



DEVON ORIENTEER

THE NEWSLETTER OF
DEVON ORIENTEERING CLUB

NUMBER 145
JUNE 2011



CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

by

John Dyson



Congratulations to Rob Parkinson on his M55 win at the JK. It's good to see we can still provide champions at National level. Judging by some local results, he is having more problems beating his son Jamie... Don't worry, Rob – it comes to us all sooner or later!

It's also good to see that the Club is taking its training responsibilities to heart. Last year Alan helped to train a posse of coaches – a vital component for our Clubmark qualification – and now we have a training day on Saturday 11th June for organisers in the morning with Jill Green, and for the SI team (and others) on Autodownload in the afternoon. It's not just about the basic training, but also an opportunity to discuss all matters of common interest with other Club members.

With summer holidays now in view – and other challenges and expeditions – why not report back with your tales of success or disaster, with a picture or two to share with us all? I'm sure that our editor Mike Hosford, mainly confined to barracks these days, would appreciate any entertaining accounts.

Best wishes to you all, whatever the weather may bring.

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In the steps of Moses and T E Lawrence or somewhere thereabouts

by Roger Green

Just before Easter Jill and I went on a trek in Jordan. We had booked this trek in December, well before the Arab world exploded into the news broadcasts. However, as Arab countries go Jordan is relatively benign with a King who seems to be well loved by his people. He did change his prime minister but that is about all that happened. We encountered no trouble whatever.

The Trek consisted of six days of fairly hard trekking travelling from North to South and ending up at the World Heritage site of the City of Petra, of which you may have heard. It was titled the 'Dhana to Petra' trek and has been described as Jordan's 'Inca trail'. The Inca trail in Peru terminates at Machu Pichu, a similar world heritage site. Having been on part the Inca trail, I can say that it is distinctly less crowded and more hygienic.

There were 16 trekkers in our group lead by a 'Western Trek Leader' employed by the tour operator, KEadventure. There was also a local guide and a crew who moved some of our kit and the camping equipment from campsite to campsite by 4WD pickup trucks. They took rather longer routes than we did.

After flying into Amman, the capital of Jordan, and a night in a hotel we were driven to the trail head in a small coach. The trek started at high level at a place called Dhana which hosted a National Park, mainly for its flora and fauna rather than tourism. From the village of Dhana at 1400m we descended, on a good track, down a long wadi south westwards towards the Wadi Araba which is a desolate plain at about 200m, stretching westwards towards Israel and the Negev Desert. A wadi is a valley, mostly dry but subject to flash floods, usually in the winter. From our first camp at the foot of the mountains we walked along the edge of the range over undulating 'hamada'. This is rocky desert terrain, with minimal or no tracks to follow, with the occasional bush or tree, affording a small amount of shade. Our second camp was more interesting as a short excursion lead to a piece of water where the water table, normally well underground, broke the surface. I had a bath in about two foot of water after clambering over rocks to get in it. From this camp we had a three hour ascent into the mountains which followed a ridge and then a narrow defile which lead up to a col. From here a steep descent lead down to another wadi containing a stream which poured over a waterfall. We worked out that this was the same watercourse as we had bathed in the previous day but several hundred metres higher. After a lunch stop by the waterfall we headed up the stream, fighting our way through lush vegetation to where the stream disappeared and the wadi became dry again. We turned away from the wadi to find the next camp site on an open hillside.

At the next campsite, which was at high level we saw the sun go down and later we could see the lights of Israeli towns and villages far to the west.

The next day we continued our trek and descended into Little Petra - a smaller version of the main feature of this trip – and continued to our last camp. From here we followed an interesting and challenging, from the vertigo point of view, route which lead us at high level to the back entrance of Petra. This path followed an undulating route around steep cliffs with some tricky sections. It was like an easy ‘via ferrata’ but lacked any ‘ferrata’. It took most of the day to walk through the city in the company of a knowledgeable local guide with good English.

Petra is an ancient city, whose buildings have long gone due to earthquakes. However there are lots of tombs which were carved out of the bedrock, from the top downwards, and these survived. I don’t have the space here to say much about Petra and there are many guidebooks on the subject.

After a night in a luxury hotel we drove in a coach on a hair raising road back through the mountains we had been walking in and down to the Wadi Araba and headed north to the Dead Sea (-423 metres) where the tourist ritual of trying to swim in it took place - all highly organised but actually not too expensive. From here our coach took us back up to the top of the mountains and Mount Nebo (+600 metres) on our way back to Amman.

From here you can see Hebron, Jerusalem, the West Bank, etc i.e. Canaan – the ‘Promised Land’.

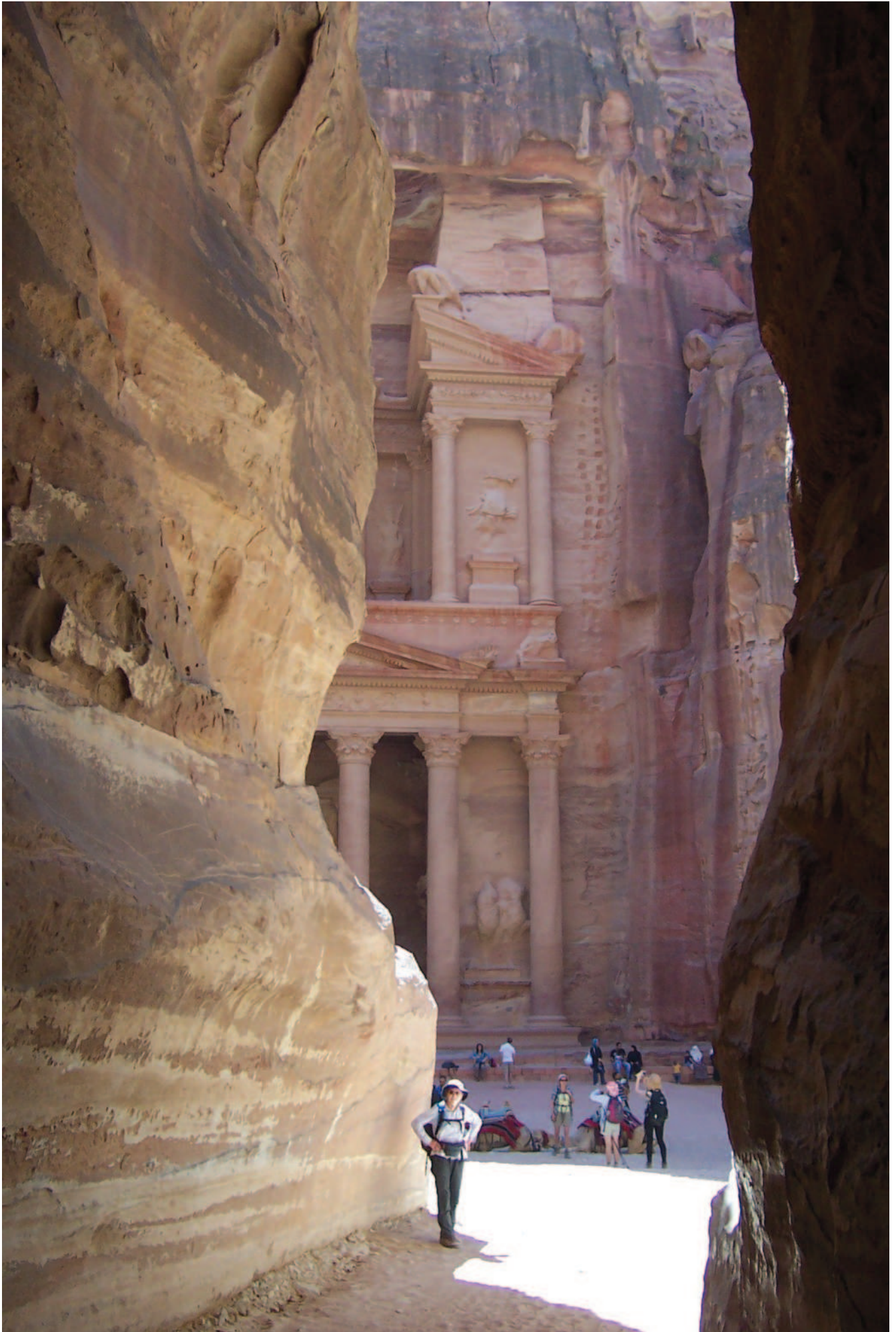
This is where Moses comes in, as it was here at Mount Nebo that he was shown the Promised Land and was then struck down dead by God. It stands to reason that the wilderness that the Israelites spent forty years wandering in must have been where we spent six days wandering in.

Now what about T E Lawrence? On our trip south from Amman we followed the ‘Desert Highway’ with frequent glimpses of the adjacent Hejaz Railway, which Lawrence spent so much time blowing up. If you had walked due west from where our trek took place, you would have reached the Suez canal- just like Lawrence in the film! A bit further south from Petra you come to Wadi Rum – one of Lawrence’s bases.

A few notes on life in the desert:

Dunes:

Watching David Lean’s film of Lawrence of Arabia you get the impression that desert equals dunes. We didn’t see any. According to Holmes Physical Geology only a thirteenth of the area of the Sahara Desert is covered in dunes. As in Jordan, mostly it is ‘Hamada’ which consists of stones lying on a thin layer of sand overlying bedrock. It looked like those pictures of the surface of Mars sent back by the Mariner probes. If you remove the bigger stones it is not bad for pitching your tent on but make sure you have a 40 mm thick Thermarest with you.



Water:

Not a lot. The water which was used for drinking and cooking came in plastic mineral water bottles brought in by the pickup trucks. Not very ecological! There is a definite drainage pattern imposed on the landscape but the watercourses are seasonal, rain mostly falling in winter. The bottoms of the valleys are usually loose rock, the products of erosion brought down in flash floods. These form aquifers with ground water below the surface. Every so often the water table rises above the surface and a stream exists, perhaps only for a few hundred metres before disappearing again.

Vegetation:

Not a lot, but more than you might think. If you see anything bright green and level and it looks like grass it is somebody's crop and is not for camping on.

Scorpions:

Not a lot. We found a torpid scorpion about two inches long under a stone. We had to poke it a lot to get its dander up. Fortunately they don't come out at night as it is too cold so they won't creep into your tent and take up residence in your boots.

Maps:

Not a lot. I had a 1:400,000 map of Jordan from which I blew the relevant bits up to 1:200,000 i.e. 1 cm to 2 km. A fellow trekker with a GPS and Data Logger showed the route we took and this showed my map be fairly inaccurate in the mountains but the route looked absolutely correct when loaded on to Google Earth.

Heat:

Not too bad. It was cloudy and cool at the beginning of the trek but pretty hot walking about Petra.

If you are fed up with rain, drizzle, mist, fog, cloud and snow try the mountains in the desert instead!

From Susan Hateley – SINS Editor

Although we were not at the JK in Northern Ireland, because of SINS I kept an eye on the results:

Rob Parkinson won the M 55 L class on the 2nd & 3rd Days.

Jamie Parkinson was 2nd on M 20 L for the 2 days. (Note there was an M 20 E class)

Ann Hughes was 3rd in W 65 L for the 2 days.

In the relays, Ed Gow Smith, James Dean and Jake Belston were third in the M/W 40- class. They competed as the Devon Raiders.

World Ski Orienteering Championships

by Emmit Andrews

I was Leg 1 in the British relay team and took the long route to control 1, all the others doing the same. It was at the base of the hill where everyone split.

#1-#2, I made an error by choosing the track south of the water feature to climb, it was soft snow, very thin and very steep; I should have used the other track to the east.

#2-#3 was fine.

After #3 I went straight to #8-95. I did not read the number and thought the line went towards control 95. I then started to head towards 9-108. I realised there were more controls this side of the area. But instead of hitting the controls in sequence I headed south up the main scooter track towards #7-94 which was the line from 95.

After that I did them all backwards, up to crossing the bridge.

On reflection I think my eye did not catch the line to #4-91, and I did not read the map. Perhaps it was my fightup the hill to #2 and being flustered.

What is really ironic I was on route to #4-91 when I left #8-95 heading towards #9-108.

Editor's Note

Emmit Andrews was a member of Devon OC while serving as a commando in north Devon. Although he was posted away a couple of years ago a number of Devon members will remember him, the Editor took the opportunity to include an out of the ordinary (for Devon) article in this issue. His relay map is in the centre fold of the hard copy issues.

The Editor is also most grateful to Nick Barrable, editor of CompassSport for his help in providing Emmit's O map in this issue's centrefold and for the photos opposite.

Results

Sprint – Tues 22nd March Men

1st Olli-Markus Taivainen FIN 18:04
71st Emmit Andrews 37:35
74th Nick Barrable 48:40

Middle – Wed 23rd March

Men – 8km
1st Staffan Tunis FIN 40:13
71st Emmit Andrews 76:30
73rd Nick Barrable 91:34

Mixed Sprint Relay – Thurs 24th March

1st RUS – Malchikova & Grigoryev 66:19

20th GBR – Becky Hoare & Emmit
Andrews 111:45

Relay

Men – Emmit Andrews 74:22 - DSQ
6.5km laps
DSQ
Nick Barrable 55:59



Emmit is 2nd from left in the Great Britain team photo

Emmit trudging through the snow.



EMMIT'S RELAY MAP

It was the Editor's plan to insert Emmit's

Relay map in this page.

However, Emmit's map is landscape
Whereas the rest of the newsletter is portrait.

The Editor found that he was unable to insert a landscape page
in the middle of a portrait document.

Perhaps he does not know the correct instructions,
and his subsequent anglo-saxon might have caused his
Computer to take exception.

Emmit's map will be include as a separate insert with the
Covering email.

From: info@shredevents.com
To: chairman@devonorienteeing.co.uk
Sent: Sunday, May 29, 2011 12:06 PM
Subject: Miners Mayhem

Hi John,

We are organising a challenge event on Saturday June 18th based at the Miners Arms (Hemerdon). The idea is to navigate through the challenge, with the winning team being awarded a keg of beer. Each finisher will also get a burger and a beer on completion.

The event is an orienteeing challenge, with around 10 checkpoints. We do not own any orienteeing dibbers, or stamps, and wondered whether we could hire some from your club - that way we put a little something back into the local scene. This is a one off event for us, so it does not make too much sense to buy the equipment.

We would also love to see as many of your club members there as we can - showing the rest of us how it is done no doubt!

Could you let me know whether you are able to hire out your kit on that date, and if so, how much would you like for it?

I would also like to post you some paper copies of our event flyers for your club members - could you email me your address please, so I can get some in the post.

Entry £10 Enter online at shredevents.com.

FREE beer & burger on completion. Live music, great beer, good food, good fun.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Maddie Horton

Hi Maddie,

Thanks for your information re an event based at Hemerdon on Sat 18th June.

At Devon OC we really enjoy the navigational challenge of the pits and gullies left by the miners, but soon to be covered - we believe - by spoil from a vast new opencast mine. So I think you might attract some of our members, even at £10, if there are some points on the intricate strip near the old Wheal Florence mine 3 miles or so north of Hemerdon.

Yes, we do hire out equipment in some circumstances - contact our equipment officer Alan Simpson, telno 01752 311367 or email as above.

Regarding your flyer - I suggest you email it to Lew Bean, who maintains our website www.devonorienteeing.co.uk and he will post it for you.

Regards,

John Dyson

BOF Rankings

M16	Oliver Reynolds	4279	M55	Rob Parkinson	7269
	Guy Horswell	2958		Adrian Taylor	6346
	Christopher Garrett	2887		Nicholas Maxwell	5535
	Harry Morse	1346		Bryan Smith	3631
	Simon Hayward	572		Paul Glanville	1007
				Ian Bowles	91
M18	Will Fordyce	6141			
	Jacob Shah	5255	W55	Victoria Wimpenny	1878
	Josh Owen	4928			
	Sam Head	4602	M60	Tom Lillicrap	6583
				Mike Wimpenny	6407
M35	Mark Lockett	5778		Wilfred Taylor	6211
	Mark Bagley	1145		Roger Hargreaves	6032
				John Chesters	5826
M40	Matthew Atkins	5226		Michael Cullen	5455
	Olivier Boucher	3316		Peter Brett	5016
	Tim Gent	1482		Nick Hockey	4596
	Robert Naylor	976		Graham Dugdale	3145
	Tim Parkin	867		Tony Smith	2923
				Chris Virgo	2018
W40	Marie Boucher	2317			
	Kate Bickerstaffe	867	W60	Ruth Chesters	3752
				Vivienne Maxwell	439
M45	Andy Reynolds	3132			
	Phil Way	2008	M65	John Pearce	5799
	Stuart Robertson	1601		Alan Simpson	5640
	Paul Ames	976		Roger Hateley	4511
	Jonathan Croome	800		Roger Green	4063
W45	Tessa Stone	2995	W65	Carol Pearce	5441
	Alex Way	2304		Jill Green	5308
	Alison Reynolds	1710		Elsie Hargreaves	4695
	Linda Robertson	1189		Ann Hughes	4048
	Lorraine Croome	803		Susan Hateley	3809
M50	Steve Edmonds	2214	M70	Arthur Boyt	6225
	Nigel Bateman	1123		JohnDyson	5070
	Alan Knight	969		Stephen Dunford	754
	Jed Stone	6		David Livsey	707
W50	Ella Bowles	3996	W70	Val Livsey	660
	Eleanor Taylor	3521			
	Wendy Smith	2605	M75	Erik Peckett	523
	Robin Carter	977			
	Susan Porter	959			

Fire Beacon Hill Event

Hello all. I am Tess Stone, mother of Ellie and Finlay who attend Devon events when not Ten Tors Training or playing Rugby! It has been great for us in East Devon to have some events so near, at East Hill and now Fire Beacon Hill. They have been very important in trying to introduce local people into the sport, which I am trying to do in our area, especially in Colyton Grammar School and Sidmouth College. At each one a few new families have attended and been shown the ropes - the advertising at some of the schools must have worked!



At Fire Beacon Hill, I was hoping that getting to the start was the only major hill to tackle! For some I think it was! At the start, I offered those new to the sport a bit of training to try and understand what they would see on the map, a few basic technical aspects and the general idea of the sport. They all got the hang of what it was all about really well & enjoyed the event, even with the challenge of hunting some rather difficult controls on the orange! (A depression in more ways than one!!!)

One of the new comers was the Head of PE at Colyton Grammar School, Jackie Shute (who loved it), another family was using it as off season rugby training and would be back for more local events, if there were any! Some other participants are part of the Sidmouth Running Club; one missed my novice introduction, which showed as he proceeded to punch every control he found on his yellow route!!! I think he had a great time and will be looking forward to some score events!! I have since had this keen individual in the Colyton Grammar School Orienteering Club, and he now understands the ropes! The club saw its numbers quadruple after this event and Jackie & I are looking forward to taking a minibus to off- school locations after half term. East Hill and Fire Beacon Hill will be invaluable for this.

The Sidmouth College Club has been somewhat slower to take off and are still having a few teething problems. The area they have within Sidmouth on their doorstep is excellent for training so we will keep persevering!

I sort of come from a running background, although I am not in training at the moment! I only say this because I have a tendency to miss technical aspects still. On this occasion it was number 7 control, which Alan rightly told me off about when I returned to download!! I was shattered at the end and could not believe I had worked hard battling some of the hills and struggled with some others (like a lone holly tree as a thicket for example!) around the remaining 11 controls in vain (I mean for fun)!!!! Thank you John Pearce anyway! The coaching I am giving to others will hopefully help me too! If you are in East Devon and would like to help (or join in!) please email or ring me: < plum.pebble @gmail.com > 01297 553421

Committee Meeting on Thursday 12 May 2011 At Chudleigh Town Hall

Present : John Dyson (chairman), Nick Maxwell, Alan Simpson, Jill Green, Roger Green , Tom Lillicrap, Steve Perelle, Wilf Taylor, Nick Hockey

Apologies : Graham Dugdale, Anthony Dew.

The minutes of the previous meeting (24/3/11) were approved.

MAJOR EVENTS

Caddihoe Chase 17-18/9/11 Burrator

Tom L. updated the meeting on mapping progress – John Pearce is on schedule.

Alan S. has flyer on website and this was reviewed with significant points :

- pre-allocated times on Day 1 with top 20 ranked to have 4-minute gaps. Fabian4 will do entries and allocate times. Graham D. will process any postal entries.
- SW Champs on Day 1 only.
- Caddihoe competition on Day 2 positions per designated Age Class.
- Both days included in UK Masters Cup series – will attract some extra competitors.

Jill G. will produce certificates. Decision to be made on mementos.

Tamar Quadruple 2012

Hoped that DNP will agree to Virtuous Lady for 1 or 2 days

Then 2 days Kernow, possibly including an “Urban” event. May use areas in Devon.
Organisers and Planners required.

MAPPING

Mapping Group – Alan S. has discussed with Erik P. the updating of Virtuous Lady using new LIDAR-generated base map. Agreed that this should go ahead subject to confirmation of acceptable cost.

Map Updates required : RG felt Mutters Moor required – possibly by John Pearce after Burrator.

FIXTURES

Saltram confirmed as a venue for New Year event Mon Jan 2nd. Anthony Dew is organiser
Compass Sport Cup Haytor 19th Feb 2012. Organiser & Planner required. Parking to be resolved.

COACHING

WT & SP have a programme of coaching ongoing at Haldon through July. 5-12 participants each session, but currently affected by exams.

It was pointed out – fact – that Rob Parkinson had won his JK class after attending a coaching session !!

The mature ‘plodders’ could join these sessions to sharpen their skills.

Tess Stone is progressing sessions in East Devon.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership numbers to be checked with regard to whether we are a large or small club in terms of Compass Sport Cup.

Graham is sending out 2011 Membership List.

Leaflets for newcomers with specific Devon OC info suggested by Carol Pearce.

Jill will investigate.

Newsletter

Mike Hosford happy to continue for now. If Mike needs help, Roger G. prepared to help with Newsletter, and Steve P. with League Results. Everyone to help Mike with relevant articles.

FINANCES

Nick M provided the meeting with a summary of finances which looked satisfactory.

OTHER ITEMS RAISED

JG & RG leading an Event Safety course on June 11th, followed by an Autodownload session. About 12 attendees so far.

Jill Green wishes to retire as Fixture Sec. in Sept, and a replacement is needed. (AGM 4th Sept)

Next Meetings

Proposed for Thurs June 23rd at Chudleigh Town Hall 7.30pm (booked), followed by Thurs 25th Aug if required.

Revised BOF Rules and Guidelines

Following the change to the 4-level (A,B,C,D) event structure, BOF have issued revised Rules and Guidelines and these are available on the website www.britishorienteering.org.uk via the 'Events' navigation button.

Organisers, Planners and Controllers in particular should refer to these revised documents.

The British Orienteering director responsible for liaison with SWOA is now Henry Morgan, who was elected as a director for the first time at the recent BOF AGM. He replaces Neil Cameron. Henry's email address is:

henry.morgan@britishorienteering.org.uk

DEVON OC LEAGUE TABLE

For those in receipt of hard copies of this newsletter the updated League Table is enclosed as a separate insert

EDITORIAL

The Editor is well aware that for medical reasons he should not drive and is normally unable to travel to club events, which he finds very disappointing as he is unable to meet up with old friends and new, and to lend a hand with some of the work required.

When he sees club members coming in to the finish of an event he can sometimes judge from their demeanour how they might respond to being asked to write an article on their performance in the event.

Anyway, he always needs event articles to add life to his publication - sadly, only one in this issue; thank you Tessa.

Next issue of Devon Orienteer

Mid/late September 2011 with AGM minutes etc.

Press deadline: 12 September

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**Updated fixture information and results always available
on our club website**

www.devonorienteering.co.uk

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

date	Rgstn Times	event	venue	grid ref	information
Sunday 12 June	1000 1230	League 8	Haldon Forest	SX 884848	Steve Perelle 01803 401805
Sunday 26 June	1030 1300	KERNO Forest League 7	Hustyns	SW 982691	No contact published
Sunday 17 July	1100	Devon Relays	Five Tors	SX 531751	Matthew Atkins 01392 277516
Sunday 24 July	1030 1300	KERNO Forest League 8	Dunmere	SX 042689	No contact published
31 July - 6 August		Scottish 6 Days	Oban & Lorn		
Sunday 21 Aug	1030 1300	KERNO informal	Pencalenick	SX 042689	No contact published
Sunday 4 Sept	1100	Devon Club Champs & AGM	Fire Beacon	SY 110915	Jill Green 01392 278512
Sat/Sun 17/18 Sept	TBA	Caddihoe Chase	Burrator	SX 555691	Alan Simpson 01752 311367
Sunday 25 Sept	1030 1300	KERNO Forest League 9	Hardhead Down	SX 158704	No contact published
Saturday 15 Oct	1030 1300	KERNO Forest League 10	Hayle	SW 580406	No contact published
Sunday 16 Oct	1000 1230	League 1	Whitchurch Common	SX 525729	Graham Dugdale 01626 852944
Sunday 13 Nov	1000 1230	Devon Galopen	Holne Moor Venford	SX 694703	John Dyson 01395 512416
Saturday 19 Nov	1800 1900	Night League 1	King Tor	SX 561749	

NOTE! All events will use Sport Ident (SI) electronic punching (unless advertised).

Bring your own 'dibber' or buy / hire one at the event.

Please check the club's website for any late changes before travelling.

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.