

Nottinghamshire Orienteering Club



Black and Green - February 01

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Team Manager

COMPASS SPORT FIRST ROUND

Due to delays at the organising club, full details about entries have only become available as of last week. Details are on the web site. Please note that the event is at Thetford and not at Brown Clee (as I earlier suggested) and entry fees are £6/£2.

Please post your entries to me by 21st Feb, using the proforma on the web site.

2001 Relays:

1 JK Relays at Lydney Park, Forest of Dean on 16th April

Courses available: A JK Trophy (Open, four legs), B Women's Trophy, C Men's Short Open, D Women's Short, E Men Total age 120+, F Women Total age 120+, G Men Total Age 165+, H Women Total Age 165+, J Men Total Age 48-, K Women Total Age 48-, L M/W Total Age 40-, M Mini relay M/W12-, N Mixed Ad Hoc.

All except the JK Trophy are three legs. Fees for courses A to H plus N are £8 per runner and fees for courses J to M are £4 per junior. When you send me your BOF and SI number, please state the courses in order of preference. If there are insufficient people to make up a team that qualifies for the age courses then I will make up some ad-hoc teams. Please say if you do not wish to run course N in those circumstances. (Cheques to be made payable to NOC).

Closing date for the organisers is 3rd March, so please get your entries to me straight away so that I can plan the teams.

2 BOC Relays at Baronscourt Estate, Omagh on 7th May

Courses available A Men's Premier, B Women's Premier, C M35, D M40, E M45, F M50, G W35, H W40, I W45, J W50, K M/W55, L M/W60, M Short Open, N Women's Short, O M/W12-, P M14-, Q W14-, R M18-, S W18-, T Ad Hoc, U Junior Ad Hoc.

All classes are for teams of three runners. Please send your BOF and SI numbers along with preferred course to be run. Entry fees are £8 per runner for courses A to N and T and £4 for courses O-S and U.

Closing date for the organisers is 22nd March, please make sure that I receive them at least a week in advance of this date.

Any queries, call me on 0115 8774089 or email ap.donaldson@ntlworld.com. Post entries to 29 Mason Road, Ilkeston, DE7 9JP.

3 Harvester Trophy - Dipton Wood, Hexham Saturday May 19th / Sunday May 20th
Camping, Start, Finish and spectator points in sheltered field in middle of forest.

Race A. Harvester Trophy & Handicap Trophy. 7 laps. Start 12 midnight. Planned winning time 6 hours.

Lap:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Planning:	7.5Km Night	7.5Km Night	4Km Night	11Km Night	7.5Km Night/Day	5Km Day	12Km Day

Race B. Womens, Womens Handicap, Junior. 5 Laps. Start 1am. Planned winning time 4 ½ hours

Lap:	1	2	3	4	5
Planning:	5Km Night	3Km Night	7.5Km Night	4Km Night/Day	7.5Km Day

Sunrise time. 4:48am so it starts to get light just before 4am.

Colour Coded courses, Yellow to Brown. Starts 10:30am to 11:30 am.

SportIdent for Harvester Trophy. Conventional punches for Colour Coded.

Map scale 1:10,000 for all races throughout the weekend

ENTRIES:

Pre-entries required for Harvester Trophy via NOC team manager, 29 Mason Road, Ilkeston, DE7 9JP. Fees TBA but will be on the web site www.orunner.freeseve.co.uk/ukharv.htm.

Please remember to send BOF and SI numbers along with your preference for course/leg.

EOD for Colour Coded courses. .

Catherine

Irish Orienteering Championships

Saturday 12th May 2001 Irish Relay Championships Sunday 13th May 2001

Members of BOF are invited to take part (although only members of Irish clubs may be Irish Champions), closing date Fri 20th April 2001, for enquiries and entry forms write to: IOC 2001, c/o R Lynam, Baltyboys, Blessington, Co. Wicklow, Ireland or tel. (353) 45 867183, e mail IOC2001@iol.ie.

Ferry Discounts

British Championships, May 2001

BOF has negotiated a 25% discount on 6 day and standard return fares through TRAVELBREAK on the SeaCat ferry routes Liverpool/Dublin, Heysham/Belfast and Troon/Belfast.

This offer excludes Apex fares, is valid for cars and accompanying passengers and minibuses and accompanying passengers but specifically excludes commercial vehicles and foot passengers. The offer is valid for the month of May 2001 only and is subject to availability.

To take up this offer telephone TRAVELBREAK on 0870 443 0360 and ask for the British Orienteering SeaCat offer or E-mail your booking request to travelbreak@compuserve.com There are further details on the BOF website.

Juniors

I have created a Junior Web-site and you can visit it by either going via the NOC Home Page or the URL is : <http://www.beverleyz.freemove.co.uk>

I am planning on holding a Junior get-together on 24th February 2001. The idea is to meet at the ten-pin bowling in the centre of Nottingham mid-afternoon and then going to Pizza Hut for some food. If you would like to do either one or both of these, please e-mail me on jennifer@beverleyz.freemove.co.uk or phone me at (0115) 923 1352. Please contact me before 20th February if you would like to come so that I can make the booking. The NOC Juniors team won the junior team of the year, Hilary the Coach of the Year and Alison Junior School Girl of the Year in Nottingham Sports Review of the Year. *Beverley*

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To ensure the juniors are able to commit to going to the Compass Sport Cup both Hilary and Jim have now been able to book a mini bus each, these will be available for juniors and possibly some seniors on a first come basis.

Watch the web site for developments or liase with your coaches.

Planning a C4 in Harlow Wood

Or planning a C4 anywhere perhaps! I've planned a C5 in Bramcote Hills. I have planned a short race, which has not yet happened. (It should have been Feb 2000 and will - I hope - be Feb 2001 - if not then we could go for 2002!). A C4 is something altogether different, and something that most orienteers of M59 and three quarters who had not done one before would leave others to do.

I never set out to be a planner. For reasons I have forgotten I had set my sights on being a controller - perhaps there is something about the word 'controller' which appealed fundamentally to my psyche - how sad. But as most of you know you can't be a controller without being a planner with some experience. I have never been on a course to show me how to organise an event (but I have organised up to C3). I have never been on a course to show me how to plan events of any kind. I have been on a Grade 3 controllers course and Ernie Williams passed me on that - but I had to declare lack of planning experience so I am still not a controller.

New territory, new wood, Harlow Wood what an exciting challenge I thought. But due to the late felling and access problems the map was eventually printed a lot later than expected, and was then found to have lots of unsuitably vague areas (absolutely no blame to NOC!)- so at the beginning of September when I wanted to do the planning I was panicking instead. When I got a map there were problems about where to have the event car park. I had assumed that Portland College (prominent on the map) would welcome us to park in their 'nice' tarmac car park and invite us to their tea room and craft shop to boost sales - but I was wrong. So - put cars on Thieves and compete on Harlow? Wrong again - people living in 'nice' houses don't like too many occasions in a year when orienteers cars proceed sedately down the poorly maintained access track. Well, those of you who were there know what happened - parking in the competition area! Conflict potential between moving vehicles and competitors likely and some control sites visible from parking. The former I decided was an acceptable risk - the latter would be far too helpful.

I spent hours and hours planning the blue and brown courses, never having planned beyond green before. In my first planning experience I found the white and yellow courses the most difficult. Many people come into orienteering through their children or see their children come through from string courses to white etc and so have some understanding of these things. I was introduced to orienteering by one of my children but he was M21 at the time and I could never get him to do the string course - although he did once do a yellow (albeit on crutches with a broken leg).

My foray into the woods to tag potential control sites took me into every part of the wood. It was only when courses were being planned that I lost quite a number of sites at the Southern end of the map. We did not have permission to use it - perhaps not even permission to map it as there had not been any contact with the owners who could not be traced. This is why I had to declare the bottom part of the map OOB, and with it all the water features which are absent on the rest of the map. As it happened the heavy rain preceding the event would have made some of the controls OK for swim O. The effect of the pig farming upstream has had a significant effect on the undergrowth around the stream and has caused luxuriant growth of vegetation, as well as lots of silting up and then there is the smell of it all! All in all an area with some interesting features, but a lot of it to be avoided. I shall be interested to see what the next planner makes of this area if anything.

I have learned a few things:

(a) Firstly that I have confirmed in my own mind what I had learned in previous years of competing in Thieves - I am not very good at counting stump banks as I proceed through a block of wood. My controller discovered that I had hung tags on wrong banks, and on the day I even hung a kite on the wrong stump bank, which, recognising my inability, he found it on the adjoining one and restored it to it's correct place.

(b) Secondly - just how long the whole process takes, and how time consuming it all is. I am sure that experienced planners can do things so much quicker, but I think that the total amount of time I spent overall on planning this event in hours was probably numerically equal to the number of participants!

(c) Thirdly, how physically demanding it all is. I only used 54 controls but these have to be put out in time for the controller to be able to check them before the first starts. I put out about half of them the previous late afternoon in locations where I thought they would not be vulnerable. At the end I harvested controls until dark then returned the next day for the remainder.

(d) Fourthly, novice planners should ideally plan on established maps rather than cope with the challenges of new ones, for example, some good control sites were rendered unusable by the presence of similar unmapped features nearby.

(e) And finally, I have learned how enjoyable and rewarding it all is!

Bob Alderson

NB Bob is far too modest to blow his own trumpet but his planning was certainly noted and complimented at the highest levels. Typical really, we find a good new planner and he turns out to be getting bit wrinkly.....but then again aren't we all!

Article slightly edited from the original

Forthcoming NOC Fixtures

Date 2001	Venue	Status	Contact	Notes	E-Punching
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24 March	Sansom Woods	N5	Unknown		Yes
25th March	Bestwood	C4	Richard Beadle	Gallop	No
21st April	Lake District	LG and up	Hilary Palmer	NOC Coaching	NA
22nd April	Byron's Walk	C4	The Bookers		Yes

"This BaG was edited by Keith Streb, who looks at this and thinks *"If you consider this Newsletter boring then have a look at DVO's (Newstrack) and see if you can spot the difference. That is how it should be done. Don't put it off, write something for the next issue NOW*

As before it is intended to have a roughly bi-monthly issue with the copy dates being the last day of Jan, March, June, Aug, Sept and Nov 9 (*or possibly not in this case*). Publication should normally within 2 weeks . *Yes I do know it's only second edition and it's already falling apart So things could change*

All copy gratefully accepted on keith.streb@ntlworld.com. Or snailmail to 2 Sherwood Road, Rainworth, Notts NG21 0LJ ASCII, TXT and Word files preferred. Currently NO RTF due to system problems. Don't forget for more wide ranging and up to date information the NOC website is <http://www.noc-uk.org>

This is just a note to say I am not renewing my BOF membership this year and will resign from NOC.

I had always intended to carry on orienteering as an M75 and beyond, but, having achieved that status last year, I have not been out in the forest once during the whole year since.

On every event day, there are 2 alternative scenarios: if the weather is bad, my wife says: 'You can't go out tramping in the woods today. You'll catch cold.' If it is fine, she says: 'You can't sneak out and do your jogging today, there's far too much needing doing in the garden!' So orienteering can't win! Never mind, I joined Southern Navigators in 1968, and moved to NOC in 1991, and I've had a lot of fun during all that time.

Tony Caldicott M75

Although I actively dislike orienteering during a hot summer, I am prepared to sacrifice running in Bestwood if it means that Tony and his wife can have all the good weather they need to achieve future horticultural happiness

Happy weeding from all at NOC.