



# DEVON ORIENTEER

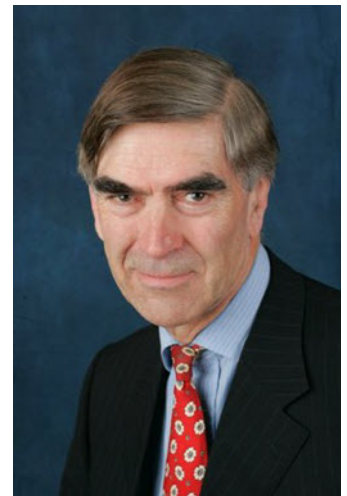
THE NEWSLETTER OF  
DEVON ORIENTEERING CLUB

NUMBER 148  
JANUARY 2012



## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Once again our posse of juniors have brought national attention to the Club, moving up the leaderboard at the annual Yvette Baker Trophy event, coming within two points of third place – brilliant! Thanks go especially to Tess Stone and Steve Perrelle, who marshalled our combined team from East Devon and Torquay to compete so successfully in North Lincolnshire. . Both of them are gaining support for the Club in their localities, and schools in Plymouth are reviving orienteering activities again. As chairman, I continue to receive emails from school leaders around the county who wish to take up our chosen



Shortly all club members will have the opportunity to take part in the CompassSport Cup regional round at Haytor on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February. Whatever your ability, please come and take part – with the advantage of home ground we have a better opportunity to go forward to the Final, with only BOK as serious competition. The last time we were hosts, we only just failed to win. Even if you don't score points, you can have an effect on the overall result by pushing members of other clubs further down the list.

Late last year I spent some time and effort trying to obtain access to our best area – Branton Burrows near Barnstaple – for the Tamar Triple event over the Diamond Jubilee weekend, but to no avail, as the notoriously difficult land agent raised the bar to *Continued on p 19.*

Spring Dinner & Ceilidh	2	MBO Novice	10
Compass Sport	4	Yvette Baker Trophy final	12
Core Copse & East Devon Training	5	Night League after 3 events World Masters Championships	14
Fixtures Matters	6	Helmets, why bother?	17
The Turkey Burner	8	Editor's Swansong, Fixtures	18

**Spring Dinner and Ceilidh**  
**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2012**  
**Lavender House Hotel Ashburton**  
**Also River Dart CP League Event**

Following the successful 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner and ceilidh, it is planned to repeat the experience on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2012. For those who want a full day of activity, there will be a League Event at Dart Valley Country Park beforehand. The invitation is extended both to Devon Club members and those from other clubs. The day in detail:

1030 – 1300 Event registration at country park  
11.00 Hotel available with log fire, quizzes, walks to River Dart, bar, bar snacks and drinks available  
14.30 onwards Tea/coffee available and quizzes and cash bar  
1700 – 1900 Dinner (see attached menu)  
1930 - 2230 Ceilidh with bar and bar snacks available

Showers are available at the hotel, towels will be provided.  
The hotel is ours to use all day and you can bring your own sandwiches at lunchtime if you wish, but bar snacks are available.

The cost is as follows:

Dinner and ceilidh to include tea/ coffee / juice / biscuits in afternoon  
£25 Adults  
£15 in full time education  
£10 under 12  
£5 under 5

Ceilidh only £6 (for orienteers and friends)

See menu for choices.

Enquiries Vivienne Maxwell 01752 739040

E mail [nmaxwell.binnlodge@btopenworld.com](mailto:nmaxwell.binnlodge@btopenworld.com)

# **MENU**

## **Starters**

Cream of Leek & Potato Soup with Crusty Bread

Course Country Meat Pate with Melba Toast & Jail Ale Chutney

Smoked Salmon & Prawn Mousse Roulade with Wholemeal Bread

## **Main Courses**

Claret Beef with Cheese Scone, Creamed Chive Potatoes & Vegetables

Chicken Fricassee (sliced Breast in a Tarragon,  
Black Pepper & Cream Sauce with Sliced Peppers and Mushrooms)  
with Mixed Rice & Roasted Vegetables

Proscuttio Wrapped Cod Loin set on Creamed Parsley Potatoes,  
Parsley Sauce & Vegetables

Filo Pillow of Roasted Mediterranean Vegetables, Creamed Parsley Potatoes & Vegetables

## **Desserts**

Apple & Blackberry Crumble with Custard

Tangy Lemon Tart with Devon Cream

Fresh Fruit Salad with Home made Shortbread & Clotted Cream

Coffee/Tea

## Compass Sport Cup - 19th February 2012 - Hay Tor by Club Captain Tess Stone

Being Based at The Moorland Hotel has benefit of cover and refreshments and a view of the finish!

### More Club Members are need

Start Times 10.30m to 12.30pm

As Club Captain I wish to invite more of you to sign up for this important Club Event  
If you are a regular you will know that this event has a great team feel about it, as everyone contributes to how well we do.

There are courses from Orange to Brown for the Cup event and also white and yellow courses for younger or new comers to the sport.

We have shelter and refreshments organised for the event so will be suitable for families. Please feel welcome to join in, especially as the club will cover the entry cost

If you are already signed up, Wilf Taylor would like you to volunteer for a small duty/role on the day!

Course details:

Course Eligible Age Class

- 1 Brown Men Open
- 2 Blue Women Women open
- 3 Blue Men M45+ M20-
- 4 Green Women W45+ W20-
- 5 Green Men M60+
- 6 Short Green Veterans M75+ W60+
- 7 Light green Juniors Men/women 18-
- 8 Orange Men/women 14-

Any competitor may run 'up' an age class or classes, but not necessarily a

Course. Thus (for example) a W18, rather than competing on Course 7, may run up as a W20 and compete on Course 4, but may not run on Courses 6 or 5

Any queries give me a call on 01297 553421 !

Email the following details to me, Tess at [plum.pebble@gmail.com](mailto:plum.pebble@gmail.com) :

- Name
- Age category
- Course you would like to run
- start time preference - Late middle or early
- si card number (if you have one)

Hope to se you there.

Tess Stone



cla

## Core Copse - Special Event!

**'Come and try it' + Technical 'unlimited time' Special Technical Score - Like none before!**

**at East Hill near Ottery St Mary, East Devon**

**4th March 2012, 10am - 12.30pm**

**This is going to be a great event for the young, families and those that need a technical challenge.**

**So in addition to string, white, yellow and orange for newcomers, there will be a long red (5km) that may appeal to runners, a Technical linear course 5.4km and a 28 - control Technical Score as well!**

The idea of the technical score is to provide a flexible event for all abilities and ages. This will be achieved by having no time limitation. The competitor can stay out as long as he/she wishes (but not beyond course closure time) and, in order to add a competitive element and a different dimension to decision making/tactics, 1 point will be deducted from his/her score for every minute (or part minute) spent out on the course. Each control will score 10 points. In order to simplify arrangements at the finish, there will be a mandatory final control, close to the finish, for score course competitors.

A Flyer with more details will be on the web site shortly.

In the mean time if any one would like to volunteer to help with this event please email me ([plum.pebble@gmail.com](mailto:plum.pebble@gmail.com)) or tel. 01297 553421

Many Thanks

Tess Stone      Organiser

### **New - East Devon Community Orienteering Training Evenings**

These evening will aim to encourage new and current members, giving them technical and physical training in a **fun and challenging** way.

They will start at The Sports Centre in Sidmouth (Based at Sidmouth College) and will use The Byes, which has been recently remapped to train.

As the evenings lighten we will train in other areas for the 1st Wednesday in the Month. All are welcome - young and older!

Timings: **4.30-6pm**

Day: **Wednesday**

Location: **Sidmouth Sports Centre**

**When: Starting Wednesday 22nd February then every Wednesday to 28th April.**

**Summer program will start 18th May**

If you are interested in coming to these session or if you would like to help out with any aspect of the sessions please contact Tess Stone

On 01297 553421 or email: [plum.pebble@gmail.com](mailto:plum.pebble@gmail.com)

A flyer will appear on the website shortly - please encourage other to join in - spread the word!!!

See you There!

Tess Stone

# FIXTURES MATTERS

By Nicholas Maxwell

I have recently taken on the fixtures secretary role after many years of sterling work from Jill Green in this position. Thank you Jill.

Thanks to everyone who takes on the roles of mapper, organiser, planner and controller to make our events happen. Please let me know if you would like to help in any of these ways and deal sympathetically with my calls and e mails to you to help.

In past years we have held a long orienteering event on Dartmoor. More recently this has fallen off because of the difficulty in finding individuals willing to plan and organise such an event. If you would like to help in this way please let me know. We have a slot on 7th October 2012 to hold such an event. otherwise it will be a traditional league event

Details of fixtures for the next six months or so can be found on the Devon website. For those who want to look further ahead details can be found on the BOF website. You do not need to log on with your BOF number but if you do there is a downloadable fixtures list under 'Event Reports' on the left hand side. Just put 'DEVON' in the filter. If you look under 'Event Officials' you can see who the planner, organiser and controller are or indeed where the gaps for these positions are. In the past a spreadsheet has been maintained on Googledocs that acted as a forward planner for events. The BOF website will now serve this purpose for DEVON events. For those who have relied on Googlrdocs in the past let me know if you cannot find the information you need on the BOF website.

Looking forward to some of our events we have a league event at Dart Valley Country Park on 10th March followed by dinner and ceilidh at the Lavender House Hotel. Please sned your dinner bookings in and see further details in the magazine.

In June we have the Tamar Triple. Day 2 is at Smallhanger Waste including the intricately mapped area of Wheal Florence. Sadly this appears to be the last event we will hold there as it is shortly to become a spoilheap for the tungsten mine which is to be reopened at Hemerdon. Our only hope is a sudden drop in the world tungsten price to make it uneconomic to dig but as that could follow from a world economic downturn we have to be careful what we wish for!

This does place us in some difficulty for future Tamar Triples that Devon host as we are running out of areas that we can use at the time of the Spring Bank Holiday.

We are not allowed access to National Park areas due to ground nesting birds. Braunton Sands is available but at a price that is uneconomic to run the event. Plym Forest has lost a lot of its trees and Newnham Park may not be large enough without Smallhanger. In 2014 KERNO have the main responsibility on the areas. What DEVON could consider in say 2016 is to move the event from the Spring bank holiday slot to the August bank holiday as at least we would be able to use the National Park. Let me know if you have any thoughts on what we should do





## Mountain Bike Orienteering, The Turkey Burner

This year's Mud and Sweat Turkey Burner MBTO event took place on the north of Dartmoor just south of Okehampton. The area covered the open moorland around the military roads and the network of tracks and bridlepaths leading across to Belstone Tor. The day dawned bright and very breezy with crisp cold south easterly winds but it didn't stop around 100 competitors turning up for this post Christmas annual event.

The event centre was at Okehampton YHA halfway up the hill to the military camp. The venue providing an excellent start and finish with parking, toilets and café. Competitors came from as far away as Birmingham and Bristol to take part and consisted of everyone from families to regular tri athletes. The one common thing they had was a bike and the love of an outdoor challenge.

The competitors entered into classes with options of Short Score 2 hours or Long Score 3 ½ hours, with the option of competing as solos, pairs or family groups. The event follows the normal format of a score event on foot. Some 27 controls were spread over the map giving people various route choices and options allowing plenty of strategies to be played out. As with all score events the planner hopes that no one clears them all in the time allowed....and they didn't!

The controls are placed to provide something for everyone with a good cluster easily accessible from the event centre without too much height gain but others are placed further away giving more points. The control sites tend not to be as technical as foot orienteering and are put on major features such as track junctions or wall corners. The controls are placed to discourage people from cutting across open moorland which is obviously not allowed. It will always be quicker to ride the bridlepaths and tracks that we are allowed to ride on. Time penalties are applied if you are back over your allotted time.

The map used is Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 A3 in size laminated and overprinted with control circles, numbers, control value and also a legend and control descriptions. Many riders choose to stuff their maps down their coat fronts and ride like that others have boards fixed to their handlebars to hold the map. Posh versions rotate so you can keep the map orientated. One competitor cycled an extra 1.5km to retrieve his map which had blown away!



Preparing for an event like this is very similar to putting on a normal 'O' event. The area is chosen to give people a good experience in terms of off road riding, route choice, navigational challenge and natural beauty. The maps don't need to be drawn up because having an OS license means they can be downloaded and printed. Access and permissions are the same in this case thank you to Duchy, Dartmoor National Park and local farmers. An armchair planning session is followed by a site visit and if suitable the controls are tagged. No controller is needed because the GPS shows your location on a Smartphone using the Memory Map software which is the same as the OS maps used. Some control sites will have stakes and at others where they might be a bit more vulnerable a cable locks the SI box to a tree or fence etc. Kites are not used as they make the controls a bit more vulnerable to vandalism.

Using the Sportident timing system in Score format means the competitors can download and have their points score, leaders score and overall position instantaneously. On this event we were able to upload the results to the website before we even left the event centre on the day.

For people who enjoy navigating, this type of event can be very rewarding. Obviously a bike is needed but this can be hired as was the case at Okehampton YHA if needed. The score format allows you to go off at your own start time and take on as much or as little as you like. You tend to cover a greater distance on bike and see areas that aren't normally covered by orienteering maps.

The event had a great atmosphere with people gathering around afterwards to compare strategy, have a bite to eat and tell their stories of battling against the winds! Having an event centre means people don't retreat to their cars after their ride but have somewhere to chat which works really well.

The next Mud and Sweat MBO event is 'The Joker' on Woodbury common on the 1<sup>st</sup> April. Entries are already coming in and if you pre enter on the website [www.mudandsweat.com](http://www.mudandsweat.com) then an early bird discount applies.

Hope to see you at an event soon.

**Phil Way and Donna Timmis**

## Experiences of a MBO Novice

Mountain Bike Orienteering has arrived on the SW O-scene with a series of events under the PedalMad / BMBO umbrella. The first event was kicked off in July 2011 by Kris Pratt based in South Devon. Subsequent events have been on Woodbury Common and the Quantocks organised by Will and Richard Kromhout, now of Quantock Orienteers, and on South Dartmoor organised by Kris Pratt.

My first venture into MBO was the Woodbury event in September. The event centre was Colaton Raleigh village hall, to the East of the Common, and from this centre the map extended West to Woodbury Castle and East to Mutters Moor. You can cover much bigger areas on a bike ! The event was a 2 or 3 hour score event with staggered starts, for solo or pairs. Otherwise as per a Foot-O score event with red and white flags, but using pin punches and a control card. Map was based on OS 1:25000.

Receiving the map at the start, my first thought was how much of this area could I expect to cover. Getting up to Mutters Moor would be a serious climb, so I opted for an anticlockwise loop to the East that gave me a gentle start around the lanes – albeit some of them “green” and muddy. Then onto the common with some bone-jarring sections on stony tracks. I thought judging distance between controls would be a challenge, with no gizmo on my bike to help, but the track network was good enough not to need a close fix on distance travelled. I had opted for the full 3 hour experience and found this time was soon eaten up criss-crossing the tracks and lanes around the common. Reaching East Budleigh, I opted for a home run on tarmac. Less than half the controls visited, but a good session exercise wise, and I certainly visited some places I would not otherwise have got to see.

I did feel a little wary when miles from base, on my own – what if I crashed and either myself or the bike was crocked !. Some comfort in there being an emergency contact phone number if a rescue was required.

I have a 20-year old mountain bike, no suspension, and a chain that broke a couple of times last year. Getting that fixed, I discovered that chains should be replaced every year or so, but that after 20 years the wear on the gear cogs was such that these would have to be replaced as well. Time for some hints to Father Christmas ! I have been doing more cycling of late, stimulated a) by my knees objecting to lots of running, and b) by my local keep-fit group getting on their bikes more as the average age passes 60, with week-ends away and cycling trips to France.

My second foray into MBO was the Quantocks , with event centre at Bicknoller to the S.W., and the controls spread from West Quantoxhead to Great Wood in the East. Again needed some serious consideration at the start of what was feasible for me to get around in 3 hours. I made a couple of errors at 4 or 5-way path junctions by not paying attention to compass and map orientation. Otherwise another good exercise session, and I got to see the old Quantock School close up, that featured in the TV series of Tinker Tailor.

The next event in the South West MBO series is back to the South Hams on 29/1, starting from Dartington Primary School. Registration is via [www.BMBO.org.uk](http://www.BMBO.org.uk) - look for the events calendar and click through "Entry" to see event flyer. Membership of BMBO is part of the process, in order to provide third party insurance for the event, but is free, and I found easy to navigate.

With perhaps only 2 foot-O events per month reasonably accessible, MBO is a very welcome addition to the O-fixture list. If you have a mountain bike, give it a try !

The BMBO events have been supplemented by a couple of commercial events in January, with Devon-based MudandSweat on Dartmoor ex Okehampton on 15/1 and OpenAdventure on the Quantocks on 8/1.

I hope these events MBO events become a permanent addition to our calendar.

Perhaps more consideration should be given to avoiding clashes with foot-O events – the 15/1 event clashes with the Kerno galoppen, the 29/1 event clashes with a Quantock Orienteers event, and 11/3 would have clashed with the original date for our Dart Valley event.

Il for one hope MBO takes off in the South West.  
On yer bike !!

Nick Hockey

## **The Yvette Baker Trophy Final**

A Team of 22 Juniors from Devon went up to Lincolnshire for this premier Junior Inter-Club competition.

They consisted of 10 from Torquay Boys Grammar school and 12 from a mix of 5 schools from East Devon (4 from Colyton Grammar School, 3 from The Kings School, 2 from Sidmouth School, 2 from Exmouth College and 1 from Clyst-Hydon Primary) . The team did extremely well coming 4th equal, I think they tried to put us in 5th counting the next competitor, but I am not sure they got this correct!!!! Any way it was a fantastic improvement from our position of 7th last year and we hope for more involvement from juniors next year - I know there are more of you to come out of the "woodwork" and we will enjoy taking an extra big team to 'Sarum' for the Finals next year. That may be a bit too confident as we need to get through the SW round first however it is important to think positively and I think we have strength in depth! I have repeated the table that went on the web site in this news letter as I was incorrect with with the school that Meg Somers goes to, so I apologise and hope that this puts things right!

Thank you to the committee for supporting the Junior Team, Thanks to Steve Perelle for organising the Transport and overnight accommodation (Scouting Lodge) and thanks to the parents for their part in the organisation and support.

Tess Stone

Club Captain

The Junior Team has proved that we have a lot of up and coming potential and the future looks rosy! If you are between 10 and 18 and interested in being part of the Junior Team in the future please contact Steve Perelle or Tess Stone. If you are a parent or someone who feels you would like to contribute in a supporting role, please also contact Steve or Tess.

Tess Stone 01297 553421 07974 802598 email: [plum.pebble@gmail](mailto:plum.pebble@gmail)

Steve Perelle 01803 401805 07780 674930 email: [steveperelle@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:steveperelle@blueyonder.co.uk)

<b>Yellow</b> (length 2.5km, climb 20 m)		Age	Time	Position/ Points
<b>SCHOOL</b>				
Paris Ward	TBGS	M14	15:42	3rd / 98
Oscar Stubbs	TBGS	M12	18:49	9th / 92
Suki Hannan & Meg Somers - pair	Colyton GS & Payhembury Primary	W12/ W10	23:10	4th / 97
Patrick McCarthy	Colyton GS	M14	19:55	14th / 85
Caroline Wallace	Colyton GS	W12	28:19	12th / 89
Aimee Gegg	Colyton GS	W12	30:16	15th / 86
Dominic Walker	The Kings School Ottery	M12	28:55	30th
Oliver Stubbs	TBGS	M12	30:49	31st
<b>Orange</b> (length 3.6 km, climb 45 m)				
James Dean	TBGS	M12	24:38	6th / 95
Sean Rowe	TBGS	M14	27:26	15th / 86
Dominic Cook	TBGS	M14	29:34	18th / 83
Sam Kelly	Exmouth College	M14	42:59	28th
Alice Kelly	Exmouth College	W16	30:49	mp
Emily Keenan	Sidmouth College	W14	44:08	mp
<b>Light Green</b> (length 4.2 km, climb 55 m)				
Oli Reynolds	TBGS	M16	21:51	1st / 100
Josss Knight	The Kings School	M16	27:07	7th / 94
Ellie Stone	Sidmouth College	W16	32:53	8th / 93
Chris Garrett	TBGS	M16	33:55	20th
Zak Francis	The Kings School	M16	34:51	22nd
<b>Green</b> (length 5.2 km, climb 60 m)				
Josh Owen	TBGS	M18	32:29	21st
Will Fordyce	TBGS	M18	36:31	27th



## NIGHT LEAGUE AFTER THREE EVENTS

After the first three events we have a great battle on the Green course and with 3 events yet to happen it may be a matter of who has the right Saturday evenings free. Very good to see Hilde high in the results on Green with the fast and furious men who have had many more years of orienteering than she. No one has had more than two runs on Jade yet as Alison chose to go green at King Tor but the top three scores look pretty even at present - still wide open. Team Ames is going strong on Orange - it has been great to have Harriet and friends enjoying the courses again.

Three more Night League events for this season:

**21 January** Mount Edgumbe Country Park, Cornwall.

**28 January** Smallhanger Waste on the moor above Plympton, Devon

**11 February** Final Night League for this year will be at Coldrenick, near Liskeard, with a chance for a social gathering after the event.

Rob will be away until the day of the Coldrenick event so there is currently an opening for anyone who would care to plan a night event in a small, safe area. The fall-back planner is most likely to be me but if Arthur goes ski-ing in the week leading up to the event - is he really going snowboarding? The next few weeks will tell - I will be on my own and am already occupied elsewhere during the day on Saturday. I would be grateful if anyone would like to take up the opportunity. Luckily I can prepare beforehand as Coldrenick is not open to the public...just to friendly cows.

And now back to these delayed points for the first three events; Lanhydrock, King Tor and Five Tors:

### GREEN

Phil Newall	933	968	984	2885
Andy Reynolds	799	1000	748	2547
Mark Lockett	731	720	654	2105
Hilde Andersen	672	679	734	2085
Will Hancock	1000	914		1914
Shane Ohly	901	1000		1901
Mark Bagley	825	955		1780
Paul Glanville	1000	770		1770
Paul Ames	568		1000	1568
Colin Sturmer	335	545		880

**Green (continued)**

Chris Moncaster	762		762
Graham Pring	700		700
Ivor Marshall	699		699
Richard Bown	652		652
Simon Blanchflower		528	528
Alison Reynolds		525	525
? Rollinson	454		454
? Jones	410		410

**JADE**

Barry Olds	1000, 878, 0		1878
Alison Reynolds	865, 1000, 0		1865
Alan Simpson	856, 0, 1000		1856
Roger Hargreaves	884, 818, 0		1702
Adele Newall	675, 924, 0		1599
Dick Smith	787, 707, 0		1494
Rob Naylor & Kim.	0, 576, 760		1336
Alan Peters	1000, 0, 0		1000
Steve Beech	918, 0, 0		918
Sue Boyt	398, 419, 0		804
Kim Boskwijk	520, 0, 0		520
Greg Skinner	500, 0, 0		500
Andy Barclay	414, 0, 0		414
Raynham & Dobbs	0, 0, 0	0	

## ORANGE

Harriet Ames, Eve Jones and Katie Rollinson	0, 1000, 1000	2000
Jenny Barclay	1000, 0, 0	1000
Jeannie Bown & Hannah Kinnunen	1000, 0, 0	1000
Paul Newman	0, 0, 1000	1000
Annabel Pring	846, 0, 0	846
Martin Saint	724, 0, 0	724
Whitehouse family	617, 0, 0	617
Paige Langley	0, 0, 0	0

HAPPY NEW YEAR from Sue Boyt



World Masters  
Orienteering  
Championships

Bad Harzburg/Harz  
July 1-8

Several people had this event as one of their targets for 2012. A veritable phalanx of DEVON members are going including the Hateleys, Jill Green, Alan Simpson, Bryan Smith as well as KERNO's own Arthur Boyt

Some are travelling with Global O Tours while others will make their own way. Whatever happens those above won't be on their own as another 150 or so from UK clubs will be there with them - best of luck to all of you.

## HELMETS, WHY BOTHER?

I know there are lots of stories out there about how helmets have saved lives and a lot of people also who defend not wearing a helmet. I'll let these two photos of Alan Hartley speak for themselves.

Alan fell in June at the World Cup MTBO in Hungary in April and cracked his helmet (which you can just see in the photo).

He also damaged his knee and elbow and is still suffering from the knee. Although there was nothing visible at the time, since June the hair in the impact area has fallen out and is now growing back white!



Mark Stodgell

*PS - anyone who was involved with the SWJS back along when the Editor's offspring were involved will have known both Mark and Alan. Some of you will recognise Alan as being one of the key players in the SportIdent team at the bigger events! With his white patch - you will now.*

## THE EDITOR'S SWANSONG

### NOT a dying duck's dirge

by Mike Hosford (M85)



It had intended that my opening line would be that I do not believe in doing things by halves, but then I realised that often I had not complied with that intention. I have been singing with the Britannia Choral Society for rather over half a century, my first rehearsal of *Messiah* being in January 1957 - 55 years ago this month. I shall always be grateful

to Gerry King for encouraging me to join the society for it has given me so much pleasure over the years. We have sung masses, oratorios, passions, requiems and other great works by Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Handel, Haydn, Verdi and, about last in the alphabet, Vivaldi with his joyful *Gloria*.

After one third of a century on the academic staff I had to retire as head of marine and aviation technology at the RN College at the ridiculous early age of 62, but then was able to lecture part-time at Plymouth University until my early 70s. I had some success at both. For over one quarter of a century I organised annual Joint Services Colleges Expeditions to icecaps and mountains in Norway. They were known as NORPED. The principal icecap we went to, ostedalsbreen in SW Norway is about the same size, shape and orientation as Cornwall perched on cliffs 1000 m High. Brian Parker led NORPED 1977- a very happy expedition.

The afternoon after the *Herald of Free Enterprise* disaster Christopher Wain, the BBC transport correspondent showed total ignorance of ship stability. So, on my tiny BBC B I typed out a page of explanation and a second page with 3 coloured diagrams, drove to the BBC headquarters in Plymouth and told the staff that Wain needed my paper. Sunday he talked sense, and the next day I produced a similar paper which I had copied to the captain and all staff officers and lecturers. I was encouraged by an academic colleague in the strategic studies department who told me that my explanation made it all so easy to understand.

A couple of years later my head of department at Plymouth University told me that my explanations in my Naval College course notes were the best he had read.

Brian Parker joined the academic staff at the RN College in September 1972 and it was not long before he invited me to take part in an O event between the A38 and the A380 at the top of Haldon, in an area we have not used since. The orienteering bug bit, and I began to take an interest in Devon OC. The first event organised was a Caddihoe Chase. Encouraged by my success with that and other events I volunteered to organise Britain's first ever National Event down in Plym Valley in March 1982. Quite a challenge.



For a few years I helped John Searle, the Devon Orienteer editor, and when John quit at short notice after producing issue 40 in July 1991 I took over as Editor for the next and all forthcoming issues up to and including this one. It has been very satisfying work for just over 20 years, to return to my original theme one fifth of a century. I must be getting feeble to give up after such a short time.

Both the choral society and Devon OC have given me very much pleasure, but overall this club has provided me with much more companionable satisfaction because I have been working with other club members.

My hip and knee injuries, resulting from too much running, mountaineering and other strenuous activities are a damned nuisance and prevent me from doing much that I would like. As a result of my TIAs in the last 14 months my balance is very poor and I know I should not drive, so I do not now have a car, which means I cannot get to O events to help with registration etc, which is a major disappointment.

I am the club's first ever M85 and with all the activities I have described above, three super children and six delightful grandchildren, plus a nephew and family of whom I am very fond, and last, but far from least, Nicole, who is the best friend I ever had overall I recognise what a lucky person I have been.

I hope to see a number of you at the club's spring dinner.

### **Chairman's Chat (continued)**

an unrealistic level just as I was ready to sign an agreement with him. Thankfully no other areas cause us such problems, but another one of national interest – Wheal Florence – is shortly to be fenced off as part of a major mining project. Your last chance to take part on this relatively small but teasing area will come during the Diamond Jubilee weekend, in place of Braunton Burrows. It took just over 24 hours to arrange a deal with the agent for the developers, an Australian mining company, to defer fencing it off until after the weekend.

After many years as editor of this newsletter, Mike Hosford has decided to relinquish his role when this issue is published. Lew Bean, who created and continues to maintain our Club website, has also decided to retire. On behalf of all members and readers, I thank them both for their vital roles in keeping us informed and entertained.

Your committee is meeting shortly and will consider how we should move forward in this rapidly changing area of communications: if you have any suggestions, or can offer help in any way, please contact me or any other member of the committee.

May I wish you a happy and successful New Year.

**John Dyson**

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 28 Jan	1800 1900	Night League 3	Samll- hanger Waste	SX 563592	Steve Edmonds 01752 406519
Sunday 19 Feb	1000 1230	Compass Sport Cup	Haytor	SX 768773	Wilf Taylor 01626 859365
Sunday 4 March	1000 1230	Come & Try It + technical	Core Copse	SY 125946	Tess Stone 01297 554321
Saturday 10 March	1000 1230	League 3 Followed by games, dinner (See page 2)	River Dart Country Park	SX 735698	Steve Perrelle 01803 401805
Sunday 20 May	1000 1230	League 4	Killerton Park	SX 977001	Helen Taylor 01395 274152
Sunday 17 June	1000 1230	League 5	Halden Forest	SX 864847	
Sunday 15 July	Mass start 1100	Devon Relays	Bicton College	SY 077860	
Sunday 9 Sept	Mass start 1100	Devon Championships	Virtuous Lady	SX 497694	

**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.**

If you click on a blue symbol in the fixtures on the KERNO website a map