

# The Legend

Number 136



Newsletter of  
North Gloucestershire Orienteering Club  
November 2008  
[www.ngoc.org.uk](http://www.ngoc.org.uk)

# NGOC Committee

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## ***Disclaimer:***

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

***Cover:*** Registration for the Chairman's Challenge on a sunny September afternoon at Gorsley Village Hall.

# Chairman's Chat

Since the last edition of Legend we have had the Chairman's Challenge and our AGM as well as the start of the 2008/9 season with the usual events. I have to express a little disappointment at the low attendance at my Challenge. It was a good afternoon during a period of poor weather and we had an excellent base in the Gorsley Village Hall. Perhaps I should have made a bit more of the publicity explaining that we had a good venue for one of the main club social occasions with outside facilities and inside ones if it had rained. Carol Stewart and Jan Jones provided the usual excellent BBQ. It was good to welcome orienteers from neighbouring clubs.

In the wider world of orienteering we are seeing an upsurge of Park or Urban Events. There were 400 competitors recently in the City of London. So keeping up with the trend I made my Challenge into a Street - Track - Path event around our village. It is an attractive area and was previously enjoyed by Club members who came during the 2007 Street event series. So please tell me why you didn't come and what we would need to do to get you to try it.

Lin Callard gave us an interesting talk about 'The Woodland Trust' at the opening of the AGM evening. We elected a new Club Captain - Greg Best - and saw Paul Taunton take over the Mapping role from Bob Teed. Indeed, Bob gave us an impressive list of all that he has and is achieving for us with his mapping and other activities. Since the AGM Dave Hartley has agreed to take over the Fixtures role from Bill Smith who will be departing next year for a 3 year spell in the States. We wish him well and will look forward to seeing him again on his return. Perhaps he might find some 'O' out there. In the meantime he will be helping Dave in the handover.

We are welcoming 'Map Attak' to our four League events that are within the Forest of Dean. Kyla da Cunha is running a sports group for youngsters, 7-11 years old, based on Ross-on-Wye. Hockey, Athletics and Cricket are the other sports on offer. It is felt that parents can be persuaded to travel as far as the Forest whereas even MADO around Malvern might be seen as too far. What we need is more of these types of initiative to support, for example, the City of Gloucester Schools Sports Co-coordinators that I met recently in starting to establish School - Club links.

Good orienteering

*Chris James - Chairman NGOC*

# TERRY BRADSTOCK TROPHY

This is a shield given every year to the member of NGOC who has performed the best in three out of four events: the JK, the British, the Caddihoe Chase and the November Classic. (How “best” is arrived at I will leave to John Fallows to explain, as best he might). Terry was a member of NGOC in the 1970s, running in the Harvester about the time that David and Ann Lee joined the club, but died around 1980. This trophy, in his memory, was given to the club by his family. The very first award was won in 1980 by Ann Lee. Ann was active in the club until about four years ago when she decided that combating Parkinson’s was challenge enough without subjecting herself to orienteering, however much she might miss it.

As an, admittedly long, aside, mention of Ann reminds me how appalled I have been to see that the old NGOC banner that was made in part from Ann’s wedding dress, has been replaced by a modern, garish, multi-coloured, pathetic pennant of a thing that has as much history and appeal to it as a piece of used tissue paper. The original banner had history and looked like it, having been battered by blizzards in the New Forest, dragged through the mud of a Lake District JK, scorched by Spanish sun, torn by F of D brambles, heard Terry Rutty’s invective at the Harvester when he lost his map while running the 3am leg, and generally experienced life. It called all NGOC members to arms. So why replace it by one of these modern monstrosities that has no history, no appeal and will fall apart when exposed to even a moderate hail storm? Let’s have the red and white gonfalon back. It didn’t flutter in the way ordinary banners will when subjected to a small breeze but stood proud, solid and majestic in the harshest of situations and will call to us all wherever we may be.

Anyway, back to the Terry Bradstock Trophy. As I won it last year I now have to pass it on to Gill Stott, the first W to win it, so through gritted teeth (I came second, again) congratulations Gill, but before doing so, have looked at all the past winners. The one who appears most often as a winner is David Lee, who won it eight times between 1982 and 1998. I strongly suspect that this is a record that won’t be beaten. I used to get fed up with David as I consistently came second to him in the nineties and it was only when old age started

catching up with him faster than it was with me, that I eventually won it for the first time in 2004. Just twice, since you ask.

Other winners have been Joe Taunton, 5 times in 1999, 2002, 2003, 2005 and 2006; Cyril Wigmore three times in 1983, 1984 and 1985; Phil Powell in 1993 and 1995; Ivan Teed in 1990 and 1994; Terry Ruddy in 1981; Jon Poole in 1989; Dave Jones in 1996; Les Swindin in 2000 and now Gill Stott.

It is interesting to note that the winners are either in the younger age categories (Joe, Ivan and Jon) or over 45, mostly in the latter. Quite what this indicates I'm not sure but presumably it's due partly because the competition in the events is greater in the 21 to 45 age classes and partly to the way that the winner is selected. It may also reflect that as a club we have a preponderance of older members. This is of concern throughout Orienteering and, indeed, many other sports throughout the UK, and moves are afoot to try and rectify the situation.

Lin Callard

## *Legend to be sent by email*

Starting with the first edition of 2009, we intend to send Legend as a Word document to all members with email; members without email will continue to receive a printed copy in the usual way. If you have email but would prefer to continue receiving a paper copy that is not a problem, just email [legend@ngoc.org.uk](mailto:legend@ngoc.org.uk). Alternatively, you can opt to receive an email informing you when the latest Legend is ready to view on the NGOC website. Sending Legend by email (about 90% of members are on-line) will save the club money and means that Legend will reach members more quickly. With each issue costing about £1-30 to print, with postage of 27p plus envelope and label, the cost to the club of the six issues this year is about £10 per member.

## **A South African view of orienteering in the UK**

I needed to go to London to attend a software conference, so decided to make my trip worthwhile and find a couple of Orienteering events over the weekend. I corresponded by email with Roger Coe of NGOC to find suitable events for the weekend. He suggested Little Malvern on Saturday and Forest of Dean on Sunday.

Saturday morning I used my Garmin to get to Little Malvern in Worcestershire. I know orienteers are not supposed to use a GPS but it was really useful navigating the back roads of the English countryside. (Take the A40 to the second roundabout, then take the third exit to the A2554 etc). I was warmly welcomed by the Carol, Lynden and the other organisers, the members of Harlequins Orienteering. The courses started on the top of an ancient Iron Age fort. That means steep hill!

Started well then the route from 1 to 2 went right through the circle for 10 so wasted 5 minutes before realising why the number was incorrect. The rest of my course was fair but tricky with very slippery grass slopes and undergrowth with brambles that had not yet died out for winter. At times I was just plain stuck. Really need to get some gaiters as my legs are badly scratched.

On Sunday I entered a regional event in the Forest of Dean organized by North Gloucestershire Orienteering Club. I was on the M50L course with over thirty competitors, about four times the number I am used to back in Johannesburg. The weather was predicted to be rainy and windy. M50L was course 3 which was 7.6km and had 330m of climb. The forest was magnificent with its autumn leaves and soft ground underfoot.

The start was interesting, with a separate box for each of 11 courses. I just had to join the queue and then at the whistle move to the next station. At the start line I cleared my SI then grabbed the map and off I went. It started raining quite heavily and the wind made it quite cold in the open areas. The paths were very muddy and the slopes very slippery. A couple of people passed me on my course, especially on the uphill, as I began to tire. Overall I was very pleased with my run ending up 18<sup>th</sup> out of 27, making some minor mistakes on a few of the legs.

After the finish I went back to the car to get some warm clothes on. Had a burger and coffee and chatted to the Roger, Carol and Lynden. It was just too cold to hang around and chat for long so I headed back to the comfort of my room at the Bells Hotel in Coleford. I am sure I will be back some day and also take the opportunity of inviting my fellow competitors to take part in an orienteering event in Johannesburg if they are ever out in South Africa.

*Richard Lund*

<http://www.racorienteers.co.za>

Rand Athletic Club Orienteers

# Official Comments

*Several years ago, I wrote an article based around extracts from comments in results over the years. I always intended a sequel, but the demise of printed results has restricted my sources in a way which could not then be anticipated. However ....*

“ ‘Walkie-talkie’ transmission can wipe out the program from a computer. You can imagine what nearly happened to prompt this comment.”  
*[Anthony Eckstein, Solway badge event, 2/3/86. The ‘computer’ will, at best, have been a BBC one]*

“An official complaint by .....“ (well, after all the years, it is kinder not to mention names) “(M21A) about his last control being a ‘ride end’ was rejected as he had mistaken the symbol involved. Investigation revealed .... had abused ‘ALL FIELDS OUT OF BOUNDS’ and had crossed the finish line twice to correct his wrong last control. .... was thus disqualified.”  
*[Dick Carmichael, same event]*

“ ‘What are you doing this for, is it some kind of charity?’ ... I rejected a selection of possible replies.”  
*[Bernard Wilson, Controller’s Comments, Ellend Park Woods, 29/9/85]*

“There were those plantations of exploding Himalayan Balsam.”  
*[ibid]*

“Incredibly, returning competitors were heard to express enjoyment and appreciation.”  
*[ibid]*

“I hope you all enjoyed the bus ride to the crematorium, especially through the early mist.”  
*[Richard Payne, Planner’s Comments, same event]*

“In the northern part of the map there are areas of open sand used as tank test tracks; some parts of these can be like ‘quicksand’ if very wet ....In the unlikely event of getting stuck in the quicksand, use your whistle. .... In the southern part, there is a water catchment area that is strictly out of bounds. It is unmapped, but otherwise indistinguishable from the surrounding terrain” and “Severe map abuse may result in some printing rubbing off. Please be gentle with it!”  
*[Final details, Long Valley, 21/11/93]*

“Winning Times. These were badly affected by the weather, which made a late start very beneficial and therefore the competition unfair.” (not that they scrapped the results, of course.)

*[Mark Smith, Controller, SN national event, 18/1/87]*

“The longer courses had one or two control sites on rather vague contour features – we decided to use these as an aid to planning.”

*[Bob Brandon, Hagley, 24/1/88]*

“I well remember the silence that fell over our club meeting when it came to the subject of organiser for the Mortimer event and how everyone breathed out when I accepted.”

*[Mike Harrison, Organiser, Mortimer Forest, 11/10/92]*

“If it is any consolation, on returning home from control checking on Saturday, I fell out of the car with acute cramp.”

*[Pete Guillaume, Controller, Mortimer Forest, 11/10/92 – a forest which looked nice on paper but Oh!, those brashings ....]*

“The National Trust Warden ..... returned from the southern part of the Heath to report: ‘It’s great – I’ve seen fat ones, thin ones, bald ones, and fit ones, and they’re all running round like headless chickens’ “

*[Headley Heath, 11/2/90]*

(vandalism) “resumed during the competition, ironically near the only manned control, where some competitors were apparently threatened with weapons. Enquiries will be made to find out whether this activity was authorized.”

*[Swynnerton, 18/3/90]*

“The ditch just in front of the finish wasn’t there when I surveyed the area – honest!”

*[Dave le Maitre, planner, Lyme Park night event, 19/1/91]*

“Thanks to Ken Owen for being such a cheerful landowner and telling me that the rats they have at their house are bigger than the ones we have at ours!”

*[Liz Campbell, Moel y Dyniewyd, 7/3/93]*

“... the expected snow did not materialise. But I fear that this did not deter many entrants from attending on the day.”

*[Doug Deeks, Organiser, An Enchanted Place, 31/12/95]*

“We were disappointed to find that despite the hefty land fee ..... there were three other groups of users on the area. While we were able to minimise the impact of cross-country runners and motor cyclists, the discovery of an Army war at 7a.m. was a test for the Controller’s negotiating skills.”

*[Michael Yeo, Long Valley, 21/11/93]*

“Apologies to those competitors who pointed out that control description 5 should have been labelled Pluto and not Goofey. We hope that this did not spoil your run.”



*[String course, same event]*

“The dog compound is near the start. The area of the compound is out of bounds during the competition.”

*[Final details, Southern Night Championships, Longmoor, 20/11/93]*

“Any obvious obstacles will be taped or lit.”

*[ibid. The event at which three of us were held at gun point. The two soldiers concerned were neither taped nor lit.]*

“A windy day at Tilstock airfield. The numbers of you turning up also put the wind up the organiser.”

*[Results cover, Twemlows Big Wood, 12/1/03]*

“The use of the car park as a start and finish was my fault, I had forgotten that it was off the map”

*[Brian Morris, Organiser, same event]*

“Wild boar have been seen in the competition area. If you encounter one, keep your distance and avoid aggravating it. They can be aggressive and potentially dangerous.”

*[Final details, unrecorded Forest of Dean event]*

“It is expected that the site of a wind farm is going to be windy, but we hope that there was no-one in the gents urinal when it blew over.”

*[Jane + Peter Mickleborough, organisers, Hurstwood, 27/3/94]*

“STOP PRESS. Humble apologies for the dreadful quality of the printing. The person in charge of this mundane job has already been disciplined by the M.O.K. Serious Crimes Squad and banned from this type of work for 5 years. He will also be available at all forthcoming M.O.K. events to lie down in any muddy parts of the forest for competitors to walk over at their will.

Sorry.

Finally, several items were lost in the wood.

- 1 A black hand torch.
- 2 A pair of VJ O-shoes
- 3 A compass
- 4 The Organiser's sanity

If any of these items have been found ...”

*[end of the results booklet, Southern Night Champs., 5/12/92]*

Graham Nilsen

*(Reprinted, with permission, from the MEROCC NEWS, the newsletter of the Merseyside Orienteering Club.)*

# MEMBERSHIP NEWS

## *Welcome to the following new members:*

Emily Carpenter & Tom Mitchell  
1 Andover Street, Cheltenham, GL50 2EL  
Emily: 07941 626806  
[emily.carpenter@doctors.org](mailto:emily.carpenter@doctors.org)  
Tom: 07779 100275  
[tommitchell@doctors.org](mailto:tommitchell@doctors.org)

## *Change of details:*

Malcolm Green  
[malcolm.green1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:malcolm.green1@hotmail.co.uk)

Jock Taunton  
15, 1F2 South Clerk Street, Edinburgh, EH8 9JD

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

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## New Year's Day 2009

One hour score event

1100 mass start at Parkend

Signposted from SO 608079

Usual prize vouchers at each control. For those of you who like to get really lost in the Forest we hope to have a no-tracks version of the map available. Although the map will be of the usual high-quality Bob Teed variety the control descriptions will hark back to the beginning of orienteering in this country with examples along the lines of "A bosky place", "A disused fence post" or "Contour and grid line junction" (see the article in the September 2007 SINS). SI electronic punching.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Location	Map reference	Organiser
22 Nov Saturday	Informal	Bixslade	SO 607116	Rodney Archard 01432 356079
29 Nov Saturday	League 3	Moseley Green	SO 666061	Tom Mills 01452 760451
6 Dec Saturday	Western Night League (WNL) 1	Standish	SO 838087	Greg Best 01242 516053
<b>2009</b>				
1 Jan Thursday	New Year's Day Score	Parkend Mass start at 1100	SO 608079	Alan Brown 01242 580096
11 Jan Sunday	Galoppen	Cranham	SO 882130	John Fallows 01684 290256
17 Jan Saturday	WNL 2	Symonds Yat	SO 573118	Tom Mills 01452 760451
31 Jan Saturday	League 4	Sallowallets	SO 607116	Alan Richards 01249 713542
7 Feb Saturday	WNL 3	Painswick	SO 870118	Dave Hartley 01452 863805
21 Feb Saturday	League 5	Kidnalls	SO 634032	John Coleman 01594 528151
7 Mar Saturday	League 6	Blakeney Hill	SO 667067	Andy Stott 01291 689471

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

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

Senior £4                      Junior £1

Competitors who are not members of any club £5

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

Senior £4                      Junior £1

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

Saturday 10 January	Event 3. Wyche Ridge
Saturday 21 February	Event 4. Hollybed Common
Saturday 21 March	Event 5. Eastnor and Malvern South

Courses: yellow, orange, green and blue

Registration: 1200-1300                      Starts: 1230-1400

Adult/family: £4                      Junior: £1

More details: [www.harlequins.org.uk/MADO](http://www.harlequins.org.uk/MADO)

## **Notes on a new Constitution for NGOC**

1. Last year's AGM adopted a revised version of the club constitution, while recognising that further revision was needed to incorporate aspects which were omitted (because not circulated to members in advance) and to ensure compliance with Club Mark best practice. I undertook to do this.
2. Plan A was to have a new draft circulated well in advance of the AGM this year, so it could be voted on, and ideally adopted, but unfortunately that didn't happen.
3. Plan B was at least to circulate a draft for consideration before the AGM, even though it could not be voted on this year - that too fell victim to a number of recent unexpected and more pressing commitments.
4. So Plan C is for me to run through the changes needed, with a draft to be circulated for comment within the next few weeks.
5. A club constitution provides the basis for the way the club is managed, so it's important to include only those things which help this process, and not have elements which might constrain unhelpfully things the club might wish to do in the future - for example over length of time in office. So it needs to set out what the club is for, who may belong and under what terms, how it is organised (officer roles), how its finances are managed and what should happen if the club dissolves. It may also be helpful to include references to best practice in equal opportunities or welfare.
6. Our existing Constitution has many of the elements recommended in the Sport England template which is provided among the Club Mark documentation. In particular we already have a statement about what to do with the club's assets in the event of dissolution! But one key item we don't have is a statement of the club's Aims and Objectives - this is a necessary element for any organisation which is seeking to be recognised as a Charity, which we are not (and I wouldn't recommend that we do so), but it is still a useful thing to include, and a form of words is suggested which can readily be adopted to our needs. Neither do we at present have any statement about fair and equal treatment - again there are helpful suggestions in the template. We don't currently list all our officers (notably the Club Captain) nor Welfare and Development officers as such - these latter two are roles at present but should be formalised. At present we state that all posts except that of chairman may be shared; I'd recommend that we also state that an individual (except the chairman) may hold more than one post. Some jobs are less onerous than others so it makes sense to combine the roles rather than have an infinitely expanding committee. The current committee has 14 members plus 2 co-optees in a shared role, and that is plenty large enough!
7. So apologies again for not getting this completed. A revised draft will be circulated before Christmas, but meanwhile if anyone has suggestions for what should or shouldn't be included, please let me know.

*Carol Stewart*

# Brashings

## **Spot the mistake in the Sallowvallets map and win a prize**

The northern part of Sallowvallets map used by all courses for the regional event on 9 November contained two similar erroneously mapped features, quite close to one another. Please help the Mapping Officer by trying to find them on your map and letting him know: firstly, where they are and, secondly, what they are. They can then be deleted from the next version of the map! A small prize will be awarded to the first correct entry drawn from the hat. And it is too late to claim that you would have won your class if it hadn't been for the map error!

## **Are you happy for your details to appear on the club membership list?**

The NGOC Committee has agreed to publish a full list of club members' details giving telephone numbers, email addresses and age groups in 2009. This will enable the Club Captain or any members organising events for the club to gain a full picture. Are you happy for these details to be shared with all members of the club for orienteering purposes only? Those not wishing such details to be published are invited to contact the Membership Secretary accordingly. In which case only their names will appear on the list. If you have not opted out by 30 November 2008 then the Committee will assume that your full details can be published.

## **New Membership Secretary needed for 2010**

Matthew King has decided to step down as Membership Secretary after the next AGM in October 2009, by which time he will have served four years - thanks, Matthew, for all your work. If anybody fancies taking over this post please contact Matthew who will explain what is involved.

## **AGM Minutes**

A condensed version of this year's AGM minutes is enclosed with this Legend. If you would like a full version please contact the Club Secretary.

### **Discount for NGOC members at new outdoor shop in Cheltenham**

"*mountainshack.com*", which has been selling outdoor clothing and equipment in Worcester for the past eight years and prides itself on good service, has just opened another shop at 1 Bath Road in Cheltenham. Any member of NGOC is entitled to a 20% discount in the first month of trading and, in addition, will receive a voucher giving £10 off the next purchase over £50 made within the second month of trading. NGOC members should claim the initial discount by quoting the password "LongMynd11".

Email: [sales@mountainshack.com](mailto:sales@mountainshack.com)

Website: [www.mountainshack.com](http://www.mountainshack.com)

### **Price rise for NGOC Galoppens**

From January there will be an increase of £1, taking the entry fee to £8 (excluding the £2 discount) for seniors and £2 for juniors. New event levies, set by British Orienteering, are behind the increase. Saturday minileague prices are not affected.

### **Free run for helpers**

Don't forget! To encourage members to help out at events (at any NGOC event) all helpers are entitled to a free run at that event.

### **Please claim your property!**

After the minileague at Symonds Yat on 26 January Carol Stewart picked up a pair of white Nike trainers, blue O-trousers with a red stripe, and a Next red/beige long-sleeved T-shirt, all large size, which had been left by the side of the track where we parked. Carol washed the clothes and has brought them, and a notice about them, to just about every NGOC event since then, but no-one has claimed them. If they haven't been claimed by the end of the year they will be disposed of.

### **NGOC League and RouteGadget - how good was the route you chose?**

The Painswick and Minchinhampton (and the Regional at Sallowvallets) maps and courses are available for competitors to plot their routes for League Events 1 and 2 using RouteGadget. Just go to the NGOC website to enter the route you took and compare it with those of other runners.

### **Water-resistant paper for NGOC maps**

Maps for NGOC (and BOK) events are now being printed on "Pretex" water-resistant coated paper. Any comments (negative or positive) to Paul Taunton please, so that we can decide whether to continue once our supply runs out. (Note that the thinner, glossier plastic film that some clubs prefer is very much more expensive and less suitable for our laser printer).

### **Caption Competition**

There were no entries at all for the picture of John Fallows in the rain at Croeso in the last edition of Legend. Most members have something to say about John - surely some of it is printable. Please have another think - any good captions will appear in the January 2009 Legend.

### **NGOC - the early years**

Chris James is looking for information from the early years of NGOC. If you know any of the early history, stories, amusing anecdotes etc, or can suggest the name of someone who does, please contact Chris James.

### **Have your say!**

Are there any matters that you would like the Committee to consider? Contact the Club Secretary, Pat Cameron, or any member of the Committee. The next Committee Meeting is on Monday 23 January 2009.

### **Articles for Legend**

We are always looking for articles on anything to do with orienteering; digital photos are especially welcome. Send your article/pictures to [legend@ngoc.org.uk](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.

### **Back cover - know your fellow members!**

*Neil and Pat Cameron. Neil is Chairman of British Orienteering and Pat is NGOC Secretary.*

