

Wessex Extra

MARCH 2013



Photo competition: no. 2:

What event was this and what year was the event?

Answers by email please to
Kay Sayer

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- And lots of articles!!!



JUNE CLUB NIGHT Saturday 1st June

To ring the changes, the Monthly Club Night for June will be on a Saturday rather than the usual Monday.

Also the orienteering part of the session will be the second staging of the Poole Town Race, which will take place between 3.00 and 5.00 p.m.

But we intend to stay on in Poole and have a social gathering (hopefully to include the presentation of the Trophies to this year's Club Champions) at a local hostelry.

Details are being finalised but please make a note in your diary to keep the afternoon and evening free.

CHAIRMAN'S PONDERINGS

As I sit here on a freezing, snowy afternoon I wonder when/if Spring will ever come! What keeps my spirits up is the thought of some wonderful events coming up in the next few months when, hopefully, the weather will have improved. With my newly-acquired camper van, I'm really looking forward to travelling down to Cornwall for the Southern Championships at Penhale in April (plus an urban event around St Ives), Springtime In Shropshire in May (the Spring had better be here by then!) and of course the Scottish Six Days in July/August. Nothing is certain with the weather, as we all know too well, but it's surely GOT to be better than at the moment!

Since the last Wessex Extra, we've had two **New Members** join us:

Brian Ash, who is an M60 and lives in Morden, near Wareham. I believe he also does/did hashing so should be good at re-locating if he gets lost!

Roger Watson-Hall, who is an M55 and lives in North Gorley. His interests are running, cycling and kayaking and he 'found' us as he was walking over Agglestone Heath the day of our event and asked what was going on. He's since done an Orange Course (shadowed by

Ian) and picked it up so well that he won the course!

Welcome to both of you and look forward to seeing you at future events.

For those of you who didn't manage to get to our Club Dinner in February, I'd like to finish by saying something about the **Chairman's Trophy**, which I awarded that night. I had received several nominations from Club Members and, to be honest, I could have justified choosing any one of them for the Trophy.

The first of these was **Bill Brown** who has done so much in every aspect of the club's functioning, but particularly for his surveying and map production. Also, he has organised teams for the Compass Sport Cup, which is no easy feat, especially when we were organisers of the event as well.

Tim Houlder was also nominated for his calm, behind-the-scenes work which he does on the computing side of our events (an invaluable asset as I can testify after the event at Broadstone on March 9th!). He had a particularly challenging task with the special features of the Compass Sport Cup and managed it superbly.

Next is **Rob Hick**, nominated for being someone who “often goes under the radar but is ALWAYS there to help out when required”. In addition, he has shown fortitude and stoicism during his recent illness which has been an inspiration to everyone.

Eric Whapples was nominated for having immersed himself so completely into the club, being involved in mapping, organising events (particularly with the Scouts), coaching, being Membership Secretary and sitting on the Committee. He has also actively attempted to introduce family and friends to orienteering and has shown a consistent improvement in his fitness and stamina.

Although **Ian and Kay Sayer** won the Trophy last year, I personally believe they could win it **every** year because they are, as their nominator said “total stars”! Anyone who knows them both will, I'm sure, concur with this.

But the winner of the 2012 Club Trophy was **Gavin Clegg** who, as Chairman for the previous 3 years, makes him worthy of nomination for

that alone, but who also did so much in the background for the club. As well as mapping, (Poole Town, Brownsea, parts of the University etc.) he also sorts out a lot of printing and has also introduced some excellent ideas over the years. He is one of the main driving forces behind the Night League as well as encouraging and motivating people to enter Relays, and so on. Overall, I believe he has really helped move the club forward and he's a hard act to follow!

Julie Astin



Our Chairman sprinting to the finish at the Welsh Six Days, 2012.

NEW FOREST MARATHON—MARCH 3rd

This wasn't actually THE New Forest Marathon which happens in September, but a Long Distant Walker's Association event that has been held, apparently, for many years. There was a choice of 18 or 26 miles, and one could choose to enter as a runner or a walker. I decided to enter the shorter course as a runner, not because I had any delusions that I could actually run the whole course, but so that I had the option to do so if I felt able to.

So that morning found Ian Sayer, Gavin Clegg and myself at Burley Village Hall among about 20 runners setting off at 9am. Others from the club - Liz Lockton (plus partner and daughter) and Peter Keene - had set off at 8am on the 26 mile walk.

Gavin hurtled off into the distance right from the start but Ian sacrificed a fast start by jogging with me at the rear of the

pack to the first control. He then went ahead at his own pace, leaving me to go at my, much slower, pace. So I was basically on my own for most of the rest of the course (I haven't said 'race' as it wasn't, in fact, a competition). I had decided to jog as much as I could, only walking up any hills, and I managed to do this until mid-way between controls 3 and 4. Although I had had a welcome drink and biscuits at the manned control 3 at Linford Bottom car park, my legs started to feel a bit weary as I crossed the open Bratley Plain heading towards the roughly half-way point to control 4 at the Spreading Oak underpass. I found myself walking more and more, and the wind felt quite cold.

But having turned the corner at number 4 and starting to head south down the map, towards Bolderwood car park, my legs seemed to gain a bit of energy again and my spirits were further

boosted by the handful of jelly babies that the manned control 5 had on offer! One of the helpers confirmed that "it's all downhill from here!" so I plodded off again, feeling confident that I could complete the course in under 5 hours (my target).

There followed quite a long jog down Bolderwood Ornamental Drive and then turned off down a track towards Anderwood Inclosure. It was soon after picking up this path that I heard my name being called and it came from one of a cycling group coming towards me. It was Lyn Branford from Wimborne OC who was out with a group ride organised by Trevor Bridle and Chris Branford who were at the rear of the pack. After a brief chat, and Chris asking "What on earth are you doing|?" (good question!) I continued on my way.

There was actually a bit of navigation to do through the woods and with only the 1:25000 map it proved a bit tricky at

times. But Bisterne Close soon came into sight on the horizon but I still had a bit of trouble finding the last control before jogging/walking down the roads and track to Burley and the village hall. My legs were REALLY feeling sore by this time and I was SO glad to "clock in" and get my hard-earned certificate. My final time was 4 hours 40 minutes and I was well satisfied with that as I've never covered that sort of distance other than walking, and I estimate that I had jogged for 60 -70% of the course. P.S. Gavin did it in half the time!!!

Julie Astin

PHOTOS FROM THE WESSEX/WIMBORNE DINNER AND TROPHY PRESENTATIONS.



Julie Astin presenting the Chairman's Trophy to Gavin Clegg.



Gavin collecting the Summer League Trophy for 2012 from Andy French. Well done Gavin!



Gavin collecting the Furrowhoppers Relay Trophy from Andy French, Chairman of Wimborne O.C.



***AN ENJOYABLE EVENING WAS HAD BY ALL, AT THE WESSEX/
WIMBORNE ANNUAL DINNER, HELD AT POOLE YACHT CLUB
ON FRIDAY 22ND FEBRUARY.
IAN AND I WERE SORRY NOT TO BE THERE!***

To Ski or not to Ski, that is the question...

We were very unsure of whether to commit to a ski holiday this year since Wendy had had her right hip replaced just over a year ago. Advice from medics writing on the internet ranged from “go ahead and do it” to “very unwise”, the former advice tending to come from skiing medics. After much dithering we decided to risk it so booked a week in a catered chalet in the French resort of Serre Chevalier, which comprises a string of small villages along a valley ending in the attractive small town of Briancon which can be seen here lying in the valley below its old medieval walled town area. The ski area connects all the villages up at the 2000m level and a 20 minute free ski bus runs up and down the valley all day, avoiding the risk of having to get an expensive taxi should your skiing day go badly wrong and land you in the wrong village. There is also a good thermal spa up the valley at Le Monetier les Bains with lots of pools offering whale noises etc.

So off we went, fully kitted up, Wendy had bought a pair of armoured shorts to protect the hips and we both wear helmets as a matter of course, having been assaulted by assorted lift machinery and other skiers many times in the past. First day was ideal, blue sky, good snow and good visibility It didn't last, since the next 4 days were heavy snow, melting snow, clouds down to valley level etc. etc. Some of you know how I just LOVE skiing in a white-out.... NOT! Mal de mer has nothing on mal de snow. We managed a reasonable amount

of skiing on the steep lower wooded slopes above the resort but lots of coffee and hot chocolate stops were called for.

Despite the scraped and sometimes icy snow, neither of us fell over once, which is very unusual, so Wendy never got to try out her body armour. The new hip worked well so she was very satisfied. We also were flattered by a young Irish group in our chalet who were amazed to discover our age... they were Irish however, and much practiced in flattery... In fact wasn't there one called Michael?

Alan Hooper



CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS RESULTS

The 2012 Club Championships were decided at the Southampton Colour Coded event on a very wet Sunday in March (following the cancellation of last year's November Classic due to, yes you've guessed, very heavy rain). But at least the event at Kings Garn Gutter on March 17th managed to go ahead despite very wet and cold conditions.

Sadly this meant that it wasn't a day for staying after your run and having a chat whilst looking at the results. Consequently on the day it wasn't possible to calculate who had won our Club's Championships. But I can now reveal that, based on the provisional results posted on the Southampton web-site, the Captain's Trophy for men's Champion has been won by Gavin Clegg and the Sheila Beldowska Trophy for ladies Champion has been won by

none other than our current Chairperson Julie Astin.

So congratulations to both on their well deserved wins. I list below the final placings and please bear in mind that the calculations have been worked out on the basis of the age groups for 2012 as decided by the Committee (this affected a few people who changed age groups at the beginning of the year). As you can see from the insert with this newsletter although both winners had a reasonable margin over their nearest rivals there was very little to choose between 2nd and 3rd places.

The results for the Championship are given on the loose insert.

Ian Sayer

COAST PATH RELAY 2013

As most club members are aware each year we enter a team into the Dorset Coastal Path relay which is run along the coastal footpath from the Dorset/Devon Border near Lyme Regis to the Studland Ferry. The total distance is 104 km with 3000m of climb

The date for this year's race is **Saturday 31st August**. Despite being one of the smaller clubs taking part we have managed to win this relay every year between 2007 and 2011 and last year lost by only two minutes after almost 8 hours of racing.

This success is in a large part due to the high percentage of the club who turn out for the team. So can you all please make a note of the date in your diary, as we need as many runners as possible to turn out and try and regain the trophy.

For those not familiar with the relay, people are either designated as part of a sprint team or a distance runner. The sprint teams are employed in places where there is close(ish) access by road and by having a number of runners on a short section we can move the baton on very quickly. They then hand over to a distance runner who

covers the sections between places where access by road is possible. Each runner will cover a number of legs during the day.

For the distance runners, who will generally be the fittest athletes in the club, the legs can be several miles long, while for those in the sprint teams they should only be a hundred metres or so (although often uphill).

The importance of the sprint teams should not be underestimated and a lack of them causes problems so we really do want as many of them as possible. Thus even if you are not a great runner you can still make an important contribution to the race as a member of a sprint team.

It may be presumptuous but I am assuming that I will once again be the team captain, however if anybody else fancies the role please let me know. We will be asking for people to confirm their availability in the summer, as my planning for the event will probably commence in July

Roger Crickmore

WESSEX NIGHT LEAGUE 2012/13 - FINAL RESULTS

Well done to Gavin, Charlotte and Chris - first, second and third for the Wessex Night League.

1	Gavin Clegg	7 events	4050 points
2	Charlotte Thornton	8 events	3920 points
3	Chris Branford WIM	6 events	3689 points
8	Julie Astin	5 events	3296 points
10	Ian Sayer	5 events	3241 points
11	Tim Houlder	7 events	3123 points
13	Jason Falconer	7 events	2716 points
16	Rob Hick	4 events	2287 points
18	Roger Crickmore	4 events	1846 points
19	Kay Sayer	4 events	1803 points
20	Frida Forshallen	3 events	1740 points
25	Emma Crickmore	3 events	1181 points
28	Eric Whapples	1 event	971 points
35	James Crickmore	2 events	741 points
39	Dale Paget	1 event	595 points
41	Jon Brooke	1 event	538 points
44	Liz Lockton	1 event	515 points
46	Nicola Brooke	2 events	511 points
54	Tracy Crickmore	1 event	396 points
58	Laura Wilcox	1 event	382 points

The Wessex Night League is becoming more popular each year. For those of you who have not yet competed in this event, why not give it a try next season? The Night League is mostly around urban areas, so it is not completely dark. We have some head torches which you can borrow if you don't have your own. Refreshments are provided afterwards.

HOW TO GET LOST IN A PLACE YOU KNOW WELL

Getting lost is something which most orienteers have occasionally (or quite often) done. However, when the event is on an island which you know reasonably well, you do not expect to be completely lost. This happened to me at the night event on Brownsea Island in February. As a member of the Youth Service Team, I get regular visits to the island and as a result I know it quite well. Apparently that doesn't stop you not knowing where you are on your map.

The event started off fine. It was cold but dry, unlike last year where we were running through drizzle. I managed my first 7 controls easily as I knew where they were placed. So far knowledge of island is working well. However as I ran into areas which I don't know so well my brain started to slow down and I made some silly navigational mistakes but I still found most of the controls I was looking for.

After that I honestly do not know what happened. I thought my next control would be easy: run along a straight track then head up a hill to find the depression. Instead I was running along a path which I did not recognize and was definitely not the

right one. The British spirit of 'Keep Calm and Carry On' then kicked in. I realised that if I kept running east I should end up back at the start. So checking my compass I ran in a direction which I thought was east. Fortunately my knowledge of the island saved me when I ran into a field I recognized. Relieved that I now knew where I was, but unnerved that I had managed to get so lost, I decided to only do a couple of easy controls on route back to the finish.

Afterwards when I had calmed down, I worked out that I must have turned right, run southeast and up a hill when I was lost. So the moral of the story is: knowing a place well doesn't stop you getting lost but your knowledge of the place can help you realise where you are. It seems that you can get lost anywhere.

**Emma
Crickmore**



AGGLESTONE EVENT & COMPASS SPORT CUP, **17th FEBRUARY 2013**

So, to Agglestone for the eagerly awaited Compass Sport Cup - an area that even after scores of Mountain Bike trips remains confusing and an enigma to be cracked on a Brown course.

Charming warm up to the start and as I'm on first aid duty that day, I'm also first runner on the course – a challenge is set. But as I never follow anyone on a race (facing what's to be a minor epic and as anyone who's walked over our renowned heath has seen the technical possibilities for Orienteering) after years of visits I awaited this eagerly.

So leaving the start from an accommodating warm up area, straight over into deepest wild country, left no option of easy first run. Immediately on bearing I am hugely challenged by the instant contours - but retain confidence to locate first control, after which I can see the Agglestone ahead holding my second control.

This terrain is tough, and as I make my way around the initial stages every leg demands my total concentration and, as this is the first

ever use of the map, some aspects seem harder on the ground than the map. But I continue through the bog and make some good choices. After some imperfect legs my friend Jon catches me up and this spurs me on to harder effort, he runs past me, then shortly after I take him.

At this point 16-18 I'm only a few seconds time off the top placings and enjoying every second of hurtling through gorse on some great route choices. Occasional glimpses of the far off sea and Studland are enjoyable additions to my run, and I finished with everything found correctly despite low places on this day.

These sort of locations really do need self- confidence to complete, which can only be built with practice! This area surely counts as the best of our collection; congratulations to all finishers and as always to the mappers and organisers and club volunteers. I'm sure the day visitors will remember this area for years to come.

Jason Falconer

FORTHCOMING ORIENTEERING EVENTS

Details of all future events can be found on the British Orienteering website: www.britishorienteering.org.uk

J.K. and British Relays Coordinator: Julie Astin, julie.astin@hotmail.co.uk

Summer Relay Coordinator: Dale Paget, Dale.Paget@poole.nhs.uk

Other useful local websites :

Wimborne Orienteers: www.wimborne-orienteers.org.uk

Southampton Orienteers: www.Southampton-orienteers.org.uk

Sarum Orienteers: www.sarumo.org.uk

North Gloucester Orienteers: www.ngocweb.com

Bristol Orienteers: www.bristolorienteering.org.uk

FOR UP TO DATE DETAILS OF THE WEDNESDAY ARMY EVENTS, GO TO THEIR NEW WEBSITE: www.baoc.info

MARCH 2013

Sun 24 **GUILDFORD Orienteers**, Level B, Midhurst

Fri 29-31 **J.K. EASTER WEEKEND**, Based in the Chilterns, Nr. Henley. See BOF website for further details.

Mon Apr 1 **J.K. RELAYS**. Teams already allocated but if you want to be a reserve, contact Julie Astin, email address above.

APRIL 2013

Sat 6 **NORTH GLOUCESTER**, Informal, Flaxley.

Sun 7 **QUANTOCKS Galoppen**, Bridgwater, Somerset.

Also: **SE Middle Distance Champs**, Frith Hill

Mon 8 **WSX Club Night**, Upton Country Park. Suitable for all abilities.

Wed 10 **ARMY ORIENTEERING**, Hankley Common

Sat 13, Sun 14 **CORNWALL (KERNO) SOUTHERN CHAMPIONSHIPS** Week end, Cornwall.

Sat/Sun 20/21 **BRITISH SPRINT** Loughborough University See LEI website & **MIDDLE DISTANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS**, Stanton Moor, Nr. Matlock. See DVO web site. Or British Orienteering Website.

Wed 24 **ARMY ORIENTEERING**, Elstead Common – new map.

Sat 27 **LONDON O.K., HAMPSTEAD SPRINT**, Hampstead Heath.

Also: **BRISTOL O.K.** Urban event, Frenchay Village.

Sun 28 **BRISTOL O.K., MIKE NELSON BOK TROT**, Stourhead.

MAY 2013

- 4,5,6 **BRITISH LONG DISTANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS**, See BOF website for full details – www.boc2013.org.uk
- Fri 10 **DORSET SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS** – Moors Valley (to be confirmed)
- Sun 12 **SARUM Galoppen**, Hamptworth, New Forest.
- Mon 13 **WIM/WSX Club evening** – Verwood.
- Wed 15 **ARMY ORIENTEERING**, Bramshott Common. No further details.
- Sat 18 **WIMBORNE - DORSET SPRINT CHAMPS**, Bournemouth University.
- Sun 19 **WSX GALOPPEN**, Blandford Forest. Keep this date free as you will be asked to help.
- Sun 1 Sat-Mon 25-27 **SPRINGTIME IN SHROPSHIRE**, Harlequins Orienteers,

JUNE 2013

- Sat 1 **POOLE TOWN RACE & MONTHLY CLUB NIGHT.**
- Sat 8 **WIMBORNE Urban Race** – Poundbury, Dorchester. Part of the Nopesport Urban League and the SEOUL (South East Orienteering Urban League) League series. See Wimborne's website for full details.
- Sun 16 **BRISTOL O.K. Adams Avery Relay**, Blaise Castle, Bristol. Contact Dale Paget to enter.
- Sun 23 **WIMBORNE Furrowhoppers Relay**, Clayesmore School, Iwerne Minster. Contact Dale Paget if you want to be in a team.
- Sun 30 **NWO SUMMER RELAY.** Details to follow.

PLEASE NOTE

****Coaching will be available at all our events, including informals, for all abilities.**

The forthcoming events list is compiled from British Orienteering and other clubs' websites. For further details of events, see your copy of **SINS** or log on to the **BRITISH ORIENTEERING** website or the relevant Club's website.

Please check before setting out, as some events have been known to change at short notice. If you would like to share transport, contact a committee member who will put you in touch with someone who can help, or send a message through the Wessex Yahoo Group.

MY FIRST ORANGE COURSE, IBSLEY COMMON, 3 FEBRUARY 2013

There were lots of stiles on the way to the start and it was very muddy.

1.(7.25) I went wrong to the first control but realised that I was in the wrong place because there was gorse and there shouldn't have been. But I carried along to the next path junction and turned the right way. I saw the control because there was someone standing next to it.

2. (5.35) I couldn't see the path that was on the map so I thrashed through until I got to the next path. Then I saw the patch of wood and ran along the edge till I could see the control.

3. (9.24) I ran along the path but I didn't go far enough. I ran back and up and down. I took a sheep path but that didn't go anywhere so I came back and saw Jason, who helped me!

4. (3.50) Then I did some more thrashing across the heather and

bracken. The control was out of sight but I knew that the contours meant it was on the top of the hill. So I ran to the top of the hill and I could see it

5. (4.35) I went back to the path and ran along it. I looked for the second downward bend and someone was standing where the control was so I couldn't see it. But I ran down the hill to look at it from the bottom and there it was.

6. (9.34) I took a path that I don't think was on the map. I wandered around and then saw lots of people going to a dip. I went and looked at the number and it was my control

7. (7.32) I went back to the path and ran along it until I got to a star of paths. I went along the right one and there was the control.

8. (1.12) I turned right and ran along a path until I saw a building. The control was on one of the corners.

9. (2.50) I ran down to the road and crossed it to get to a little track that I ran along. The control was in front of me.

10. (0.37) The way to the finish was taped.

I felt really good about doing it on my own when I didn't want to at the start. I feel much better about the Compass Sport Cup. If I get lost, I just have to go towards the sea!



Agnes Brooke

(This was Agnes' first Orange course. She took 52.34 and was 11th out of 18. Picture taken at Agglestone Heath event)

MEET YOUR WESSEX CLUB MATES

Madeleine Bridle W60

Home Towns: *Blandford Forum*

Occupation: *Retired*

When and why did you start Orienteering? *I think we started in 1982 and we were looking for a family pastime which would take us out of doors and have an element of adventure.*

What Clubs have you been a member of? *Wessex.*

What are your orienteering achievements, best results, and most memorable event? *Not being last at an event! All orienteering events are memorable! Snow moves memorable up a notch.*

If you could improve one aspect of your orienteering, what would it be? *Go Faster!*

What training do you do? *Cycling, working the allotment, gardening, housework, singing and yoga!*

How many countries have you orienteered in? *Scotland, Sweden, England, Wales and Northern Ireland.*

What is your favourite orienteering area? *Studland, fantastic sea views!*

What has been the biggest turning point in your orienteering life? *The day Fern could orienteer independently and we no longer had to do the orange course, yet again, together!*

Thumb compass or baseplate?

Thumb compass.

How would you raise the profile of orienteering in the U.K. to increase participation? *Advertise the event in the local newspaper (there is usually a free column for that). Send a report to the local*

newspaper sport pages after local events.

Who is the most inspiring member of your Club? *Everyone in the Club is unique and has a way of engendering inspiration.*

What have you always wanted to do but have not done it yet? *Win an orienteering event!*

What do you do when you are not orienteering? *Enjoy life with Trevor. Cycling, gardening, working the allotment, yoga, singing, housework.*



Madeleine cycling in the snow

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO TREVOR BRIDLE!

Helen, Laura, David and Madeleine organised a weekend break in Derbyshire for my 70th Birthday hiring a self catering cottage at the top end of Dovedale. We all took our bikes and despite the snow we managed to cycle 25 miles on the Saturday, completed a Treasure Trail around Buxton on the Sunday and had a thoroughly enjoyable time. Madeleine and I then stayed on for an extra couple of days walking in Dovedale and up to Solomon's Temple high above Buxton before cycling 10 miles on my birthday around Carsington Reservoir.

Trevor Bridle

THE FUTURE OF ORIENTEERING?

There is little doubt that the advent of electronic punching and computer based mapping/course planning has made organising orienteering events easier. This has led me to polish off the crystal ball and wonder what other technological advances might come to our aid in the near future. I foresee the following;

GPS Enabled Mapping.

Although maps are now all created using a computer, in order to get a feature in the correct place its location still needs to be measured on the ground and then added to the map. It would be much simpler if features could be added to the map in real time by the mapper using a GPS enabled tablet computer, such as an iPad. For example if you came across a depression you would just stand in the middle of it, click on the 'add depression' icon on your mapping software and the depression would automatically get added in the correct position.

Similarly line features could easily be added by you telling the computer you were at the start of an earthbank, then as you walked along it, it would be automatically added to the map. The current GPS system has two main limitations that would present such an approach, namely the accuracy is only about 10m and they do not work very well under dense tree cover. However new versions of the system are being developed which will improve accuracy to 1m or better and work in wooded areas.

Electronic Paper Maps.

One problem faced by organisers is how many maps do you print for an event. Print too many and you waste money, print too few and you may have to turn away entrants. It is well known that the numbers of entries on the day is affected by the weather and an accurate forecast for this is not normally available when the maps are printed. However various groups

around the world are working on what is known as electronic paper, i.e. an electronic display that is as thin and flexible as a sheet of paper. If every orienteer possessed one of these they could simply download their required map on to it, and so no need to get any maps printed. Of course making the electronic paper tough enough to survive multiple orienteering events would be a challenge but I am sure it is one that could be overcome.

Control-less Courses

One of the most time consuming tasks in organising an event is putting out the controls and collecting them all in again. Having the controls out also means there is a risk of them being vandalised, so wouldn't it be easier if we could dispense with them. Since the maps would all have been generated by GPS the precise location of every feature would be known. Therefore I propose that rather than having to put out all the controls, in future each runner will carry a GPS tracking device into which their

course has been downloaded. They will navigate as usual to the location shown on the map and when they get to within say 5m of it, their GPS tracker would tell them they have reached that virtual control and they will then proceed to the next one as usual. The GPS tracker could also have a special safety feature that you could activate if totally lost and this would cause your location to be displayed on your electronic map. Of course these GPS trackers would mean extra expense for runners but on the other hand there would be no need for clubs to invest in a large number of electronic controls.

So will these ideas ever come to fruition? As well as the technical capabilities being available much will depend on other issues such as cost, reliability and whether people will want to use them. Only time will tell if my predictions come true.

Roger Crickmore



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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.

Joint Club Evenings with Wimborne Orienteers are on the first Monday of every month. The venues for these evenings change each month. See the website for more details or contact a Committee member.

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 and follow the link to Events. Alternatively, if you do not have access to the internet, please contact one of the committee who will be pleased to help.

