

The Legend

Number 160



**Newsletter of
North Gloucestershire Orienteering Club
November 2012**

www.ngoc.org.uk

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Cover and Caption Competition: Andy Stott at the Purple Thistle 2012. Not only did Andy lose his way but he also seems to have lost his compass, dibber and all his clothes. *(Photograph: Gill Stott)*

(If anyone has a good caption please send it to legend@ngoc.org.uk for inclusion in the next Legend)

Chairman's Chat

Our AGM in early October – a month earlier than usual thanks to changes in BOF requirements for setting membership fees – brought to a close the second year of my three in the club chair. I'd like to thank everyone who took the trouble to come to the AGM, and in particular Carol Stewart and Caroline Craig for laying on a super buffet which was easily a match for anything offered previously by the Oxstalls caterers, and at a fraction of the cost. Not only did it serve the AGM well, but no small quantity of sandwiches and other goodies made it to the Military League event the following Wednesday to fill us up after a lovely run in fabulous runnable woodland the like of which we can only dream about now in the Forest of Dean. It was, of course, particularly pleasing to see Carol at the AGM after her horrendous car crash on the way home from the Chairman's Challenge.

Dave Hartley stood down from his role as Fixtures Secretary at the AGM, after a long stint in which he has made huge progress in persuading more of you to have a go at organising and planning events. John Coleman agreed to stand as Fixtures Secretary in Dave's place, and was duly voted in by the meeting. I'd like to welcome John to the committee, and once again to thank Dave for his contribution to the successful running of the club's event programme. I should add that in case of confusion it is John Coleman the Younger (only 70-something), from Woolaston, who has taken on the job, not John Coleman the Elder (75-something), from Chippenham! Apart from a change in Fixtures secretary, the committee remains as was, but Kim Liggett has expressed an interest in taking on some sort of mapping role, having once worked for the Ordnance Survey, and Kim, Paul Taunton and I will be discussing how best to make use of Kim's time and expertise. Our current view is that we should retain Paul's expertise in printing, and particularly his informal 'controlling' of courses and prints for our fixtures, whilst Kim comes on board as Assistant Mapping Officer, to act as map librarian and custodian, and start to develop OCAD skills with which to maintain our maps.

My objectives when I took on the Chairman's role were to address impending access cost challenges, increase volunteering, and increase participation. The cost challenge has switched from one of threatened hikes in access fees, to one of certain increases in levy costs. However, like BOF and SWOA, you voted at the AGM to reduce membership costs in favour of increased participation costs (levies). This inevitably means an increase in event costs, but the committee feels at the moment that apart from a modest £1 increase in senior Informal entry fees, we do not need to take any further action on entry fees. We will see how things shape up over the coming season, and will adjust entry fees next year if necessary.

As I reported in the last Legend much of our volunteering and participation activity has been somewhat 'behind the scenes' – courses,

checklists, archives and so on, all designed to make volunteering easier, improve the quality of our events and so attract more people. As we have been advising people to hold off joining the club until after 1 November, to get the benefit of 2013 membership, it is hard to tell what real progress we have made, but I am hopeful that we will see a moderate increase in both membership and participation in 2013. One of John Coleman's first jobs as Fixtures Secretary will be to sit down with me and one or two others and come up with a Summer programme for 2013, to build on the success we had this year.

As well as all this administrative stuff I have, as usual, been 'playing' with maps. I have tried 5m LIDAR data and found it wholly wanting for our purposes. Two metre LIDAR is good enough for general mapping, but coverage is patchy; I ordered a sample 1km square in Mallards Pike from Bluesky, only to be told that their web coverage map was incorrect, and they didn't actually have cover for all of my square. The real issue, however, remains the terms and conditions attached to use of this sort of data, and on that front BOF Mapping Committee have confirmed that things are getting more, rather than less, complicated and restrictive. On a brighter note, however, I have been looking at Open Street Map's version of the Barnwood area of Gloucester. This is available for use without any commercial constraints and, based on a single walk around the area in the rain, is pretty accurate, though missing a few paths here and there. It is available in vector as well as simple image format, so can easily be imported into OCAD in various ways for adaptation as we see fit. In my view it will make a nice new urban map for our Summer programme, and whilst using Ollie O'Brien's Pseud-O version of Open Street Map is quick and easy, this approach may offer more scope for developing our own urban area maps. In the meantime I must sign up to Open Street Map and add the paths I found!

Finally, I am writing this gazing out over a Scottish sea loch and wondering at the brilliance and variety of the autumn colours. Much of the woodland around the loch is ancient oak, birch and ash but as one might expect there is also a great deal of conifer, and at this time of year the larch stands out golden yellow amongst the ranks of dark green. Sadly the destruction of all larch in the Forest of Dean has started, thanks to the spread of disease, and something like 50,000 trees are to come down over the next six months. Not only will we lose some fine orienteering ground, but the whole nature of the forest will change for the worse. Many of us will no longer be orienteering when this ground becomes usable again. We have always known that the Forest evolves, but this evolution is sadder than many, and there is no doubt that the Forest of Dean will be a drabber place once the larch is gone.

Pat MacLeod

Permanent Orienteering Courses in Gloucester

It was back in 2008 when Mark Boyce, member of North Gloucestershire Orienteering Club and also member of Gloucester City Centre Community Partnership, had the idea of a fixed orienteering course in Gloucester Park. The idea had been bounced around before but funding the project was always going to be an issue until the idea of approaching local funders was raised. The idea was discussed with various local groups and eventually a grant application was submitted to Gloucestershire PCT for a grant that funded the design and installation of the course.

The grant application was supported by a number of other external partners including Gloucester City Council, Gloucester City Homes and NGOC along with a few health-focused partners in the City Centre and surrounding area.

In October 2008 news came that the grant application had been a success and Robert Teed from NGOC was engaged to map the park and to create a course suitable for novices and one which could be used for more advanced orienteers.

The launch of the new course took place in May 2009 on a bright sunny day and was officially opened by Paul James, the Leader of Gloucester City Council who was joined by various dignitaries and, on hand, NGOC provided a couple of trainers to help novices get to grips with the sport.

Since 2009 the course has been used by Church groups, Scout groups and schools, and many youngsters have sampled the sport and no doubt some of them will go on to become leading lights in NGOC and other orienteering clubs. All this was on the backdrop of the health benefits provided by orienteering and its potential contribution to the community.

Whilst not widely advertised at the time, the project was so well managed some surplus funds existed and agreement was made with

the funders to use these funds to finance a further course again in Gloucester City Centre. Focus was now building on the area of Gloucester Docks, a key area for regeneration which was subject to multiple ownerships and a key area for the new Gloucester Linkages scheme – one of the main routes between the existing city centre retail offering and the new Gloucester Quays outlet centre. One of the main problems with this area was the amount of works going on in the area with public realm works and private development works - taking place and programmed - it would have been very difficult to produce a map which was accurate for anything more than a month or so.

Again, Robert Teed from NGOC stepped in and mapped the docks and this map was eventually finalised early in 2012 when all the regeneration works were completed. The final proposals for the maps were presented to key partners in July 2012 and general agreement received. A print run was arranged and the maps will soon be distributed to various places across the city for free issue to locals and visitors alike, bring a new dimension to Gloucester's Historic Docks including the Waterways Museum, Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum, Tourist Information etc.

Casting his mind back to his youth, Mark Boyce recalls the excitement he felt when he first discovered orienteering and the joy he found from fixed courses in the area including the one at Pittville Park, Cheltenham and the one near Symonds Yat in the Forest of Dean and he hopes that similarly, youngsters will perhaps have their first "go" at orienteering at one of the two new courses in Gloucester and will go on to have a lifetime of orienteering enjoyment.

People wishing to try one of the two new courses can obtain maps from Tourist Information in Southgate Street, Gloucester, the Park Keeper's Cottage in Gloucester Park, the Waterways Museum and the Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum.

Mark Boyce

The Purple Thistle 2012

This is the second Purple Thistle weekend we Stotts have attended. We are attracted by the bare bones – no nonsense attitude of the young Scots who organise it (i.e. Brooner). Complaining is not allowed! If you are feeling in a mountain marathon mood, then the Mighty Thistle course is for you, at a mere 12k and billed as technically and physically demanding you will certainly get your money's worth at £6 a day. Andy and son Ed went for the Big Thistle – 9.5k – then there's the significant climb...450m on Day 2. Gill and Cate settled for the Medium Thistle – only 7k...of wading through bog, scaling mountains, negotiating steep-sided gullies and fording gushing streams. The start was up the lane from the bare bones campsite. There was only one shower so Andy found alternative methods of cleansing himself after his run.



NB: Andy sucked his tum in for this photo – you can tell! Note the finish control in the background.

Day 1 saw me scaling the wrong hill and just generally taking a long time to get to places. The distance to the first control was 2k. Gulp. It was difficult to connect with the map at times. Andy and Ed fared better.

Day 2. I got the hang of it. The start was in the same place and I got round 20 minutes quicker. So pleased until I downloaded and found out I'd missed control 6. How did that happen!!! Waited for Andy...and waited...(Ed was in). Then a very cross man came storming into the finish. I recognised that person as my husband. He was in a very bad mood as somebody had been moving the terrain around to confuse him. Here is a picture of him finishing. You can see the effect the course had on other orienteers too.



One young lady told me she removed 80 ticks from her legs that day. I thought I had none until I woke up next morning and found I'd slept with at least two, possibly more...

The other thing we noticed about this event was that nearly everybody else was mean and lean and fast. Brooner suggested that he might not be able to repeat this great weekend in two years' time (it seems to alternate with the six day) but I hope somebody else takes it on. It's amazing how little manpower you can get away with. Enter on line. Park yourself. Sign yourself out on your course, start yourselves giving other runners a reasonable gap, finish yourself then download onto a waiting laptop back at the campsite. It all seemed to work well...and no complaints!



Here's the map. Not many controls so route choices were plentiful.

Gill Stott



(Thanks to Chris Creely of Bendigo Orienteers in Australia for permission to reproduce this article from their newsletter "Control Freak")

Some Thoughts on Making Orienteering Maps.

Like all good Orienteers who are having difficulty locating a control, I initially blame the incompetent course setter, then later the idiot who made the map. So in an attempt to deflect some of this blame back to the course setter (where it rightly belongs), I thought I'd put down a few of my thoughts on the mysterious art of making Orienteering maps.

The mapper's bible

[ISOM 2000 \(International Specifications for Orienteering Maps\).](#)

This publication from the IOF specifies everything from colours, line thickness, scales to what symbol can be used to map various features. It states: *The map must contain the features which are obvious on the ground to a competitor at speed.* Every Orienteer should read this publication at least once. With a perfect map, the Orienteer should be able to visualise the terrain and know in advance exactly what to expect as they navigate; in the real world there'll always be a few small surprises.

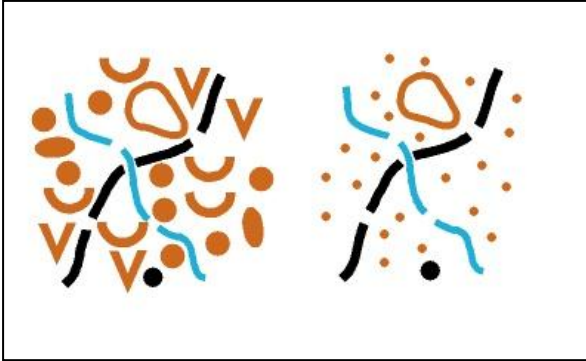
So on to probably the most important aspect of Orienteering map making:

Hey, why aren't all those pits on my map? - the problem of legibility

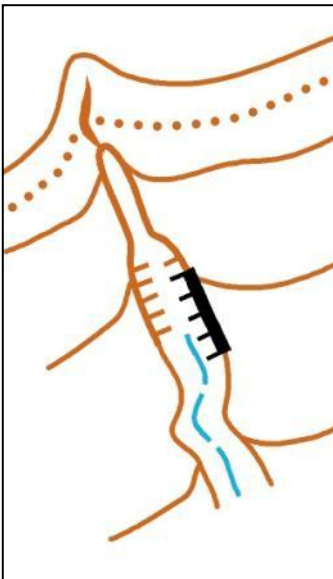
Depending on the type of terrain, Orienteering maps are a compromise between the amount of detail, and the available space. Condensing a vast area of bush onto an A4 sheet usually means leaving out at least some detail. The first of the seven deadly sins of map-making is over-mapping i.e. including so much detail that areas of the map are illegible, or including too much irrelevant detail. This is a something that all mappers work hard to avoid, particularly in more complex areas. But when you've just found twenty great mappable features in a very small area, it can be difficult to reduce it to one or two of the most prominent features, or more difficult still, call the whole lot broken ground. The rule though is: *features which are obvious on the ground to a competitor at speed.*

Consider the actual size of a depression symbol on an orienteering map is equivalent to 14m x 7m on the ground, whereas the minimum size of a

mappable depression is 2m wide + 1m deep. You can see how you can quickly run into trouble when mapping a lot of detail in a small area. There are actually only a few features on an orienteering map that are drawn as their correct size; large knolls, bare rock, very large rocks, lakes/dams and buildings are the only ones I can think of. The size of the other symbols (even tracks and the like) are greatly exaggerated.



And just for the record, according to the ISOM, the definition of broken ground is ‘an area of knolls or pits too intricate to be shown in detail’, though in practice the symbol is also used for areas of rough ground which affects runnability, with the closer the dots the rougher the ground and the slower you run.



Erosion gullies and the like

No shortage of erosion gullies on our local maps thanks to the intense gold mining of years ago, and they can be mapped in a variety of ways:

Contour lines of course join points of equal elevation, but can also be stretched a bit to show the shape of the terrain, they are commonly used to map erosion gullies.

The earth bank symbol is used for steep sided erosion gullies, this line is thicker than the contour line (but not as thick as an index contour), and ideally has tags or slope lines, though if the gully is narrow and there is no

space to put the tags, the bank line is used without them (though still indicating a steep sided gully). The thick black line (impassable cliff) with or without tags depending on available space, is used for erosion gullies with sides that are impassable *by an elite Orienteer* (note that Orienteering maps are by definition mapped for elite runners).

There are two other erosion gully symbols: the thick brown line with pointy ends is used for erosion gullies 'too small to be shown by contours or earth-bank symbols', and the line of brown dots which is commonly used to show contour ditches.

I've noticed that there are one or two problems with both these symbols: the thick brown line can be mistaken for an elongated knoll if it too short, or an index contour if too long (and obviously running in the same direction as the other contours); also I once saw two short intersecting erosion gullies mapped with this symbol and they formed a perfect, though slightly askew pit symbol (though I'm not sure how you'd map this feature otherwise?).

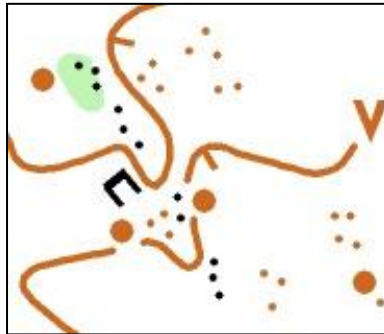
The problem with the line of brown dots is that it becomes very tricky to see if there's broken ground mapped as well, brown dots everywhere!



And the difference between a line of brown dots and a watercourse? Common usage says that a line of brown dots is a man made feature, whereas a watercourse is made by the action of water, though there are times when the deciding factor is (as with all mapping) legibility. In a sea of brown detail, using a blue line to map a small erosion gully would be far more legible than more brown, even though perhaps not quite as technically correct.

And since we've mentioned slope lines or tags, these little things are also used to make sure you know which way is up (or down actually) as the

tags always indicate the downhill side. They are used on steep banks and cliffs as mentioned, but also where the slope may not be clear, e.g. on some rock-faces or in areas of confusing contours.



Green: Thick or not so

0-20%
20-60%
60-80%
80-100%

Forest is mapped on Orienteering maps according to percentage runnability i.e. How fast an *elite* orienteer (them again!) can run through the vegetation. It should take into account density of trees and undergrowth, or anything which affects runnability excluding rocky ground and marshes as these are shown by separate symbols (though you can have green and marsh symbols together - which sounds like a good area to avoid).

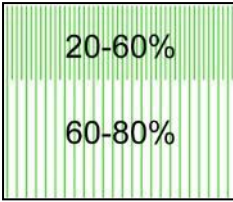
80-100% runnability, normal forest mapped white

60-80 % runnability, light green (slow running/ limited visibility)

20-60% runnability, medium green (difficult to run/limited visibility)

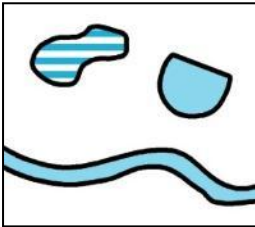
0-20% runnability, dark green (very difficult to run or impassable)

Of course vegetation is rarely of a uniform thickness so has to be averaged, it also has a nasty tendency to grow, or die and fall over thus changing the runnability. At times vegetation exists in clumps, this is sometimes shown as green circles or patches.



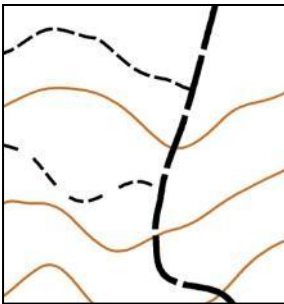
Where visibility is good but the undergrowth affects runnability, green stripes are used. Examples of this would be waist high bracken or grass, or trees left on the ground after logging.

Uncrossable things



I've already mentioned the impassable cliff symbol, being black and thick it's a difficult one to miss (and most certainly a good one not to miss). Lakes, swamps and watercourses with a black bank line indicate not only that the feature cannot be crossed, but also that you are not allowed to attempt to cross it. I don't know of any uncrossable swamps or watercourses on our local maps, but there were a few on the recent Australian champs' maps. It's probably good to know what that black line around the swamp means before you get halfway across it...

Track junctions that aren't



A track junction that doesn't join completely is (hopefully) not the result of sloppy drawing on the part of the mapper, but *'When a junction or intersection of paths or tracks is not clear, the dashes of the symbols are not joined'* i.e. If the tracks junction is unclear or difficult to see, the tracks remain unjoined. So, if you're running along the track thinking that the junction is taking it's time to come up, chances are it's behind you somewhere...

Now that you've got all that, you'll have realised that it's hardly the map-makers fault that you can't find your control, it's therefore time to go and find that damn course-setter and give him/her a piece of your mind!

CHRIS CREELY

Bendigo Orienteers

Alan and Ann go to another Chairman's Challenge

Alan could not believe that a year had passed since the last Chairman's Challenge but here they both were, sailing along in Ann's pretty little blue car, on their way to the first event of the new season. It was a beautiful, sunny day and Alan was looking forward to running in the forest while Ann was looking forward to the barbecue. "Typical girl," thought Alan, "always thinking about food" as he reached for the chocolate bar that would give him the energy to run his fastest round the course.



"Those naughty wild boar . . ."

On the journey they saw lots of places where there had been some nice, grassy patches, but they had all been dug up. "That must be those naughty wild boar," thought Alan, "no wonder I've

never seen one in real life, they're too embarrassed to show themselves, making a mess like that." He continued to think very deeply about it and eventually came to the conclusion that *someone ought to do something about it*.

There were some very good directions on the website on how to get to the event. They were so good that Alan didn't need to look at his O.S. map once to get to the turning into the woods. The first track they drove along seemed awfully long and Ann began to worry that they had taken the wrong turning. But Alan was confident that they were going in the right direction, especially when he saw a big patch of mud ahead. At last they saw the gaily-coloured NGOC banners, some parked cars and the barbecue already set up. That nice Mr Jones directed Ann into a good parking space next to Registration and the barbecue.

Ann stuck her nose in a book while Alan got out of the car to see if any of his chums had arrived. Just like last year, the first people he saw were several BOK members; in fact he was sure they were the same ones. This made Alan wonder if they had homes to go to or whether they just lived in their cars in the forest and only moved when there was a new event or they needed some groceries. That they might not have proper homes to live in, with cosy armchairs and roaring fires and snuggly beds, made him feel rather sad.

But they seemed quite happy so Alan stopped worrying about them and went over to speak to his friend Don. Don was always happy and smiling - and eating - and Alan wondered if the two facts were connected. They chatted for a while until Alan remembered that he hadn't paid for his entry so he rushed off to Registration and counted out his pocket money to give to Chairman Pat.

Pat had come up with a clever idea to make things more interesting. The Chairman's Challenge was a score event and 25 controls had been marked on the map as usual. But there were another five controls that were not marked on the map although



"Don was always happy and smiling - and eating - and Alan wondered if the two facts were connected."

they were on the control description sheet along with clues of how to find them on the map like "Clearing 100 yards north of control 120".

Soon everyone was moving towards the start and Pat stepped on to a tree stump to give out final instructions. Alan was one of the first away and he rushed to the two controls very close to the Start (so that he didn't have to queue to dib) and then he worked out the positions of the five "missing" controls and drew circles round them on the map. He thought it was very easy.

After another easy control Alan tried for one of the high-scoring controls that he had drawn on the map himself. Unfortunately he didn't move carefully enough on the compass bearing, missed the control and ended up on a path. He soon worked out which path it was and, as there was another easy control

nearby he carried on to that one and then carried on round until he was nearly at the Finish. All he had to do was run past Registration and he was there. Imagine his dismay when he saw that there were half a dozen large WWII U.S. Army trucks in his way! "Bother!" he thought to himself. "Who said this lot could drive round the forest when we're orienteering? *Someone ought to do something about it.*"



Winner Dudley Budden is presented with the Chairman's Challenge trophy by Pat MacLeod

Luckily, he was able to get past them quite quickly and dibbed at the Finish with just a minute to spare. He was pleased that he had timed things well but he realised that he had visited only one of the "do-it-yourself" controls which were worth fifty points each. Talking to Captain Greg afterwards he learnt that Greg had just gone for the five fifty-pointers plus any others that happened to be en route. This meant that Greg was near the top in

the results and Alan was below halfway. "Bother," thought Alan, "why didn't I think of that? Am I stupid or something?" He wondered whether he ought to talk to Ann about it but decided against it as he knew what she would say.

Still, it had been nice running out in the forest and, apart from missing that fifty-pointer early on, he had found all the controls fairly easily. And now it was the part that Ann had been looking forward to - the barbecue. While Ann was eating her burger Alan went in search of some ginger beer. "Sorry, no ginger beer." There hadn't been any last year and he had brought it up at the very next committee meeting. *Why hadn't somebody done something about it?*

It was a very gloomy and thirsty Alan and a full, happy Ann who got into their little blue car to drive home. They had only been going a minute when Alan thought he saw several llamas being taken for a walk, followed by a donkey drawing a two-wheeled cart with two people in it. Alan wondered if he had been running for too long in the sun but Ann had seen them as well. And when they edged cautiously over a crossroads they could still see the same strange procession in the distance. Alan felt his head spinning and had to put his hands up to keep it still.

On the main road they passed the shop and café where, last year, that plump lady had said they were too late for a coffee. Today, although it was past four o'clock, there were lots of people outside the café, lounging contentedly with their teas and coffees. "Bother!" said Alan, "Do you think we could turn round and . . ." "No," said Ann "and mind your language or you won't get any dinner tonight."

Sitting in their armchairs that night, sipping their cocoa, Alan and Ann were staring at the embers of the fire.

"You've been a bit grumpy tonight," said Ann. "Is anything the matter?"



RELOCATION – THE ART OF GETTING UNLOST

Relocation is finding your position where you are lost. You can lose contact with the map through running too fast, inaccurate bearing work, lack of concentration on the map, or simply not having invested the time when you started in understanding the main features of the map. As well as finding out where you are, you also want to do this in the quickest possible time.

Sometimes this will mean running to the nearest line feature you can find. Sometimes you will be some distance away from a distinct feature in a block of forest. You need to keep calm and think clearly. Asking yourself these questions will help focus your attention on solving the problem of where you are, and not listening to the small voice saying ‘you have absolutely no idea where you are, do you?’ or running like a headless chicken in circles.

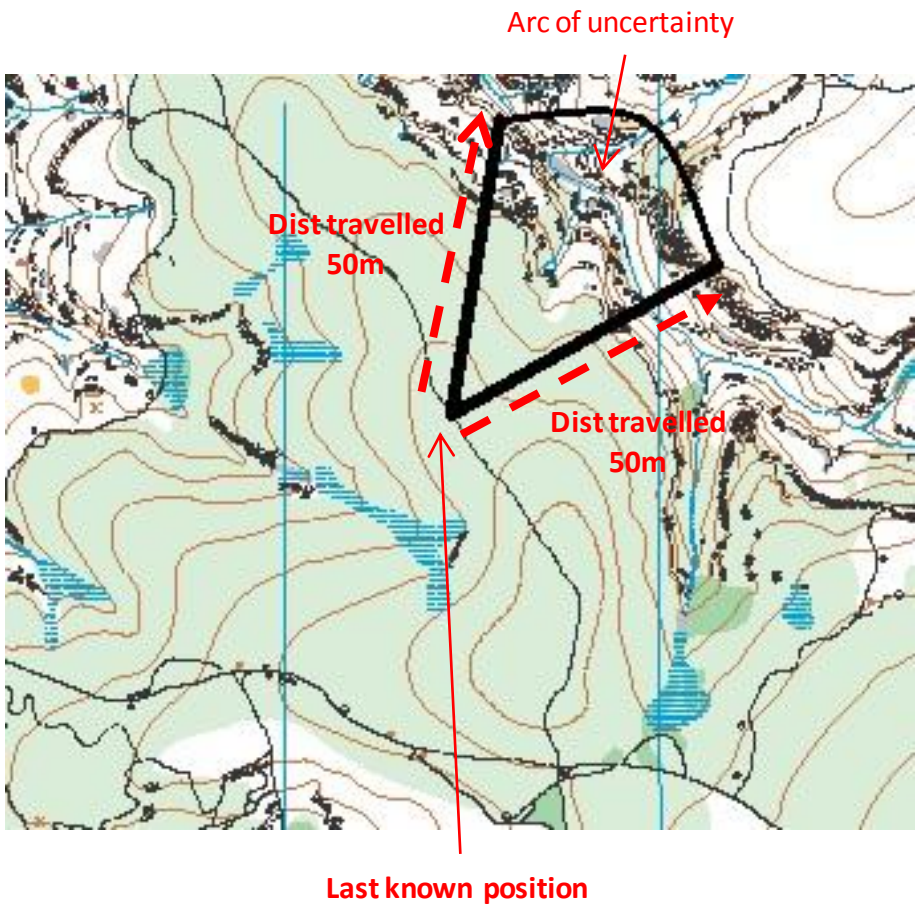
Relocation – the questions you should ask yourself as you stand in the forest!

1. Which direction am I facing?
2. What are the major features I can see? Rocks, cliffs, vegetation type, water features, fences
3. What are the major contour features around me? Slope direction, visible gully/spurs, high points

This identifies the kind of area you are in and you can look at your map to see where that is likely to be

4. Where was my last known position?
5. Do I have any idea of how far from that point I am

This allows you to identify an arc of uncertainty taken from the last known position, with a bearing and distance to where you might currently be standing



If you still are too unsure of where you are, pick a catching feature which you cannot miss and which you will be able to relocate from easily such as a fence, path, crag line etc. This feature may be some distance away but the confidence you will get from knowing precisely where you are after a period of uncertainty or confusion will be worth the extra metres. Time spent relocating properly is almost always less than that wasted by wandering around hopefully!

Do not:

Follow other people

Run in circles without a plan

Always:

Know your safety bearing before you set out so that if you are defeated by the map detail you can still make it back comfortably to the finish in time for cakes at the Junior Squad catering stall☺

Report to the finish even if you don't complete your course

Respect out of bounds areas

Margaret Jones
Uringa Training Officer 2012



The 5th City of London Race

22 September 2012

It all started at a committee meeting, one of Chairman Pat's committee meetings where you'd better turn up and you don't speak out of turn – if you know what's good for you. I was keeping a low profile, as usual, when I overheard two of the guys (I won't mention their names as I don't want to boost the sales of concrete boots) talking about the City of London race. Apparently it was soon and entries were still open.

When we were dismissed I went straight back to the apartment and fired up the laptop. I read all the details and it looked good – but how much was the train fare? An advance single fare was £5-95 (which was good) but it meant catching the 0530 from Cheltenham (which was bad). The fare back cost more but I might not get another chance so I pressed all the right buttons and I was entered in the race and my rail tickets were booked. But there was one big problem – the London City race was the same day as the first NGOC league at Standish. I would just have to hope that my absence wasn't noticed.

The big day dawned, no that's incorrect, I had to get up well before dawn to get breakfast and walk to the station. It was even cold enough for fleece and gloves. The train drew in just as I made the platform and we were off. At Gloucester a couple got in and sat in the seats in front of me. The guy reeked of cigarettes and she had obviously spent hours braiding her hair; maybe she was trying to look like a teenager but she was old enough and big enough to make several teenagers. Worse, she

spoke like one of the Monty Python crew doing a charlady impression.

I looked round but none of the other seats looked like an improvement. So I stuck my nose in my book. It was a good book but as it was a murder-mystery it kept giving me ideas in relation to that couple so I put the book away and closed my eyes. It was still dark so I couldn't even look out of the window. Not that looking out of the window is as good as it used to be – I used to think it was a great thing to do until I saw an advertisement for some highbrow magazine which simply said “No one ever got rich and famous by looking out of a train window”. Well, I still look out of train windows and I'm still a poor nobody.

Shortly before Swindon I was woken by crunching sounds and the couple had started eating a packet of snacks. Judging from the overpowering odour it wasn't the sort of snack you eat for its nutritional content. I couldn't hold my breath for five minutes so I put up with the smell and sound effects until I stumbled out of the train at Swindon. I wondered why I hadn't noticed before how fresh and bracing the air was on Platform 2.

The rest of the journey was good and I arrived at Assembly in plenty of time. The Final Details said that Assembly was at *Latitude 51.5112 Longitude -0.1152* but more helpfully added that this was the Macadam Building in Surrey Street. Punters were asked to take the stairs from Level -2 to Level 4 but Level 4 did give a good view over the Thames.

Out on the street it was only a hundred yards to the start, which was in a poky back alley in 100% shade for 100% of the day. Tweezer's Alley looked as if it had been designed especially to give security men from the surrounding high, modern buildings somewhere to sneak out for a quick drag. I jogged up and down on the sunny side of the nearby main road until it was time to start.

At the off I got the first few controls easy. Then I was caught out by what I should have been looking out for – the impassable fence marked quite clearly on the map – and had to backtrack a couple of hundred yards. Next backtrack was to avoid a busy road marked OOB. When it was too late I realised that it would have been OK to use the sidewalk. I looked for a bridge to cross the main road (and to dib a control) but it turned out to be a subway. The next two controls were in small gardens/old graveyards with a run past St Paul’s in-between. The real disaster was the Barbican Estate described in the Final Details as “a complex multi-level network of . . .” so I had been warned. Eventually I followed some guy who seemed to be running into an underground garage. But we came out into the open air where there were lots of distinctive water features and relocation was easy. The rest of the course was more straightforward although there were some places I wouldn’t like to wander round in the dark. I finished feeling good as I had paced myself well. But when I had climbed those six storeys again to download and collect my kit I didn’t feel quite so good. I didn’t stay for the prize giving as my printout was along the lines of “So far you are nearly last”. The organisers must have been pretty sure of the winning times as prize-giving was half an hour before courses closed.

To get back to Paddington station I wandered slowly through central London, via a coffee shop where I spun out the time by having two Danish pastries. Although I hadn’t done well I had thoroughly enjoyed the day and it wouldn’t be difficult to do better next year. There was no sign of the gruesome twosome on the train back and it arrived at Cheltenham on time; the girl was waiting to give me a lift home and I even remembered to compliment her on her hairdo.



NEW PERMANENT COURSE AT CRICKLEY HILL

I am pleased to announce that there is a new permanent course now ready to be used at Crickley Hill Country Park, near Birdlip. This has been a joint effort between NGOC and the wardens at Crickley. The country park is owned partly by Gloucestershire County Council and partly by the National Trust, although the wardens are employed by the county so it is the county who have funded the costs (the posts, the markers and map printing)

There are 25 controls erected on posts, gates and fences. Three different courses are suggested: short, medium and long, which roughly equate to Yellow, Orange and Green. On the reverse side of the map there are detailed instructions and information about NGOC.

Maps cost only 20p and are available from the wardens. The wardens man an information kiosk beside the visitor centre every afternoon from 1st April until 30th September between about 1 and 4.30pm. In the winter months the kiosk is mostly closed, but is open at random times. However, the wardens are usually somewhere about the site throughout the year and can be contacted on 01452 863170 to order a map. Their office is behind the kiosk. It would definitely be sensible to contact them in advance if you are to visit when the kiosk is not open.

I think that Crickley Hill is a perfect place for an introduction to orienteering, so pass on the word and encourage people you know to try it.

Greg Best
Club Captain

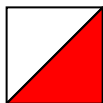


(Photograph: Greg Best)

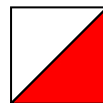
Orienteering in poems and prose

If you have enjoyed the orienteering articles and poems done in the style of various well-known authors that have appeared in Legend over the last year you may like to know that they have all been collected together into a booklet. This is being sold by NGOC in aid of the S.W. Junior Squad. There are nineteen articles and poems “by” John Betjeman, Enid Blyton, Raymond Chandler, P.G. Wodehouse etc. 44 pages for £2. Available at NGOC events (or from the Legend Editor by post at £2-50: Alan Brown, 10 Brizen Lane, Cheltenham, GL53 0NG. Pay by cheque, PayPal or bank transfer).

Forest Challenge!



The orienteering board game for 2-6 players



This “ever-popular” board game is available for sale for a third season. A good idea as a present for the orienteer in your life or buy one for the whole family to play after Christmas lunch. The game contains all you need to “Step over the line.” Buy your copy at an NGOC event (£8-00) or by post from the Legend Editor: Alan Brown, 10 Brizen Lane, Cheltenham, GL53 0NG (adding £2-00 for post and packing). Pay by cheque, PayPal or bank transfer. All profits will be donated to the Woodland Trust.

Profits of £300 from *Forest Challenge!* **donated to Woodland Trust**

Treasurer Carol Stewart recently sent a cheque for £300 to the Woodland Trust, profits from last season's sale of NGOC's orienteering board game. Here is an extract from the Trust's thank you letter:

"Thank you so much for your donation of £300 towards the work of the Woodland Trust. We really do value your support and encouragement and would be grateful if you could pass on our thanks to both the creator and purchasers of your board game 'Forest Challenge'. Their kind support is very much appreciated.

"We currently have over 1000 woods across the UK in our ownership. Your support allows us to sympathetically manage these areas and ensure that they are restored and managed for the benefit of wildlife and people. I do hope you can visit your nearest wood and experience the beauty of these special areas yourself."

"Surprisingly, the UK is one of the least wooded countries in Europe so we're passionate about doubling native tree cover over the next 50 years. We are really excited about our plans to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen with the planting of six million trees during 2012! Thanks to the fantastic support of people and businesses, Jubilee Woods is halfway to achieving its ambitions – that's a staggering three million trees in the ground already!"

Did you know that NGOC is a member of the Woodland Trust? To find out more about the Trust visit: woodlandtrust.org.uk

Wooster rises to the Chairman's Challenge

It was a Thursday and I was just getting outside my mid-afternoon cuppa when the telephone rang.

"Answer the telephone would you, Jeeves, there's a good chap. And, er, I'm not at home."

"Certainly, sir. Hallo, Mr. Wooster's residence. Oh, good afternoon, Miss. I regret that Mr. Wooster is not at home. I see, two o'clock on Saturday afternoon. Yes, miss, I will pass on your message.

"Who was that, Jeeves?"

"Miss Madeline Bassett, sir; she was hoping that you would partner her in the mixed doubles at the tennis club on Saturday."

The summons completely destroyed my peace of mind and my hopes of a quiet weekend spent mainly at the Drones Club with all my pals. I must add that, due to a misunderstanding. I was once engaged to this ghastly girl and I was determined not to make the same mistake again. I mean, she was good looking with lots of blonde tresses and all the right fixings but the thought of coming down to breakfast with a bad head and her putting her hands over my eyes and saying "Guess who?" in her sippy little girl voice gave me the shudders. In desperation I turned to Jeeves.

"How do I get out of this one, Jeeves?"

"May I suggest a prior engagement, sir? The North Gloucestershire Orienteering Club's inaugural event of the winter season takes place on the same afternoon and all members are encouraged to turn out to get the season off to a good start."

"As much as I enjoyed our little outing to Totleigh Towers, Jeeves, I don't think I'm really cut out for o."

"If I may be permitted to point out, sir, the format of this event, the Chairman's Challenge, is a score event. That is to say, each competitor has one hour to visit as many controls as possible, in any order. The format is ideally suited for inexperienced orienteers in that they can choose only easy controls to visit and, if one control is unable to be located, all is not lost, as is the case in normal line orienteering. The Chairman's Challenge is also a social occasion as there is a post-event barbecue in the woods with a goodly selection of fresh, home-baked cakes as well as hot-dogs. I expect there to be wine available as well, even if not comparable in vintage to that available at the Drones Club."

“Nosebags as well, eh! Sounds good enough for Bertram Wilberforce Wooster. And I can just toddle round and dib any controls that I happen to stumble across?”

“Precisely so, sir.”

“But what if Miss Bassett calls my bluff?”

“The part of the Forest of Dean being used on Saturday, sir, has some sections of mud and brambles that are notorious in orienteering circles. Some judicious route choices that cross these areas may serve to persuade Miss Bassett that, perhaps after all, orienteering may not be for her. Many young ladies who have had a trying experience with mud and brambles are heard, at the conclusion of an event, to utter the immortal words, first coined by the late William Shakespeare, ‘I’m never going orienteering again!’ And this may go some way to explain why orienteering is often described as a minority sport.”

“Jeeves, you’re a wizard!”

“You’re too kind, sir. Would you like me to telephone as I took the original call?”

“Definitely, Jeeves, thank you.”

I was just finishing my second cup of tea when Jeeves materialised at my side.

“I spoke to Miss Bassett, sir, and initially she seemed very disappointed but then brightened up and asked if she could come orienteering as well. She said that she had heard all about your exploits at Totleigh Towers and that she thought you were very clever and just the person to introduce her to orienteering. I attempted to dissuade her by a description of the mud and brambles but she merely laughed and said she would have nothing to fear if you were accompanying her.”

“Oh, well, Jeeves, you laid it on really thick and still she wants to join in? We’ll just have to put the second part of the plan into operation.”

I was hoping that the weather would be bad and put Madeline off without the help of the m. and b. but it turned out a fine, sunny day. Jeeves came along as well, a Jeeves that I had never seen before. Instead of his usual gentleman’s gentleman attire he sported a natty “O” top and a baseball cap. In addition he had what I took to be his Christian name embroidered on the “O” top, the said top being coloured green, white and violet.

“These are the club colours sir, the same as the suffragettes. G – W – V: Give Women the Vote. But the lady who designed the suit and chose the colours assured me that any similarity is purely coincidental.”

“I say, Jeeves, do you actually run at these shindigs?”

“Oh, no, sir, the attraction is merely the cerebral portion of the sport. I identify on the map what I consider to be the best route and then attempt to follow it on the ground. What other orienteers are doing does not concern me. Likewise, if the weather is inclement I am more likely to spend a Saturday afternoon in a quiet corner of the Junior Ganymede Club with an improving book.”

We arrived at Registration in plenty of time. Jeeves guided us through the formalities easily enough and then introduced us to some of the big cheeses in the club, whom he described in hushed tones as “The Committee”. These were loafing around near Registration. One I recognised straight away: “What ho, Mr. B.” and “Hallo, hallo, hallo!” to the rest. One of these was the Membership Sec and Jeeves made sure that I handed some cash over to him after filling in a bally form; the next chappie was a rum sort of cove, all beard and glasses. I thought he said that he was an NGOC legend but it turned out that he was the editor of Legend, the NGOC newsletter. Anyway he tried to get another load of dosh out of me by producing a board game that he claimed to have invented himself and would make me an expert at various map and control symbols and everything else to do with orienteering. He was backed up by Jeeves who said that he often played “Forest Challenge” by himself before retiring at night but I got out of it because at that moment we were called to the start.

The Chairman made a decent speech and I think I understood most of the instructions. I had given my dibber to Madeline and, at the off, she queued up to dib but instead of just dibbing and getting out of the way for the next person she dibbed several times: “Oh, look Bertie, what a pretty little red light and what a lovely beeping sound it makes. I’m going to do it again.” I got her away at last and we collected a map. There were people running off in all directions so we followed the biggest group and found several controls this way.

Madeline was enjoying herself immensely and drawing attention by squealing with delight every time she dibbed. At last the crowds thinned out and we suddenly found ourselves alone among the trees and I recollected that I was supposed to be putting her off orienteering. There were no controls in sight and I had no idea where we were but there was a large patch of brambles so I charged straight into it, telling the Bassett to follow me. I was stuck chest-high in brambles and had already lost several pints of blood when Madeline appeared in front of me.

“I found a way round, Bertie, it’s much easier than going straight through. Although I do appreciate your chivalry in trying to flatten the brambles for me.”

Just at this juncture Jeeves appeared.

“Are you in need of any assistance, sir?”

“Oh, er, no thank you, Jeeves, just showing Miss Bassett how to trample down brambles.”

“Very good, sir.”

And he toddled on.

“Bertie.”

“Yes?”

“The big hand on my watch is pointing to the number eleven; I think that means we have only five minutes to get back!”

Luckily, Jeeves was still in sight so we hurried after him and didn’t lose any points for being late. Mr. B was helping with the download.

“How did you get on?”

“It was ever such fun, especially when Bertie got stuck in the brambles. And then he slipped over in the mud. Oh, what a pretty little print out, do you think I should get it framed?”

Jeeves hove into view, without a scratch or splash of mud, and conducted us to the barbecue area where I had to put my hand into my pocket once again. Jeeves introduced me to some more of “The Committee” while we were browsing and sluicing. I looked round and there was the bearded wonder, still clutching that dashed board game and trying to catch my eye. It was time to toodle pip and pop off.

I think we were all a bit tired on the way back as conversation lagged until Madeline said:

“I really enjoyed, that, Bertie, what a wonderful afternoon. When’s the next event?”

I turned despairingly to Jeeves.

“There is one next Saturday, Miss, but I fear it is a night event and a powerful torch will be needed and, as can be appreciated, it is much more difficult to locate the controls in the dark.”

“Oh, I’m not worried about finding the silly old controls, I’m just thinking how romantic it will be, out in the forest in the dark, with all the stars glittering above us. Do you know, Bertie, I think of the stars as God’s daisy chain. Do say you’ll take me!”

Caption Competition - answers



“Road crossings can be dangerous” [extract from Organiser’s Handbook] (*Neil Cameron*)

The Chairman's Challenge really did have a challenge this year (*Carol Stewart*)

“I don't care if it's friendly or not - YOU tell it to move!” (*Carol Stewart*)

The new NGOC protective O-suit for the Delves (with bramble-bashing tailpiece). (*Carol Stewart*)



WHITE ROSE EVENT, 24-27 AUGUST 2012

Our annual (since 2000) trip to the EBOR White Rose weekend, held as always on the southern edge of the North York Moors, started at 5.30am on August Bank Holiday Saturday. We picked up Samuel in Cheltenham and, by avoiding York on minor roads, had a good traffic-free journey, arriving at the event in Wykeham Forest (the same area as 2006) soon after 10.30am. The wet weather meant that the car slithered through a (shallow) sea of mud to get into the camping field, but luckily the ground was hard beneath the very slippery surface, so nobody seemed to be getting stuck. Joe arrived separately from Barnsley, just a couple of minutes after us. We were early enough to choose a good camping spot and get the outer of our (large) tent erected, before having to walk to our starts. **Tip:** when choosing a pitch it's important to balance a good view, with a position not too close to the youth camp (noise till late) but reasonably close to the toilets (not too close, unless you don't mind being disturbed by repeated banging of doors during the night!)

The 2006 map had been predominantly dark green and huge nursery fields of tiny trees only a few inches high which were out of bounds. Then, only the scarp slope was reasonably open, but rough and steep! This year some of the former green areas were a little more runnable and by having a 2km walk to the start (and a similar walk back from the finish) the planner managed to get us into a more runnable area, without excessive climb, but still quite physical. The first control was slightly odd, as the obvious route was down a steep tarmac surfaced path, where I felt I was likely to slip in my metal studded shoes, so had to tread gingerly! I chose sensible routes (avoiding most green) and hit the first few controls OK, until I joined a bunch of lost souls milling about on the approach to control 8 and wasted several minutes. Then, according to the map, my approach to control 10 should have joined an indistinct path, but as I had a late start there seemed to be a myriad of elephant tracks in all directions through head-high bracken, with no indication which (if any) was the mapped path. Another couple of minutes lost there, but then a fairly reasonable run on to control 23 and the finish. The rain had held off, but there was a sudden downpour just after I finished, so I was soaked during the long walk back to download. I was glad that we could then erect the inner tent in relatively dry conditions. Checking the results I was pleased to see I was a little ahead of Dave Hartley, my only NGOC rival on M60L.

On Sunday the walk to the start was shorter than expected, so I had some time to chat to Stephen and Shirley Robinson at the start. My run seemed to go well, better than the day before, until at control 23 I thought "only two more controls to go, I'll be finished soon, quite a good run." **Tip:** never think that! Somehow I made a parallel error, running along a vegetation boundary 60m south of where I should have been. By the time I realised, relocated and then

went back to the control I had lost about 7 minutes. What did I do then, calmly look at my map and choose a sensible route to the final control? Of course not! I rushed off in the general direction in which I thought the final control lay, only to discover a bit later that I was completely wrong. **Tip:** to quote the popular adage, if you have just made a mistake, keep calm and carry on. When I checked the results this time, Dave was clearly ahead of me.

After our runs the Tauntons headed into at Pickering to pick up some supplies at the Co-op. Whilst we were in Pickering we went to Hall Garth, by the church, to check whether the view which forms the coloured frontispiece of "The Evolution of an English Town" by Gordon Home, published in 1905, is still the same – surprisingly it is! As this year's event was all in the forest, rather than on the moor, we then decided to go for a drive past the North York Moors Railway station and up onto the open moors, where we had a (short) walk along the "Roman Road". Then as it was getting dark we took fish and chips back to the campsite and ate them accompanied by red wine from large plastic mugs (another annual tradition).



A close thing - Team "NGOC Sue's Boys" finishing 3 seconds ahead of Team "WinniNG O Club".

We missed the prize giving on Sunday evening but when we saw the overall results on Monday found that Joe, after a 3rd and a 4th place had somehow ended up 2nd on M21L. Andrew Hartley was in the prizes too, with 1st place in the quiz, on 52 points out of 53. Both Stephen Robinson and James Hartley just missed out on podium places, with 4th place in M50S and M21S respectively. I was pleased to see that I ended up one place ahead of Dave (but well outside the prizes). Surprisingly, Mapp appeared in the published

results for the Labyrinth, as the fastest (only?) dog on Course C, with a little help from Samuel (doing the dibbing).



Team "WinniNG O Club" living up to their name, first on the A course in M120+ class

Monday was the team score event, with both "NGOC Sue's Boys" (the Hartleys) and "winniNG O Club" (Ros, Joe and me) competing on Course A, though we were in "M120+" class and the Hartleys were in the "Open" running against all the best teams. Oddly Dave and I collected exactly the same controls, in the same order, although not by exactly the same route. We did see each other quite a few times though. We were very close at the penultimate control, and the hour allowed was just about up, but once again I made a mistake and took the wrong ride. It seems that Dave made a similar mistake, so he beat me in to the finish by only 3 seconds. We were almost 7 minutes late and thought we would be well down the field but, as the planner said in his comments afterwards "The route around the compulsory controls was perhaps a little too long for some of you" so most teams were late back. Sue's Boys just missed out on the mugs with a 4th place in "Open", but we were lucky enough to scrape into first place on 120+.

The White Rose is always good fun, so we hope to be there again in 2013. Why not try it? Only eleven NGOC runners made it this year (those mentioned above, plus Chris James and Richard Andrews). Why not try it next year?

Paul Taunton

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Location	Signposted / Forest Entry	Organiser
3 Nov Sat	League 2	Trellech Common	SO500055 SO517060	Peter Ward 01600 860597
10 Nov Sat	Informal	Hartpury College	SO797232	Greg Best 01242 516053
8 Dec Sat	League 3	Knockalls	SO560119	Kyla da Cunha 07771 573267
15 Dec Sat	Western Night League	Mallards Pike North	SO649126	Tom Mills 01452 760451
2013 1 Jan Tue	New Year's Day Score Mass start at 1100	Parkend	SO608078 SO591082	Gary Wakerley 07919 095436
5 Jan Sat	Western Night League	Standish	SO838085	John Fallows 01684 290256
19 Jan Sat	League 4	Painswick	SO870117	Alan Richards 01249 713542
2 Feb	Informal	Crickley Hill	SO935163	Simon Denman 01452 863833

Enquiries to Organiser or Fixtures Secretary – John Coleman 01594 582151

For latest details check the NGOC website at www.ngoc.org.uk

NGOC Registration and start times

Informal Events: Start times 1230-1400.
Yellow / light green / blue courses

League Events: Registration 1130-1230 Starts from 1200-1300
Yellow / orange / green / blue courses

Night Events Registration from 1800 – or when it's dark!
See www.westernnightleague.org.uk

Brashings

Help spread the word about orienteering!

Do you know anywhere to display a glossy A4 poster that promotes the sport of orienteering? School, workplace, shop, library etc? Tom Mills has 85 high quality posters - contact him at t.mills01@btinternet.com if you can help. Tell Tom how many posters you want and he will post them to you. Thanks!

Chris Morris - new book

Chris Morris, NGOC member and one-time Legend Editor, has brought out a new book: "**CANAL PIONEERS** from Brindley to Telford and beyond". 168 pages, softback, 240x168mm, £13-99. '*...simply stunning photography...*' Canals, Rivers + Boats magazine. Available direct from Tanners Yard Press, see <http://www.tannersyardpress.co.uk/>

NGOC new kit goes down well down under

Maggie Jones, NGOC's representative in Australia, writes: "*Hope all's well with you - by the way we love our new NGOC tops - really great design which has been commented on by lots of Aussies.*"

Chris James appointed Chair of Events & Competitions Committee

The Board of British Orienteering have appointed NGOC's Chris James to head the E&CC. Chris has been involved in orienteering for many years and brings very extensive experience of chairing committees both inside and outside the sport, the former including previous periods as Chair of the British Orienteering Federation and of the IOF Development Committee.

New form of street "O" in Denmark

The courses are called "Find vej i..." - "Find the way" and consist of a street map with control points marked. Alongside the map are mini pictures of the control locations. The challenge is to match the photos with the control numbers. They are in effect permanent courses open to the public and an interesting way of attracting the public that is being followed throughout Denmark.

Go to Silkeborg Orienteeringsklub at <http://silkeborg-ok.dk>

Then look for the Find vej i... part. There is an immediate translation into English available at a click. Something worth thinking about in Cheltenham, Gloucester etc?

Chris James

Have your say!

Are there any matters that you would like the Committee to consider? Contact the Club Secretary, Caroline Craig, or any member of the Committee. The next Committee meeting is on Monday 26 November at 1930.

Articles for Legend

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

Disclaimer

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