

Chairman's Chat

It's now been just over a year since I attended my first NOC Committee meeting as an observer and by the time you read this it will be my first anniversary as Chairman. At this time of reflection when we all make plans for a new year, let's identify the best route choice, select a 'collecting feature', follow our compass for the control ahead and consider how we set the map for the next feature thereafter. Where do we as a club want to go and how do we best get there?

There are a number of challenges that we need to address over the next twelve months listing in no particular order: a declining and ageing membership, perhaps too many of whom are just content to 'pay and play'?

A multiplicity of events at various levels, often hard to staff and targeting which particular section(s) of the club? The forthcoming changes in the stewardship of the forests within which we play our sport. Lastly, the challenges of social media and digital technology in informing the public and ourselves about what we do.

At the end of the Annual General Meeting in October there was no nominated or elected Treasurer, no Publicity Officer, no Junior Representative and last but by no means least, no Volunteer Co-Ordinator. There were however, more positively, a number of names who were attached to events as planner, organiser and controller, but not enough! What can we, what should we, do?

Those with a wider knowledge of the membership than I, have canvassed and cajoled, but there are still gaps.

In some ways, maybe part of the problem is related to the number of events that the club now attempts to provide? I counted twenty-two for 2014. There are two club leagues at an introductory level, summer and winter; a regional league targeting a more experienced competitor, an urban league plus regional and national events where obviously we want the club representation or organisation to be of the highest standard. Add 'sprint' events and competitions like the Red Bull Challenge held recently at Sherwood Pines and one might say the club member is spoilt for choice, but who publicises, organises, maps, plans, controls, registers and publishes the results? Do you as club member need to have your results collated into league standings within the club or region? Are we actually spoilt for choice, are there too many events?

Of course, that multiplicity of events needs woodland and parks within which we can play. Recently, members of the committee became aware that Nottinghamshire County Council, as part of its budgeting control was proposing to devolve itself of the stewardship of a number of forests within its care. Dependant upon to whom the stewardship devolves, this might have significant implications for our access to those woods. I am glad to say that two officers of the club were able to meet representatives of the County Council and our needs were recognised by the Administration and for the time being we can continue events, but who knows where we will be able to go in the future?

After our event at Walesby last weekend I was reflecting on how the sport has changed during the last forty years of my participation; the technological advances in map-making, registration procedures, results and their analysis are truly significant. As is the distribution of information about events, training opportunities and coaching procedures, but do we really make the best use of our web site, our social media outlets, our e-mail and text facilities to inform, inspire, illustrate and illuminate? I wonder and if we don't, who can help us to do better?

All these **challenges** (I hate the word issues) are recognised by your committee. They are central to our discussions **on your behalf** that we have both in committee itself but also in the hours that every officer spends working outside the meetings. The three significant issues of volunteering for events and committee tasks, event consolidation and the upgrading of the web site and extending the potential of

development through social media will all be reviewed this year in a comprehensive analysis of the NOC Development Plan. You can see the existing one on the web site. Please read it and tell us about what you want from your club membership.

<http://www.noc-uk.org/Documents/Development%20Plan%202012-13.pdf>

So in 2015 your orienteering challenge is to volunteer to help in some way either at an event or in the administration of the club. To participate by thinking about our development and sharing your views with the committee and last but not least to recruit a new member who will come to share our fascination and delight in the sport but also will in the future share the burden with us and make everyone's load just a little lighter.

So hopefully this review and rallying call should provide a new map with a preferred route choice and visible controls but I guess in the end the course will be a bit like a score event, you'll need to choose, which way to go.

Andrew Breakwell
December 2014

Red Bull Robin Hood - A planners perspective

Background

NOC was approached in autumn 2014 about the possibility of supporting a new format of orienteering adventure race centred around Robin Hood and sponsored by Red Bull. Although the details were a little unclear at this stage, there was a firm commitment by Red Bull to put on a form of orienteering event. Red Bull had already booked Sherwood Pines as the venue, date set, an events company was recruited to provide the experience. All they needed was a map and someone to plan the course! Given the brand and immense opportunity to take orienteering to a new audience, the club were very keen to ensure this event was supported. Due to the short timescales and the clash with the Compass Sport Cup round in March 2015, a more focused support was deemed appropriate and so a small band of merry men comprised of David Olivant (mapper) and Andy Llewellyn (planner) set off on an interesting quest to assist with this new concept.....

Event Format

The key criteria set by Red Bull was that it was to be a serious but fun orienteering challenge which would attract the top runners in the country as well as their target 18-40 market. To secure the big names, a generous prize kitty was on offer, possibly the largest I've ever been aware of at a UK event (£500 for first). The next twist was that there were going to be six challenges checkpoints, where further points could be secured by successfully completing a challenge related to Robin Hood. The exact format of each challenge was only finalised after some time, but included archery, balancing beam, catapults etc. Within these constraints, Red Bull basically said over to me & David to fill in with the orienteering aspect of the event.

Planning Complexities & Event Delivery

I'd summarise the key complexities for this event as follows:

- Time - there wasn't much of it, I think we had about 8 weeks between initial planning and the event
- Orienteering knowledge - a number of the organizing parties had not had an exposure to a full blown orienteering event and the specific requirements that this imposes (e.g. map printing, special map, kit, final details etc)
- Communication - so many stakeholders to keep in the loop, each with their own key considerations.
- Challenge controls - need to make sure they could be completed quickly yet were still challenging. Oh, and no queuing please!

Despite these complexities, the planning and mapping stage went reasonably smoothly. David was a stellar help updating the map on multiple occasions and I settled on a single mass start course with 30 controls. Although the event was pitched as a serious orienteering challenge, I threw in a few simpler controls to cater for a wider audience. The challenge locations were all set on open land for good photos and the faff was trying to position the archery challenge such that we didn't risk shooting anyone on the approach to the control.

On the day & Competitor Feedback

When I arrived on the Friday night to start hanging the controls, I was amazed at the infrastructure that had been erected - catering, plasma screens, red bull banners, fridges. The sheer investment in the event was clear to see so this put the pressure on me to hang everything in the right place. The only hiccup of the whole event from an orienteering perspective is that a "180" error was made when the food and registrations marquees were erected between the last control and finish. Oops! With discovering this on my arrival at 8pm on Friday night, there wasn't time to move the marquee so a slight diversion via crowd barriers seemed to do the trick and no one seemed to notice.

On the day, the event went very well and I was able to enjoy running round during the event watching the top runners in the country battle head to head along with complete beginners. It was also entertaining watching the mixed abilities on the challenges (especially the rope climb challenge). Feedback was very positive from all competitors - I didn't hear anything negative about the whole experience (at least to my face!). A number of beginners were keen to learn more about orienteering and thankfully no one got truly lost. One chap was out for a while, but he seemed to have had good fun during a two hour explore of Sherwood Pines. I think the event demonstrated how flexible our sport is and the additional markets that are out there.

Where do we go from here?

I think Red Bull was overall very pleased with the format of the event and how well it was received amongst competitors. As far as 2015 goes, we're hopeful that funding will be secured for the event to be put on again. If the event does go ahead in 2015, then I'm sure the NOC committee and I will be keen to ensure a plan of how we can use the event as a powerful marketing tool for our wonderful sport.

Andy LLewellyn

A brand new chapter in the world of orienteering.



Compass sport cup or Red Bull Robin Hood a dilemma.

Considering that I very rarely make the standard on my age course and the Red Bull event might never happen again my decision was made, to enter the Red Bull event.

When I entered there was only me and 23 others with a limit of 150, on the day there was 130 of us up for a challenge which was totally different from your normal O' event.

Six testing challenges were dotted around the 18km course to provide a new experience to those who'd travelled from around the UK to take part. The challenges were archery, catapulting onions, rope climbing, balancing, memory test, portcullis door pull plus the traditional 30 controls and a 75minute time limit. In total there were 480 points available, with 10 points awarded for each control and 30 for each challenge completed.

Upon arrival at the roped off village area, on the grassed area in front of the Sherwood Pines Cafe, you were transported back in time with open-basket fires suspended below tripods, characters wandering around from the Robin Hood era including the official Robin Hood and an annoying Peasant with

a wooden wheelbarrow and ladle offering some sort of ointment for your sores (My son later found out it was Peanut Butter!). The whole village experience set the tone for this event and the excitement was building as the start time got nearer. After registration, you were encouraged to practice your archery skills, you got 4 arrows: my first 2 went high, 1 went low and the last just hit the outer of the target. Hope I do better in the challenge! After giving some coaching to the non-orienteer's, of which there were many, it was time to don the quality Red Bull Robin Hood top and head for the pre-race briefing. Here you got the usual rules for an O' event and shown a video, on two big screens, of what to expect and the rules for all the challenges. At this point, I decided it was time to take on some Red Bull before the start. Might as well drink some as it was everywhere and have a call of nature in the plushiest toilets I have used at an O'event. You wiped your feet before entering, not when leaving!

The call to walk to the start was given and everyone gathered under the Red Bull arch to follow Robin Hood through his forest, past his merry men & ladies with some choice words of encouragement, to the Start. The start area had an energy station and a flag pole, where we all gathered round in a big circle. Maps, tied up like scrolls with a bow, were handed out, but couldn't be un-tied until a minute before the start. Robin gave an inspirational speech, announced we could open our maps, then blew on his horn to start the challenge.

Everyone set off in different directions, I went mine with another small group of competitors and after a couple of normal controls I got to my first challenge, which turned out to be the archery challenge. You didn't find out which challenge was where, until you got there. To get the 20 bonus points for the archery challenge, you had to get 1 out of the 3 arrows on target, I nailed this challenge with my first arrow hitting the centre of the target, Robin Hood should be worried!!

Leaving the challenge, another energy station for a Red Bull top-up then another 4 controls and into the next challenge, one I was not confident at doing, the rope climb. An approx' 3m+ climb up a thick rope to the top for your bonus points. I managed to do this quickly first go and not get rope burns on the way down!

Again, an energy station for a top-up and onto the next control, then into the next challenge, the catapult. Get 1 out of 3 onions through the archway around 50m away with the catapult. Shot 1 way to high, and probably still in orbit; shot 2 went just to the left; shot 3 just right. No bonus points here, but another chance for an energy top-up at an energy station.

45 minutes gone, time to think about heading back towards the finish. 4 controls and into my final challenge. Walk along some 3" wide wooden beams, about 6" off the ground while carrying a 2m long tree trunk across your shoulders. Easy you think. Well after going round a small right-left kink, one had to turn side-ways and duck slightly to get through a metre wide arch without touching it with the tree trunk.

This is where I failed the challenge & there are no second chances on the challenges!

Yes, you guessed it another energy top-up at the energy station for the run into the finish, after collecting another couple of controls and finishing under the Red Bull arch with a few minutes to spare.

After Finishing you were there was a delightful beef and potato stew plus a thick soup and a roll for us all to enjoy washed down with as much Hobgoblin beer/ Red Bull/ tea & coffee as you required to top up your energy reserves before the trip home.

When everyone was back, the excellent Red Bull trophy's were presented to the top 3 male & female finishers, then it was back to the food and drink and chatting to other participants who had travelled from around the country to participate in, what I must say, was an excellently organised, well planned (Andy) and very enjoyable Orienteering challenge.

Well done Red Bull for an excellent event that promotes Orienteering to the masses and here's hoping it return's next year!

All proceeds received from registration fees were donated to the Wings For Life charity.

Gary Peet

THE WINNERS

MEN

1st **Ralph Street** - South London Orienteers & Wayfarers (SLOW) - 380 points in 74:40

2nd **Dave Schorah** - Deeside OC - 380 points in 74:53

3rd **Peter Bray** - Durham University OC - 370 points in 73.33

WOMEN

1st **Lucy Butt** - Durham University OC - 320 points in 71:41

2nd **Barbora Pijakova** - Sheffield University OC - 290 points in 75:52

3rd **Anna Hoogkamer** - Sheffield University OC - 270 points in 74:01

Club Champs

Well done to all those who competed recently at the Club Champs on Stanton Moor. The area, courses and weather combined to provide some challenging competition and produce worthy Club Champions. Please find the list of Club Champions below.

M10 Benjamin Squire

W10 Alice Carley

M14 James Peet

M16 Simon Warrener

M21 Andy Llewellyn

W21 Emily Powell

M35 Ant Squire

M40 Gary Peet

W45 Catherine Hughes

M50 Steve Schofield

W50 Julie Webster

M55 Mick Lucking

M60 Dave Booker

W60 Jane Booker

M65 Dave Cooke

W65 Hilary Palmer

W70 Margaret Buckland

M75 John Woodall

NOC Club Competition Dates for your diary for 2015

15 March 2015 - Compass Sport Cup 1st round, Sherwood pines, Notts

6 April 2015 - JK Relays, Graythwaite, Lake District

19 April 2015 - British Orienteering Championships Relay, Cannop Ponds, Forest of Dean

Notts City Sports Awards

NOC achieved the following nominations at the 2014 Nottingham City Sports Awards:

- Team of the year - NOC Senior Men Relay Team. Summary of 2014 success:
 -
 - British Orienteering Relay Championships – 2nd (3rd 2013)
 - Jan Kjellstrom International Festival of Orienteering – 3rd (5th)
 - Harvester Trophy – 2nd (N/A)
 - Overall UK Relay League – 3rd (7th)
 -
- Athlete of the year - Peter Hodkinson. Summary of 2014 success:
 - Represented GBR at World University Champs (4th in relay), European Champs and World Cup.
 - Reserve for World Champs
 - JK Sprint - 1st
 - Scholarship Track & Field at Tulsa university
 - World Mountain Grand Prix Slovenia - 11th
 - Cross Country - 21st at the National champs, 2nd at both the Midland & Notts XC Champs

Although NOC didn't run out winners in either category, it was a great reflection of the club that we were able to be amongst the three nominations in each category given the strength of sport across Nottinghamshire. Anthony Squire and Francesco Lari attended the event and enjoyed mixing it with the finest sporting talent in the city as well as demolishing the indian buffet.

Well done to all - not just the individual orienteers that ran as part of the team and Peter but to everyone in the club (coaches, parental taxis, suffering spouses) that has supported the growth and development of the club over the years.

SITUATIONS VACANT

As Andrew has expressed earlier we are currently trying to recruit a Treasurer, Publicity Officer, and a Volunteer Co-Ordinator.

No-one was found to undertake these at the AGM back in November and as you can imagine it is proving difficult to maintain any semblance of smooth running. **Without someone stepping forward to do these, your club: and by inference, its members; will undoubtedly suffer.**

We are sure there must NOC members out there with the requisite knowledge particularly in regard to the treasurer and publicity officer as these are universal to all sports clubs and associations... however one of the things we do not know is our members particular specialties or careers outside of orienteering that may be beneficial

The Volunteer coordinator is slightly more demanding in the sense that it has more of a personal side to it but nothing that is too demanding.

Here's the job specifications for those that are interested

Volunteer Co-ordinator:

- Attend all NOC committee meetings as a co-opted member and send apologies if circumstances prevent this.
- Email/post all actions relating to the role, 2 weeks before the NOC Committee meeting.
- Find volunteers for each event for the roles of planner, organiser, controller and whiz kid.
- Liaise with the fixtures secretary about planned fixtures and permissions, and keep the fixtures secretary informed about event officials so that event registration can be updated.
- Circulate to event officials any guidance on file e.g. organiser's notes (which include contact details for helper group co-ordinators, results service), planner's notes, summer league organisation notes, inform them of any contact and mapping details for the area of their event, and/or putting them in touch with the fixtures secretary and the mapping co-ordinator.

Treasurer:

- Attend all NOC committee meetings and send apologies if circumstances prevent this.
- To email/post all actions relating to the role, 2 weeks before the NOC Committee meeting.
- Keep the accounts of the Club
- Maintain bank accounts for the Club's affairs.
- Bank any monies and cheques received by the Club
- Pay invoices promptly
- Pay non-invoiced items as follows;
 - BOF levies
 - EMOA levies
 - Garage rent
 - Forestry Commission charges
- Liaise with Event Organisers to produce an account for each event and pay expenses for event officials where relevant.
- Produce annual account and balance sheet for the AGM
- Submit accounts annually to Auditor for checking

Publicity Officer:

- Self explanatory: To use all means possible to raise the profile of orienteering in the media.

Junior Representative:

- Attend all NOC committee meetings and send apologies if circumstances prevent this.
 - Email/post all actions relating to the role, 2 weeks before the NOC Committee meeting.
 - Report notable results and any junior selections for tours/events.
 - Feedback junior opinions on club issues.
 - Arrange articles by juniors from tours/events.
 - Create/Maintain Junior website (optional)
 - Organise Junior social (optional)
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FIXTURES UPDATE

After an excellent first fixture of 2015 at Bestwood Country Park, these are the fixtures that are currently scheduled for the remainder of 2015...

Date	Event	Level
Sat 24 January	Night Event BURNTSTUMP COUNTRY PARK	D
Sun 25 January	Winter League BULWELL HALL PARK	D
Sun 8 February	Winter League SILVERHILL WOOD	D
Sun 22 February	EM League HARLOW WOODS	C
Sun 15 March	Compass Sport Cup Heat SHERWOOD PINES	B
Sat 28 March	Informal Event GEDLING COUNTRY PARK	D
Sun 12 April	EM Score Championships CLUMBER PARK	C
Mon 4 May	EM Urban League NEWARK	C
Sun 5 July	Yvette Baker Trophy Final NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY	B
Sun 13 September	EM Urban League SOUTHWELL (TBC)	C
Sun 11 October	EM League SHIREBROOK WOOD	C
Sun 8 November	EM League THORESBY NORTH	C
Sun 20 December	EM League BRAMCOTE HILLS & THE HEMLOCKSTONE	C

VOLUNTEER STATUS

Thank you to all the club members who have made recent events a success and to those of you who have already volunteered to take on roles at events in 2015 and 2016.

As always, there are vacancies to be filled. If you are interested in planning the first event to be held at Gedling Country Park, or if you are willing to be the organiser of the Clumber Park or Newark events, please get in touch.

The club will be scheduling Summer League 2015 fixtures in the near future. Local (level D) events are an important part of the club fixture schedule and we do need more members to step forward and get involved in the planning and organising of these events. Assistance is always available and "first timers" will be assigned a mentor to guide and help. Members wishing to plan and/or organise a Summer League event are asked to get in touch now so that the most appropriate date and venue can be selected.

Andrew Ridgway, Fixtures Secretary (fixtures@noc-uk.org)

2014 Winter League Winners		
Intro	Stephen Hunt	NOC
	Lewis Billington	
3rd	Fred and T Isherwood	Bass
3rd	Sam Lennon	NHS
Medium	Finlay Lowthian	NOC
	Donald Flynn	NOC
	Jane Dring- Morris	LEI
SH	John Woodall	NOC
	Jeff Baker	LOG
	Jen Gale	DVO
LT	Tanya Taylor	LOG
	Bob Haskins	LEI
	Tracey Brookes	LEI
2014 Summer League Winners		
Intro		
	Tristan Sherwood	NOC
	Sophie Peet	NOC
3rd	Amelia Crispin	NOC
3rd	Finlay Lowthian	NOC
	Beatrice Hague	Ind
	Josh Schofield	?
Med	Donald Flynn	NOC
2nd	Fraser Ridgeway	NOC
2nd	James Peet	NOC
	Charlotte Fox	LOG
ST	Kim Buxton	DVO
	Peter Hubberstey	NOC
	Eric Porter	LEI
LT	Tanya Taylor	LOG
	Bob Haskins	LEI
	David Sisson	NOC

Who's Who on the NOC Committee



Andrew Breakwell



Andrew Llewellyn



David Olivant



Mark Webster



Pauline Olivant



Hilary Palmer



Keith Streb



Andrew Ridgway....to follow ☺

Apologies to you all for the poor formatting of this B&G but I am currently suffering from a trapped nerve which is making using the PC extremely painful. I am afraid that mapping takes priority at this time of year so hopefully the next edition should be much better.

Thanks to those who supplied the copy but let's have some more or I will be forced to start recycling old stuff from the 80's and then you'll all have to go back to pens and master maps.

All e-formats can be read just send them here bag_ed@noc-uk.org

Keith

Useful Links

http://www.noc-uk.org/Documents/minutes/cm_1410.docx

<http://www.noc-uk.org/Documents/minutes/agm14.doc>

<http://www.noc-uk.org/Documents/Development%20Plan%202012-13.pdf>