the Paris City Races.* This was the first event in the City Race Euro Tour series for 2017, and attracted elite sprint runners from across the continent. Caroline Craig had a phenomenal weekend, winning the Women Elite class on both days and putting herself into a very strong position to contend the overall 2017 series. She was over a minute clear on Day 1, in Villette Park, and over three minutes ahead in the second race in Montmartre. Her time of 57:04 for the 6.7km/310m Day 2 course is pretty impressive! Well done, Caroline!

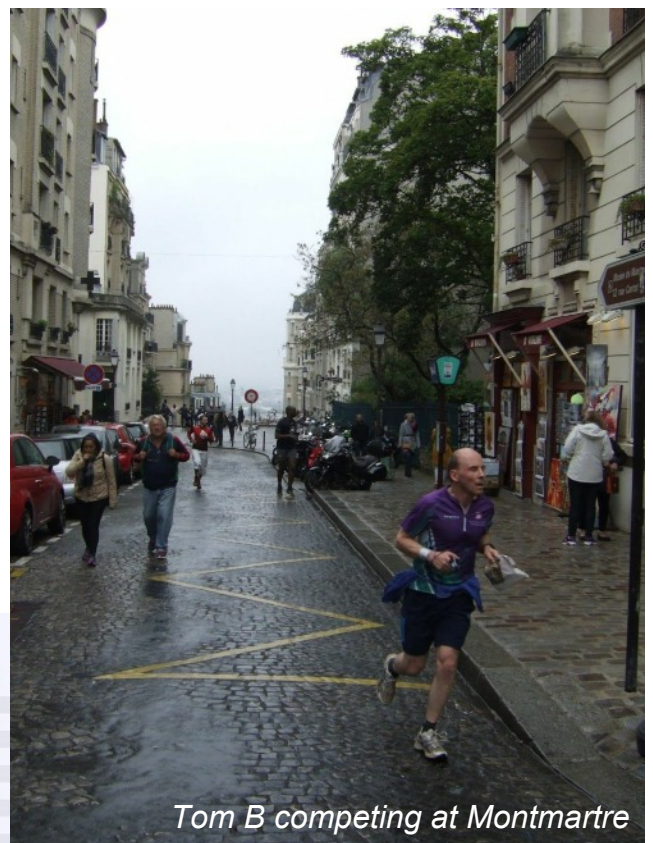
*How cool is this result - topping the Elites!*

Tom Birthwright also had a successful weekend, competing in the M35-49 class. He was 48<sup>th</sup> in Villette Park (in a field of 88 runners) and 60<sup>th</sup> at a rainy Montmartre.

*On the following weekend (13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> May) the City Race Tour moved on to Antwerp* and again Caroline put in some quality performances against some top European runners. In the two Saturday races at Kielpark she finished 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, and in 4<sup>th</sup> place overall in the Elite Women class. Tom Birthwright, again running in the M35-49 class, finished an impressive 23<sup>rd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> to put him in 20<sup>th</sup> place overall. In Sunday's Middle distance event, in Antwerp city centre, Caroline somehow










found the energy and focus to finish 5<sup>th</sup> again behind a New Zealander, a Spaniard and two Belgians. Tom B finished 42<sup>nd</sup> on the 7.2km M35+ course in a time of 66:29.

Luckily for Caroline and Tom, the third event in the City Race Euro Tour is a little bit closer to home - it's the BOK Blast in Bristol on the 10<sup>th</sup> June. Good luck to both of you!



Tom B competing at Montmartre

Women Elite  3200m (38)

				[H:]M:S	min/km
1.		Caroline CRAIG	GBR	North Gloucestershire Orienteering Club	28:17 8'50"
2.		Francesca TAUFER	ITA	U.S. Primavera A.S.D.	29:18 9'09"
3.		Lise CONIEL	FRA	Club d'Orientation Lorientais	31:48 9'56"
4.		Celine FINAS		5907HE T.A.D.	33:20 10'24"
5.		Noémie BEAUVISAGE	FRA	Club Orientation Boucles de la Seine	33:39 10'30"
6.		Nathanaëlle GERBEAUX	FRA	Guyancourt Orientation 78	34:10 10'40"
7.		Clarissa RICARD BORCHORST	FRA	A.C. Beauchamp	35:07 10'58"
8.		Blandine BLAQUIERE	FRA	7716IF BALISE 77	35:09 10'59"
9.		Aubéry WISSOCQ	FRA	CO-Plateau Saclay-91	36:11 11'18"
10.		Morgane MEYERBER	FRA	4504CE ASCO ORLEANS	37:58 11'51"



# member profile: andy stott



Thumbs up for the camera at the CSC Heats, Cwm Llickey

*This issue's Member Profile features the prolific and successful Andy Stott (M55). Andy has competed in orienteering and mountain marathons for over forty years and is also renowned for his prowess on the local fells. (Never, ever try to get in front of him on a descent!) Here he shares his orienteering words of wisdom ...*

## **When and how did you get in to orienteering?**

Probably in 1974 or 1975. At school in Rochdale my French teacher (Jim Mitchell, PFO) encouraged me and a few friends to have a go at some events in the North West. My main sport at the time was rowing. Of course there wasn't any training offered, just a wonky compass and a whistle. I couldn't conjugate a French verb or identify a re-entrant but I was hooked.

## **How long have you been a member of NGOC?**

Have you been a member of any other clubs?

My first club was Pendle Forest Orienteers (PFO). When I was at Manchester University, where I met Gill, we joined MDOC. We moved to Cheltenham and joined NGOC in 1983. Then we moved to Belfast and had great time with Lagan Valley Orienteers before returning to the Forest of Dean and NGOC in 1993.

## **What do you enjoy most about the sport?**

The combination of challenging route planning and navigation in complex terrain and the enjoyment of exploring some beautiful and wild(ish) parts of the country.

## **Which other sports do you take part in?**

From orienteering I was introduced to fell running and mountain marathons, and then to road running and cross-country, but mainly to keep fit. I like the head to head competition and open fells. And most recently I've started mountain bike orienteering.

## **What has been your greatest orienteering achievement to date?**

Well I don't have trophies lining the shelves in our living room. If I win anything it's usually because the competition hasn't turned up! For a while I was reasonably successful at dodging the competition in the OMM, winning the family class 3 times in the medium score with Ed and Matt, but now the rules have been changed! I would include among my achievements occasionally planning events with all the controls in the right place.

## **You have quite a busy life - the extensive Stott family clan, a demanding job and often travelling extensively with work. How do you fit in training and competing?**

My training generally consists of weekend competitions (orienteering, fell running, MBO etc) plus evening races/events in the summer months. Then I fill in with shorter training runs when I get chance. I try to keep this up when travelling abroad for work, always on the lookout for a race. Just by chance I was jogging in Mount Royal Park in Montreal when I spotted a familiar clad runner darting between the trees. He directed me to the start and I was able to compete in the Montreal Ramblers annual score event.



**What's your favourite area or type of terrain?**

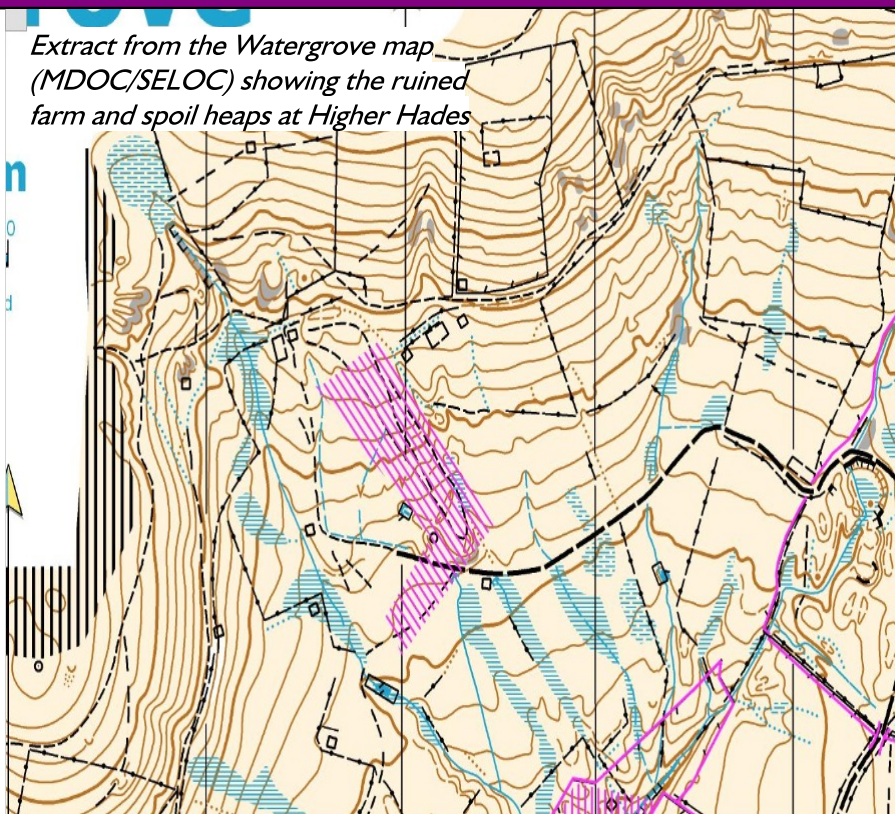
I prefer open moorland, with fine rock and bog detail such as often provided by the Scottish 6-days and Purple Thistle events on the west coast of Scotland, the Lakeland 5-day or Croeso.

**What's the most memorable O event you've been to, and why?**

In 2000 I ran with NGOC in the Harvester Relay at Watergrove in the Pennine Hills above Rochdale. The start was in a rushy field on the edge of the moor near a ruined farm. This was Thimble Hall where my Great Grandmother had lived in 1881. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century my family were coal miners, quarrymen, coal hauliers and small farmers who had created the features (pits, depressions, spoil heaps, ruined walls and buildings) around which we were orienteering in the dark and mist (see map extract). All the farmers were evicted in the 1930s and the farmhouses blown-up in the name of progress when a water supply reservoir was built and the village was flooded. How our orienteering terrain is created!

**What's the most interesting/strangest/most amusing situation or spectacle you've experienced whilst orienteering?**

*Extract from the Watergrove map (MDOC/SELOC) showing the ruined farm and spoil heaps at Higher Hades*



We went as a family to a multi-day event in the Czech Republic, in the Sumava National Park on the border with Austria. I'd finish my run and was surprised to see our Tim (aged 12) being escorted into the assembly area by the Czech border police. He'd run off the map, got lost and ended up in a village close to the border which was populated by prostitutes and naughty gnomes. He was picked up by the police who fortunately realised where he'd come from and was driven back to the assembly in their patrol car. I took him back into the forest to where he'd got lost, so that he could finish the course and not be disqualified.

**Name one fact that people would never guess about you ...**

I found out that I suffered from vertigo when I did the ridge 'walk' on Beinn Alligin.

**If you could change one thing about your orienteering/running in general, what would it be?**

Not to run off in the general direction of a control and hope it just works out.

**When you're in the start boxes at a major event, what goes through your mind?**

I've forgotten my head band again.



*Andy finishing at Eskdale in the 1984 Lakes 3-Day*



## *Portugal O Meeting 2017*

*By Richard Purkis*



*Every February, a few thousand orienteers flock to Portugal for the annual Portugal O Meeting (POM)* and this year a record total of 36 nationalities entered. Aside from the Portuguese, the next highest number of entries surprisingly came from Sweden, rather than Spain who, along with the other Scandinavian Countries, come to train and race on incredibly technical terrain whilst the ground back home is covered with snow. Others, like my parents who go every year, go just to escape to somewhere sunny. As so many M21 Elites enter this event (194), the elite category is split into elite and super elite and I was in the lower-elite category. This was my second POM and this year it was based in the municipalities of Crato, Alter do Chão and Portalegre in Southern Portugal, 20km from the Spanish border.

*Middle Distance Day 1 @ Aldeia da Mata:* You should only ever run as fast as you can orienteer and, in a technical rocky area where everything looks the same, I found I really had to slow down to maintain concentration. Unfortunately I wasn't able to maintain this for the whole course.

Night sprint Day 1 @ Alter do Chão: Street layout not very at complicated but you had to have your wits about you, especially for the last few points in a small park where it was very easy to lose time.

*Long Distance Day 2 @ Aldeia da Mata:* 1:15,000 map on the same area as before, which I found hard to navigate with at





1:10,000. Forgot it was a Sunday and no supermarkets were open so instead of jelly babies i had to rely on some chocolates and toffees from the hotel to get me round. Managed to just finish within the 3 hour time limit.

*WRE Middle Distance Day 3 @ Entre-Ribeiras e Coutadas:* My worst run so far and i saved it for the most important day when it was WRE and i couldn't wear GPS. I would like to think I could blame it on the small snake slithering around in the start lane that freaked me out but probably not.

*Long Distance Day 4 @ Entre-Ribeiras e Coutadas:* Being over 1 hour behind the leader over the

previous 3 days, I was in the mass start along with everybody who had either missed a day or were just as bad as me. Not a difficult course and i finished about half way down the list of the others who also mass-started.

As if I hadn't done enough orienteering over the past 4 days, my parents and I then travelled up North to Aguiar da Beira which was the centre for three more top class races over the following weekend.

We decided to get a feel for the terrain at the Model event on the friday and incredibly it was snowing! It was 17°C last Saturday. Along with having to dig out that cagoule which was

at the very bottom of my bag it meant the rocks were slippery and absolutely lethal.

*Saturday WRE Middle Distance @ Aguiar da Beira Norte:*

More snow overnight meant the rocks were in no better condition and with no spikes I was picking very slow, careful lines over the rocks. A stupid route choice at the end meant i was near the bottom.

*Saturday WRE Sprint:* Not that much time to recover as

before it got dark the sprint race was around the town of Aguiar da Beira but sadly the courses didn't get up as far as the castle on the hill. Organisers had attempted to make the course more technically difficult by adding many uncrossable fences to create route choices. Post race analysis revealed i could have picked a better route choice multiple times.

*Sunday Long Distance @ Aguiar da Beira Norte:* They say once you go elite, you should never go back, but maybe today was the day i should have dropped down. Still...at least i finished. 89 Started the Men's Elite but 45 had to retire. Only 44 finished, and I was 42nd taking 3 hours 45 mins.

This was the toughest course I have ever done. I was out for 25 mins more than the JK 2015 at Bigland and I would like to think I have improved in the two years since. To summarise it was almost 4 hours of non-stop getting stuck on top of rocks (which were still very slippery), getting stuck in green, or being lost. The 1:15,000 map was very black/grey and the areas which weren't were normally impenetrable forest. Comparing my routes to the top runners i often picked the same route choices, they were just running much faster over the terrain (i don't know how) and more importantly not getting lost.

Leg 1-2 (left) epitomises my troubles.

If you want to experience this terrain I've heard it will be used for POM 2020. I'm hoping now any map will seem easy compared to this.





# CompassSport Cup Heats



*The purple and green O-tops were been aired in their masses at a slightly drizzly and grey Cwm Lickey on 12th March.* Even the numerically (and - let's face it - athletically) strong BOK were looking like they might possibly be a minority group in the start-box crowd. The challenging and varied open terrain made for some interesting courses and surprisingly tricky controls.

Of the 17 finishers on the Brown course, 7 were from NGOC. Course winner Marcus Pinker (FVO, and therefore not counting for anything CSC-wise) stormed round in under an hour, but Richard Purkis' time of 76:52 placed him well up the field in 4th. Scott Johnson, Andy Creber and Richard Cronin also had very good runs to take 6th, 7th and 8th places.

Pete Ward was our top finisher on Short Brown in 2nd place, with Paul Murrin (4th) and Patrick Wooddisse (5th) hot on his heels.

On the Blue Men's course, Andy Stott had a very good run to finish 5th, with Joe Parkinson in 12th and Allan McCall 14th.

On the shorter courses and in the Women's classes, NGOC's strength in numbers rather tailed off. Caroline Craig was the club's sole representative on the Blue women's course, finishing in 3rd place; Suzanne Harding was our leading runner on Green Women's in 9th. We took three top-ten placings on Green Men, with Eddie McLarnon in 5th, Ian Prowse 8th and Steve Williams 10th.

Roger Coe, Ros Taunton and Lin Callard were our top finishers in Vets Green; in 8th, 10th and 12th places respectively.

Our lone competitor in the Junior Men class, Peter Watson, coped well with the tricky terrain to finish 5th; whilst Jessica and Rebecca Ward were 5th and 6th on Orange Women.

In the overall Cup tally, NGOC finished just 100 points down on BOK, with 2373 points to their 2473. However, the club has successfully qualified for the CSC Finals in the Autumn, so start your training now!









# fifty years of british orienteering

As anyone who has visited the BOF website in recent months will have realised, British orienteering is celebrating its fiftieth birthday this year. To commemorate this golden anniversary, Legend asked a few of our members to write down their thoughts on how the sport has developed over the last fifty years, and what the next fifty years might hold.

Chris James, who has been a lynchpin of both BOF and NGOC since the early days of both, has written a potted history of the sport and shares some personal anecdotes. David Lee pondered what orienteering might be like in 2067, and looks at the reasons why his love for the sport has been so enduring. Pat Macleod considers what the future will hold, and presents some of the ways in which the sport is adapting to twenty-first century technologies and audiences. And the editor has chipped in with a few thoughts on why orienteering is being overshadowed by newer adventure sports and wonders if it will exist at all in five years' time, never mind fifty.

There's no doubt that orienteering has come a long way since the early days of marking up your own 1:25k map, clipping at controls and "one man and his dog" event

management. The advent of GPS tracking, electronic - even contactless - SportIdent and EMIT cards and the wider realm of advances in sports physiology, psychology and nutrition have made today's major events a far cry from the early days. Reading through the following articles, you might reflect on how extensive the changes are; yet at the same time how little the essence and delights of orienteering have altered.

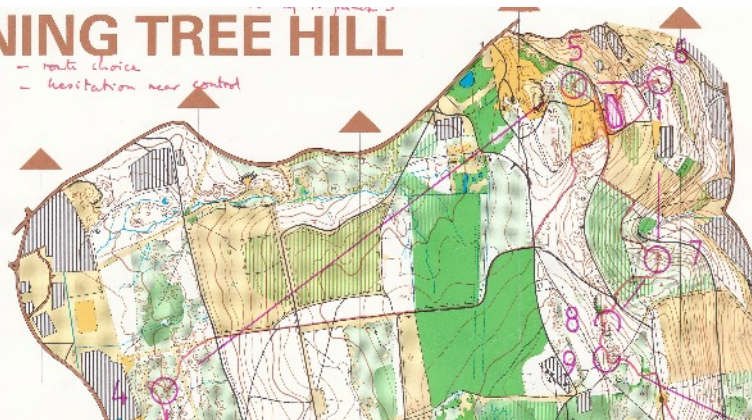


*Left: 1990's Legend covers from the Teed family archives. Below: NGOC hosts the British Champs at Lightning Tree Hill (map: courtesy David May). Above: Lin Callard demonstrates the enduring appeal of orienteering*

## LIGHTNING TREE HILL

9 → 10 1 min - route choice  
14 → 15 1/2 min - hesitation near control  
10 min

BC  
1987





*It was May 1965 when I first orienteered. The earliest record of a member of NGOC trying 'O' must surely be David Lee in 1959 when he helped his brother Michael, who was captain of Cambridge University Hare & Hounds, organise a training exercise based upon orienteering with Black-and-White OS maps. It was then in 1987 that David introduced me to NGOC when I moved to Ross-on-Wye.*

## A professional view of British Orienteering development over the years

It is said that organisations usually progress through three significant stages of development: forming, storming and norming. British Orienteering has basically followed this pattern over its history to date. I have been involved throughout the 50 years.

### **Forming**

We had the "Forming" period over the years 1967 – 1978. For me this concluded with my period as National Chairman in 1975-8.

### **Storming**

Well in reality there was plenty of "Storming" during the early forming phase when entrepreneurial athletes like Chris Brasher, John Disley and Bob Climie, the first three Federation Chairmen, were very involved. Their National involvement more or less ended after the very successful British World Orienteering Championships in 1976 based in Scotland at Aviemore. They were the main organising team whilst I was Federation Chairman. The storming has



Photo: BOF

Chris James and Judith Holt (BOF Chair) cut the BOF 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cake

really continued until the formation of the Board of Directors in 2008.

### **Norming**

With the formation of the Board matters have settled down into work on helping the organisation into a more efficient and effective one in a period of unprecedented external regulations and demands. There is still much to be done.

### **The Future**

There is surely now a great need to explore new avenues and approaches for our sport that must capture the interests of future generations by, if necessary, casting aside entrenched views and philosophies. We must again seek entrepreneurs to help us do these things whilst keeping the core activities going so continuing to engage the longer standing faithful.

I observe that the world has significantly changed whether we like it or not. From 1975-8 when I was National Chairman there

were few external constraints compared to our present society with all of its rules and regulations. It is no surprise that many wonder just what our Board of Directors do. In my day we were able to concentrate on the development of our sport. Today we have constraints and conditions to comply with. We have Sport Councils, the Forestry Commission and other Landowners, Child Protection, Health & Safety, Local Authorities, Insurance, Auditors etc, etc. We cannot and must not try to turn our backs on any of it as the 'Sue Society' could rapidly catch up with us.

## So where does NGOC fit into this brief overview?

I cannot really comment on the early phase of NGOC development as I did not join until 1987 when the club had been in existence for approaching 20 years. By the time that I moved to Ross-on-Wye and joined matters had steadied down with a regular programme of good



local events. However at that time there seemed to be a feeling that this would just continue into the future. There was no real drive to build up the membership. I quote a former Membership Secretary - "If people were interested they would join!!"

In 2007 I was elected club chairman and immediately set about giving committee meetings more structure with reports submitted and circulated before committee meetings. Meeting times reduced from 4 hours to between 1 & 2 hours. This helped to start a fresh enthusiasm supporting those who were already very active. Of course it did not happen instantaneously and has continued to evolve through Pat Macleod and Gary Wakerley my successors. An example is how we have developed from "also rans" in the CompassSport Cup to threatening even the great BOK! This is because we have significantly developed our membership age spread to be able to do so.

## **My Personal Memories and tall stories of the 50+ years!**

### **Beating all those Olympic & Commonwealth athletes**

Winning Peter Palmer's July 1967 novices event over Boxhill, Surrey

### **Reporting a control ¼ mile out in a 1966 Area Champs**

One team mate from SN was declared the winner after visiting this wrong placed control when my declared race time had included returning to the finish, reporting the incident and then setting out again all included!

### **Reporting to Farnham railway station on the race day to be given the location of the 1966 English Championships**

The location was actually the Devil's Punchbowl and Hindhead Common. At the prize giving Sir John Hunt confessing that he had professed that 'O' would never take off in England. He wondered just how much this might have hindered development but was now delighted to see us thriving.

### **A Victorian in Sweden in 1966**

Seeing Toby Norris (MV) wading across an inlet dressed in Victorian swimming trunks and a straw boater carrying his clothes under his arm!

### **Early Night Event with the Wombles**

As paraffin road lamps were used at each control location one could use ones nose to find the control!

### **One particular early Night Event with the Wombles**

Brasher returned from visiting Finland with the latest battery driven double head torch. It had a large heavy battery pack on a belt for power. He set off with both headlights fully on whilst most of us just had small hand torches. Reaching the far side of the common his lights began to dim. He extinguished one but other soon faded to nothing. He retired!!

### **The 1968 British Championships in Cannock Chase**

In 1968 we were all supplied with an original copy of the 1:25,000 OS map. However we still had to use master maps to draw up our courses. Dennis Howell the Minister for Sport and for Snow presented the trophies and Guinness sponsored the event

offering a half pint to all finishers. After such refreshment our chauffeur had to be relieved of his post at the wheel as he was too inebriated to be safe to drive home.

### **Venue Secrecy Continued in 1969**

Following the previous protocol for Championship the specific location of the venue was held back until the day of the event. In 1969 for the British we had procured the use of a large and campsite field alongside a forest. So in the morning the competitors were seen driving off to Newton Stewart some miles away to discover the final venue. Only to be sent back to the very same field that they had camped in as the forest was right by the field, Kirroughtree forest where the championships were to be held!! In those days it was a single individual race.

### **Representing Scotland in 1969 and winning a 2 day international in Holland**

Baron Lagerfelt from Stockholm organised a weekend international in Holland specifically for the Low Countries including England, Scotland and Wales. On Day 1 I was being followed by a competitor from West Germany. I exited a control 180 degrees out, realised my mistake and double backed. That lost him and helped me to victory. I remember Lol Clarke (English Team Manager) saying that I was ahead of fellow Scottish team member Geoff Peck. I was actually ahead by 10 minutes!! So on Day 2 I was really careful and remained the winner along with Sue Harvey for the ladies. We both came home with enormous cheese baskets and in my case a lovely framed historic map of the Inferior



Germany that I treasure to this day.

### Hosting WOC 1976 in Scotland

We gained our very best piece of advertising for British Orienteering when Chris Brasher produced his TV programme and got the events covered on BBC Grandstand. This included the building by the Army of a suspension bridge over the Findhorn River to link two parts of Darnaway Forest. The Finish was in from of Darnaway Castle. However it was the TV feature programme that was shown on Boxing Day 1976 that really did the trick. During my period as Chairman 1975-8 our national membership doubled, something of which I am very proud!!

### How do you notify a death in a commentary without it being obvious in 1989?

David Lee and I were the commentary team for JK 1989 at Bowwood House. We were asked to call for Swedish Club members of a competitor who had collapsed and died just out of sight from the finish. A nurse who was also competing did all that she could. We managed it without the wider audience realising what had happened. At least he died doing what he loved. It was probably his first real competition of the year after

## Reflections on 52 years in Orienteering

As one can imagine orienteering has played a very significant role in my life. I have enjoyed so many differing aspects of it:

- The earliest competitive days including representing England, Scotland and the UK including World Championships in 1966 and 1970.
- Competing in orienteering events around the world
- Establishing the role of Fixtures Secretary; being BOF Chairman, Councillor and Director within the central organisation.
- Organising, Planning and Controlling many events from Informal to National levels and coaching as well.
- Always attempting to see "The Bigger Picture"

Sadly these days glaucoma eye problems and now a heart arrhythmia prevent me from taking part as much as I would like. However I am very happy to help in any way that I can and remain committed to our wonderful sport.

the Swedish winter snow. By coincidence a further elderly competitor from SWOA also passed away during the so-

called "Relaxation Event" on Easter Monday. This was before the introduction of the fourth competitive race at the JK.

*On the left is Brian Porteous the IOF President and also a previous Professional Officer with a collection of BOF Chairmen including Chris James, Lyn Walker, Clive Allen, Neil Cameron and Anne Braggins.*





# orienteering in 2067

In all innocence, I went to an urban event at Royal Wootton Bassett, which was where we lived when we rediscovered orienteering many years ago. I saw the new editor of Legend and unwisely offered to send her an article. By the time I had downloaded and walked back to the car, she appeared with a suggestion of a topic ...

## *What will orienteering be like in fifty years' time?*

A simple thought, which has exercised my mind on and off since then. I have had several false starts but now my start time has arrived. In order to answer her question, I had to analyse what attracted me to orienteering. Essentially, it is solving a puzzle set by the planner to visit a sequence of locations defined on a map. The faster you complete the task, the better. So we need an area on which to hold the event, a good relevant map and people to plan the courses. That is the management layer, but the iceberg syndrome comes in very rapidly.

Areas: it is a challenge to obtain permission to hold an event and there have been legal changes to accessing suitable areas.



*By David Lee*

There may be legal amendments to holding an event in some country areas and this is also relevant in urban events. I am unwilling to hazard a guess as to what will happen with regard to availability of suitable land for orienteering. Only time will tell whether it will be acceptable to go in to forests, moorland and urban areas.

Maps: I treasure the first map of Cleeve, when Ann and the family tried to run round Cleeve Hill. Dick Keighley's map was black and white, and perfectly reasonable for its time. Over the years the quality has improved and there is a strong move away from the unpaid work of the Keighleys of the world to commercial products now available. The technological developments have had great effect. But in the simplest terms, a 'mapper' produces the product which we need as orienteers. These truly gifted and exceptional people will still be around in fifty years' time.

Planners/controllers: I am confident that as long as there is orienteering, there will

be a regular supply of planners and hence controllers. It is a great pleasure to go to an orienteering event and take up the challenge set by the planner. But the next logical step for the enthusiast is to want to be the setter of the challenge. I am staggered to recall the many NGOC members past and present who have planned events for us. Controlling is the next step and the rewards from participating as a controller are huge. Not least is that wonderful time out in the forest setting out controls as dawn breaks, the wildlife ignores you and the breakfast before the event tastes even better.

The previous paragraph reassures me that there will still be orienteering in 2067. I hope that some of our current youngsters will be enjoying the forest as I still do. It doesn't matter to me that I am rather slow; the friendships that I have made through orienteering since 1987 are deeply appreciated.

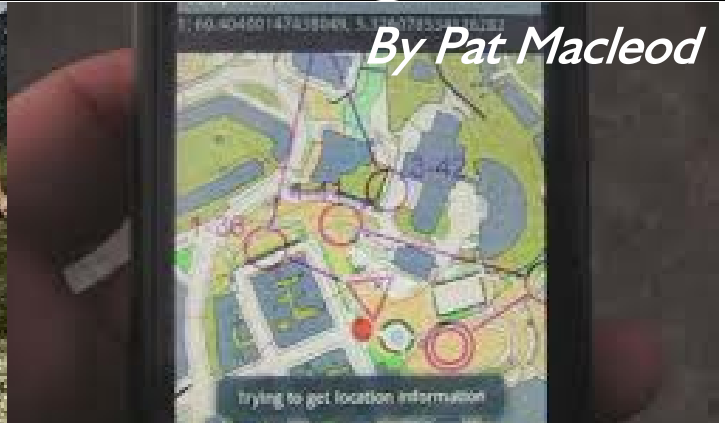
If you have been upset by elements of this dream, please come and see me after the event as we all do every time we orienteer. So, I expect to see you at the finish in 2067.





# orienteering futures

By Pat Macleod



New directions in orienteering...?

*Elsewhere in this Legend you can read of our concerns for the future of the sport. Whilst participation in other forms of running and adventure sports is generally on the increase, the opposite is true for orienteering.* Lots of reasons are put forward to explain this, and there is probably some truth in many or all of them. What is harder to understand is what to do about it.

We have to start from the premise that orienteering is and always has been a very 'niche' sport. The Sport England Active people survey 10 - Oct 2015-Sep 2016 (<https://www.sportengland.org/research/about-our-research/active-people-survey/>) doesn't mention orienteering anywhere. Angling is covered (is that a *Sport*?), so is rounders, but not orienteering. Interestingly, and contrary to some popular opinions, athletics, cycling and tennis show the biggest falls in participation, whilst keep fit, football, dance,

netball and mountaineering show the biggest increases.

Likewise the US 2017 Physical Activity report ([www.physicalactivitycouncil.com/pdfs/current.pdf](http://www.physicalactivitycouncil.com/pdfs/current.pdf)) doesn't mention orienteering anywhere.

Even the latest Sport Scotland survey I could find [https://sportscotland.org.uk/.../participation/sports\\_participation\\_in\\_s\\_c\\_o\\_t\\_l\\_a\\_n\\_d\\_2\\_0\\_0\\_8\\_research\\_digest\\_july\\_2010.pdf](https://sportscotland.org.uk/.../participation/sports_participation_in_s_c_o_t_l_a_n_d_2_0_0_8_research_digest_july_2010.pdf) complete ignores orienteering, and this despite its support for a major and award winning bi-annual orienteering event.

If the sports authorities don't know about orienteering, it's not really surprising that the public don't get it either.

In many ways this is not necessarily a bad thing. Traditional forest orienteering is already under significant pressure from environmental and other access issues, and adding mass participation is going to make those worse, so even if we

could engineer it, it isn't really what we want. What we do need is a steady influx of enthusiastic people who can be persuaded to 'get' orienteering, and help fill the gaps left by the ageing cohort of O pioneers who got us to where we are now. New styles of orienteering – urban, indoor, and so on – certainly help, but in NGOC land we are not blessed with suitable terrain for these. I don't think we have anywhere that would support a challenging indoor event, and our urban landscapes don't really have the technical characteristics that make for challenging urban racing. For the time being we will continue with our weekday evening suburban races, but perhaps through lack of publicity, as much as anything, entries for these haven't grown in the last 3 or 4 years.

*We need to try some different approaches. British Orienteering has come up with 'The Route'. We have slightly different plans.*





OS 1:25,000 map, and 60 minutes to visit as many controls as they can, in a standard score event format. The runners will have a highly simplified paths and tracks map, with the core route marked on it, and waymarked on the ground, but with plenty of opportunities to cut corners, and encouragement to do so, to get round the course as fast as possible. Navigation is simple, risk of getting lost almost non-existent, and corner cutting - 'cheating' - allowed. A typical runners map will be something like the one shown left.

The bikers, meanwhile, will have a map something like the one below.

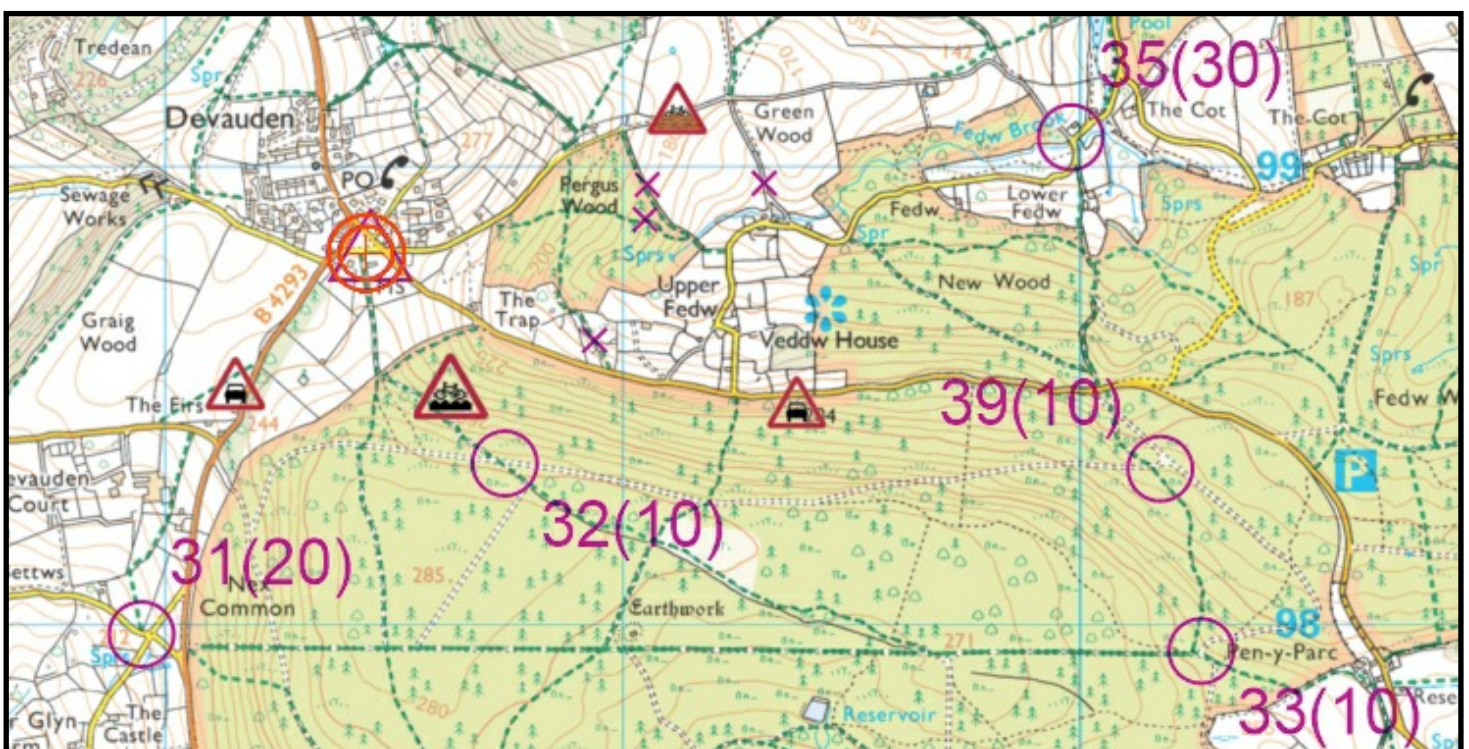
*The first, and most significant, is our new partnership with Rogue Runs and Black Mountains Mountain Biking – R2T2, or Run, Ride, Tracks and Trails.* The partnership brings not only experience in organising these kinds of events, but also, and most importantly, a wide network of participants in their programmes who can be targeted with promotional material for our events. It is this

community, existing runners and riders who perhaps don't 'get' orienteering yet, but are active and regular competitors, that we think is our most fertile opportunity.

To start with, we will organise three weekday evening events this Summer, aimed at running enthusiasts who shy away from 'navigation', and at bikers who are looking for something more than just a ride around the forest. The bikers will have a modified

*Each event will be centred on a hall or leisure centre, and will include refreshments and prizes, the aim being to strengthen the social aspects of the evening.*

If this is successful, we will expand the programme next year, perhaps replacing some of the summer evening suburban events, and perhaps adding





some more adventurous weekend events. I have at least one idea for a challenging navigation race around the forest next Spring; I like to think of it as Long-O with a difference, aimed at what we are told is the growing community of the fit and adventurous. The other key development will be to schedule long red courses, alongside or separately from our league events, to draw these competitors into full foot orienteering.

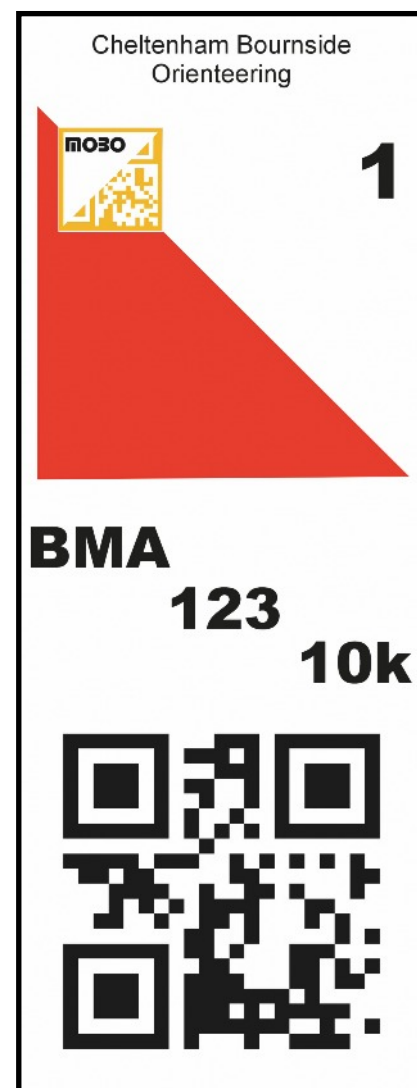
*Our second current initiative aims at a quite different community.*

Most people now seem surgically attached to their smart phones, and can't live without them. We propose, therefore, to offer them the chance to use their phones to orienteer. As this Legend goes to press our first set of mobile phone enabled controls is being printed, and will be installed at Bournside school in Cheltenham. MOBO is a mobile phone orienteering app which uses QR codes to record 'punches'. The map is displayed on your phone, together with a compass, and you simply snap the QR code at each control to record your visit.

The Bournside course, naturally, is a private course, but we plan to add MOBO codes to the revamped Christchurch permanent orienteering course in the Summer, and to promote its use through Christchurch and Bracelands campsites. Bearing in mind that by their own account, these campsites have well over 60,000 visitors a year, we only need a few of those to have a go at orienteering, and a few of them to get hooked. They probably won't be from our patch, but no matter, we will have done something worthwhile.

This isn't, of course, the only use to which we can put this new technology. Whilst MOBO only supports score courses, there is an alternative system available which is quicker and easier to set up, but which supports normal linear courses. Its downside (some might say upside) is that the map is not on the phone – you need a paper map. All the phone does is take the place of the dibber. If you are in a hurry, that's not ideal – much quicker to dib with an SI card. If you are learning, however, or trying orienteering for the first time, or just having fun, then employing the must have technology can't be a bad thing.

*We need to think about what kinds of events we should put on to exploit this technology.*



*A MOBO control, with QR code*

## *The R2T2 Series*



*The Rogue Runs Gilwern Grunt*

R2T2 is all about off-road running and biking, and introducing non-navigators to navigation in a sociable setting. It's organised in partnership with Rogue Runs, the team behind the Gilwern Grunt and the Severn Bridge Half Marathon.

After the Chepstow Park Wood event on 18<sup>th</sup> July, there will be events at Ninewells in August and Lightning Tree Hill in September. All are on weekday evenings, making them ideal for post-work relaxation and socialising!

Full details can be found via the NGOC Events web page.



# the downfall of orienteering?

*By the editor*



*Photo: Cincinnati Orienteers*

Recently, a navigation game took the world by storm. Yes, the *world*. It attracted millions of participants, many of whom didn't even take regular walks, never mind traipse for hours to locate remote targets. What was it? Pokemon Go. OK, so there are huge differences between this and orienteering. But the question is - when millions of people around the globe can be captivated by the idea of navigating to a target, why is orienteering a dying sport in the UK?

At this year's British Championships, there were 159 competitors in the M65-M80 classes. At the other end of the adult spectrum, there were 85 runners in the M20 - M21 classes. Both of those age groupings span 15 years, yet the "mature" competitors outnumber their younger counterparts by almost two to one.

Not surprised? No, me either. Look around at the tea-drinkers and loiterers after any O event and the same demographic is blindingly obvious. But let's pan

this scenario forwards to 2067, when our M21's will be in their 70's or so. Assuming today's trend continues (and the M21s' knees hold up) we'll have our eighty-five M65-M80s ... and just 40 or so competitors in the 20 and 21 classes. Pokemon Go can draw gamers in their millions; yet a national orienteering championships draws competitors by the few-dozen.

I'm reliably informed that this has not always been the case. So why is there a shortage of young runners now? Running events are attracting record numbers year on year - and "adventure" races like Tough Mudder are so commercially successful that they even advertise on TV (which explains where some of the £100+ entry fee goes ...). Orienteering is the ultimate in self-reliant, adventurous running. It's comparatively cheap. *So why isn't it attracting all these runners who want to wallow in mud and climb over obstacles? Orienteers do that sort of thing all the time, and it's not even the object of the exercise.*

Firstly, there's the question of how people choose to enjoy sport: participation, spectating and competition. For most of Britain's sports enthusiasts, their activity will fall strictly into the first two of those. Most marathon runners will train hard to achieve their goal of participating, to *complete* the course - not to *compete*. They will be among thousands of other also-rans; lost in the masses and enjoying the camaraderie of the day. Many of them will enjoy watching big athletics events on TV and will be inspired by watching household names triumph. The same pattern can be seen in cycling. A sunny weekend will draw hundreds of Lycra-clad enthusiasts out onto our local roads - the vast majority of whom will never, ever take part in a cycling competition. They'll be no less dedicated to their sport, perhaps covering hundreds of miles a week and taking part in organised rides. But the closest they will ever get to a bike race will be gluing themselves to the sofa during the Tour de France.

Orienteering, on the other hand, is all about competitions. That's pretty much the only time we get



to punch controls on planned courses. But it's a very public way to practise a sport: the poring over splits after the event; the ignominy of mispunching. And the low number of participants only serves to expose a bad run. Compare the two-hours-for-a-Green, being-beaten-by-kids feeling for a first-timer at an orienteering event to the elation of finishing a first half marathon. It might have taken you three times as long as it took the winner, but you got a medal! Proud Facebook status updates and shared social-media euphoria will abound. Can you envisage anyone doing the same for their first orienteering result? How many Facebook-friends would even know what orienteering is?

That brings us to the second point. There is very little knowledge or understanding of orienteering outside the sport. It does not have any significant level of TV coverage, and there are no celebrity exponents of it. Never mind not having any household names among our elite runners, even the title of the sport itself isn't widely known. Here in the UK, there are no famous athletes, no high-profile events, no big-name sponsors. When the 2010 Ryder Cup (that's a golf tournament, by the way) came to South Wales it was all over the national media. Same when the 2014 Tour de France started in Yorkshire. But the 2015 World Orienteering Championships in Scotland? A few clips on BBC Alba. In Gaelic.

The effect of this is twofold: firstly, it's impossible to attract new participants to a sport they've never heard of; and secondly it's very difficult to share your orienteering joy and

achievements when none of your non-orienteering friends have the faintest idea what you're talking about. Everybody likes to get some recognition for all the hard work and training which go in to any sporting achievement, and *it's a little disheartening when your elemental struggle to find 114 in a complex, physical area of low-visibility morained forest is less noteworthy than another chap's trot round the local Parkrun.*

Then we have the barriers to entry. It's not hard to "take up" road running or cycling. Get a pair of daps from Decathlon or a bike from Halfords and off you trundle. You can hone your skills alone - without witnesses to your sneaky walk breaks or your inability to keep the bike upright - and at your personal convenience. You can practise after work, before the kids get up, even at the gym in front of the TV. But orienteering practise requires a course to be set by an experienced planner, on a suitable area which may or may not be anywhere near where you live. Then there is a massive technical learning curve before you can navigate with any degree of competence. (Some of us never get more than part-way up this curve.) The penalties for incompetence are severe. Rubbish at golf, or tennis? Never mind. You'll still be sat in the clubhouse with a G&T and your mates at the end of the game. Rubbish at orienteering, and you could be alone and lost in the forest long after last orders are called.

So it seems that what folk want from sport today is convenience, ability to share and socialise, ease of entry, participation rather

than competition/failure and a glossy media profile. Orienteering is not going to be booming any time soon, then. It's very difficult to be any good at it, you sustain regular physical damage, no-one understands what you do at weekends and it's not convenient to take part in. Yet we have members of NGOC who have been enthusiastic and dedicated orienteers for fifty years. Others (like me) have found the sport recently and have discovered a strange joy in the litany of 180-errors, in battling through deepest fight and in being able to find every control except the one we're supposed to be finding.

But even as a newcomer to the sport I can see the very real dangers facing its future. As well as the low participation levels and the squeezing-out by other, more convenient and "easier" sports, there are the access issues and the huge resourcing demands for what are essentially low-key and non-commercial events. There is no money in the sport, no chance of fame or fortune. And perhaps that is exactly why it is so appealing: there is no gloss, no who's-got-the-best-kit, no commercialisation. There are no crowds - no fighting for space with thousands of other Lycra-clad fun-runners, and no-one will be taking selfies out on the course.

One day, MOBO (or a highly marketable, Pokemon-like equivalent) will launch orienteering into the mainstream, and I will look back misty-eyed on the days when I had whole re-entrants to myself and it only cost £5 to enter. But I'll smile at the sight of so many people enjoying this amazing sport. I expect you will, too.



## *League Latest!*



***We've had two more fabulous league events: at Painswick, and at the fabulous new area of Leckhampton.***

Tom Cochrane put together some super courses at Painswick Beacon on 9<sup>th</sup> April, and this fast-running area delivered some quick finishing

honours in 47:04, narrowly beating Simon Denman (M50) into second. Tim Brett (M40) and Daniel Edwards (M21) took third and fourth places, and Vanessa Lawson (W45) was the first lady on the course in 5<sup>th</sup> place. Debbie Anderson (W45) was the club's top finisher on Orange, taking second place behind Sandra Powell (IND). David Watson

to highlight the spectacular views! Tom Dobra (BOK, M21) led home the Blue course in 48:21, but an impressive run by Caroline Craig saw her take third spot - she was the fastest lady on the course by some 45 minutes! Anders Johansson, Christophe Pige and Scott Johnson fought it out for 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> places. On the Green course, it was a close-run thing between Daniel Edwards (M21) and Steven Harris (M40) for the top two spots, with Daniel just edging it by less than a minute to win in 44:07. Alan Brown (M65) won the Orange course. Alex Agombar (W40) took third place on Orange, with Katie Agombar (W9) taking second place on Yellow.



times. Richard Purkis (M21) won on Blue with a time of 43:56 - almost three minutes clear of Andy Monro (M45) in second place. Also in the top ten finishers on this longest course were Paul Horsfall (M35) in 8<sup>th</sup> and Matthew Lawson (M45) finishing in 10<sup>th</sup> spot. On the Green course, John Miklausic (M35) took the top

(M55) was third with Ashleigh Denman (W50) in fourth. Sam Horsfall (M8) and Seth Lawson (M9) took third and fourth on the Yellow course.

Greg Best not only mapped and planned on a fantastic new area at Leckhampton, but he also arranged some glorious sunshine

***NEXT LEAGUE EVENTS:***  
***League 6,***  
***Minchinhampton, 3<sup>rd</sup> June;***  
***League 7, Knockalls Sprint,***  
***1<sup>st</sup> July***



## League Standings after five events:

### Blue

1 Tom Birthwright	NGOC M35	3826
2 Tom Cochrane	NGOC M21	3423
3 Tom Dobra	BOK M21	3272
4 A. Johansson	NGOC M40	3206
5 Allan McCall	NGOC M50	3115
6 Nick Dennis	BOK M55	3061
7 Mark Burley	BOK M21	2986
8 Richard Purkis	NGOC M21	2962
9 Paul Gebbett	BOK M45	2924
10 Steve Chiverton	HOC M65	2768

### Orange

1 Rosie Watson	NGOC W14	4106
2 Jack Hobby	NGOC M16	4094
3 David Watson	NGOC M55	3581
4 Carol Farrington	HOC W60	3335
5 Adrian Dawson	SARUM M55	2956
6 John Wickson	NGOC M65	2706
7 Ashleigh Denman	NGOC W50	2626
8 Rose Taylor	HOC W12	2357
9 Jessica Ward	NGOC W12	1988
10 Sam Roderick	NGOC M14	1983

### Green

1 Paul Hammond	HOC M55	4377
2 Peter Watson	NGOC M16	3936
3 Steven Harris	NGOC M40	3916
4 Dave Hartley	NGOC M65	3859
5 Ginny Hudson	NGOC W55	3844
6 Kevin Brooker	NGOC M45	3798
7 Ashley Ford	HOC M65	3615
8 John Fallows	NGOC M55	3598
9 Dave Andrews	NGOC M70	3595
10 Brian Laycock	HOC M70	3550

### Yellow

1 Katie Agombar	NGOC W9	2027
2 Seth Lawson	NGOC M9	1970
3 Sam Horsfall	NGOC M8	1964
4 Ben Mawer	IND M11	1310
5 Darren&Miriam	IND	1276
6 Charlie Johnson	NGOC M5	1069
7 The Garais	IND W35	1031
8 Oscar Johnson	NGOC M5	1025
9 Isaac Anderson	BOK M7	1007
10 Matthew Young	IND M9	1000

## Club Championship Standings

*After four events in the Club Championships* Andy Creber (M55) retains the top spot in both the Overall and the Handicap tables. His cumulative score of 4058 in the Overall is well clear of Allan McCall (M50), in second place on 2959. However, Paul Murrin (M40), has had some particularly good runs lately and is looking threatening in third place with 2904. Top lady is unsurprisingly Caroline Craig (W21), in 5<sup>th</sup> spot with 2749. Rebecca Ward (W14) leads the juniors with 1922 points.

In the Handicap table, Creber's lead is even more commanding: nearly 1500 points clear of nearest rival Ros Taunton (W65) in second place. Suzanne Harding (W50) is in third place

with 3625 points, and Allan McCall has capitalised on his newly-minted M50 status to hold the fourth spot. Rebecca Ward, in 7<sup>th</sup> place, is once again the top junior and currently just ahead of Caroline Craig in 8<sup>th</sup>. It is rumoured that Creber has embarked on a new and dedicated training programme this year so potential rivals will need to work hard to topple him from his throne!

*The next races in the Club Championship are the BOK Blast at Bristol Harbourside on 11<sup>th</sup> June, followed by the NGOC Knockalls Forest Sprint on 1<sup>st</sup> July.*



Andy Creber. Can be maimed if necessary.



# recent results

## **21st May, WIM SW Sprint Championships, Blandford**

Ian Prowse was the leading M65 with a 3rd place finish on the Short course, just 16 seconds down on the course winner and in a time of 13:1 for the 1.65km/13 control course. Suzanne Harding (W50) finished 15th on the Medium course, 6th in the WV category.

## **21st May, BAOC Tenby Urban**

Richard Purkis had an excellent run on the 7km Men's Open course to finish 3rd in 45:37. Greg Best was 18th in the MSV class and Kim Liggett finished 13th in WSV. Bob Teed was 2nd in MHV.

## **20th May, BAOC Preseli & Welsh**

Richard Purkis (M21) snuck a top-10 finish on the 7.8km Brown course in a time of 62:02. Greg Best (M55) was the club's top finisher on Blue in 27th place. Bob Teed (M75) was 36th on the 4.3km Green course.

## **6th May, LOC British Championships, High Dam**

In the notoriously difficult area of High Dam, our top M21E representative Richard Purkis unfortunately retired. Pete Ward had a good run to finish 17th on the 8.2km/460m M45L course, and daughter Jessica won the W12B course by over 17 minutes! Her older sister Rebecca finished 25th on the 3.9km/135m W14A course. Joe Parkinson finished 40th on a hotly-contested M55L.

## **30th April, NWO Savernake Forest**

On the 8.6km Brown course, Scott Johnson (M35) finished 13th, closely followed by Christophe Pige (M45) in 19th. Paul Taunton (M65) was 61st on the 7.8km Blue course. Suzanne Harding (W50) was our top finisher on Green in 31st place, with Ros Taunton in 45th. John Coleman (M80) was 37th on Short Green. Barthelemy Pige (M10) finished 9th on Yellow.

## **29th April, SARUM Amesbury Urban**

Andy Monroe took 9th place on the 6.1km MV course in a time of 45:56, followed by Christophe Pige just over a minute later and in 12th. David Lee was 5th on the MHV course.

## **23rd April, SWOC Kingswood**

NGOC were well-represented on the Brown course: Richard Cronin was our top finisher in 9th place; Joe Gidley was 12th and Allan McCall 16th. Andy Creber had another scorching run to take 2nd

on the Blue course - just 38 seconds down on M55 arch-rival James Clemence. Andy Stott was also well up the results in 6th. Green saw four NGOC'ers in the top ten: Steven Harris won the course, almost 5 minutes clear of Tim Brett in 2nd. Pat Macleod demonstrated his continuing return to form in 6th place; Rebecca Ward (W14) also had a good run to take 8th. Reuben Lawson (M12) won the Orange course, and brother Seth (M10) took top spot on Yellow.



## **26th March, OD Bentley Wood Midlands Championships**

At Bentley Woods on the beautiful Merevale Estate our top placed finishers were Caroline Craig (8th on W21E) and Pete Ward (also 8th, on M45L). The Ward family also featured in the W14A class (Rebecca, 9th), W12A (Jessica, 11th) and W45S (Michelle, 3rd). The two Toms - Birthwright and Cochrane - had good placings on shorter courses: Tom B was first on Green, and Tom C took a commendable 3rd on M21S. Greg Best was 28th on M55L, with Richard Higgs taking 19th on M55S. Paul Taunton was 31st on M65L.

## **25th March, OD Rugby Urban**



Our top finishers of the day were Caroline Craig - 4<sup>th</sup> on Women's Open - and Richard Purkis, 7<sup>th</sup> on Men's Open in an excellent time of 43:12 for the 7.1km/32control course. Ian Prowse was 13<sup>th</sup> M65, and Suzanne Harding took 19<sup>th</sup> in the W55 category.

### 19th March, BOK Westonbirt

Pete Ward (M45) 5<sup>th</sup> on Brown 10.45km, closely followed by Tom Cochrane (M21, 10<sup>th</sup>). Simon Denman made swift work of the Blue course, taking just 55:13 for the 7.7km and finishing 10<sup>th</sup>. Tom Birthwright, Greg Best and Matthew Lawson all finished within 25 seconds of each other in 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> places on Blue. Andrew Hartley (M21) was first past the post on the 4.9km Green course, in a time of 32:46. John Coleman (M80) was 15<sup>th</sup> on Short Green, and Alan Brown (M65) continued his comeback from injury with a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish on Light Green.

### 4th March, SBOC Welsh Championships, Merthyr Mawr

Our podium finishers were Seth Lawson (1<sup>st</sup>, M10), Reuben Lawson (3<sup>rd</sup>, M12), Rebecca Ward (2<sup>nd</sup>, W14) and Vanessa Lawson (2<sup>nd</sup>, W45). Congratulations to all! Richard Cronin finished 16<sup>th</sup> in a competitive M21 class, whilst in M55 Andy Stott

finished an impressive 6<sup>th</sup>, closely followed by Joe Parkinson in 7<sup>th</sup>. Paul Taunton was 4<sup>th</sup> M65; Peter Maloney 10<sup>th</sup> M70 and Bob Teed 3<sup>rd</sup> M75. Shirley Robinson was 10<sup>th</sup> W60, whilst in the W65 class Ros Taunton finished 4<sup>th</sup> and Sheila Miklausic 5<sup>th</sup>.

*Paul Taunton fights for his racing line  
- the finish at Bentley Woods*



## Forthcoming Events

### June

**1st:** NGOC Evening Urban, Lydney  
**3rd:** NGOC League 6, Minchinhampton  
 4th: NWO Relay, Lawns Park, Swindon  
 7th: SWOC Cardiff Park Series, Victoria Park  
 7th: BOK Summer Series, Bradley Stoke  
 10th: BOK Blast, Bristol  
 11th: BOK Blast, Bristol  
 11th: HOC Worcester Woods  
 14th: BOK Summer Series, Chippenham West  
**15th:** NGOC Evening Urban, Gloucester  
 18th: WSX Poole Town Urban  
 21st: SWOC Cardiff Park Series, Heath Park  
 21st: BOK Summer Series, Bristol University  
 22nd: HOC June Jaunter, Clent Hills  
 25th: DRONGO Harvester Relays, Blakenholme  
 25th: BOK Adams Avery, Ashton Court  
 28th: BOK Summer Series, Keynsham  
**29th:** NGOC Evening Urban, Bishops Cleeve  
 29th: SWOC Summer Evening, Mynydd Llangatwg

### July

1st: WIM Dorchester Urban (SEOUL)  
**1st:** NGOC League 7, Knockalls  
 2nd: SARUM Moonraker Relays, Salisbury  
 5th: SWOC Cardiff Park Series, Bute Park  
 5th: BOK Summer Series, Clevedon  
 6th: HOC Summer Series, Callow Hill  
 8th: HOC Summer Series, Sanders Park  
 12th: SWOC Summer Evening, Storey Arms  
 12th: BOK Summer Series, Kingswood School  
**13th:** NGOC Evening Urban, Abbeydale/Barnwood  
 15th: HOC Summer Series, Queslett  
**18th:** NGOC R2T2, Chepstow Park Wood  
 19th: SWOC Cardiff Park Series, Llandaff Fields  
 19th: BOK Summer Series, Dursley  
 20th: HOC Summer Series, Arrow Valley CP  
 30th: MAROC Scottish 6 Days



*NGOC's national ranking top 10 on 30<sup>th</sup> May were ...*

1	Richard Purkis	1993	M	8021
2	Peter Ward	1970	M	7867
3	Andy Monro	1969	M	7734
4	Andy Creber	1958	M	7492
5	Caroline Craig	1984	F	7463
6	Joe Gidley	1988	M	7384
7	Richard Cronin	1989	M	7375
8	Judith Austerberry	1974	F	7182
9	Tom Cochrane	1986	M	7146
10	Christophe Pige	1971	M	7130

Congratulations to Richard Purkis for breaking the 8000-point barrier! He's improved his ranking score by 245 points since the beginning of March, and has overtaken both Andy Monro and Pete Ward who topped our leaderboard last time. Andy Creber has improved from 6<sup>th</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> place, having amassed an extra 120 points. And Tom Cochrane is a new entry to the list in 9<sup>th</sup>. Top lady is once again Caroline, who holds steady in 5<sup>th</sup> spot.

## committee &amp; contacts

<b>Chairman &amp; Level 1 Coach:</b>	<b>Gary Wakerley</b> chairman@ngoc.org.uk (01594) 862690
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Caroline Craig</b> secretary@ngoc.org.uk (01242) 528326
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Carol Stewart</b> treasurer@ngoc.org.uk (01242) 514988
<b>Captain:</b>	<b>Richard Cronin</b> captain@ngoc.org.uk
<b>Membership Secretary:</b>	<b>Simon Denman</b> membership@ngoc.org.uk
<b>Mapping Officer:</b>	<b>Paul Taunton</b> mapping@ngoc.org.uk (01594) 529455
<b>Equipment &amp; Development:</b>	<b>Pat McLeod</b> equipment@ngoc.org.uk (01594) 528128
<b>Fixtures Secretary:</b>	<b>Stephen Robinson</b> fixtures@ngoc.org.uk (01594) 841743
<b>Welfare Officer:</b>	<b>Ashleigh Denman</b> welfare@ngoc.org.uk
<b>Legend Editor:</b>	<b>Judith Austerberry</b> legend@ngoc.org.uk
<b>Permissions</b>	<b>Greg Best</b> (01242) 516053
<b>Committee Member:</b>	<b>Richard Purkis</b> rickyp194@btinternet.com
<b>Committee Member:</b>	<b>John Fallows</b> john@greyeye.co.uk 07971 782729