

DEVON ORIENTEER

No 171

March 2016.



Elite Start at JK 2010 on Braunton Burrows



CLUB OFFICIALS

President Sir John Cave Bt, DL

Committee

Chairman & Access Nicholas Maxwell

Secretary Steve Perrelle

Treasurer Matt Atkins

Club Captain Jill Green

Development Alan Simpson

Committee Members	Graham Dugdale	Membership Secretary
	Tim Gent	Juniors
	Bryan Smith	Fixtures.
	Wilf Taylor	Publicity & Website
	Rob Parkinson	Coaching

Other officials

A. & P. East Devon	John Dyson
Child Welfare	Helen Taylor
Club Clothing	Vivienne Maxwell
Equipment	Alan Simpson
Mapping	Roger Green
Newsletter Editor	Susan Hateley
Please note email address (susan1945hateley@gmail.com)	
SI Manager	Eleanor Taylor
SWOA Representative	Nicholas Maxwell
Web Manager	Bryan Smith
Junior Representative	To be advised
Volunteer Co-Ordinator	Helen Taylor helenmctalor@fsmail.net
Ass. Volunteer Co-Ordinator	Ruth Chesters rmchesters@gmail.com

Deadline for copy for the next Devon Orienteer will be 5th May 2016.

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Are you a member?

Have you rejoined Devon OC and BOF? BOF sent out reminders in November but nothing since, so it is easy to forget. If you take part in events then membership of a club/ BOF is important as our insurers only extend public liability insurance to members or newcomers for up to three events.

Training day

Burrator is a wonderful area and twenty plus people enjoyed a training day there at the end of February on a cold but dry windy day. Participants experienced the arboretum area with some shorter exercises and then did a 6km downhill route through the different types of former mining features. One benefit of this time of year is that our old friend the bracken is relatively tame. It is a truly glorious area. After tea and cake some people came back for more with the night event.

Dogs on Dartmoor

Along with other sports, I attended a Dartmoor National Park organisers' workshop. As part of this event there were discussions with the Commoners' representing the farming community. They spoke very strongly about keeping dogs off the moor when events take place (not just our events). Their main concern was dogs leaving deposits and passing on diseases to animals which then have no value when taken to the abattoir. The worrying of sheep or effects of dogs on cattle with young, were of lesser concerns.

As a responsible organisation, this raises the question of what we do. I am suggesting that:

- We restrict dogs to the assembly area
- Dogs are only brought to events if they have been regularly wormed

Please let me (or Susan Hateley as a dog owner) know what you think of this as a proposed policy particularly if you are a dog owner. We are now restricted from using Dartmoor until mid July so there is plenty of time to take on board members' views.

Development plan and Clubmark

Alan Simpson has led the updating of the Club's development plan and the associated work necessary to retain our Clubmark designation. Many thanks to Alan and others who have fed into this process. The development plan should soon be published on the website and parts will be reviewed at our committee meetings.

Event officials

We still need more people willing to be officials for our events be it as organiser or planner. This directly impacts on the number of events we can put on. Whilst we are fortunate that some individuals might take on two or three responsibilities in a year, it is unwise to rely on this continuing. Throughout this year we will be running courses for new organisers and new planners. Do come along so that you can learn how to support the club in these important areas. Please speak to Tim Gent or any other committee member for more information. Read the next paragraph as well.

Also of importance for all event officials past or future, is that from 2017 they must have attended an event safety workshop to act in this capacity. This is the insurers again telling BOF who then tell us. So look out for the course details if you are an event official who did not attend the course Jill Green ran some years ago (she can tell you if you did). It is likely that you will get a specific invite. If practical we hope to have some activity as well.

Major event season

If you have not done so already, now is the time to book for the bigger UK events in 2016 - the JK at Easter in Yorkshire; the British Champs at the end of April in the West Midlands, and the Welsh Five Days at the end of July. Soon you be able to book for our own Tamar Triple at the end of May:

- Plymouth urban – a new area including the Hoe and the Citadel – part of the urban league(SEOUL)
- A long event on part of Bodmin Moor and
- The South West Middle Distance Championships in the stunning location of Mount Edgcumbe Park
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Nicholas Maxwell

EDITORIAL

I would like to wish all those of you going to the Compass Sport Cup, good orienteering. It will be difficult to beat BOK on their home turf, but have a good time and enjoy the orienteering.

JK is nearly upon us and as it is the 50th one it should be very special. There is some wonderful terrain in that part of Yorkshire. I was hoping to go, but circumstances have intervened and I would find the experience very difficult. I do hope that all those of you who are participating have really good weather and an enjoyable experience.

It is also 50 years since the first British Championships. This year they are to be held on Brown Clee in Shropshire. It is a lovely area and an excellent one for testing all the different navigational skills. Good luck to all those who are going.

If you wish the Devon Orienteer to continue in existence please will **you** contribute a report on an event you have been to, or some activity related to getting fit, improving your map reading skills or your orienteering. I have not been able to get to events recently and so Birch has been unable to provide a report. She has called me a Wimp, Meany and much worse when I have had to admit that there was an event on, but we were not driving down from North Devon for it. She will be even more furious when she learns that she will not be able to go to Braunton Burrows on 19th June, an area she has explored enthusiastically in the past. The land owner has requested no dogs and if we are to be able to use it for larger events in the future we must abide by the conditions laid down for us.

Braunton Burrows is a very special place, it is one of the larger sand dune systems in England and is an excellent area for orienteering. It is a lovely area for you to come and test your skills, a fabulous place for the family to come along and enjoy the very extensive beach while you explore the terrain!

I hope as the weather improves to be attending events in the future. **Please do write something for the newsletter. YOUR contributions are most valued**

I hope for a large number of reports from CSC, JK and the British Championships.

Susan Hateley

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

New Members

George Oldridge	M12	Totnes
Otto Oldridge	M12	Totnes
Bobby Godley	M12	Torquay
Finlay Walsh	M12	Torquay
Finlay Wilson	M12	Ashburton
Michael Webber	M12	Torquay
Fraser Dixon	M10	Powderham
Alan Hale	M65	Bude
Daniel Owen	M45	Exeter
Luke Alderson	M12	Totnes
John McNaughton	M12	Newton Abbot
Albert Gilmore	M12	Totnes
Matilda Hatchard	W6	Exmouth
Lisa Hatchard	W40	Exmouth
Bryony Jackson	W40	Hele

Rejoining Members

Damian Wilson	M45	Exeter
Ruth Smith	W60	Bishopsteignton
Jon Croome	M50	Exmouth
Lorraine Croome	W50	Exmouth

REPORTS

HOUND TOR 14TH FEB 2016

There have been some horrendous conditions on Dartmoor this winter, mostly involving strong winds and monsoon-like rainfall; so it was a novelty to find low cloud, wind and snow on the approach to Hound Tor. Knowing that it would also be very wet underfoot didn't fill me with enthusiasm. Jill Green could be seen prowling around the car park waiting for the sun to come out – overly optimistic I thought, but she was right; half way around the blue course there was the strange bright light in the sky.

I have a new compass, not dissimilar to my old one – which I lost at Killerton back in January- but it has subtle differences like a smaller needle and different colouring. It is taking me a while to make friends with my new compass, something I notice when I start to get tired or when the course is a bit tricky. At Hound Tor it happened

between controls 5 and 6. I'd been making sensible calm decisions up to that point but then a path distracted me, I decided the compass was faulty and the tor in front of me was in the wrong place. As a result of this erroneous thinking I persisted in a northeasterly direction straight into the bog I'd thought to avoid, then corrected west about 300m and trudged laboriously uphill, bog all the way (and remember it is wet and icy-cold today) and met up with Michelle Spillar at the top end of the bog (she'd started some minutes behind me) running easily along a nice track with suspiciously dry looking feet. Life can be so unfair.

Thanks to Rob Parkinson for a well planned course. I know the area fairly well but orienteering has a way of taking you to places you've not been before. I'd not noticed the ruined building (control 2) before and hadn't explored the area between controls 9 and 12.

My route choice from 12 to 13 was interesting; a few people ahead of me took the left route (east of the Tor) which looked steep and messy to me – I was nauseatingly tired by this point – so I opted for the westerly route, which looked easier if slightly longer. Barry Olds was just behind me at 12; he took the eastern route; we had both walked but I was several 100m ahead as we came over the hill (so he informed me later – I had no idea at the time). These decisions we make, quickly on the move, can make quite a difference. Recently at Penhale (21st Feb) I made a similar decision which didn't work out so well – a 20minute split time when others took 4 or 5! Oops. All that sand and marram grass looks the same.

Looking forward to the training day on the 27th Feb.

Ella Bowles

A big thank you to Ella for her account of the Hound Tor event.

DEVON FIXTURES

13 th March	Compass Sport Cup 1st Round	
	Cannop Ponds	Forest of Dean
20 th March	League Event	Dart Valley C. P.
10 th April	League Event	Wheathill Plantation
28 th May	Tamar Triple Day 1	Plymouth Urban event
19 th June	League Event	Braunton Burrows
17 th July	Devon Relays	Yelverton

KERNO EVENTS

12 th March	D&C Night League	Mount Edgumbe
17 th April	Winter League	Hardhead Down
29 th May	Tamar Triple Day 2	Davidstowe
30 th May	Tamar Triple Day 3	Mount Edgumbe

QO EVENTS

4 th April	QOFL5	Culm Davy ST123165
8 th May	QOFL6	Castle Neroche

National Events

30 th April	British Long Championships	Brown Clee, Shropshire
1 st May	British Relay Championships	Brown Clee, Shropshire
2 nd May	WCH Urban Race	Tamworth Castle
11 th June	British Sprint Championships	Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park Stratford, East London
12 th June	British Middle Distance Championships.	Leith Hill Surrey
24 th – 29 th July	CROESO Welsh 5 days of Orienteering	4 out of the 5 days are between Port Talbot and Bridgend.