



THE DEVON ORIENTEER

No 151

September 2012.



DEVON TEAM AT THE PETER PALMER RELAYS

4.30 in the morning!. Just before the first leg at 4.50!

Photo courtesy Tessa Stone

OFFICERS OF THE CLUB

After the AGM held on the 9th September 2012, the following officers have been appointed:

Chairman : John Dyson
Secretary : Nick Hockey
Treasurer : Andy Reynolds
Club Captain : Tess Stone

Committee :

Development : Alan Simpson
Fixtures Secretary & Access : Nicholas Maxwell
Mapping : Roger Green
Membership : Graham Dugdale
Coaching : Wilf Taylor
Representing Junior Members : Tess Stone

Additional club officials are :

Newsletter editor : Susan Hateley
Devon League : Bryan Smith
Child Welfare : Helen Taylor
Club clothing : Vivienne Maxwell

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

I was delighted to see so many familiar faces at the AGM at Yelverton ten days ago – the formula of a morning score event followed by lunch plus meeting seems to mark the occasion well. Many thanks to all who helped on the day, making it so successful.

The Annual General Meeting always seems to find a sticking point, where many members want their say, and this year was no exception. Perhaps it was inevitable that subscriptions provoked much discussion, as British Orienteering have reduced theirs, and the South West OA have banished them. Should we follow the SWOA lead? Some said yes, but a clear majority preferred to keep a small annual subscription. To counter the loss in revenue, both BOF and SWOA have raised the levy charges by ceasing to allow free runs. This will impact our club significantly, and you can expect a modest increase in the event charge: your committee will consider the matter this week.

Looking at the Club's accounts, an outsider would reasonably ask why do we have such a large balance? Clearly we need to have some reserve, perhaps half of the present figure might be a realistic lower limit. There are some significant risks, especially in staging the major events. Also we need to refresh our map stock: some larger areas require resurveying, and the costs of this are often borne before the event income comes in. The Club also needs a more inviting website: Lew Bean has done a great service to the Club for many years, but websites and their use have made great strides in that time. Before Christmas I shall be proposing expenditure on a new website, perhaps £2,000. Also the Club's stock of equipment requires replenishment. Each new SI control box costs £100, as an example. Training and travel costs are also rising. So, if we are to make progress with our juniors, encourage new members and refresh our map stock, don't expect the same large balance next year!

John Dyson

MINUTES OF THE DEVON ORIENTEERING CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2012

The Catholic Hall Yelverton, 9/09/2012

Present

Andy Reynolds, Alison Reynolds, Peter Flick, Jill Green, Roger Green, Alan Simpson, Graham Dugdale, John Dyson, Nicholas Maxwell, Vivienne Maxwell, Mike Cullen, Rosemary Roach, John Pearce, Carol Pearce, Tom Lillicrap, Bryan Smith, Matt Atkins, Val Livsey, Dave Livsey, Adrian Taylor, Helen Taylor, Duncan Taylor, Ruth Chesters, Felix Nicholls, Tom Snow, Matt Birdsall, Oliver O'Brien, Jake Belsten, Ben Chesters, John Chesters, Sam Peat, Wilf Taylor, Eleanor Taylor, Tom Bate, Toby Bate, Louis George and Steve Perrelle

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Roger Hateley, Susan Hateley, Erik Peckett and Nick Hockey.

Minutes of the 2011 AGM

These were accepted as an accurate account of the 2011 AGM.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman began by thanking Nicholas Maxwell, Carol Pearce and Tom Lillicrap for organising, planning and controlling the club championships which preceded the AGM. Ella Bowles had won a closely fought contest with Jill Green second and Anne Hughes third. Thanks were also due to Vivienne Maxwell, Jill Green, and the team of helpers for preparing an excellent lunch and to the boys of Torbay Grammar School for collecting the controls in.

Thanks were also given to all members who had aided the club throughout the year by organising, planning and controlling events and also in other roles within the club.

It was pleasing to note that the younger members have continued an upward trend in performance with a fourth place, narrowly missing the medals, in the Yvette Baker trophy and that Torbay Boys Grammar School won the British Schools score event for the third year in a row. Tess Stone, Steve Perrelle and Wilf Taylor deserve great credit for the hard work that they have put in to make these achievements possible.

Organisationally it has been a busy year in which we have staged both our two big biennial events, the Tamar Triple and the Caddihoe Chase. Thanks were due to all club members who had helped in any way with particular thanks to Alan Simpson and Tom Lillicrap for organising and planning the Caddihoe Chase, which had taken place in notably adverse weather conditions.

After a relatively low level of mapping activity this year, the Mapping Committee of the club, is being asked to ensure that we have well-mapped areas suitable for holding our major events in 2014 and beyond. Congratulations are due to Erik Peckett who is to receive an award from International Orienteering Federation for his contribution to orienteering. Erik will be leading a training session later in September to help members improve their cartographic skills.

Thanks are due to Susan Hateley for continuing to edit the Devon Orienteer (as well as SINS) in her quiet and efficient manner.

Finally, a website committee has been set up to look at the needs of the club in the coming years. The initial conclusions are that we need a professionally designed website that can be maintained by a small number of club members (volunteers please contact John Dyson) and that it will include a password-controlled members only section.

The chairman presented certificates to winners – male and female – of each colour coded class in the Devon League series of events during the year, and thanked Bryan Smith for his work in collating the results and preparing the certificates.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer reported that the club had a current balance of £12,551.93 and made a loss of £139.08 in the year ending 31/07/2012. It is usual for the club to make a profit in the years when we stage the Caddihoe Chase and the Tamar Triple and this would have occurred had our share of the revenues from the Tamar Triple (£1,258) been received before the end of the financial year. Although the overall balance is high, the club anticipate one-off expenditure on a new website and mapping costs to eat into the balance in the coming year.

Membership Secretary's Report

Membership Numbers

	SENIOR	JUNIOR	TOTAL	ASSOCIATE	UNITS
NATIONAL	69(82)	33(45)	102(127)	1(1)	72(77)
LOCAL	25(26)	11(12)	36(38)		20(20)
CONTACT	6(6)		6(6)		6(6)
TOTAL	100(114)	44(57)	144(171)	1(1)	98(103)

Figures in brackets are those for 2011

Membership numbers have continued to fall, particularly in the National membership class. Such falls seem to be common around the country and, to combat falling membership levels, in 2013 British Orienteering are moving to a funding system based much more upon event levies (£1 per run), with membership fees at £5 for seniors and £2 for juniors. There will no longer be a local membership class as all fees are now below the previous local membership fee. Moreover there will be no family membership and each individual needs to join in order to obtain the benefits of BOF membership.

The South West Orienteering Association is proposing, at their AGM on 15th September, to move to a zero membership fee for 2013 with an event levy of 60p per run to compensate (3 juniors counting as one run).

Membership Fees and Event Fees

There was a lively discussion on what our membership fees should be and on what our event fees should be. It was generally accepted that the move by BOF to “pay as you play” was sound although it was unclear what the effect on membership numbers would be. After much discussion it was agreed by a majority of 25 to 6 that senior members should pay a membership fee to Devon OC of £2, whilst junior membership should be free. All Devon members would need to be members of BOF and to pay the appropriate BOF membership fee. It was further agreed that Contact membership of Devon OC should be free to members of other clubs.

The treasurer had outlined in his report that we expected to incur higher levies to BOF and SWOA and that in order to meet these an increase in the entrance fees to our events was needed. A level of £6 for seniors and £1.50 for juniors was suggested, but no decision was taken and it was left to the committee to decide on future event fees.

Election of Officers and Committee Members

The Chairman listed the current officers and committee members and stated that, with the exception of Steve Perrelle, all were willing to continue in their current roles. He thanked Steve for the work he had done and stressed that it was only the committee membership that Steve was giving up. Tess Stone had offered to stand as the Committee member nominated to represent the interest of junior members. There being no other nominations, the committee was re-elected.

Any Other Business

Nicholas and Vivienne Maxwell have been looking at options for new club kit and have been unable to find a lighter hardwearing option for under £30, compared with the existing heavier material at £20. On a show of hands, the club appeared to be willing to pay more for a lighter top. Nicholas undertook to investigate further and bring proposals to the committee.

CONGRATULATIONS

Erik Peckett who has been awarded the Bronze Medal by the IOF for services to the IOF and Orienteering.

Ella Bowles who is the Devon Orienteering Champion for 2012.

All those who took part in the Welsh 6 Days; especially the following who were in the top 10 in their class:

Flurry Grierson, 6th M10A, Oliver O’Brien 2nd M14B, Tom Snow 6th M14B, Jamie Parkinson 4th M20L Rob Parkinson 6th M55L, Wilf Taylor 6th M60L, Tom Lillicrap 3rd M65L, Tessa Stone 9th W45L and Ella Bowles 6th W50L.

PETER PALMER RELAYS

The DEVON team of seven came 17th out of 28 teams in the Peter Palmer relays held in Sutton Park, Birmingham.

We had a last minute hitch to get over when one lad pulled out. But we managed to get 2 replacements hours before we left!

The team was:

Ellie Stone leg 1 in the dark on red

Grey Grierson leg 2 at dawn on Red

Emily Keenan leg 3 now light on Light green

Zak Francis leg 4 on Orange

Jonty Eaton Hart (Colyton GS) & Jack West (Sidmouth College) leg 5 on Yellow

Kit Grierson leg 6 on Green

Rob Parkinson's headlamp was a saviour, which both used on the early legs!

Tessa Stone

PETER PALMER RELAY 8/9th September 2012.

On Saturday the 8th of September a group of enthusiastic orienteers from East Devon met at the railway station in Honiton. They were packed for all weathers and conditions and with sleeping bags and roll mats, the 8 of them left for Birmingham by train. But first all they stopped at Exeter St David's to pick up another member of the team. After 40mins of waiting at the station and talking team tactics, we set off for Birmingham.

After 3 hours of music, reading and talking we arrived in the city of Birmingham, the first excitement was changing to the local rail network, and then passing Cadbury World!! Shortly we were walking to the Whyneham sports centre, and then we arrived at our destination.

We spent the evening playing in a amateur '6 a side' football tournament. Our line was me (Jonty) as a rush goalie which basically meant me running up the pitch to attack and then sprinting back to try and save a goal, we had no real defence and the rest of our players; (Kit, Ellie, Emily, Zak, Grey and Jack) were a strong attacking force. Despite our amazing tactics and a great team name; '*Devon Farming Community*' our first 30 minute match ended up in a 5-3 defeat. This obviously had nothing to do with the fact our age range was 13-17 while theirs was 16-56! Anyway after a team huddle and talk we came out onto the pitch fighting, the second match was much better. We were opposing a team of 11 players while we had six, but that did not bother us, as it is 'Quality not quantity' isn't it? We played some spectacular football, including a goal that was kicked in from our half and headed in their goal first touch by our young start player Jack, also one goal was scored from a single kick from our half and an amazing run by our midfield player Ellie who skilled not one, not two but three of their defence!! We also made a few great saves including my super slide tackler that kicked the ball off the pitch through the striker's legs. Anyway, we won 6-3 and that was the end of the footie tournament.

The next event was finding food for 7 hungry kids. The only food on site was a Costa and a burger van so the majority of the group decided to go into town. After a small trip to Waitrose and 3burgers and chicks wraps later we headed back to the sports hall and set out our sleeping bags and roll mats and went to sleep.



The Handover,
Grey to Emily

At 4 30 the next day we woke up to a freezing and foggy morning. First off was Ellie running a red course in the dark, obviously she had a head torch but apparently still quite scary, despite this she finished 19th out of 28runners in 50 minutes. This was very good as it was her first night run just like Grey who ran next. He started in pitch black but by the end of his red run he was running in sunlight. In his 36 minute run he boosted the '*Devon Farming Community's*' position by two places. He was followed by Emily who ran a light green very well. The terrain the park was mixed between fields with rough grass and gorse and woodland which parts was runnable with paths or no paths and other

parts was a fight to get through. Following Emily was Zak who ran an orange in about 30mins and then me and Jack set off for the yellow. After 8 controls with a short distance of 2.3k we reached the finish line and tagged Kit who set off to do his very long and quite difficult 6K green. So at the end of the event we had come 17th after our position going up and down in 1's and 2's. We were quite pleased with our result but next time we hope to improve our position by a few places and have 2 teams. All in all we had a really good weekend at the event and huge thanks to our coach Tess who organised the whole thing and giving us tips and advice throughout the experience.



Jonty Eaton Hart

Photos courtesy Tessa Stone

Grey Grierson writes for his school newsletter:

The Devon County Orienteering team took part in the inter-regional orienteering relay event at the weekend. Zak Francis, Kit and Grey Grierson were members of the team, which eventually finished 17th best in the nation. We have only been orienteering a year, and took advantage of these opportunities and are now in the South West regional team.

THE LEGACY OLYMPICS

When I first joined Thames Valley Harriers a significant number of coaches and officials claimed that their enthusiasm for athletics had been kindled by the “austerity Olympic games” staged in London a quarter of a century earlier. In 2012, having been fortunate enough to obtain tickets for one of the evening athletic sessions, I was keen to see at first-hand whether the British love of world class competition had survived the test of time.

Catching the train from Chelmsford, where I had booked accommodation, there was a sense of eager anticipation on the train. Already there were a handful of accredited Olympic competitors or officials on board, along with spectators complete with their rucksacks containing clothing for a variety of climatic conditions and food.

Behind us a lady was holding an inflated leopard whilst ministering to her two young children.

“Why have we got the leopard?” asked the small girl.

“There is a better chance of being on TV if are holding something unusual.” her mother replied.

Disembarking at Stratford we joined a rapidly growing stream following the Olympic Park signs. If there was any doubt about the route to follow a plentiful supply of Olympic volunteers were on hand to provide information and guidance. Access to the Olympic Park had heavy security, not dissimilar to airport security, although belts and shoes didn't need to be removed. Having poured our drinks down a nearby drain, we passed through relatively quickly and

crossed the Stratford bridge entrance to the Olympic Park. On the left the river bank had been terraced to provide a convenient spot upon which to eat lunch or to relax in a less crowded environment, whilst beneath the bridge random words would appear projected in water droplets, a feature best seen at night. The area under the bridge was also a convenient spot to shelter from the drizzle when Lord Coe's hotline to the gods briefly failed.

Although MacDonald's dominated the site and operated (I am told) at high street prices, a wide range of food and drink was available elsewhere at expensive rather than exorbitant prices (tuna sandwich - £4.50, fish and chips - £8.50, pint of beer - £4.50, for example) and the queues were not as long as reported in the press earlier. Of course there was a high degree of commercialisation with sponsors seeking to cash in on their favoured position, but this could be avoided by following the riverside paths running through the site. Here the riverbanks were planted with wild flowers, although a bit too orderly for my liking, and the Royal Barge Gloriana, fresh from its starring role in the Jubilee pageant, was moored close to one of the access bridges.

I had hoped to be able to follow Olympic events via one of the large screens placed opposite grassy slopes, but the queues to these were horrendous and very soon access was only being allowed in response to the outflow of spectators.

The athletics stadium, accessible from about 2 hours before the first event, had, around its concourse, a scaled down but similar range of facilities to the Olympic Park and arriving early, I was able to get a closer look at the sportswear items on display and decide that I would wait for the post-Games sales.

Finally into the stadium itself – the wow moment. It certainly was an impressive stadium and to see it filled to the rafters with 80,000 excited spectators will live long in the memory. After Super Saturday part 1 and the lightning Bolt's first strike on Sunday, the atmosphere within the stadium on Monday became slightly subdued as a procession of British athletes failed to live up to over-inflated hype and expectations. The biggest disappointment was the Men's 400 hurdles in which, pre-games, there were hopes of 3 British finalists. As the event progressed only Dai Green qualified for the final and then only as the second of two fastest losers. As a result he had an unfavourable inside lane in the final and it was evident early in his run that he was uncomfortable on the tight bends and this probably was the key factor in losing the vital hundredths of a second by which he missed out on the medals.

My star moment of the evening was the medal ceremony for the Men's 400m hurdles when the winner, Felix Sanchez, began to cry on the podium. In response the crowd cheered him compassionately and for a brief moment there was an unsustainable cycle of Sanchez crying more as the crowd cheered him and the crowd responding more vigorously with each flood of tears.

Other highlights were the men's 400m final, won by 19 year old Kirani James gaining the first ever Olympic medal for the Caribbean island of Grenada, and a women's pole vault final in which the windy conditions had an adverse affect on Britain's Holly Bleasdale who was perhaps hoping for a higher position than sixth.

The worst moment undoubtedly was the Belorussian woman, Nadzeya Ostapchuk, winning the women's shot putt final and her subsequent disqualification after failing a drug test.

Throughout all the events the crowd were wildly enthusiastic for the British competitors but also appreciative of the performances by athletes from across the world, although there was a slight rumble of booing when Justin Gatlin, an athlete with a history of failing drug tests, came to receive his bronze medal for the men's 100m. Fortunately this was quickly drowned out by the thunderous cheers as first Yohan Blake and then Usain Bolt received their medals.

Will the 2012 Olympics have a meaningful sporting legacy? Well, of course, it is too early to say but, judging by the enthusiasm shown by young and old in the Olympic Park, which seems to be replicated across the country as a whole, the potential for such a legacy is there and it is up to sports' administrators to make it happen. My biggest regret is that orienteering is largely peripheral to the legacy. Just think what it would mean to have orienteering show-cased by such an event. It might even be the key to provide us with access to Branton Burrows.

Graham Dugdale

EDITORIAL

What a wonderful summer of sport!

A great Welsh 6 days of orienteering with plenty of sunshine and the opportunity to get lost on the open mountainsides, contrasted with the intricacies of urban navigation.

This was followed by the London Olympics, which I am afraid made me a couched potato as I sat glued to the television for hours at a time. These were followed by the inspirational Paralympics with the wonderful atmosphere of endeavour and the determination to overcome all the handicaps and not use them as an excuse to give up and rely on others.

Over the summer we have acquired a Labrador puppy called Birch. She is limiting our sphere of activities at present, but we are hoping that she will enjoy orienteering as much as Gorse. See you in sunlight forests with Birch in tow in the next few months.

I would appreciate some reports of your orienteering activities. It only need be a paragraph. It would be nice to include reports on the club events. Without your report this newsletter will not happen.

Deadline for November edition is November 1st.

Susan Hateley

CAPTION COMPETITION.



Just one suggestion:

John Dyson: *"Surely we don't have to go up THAT hill?"*

DEVON FIXTURES:

October	7 th	Devon League Ashclyst Forest, Exeter Organiser: Martin Atkins	SX999994
	21 st	Devon Galoppen , Burrator, Plymouth Organiser: Graham Dugdale Graham will appreciate volunteer helpers	SX560692
November	10 th	Devon/Kerno Night League Whitchurch Common (S. End) Organiser: Paul Glanville	SX524729
December	2 nd	Devon League, Five Tors, Tavistock	SX531752
	8 th	Devon/Kerno Night League 3 Burrator West, Yelverton, Organiser: Paul Ames	SX547693
	27 th	Devon Christmas Event. Killerton Park	SS973001

KERNO FIXTURES

September	30 th	Forest League 1 Hardhead Downs Organiser: Ivor Marshall	SX157703
October	28 th	Forest League 2 Craddock Moor Organiser: Steve Beech	SX 262713

November	18 th	Forest League 3 Hayle	SW574413
	24 th	Devon/Kerno Night League2. Lanhydrock	SX087641
December	16 th	Forest League 4 (provisionsal) Idless	SW820478

QUANTOCK FIXTURES

September	29 th /30 th	Long O Croydon Hill/Pinkery.	
November	18 th	QOFL 2 Buckland Wood	ST182171
	24 th	QOAD1 Culm Davey	ST128161
December	8 th	QOAD2 Castle Neroche	ST275156
	16 th	QOFL 3 Hart Hill/Floorey Down	ST167365
January 2013	1 st	Novelty Event Kingscliff Wood	ST267320