



MDOC NEWS

Newsletter of Manchester and District Orienteering Club

APRIL 2011



Twin Peak
Life in the Leagues
People power
Night events
40 years of orienteering
No frills
Event reports

NEWS

Steve Fellbaum

1. North West Junior squad Training weekend

We helped to host and organise the junior squad training (30+ juniors) in January. The activities included transportation, planning training exercises, delivering training, putting out and collecting controls, organising overnight accommodation and cooking the evening meal. This was not a minor undertaking and I would like to thank all those involved in helping to make this event such a success.

2. Club Evening/Participation

Just a reminder that MDOC are running the club evenings (specifically beginners but also for those who want to improve skills). This is a regular evening "session" held at Hazel Grove Target Recreation Centre every Monday. The sessions will be held between 6.30 and 8 pm and will be run by a qualified orienteering coach. A small charge will be made to cover costs, adults £2.50, children £1.50 and families £5. You are most welcome to attend either as a participant or helper.

3. Spring series

The Spring Series kicked off at Wythenshawe Park. Further events have followed at Werneth Low and Bruntwood Park. Thanks to everyone involved with these events.

4. Twin Peak

I would like to record my thanks and appreciation to all concerned regarding this event. I know we had a number of logistical issues (car parking in particular) however the MDOC members all rallied to the cause and ensured that we provided an excellent event for over 600 competitors on both days. Special thanks must go to the core members of the organising team, planners, controllers etc.

The final event in the Spring Series will be at Bramhall Park on Saturday 2 April. Our annual Lyme Park introductory events will be on 5th, 10th and 19th May.

Our next major event will be the Macclesfield Town and Country weekend on 11 & 12 June. The runnable northern part of Macclesfield Forest with its areas of detailed contours will be used for a Middle Distance event on the Saturday, and Tom Fellbaum has already completed two new maps for the Sunday Urban event in Macclesfield.

The mileage rate that can be claimed for MDOC activities is now 30p per mile.

**GMOA Annual General Meeting
26 May 2011 7.00 for 7.30 Dialstone Centre**

All MDOC members are welcome.

Come along and hear what GMOA has been doing in the last year.

We now have over 50 Permanent Orienteering Courses in Greater Manchester.

Cover photo: Julie Brook running on the lakeside path at Torver Back Common

TWIN PEAK 2011

Margaret & Andrew Gregory

Between us we had planned and organized on Torver Back Common a number of times before and knew what a good area both it and neighbouring Bleathwaite were for orienteering. So we agreed to accept the challenge of organizing this year's Twin Peak weekend.

In 1984 Julian Birkinshaw had made very good detailed maps of both areas, and for Torver Back Common only minor updating was required. As Bleathwaite had not been used for many years, Martin Bagness was asked to undertake a resurvey. Torver Back Common is only just large enough for a regional (level B) event, and the longest courses need a second map. Bleathwaite is a smaller area, previously used for training events and, in 1995, combined in a Badge event with Torver with a long path run to connect the two areas. Bleathwaite is however quite suitable for a Middle Distance event, and the idea was suggested of a Twin Peak weekend using both areas.

As Bleathwaite has almost no paths, and a very steep climb through the wood up to the pastures above, it was not really suitable for White, Yellow and Orange courses. We therefore decided to run these courses on Torver on the Saturday, trying to make the courses as different as possible from those on Sunday.

We followed the BOF guidelines for courses for both Long Distance and Middle Distance events, but this led to the complication that a much smaller set of courses is recommended for Middle Distance events. Many competitors were thus running different colour courses on the two days, which makes it difficult to combine the results from the two days. We initially assumed that the entry would be significantly smaller for the Middle Distance event on the Saturday. However when it was decided to incorporate Bleathwaite into the national UK Masters' Cup competition, we suddenly had a marked increase in entries. We tried to cope with this by extending the range of start times but even so Blue, the most popular course, was almost completely full by the day of the event. In response to requests we did introduce a Short Green course at Bleathwaite, and in future for a popular Middle Distance event we would suggest planning the full set of courses as for a Long Distance event.

The Priestley Centre owned by the University of Birmingham provided a superb base, with bedrooms, toilets, showers, kitchens, table tennis and lots of room to organize equipment. Mains electricity and a sheltered area for Registration and Enquiries were invaluable, and being able to accommodate so many helpers on site made organization so much easier.

BOF has recently organized the first of a series of training days for organizers particularly concerned with safety. This came too late for us, but we did have to consider a number of safety issues. The Lake District in February can be very cold, with a strong risk of snow and a very real possibility of cancellation. Clearly whistles should be carried and there was a strong likelihood of cagoules being compulsory. With the Coniston webcam we could keep an eye on the local weather conditions. A manned road crossing to Bleathwaite on Saturday was important, as the traffic moves quite fast

along that road. The section of road with the best visibility was selected, and signs were placed to warn motorists from both directions.

St John Ambulance are now very well equipped at events, with a Land Rover and trailer, defibrillator, wheelchair, oxygen and other useful equipment. We felt it was essential to ask them to attend, and the Ulverston branch turned up in full force on both days. On Saturday, when they were placed near Bleathwaite, they complained they had very little to do, although I assured them that the planner had done his best to send people across sharp crags and slippery slopes! However on Sunday they had did have one recovery to make, taking their Land Rover along the lakeside track to collect a competitor with a badly sprained ankle.

Parking was a worry, particularly after the heavy rain on Saturday night, and we trusted that the ground drained well. Peter Lomas and his parking team coped very well, and the sun and wind on Sunday helped to dry the ground enough to get everyone both on and off.

We also had to look at the various stages of event organisation: registration, route to the start, start, finish, download, results display, etc. and try to have the right procedures in place and a team of helpers large enough to carry them out.

We were very grateful to both controllers, Andy Quickfall on Saturday and John Bettinson on Sunday, for their very friendly approach and helpful advice. In particular, John Bettinson was very helpful in constructing the stile between Finish and Download on Sunday, so competitors did not have to go back through the Start, or have a much longer walk back.

An interesting open area near Registration was ideal for the String course, with different courses on each day. Matthew Fellbaum co-ordinated this, with help from his family and other juniors.

In the event everything just about worked, though there were some points that were a bit tricky or slightly understaffed. That things did work so well was due to the hard work, flexibility and understanding of the whole MDOC team of helpers.

Thank you everybody!

World Ski-O Championships

This year sees the return of GB to the World Ski Orienteering Championships after an absence of 13 years. The event runs from the 22nd to 27th March in Tänndalen, Sweden.

The British team will have representatives in all three individual disciplines, as well as the Men and Women's Relays and the new Mixed Sprint Relay. The GB squad is Emmitt Andrews, Nick Barable, Richard Barrett, Donald McCarthy, Sarah Hale, Rebecca Hoare, Helen Palmer. The events they will compete in are: Sprint (March 22nd), Middle (March 23rd), Mixed Relay (March 24th), Long Mass Start (March 26th), Relay (March 27th).

You can follow their progress on the event website: www.skiwoc2011.com

John Kewley MDOC

Team Manager

An Ides of March update on Life in the Leagues ...

John Britton

So far this year, there have been 6 events in the UK Masters Cup (best 8 placings out of 19 to count), 5 in the NW Regional League (best 4 ranking points out of 15 to count), and 1 in the Nopesport Urban League (best 6 placings out of 12 to count). My personal intention is to do every event in all these leagues, with the idea that the only way I can be beaten is by being out-performed rather than by out-attended. The diesel bill is climbing, but fortunately a few strategically-located friends have saved us quite a bit on B&Bs.

In chronological order, each of the trips so far has been well worth the effort:

Jan 16 - NWRL - CompassSport Cup at Watergrove. Charged round a respectable Green course on a map I know very well, with only a few seconds lost with an imperfect line through the marshes near the end. 1164 points and 1st M60 (ie. no-one else can have scored higher).

Jan 22 - UKMC and Nopesport - Edinburgh Urban race. Really tricky course on a complicated map. Patchy performance with some fastest splits mingled with dithering, a wrong turning after a railway arch, and non-optimal routes ... beaten by 14 seconds by Paul Johnson for 55 points. I'd very happily go back and race on this area again.

Jan 30 - NWRL - Delamere. Another blast round a typical Blue course again on a map I know very well, with a couple of minor route-choice wobbles near the end as exhaustion crept in. 1176 points and 1st M60.

Feb 5 - UKMC - British Nights at Bentley Woods. A brilliant event on an excellent map of an excellent area which was new to me - very runnable and complicated and would be a significant challenge in daylight. Our course was very nicely planned and several legs proved too tricky for me at the speed I was trying to go. Well beaten by Steve Whitehead and Andy Hemsted for 51 points and a bronze medal.

Feb 13 - NWRL - Hutton Roof. Another nicely-planned course on the brilliant Malcolm Campbell map of a tricky area, made more so by the slippery limestone. This was my third time on this map in the last few years and things are beginning to make sense. Another patchy performance with a few mistakes mingled in amongst some spiking of potentially difficult controls. 1148 points (already discarded !) and 1st M60.

Feb 20 - UKMC - Midland Champs at Sheringham. Another good course on a good map of a good area - very like Cannock Chase, but somewhat more runnable and with some serious patches of rhododendrons which the planner took us on a tour of. My map library shows I ran there in the early 90s, but I couldn't remember anything about it. After a disastrous 3 minute loss on the first control due to careless lack of map-reading and possibly too much excitement, I made a few more lesser mistakes (mostly poor route choices) before being clean and fast for the last third. Thrashed by Andy Hemsted and also a couple of minutes down on Peter Gorrett for 51 points. Another area I'd happily go back to.

Feb 26 - UKMC and UKRL - Twin Peak Middle at Bleathwaite. Another good course on a new area. Managed to survive the tricky first few and last controls in the wood without disaster, lost no time on the misplaced control, but sadly went slightly adrift on what could have been an easy leg on the top bit of the moor. Beaten by 11 secs by Richard Payne for 1152 ranking points, 55 UK points and 2nd M60.

Feb 27 - UKRL - Twin Peak Classic at Torver. Another good map I know well, and really should have done better. Somehow got totally confused on the uphill leg out onto the moor, losing 3 minutes, but fast and clean everywhere else including some very interesting legs. 1155 points and 1st M60.

Mar 6 - UKMC - Welsh Champs on the Gower. The actual Welsh Champs at Nicholaston Burrows was pretty disappointing, with a scratty bit of forest attached to some nice but narrow dunes spoiled by a big fence down the middle. Our course was predominantly Orange standard, and after running straight past a kite on a path for #2 and losing a couple of minutes, I got round the rest clean and fast for my first UKMC win and 60 points. However, the Welsh Short Champs the day before was a really good course on a fantastic dune area (Broughton Burrows) which found me running faster than I was thinking several times and made me wonder seriously about what preparation will be needed to avoid a similar outcome in the impending JK dune event. The whole weekend in Swansea was worth it for this half-hour of ultimate orienteering.

Mar 13 - UKMC - Southern Champs at Hambleden. An excellent if well-used area with lots of detail, really fast white forest and plenty of paths and contours. I've run there a couple of times before and was very happy to have another visit. Another well-planned and full-value tour, run as hard as I could possibly go with only one 1-minute mistake I am currently aware of (though splits analysis and routegadget may show more when they are available). Beaten by a couple of minutes by Bob Dredge for 55 points.

So, there we go. After about 10 weekends, we've had a wonderful variety of best-of-British areas, fully exploited by some excellent planning, and except for Watergrove, all of them lucky with the weather. Some observations:

> The depth of competition in M60 may be deduced from the fact I've already been beaten by 6 different people, though I've never been worse than 3rd. Of those 6, so far 3 have never been behind me.

> I'm not sure that the intended effect of these leagues in terms of raised participation levels is actually happening. The main M60 contenders have raced sparingly; there weren't many people at the more distant events; as far as I can tell, there's only a handful of people who seem to be doing the events because of their league status.

> This year it looks like I'll get a full house of "local" national championships - Welsh, British, Scottish, Irish. That can't happen too often.

I don't think the NWRL rule of best-4 scores out of 15 constitutes much of a season-wide "League". It's early March and I'm already dropping scores, and yet someone could start competing on November 12th and get 4 scores in.

PEOPLE POWER

Several club members wrote to their MPs about the government's proposal to sell off forests. The committee agreed their opposition to the proposal and the Chairman wrote to BOF to express this view. Over the whole country the weight of public opinion was, surprisingly, strong enough as to force the government to reverse their decision.

There is still to be a review of the issue, to which BOF will contribute, but the effect of individual letters to MPs was clearly very considerable. Some of the individual letters to David Rutley, MP for Macclesfield, are given below:

Dear David Rutley,

I am concerned about the government's plans to sell off English forests. As my MP, can you promise me that you will vote for a rethink today? I want to keep the forests in public ownership, to maintain current access for the public and to protect the diverse wildlife found in forests. I understand that the clauses that allow this to go ahead are in the Public Bodies Bill - will you also vote against these clauses?

I have a personal attachment to Britain's forests, through the sport of orienteering. This sport has allowed me to sample many of the forests in the country and brought me a great deal of enjoyment and many happy memories. Being in the forests has allowed me to grow as an individual with confidence, through my childhood. For example, I have spent lots of time in Macclesfield Forest, my local area and find great enjoyment training and exploring this fantastic facility. I am now 19 years old and still hope to enjoy the freedom of using the forests for many years to come, to strive towards my aim of competing internationally in the world championships. I now enjoy watching my brother (12 years old) enjoy the forests the same way I did when I was his age and I also want him to grow as I did. If the government plans to sell the forests go ahead, the sport of orienteering and many other recreational activities will suffer. For an orienteering race to take place permission must be granted by the landowner and this is made extremely difficult when private owners are involved. Already there are many fantastic areas for the sport that have been refused access for future races, and the selling of the forests will increase this happening, therefore the fantastic sport of orienteering will struggle extremely.

I sincerely hope that you understand the impact that this proposal brings and that you will vote against the proposal.

Thomas Fellbaum

Dear David,

I note that Tom Fellbaum received a standardised response to his letter from your office, however there is no mention whatsoever as to what proposals there are to ensure that organised sporting events (at grass roots level) would be protected or enabled. The response covers Country rights of way protection, Planning restrictions, Wildlife conservation laws and Felling licence requirements but does nothing to give any reassurance to those many volunteers who put in large amounts of unpaid time and effort to ensure that activities are carried out with proper permission, insurance and reference to health and safety issues.

You also make reference to the successful use of National Trust etc. In the past, however, our experience is that this is not a charity that is particularly supportive of such organised events. Generally, where permission is granted, it appears to be with reluctance and often with many restrictions being imposed. I would also suspect that if local woodlands fell under the control of local organisations there would almost certainly be a far higher rate of Nimby protectionism applied to these areas.

I would be grateful if you could respond with details of what proposals the Government has to specifically ensure that properly organised events (e.g. orienteering, rallying, mountain biking, fell running, and I'm sure there are many more) continue to be given access to such areas without excessive restrictions being imposed by the new "managers".

Alan Ogden

Dear Mr Rutley,

Exactly what is meant by "guarantee of access"? My main sporting activity is orienteering. To orienteer in our forests we need unrestricted access to all the area (with some exceptions, e.g. SSSI's). Under Forestry Commission management such freedom of access is almost invariably granted, generally involving payment of a fairly small fee. If, under private ownership, access is restricted to use of paths, or only granted upon payment of a substantial fee, it will have a devastating effect on our sport.

Given the Government's concerns as to the health of our population, particularly with respect to obesity in the young, to be taking any action which might reduce the potential for participation in a healthy, organised competitive sport would be a retrograde and inconsistent step.

Dave Mawdsley

Celebrating 40 years of Orienteering

Ian Gilliver

I think I first read about orienteering in 1968 when there was an article in one of the Sunday Magazines. In London, the Scout movement picked it up as an activity soon afterwards, and in 1969 I took the opportunity to participate in the SE London Venture Scout Orienteering Championships. The venue was a scraggy piece of countryside on the fringes of Croydon, and the event used a photocopy of (I think) a '6-inches to 1-mile' OS map. The event was poorly organised with little appreciation of the sport of orienteering, I was rubbish, and 9 out of the top 10 competitors all belonged to the same scout troop - in the absence of control punches, they had copied down the control codes from one another! Those top 10 were selected to represent the District in the inaugural Greater London Scouts Orienteering Championships, and the only boy from a different troop to be selected was Nigel Widgery who was a year behind me at school. For some reason Nigel couldn't make it on the day of competition, and somehow I was able to take his place - legitimately or otherwise, I don't recall.

The venue was Richmond Park, and the event was planned and organised by Chris Brasher and John Disley. The map was the first proper O-map of the area and was printed in 3 colours: blue, brown and black. I don't remember if it was a score event or otherwise, but I do remember that I came 4th overall. [I was fit in those days, ran in the school cross-country team, and weighed a mere 11st 6lbs.] I felt properly chuffed for days afterwards, so I mentioned it on my UCCA (University Application) form, thinking it might be eye-catching.

In my first year up at Oxford (1970-71), I soon gave up cross-country when the organisers at RAF Halton had taken in the funnel before I'd finished – and I wasn't even the last competitor! I then discovered beer, ate a lot, put on some weight, and my only exercise became occasional games of squash and cricket, and playing in goal for the college 2nd XI at football.

Then at the beginning of my second year I saw an advertisement placed by a chap called Ges van Hee, who was thinking of starting a University Orienteering Club...

And so, on 29 January 2011, I joined Ges (now Gerry) and other Oxford contemporaries (including David Rosen, Mike Forrest, Chris Johnson and Andy McMillan) at the OUOC 40th Anniversary Dinner which was held at Trinity College. It was a splendid occasion, with some 70 current or former members of OUOC present. It was lovely to chat with fellow orienteers, not only my contemporaries but also people who had followed us in subsequent years - some of whom I recognised, and others whom I have come to know over the intervening period.

So, why write an article about it?! Well...

In publicising the celebration dinner, its organisers had drawn our attention to the BKO event, also on 29 January, at Barossa Common, the southern part of Star Posts where (back in 1975) I had had my best ever JK result - so I felt I *had* to enter. Having lived in Surrey for several years before heading to Manchester in 1997, I had competed at Barossa a number of times, and I therefore thought I knew my way to the venue without needing to print off the final details or take my trusty old OS map 186.

I thought I'd allowed enough time to travel from Cheshire, but I had not reckoned on the event using a different access off the A30 from those with which I was familiar. Neither had I appreciated, because the event car park was located within the grounds of Sandhurst, that for security reasons there would be no signage from the A30. So having spent half an hour exploring the environs of Camberley, I rang home, and asked Sal if she could please access the event website and tell me what exit to look for off the A30.

And so it came to pass that I arrived at the nominated gate into the grounds of Sandhurst College at 12.20, which unfortunately was twenty minutes after the gate had (with military precision, I have no doubt) been closed.

So, how did I personally celebrate 40 years of orienteering?

Well, I failed to find the event!

NIGHT ORIENTEERING

Winter is the season for Night (or rather early evening) orienteering. Although many orienteers treat the sport as an excuse to get out into the country and appreciate some beautiful scenery, to others the challenge of completing a course in the dark with only a headlight or powerful torch is equally satisfying. As well as the Northern and the British Championships, the local North West Night League is co-ordinated by Chris Rostron, and SROC run a series of urban night street events.

North West Night League 2010/2011

Congratulations to the Winners of the 6 classes, and as usual their prize is the proof and knowledge that they were better than the rest.

M18-	Alex McCann MDOC	W18-	Katrin Harding SROC
M19-39	Steve Wilson PFO	W19-39	Heather Gardner EBOR
M40+	Mark Seddon SELOC	W40+	Karen Nash SROC

Thanks to all the organisers and planners and finally thanks to the record 230 different competitors and, even though SROC hosted the Northern Nights to boost the average attendance to 46, there were no events with less than 35 competitors. Five years ago no events reached 30 competitors. So keep encouraging everyone for next season.

Chris Rostron, NWNL Co-ordinator

MDOC Results:

M18-	1	Alex McCann (M16)	29	Liam Corner (M40)
	5	Tom McCann (M12)	32	Warren Mason (M45)
	8	James McCann (M10)	33	Tony Mason (M45)
M40+	3	Tim Martland (M45)		
	4	John Britton (M55)	W18-	3 Carolyn Hindle (W14)
	5	Dave McCann (M45)		8 Laura & Hazel Hindle
	8	John Kewley (M45)	W19+	4 Elizabeth Britton (W21)
	12	Chris Rostron (M60)	W40+	3 Jane McCann (W40)
	18	Eddie Speak (M55)		17 Julie Brook (W60)
	25	Alan Ogden (M50)		

Northern Night Championships

The Northern Night Championships were organized by SROC at Traitor's Gill on 15 January 2011. Wind and heavy rain during the day led to difficult conditions for running, and in particular the stream crossings were quite intimidating.

A small but select number of MDOC competitors attended:

M18-	5.4k	1	Alex McCann	M16	51:31
M40+	5.4k	7	David McCann	M45	64:47
		8	Tim Martland	M45	69:20
		13	John Britton	M60	72:22
		21	Chris Rostron	M60	112:41
W40+	4.1k	7	Jane McCann	W45	69:10

SROC Night Street League

A small group of MDOC members regularly attend the SROC Night Street league, which is usually held every two weeks in different Lancashire towns.

In the final league results, Alex McCann was second overall and Steve Lang third. In the age-adjusted results John Britton was fourth. Andrew Stimson also won a prize for senior novice.



John Britton, Steve Lang, Alex McCann and Andrew Stimson

British Night Championships



John Britton (left) at the prizegiving

M16	7.0k	7	Alex McCann	61:24
M45L	8.4k	10	Timothy Martland	76:11
		11	David McCann	77:35

Over 300 competitors took part in the British Night Championships at Bentley Wood in Warwickshire on 5 February 2011. John Britton had an excellent run, coming 3rd in M60, and Alex McCann did well to come 7th in M16.

Full MDOC results are listed below:

M60L	7.0k	3	John Britton	65:36
		14	Ian Gilliver	98:49
		15	Chris Rostrom	105:18

A Challenge



I, Peter, Barron of Deeside challenge Stephen of Macclesfield & the Orienteers of Manchester & District to scale the heights of Beeston Castle, dodge the arrows and boiling oil of the Deeside jousters and earn the right to a victor's feast.



Should this challenge be accepted then battle shall commence on Saturday the seventh day of May in the year of our Lord MMXIX at a time to be confirmed.



I, Stephen of Macclesfield, and the Orienteers of Manchester and District accept your challenge to battle at the aforementioned Castle of Beeston.

We assure you that we shall leave your castle in ruins by the time we have finished.

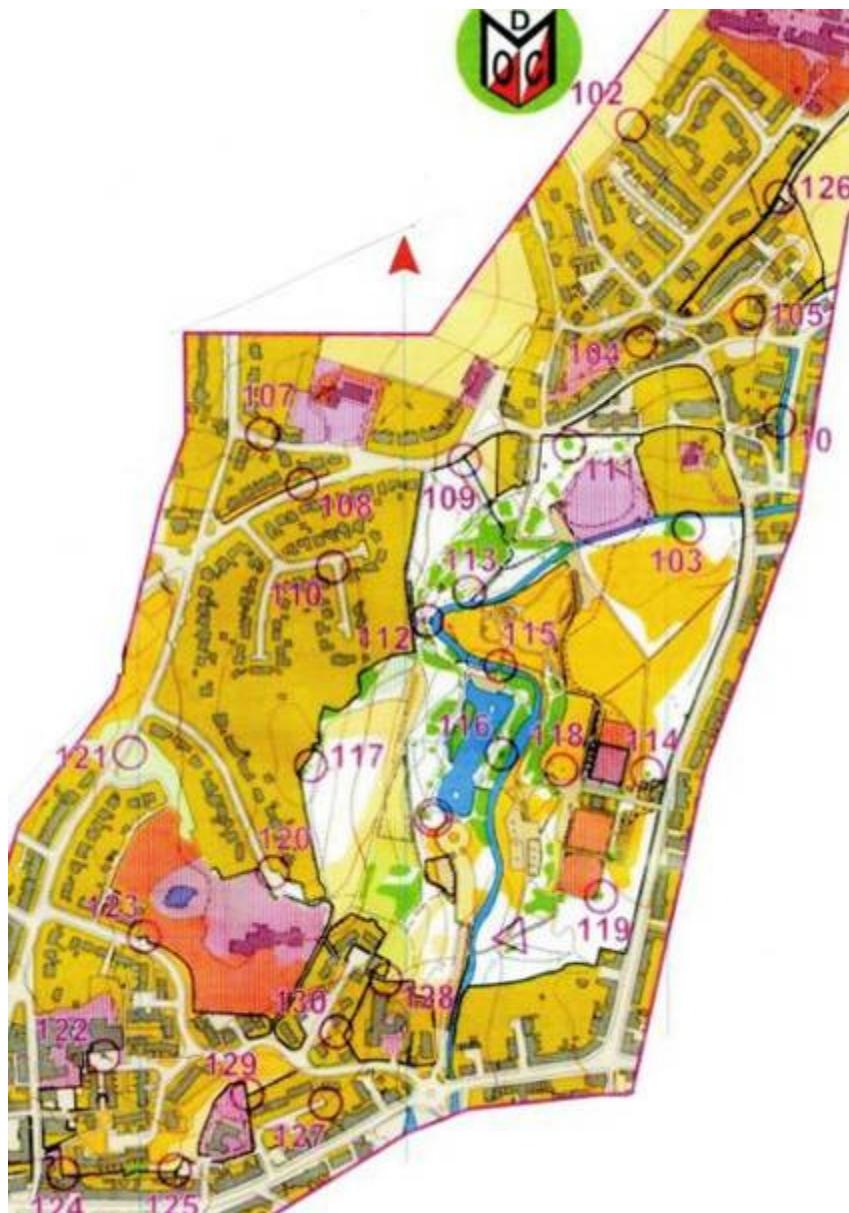


GLOSSOP

The new map of Glossop by Grahame Crawshaw and Martin Green was inaugurated with an event on Saturday 5 March. This should have been held in December but had to be cancelled due to snow. The map includes Manor Park, which has been previously mapped, and the urban areas of Old Glossop to the West and North of the park.

Courses were planned by Liam Corner, with a Yellow course entirely within the park, and 45 minutes Score and Technical Score courses which included the whole area. For the Technical Score odd and even numbered controls had to visited alternately.

In the Technical Score Alex McCann won, having visited all the controls in just over 37 minutes, followed by Dave McCann, Dan Riley, Steve Dempsey, Paul Clifford and Tom Bedwell. The ordinary Score class was won by John Kewley, followed by Lee Scott and Michelle Riley. The Yellow was won by Beren Airstone, followed by Hannah Williams and Ben Dempsey.



Would You Like to Become a Controller?

Are you interested in becoming a controller? The entry level is Grade C. Grade C controllers can control Level C Events and also approve Risk Assessments for Level D Events.

Without controllers, there would be no orienteering events and no orienteering. Currently, in the North West we have a reasonable number of Grade C Controllers, but we need more, mainly to replace those who, for one reason or another, have to stop controlling, but also to replace those who wish to move up to Grade B.

British Orienteering requires Grade C Controllers to undertake the following:

Organise a competition registered with British Orienteering within the previous 10 years.

Plan a minimum of 3 events, with at least one at Level C, and at least one within the previous 5 years.

Complete a British Orienteering Controller Grade C course.

Complete an accredited Safety course.

Be appointed to the Grade by their Constituent Association.

I am currently assessing whether a Controller Grade C Course should be run in the North West this year and, if so, where. Therefore, if you are interested in become a Controller and would like to attend a Grade C Course, could you please let me know by email, indicating, at the same time, which of the other requirements you have already achieved? If you have any queries, please set them out and I will come back to you.

By the way, Safety Workshops are now being rolled out. Two Workshops have already been held in the North West and will soon be repeated at club level.

Dick Towler

dick@towler.org.uk

Co-ordinator of NWOA Controllers

EVENTS

Marsden Moor 23 Jan 2011

The event started high up at Buckstones in order to use the more technical areas of the moor and avoid the worst of the tussocks. Fortunately the weather was reasonably good. Ian Watson of MDOC was the controller.

Blue 5.3k (37)						
19 Cliff Etherden	M60	68:47	18 Tom Bedwell	M50	79:36	
23 Ian Farrell	M21	73:44	Short Blue 4.4k (21)			
Brown 8.2k (8)			15 Chris Kirkham	M60	80:21	
3 Jim Trueman	M45	73:52	Green 3.4k (26)			
5 Liam Corner	M40	76:09	9 Dave Bryant	M60	53:01	
Short Brown 7.0k (32)			10 Kate Bryant	W55	53:41	
3 Steve Dempsey	M45	64:16	16 Geoffrey Millan	M65	62:12	
			23 Alison Doyle	W60	81:48	

Delamere Forest 30 Jan 2011

A fine dry day made for pleasant running conditions at Delamere, and at this time of year the forest is at its most runnable. Not surprisingly there was a very good turnout of club members. Tom Fellbaum had an excellent run, coming 2nd on Brown, and on the very popular Blue course Alex McCann was 5th and John Britton 6th.

Black	11.6k (6)						
3	Andrew Stimson	M21	114:49	47	Sara Andersson	W21	87:34
Brown	10.0k (19)			48	Jonathan Dickinson	M45	89:47
11	Stephen Lang	M40	97:41	50	Tony Mason	M50	93:07
Short Brown	8.3k (57)			53	Jenny Mallon	W50	97:01
2	Thomas Fellbaum	M20	58:22	Green	4.7k (85)		
5	Steve Dempsey	M45	59:08	5	Martin Green	M55	47:18
12	David McCann	M45	68:44	8	Alan Poxon	M55	50:00
19	Timothy Martland	M45	73:23	10	Rebecca Humphreys	W16	50:47
26	Andy Thornton	M50	77:08	20	Kate Bryant	W55	53:53
28	William Humphreys	M18	78:52	24=	Carolyn Hindle	W16	56:10
32	Trevor Hindle	M45	80:56	26	Andrew Gregory	M75	56:41
37	Ray Humphreys	M50	84:22	27	Jillyan Dobby	W60	56:59
42	Tim Mallon	M50	86:40	37	Richard Blake	M60	59:16
44	John Williamson	M50	90:21	48	David Mawdesley	M70	63:42
46	Simon Proud	M50	91:54	59	Geoffrey Millan	M65	67:56
47	Stephen Fellbaum	M50	92:18	60	Claire Barnett	W40	67:58
52	John Evans	M50	99:18	78	Alison Doyle	W60	92:53
55	Tom Horton	M18	102:47	Short Green	3.8k (36)		
Blue	67.4k (80)			8	Stephen Beresford	M60	52:58
5	Alex McCann	M16	48:14	23	Sue Birkinshaw	W70	67:41
6	John Britton	M60	49:19	26	Steve Nicholls	M50	68:51
14	Vicky Thornton	W50	54:13	28	Janette Proud	W45	70:57
17	Phil Colville	M55	55:34	Very Short Green	2.8k (18)		
27	Alice Fellbaum	W18	58:45	13	Margaret Gregory	W70	66:55
33	Alistair Thornton	M16	61:20	Light Green	3.9k (42)		
36	Heather Fellbaum	W45	62:11	15	Matthew Fellbaum	M14	42:38
53	Jane McCann	W45	72:09	20	Laura Hindle	W14	50:09
54	Chris Rostron	M60	73:32	Long Orange	5.2k (8)		
55	Ian Watson	M60	73:47	5	Matt Arnold	M18	60:09
65	Chris Kirkham	M60	78:29	Orange	3.3k (27)		
66	Ian Gilliver	M60	78:56	7	Helen Dempsey	W45	48:40
67	John Dempsey	M16	79:01	11	Rosie Martland	W14	61:28
73	David Dann	M55	89:19	12	James McCann	M12	61:43
74	Paul Watson	M35	91:49	14	Ed Thompson	M12	67:21
Short Blue	5.3k (61)			21	Pamela Hartley	W55	101:59
3	Stephen Bingham	M50	57:23	22	Cosima Dickinson	W12	111:20
8	Julia Simpson	W45	66:55	Yellow	2.1k (30)		
46	Hazel Hindle	W45	86:38	23	Matt Jackson	M12	36:43
				26	T&L Jackson	M10	52:25

Hutton Roof 13 Feb 2011

Although fine on the day, the limestone pavement of Hutton Roof was very slippery due to overnight rain, and many found it very slow going. MDOC results are shown below:



Black 9.7k (30)					
25 Stephen Lang	M40	128:15	22 Julia Simpson	W45	74:25
26 Andrew Stimson	M21	150:12	39 Hazel Hindle	W45	86:49
Short Brown 6.8k (56)			44 Sara Andersson	W21	88:47
16 Andy Thornton	M50	75:57	50 Jenny Mallon	W50	94:13
18 Tom Horton	M18	77:34	54 Marie Roberts	W50	103:50
21 David McCann	M45	80:00	Green 3.8k (67)		
32 Trevor Hindle	M45	91:03	4 Martin Green	M55	47:11
47 Fellbaum MDOC	M50	116:02	7 Carolyn Hindle	W16	50:15
48 Tim Mallon	M50	117:08	14 Rebecca Humphreys	W16	55:04
54 Ray Humphreys	M50	137:04	25 Kate Bryant	W55	65:37
Blue 5.6k (86)			31 David Mawdsley	M70	69:17
3 Alex McCann	M16	53:16	33 Richard Blake	M60	71:41
6 Alistair Thornton	M16	56:47	34 Jillyan Dobby	W60	72:46
12 John Britton	M60	60:47	36 Pip Humphreys	W50	75:14
15 Alice Fellbaum	W18	63:36	39 Geoffrey Millan	M65	79:19
31 Peter Ross	M60	74:14	49 Jan Ellis MDOC	W60	87:13
33 Heather Fellbaum	W45	74:57	51 Julie Brook	W60	87:54
35 Vicky Thornton	W50	76:48	58 Alison Doyle	W60	102:00
54 Ian Watson	M60	86:35	Short Green 3.0k (30)		
60 Tony Wagg	M65	91:14	8 Stephen Beresford	M60	52:53
71 Ian Gilliver	M60	96:22	19 Sue Birkinshaw	W70	75:43
72 Jane McCann	W45	96:26	Light Green 3.2k (40)		
74 Chris Rostron	M60	101:21	8 Matthew Fellbaum	M14	38:49
78 Trevor Roberts	M60	107:12	25 Tom McCann	M14	52:26
79 Chris Kirkham	M60	109:46	28 Laura Hindle	W14	58:09
Short Blue 4.3k (60)			Orange 2.5k (24)		
1 John Kewley	M45	54:28	13 James McCann	M12	47:27

Twin Peak - MDOC Results

Class	Overall pos.		Saturday		Sunday		Overall time
			time	pos.	time	pos.	
M12	5	James McCann Benjamin Martland	32:18 40:28	5th 7th	41:52	5th	1:14:10
M14	4	Matthew Fellbaum Tom McCann	23:34 -	4th	37:30 56:22	5th 12th	1:01:04
M16	1	Alex McCann John Dempsey	34:33 -	2nd	43:12 1:05:51	1st 15th	1:17:45
M21	31	Andrew Stimson	47:55	36th	1:52:48	33rd	2:40:43
M40	5	Liam Corner Stephen Lang	41:57 44:42	10th 12th	1:21:23	5th	2:03:20
M45	11	David McCann	41:00	17th	1:08:26	13th	1:49:26
	15	Trevor Hindle Steve Dempsey	45:04	23rd	1:07:36 57:12	11th 3rd	1:52:40
		Timothy Martland John Kewley	40:38 47:31	16th 27th			
M50	27	Stephen Fellbaum	56:06	34th	1:27:01	29th	2:23:07
M55		David Dann	44:29	15th			
M60	1	John Britton	30:14	2nd	48:54	1st	1:19:08
	14	Peter Ross	40:13	20th	1:00:22	17th	1:40:35
	21	Trevor Roberts	40:13	20th	1:07:14	26th	1:47:27
	23	Ian Watson	44:31	30th	1:08:42	27th	1:53:13
	25	Chris Rostron	51:12	35th	1:15:26	28th	2:06:38
	27	Chris Kirkham Grahame Crawshaw	49:27 54:17	33rd 37th	1:28:29	30th	2:17:56
M65		Tony Wagg	53:30		1:14:15		
M70	8	Ted Smith	1:17:26	10th	1:21:57	8th	2:39:23
W14	3	Laura Hindle	30:34	4th	39:42	3rd	1:10:16
W16	9	Carolyn Hindle	36:19	7th	44:11	11th	1:20:30
W18		Alice Fellbaum	46:28	3rd			
W40	8	Heather Fellbaum	1:00:42	9th	1:11:08	7th	2:11:50
W45		Hazel Hindle Jane McCann	53:12 45:46	15th 10th			
W50		Marie Roberts	-		1:18:11	14th	
W55	9	Kate Bryant	51:06	13th	57:21	9th	1:48:27
W60	8	Jillyan Dobby	49:55	10th	57:41	7th	1:47:36
	13	Alison Doyle	1:02:44	17th	1:31:52	16th	2:34:36
	14	Julie Brook	1:09:28	18th	1:28:35	15th	2:38:03
W65		Irene Crawshaw	39:50	5th			
W70	5	Sue Birkinshaw	47:46	4th	1:12:20	4th	2:00:06

FOOTPATH RELAY 2011

The date for this year's Peak District Footpath Relay is Saturday 25th June with a Start at 09:00 from the Dog and Partridge pub Thorpe.

There will be two races: 1. A Scratch race of 10 legs - any person may run a leg.

2. A Handicap race of 10 legs where a team must have a minimum of 20 points as follows (female points in brackets):

Under 16 -	2	(3)	Over 40 -	2	(3)
Under 18 -	1	(2)	Over 50 -	3	(4)
Age 19-30 -	0	(1)	Over 60 -	4	(5)
Over 30 -	1	(2)			

Leg lengths will be between 5 and 7 miles. Leg 5 will return to the Start. Leg 6 runners will have a mass start when the first runner comes in from their race.

We are planning to enter at least one team, and more if there is sufficient interest. Please contact Andrew Gregory (ah.gregory@btinternet.com) if you are interested.

999 Emergency Service

The emergency services have launched a new emergency text message service, if you are unable to make a voice call to 999 due to poor mobile reception. However you have to register in advance to be able to use the service.

To register, text register to 999. You will get a reply - then follow the instructions you are sent. This will only take approx 2 mins of your time and could save your life.

Isobel Brocklebank

No Frills for Aislin

Peter Ross

At the download, Aislin took out her dibber when it had beeped and looked down the screen. Her time was there, 48:24, plus the familiar options from which to choose: did she want hard copy of her splits, same day updates on her Micro Ranking and/or news of her Super Ladder opponent? She could also choose her refreshments deal. There was also a breakdown of her event account as it now stood, which didn't look too expensive, and so she went for Data Max (hard copy plus text updates) and the espresso and cake from Costa Livin'. She punched in her pin to confirm. Too late, she remembered that the interim account excluded the BOF levy and Eco-Tax (Sport), which would only appear in the final statement. No wonder it looked cheap. But, hey ho, she'd had a good run, and no-one these days needed reminding that Orienteering was now as commercially savvy as most organisations.

Yes, the big changes came just after the 2011 world oil shock when Orienteering found itself with more than its fair share of redundant executives from the no-frills airlines. They looked at prevailing custom and practice within the sport and were appalled at what they saw. There appeared to be no control of costs or income.

Maps were a big worry to them. They certainly looked expensive, and were an obvious area for cost cutting. The immediate impact of this thinking was that the Planners were made to put the start and finish very close to each other. This allowed maps to be recycled: as one runner finished so his/her map was handed on the next in the queue. A bit like the relays, said some. (Of course, the change had been facilitated by an unrelated prior development

which had reduced an abundance of age/gender related courses to a few colour coded). Quite soon it was found that some people were prepared to pay extra to go to the head of the queue. This was good news. If some were prepared to pay more – the logic went – most could pay a little less. This brought the sport nearer to its strategic goal of advertising itself as being accessible.

There were other hurdles to overcome before the implementation of what became known as Speedy Q. The first was that some incoming orienteers didn't hand over their map because they felt that they had paid for it. It transpired that this was nonsense, since at that time there was no contract worthy of the name between the event vendor (the host club) and the purchaser (the orienteer). This difficulty was easily corrected. A new contract appeared, that confirmed an orienteer's right to a copy of the map - but only whilst competing.

The next, practical problem was how to extract the actual payment due for Speedy Q. The dibber held the answer. People in the fast queue were identified by a check box, and the information used, via BOF records, to bill them. An additional paragraph in the contract was required, which was done simply enough through the normal on-line "terms and conditions" update machinery that met subscribers visiting the BOF website.

Clearly, most of the information held against a dibber was control related, and once having established a dibber to payment process the next advance was PPC: Payment Per Control. This was especially good news. It meant that short courses cost less, and so events could be advertised as starting from a very low price indeed. Orienteering became even closer to its goal of becoming inclusive. (A goal which, as Aislin was to discover in the near future, would become a reality when pre-entry was integrated with the eBay bidding system, and Orienteering attracted a whole new constituency when re-branded using the strap line "This weekend, swap your moral compass for a real one, and choose your own route. From £2.99").

The immediate impact of PPC fell on the Planners once more. Initially, there was the obvious pressure to reduce the number of controls on the shortest (white) course, which some said was in danger of becoming translucent. Once the silly season was out the way, it became the norm before the event for host clubs to assume – and only charge for – the middle distance course. However, at the event it was a different story: each map was printed with a loop of optional controls. These were sufficient to extend the course to the classic distance for those who wanted to upgrade on the run, a decision they exercised by finding and punching the controls. The dibber to payment process handled the billing implications. There were no others.

Most runners did go for the extra controls, which oddly enough, were often to be found in the more interesting parts of the terrain. The other incentive was the Micro Rankings.

The Micro Rankings, which were fun to a sizeable minority of orienteers, had the benefit to the no-frills of costing next to nothing since they used BOF computers in the dead of the night, when they would otherwise be idle. And the Micro Rankings required a lot of calculating because every leg was treated as a complete event. The Micro Rankings identified an orienteer's top 24 legs over the previous year, as compared to the conventional Rankings six events. People liked them because the remainder of a run that could have been ruined by one bad leg, became a mad-for-it helter-skelter dash as an attempt was made to score some Micro points. The results of the Micro Rankings were sent by text, and otherwise made available to subscribers the day following an event. Non-subscribers to the Micro Rankings never saw the results, but enjoyed a benefit as the overall cost of their orienteering fell.

The Super Ladder was another competition that really appealed to some. Orienteers on the Ladder were paired at pre-entry time with another due to run the same day. Winners in the

previous round were matched to the closest loser above them. To win, one had to score the most conventional ranking points, and following the two runs the positions on the ladder were altered, if necessary, to reflect the outcome. What some Orienteers loved about it was that they were able to compete head to head with another, despite being at different venues and possibly running different distances (middle or standard). A bit like a virtual chasing start.

Initially, there was a problem in releasing the ranking points that made the Super Ladder an income generator at a commercially advantageous moment. At the time the Super Ladder was being introduced, clubs were releasing their results, complete with splits and ranking points, into the public domain within hours of the event. Some clubs even took pride in the way they did so. This erroneous, narrowly defined altruism destroyed the exclusivity of the information that some were prepared to pay for – and therefore from which all would benefit. Sadly, the obvious quick fix - to delay publishing the event results for a week, except to those subscribing to the Super Ladder – led to some ugly scenes. The MDOC download caravan was a particular target for misguided people who hadn't fully read their new contract.

The compromise solution became the provision of information in bundles. The low cost option provided each orienteer with his/her overall race time on a screen at the download station. Nothing more. It was paid for via the entry administration fee. As a concession to the traditionalists, hard copy of the simple results for each event i.e. the course, the names and overall race times were printed locally at the event venue. As a further concession, the underlying hard data including mispunches and split times was made available to BOF subscribers on their web site the following week.

All the other options were subject to extra charges which primarily reflected the demand, but also the calculations involved, the immediacy and the method by which information was delivered. The bundles changed over time to reflect market conditions.

Not surprisingly the no-frills executives were also dismayed by the lack of control of the car parking, refreshment and insurance side of the Orienteering experience. (Portaloos were left in the too hard box). The Event pre-entry process was identified as being the key to their improvement and a BOF web screen template carefully constructed to encourage early payment for all these items. The organising clubs enjoyed the logistical benefits to this heads up approach, but the real value was in the centralised collection of this information which provided outsourcing opportunities to exploit. One unexpected result occurred when the Junior Squads' Consortium snapped up the countrywide cake franchise.

To be completely honest, the insurance side of things began badly, and never recovered from the very first step taken by the no-frills. They sold a set of orienteering results, including the names, telephone numbers and splits to a company of no-win no-fee solicitors. Shortly afterwards, orienteers who hadn't had a good run were contacted and asked if they had been injured, if it was their fault, and were they aware of the possibility of compensation? This opened up a can of worms, not least when one sad orienteer claimed emotional damage caused by frustration due to a wrongly placed control. Although everyone wanted to see a proper legal resolution of the case, it wasn't obvious where the sport as a whole stood on the matter. If the runner won the case the Planners insurance premium would rise, and vice versa. This seemed more lose-lose than win-win and the insurance business was quietly dropped and has since been left to its own devices.

The car parking management scheme didn't begin well, either, but it has since recovered strongly. Unfortunately, in the early days, there were problems when some late entries found that their initial payment only included entrance to the car park, and that further monies were due on exit. The practice of locking gates only inflamed the situation. In retrospect the solution was blindingly obvious. The same algorithm that the no-frills had used in their previous life to determine the price of aeroplane tickets was dusted down and

used to set the price of the car parking spaces. This was good news for orienteers and especially event organisers because it guaranteed everyone who had bought car parking a place. Orienteering as a whole benefited because it became very expensive to park at some popular events, which aside from improving club income, also encouraged car sharing, club mini-buses, and other Green behaviour, including – very occasionally - the use of public transport. (Charter flights). Being seen to be Green was, of course, another strategic objective.

And Orienteering, like every other sports organisation had to prove its Green credentials. For example clubs had to collect the Eco-tax (Sport) which the Government introduced in 2012 to reduce non-essential travel in the UK. Despite considerable lobbying from BOF, the authorities had placed Orienteering in Sport Band D, which was somewhere between charities running coal fired steam engines and jet skiing. Each Orienteer had to pay tax for each event, on a pence per kilometre basis, based on the notional distance between the geographical centre of his/her home club and that of the club hosting the event. The Scottish and Welsh clubs negotiated full exemptions. The no-frills executives had little to contribute to the debate except to applaud the obscurity of the Eco-Tax arithmetic. They used this to justify its exclusion from any literature indicating how much an event might actually cost a participant.

And so Aislin, which is a beautiful Irish name meaning “vision”, eventually came to find the cost of her run. Here is her final account:

				Discounts		
				%	£p	
		Qty	£/item	Total		
Orienteering	Club Administration Fee (early)	1	£1.99	£1.99	22.5%	£0.45
	PPC – pre entry (early)	11	£0.29	£3.19	22.5%	£0.72
	PPC – intra run upgrade	6	£0.29	£1.74		
				£6.92		£1.17
	Orienteering- less discounts			£5.75		
Options	Car Park	1	£2.00	£2.00		
	Super Q	0	£1.00	£0.00		
	Map Sale	0	£1.00	£0.00		
	Refreshment Deal	1	£2.99	£2.99		
	Data Max Pack	1	£0.89	£0.89		
	Options			£5.88		
Taxes and Levies	BOF Levy			£3.55		
	Eco-Tax (Sport)			£3.38		
To Pay				£18.56		

CALENDAR

Sat	2 Apr	Bramhall Park	Saturday morning event
Sun	17 Apr	Graythwaite	LOC Long distance event
	22-25 Apr	Northern Ireland	JK Orienteering Festival
Wed	27 Apr	Delamere East	DEE colour coded evening event
Tue	3 May	Petty Pool	DEE colour coded evening event
Wed	4 May	Mellor	Countryside Score event
Thur	5 May	Lyme Park	Introductory event 1
Sat	7 May	Beeston Castle	DEE/MDOC Challenge
Tue	10 May	Lyme Park	Introductory event 2
Thur	12 May	Delamere North	DEE colour coded evening event
Sat	14 May	Wharncliffe	British Championships
Sun	15 May	Tankersley Wood	British Relay Championships
Thur	19 May	Lyme Park	Introductory event 3
Sat	21 May	Bigland	LOC Middle Distance event
Sun	22 May	Holme Fell	LOC Long distance event
Tues	24 May	Lyme Park	Colour coded evening event
Wed	1 June	Rowarth	Countryside Score event
Tues	7 June	Teggs Nose	Colour coded evening event
Sat	11 June	Macclesfield Forest	Middle Distance event
Sun	12 June	Macclesfield	Urban event (Tytherington & town centre)
Wed	15 June	Rainow	Countryside Score event
Thur	23 June	Brereton Heath	Colour coded evening event
Sat	25 June	Thorpe	Peak District Footpath Relay
Thur	7 July	Little Budworth	DEE Colour coded evening event
Wed	13 July	Mobberley	Countryside Score event
Thur	21 July	Alderley Edge	Colour coded evening event
Wed	27 June	Higher Poynton	Countryside Score event

Wednesday Runs

Wed	23 Mar	Jan Ellis
Wed	30 Mar	Roberts
Wed	6 Apr	Speak
Wed	13 Apr	Gregory

Committee Meetings

Mon	11 Apr	Dialstone
Mon	9 May	Dialstone
Mon	13 June	Dialstone

Torver Back Common



Assembly area with snow on the hills



Trevor Hindle



Ray Humphreys



General view of the Start



Marie Roberts



Liam Corner