



DEVON ORIENTEER

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THE NEWSLETTER OF DEVON ORIENTEERING CLUB

Chairman's Chat

Greetings and Best wishes for the Festive Season to all Club Members.

If Mike publishes the whole of my report to the AGM, that will be quite enough from me for this edition of the Newsletter.

Make a note in your diary.

On Saturday 7th February 2009, the Club will be celebrating its **30th Anniversary**. There will be a dinner and Ceilidh in Ashburton, after the Holne Moor Galloper.

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ADVANCE NOTICE

30TH ANNIVERSARY – LET’S CELEBRATE!!

We will mark this momentous occasion on 7 February 2009, after the event at Holne Moor, at the Lavender House Hotel, Ashburton with a meal and a ceilidh with a live band.

Also on offer are quizzes (with prizes), presentations and speeches.

The hotel is half a mile from the A38 and 1 mile from Ashburton

If you are worried about how dirty you will be after the event, the Hotel are happy for us to use their shower facilities with towels provided, and if you are starving, you can bring a snack to keep you going. Tea and coffee will be provided. We will have sole use of the Hotel for the whole day so you can go there as soon as you have finished your run, have a shower, get into your party gear, and relax by the fire or try your skills at various quizzes.

The meal will start at about 4.00 pm and I hope to have the menu choices and price very soon.

The ceilidh will start at 6.30 pm and go on until 10.30pm.

Don't miss it!!

If you have any comments, suggestions or advice please let me know.

Vivienne Maxwell

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British Schools Score Championships

A minibus driven by Steve Perelle, full of Torbay Grammar School boys, and Duncan Taylor (Exmouth Community College), went up for the British School Score Championships at Sherwood Pines Forest Park, Nottinghamshire, on Saturday 11th October.

The Torbay boys had 6 counters for both the Lower and Upper Secondary Schools team categories and achieved an outstanding performance of 2nd in both, just 6 and 10 mins overall, respectively, behind first place.

Individually, Matt Ryder achieved an excellent 5th, with Jack Baker (7th) in the year 12/13 boys.

Duncan Taylor had a superb run and came 1st out of 72 Year 10/11 boys (as a year 10 student).

Rankings

The editor had intended to include the latest rankings for club members but British Orienteering is currently experiencing problems with that component of its website.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A year ago I took over as chairman, and was joined by the new treasurer John Dyson and new secretary Graham Dugdale. I would like to thank them both for their excellent support during the year. At times when I have wavered, one or other has always been on hand to provide wise support and guidance.

Under the terms of the Club Constitution, we represent three out of the four Officers of the Club, the fourth being the Club Captain. Wilf Taylor has held this post for three years now. So, according to the Constitution, Wilf has to stand down. On your behalf, I would like to thank him for his enthusiasm, drive, and infallible optimism in recruiting teams for the JK and British Championship relays, and for the Compass Sport Cup team. Fortunately, Tom Lillicrap has offered to take on the Club Captain role. Please be ready for his calls for us to redouble our efforts in these competitions. Meanwhile Wilf is turning his attention to Coaching in the Club, an area definitely in need of development.

Continuing with Committee membership, Phil Way, Access Secretary, and Adrian Taylor, Fixtures Secretary, are both taking a well-earned rest. Again we are fortunate in having found replacements. Ella Bowles has taken over as Access Secretary and Jill Green has just started the Fixtures job. Other committee members are happy to carry on, Roger Green as Mapping Officer, Peter Flick as Membership Secretary, Lew Bean as website manager, and Mike Hosford looking after the Newsletter and compiling the League Table. I will complete the list when we come to the re-election of Committee members later on.

At this stage I would like to say that we are really fortunate to have such a group of committed people driving the Club forward, and I thank them most warmly on your behalf.

Last year, I wrote of my vision of the Club as a well-oiled machine. It is not yet perfectly oiled, but I hope it is not creaking too badly. I see the Fixtures List as the backbone of this machine, and it is our ambition to have events specified and populated with event officials one year ahead. To be honest, there has been some fire-fighting in the last few years to save events from being cancelled through lack of people to run them, and obviously this we wish to avoid. Hopefully we are moving into a stronger position where we can draw breath, and think ahead strategically, particularly in terms of the composition and balance of the Fixtures List. But we do need a regular flow of people for events to happen. These will be largely recruited by Jill Green. Her job is not just to compose the List, but also find people to populate it. I would ask you to consider this. If you help on the day when asked, but have never stepped up a gear and tried organising, planning or SportIdenting, please give it a thought. There is just as much satisfaction to be gained from helping to put on a good event as in competing.

Now I would like to reflect on a number of successful developments during the year.

We have been delighted by the regular and enthusiastic appearance of the Torbay Scout group, led by their scout leader Steve Perrelle. During the last year or two, the older boys have joined the club as individual members. They have also gained confidence and competence, as witnessed by their brilliant performance last weekend in the schools orienteering championship held near Nottingham. Representing Torquay Boys Grammar School, they gained second places in both lower and upper secondary categories. This was a National Competition. Well done indeed.

You may know that electronic punching is my particular thing, and the club certainly appreciates the regular contribution from the SI Team. But I regard Sportident as merely a tool.

Let us think about mapping. Maps are what distinguish our sport from nearly all others, and maps representing areas within the county of Devon distinguish our orienteering club from all other clubs. I believe that our collection of maps is very special, to be cherished, nurtured, improved, and added to. The club has long had the benefit of two giants in the field of mapping, namely Brian Parker and Erik Peckett. In addition, in recent years Lew Bean has developed an authoritative track record in drawing new maps. Sadly, we never made good use of Mike Wimpenny, who is presently overseas, but he may return. So we are in a strong position in terms of resident mappers.

This year we set up a Mapping Group, led by Roger Green, our Mapping Officer. By focussing farther ahead on the fixtures list, we have identified a number of mapping projects. We have noted several venues which have fallen into disuse for no obvious reason – for example Dart Valley, Fernworthy, Golden Dagger, and Holne Moor. Remapping is needed to bring these back into use. Actually the two latter appeared to have been banned by the Dartmoor National Park. We have re-engaged in active dialogue with officers of DNPA. As a result, Holne Moor, (which is around Vennford reservoir on southern Dartmoor) is scheduled for our next Gallophen. There are restrictions on Holne Moor. We do have to avoid the rare and precious pre-historic field boundaries. In the case of Golden Dagger, we are hoping to bring this venue back into use, possibly for Caddihoe 2011. Both areas, Holne Moor and Golden Dagger, offer challenging orienteering. DNPA have also sanctioned use of areas around Hound Tor which is adjacent to Haytor, and a mapping project is under way, with Caddihoe 2009 in mind, to use the combined area. Again we do have to consult carefully. Unfortunately some of the best bits of Dartmoor from our perspective have valuable archaeological sites which we must respect.

Traditionally, most of the club's financial reserves have gone into new maps, and into updating old ones, and it is the Committee's view that this continues to be appropriate. Working actively on the areas mentioned above in the next year or two, we expect to deplete some of our financial reserves, using both our resident and external mappers. Personally I think that the representation of the major rock features on Dartmoor presents a particular challenge to mappers, and, for example, Erik Peckett has remapped these features, ie the major rock features, on Five Tors, with the help of a new detailed aerial photograph. We plan to use Five Tors for the next Devon Relays event in July. It will be interesting to see if the new representation is favourably received.

Returning to the Fixtures List, I should mention that 2010 is going to be a big year. In 2010 the South-West Orienteering Association is organising the Jan Kjelstrom event, or JK for short. Although this is a SWOA event, the organiser is our very own Erik Peckett, and all four days will be staged in Devon. Exeter University will host the sprint race on Good Friday, Cookworthy Forest on Saturday, and Sunday and Monday will see the competition on the very technical sand dunes of Braunton, North Devon. Most of the major roles have been filled, including two planners for each day. But I certainly hope that the club will turn out in numbers to help make the event a big success.

Turning to course planning, during the past year Erik Peckett and I ran two four-hour sessions to help planners. These sessions were divided into, firstly, a look at the principles of course planning, and secondly the use of OCAD for drawing master maps. All events now have the benefit of pre-printed maps, and Roger Green uncomplainingly ensures that these are always printed on time. There is now an expectation that planners will supply the courses in electronic format via OCAD. In fact the new course-planning version of OCAD has proved very successful, and relatively painless to learn. Two or three people have picked up OCAD without even bothering to attend our course. We bought what proved to be an inexpensive set of discs and licenses to issue to course planners, so that they have their own copies now.

.In terms of the balance of the Fixture List, I hope we shall see a bit more in the way of Social Events. Obviously the size of the county and the distances involved, not to mention the prospect of hard economic times ahead, don't make it easy to get together socially. But we were blessed with lovely weather in September for the Club Championship event at Woodbury and enjoyed a buffet afterwards organised by Vivienne Maxwell. Many thanks to Vivienne. Today's buffet, kindly organised by Ann Hughes, is obviously also a success.

Devon Orienteering Club's 30th Anniversary approaches. The club was officially formed on 1st January 1979 by the amalgamation of four small clubs. The plan is to celebrate this with a dinner. One suggestion is a late Sunday lunch in fact on the 4th January, starting at 16.00, at the Moorland Links Hotel, Yelverton. This would be after the league event at Virtuous Lady on that day. The cost would be £14.95 per head, £12 for children. Brian Parker, the Club's first Chairman, has offered to make a speech, recalling how it all happened. Vivienne Maxwell, who has kindly agreed to organise the event, is wondering whether we will have the energy for a Cailleagh afterwards starting about 18.00. This is one of the points I invite your comments on, later in the meeting under AOB.

Finally I must record the creation of a new club strip and logo which you see unveiled today. Kevin Hazell conducted the survey on the new design. Thanks Kevin. There was a competition for the logo, won by Brian Parker

And thank you all for your attention.

JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE

For a number of years this newsletter was edited by a schoolmaster, John Searle, who has since left the club. During his editing years the club had a number of active juniors with parents who were active orienteers. We still had a number when I became the club's editor 17 years ago, most of them in two families. Several of them were very good, running for England juniors in international competitions, and one even running for Great Britain Juniors.

John included in the newsletter a page headed *The Young Devonian* in which junior members of the club could make contributions and express their views on matters relevant to their sport and to the club.

As, once more, we have a very active number of juniors I proposed at the recent AGM that the juniors might like to appoint a representative to put across their views to the committee. Probably it would not be feasible for the Junior Representative to attend committee meetings - although any club member may do so - because of transport problems and studies (and he/she might find a long meeting less than enjoyable). But their arguments/views could easily be presented by any one of the committee members.

Let me know if you would like *The Young Devonian* to be resurrected with contributions from yourselves. That might be the easiest way to put forward arguments for consideration by the club committee.

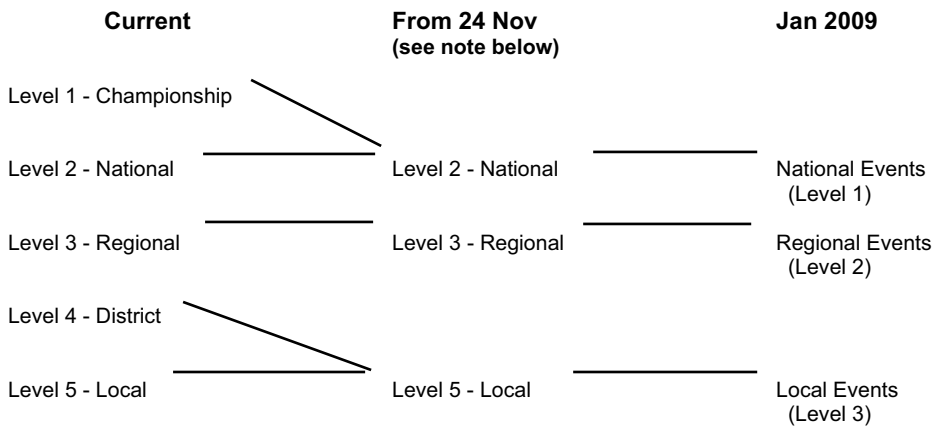
My email address is: mike.hosford@btinternet.com

Changes to the 2009 Fixtures

The competition structure is changing and implementation has already commenced.

Whilst 2009 will be a year of transition into the new competition structure there are some changes which need to be made shortly. The first of the visible changes will be included in the next publication of the fixture list on the British Orienteering website on Monday evening 24 November.

The competitions structure will, from 1 Jan 2009, be a 3 level structure of Local, Regional and National events. In order to reflect this within the Fixture list we have adopted a two staged process that can best be shown diagrammatically.



Note: There are no changes to 2008 events

The biggest change for most clubs and participants will be the current Level 4 District Events will become Local Events in 2009. In order to make this change all of the Level 4 District Events being staged in 2009 and onward, that have already been registered in the Fixture list, will be re-labelled as Level 5 - Local Events from Monday 24 November.

Although some of the modifications to the fixtures list involved in this first stage of the implementation have been straightforward there has been considerable work by the National fixtures Secretary to manually change some of the event registrations to fit the new structure - these have been mostly naming issues.

The second phase of these changes will be in January when the Event Registration System and Fixture List will be updated and moved more fully into the British Orienteering online management system currently being tested.

For a period both the new and old systems will run in tandem. The old system will not be taken out of use until the new one is functioning in a robust manner.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

In the November 1981 issue of Devon Orienteer there was a tongue in cheek attempt to look ahead a whole twenty years to 2001 to guess what technological advances would do to the nature of the sport.

Michael Green pondered on '**Future Developments**':

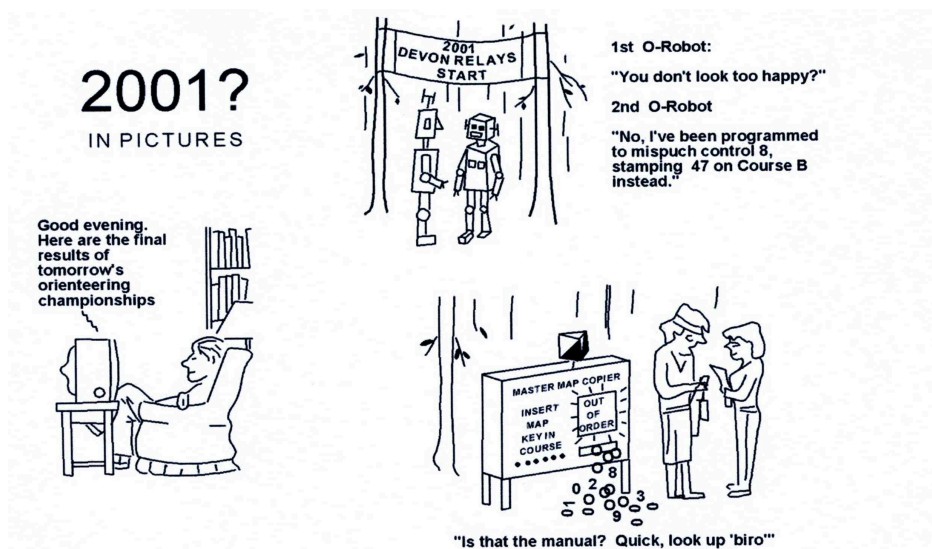
"With all this talk of Ranking Lists, use of Computers and Personal Performance Courses, have you ever stopped to consider how Orienteering will have developed as a sport by 2001? Well. I have and the penny has dropped. It has become blindingly obvious. A vision of the future has appeared before me, clear and distinct, unwavering in its message.

"Orienteering will become the ultimate armchair sport.

"In the year 2001 the computer terminal will require you to give your name, age class, Club, selection of course to be run and a debit authorisation for the entry fee. It will already have details in its memory banks of all your past performances compared with others and will be able to compute your likely position in your selected race. However, to allow for an essential element of chance in the competition various additional items of information will have to be entered on the day. What you had for breakfast, whether you are taking a second holiday this year, which way the wind is blowing, whether the barometer is rising or falling, the make and size of the shoes you run in, your favourite colour, and so on ...

"Then you sit back and wait for the results to be displayed. Think of the possibilities. You could even enter the Swedish O-ringen and run in the Kerno event at Penhale on the same day!

"All of this you could do without ever moving from your armchair. Mind you, there is some irresponsible seditious talk of a different and revolutionary approach to the Sport which might get out of hand. It is called 'exercise' ..."



World Rogaining Championships - Estonia September 2008 (WRC 2008)

by Alison & Andy Reynolds

Have you ever heard of ‘rogaining’, and wondered what it was? Having recently competed in the WRC 2008, we can now enlighten you.

‘Rogaining’ is a long-distance navigation event, for teams of 2-5 people, where you visit as many controls as possible in a set time (up to 24 hours), so basically, it is a very long score ‘O’. The events use electronic punching and the same control flags as orienteering. For the WRC, at least, the controls were of full technical difficulty, even though the map was 1:40,000! The main distinguishing feature is that events are based around a central ‘hash house’ that you can return to at any time for food, or to sleep. That adds an interesting twist.

Many rogainers started as orienteers, unsurprisingly. It was started in 1976 in Australia, named after the 3 founders, ROd, GAil, and NEil, whom we met as they were staying in the same hotel as us before the event. They claim that it is more popular than ‘O’ in Australia, and growing because of the wide variety of people it appeals to – walkers, runners, and all ages (the youngest competitor in the WRC was a 10 year old, competing with her father!).

We were introduced to the sport by Andy’s Australian aunt who had mentioned that she competed regularly, doing very well with her partner in the Super Vets (over 55) class, even though she is not a runner. She said that the World Champs were in Estonia and that they were thinking of coming over. We thought it would be a great opportunity to meet up with them, try the sport, and visit Estonia.

The only event in the British Isles is held annually in the Wicklow Mts of Southern Ireland. The reasons why it hasn’t taken off here was a topic of conversation among the 12 Brits entered. We seemed to gravitate towards each other – perhaps the slightly confused expressions made it obvious that we were British. There was much discussion as to whether and where, the UK could host an event, probably land access would be the main issue.

We flew to Tallinn, the pretty medieval capital (well worth a visit), and took a bus to the southern university city of Tartu. Competitors had come from all corners of the world, some just for the weekend! As we gathered for the event bus in Tartu, you could spot them easily: the typical roganer looks decidedly ‘rugged’ (from spending too many hours out in the wilderness!) From there, the bus took us to the hash house, situated in a picturesque spot by a lake in a national park in the SE of Estonia, near the Latvian border. It would have been heavily midge-infested if it hadn’t been so cold.

The terrain was flat and forested, broken up in places by farmsteads, and meadows. The most important feature of the landscape, as the organiser had taken great pains to stress in the pre-event details, was WATER. He gave a detailed explanation the difference between a ‘bog’ (just slightly wet ground to us), and ‘marsh’ (almost totally uncrossable swamp). It became clear once we got going just how vital it was to know the difference!

We were a bit apprehensive beforehand, as we didn’t really know what to expect, or what we should aim to achieve. Should we stay out all night, or return to the hash house to rest? Never having run for more than about 8.5 hours on the OMM, it was difficult to know.

The start was at midday on the Saturday, but we were given our maps at 10.00 to give time to plan our route. That seemed plenty of time, but we needed every minute to consider all the permutations.

Progress was slow at first, with some very tricky early controls, through very wet country. There was some lovely pine forest though, with a blanket covering of moss underfoot. We tried to maintain a run, but struggled to keep ahead of some of the fast walkers, especially when we accidentally started to cross a marsh, sinking down above our waists.

We had intended to return to the hash house soon after dark, but as that time approached, we were as far away from the hash house as we could be, having misjudged the distance and our speed across the terrain. We wondered how we would find the controls in the dark, since some had proved difficult on the small scale map even in daylight. However, it was easier than we thought. We were forced to concentrate more, and could actually pick out the trodden down tracks more easily than in daylight. It was very peaceful, and the full moon made it quite magical. (Rogaines are traditionally held during full moon.)

We returned to the hash house after 1 am, and greedily tucked into the soup and other food provided. Our intention had been to off before dawn, but when the time came, couldn't rouse ourselves very quickly, and after a leisurely breakfast, set off on a modest route choice to ensure that we returned by the midday deadline (we didn't want to lose any of our hard-earned points by being over-time).

We finished at 11:40, with a reasonable score considering that we were 'novices' and had spent 6 hours at camp. Many competitors had stayed out for the full 24 hours (well, it was the World Champs). My aunt and partner had stopped only briefly, as it was too cold to linger for long (not like Australia). They achieved a high score as a result, and were 2nd in the Super Vets category. The event was dominated by the Estonians and Russians who made up over half the competitors.

We had a great adventure and would recommend it to anyone. Unlike mountain marathons, there is no need to carry camping equipment, only lots of food! We met many interesting people with inspiring tales of mad and exciting running events all over the world – mainly ultra distance!

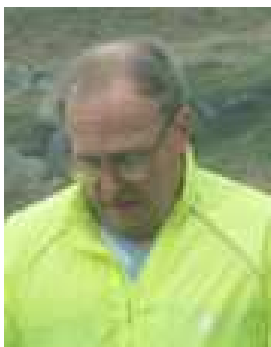
The European Rogaining Champs are being held next August in Finnish Lapland, in a village called Yllas, which by chance, happens to be where we recently bought a log cabin. It will be an ideal location – the village is surrounded by endless forests, ideal for wandering around in the dark! We will be there, hoping to put our newly acquired rogaining skills to the test. So if anyone wants to join us, let us know, or if you would like to stay at any other time, have a look at our website: www.laplandlogcabin.co.uk. The area is excellent for cross-country or downhill skiing, and boarding, with plenty of non-skiing activities, such as reindeer, husky and snowmobile rides. Summer is good for walking, canoeing, fishing, and of course, running and orienteering.



Alan Simpson
Chairman
Equipment Officer
SI Manager



Tom Lillicrap
Club Captain



Graham Dugdale
Secretary



John Dyson
Treasurer



Jill Green
Fixtures Secretary
Committee



Roger Green
Mapping Officer
Committee



Ella Bowles
Access Officer
Committee



Wilf Taylor
Coaching
Committee



Lew Bean
Website Manager
Committee



Anthony Dew
Publicity Officer



Helen Taylor
Child Welfare



Peter Flick
Membership Secretary
Committee

Mike Hosford
Newsletter Editor
League Table Compiler



Source2sea

Source2sea is a team development journey, taking you, quite literally, from the source of a river to the sea, in a beautiful part of the UK.

The 3 day journey allows teams from Businesses to work together on a series of challenges that will test them – cerebrally and physically – whilst being supported by professional team-working coaches. Teams take on the challenges of each stage in real-time, and become adept in the skills of managing uncertainty, problem solving and creative lateral thinking.

Source2sea 2008 took place in the stunningly beautiful coastal hills of Mid-Wales on the Afon Rheidol River, which rises in the Cambrian Mountains and reaches the sea at Aberystwyth between the 25th and 27th September.

17 teams took part, from organisations across Europe, including British Telecom, NHS Health Scotland, Knowledge Solutions and Coca Cola. Each team was made up of 6 people, with the teams being able to decide who would take part in each of the 9 stages. Some stages utilised the whole team, whereas others only involved 4 with the remaining 2 team members acting as Support Crew.

Day one and Stage 1 had the teams of 6, building model gliders that were flown off the dam holding back the reservoir that was filled by the Afon Rheidol itself. This short stage provided a gentle introduction to the event and was a great opportunity for the coaches to observe all the teams in action. Many styles of glider were designed and built, with bonuses on offer for wing length. The winning glider flew a distance of 39.9 meters netting the stage winners Coke from Grigny in Europe their first 100 points.

Stage 2 was a 4.5 hour stage involving the teams playing a game of Pontoon by visiting controls that had different card values at each – their objective was to get as many high scoring hands as possible. However the teams could split into 2 with some going into the hills on foot and some collecting cards by kayaking around the reservoir. Most teams pre-agreed the hands they would play and collected accordingly before returning to the stage transition to play their hand. Some teams played up to 5 hands of cards during the stage but several went bust scoring nothing on that particular hand. Communication and recognising strengths and weaknesses were critical. A compulsory control, which was high in the Cambrian Mountains, gave a crucial card of ace high or ace low but also allowed the teams to pick up their team baton, a leek complete with its own SI card! The winning team for this stage was another Coke team, this time from Northampton, gaining 500 stage points.

After a night at the Event Centre under canvas, day 2 and Stage 3 took them further down the river on Mountain Bikes. The route hugged the Rheidol and went through stunning terrain through forests and past small lakes often crossing or joining the now famous Continental Mountain Bike trail and finishing at the mountain bike centre at Nant-yr-Arian. On face value the stage looked easy but with the controls being worth different values at different times of the 3 hour stage the teams strategy and time keeping was crucial.

Stage 4 involved the team running around the Silver Lead Mining Museum at Llywernog finding controls and answering questions about the history of mining in the area. One control was even hidden underground in a disused adit, forcing the teams to don helmets and head torches. This highly interactive museum created challenge and education all in one stage! The stage was one by GrowHow, their first stage win and the full 100 points maximum.

Stage 5 was on foot and headed back through very different terrain again with gently rolling hills high above the deep gorge of the Rheidol. With clear skies and gently turning wind turbines on the hilltops it was very much like Telly Tubby land. The stage was all about creating as many words as possible gained from collecting letters at controls, with bonuses on offer for the longer words. No team managed to get the 9 letter word 'Democracy' that was worth 18 points. GrowHow were on a roll and stormed into the lead on this stage, but the exertion of effort was starting to take its toll on the teams, with 3 teams failing to make it back to the event centre in time and scoring zero for the stage.

The final stage of the day was Stage 6 - a night stage that was like a trail or hash run - only the teams were following Glow Sticks. There were 3 trails, with each trail a different colour and going up into a different part of the hills around the Event Centre. At the end of each trail, the teams had to collect the components of a bubble-making machine that they then had to build and demonstrate working in as fast a time as possible. A procurement team won the stage in just under 45 minutes.

After a deserved rest, day 3 and stage 7 was a dynamic sprint relay race to Devils Bridge with the leek (that had been collected from the source of the Afon Rheidol and carried on every stage) being used as a team baton. The fastest team, who all came from East Kilbride, covered the 4km in 17 minutes – a very fast time that netted them 100 points.

Stage 8 set in the grounds of the Hafod Hotel at Devils Bridge had teams building water wheels to raise their leek as far as possible off the ground, however the water used to power the water wheel and many bits of the equipment used had to be retrieved from the Devils Bridge Gorge some several hundred feet below the build area. This stage really was a mix of physical, creative and cerebral effort by the teams who were by now tiring after 3 days of continued effort. However with this stage and one other left all was to play for all the way to the sea! GrowHow, whose water wheel lifted their leek to a staggering height of 2.87m, again won this stage.

The final stage followed the Afon Rheidol as it opened up from the confined gorge of the Welsh hills and out onto the open plains before it arrived at Aberystwyth. The teams took a train to Aberystwyth with questions to answer on the train by looking out of the windows, in order to earn time bonuses. Just to make it a little more challenging the questions were in Welsh, however they did have a Welsh dictionary.

A short sprint across town and a challenge to stack pebbles to a height of 1 meter on the beach then the teams were allowed to take the final run in past the castle and into the water for the final control and stop the clock!

After the results from all 9 stages had been calculated, it was newcomers GrowHow who took the final honour and overall title with 1852 points and Agile Media 1 from British Telecom came second with 1569 points. Last year's winners Knowledge Solutions came sixth with 1345 points.

All participants hailed the event as a superb team experience, full of development learning and fun. The team challenges that made up Source2sea 2008 were intriguing and exciting, with the event design team actually surpassing their superb formatting of 2007 and 2006.

Dartmoor Long-O, 4 October 2008 by James Head



This year's Long-O took place just south of Okehampton on what is perhaps one of the most desolate parts of Dartmoor. My brother and I took part as a team on the medium course and took turns navigating each leg. This year's event used a new map which had been surveyed at less detail than a standard orienteering map and more akin to the Harvey's map whilst most of the legs looked straight forward but required "long" navigational ability. At the start the weather was very windy and dull, although it started to clear up as we headed towards Red-a-ven Brook and Longstone Hill, however this was to be short-lived. The weather turned foul as we went south along the west side of Yes Tor and High Willhays, and we were glad that the planner had resisted the temptation to put a control on the top of either of these summits, being Dartmoor's two highest. Instead we only had to skirt around the bottom and up a few contours to find our control on a crag amongst the rocks. There then involved a long leg across featureless moorland through fog and rain, towards Okement Hill where we made a minor blunder, mistaking one track for another, and took a minor detour down to Dinger Tor. Once corrected, we ploughed on to the refreshment stop, ably manned as usual by Peter Flick and met up with Alan Simpson but we weren't keen on sticking around for a talk in the bad weather and began a long slog up over Oke Tor and down into the Taw Valley. On a good day this spot has some of the nicest views on the north part of the moor towards Belstone, but there wasn't much on offer this day. We had another long slog up Belstone Tor before coming down to Scarey Tor and the final few controls. Here the weather got even worse with high winds in addition to the rain as we battled to the finish. At least there was some cake left in the Green's minivan – thank you!

TVOC's Mikhail Gryaznevich won the medium course whilst Dave Kingham came second whilst Ben Chesters won the long course.

I'm finishing writing this on the weekend after this year's OMM, which couldn't have escaped anybody's notice this year! I didn't compete, but from the reports of the competitors (not the sensationalised media!), I think this year's Dartmoor Long-O proved to be an excellent training opportunity.

On a personal note, I've noticed that next year will be the 10th Dartmoor Long-O and it's nice to see the event continuing. I remember proposing and then organising the first event in 1999 with Paul Glanville and myself getting a crash-course in mapping from Erik as we and the Gould family surveyed and mapped the area around North Hessary Tor and down to Leadon Tor in under four months. We were overjoyed with the excellent weather we had – dense fog with visibility down to a few metres! Tim Gent was new to orienteering and training for the KIMM that year, and managed to run nearly a kilometre away from the start in the wrong direction, towards the finish before someone could catch up with him!

Thank you Devon.

Club Meeting held on Friday 10 October 2008 At the Bishop Lacy, Fore Street, Chudleigh

Present

Alan Simpson, Graham Dugdale, Wilf Taylor, Lew Bean and John Dyson

Apologies

Apologies were received from Adrian Taylor, Roger Green, Damian Wilson, Peter Flick, Anthony Dew and Mike Hosford

Club Constitution

It is accepted that changes to the club constitution will be required to meet Clubmark standards. However it would be wrong to rush through changes merely to meet the deadlines of the AGM. It is proposed therefore that the case for change, in due course, should be put to the AGM, with the committee tasked with producing a new constitution in the future. Damian will be invited to outline the changes which are needed.

Active Devon

Alan reported on the Active Devon meeting he attended in Newton Abbot on the 2nd October. Whilst Active Devon is not generally a source of funding, a Schools League in Orienteering is something they might support financially if we can get it off the ground.

Plymouth Schools League

A meeting arranged by Martin Northcott, was held on the 9th October to discuss arrangements for a Plymouth Schools Orienteering League (taking many ideas pioneered in Bristol by the Avon schools League) with the intention of holding 6 events from late October through to early December. Turnout was disappointing and feedback suggested that schools would struggle to arrange transport to the events. Probably the idea will be deferred until next year.

Future Events

BO have asked Area Associations to collate their clubs' views as to how the new event classification, due for full implementation in 2010, should be applied to their events. The view of the committee was that most Devon OC events fall into the local (level 3) category, with the obvious exceptions of the Tamar Triple and the Caddihoe which are regional (level 2). It was decided that the Galoppen events organised by Devon could fit into either level 2 or 3, but on balance the larger entry and higher competitive standard warranted a level 2 classification. Graham Dugdale was asked to communicate these conclusions.

Mapping

Rob Postlethwaite (Wrekin) is available to undertake mapping work and is to work in conjunction with Erik Peckett in mapping Haytor North and South (including Hound Tor). This work will be completed in time for the Caddihoe 2009. When Simon Beck returns from his travels he will undertake mapping of River Dart Country Park with a view to its use in April 2009, and will also carry out an evaluation survey of Fernworthy to decide whether it would support an event following the large amount of tree-felling. Erik is to update the Harcombe map in time for its use on 29 March 2009.

Coaching

Wilf Taylor is looking at ways in which club training can be introduced. At the moment he thinks that focussing on one area, such as Riverside, may be the way forward. He also sought guidance upon which groups he should seek to establish first. It was agreed that the Met Office was probably the one to start with. Alan Simpson undertook to contact Martin Northcott to see what mileage there was in setting up training related to the Ten Tors applicants and/or their teachers. Graham Dugdale reported that an "Equity in your Coaching" Course is to be run at Taunton on 27th October. This course is required for clubmark (at least one coach should attend) but it may be sensible to wait until we have at least started some coaching before we attend. Graham also highlighted "Coaching for teachers teaching orienteering part 2" to be held on Tuesday 18th November 2008 at Shirehampton Bristol. Lew Bean is considering attending.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Bowes Paul (M21)	L	
Crawford Hugh (M)	CCT	
Leake Dominic (M9)	N	474761

Changes of email & telephone number

Kate Bickerstaffe	Jonathan Croome
Anthony Dew	Patrick Ffishwick
Ann_Hughes	Tom Lillicrap
Mark Lockett	

KERNO FIXTURES

Saturday 8 December	1000 1300	District	Tehidy	SW 365 435
Sunday 25 January	1000 1300	District	Lanhydrock	
Sunday 8 February	1000 1300	District	Craddock Moor	
Sunday 8 March	1000 1300	District	Idless	

Minutes of the Devon Orienteering Club Annual General Meeting 2008

Walkhampton Village Hall, 18/10/07 at 1430

Present

Lew Bean, Eulalie Boucher, Lea Boucher, Marie Boucher, Olivier Boucher, Peter Flick, Jill Green, Roger Green, Roger Hateley, Susan Hateley, Mike Hosford, Val Livsey, Alan Simpson, Adrian Taylor, Helen Taylor, Erik Peckett, Andy Reynolds, Wilf and Eleanor Taylor, Ian and Ella Bowles, Graham Dugdale, John Dyson, Ann Hughes, Nicholas and Vivienne Maxwell, Bryan Smith, Rob Naylor and Tom Lillicrap.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Dave Livsey, Alison Reynolds, Mike Hughes and Brian Parker.

Minutes of the 2007 AGM

These were accepted as an accurate account of the 2007 AGM.

Chairman's Report

These are attached and will form the basis of Chairman's article in the next club newsletter. The chairman thanked those members who were stepping down (or have stepped down during the past year) from their roles: Phil Way (Access Officer), Adrian Taylor (Fixtures Secretary) and Wilf Taylor (Club Captain).

Treasurer's Statement

John Dyson thanked his predecessor, Mike Hosford for his contribution to this year's accounts and for ensuring a smooth handover. Mike has now completed two 3 year terms as club treasurer. Unfortunately we shall need to find a new auditor next year as Sarah Tadd is standing down. John thanked Sarah Tadd for auditing the 2007-08 accounts and for her work over a number of years. The club made a profit this year bringing our cash balance to a healthy level. Members should however be aware that this year included both of our major events (Caddihoe Chase and Tamar Triple), which made a combined contribution of about £2,500. Event income continues to provide the bulk of our receipts and it was pleasing to note that this had risen by over 20%. The question was raised as to whether the increase in event revenues reflected higher attendances at events or an increase in the number of events. John Dyson undertook to work out attendances at events.

John's breakdown of event accounts showed that only one event had resulted in a deficit and that was attributable to a mapping cost of over £500. John pointed out that the event accounts always included the full cost of mapping, whereas in reality we could now hold further events at a much lower cost. Most of the club's cash is now tied up in 3-month bonds, which this year contributed £168 to club funds, but which next year would bring in between £300 and £400. This did require the club to anticipate short term expenditure so that operating costs could be met.

On the payments side mapping costs had been low in 2007-8, but a rise in expenditure was expected as the club brought new areas (albeit ones that had been used in the distant past) into use. British Orienteering has introduced changes to the levy structure due to be fully implemented in 2010. Whilst some clubs (BOK for example) anticipated major cost increases as a result, John's estimates showed that the changes would have very little effect on Devon, due to smaller number of competitors and the relatively low proportion of juniors at our events. Over the year we spent nearly £1,400 on SI, increasing the number of SI boxes held, which will be particularly useful multi-day events are being staged.

Membership Report

Peter Flick reported a decline in membership this year with the total down from 250 to 210. Almost all of this decline was due to a fall in local members, probably due to the higher local membership fees. There are 210 members (compared to 250 in 2007), of which 63 are juniors (compared to 71) and 147 seniors (compared to 179). Of the 210 members, 122 (compared to 123) are national members and 80 (compared to 127) are local members. There were 8 “contact” members (compared to 5).

Membership Fees for 2009 and 2010

It was agreed that the Devon OC membership fees should be kept unchanged for 2009 and 2010 (i.e. £4 for seniors, £4 for families, £2 for juniors). The fees need to cover 2010 because British Orienteering must be informed of our fee structure for 2010 before the next AGM. Peter Flick reported that BO had incorrectly calculated the 2009 membership fees for Devon members and advised club members not to pay their membership fees until this was resolved.

Event Fees for 2009

British Orienteering is changing the 5-tier event structure to a 3-tier structure for 2010, with most of our events falling within the category 3 (local), which will not attract a £2 surcharge for non-members. *It was agreed to abolish the £2 surcharge for senior non-members, but in other respects keep event fees unchanged.* The standard Devon OC event fee for 2009 is thus £5 for seniors and £1 for juniors, dibber hire remains at £1. (Note – charges for Caddihoe and Tamar Triple are not covered by this).

Club Kit

Concerns were expressed regarding the cost and the durability of the new club kit. Whilst not wishing to slow down the move to new kit, Jill Green proposed contacting orienteering suppliers (such as Ultrasport) to see what they would quote for our new design in a more traditional (and robust) material.

In the mean time John Dyson collected names and £5 deposits from those members who wished to order a long sleeve club top in the new design. The cost of ordering 10 would be £35, with reductions to £25 for 50 and £22.50 for 100. On the basis of interest expressed it seems likely that we could order 50. *It was agreed that the club would subsidise the top for junior members to the tune of £5.*

Elected officers and committee members are shown on pp 10 & 11

Next issue of Devon Orienteer

Mid February - Press deadline: 12 February

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Updated fixture information and results always available on our club website

www.devonorienteering.co.uk



Christmas Novelty Event

Haldon Forest Park

signed from A30, near Exeter racecourse

Parking: GR SX 883 847 or

www.haldonforestpark.org.uk/

Sunday 28th December, 2008

Orienteering

Registration 9.45-10.45 am

All welcome: Mass start 11.00

(1 hour score event)

Find as many controls as you like/can, with a few festive bonuses on the trails, and afterwards.



Cost: Adults £5; Juniors £1 (+£1.50 parking)

Organisers: The Taylors (of Exmouth) – 01395 274152

Other events visit: <http://www.devonorienteering.co.uk>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

date	rgstn times	event	venue	grid ref.	information
Saturday 6 Dec	1000 1230	Devon League 2	Burrator & Crazywell	SX 568 692	Susan Porter 01752 892421
Saturday 13 Dec	1800 1900	D&C Night League	Five Tors	SX 531 752	Nigel Bateman 01837 54230
Sunday 28 Dec	Mass start	Xmas Novelty Event	Bullers Hill	SX 883 848	Taylor Family 01395 274152
Full information on the Xmas Novelty Event on page 19					
Sunday 4 Jan	1000 1230	Devon League 3	Virtuous Lady	SX 499 693	Phil Way 01548 561036
Saturday 31 Jan	1800 1900	D&C Night League	Whitchurch Common	SX 531 752	Paul Glanville 01822 617713
Saturday 7 Feb	1000 1300	Gallopen & Devon League 4	Holne Moor	SX 694 703	Gary & Lesley Ratcliffe
Saturday 7 Feb		Devon Anniversary Dinner & Barn Dance	Lavendar House Ashburton		Vivienne Maxwell
See page 2 for fuller details of the Anniversary Dinner					
Sunday 8 Feb	1000 1300	Kerno Gallopen	Craddock Moor		KERNO
Sunday 22 Feb		Meldon Hill Race Pre-entry preferred	Meldon Reservoir	SX 561 918	Nigel Bateman 01837 52430
Sunday 8 March	1000 1230	Devon League 5	East Hill & Core Copse	SY 127 949	James Jackson 01404 823047
Saturday 14 Mar	1800 1900	D&C Night League	Great Plantation	SX 814 752	Ella & Ian Bowles 01803 732241
Sunday 29 Mar	1000 1230	Compass Sport Cup	Bullers Hill	SX 883 848	Wilf Taylor 01626 859365
Saturday 19 April	1000 1230	Devon League 6	River Dart Country Park	SX 732 700	Nicholas & Vivienne Maxwell 01752 739040

Orienteering takes place over terrain that is sometimes rough and may be overgrown with vegetation. Weather conditions may be adverse. Competitors take part at their own risk.

All Devon League events have courses suitable for novices: most have string courses.