

# Wessex Extra

February 2011



Eric looking for that elusive track in the snow.

highlights...

- Chairman Thoughts Pgs 2,3,9,10
- White Out Pg 4 & 5
- MBTO & Social Pgs6 & 7
- Youth Sport Trust Pgs 11 to 13

And lots more.....



**Chairman:**

Gavin Clegg  
gavin@ukmax.com

**Treasurer:**

Gavin Avey-Hebditch  
gmah59@hotmail.com

**Secretary:**

Sian Rixon  
sianrixon@live.co.uk

**Committee Members:**

Richard Arman  
thearmans@googlemail.com

Rob Hick  
rob.hick@tiscali.co.uk

Eric Whapples  
whapples@fsmail.net

Tim Houlder  
tim.houlder@ntlworld.com

Ian Sayer  
ian.sayer68@ntlworld.com

Mark Scott  
mark@caledonut.plus.com

## THE CHAIRMANS THOUGHTS

Hands up those of you who have read page 22 in the winter edition of Focus? I thought so. I must admit I skimmed over it myself until an e-mail from Sian made me go back and have a look at it.

You may well know that Controllers are graded (graded controllers make finer controllers, or is that showing my age?). Grade C controllers can control Local events, B up to Regional events and A up to National events. I think I still hold the record for being the youngest grade A controller at 20. But then about 5 years ago, having been a grade A controller for 30 years, I got struck off. It was my own fault. I just couldn't find enough time to attend the training and updating conferences and courses. It's a shame as quite a lot of my 'duties' were on juries for the British & the JK's. There were some quite challenging decisions to be made. For example on a curved taped run-in, one elite competitor cut straight across to the finish line saving a precious few seconds - should he be disqualified? I digress.

The gist of page 22 is that BO want to 'improve the situation' by licensing organisers. Whilst one part of me thinks this is well meant, I do just wonder if it's the thin edge of the wedge. The reasons for doing this are fourfold: 1) to be able to communicate with event officials - ok that's fine and they apparently already have a list of organisers for the past 10 years of registered events. 2) to assure the insurers that event officials are competent and trained. Now the question I raise here is have the insurers asked for this or it just perceived? 3) to be able to say confidently that events are safe. We

already do risk assessments by a 'competent' person, so not sure what else is needed. (even so things get missed, like the last metre on the slipway being very slippery (sorry Roger!)). And 4) a system of recording if organisers are practising and up to date. Clubs already know that, so is it just a bureaucratic central system that no doubt we will end up paying for in one way or another?

It then goes on to state how it will support event volunteers. Four of the five ways it will 'support' are not to my mind support: 1) a register of organisers, 2) a recruitment drive, 3) upgrading and 4) a licensing system. The fifth one does include newsletters, updates, workshops, conferences, online resources and the ubiquitous "etc".

From 1 January 2011 all those people who have organised registered events over the past 10 years have been graded and put onto the register. Whatever the highest level of event you organised is the grade you will have been given. We apparently have 9 months to check this list and provide evidence for up or down grading. Organisers will have to renew their licence on a regular basis. Training will be offered to Controllers and Organisers (currently no training available according to the BO website). Event safety training will be rolled out to clubs (or cluster clubs). This will either be an evening or half day at a weekend. A mentor scheme will also be introduced (we already have one). Deciding if an organiser is competent will take the form of 'on the job' evaluation which will be carried out by the Con-

# ORIENTEERING WHITE OUT

On 19<sup>th</sup> December 2010, five intrepid members of Wessex OC, Gavin Clegg, Dale Paget, Jason Falconer, Liz Lockton and myself braved the elements and travelled to Longmoor Army Camp to take part in the OK Nuts Trophy & Blood Races. Whilst southern England was covered with a blanket of snow up to 200mm thick and most orienteering events that weekend were cancelled due to the weather, the organisers of this event, SLOW decided to proceed as the site was located next to Hampshire County Council's gritting depot and indeed all the main roads to the event were clear of snow. About 120 participants of the over 300 who entered turned up to compete.



Orienteering in deep snow is an experience not to be missed provided you do not mind the cold. One thing I had not anticipated was how a covering of snow for shortens the perception of distance and after the first few controls, I thought the scale of the map was 1:7500 rather than the 1:10000 shown. It was difficult picking out the tracks in the open areas where the snow was deep, but in the wooded areas it was much easier. I quickly realised that in the open areas of heather you could sometimes make out tracks where deer or other orienteers had passed along brushing the snow off to reveal the brown heather below.

Being an army training ground, the area is criss-crossed with deep ruts created by tracked vehi-

cles. The covering of snow made these areas look like a lawn and easy running. However if you stepped into a rut the snow suddenly went up to your knees at times. Another problem was that you could not see the large areas of standing water, which had a thin layer of snow covered ice. When you stepped onto them you could hear the ice cracking so you tried to get off quickly before the ice broke. On one occasion the piece of ice was bigger than I thought and it broke before I could get off it and I finished up with two very wet feet.

The brightness of the snow could also be a problem, but as you can see from the photograph on the cover, my photo-chromatic lenses darkened considerably. The photo makes it appear that I had suffered from Christmas excesses, but I was wearing three thermal tops under my club top, thermal long johns, thermal hat, glove and a Buff around my neck. It also appears that I am walking whereas I was running quite hard towards the lady photographer who took the picture of me.

I was pleased with my navigation and managed to find the first seven controls without too much trouble. However whether it was complacency or that fact that the lady photographer distracted me, I made a right mess of Control 8. I now realise that the track junction I was proposing to use as an attack point was a further 50 metres on and what I thought was a track was in fact a narrow ride in the heather. I lost at least twelve minutes here wandering around in circles until I relocated from a previous track junction at the bottom of the hill.

All in all I achieved a commendable time and enjoyed the new experience apart from the ice cold feet that did not warm up until the evening.

*FREE WHAPPLES*



## Your Club Needs You

### MTBO STANDINGS

After the first MBO Southern League race at Hurn Forrest the standings are:

Men's Open	2 <sup>nd</sup> Jason Falconer
Over 40	2 <sup>nd</sup> Jon Brooke 10 <sup>th</sup> Bruno Smith
Over 50	1 <sup>st</sup> Gavin Clegg 5 <sup>th</sup> Tim Houlder
Over 60 (c/d class)	1 <sup>st</sup> Alan Hooper
Under 18 (c/d class)	5 <sup>th</sup> Caja Whapples

Next race: Saturday 19 March at Star Posts.

# JOINT SOCIAL EVENING

Friday 18 February 2011



Venue: Poole Yacht Club:

situated near to Poole Ferry Terminal. Follow the signs as if you were going into the Ferry Terminal then turn right at the roundabout just over the railway lines. Drive past the ferry waiting area on your left, the Yacht Club is straight ahead.

Terrain: Carpet with some wood flooring

Times: Registration 19:00 onwards  
Starts from 19:30  
Courses: Starters, Mains, Pudding, then Presentations  
Course menu to follow

Fees: Adults £18.50, Juniors £9

Entries: Pre entry (**not** via Fabian4), with Course section to [gavin.clegg@parkstone.poole.sch.uk](mailto:gavin.clegg@parkstone.poole.sch.uk) EoD unlikely.

Please note the Controller has insisted on full body cover, and smart casual.

Facilities: Car Park, Toilets, Food, Indoor Seating.

Officials: Planner: Eric Whapples  
Organiser: Wessex OC



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troller for level A, B & C events and either the Controller or Mentor for level D events.

As you can probably gather I am veering towards the dubious on this. For one its more work for the Controller. But my main concern is, will it put off the already scarce volunteer resource that are so put upon already? This year, by the end of 3 January I had already organised four events. Ok they were all level D, but if I have to attend a conference somewhere north of Birmingham just to prove my ability to do this I might think twice. Perhaps though I am being too pessimistic and its just what Organisers need to make them feel valued. Do let me know your thoughts.

Those of you who have looked at the website recently will have seen that I have the privilege of being selected to run for England in the M55 class at Interland on 6 March. I feel very humbled by this and also very excited. This is England's only international match outside the British Isles. England has competed in this annual pent angular match against two Belgian teams (Flemish and French speaking), the Dutch and the Nordrhein-Westfalen (NW Germany) team since 1995. Each nation hosts the event in turn. This year we are going to Lübbecke in North Rhine Westphalia. The competition is truly a team effort spanning age groups from W and M14 to W and M60+: 42 team members in all. Courses are of National Event standard technical difficulty. It is a very strong team this year, probably down to the result being very close in 2010. No pressure, but England have never lost this fixture! I will

keep you posted on how it goes. Kirsty Staunton from Wim OC as also been selected in the W55 class. Dale Paget has been informed he is a reserve for the M45 class, but with Clive Hallett (Bristol) being the selectors choice, I think Dale will have to do a knobbling job to get into the team.

This does of course bring up the Club v Country issue once again. The choice being the opening of our permanent course on Brownsea Island or running for England in Germany. Please forgive me if I choose the International.

*Gavin Clegg*

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## YOUTH SPORT TRUST LATEST

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Following yesterday's announcements on school sport we wanted to respond to many of the queries we are getting and also to say a huge thank you to all those who have provided information and representation that has helped to secure some re-investment into school sport.

Much of the specific detail behind the announcements will be confirmed in the New Year and we understand that DfE will write soon to all School Sport Partnerships to confirm exact implications. However, in the meantime we wanted to detail the main points of the announcements and to offer as much clarity as possible.

Whilst the announcements do not reverse the cuts to school sport they do represent a major re-think and there is no doubt that the public opinion that has been voiced since the CSR announcement in October has played a major part in this. The re-investment gives us an opportunity to again demonstrate the major difference that PE and school Sport makes to schools and to young people and we must now turn our energy into rebuilding things and to delivering the tasks in hand.

The February payment to School Sport Partnerships will cover the period up until the end of the 2010/11 academic year. Clarification on exactly which posts this will cover will be sent directly by the Department for Education. This gives us a little longer to undertake transition planning and we at the YST are committed to supporting this process from January 1st as previously outlined.

In addition the Department for Education has an-

nounced funding of £65 million for the period September 2011 to August 2013. This will be used to enable every secondary school to release a PE teacher for a day a week in the school year. Whilst this is a reduction from the current two days per week that School Sport Co-ordinators have it gives us a great platform on which to build. We will be maximising the period between January and July to help schools transition and hopefully to encourage and support many to utilise additional funding of their own to sustain the two day a week role. We will also work hard during the 2011-13 period to support schools in sustaining the role beyond August 2013 and embedding it in the structure of the school.

The DfE has also announced that the Youth Sport Trust will work to expand our Young Ambassadors programme, so that every secondary school and some primary schools can create more Young Ambassadors in the approach to London 2012. This is something we are delighted about and it is further recognition of the excellent work that Young Ambassadors play across the country and the mature role they undertook throughout the recent advocacy campaign.

The Government's Legacy Plans for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games were also published yesterday and contained further commitment to a nationwide School Games, the development of which will be led by the Youth Sport Trust. The announcement of additional resources including some from the Department of Health (DH) to support participation by primary schools and to create opportunities for those who are least active, will fund people at local level to support and manage delivery of the School Games. Over the

next few months we are committed to working closely with government to support transition. The YST will be recommending that the development of a new local delivery structure takes into account existing local arrangements. Whilst the DfE funding for Partnership Development Managers will stop from August 2011 we are confident that, through our work with DCMS and DH, we will be able to support a large number of Partnership Development Managers to transition into new roles that will support both competition and participation objectives and engage primary schools in the new School Games.

All of this signals a growing understanding of the work undertaken by the School Sport Partnership infrastructure led by Partnership Development Managers. The additional announcement of DH funding to expand Change for Life Clubs (which have been successfully driven through SSPs) and recent confirmation that the Department for Transport will continue to implement a significant part of Bike ability through SSPs offers further support of the need for a school led local delivery infrastructure.

On our return from the Christmas break we will be working hard to build on where we are now and hope that you will all join with us, seize the opportunities that we have and that we can work together to ensure our world class reputation for school sport is maintained. In the meantime we hope that you will enjoy a well earned break over the Christmas and New Year period and that you will take good time to reflect on the amazing difference that you have made to school sport and to the lives of young people. Best Wishes

**Sue Campbell and Steve Grainger**

# Wessex Orienteering Club

## INFORMAL EVENT at HETHFELTON

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

Courses: White, Orange plus a 45 minute score event.

Signposted off the A352 Wareham to Wool road at SY858875.

Parking on forest road at SY856882.

Fees: Free! (donations accepted).

Registration: 10.00 – 11.00

Starts: 10.15 – 11.30

Organiser: Bruno Smith (01202 773640 or  
[bruno.smith@ntlworld.com](mailto:bruno.smith@ntlworld.com))

Competitors take part at their own risk. Please ensure you have suitable equipment for a winter event. Sport Ident.

[www.wessex-oc.org](http://www.wessex-oc.org)

# Wessex Orienteering Club

## Bryanston Night Orienteer

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I am not a regular Night Orienteer. This is partly due to not having a very good headlamp until now but also partly because wearing glasses can be a problem at night with having to adjust one's vision from far to near rapidly in poor light. However as Chris and Lynne Branford of Wimborne had gone to the trouble of putting on a Night League event in the grounds of Bryanston School just before Christmas it seemed a shame not to give it a go.

So armed with one of Gavin's cast-off headlamps which he had kindly passed on some while ago I set off together with 10 other intrepid Night orienteer's into the gloom and mist. It was not quite a mass start but everyone started as soon as they could punch the start control. So it was that I found myself running alongside Rob Hick, Roger Crickmore and soon Tim Houlder as we had obviously all decided on a similar route for the first few controls. The first few were near the river (remind me to tell you the story about how Kay nearly went for a swim as she had mistaken the river for a nice wide path in the dark and very nearly headed down into it, stopped only by the steep banks). At the end of this section there was a definite route choice towards a control by the church so the field split up a bit.

I opted for the road option which I think was quickest as I definitely beat some to that control. I had early on decided that I wouldn't be able to get all the controls within the 60 minutes so was only aiming to get as many as I could. Heading into the first bit of real forest I obviously had taken a wrong path and there be-

side me was Rob who had done likewise. We had a quick chat and agreed where we had gone wrong, relocated and came out on a road bend. Here Rob headed off as the nearby control was worth more points if you got it as one of your last two controls (although we hadn't realised that this only counted if you had got every control). I knew I couldn't get round and back to this one so punched it then bagging 10 points instead of the 40 which Rob was hoping for.

Another tricky one in the woods and then a control between two walls. Luckily I have a good memory and could recall this area from a previous Furrowhoppers Relay so worked out the best way in. This control caused several people problems. Coming out on the road I was surprised to see a guy in a high visibility jacket standing by the gate but he was one of the security men. My route to the next control took me up a path towards a field where there were several horses. They seemed to be a bit agitated by the lights so I decided to give this field crossing a miss and head through the buildings for some different controls.

Keeping an eye on the watch I knew I had time to get the controls near the finish. I was running towards one when my light went out. A quick jog up and down on the spot resulted in the loose connections making contact again and I was off for the last few. In the end I finished rather early being back in just over 53 minutes but I knew that if I had tried for the



more distant controls I risked being late and incurring penalties. In the end I was 5<sup>th</sup> out of 11 so I was quite happy with this latest foray into Night Orienteering. If you have never tried it or are nervous about running around in the dark don't be. Lots of the events are in relatively benign areas. Check out the future events to find the next Night O in our area.

## **Ian Sayer**



With sold out shows across the UK in 2010, the UK Banff Tour is heading to Poole for the first time. Shown in over 30 countries, the Banff Mountain Film Festival brings to life the spirit of extreme adventure, remote cultures and the world's last great wild places- all through the big screen. Be amazed with an extraordinary collection of inspiring films from the world's most prestigious mountain film festival.

It is in Poole, at the Lighthouse, sat 05 Feb., tell your mates, put it on face book, put it on networks please, see you there. The trailer looks stunning.

**Jason Falconer**

# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**\*\* Details of all future events can be found on the British Orienteering website: [www.britishorienteering.org.uk](http://www.britishorienteering.org.uk) \*\*** There are also links from this website to Club websites, where you can download fliers.

**FOR UP TO DATE DETAILS OF THE WEDNESDAY ARMY EVENTS, GO TO THEIR WEBSITE: [www.baoc.org.uk](http://www.baoc.org.uk)**

## FEBRUARY

- Wed 2** BAOC League Event, Bulford/Perham.  
**Sat 5** WESSEX INFORMAL, Hethfelton.  
Also: OCTAVIAN DROOBERS BRITISH NIGHT CHAMPIONSHIPS, Bentley Wood, Nr. Atherstone.
- Sun 6** WIMBORNE ORIENTEERS Winter Warmer Regional Event, Brownshill Inclosure, New Forest.
- Wed 9** WIM/BAOC Event Washers Pit  
**Sat 12** SARUM Dorset Schools, Western Night League & Colour Coded event. Southleigh, Warminster.
- Sun 13** NORTH WILTSHIRE ORIENTEERS Galop pen, Savernake Forest.
- Mon 14** WSX/WIM Club Night at Archbishop Wake School, Blandford
- Wed 16** SARUM/BAOC Event at Longleat  
**Fri 18** WSX/WIM Annual Dinner at Poole Yacht Club
- Sat 19** WIM Dorset Schools League, Moreton (new Area) - contact Gavin Clegg
- Also SOC Colour Coded Event Sandy Balls  
**Wed 23** SW Juniors/BAOC Event at Collingbourne  
**Sat 26** SO SOG24 Stoughton Woods, Chichester  
**Sun 27** GO Regional Event Redlans near Dorking

# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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## MARCH

- Thurs 3                   **First WSX/WIM Participation Club Night, Parkstone Grammar School—6.00pm**
- Sat 5                      **Inaugural use of Permanent Course on Brownsea Island**
- Thurs 10               **Parkstone Grammar—6.00pm**
- Sat 12                   **JOK Chasing Sprint, Shotover near Oxford**
- Sun 13                   **TVOC National Event & Southern Championships, Hambleden**
- Thurs 17               **Parkstone Grammar—6.00pm (1st Aid)**
- Sat 19                   **SOC Colour Coded, Lyndhurst**
- Sun 20                   **SARUM Saunter Regional, Big Wood**
- Thurs 24               **Parkstone Grammar—6.00pm**
- Sun 27                   **WSX Galoppen Wareham Forest. Please keep this weekend free as we will need all club members to help.**

## APRIL

- Sat 2                     **007 Weekend Middle Distance, Stockhill**
- Sun 3                     **007 Weekend Mike Nelson BOKTROT Stourhead**
- Sat 9                     **British Sprint Championships, Brighton**
- Sun 10                   **British Middle Distance Championships, Crawley**
- Sun 17                   **Sarum Galoppen Fonthill**
- Fri 22 to Mon25       **JK International Festival of Orienteering, Northern Island**

**PLEASE NOTE** We run a local informal every month, on a Saturday. These are designed to help newer members and improvers to hone their orienteering skills. **THESE EVENTS WILL BE FREE.**

**\*\*Coaching will be available at all our events, including informals, for all abilities. The coaching is also FREE. If you would like individual orienteering coaching, please contact Kay Sayer, [k.sayer@ntlworld.com](mailto:k.sayer@ntlworld.com)**



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## REGULAR CLUB EVENINGS/TRAINING

Training Evenings take place on a weekly basis. Every Tuesday at Bournemouth University, Talbot Campus, 5.45pm for 6.00pm start. There are changing and shower facilities plus a bar for refreshments. For those of you who cannot make the Tuesday runs or want two runs a week, there are also runs each Thursday evening from 68 Kings Avenue, Christchurch, starting at 6.15 pm Please telephone 01202 484523 if you intend to come.

Wimborne have a training day on the 2nd Saturday of every month at Moors Valley Country Park, from 1.30 to approximately 3.30 pm All members are welcome to attend.

If you are going on holiday/visiting friends/weekend away in another district and want to know what orienteering there is, log onto the website of British Orienteering, [www.britishorienteering.org.uk](http://www.britishorienteering.org.uk) and follow the link to Events. Alternatively, if you do not have access to the internet, please contact one of the committee

