

The Legend

Number 189



Newsletter of
North Gloucestershire Orienteering Club
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www.ngoc.org.uk

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Cover: Pine martens have been reintroduced into the Forest of Dean at "a secret location". Who will be the first NGOC member to spot one? See inside for more . . .

Chairman's Chat

Have you ever considered whether there are other factors that have influenced that particularly duff run that you have just experienced? Well during the North Africa campaign a casual, almost philosophical conversation was struck up between an LRDG officer and his lance corporal as they travelled the desert on their way to a target. The officer posed the question, "Do you think that navigation is an art or a science?" to which the reply was "I think it is the art of getting lost scientifically". So that has cleared that up, if you wondered what went wrong.

Over the past few months the club has put on a whole variety of events from map runs and urban league events to our standard forest runs. It is fair to say however that the latter has suffered to a large extent by the restrictions placed on us by the Forestry Commission. We have also had the very family orientated Maize Maze with the accompanying barbeque which I have to say was a pretty super supper. I am not sure if everyone appreciated that apart from the BBQ itself there was a choice of delicious puddings and tea and coffee included. Perhaps the wine and beer prizes distracted many.

For a good number of club members the highlight of the recent past has been the Scottish 6 Days. Terrific terrain and for those of who took up the opportunity to stay in the accommodation sorted by Pat Macleod it was also pretty luxurious. For anyone who might be organising a large reunion or family party Glenfarg House was outstanding, well done Pat.

For those that missed it I must comment on the Senior Home Internationals held on the Gower and put on by SBOC. Brilliant! Two super areas of which I was only able to compete in one due to a damaged Achilles but none the less was able to get a great view of Day 2.



The Gower

On the home front two areas have now been looked at with a view to summer forest events - these being Soudley Ponds and Lydney Park. The good news is that both would be suitable but obviously there are some plantations that the planner will need to avoid. To give this some context, about a 15% to 20% reduction in accessible space. Lydney Park also offers the advantage of several parking options without Forestry Commission restrictions as well as a very large area which could be split for different events.

Looking forward we have the club's AGM at 7.30 on Monday 4 November at Quedgeley community centre and I would encourage all members to try and attend. Finally we have the 50th anniversary multi-day events coming up in January. A great orienteering weekend to be held on the updated Lightning Tree Hill map. Apart from enjoying these events in celebration of the club's long history please help the event organiser to make this a

success by volunteering to do some small task at some stage over the weekend. Kevin Brooker, our Volunteer Coordinator, will be very grateful if you can contact him.

ngocvolunteer@gmail.com

That is it for now,

Tom



Lydney Park

2020 Fixtures with 8 new venues to look forward to!!

As the nights draw in and we move into autumn, it's a good time for us to look forward to what's in store for next year, 2020. Well actually, it will be quite an exciting year for us with an impressive EIGHT new (or resurrected) areas being used for the first time. I feel sure this must be some kind of record? This means that our club mappers have been (and still are) hard at work.

The fixture list will be busy, as usual. It will include the usual 12 league events, which will be spaced at roughly one per month. In addition to 8 "normal" events, the league will also include two middle distance races and two urban races. There will also be the usual 3 Western Night League events, the usual New Years Day score event and our South West League event (formerly known as the galoppen). In addition to these, we will also offer several other important or novel events. First up, will be a double-header of National events on one January weekend to celebrate the club's 50th birthday. In March, we will be hosting the region's Compass Sport Cup qualifier. In June, I think for the first time, we will be putting on a relay competition that will form part of South West Summer Relay Series. In July, we have been given permission to hold the SW Sprint Championships at a prestigious venue. Finally, in August, the Chairman's Challenge will include a social event to continue our celebration of 50 years of NGOC. Of course, we will also be holding the winter and summer evening mid-week Maprun series and finally some summer informal urban events (probably moved to Saturdays next year). All told, expect NGOC to put on about 45 events next year!!

So, where are these exciting new areas, I hear you ask...

Soudley Ponds is an old area of ours that has laid dormant for quite a number of years. This has now been professionally re-

mapped by Nick Nourse of NWO and will be first used at this year's final league event in December and probably again next year (possibly for the Chairman's Challenge).

Lightning Tree Hill is another extensive old area of ours that has not been used for many years. Pat Macleod has been very busy making a brand new map and the area will be used for the Birthday weekend in January and then again for a middle distance league event later in the year.

I am myself busy extending the Cranham map up as far as the Barrow Wake viewpoint near Birdlip. A league event in April will cover Barrow Wake, an area of woodland called The Peak and Witcombe Woods, none of which we have used before. This area includes a lot of interesting contour detail from old quarry workings and some pretty steep hills!



The view from Barrow Wake

Both of the league urban events will be on new areas. The first of the year will be in Stroud town centre and Steve Lee has been busy making the map and planning that event. The second one will be in Cheltenham town centre and I will be working on that map.

The SW Relay Series event will be on Selsley Common near Stroud, another new place for us. This is a relatively small area,

but a perfect size for a relay. Tom Cochrane is working on the map.



Humps and hollows on Selsley Common

The SW Sprint Champs (and hopefully UKUL) will be held at Cheltenham's prestigious racecourse. For our Day at the Races, we have been given permission to use the course and its interesting multi-levelled buildings for a period of 5 hours. Tom Cochrane is doing some sterling work with the map in order to depict 4 levels in 2 dimensions. As the club's resident sprint specialist, Tom will also plan the event.

The final league event of 2020 will be at Symonds Yat. To enable this, our existing Highmeadow/Headless Hill map will be extended up as far as the Symonds Yat public car park and this is to be done professionally, probably by Nick Nourse.

Another novelty next year will be to trial using a couple of Forest of Dean areas in the summer time. With the Forestry Commission increasingly restricting the periods when we're allowed to use the Forest, we feel it makes sense to identify areas that are usable in the summer months.



Will we get this many spectators for the SW Sprint Champs?

Of course, this extensive schedule of events can only happen if we have enough volunteers to plan and organise them. Please let me know if you are interested or would like to understand more about what's involved.

Greg Best

Fixtures Secretary
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CAPTION COMPETITION - ANSWERS



Two views of the orienteering-style floor in the Great Hall at the National Trust's Buckland Abbey in Devon, near Plymouth.

Greg Best came up with:

"O-Mazing mosaic"

"A stack of white chocolate and milk chocolate Toblerones"

CAPTION COMPETITION - OCTOBER



Paul Taunton snapped these Segways at Mallards Pike and suggests: *"Some competitors on the White course seemed to be cheating"*. Send your caption suggestion to:

legend@ngoc.org.uk

Tell people where you are in three words - anywhere in the world

If you are lost or injured in a remote spot - or anywhere else for that matter - and you want to be rescued how do you let people know where you are? Using the app *what3words* you can narrow your location down to a 3m x 3m square anywhere on the globe.

The brainchild of Chris Sheldrick he collaborated with a mathematician to divide the whole world into 57 trillion squares. With a vocabulary of 40,000 words there were enough combinations to label all the squares using three words for each.

Check on the website and type in your own address and it will give you the three-word square of your property. Now, unless you live in a very small property indeed your house and garden will occupy more than one square so which of several squares does the programme choose? The one containing the main entrance, very useful to the fire brigade or police or ambulance service if they are coming to save you. If you are trapped in the garden shed you can specify the shed door.

Applications to orienteering?

Could be useful if you are hopelessly lost and want to get to the Finish before a search party sets out. The app shows your location on an aerial photograph or map but I think using the app to "relocate" and then continuing on your course might be frowned upon.

Some interesting uses for so far

The postal service in Mongolia uses *what3words*

Lonely Planet's guide for Mongolia gives three-word addresses for its points of interest

Mercedes Benz includes *what3words* in its cars

To find out more

Article of 15 August 2019 on BBC website:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-49319760>

What3words website:

<https://what3words.com/>

Wikipedia entry:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/What3words>

In the July Legend Mr Wooster told of how he got stuck in the mud at Greenham Common; his experience reminded Neil Cameron of an even worse ordeal when simply out for a walk . . .

Quickmud

My wife and I were walking near St Clears in South Wales. There was a wet and muddy area ahead of us and she went to the right but then said "don't come this way".

It looked better to me going that way, but nevertheless I went round to the left and quickly my feet began to sink into very glutinous mud. I tried a few more steps but quickly reached the point that the mud was up almost to my knees and I couldn't move my feet at all.

Try as I might I could not even free one of my feet. I delved down into the mud with my bare hands and scraped the mud away to try to free one foot but that was unsuccessful.

Pat had seen a farmer nearby so she went to get help from him. He came and approached to see if he could pull me out, but he was in danger of getting stuck as well.

He then went to get some colleagues who in a few minutes returned with a tractor and a front attachment on it like a forklift truck that they used to move hay bales.

They were able to manoeuvre it close to me and with someone balancing on one of the forks I was able to use him as support to get one foot out and then the other and sit on the other fork. We then drove 10 metres to drier ground. I was more than a little dirty and bedraggled!

I wish I had known about the method you referred to of lying flat in order to get out, although having experienced this, I'm not convinced it would have worked!

Neil Cameron

Pine martens in the Forest of Dean

Eighteen pine martens were captured in woodland near Inverness in August and have been released in the Forest of Dean. It is hoped that they will help to control the population of grey squirrels which damage the trees in the ancient woodland. The new pine martens will hopefully spread and come into contact and breed with a population reintroduced in South Wales in 2015.

Paul Taunton & Ros came across this structure some time back and wondered what it was for. It now has warning signs about disturbing pine martens and says there is CCTV.



Codeword puzzle no. 4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
							Y				W	

14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
							M			

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

NGOC's latest orienteering challenge. You may already have seen this type of puzzle in newspapers and the Radio Times. The idea is to fill in each square with one letter; the number already printed in the square always represents the same letter.

The words on the grid are either areas where the Army holds events or words associated with orienteering club. You may wish to consult the British Army Orienteering Club site:

<http://www.baoc.info/>

Once you think you have identified a letter (say 26 stands for E) write in E in each box on the grid with the number 26, cross off E in the A-Z bar above and write E next to 26 in the box above that. This helps you keep track of how far you have got.

To start you off you have been given three letters, **M**, **W**, and **Y**; these have been added to the grid. The letters **J**, **Q**, **X** and **Z** have not been used.

The answer is at the end of the newsletter in *Brashings*

M	Y	24	13	15	26	24	24			20	24	23	26	22	M
				2					1						10
16	23	10	17	14	26				22		3	9	2	1	1
23				M					3						10
22	20	15	20	2	11	24	15		26		13				24
M				2							22				22
20		19	2	23	26	20	24	2	19	17	26	22	9		23
15							2				23				Y
2		16					W				W				1
24		22		1	22	3	26			17	26	26	25		26
24		23					23				9				22
	13	2	25	20	26				17	10	24	13	15		14
22		20													11
1		20	25	26	13	10	22	1	19	26	22	24	11	23	26
16		22			22				2				25		20
26					7				17				22		2
23					26				17				7		11
M	22	23	20	15		24	23	26	26				2		24
22		2							23				9		15
23		22		13	22	24	24	26	23	10	13	3		2	
1		17							22		15			7	
26							25		13		10			26	
16		25	Y	26	20	24	2	13	3		13			23	
22		1			22		W				3			14	
23		26			9		26			20	25	11	23		
23		20			17		23	10	16		22			2	
22		20			Y		1				9			W	
13		26				25	10	24			17			9	
3	26	Y					9				20				
20				23	11	10	9	26	17			W	26	1	1

A different type of “map” for orienteering?

Have you ever been to somewhere like a stately home with extensive grounds and been handed, to help you find your way around, an oblique aerial view of the property? Could any of these be used or adapted for a novelty orienteering course either in addition to, or for e.g. the Chairman’s Challenge or New Year’s Day event? Are any of the “maps” accurate enough? Do they give enough detail?

Control descriptions

Written descriptions rather than pictorial descriptions would presumably be better as the latter would not properly correspond with the more “general” nature of the “map”.

Overall

Apart from the novelty and fun value, the less well-defined nature of the control points might give the navigationally-challenged more of a chance to beat the good orienteers.

Aerial photographs

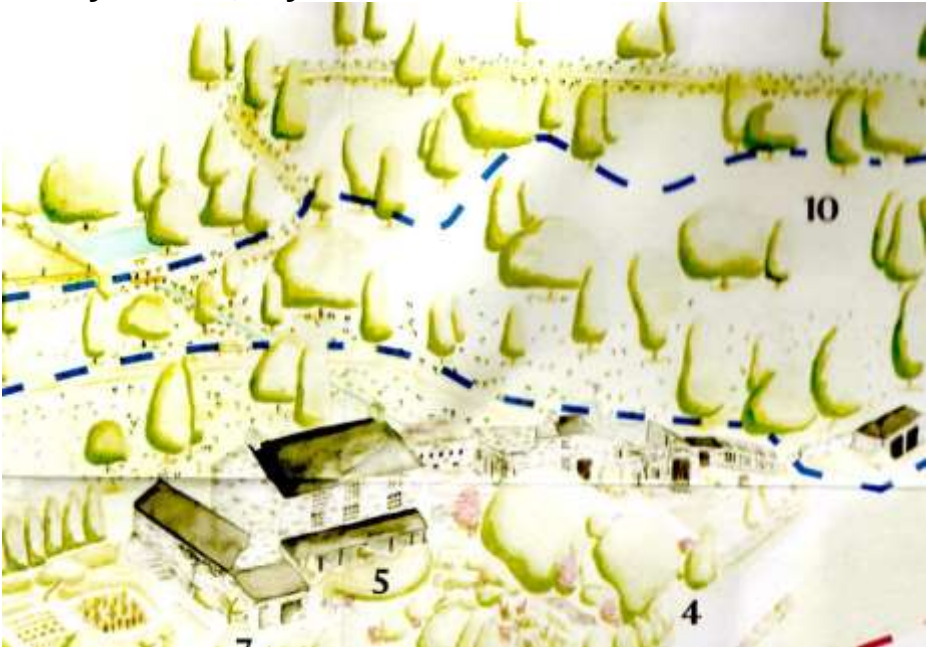
Could these be used as well/instead of? Maybe photographs taken in the winter, when the leaves are down, would give enough detail.

What do Legend readers think? Has any reader used a “map” like this in a competition? Please let us have your thoughts.
Email to:

legend@ngoc.org.uk

Here is a selection from National Trust properties with observations on each “map”.

Plas yn Rhiw, Llyn Peninsula, Wales



Although the “map” may look attractive it is difficult to make out the form of the buildings, there is not enough detail and (from personal inspection) the paths and other features are not correct; the scale is also suspect.

Antony, Torpoint, Cornwall



Blue and white map from 2010. If the representation of individual trees is accurate we would have a large number of potential controls. The blue circles represent the usual features: 6 = entrance to house, 9 = terraces etc. The orange circles show exhibits left over from the making of the film Alice: A = caterpillar, B = Mad Hatter's Tea Party marquee etc.

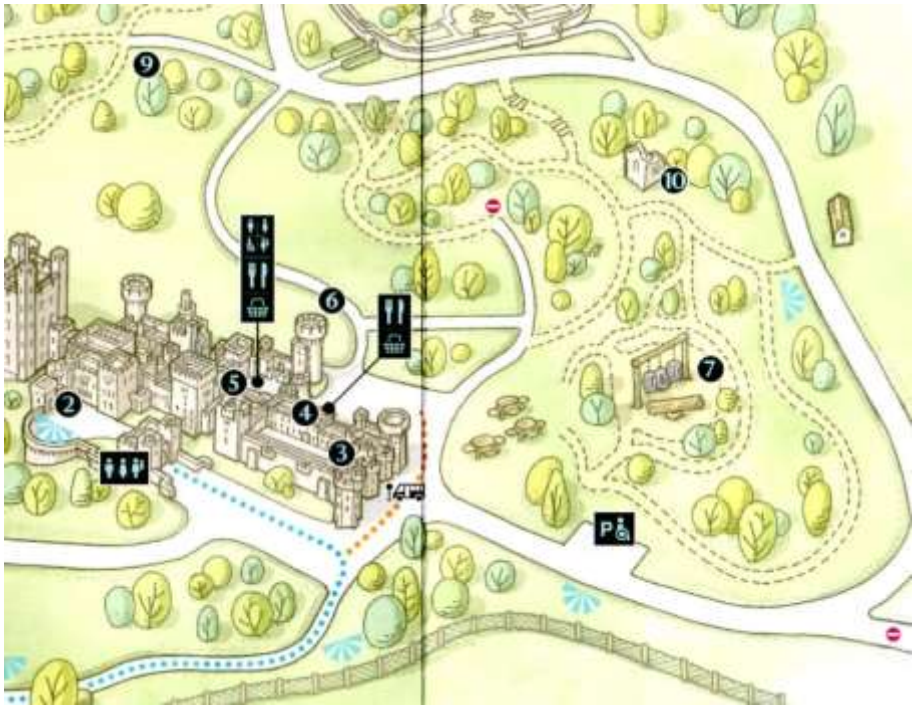
Anglesey Abbey, Cambridgeshire



The Anglesey Abbey map looks detailed enough and accurate enough. Key to some features:

- 20 = Mediaeval Fishponds
- 26 = Cross Avenue
- D = Storytelling outdoor room
- E = Discovery cabin
- F = Log wall

Penrhyn Castle, Bangor, Gwynedd



Key:

- 7 = Adventure playground
- 9 = The Dell
- 10 = Chapel ruin

Could do with a bit more detail.

Basildon Park, Berkshire



2009 version (above) skewed to make it easier to compare to the 2017 map (opposite).



Tyntesfield, North Somerset

A good area to compare an artist's view with the actual orienteering map; many NGOC members will be familiar with this BOK area.



Scottish 6 Days

Tom has written in his Chairman's Chat about the luxurious accommodation that some NGOC and BOK members stayed in:



Glenfarg House

Over page: (top) NGOC/BOK night out and (bottom) chilling out



Brashings

Codeword answer

Across (from top left): Mytchett, stream, bridge, knoll, Ash South, Forest of Dean, lake, deep, copse, ditch, special feature, marsh, tree, Catterick, Pyestock, spur, rib, pit, key, ruined, well.

Down (from top left): Hogmoor, Military League South, lake, Bramshott, Caerwent, tower, Barossa, Albermarle Barracks, cave, fodder rack, Upavon, road, Chicksands, overgrown, powerline, Plessey, sandy,

AGM

Monday 4 November at Quedgeley Community Centre - Hall 1
Refreshments at 1930

AGM at 2000

The Community Centre is at 15-17 School Lane, Gloucester GL2 4PJ (note that it's different from last year's AGM which was at the nearby Village Hall).

British Orienteering incentive scheme Awards

Congratulations to the following members who have been awarded incentive scheme certificates for their performances at orienteering events. Special congratulations to Reuben Lawson for achieving three awards!

Seth Lawson	Racing Challenge: Gold Award ***
Jess Miklausic	Racing Challenge: Bronze Award ***
Reuben Lawson	Racing Challenge: Silver Award ***** Racing Challenge: Bronze Award ***** Navigation Challenge *****
Hal Young	Racing Challenge: Bronze Award ***** Navigation Challenge *****
Ian Phillips	Racing Challenge: Silver Award *****
Alex Evans	Racing Challenge: Gold Award ***** Racing Challenge: Silver Award *****

Have your say!

Are there any matters that you would like the Committee to consider? Contact the Club Secretary, Kim Liggett, or any member of the Committee.

Articles for Legend

We are always looking for articles and photographs on anything to do with orienteering. Send your article/pictures to legend@ngoc.org.uk. 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.

