

DEVON ORIENTEER

No 152

November 2012.



*The start of the Devon Christmas Novelty Score Event at Killerton in 2008
photo Steve Perelle*



Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a wonderful year of orienteering in 2013.

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Congratulations - again - to our growing band of juniors, who excelled themselves at the British Schools Score championships recently at Kingsbury Water Park in the West Midlands. We have become used to Torquay Boys Grammar School collecting a top team prize: this year they had a first and a second. Now they have been joined by The Kings School, Ottery St Mary who were close behind Torquay in third place (out of 19 teams) in the Upper Secondary Boys class. This was their first attendance at the event, and shows the success of Club Captain Tessa Stone's work in East Devon this year, complementing Steve Perrelle in Torquay. All we need now is some interest from the girls.....

Talking of girls, Tessa also took a mixed team to the Peter Palmer relays at Birmingham, the first time the Club have been represented at this annual event. This junior version of the Harvester Trophy includes two night legs and five day legs around Sutton Park.

Looking forward, there is the preliminary round of the Yvette Baker Trophy coming up soon. Last year's defeat of the much larger Bristol OK team hurt them, and the rematch will be close. Good luck to all! More details of these events later in this issue.

Our juniors are now gaining a real taste of competition at National level, and fully justify the efforts that the Club is making to create local cells in the county, based around a qualified coach. They deserve all the support that members can give them.

Also coming up is the CompassSport Cup first round in January. I hope that all members will give the Club their support to keep BOK on their toes, and show our youngsters that there are some good seniors in the Club too!

John Dyson

WELCOME

A big welcome to all those who have recently joined the club. We hope you will enjoy your orienteering.

Angus Muir	M11	from Aylesbeare
Emma Eaton Hart	W11	from Payhembury
Jonty Eaton Hart	M12	from Payhembury
Amanda Lane	W50	from Coldridge
Guy Balmer	M40	from Goodameavy
Oscar Stubbs	M12	from Torquay
Dulcie Grierson	W14	from Ottery St. Mary
Flurry Grierson	M10	from Ottery St. Mary
Suki Hannan	W12	from Sidmouth
Max Ward Weavin	M11	from Sidmouth

CONGRATULATIONS

Well done all those who participated in the British Schools Score Championships. Torquay Boys achieved top spot in the lower secondary boys group and second in the upper secondary boys age group. Very close behind them were The Kings School, Ottery St Mary who were third. The individual winner in the upper secondary boys was Grey Grierson.

Congratulations to everyone who went to the British Schools Orienteering Championships in Delamere Forest on 18th November. Torquay Boys Grammar School were 5th overall in the team event and they were the first single sex school.

The day before there had been the World School Qualifying event. In M14 James Dean was 8th and in W16 Ellie Stone was 8th. These are very promising results.

At the Yvette Baker Qualifying event held on Sunday 25th November, the Devon team was narrowly beaten by BOK (the host club) by just 4 points. Congratulations to all those involved.

STOP PRESS

Torquay Boys Grammar School have been offered the M14 schools team place at the Orienteering World Schools Championships at Castro Marim, Algarve, Portugal from the 15th to 21st April 2013. The team of five will be picked early in the New Year after a series of trials and in the meantime we will be addressing the minor point of how to raise almost £3500 to get them there.

Steve Perrille

ASH DIE BACK DISEASE

Peter Brett (Devon) is the Environmental Officer for British Orienteering. He has issue the following advice to all orienteers:

- 1) In areas where there are trees (forests, parks wooded copses). Thoroughly wash all footwear before leaving the area, ensuring that all mud, soil and leaf litter is removed. Event organisers may wish to provide water, buckets and brushes at a suitable location i.e. at a point where there is little risk of further contamination.
- 2) On returning home, rinse all boots and shoes in a chlorine based cleaner or garden fungicide and allow them to dry thoroughly. N.B. please read the manufacturer's label and follow instructions on use and disposal of the product.
- 3) Thoroughly wash and dry all kit and other clothing that may potentially have been contaminated with fungal spores.
- 4) Clothing and footwear should not be reused for at least 48 hours after drying.

BRITISH SCHOOLS ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS

For some very good reason no doubt ? the National Schools score Championships and the standard championships follow each other within 5 weeks. As a result it was a busy time for the juniors of Torquay Grammar especially as both events were well and truly "away fixtures".

The Score championships were held on a Saturday morning at Kingsbury Water Park near Sutton Coldfield.



As such it was a long Friday night journey for the 20 young people punctuated with a two hour wait on the closed M5 due to a car accident. It didn't seem to effect anyone too much on the day as the technical difficulty of the area was non existent and it was more of a sprint course than anything.

The Juniors of James Dean, Dominic Clarke, Harry Jamieson, James Condon, Oli O'Brien and Sam Neath exceeded expectations by retaining the championship which bearing in mind the relative inexperience of many was a great boost. The seniors of Josh Owen, Harry Morse, Chris Garrett, Ed Gow-Smith, Dominic Cook and Jake Belsten were just squeezed into second place by a strong and local Kenilworth team.

As always we made the most of the weekend staying up there and heading on to a regional event on the Sunday morning at Cannock chase much to the surprise of the locals. A sunny day out in good woodland. It doesn't get much better.

Matt Birdsall *photo courtesy Steve Perrelle*

Just over a month later 23 runners were having the joys of the M6 to face with the World schools qualifying event on the Saturday and the British Schools championships on the Sunday taking place in Delamere forest

near Nantwich. Because of this all the best junior runners from the country were there and the competition was tough. The World Schools event is for M14's and M16's and this was the first year we had entered a team. Not surprisingly we had a mixed set of results but nobody was struggling out there. James Dean's 8th place in M14 was the best we could manage amongst the countries elite. It will be interesting to see which school the selectors pick in this age group to go to the World Schools Championships in Portugal next April as no one school dominated the event.

The Sunday was blessed with clear blue skies and perfect conditions for running. With over 125 schools and almost 1000 runners it was quite a big event but Deeside should be congratulated on producing an arena atmosphere second to none.

The competition is run with separate classes for boys and girls on school years with the three highest placed runners counting towards that years trophy and the highest nine in all categories counting towards the overall school championships. It would be fair to say as a school we had a good day with the teams of year 7 (Ben Stevens, David Fallshaw, Sam Kneath), year 8 (Oli O'Brien, Matt Birdsall, Harry Jamieson), year 9 (James Dean, Dominic Clarke and Oscar Stubbs) and year 13 (Josh Owen, Harry Morse, Chris Garrett) all being placed 2nd in their age groups and year 10 (Sean Rowe, Jake Belsten and Dominic Cook) being placed 3rd. It was a happy group of runners heading south at the end of the day.

For the record we were placed 5th in the whole schools competition which is not far off the best we could ever hope to do due to the lack of girls (at a boys school). A definite improvement from last year and a reflection of the gradual progress we are making. Thanks to Wilf et al: your efforts are making a difference.

Steve Perrelle

TO GALOPPEN OR NOT GALLOPEN!

QO's Junior Orienteering (JOG) parents are getting itchy feet. A selection are wanting to move on from QOFL to ga(l)lop(p)en challenges and used the Devon event on Burrator as a first try. New area, new courses, new terrain, new disasters!

I went with the Haslers (Chris M45, and Tom M10) on a fine, sunny day to experience the delights of Dartmoor after our wet summer. I primed them on the maps of the 70's (hand drawn courses), 80's (overprinted maps) and 'naughties' (OCAD) – excellent mapping skills of Peckett/Parker/Wimpenny. I failed to convince Tom & Chris that running Green and Light Green courses might be a little ambitious so early in their orienteering careers.

So to the event. Easy parking, registration, and starts. Short walk to the start. Uphill climb to the first control – why do I always overcomplicate the first leg? Ten minutes wasted. Controls 2 to 5 were fine, then disaster going to 6 for Chris and I (and I suspect others). I took 25 min. and Chris took 65 min. to find it after some relocation and parallel path errors. OK from there on in despite some pretty damp and grotty underfoot areas. The sight of the QO finish banner hiding behind a tree reminded us that Andy Rimes was the Controller. Inevitably I finished last at that stage - wishing I had adopted Judy's technique of refusing to punch and submit to SI analysis, just enjoying being in the open air!

A picturesque trip over the top of Dartmoor on the way back to Taunton completed an enjoyable day out, with Tom sampling the Warren House Inn 'Steak and Ale' pie. I was surprised how few of the 'traditional' Devon faces were in evidence, but that is probable a sign of my age as well as a healthy transfer of responsibilities in the Devon Club.

Talking of traditional Devon faces, I must add Judy and my memories to those that will no doubt be expressed by others in the light of the tragic death of John Searle. John was one of life's true gentlemen – a man of sound principles, dedicated to his profession, full of talent, humour and integrity. We were privileged to share his enthusiasm for school orienteering, both in the challenges thrown to Taunton Prep School from QES, Crediton (he actually sent a 'gauntlet' in the post to the school) and in his organisation of Devon Junior trips to the White Rose multiday events in Yorkshire Moors. The St Audries' School girls will remember his disdain at their 'cathedral' of a tent with the associated bunting of underwear! Judy and I, and our children, have fond memories of his wit and 'armchair orienteering'. The QESCO pack of exercises have provided school Orienteering Hobby and QO Junior Orienteering Club (JOG) with inspirational ideas for coaching, and he would always find some old map to use as notepaper and carton material for correspondence. We visited his home in Craven Arms and despaired at the lack of use of his talents in

educational and cultural areas. Maybe we had a prejudiced view of him – but we were never aware of any shortcomings that prevented him from being used as an excellent teacher. His house was only minutes from a railway station that enabled him to reach anywhere on the railway network in a day – his preferred method of travel after his trusty bike. He was also a volunteer and magazine editor of the Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway Preservation Society for many years. We had the pleasure of him staying with us in August 2010 while attending a Windband Summer School near Bridgwater and our grandchildren were given demonstrations of mouthpiece and homemade piccolo playing they will never forget.

We are reminded of a favourite quote of John's referring to the 'great toilet roll of life': the closer you get to the end, the faster it runs out!

Roger Craddock QO



John Searle playing his trombone August 2010 *Photo courtesy Roger Craddock.*

JOHN SEARLE

I met John when I joined the first year at Queen Elizabeth's Community College in Crediton, Devon, in 1981, where he taught Geography as well as organising the school's orienteering club QESCO. I'd never heard of orienteering before then but his description of running around moorland and forest, reading maps, sounded very exciting and adventurous. He introduced me to a sport that I still enjoy competing in today, and taking an active role in.

John organised many regular trips, using the school's minibus, to orienteering events in the south west for students which I competed in. I've been told that a minibus full of school children is always noisy but that there was always one voice that could be heard above all the others – mine. Much later on this earned me the nick name "Silent" from one of the parents who'd always been happy to drive the bus when a group of his school orienteering club went on to form Kirton Hash House Harriers after learning about hashing from attending orienteering events. Although John never took part in hashing his involvement in School Orienteering contributed to the birth of Kirton Hash by bringing a group of like-minded people together.

He constructed a home-made trophy for the school's orienteering championships that consisted of items collected from orienteering events across the UK, a wooden base, with limestone from the lake district, an antler picked up, and a small orienteering kite hanging down. It was a unique and wonderful creation.

In 1985 he helped me undertake a sponsored orienteering course for the Exeter Asthma Society at an event at Exeter Forest which, with his typical sense of humour, he'd named The Karriless. I remember worrying him a month before the event when I'd taken rather long time on my course at Woodbury Common after making a navigational error and getting lost.

His charitable activities also included one year organising "Shaftsbury Week" at Queen Elizabeth's where students of Shaftsbury house collected money for charity during the lunch hour.

He was an inspirational teacher and his teaching materials included handouts from the Sandford University Press, scattered with the occasional pun and joke, and his maps from Krapimapz (an off-shoot of the Sandford University Press) were unique with green lakes and blue woodland, and on occasion orientated to East.

I wrote to him a couple of years ago, including a couple of the maps that I have since drawn of areas in Devon, which he mentioned brought him much pleasure – as well as sent him scrambling through his records for the Karriless map and results. His reply was written on the back of an orienteering map of

Sowdley Wood and Black Hill, an area local to Craven Arms that he mentioned was one of his favourite areas.

John was an inspirational teacher and gentlemen who encouraged a number of people to take part in orienteering

James Head NWO formerly Devon O.C.

ORIENTEERING REPORT(S).



Hullo, my name is Birch, I have just started orienteering and I would like to share my experiences with you.

September 9th

My people are Roger and Susan and after much humming and hawing they took me to the Devon Club Championships at Virtuous Lady. I was in seventh heaven as there were so many new friends to meet and greet. I do love people! Susan put a harness on me, totally unnecessary as I am sure I can find my way very easily, and we set off for the start. We were early and walked with Carol the planner to the start. When everything was ready Susan dragged me away from my new friends and set off heading to a red and white flag thing, which she called a control where she made a beeping noise with a thing on her finger. Most odd! We then proceeded to visit several more of these flags, for some of them I was dragged through the bracken, I was worried about my appearance, and she would not allow me to say hullo to my friends as they came sprinting past! I only wish she would let me off a lead so that I could help **all** my friends. We visited five controls and then made our way back to the finish. Oh it was hard work for a three month old girl! But great fun.

October 7th

My next orienteering outing was at Ashclyst. We met lots of my friends again and some new ones. I really like to see people and other dogs as I am a very social sort of person. It was much better here as I was a month older and stronger on my paws. We tackled the orange course as Susan felt that the light green was too far for me. What rubbish! We went to the start flag on our own and had to wait a couple of minutes to let the person in front get away, she was running but when we started we went at a sedate walking pace. It was only along paths which I found frustrating, but I enjoyed the course, especially catching up with a pair on the yellow course.

October 21st

I am so cross. I was promised a chance to go around a yellow course at the Burrator event, but my stupid mistress would not carry me over the ladder stile into the woods at number 2. She claimed that she might drop me and then I could be hurt. What nonsense! I am making her arms stronger by ensuring that I pull as hard as possible. As we started walking back towards the start, I made my feeling quite clear by putting a few holes in her O top!. At last Susan took the hint and we visited a couple of other controls, before heading back down to the assembly field. The smells were wonderful and I enjoyed the fabulous views on a wonderful day.

October 28th

We strayed over the border into Cornwall today. I asked my bosses if I needed a passport as I was worried that I would be turned back at the border. They assured me that it was alright and I did not need to have one to go to Cornwall. I was so relieved! I was taken to a few controls on the short green course, but not around the whole course as it was raining! My mistress is a real wimp! We visited those controls near to the start and car park. The ground was very wet and at one place I had to cross a small stream and marsh. Unfortunately it was too wide for me to jump in one go so I had to get water up my paws to my elbow. Something I hate. I did enjoy the open moorland, even if the views were not as good as at Burrator.

November 18th

We again went over the border to Cornwall, this time we went way down west to Hayle Towans. The drive was long and boring, but I put up with it, I could do little else! Once there we were able to get our legs stretched before mistress took me around the short green course. We went quietly through the start and had a long leg along a path to the first control, it was along the cliff tops and the beach did look tempting in the sunshine. Then it was inland through some long grass like plant, she called marram to the second and third controls. I did very well, leading her into the controls. All went well to number 4, but after that I picked up on a fascinating scent and decided that I was getting tired, so I pulled her "off line". She tried to get me to speed up a bit to number 6 and as a result we went round in circles around the control. After we had found it we proceeded on to the final controls and the finish. It was great fun.

I really think that I will enjoy this sport. I am sure I do not need any one to take me round a course.

Birch Hateley

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8TH NOVEMBER 2012

Courses for Devon League Events

Bryan Smith, who has taken over the scoring for the Devon league events had submitted a number of points for clarification regarding the courses to be included for awards at the end of the season. It was confirmed that all Devon league events should include Brown, Blue, Green, Light Green, Orange and Yellow courses and that there would be awards for these courses. In addition planners and organisers should endeavour to include a white course and/or a string course. A short green course would be included for the Devon Galoppen.

It was confirmed that planners and, where they were not participating, organisers would receive an average score for the event at which they officiated. The average would be based upon their performance at other Devon league events for that season.

Website

The chairman has met one organisation and had approaches from 2 other providers. The committee agreed with the idea of involving an organisation rather than a single individual, as this would offer greater hopes of long term continuity. A key element was to include training so that several members of the club could update the website.

The chairman indicated that, on the basis of costs provided, we should set a

budget limit of £1,500 to set up the website with an annual running charge of up to £200.

There was some concern over what we would be paying for, and whether other clubs could provide us with a steer on the level of costs we should expect. John Dyson undertook to contact James Hargreaves, who has recently revamped the Kerno website.

Publicity

The club continues to operate without a publicity officer. John Dyson undertook to contact two individuals to see if they would be interested in joining the committee and possibly taking on the publicity role.

Tess Stone reported that she has been making contact with funding organisations who may be able to help us.

Active Devon has been allocated money to improve the physical fitness within Devon villages by getting more people active. We would have to provide a quote for any proposals and a percentage of the costs for the mapping or a permanent course, but this could be useful when it comes to mapping new areas.

Sportmakers is charged with getting more volunteers into sport. They will pay up to £100 towards coaching courses. This would be of benefit now that BOF is not contributing to courses for planners, mappers, etc.

Sported, an Olympic legacy organisation, are charged with setting up new initiatives in sport and might be able to provide help with our website development. Using these organisations, Tess has been able to hire a minibus at reduced rate to take competitors to the British Schools Champs and a further booking has been made for the Yvette Baker.

Fixtures

Nicholas Maxwell has booked dates for fixtures to the end of 2013 and will be submitting dates to SWOA up to the end of June 2014 after further discussions. May 2014, which includes the Tamar Triple weekend, is fairly congested and we may have to change or drop our league event.

Nicholas flagged up that we seem to be running short of qualified controllers.

It is unclear at the moment how orienteering will be affected by ash dieback, which appears to be more widespread than was first thought. At the moment there are no guidelines from BOF. John Dyson undertook to make enquiries.

Equipment

Alan Simpson is planning to move from his Plymouth base to Tavistock. He is willing to continue in his role as equipment officer, but expects to have less storage space available. The committee agreed in principal to contributing towards the cost of a shed for storage of equipment. Alan will provide cost estimates.

Tess has received a tent from Gerald Woodley. It was proposed that Tess should assess whether it will be useful to her in her coaching role and if not it will be passed to Roger Green.

The club now has 10 new controls, which have been passed to Tess for use in training. New batteries have been fitted to 4 of the old controls. The overall cost of this was slightly over £1,000. John Dyson anticipated that a charitable fund in Sidmouth will shortly grant Tessa £2,000, which will cover the new controls and further local mapping.

Finance

The Club currently has £12,414.25 in the bank, but the bill from Sport Ident for the equipment mentioned above (£1038.36), and £40.00 expenses for coaching are outstanding leaving a balance of £11,335.89

Any other Business.

Kit

It was noted that an update regarding kit was needed. This will be covered at the next meeting

Buckland Abbey

The National Trust are no longer willing to contribute to the cost of posts for a new permanent course based at Buckland Abbey. Tess suggested that Stewart Dudley at Active Devon may be able to help and passed on contact details to Nicholas Maxwell.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

17th February **Compass Sport Cup Qualifier** WESSEX at Agglestone.

10th March **SW Middle Distance Champs.** SARUM at Fonthill.

29th March – 1st April **JK** in the Chilterns

14th April **Southern Champs.** KERNO at Penhale

DEVON EVENTS

December 2012.

2nd League, Five Tors, Tavistock SX531752

8th D&C Night Event No. 3 Burrator West SX547693

27th Christmas Event. Killerton Park SS973001

January 2013

12th D&C Night Event No. 5 Newnham Park SX549598

27th League Mutters Moor SY109873

February 2013

10th League Hound Tor SX738793

KERNO EVENTS

December 2012

16th Hardhead Downs Forest League No. 3 SX154702

22th D&C Night Event No. 4 Davidstow SX154853

January 2013

5th Extra Night No. 1 Tremough SW769349

20th Forest League No. 4 Lanhydrock SX087641

26th Extra Night No. 2 Trelissick Signed from SW836397

February 2013

2nd D&C Night Event No. 6 Duchy College SX356747

9th Extra Night No. 3 Tehidy SW635434

24th **Galoppen & Forest League 5** Cookworthy SS415013

QO EVENTS

December

8th QOAD2 Castle Neroche ST275156

16th QOFL 3 Hart Hill/Floorey Down ST167365

January 2013

1st Novelty Event Kingscliff Wood ST267320

Gary Wakerley 07919 095436

20th QOFL4 Broomfield & Wind Down