

Wessex Extra

November 2012

Competition: What event was this and what year was the event?

Answers by email please to Kay Sayer



Features in this Wessex Extra....

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Congratulations to Yvette Paget on winning the W10 South West Orienteering Championships!

I'm sure she will win a lot more in the future.

CHAIRMAN'S PONDERINGS

This is my first effort at a "Pondering" for many years – so here goes.....

Firstly, I'd like to welcome **Daniel Whapples** onto the Committee, having volunteered – and been accepted by the Committee - to take up the **Vice-Chairman** position. Although he hasn't orienteered a great deal as yet, he is very keen to become involved in the Club and to contribute in whatever way he can.

Then there's the matter of our **Club Championship**. Or rather, the lack of it! As most of you will know, the November Classic has now been cancelled. It was a difficult, but understandable, decision that John Cook (the Controller for the event) had to make and just exemplifies the great responsibility that a Controller takes on, particularly for such a large event. Personally, as I stood at the Start shivering in the cold (3° C!) and the wind and rain, I was delighted that it was cancelled! I don't mind getting wet when I'm out in the forest, but to start wet and cold, knowing that you're likely to get colder and wetter, does not appeal to me one bit.

The Committee are currently discussing a suitable event which can be used for our 2012 Club Championships (although the event

is likely to be one early in 2013.) On Sunday (November 11th), Gavin Clegg and myself (and a few from Wimborne) competed in the **Venice City Race**. Although I've visited this beautiful city on a couple of occasions, I have certainly never run around it's "streets" and alleyways before. Mind you, we could actually be swimming the event - this was Venice about 10 days ago!!

See Gavin's article about the event to find out if we needed our swimming togs or not!



(And why was the woman walking through the floods?!)

I've really got hooked on urban races, particularly night events, since I returned from my stay in Italy. It's a totally different type of orienteering, and it's quite atmospheric when you run around the streets and back alleys of a town at night. I would encourage anyone to give it a try, if you haven't

already done so.

At the time of writing (November 7th) there were still two places left on the minibus going to the **Brighton City Race** on December 15th. Let Gavin know if you want to come. Entries for the event are via Fabian4. A few of us did the event last year and it was really magical – with the lovely Christmas decorations and the famous Pavilion lit up as well.

On a different matter altogether: everyone must have heard about the potentially catastrophic **Ash Dieback Disease** which has been discovered in the UK. British Orienteering has issued advice to all clubs regarding “biosecurity”

measures that should be taken by all orienteers (e.g. thoroughly washing all footwear before leaving the area; rinsing shoes in a chlorine-based cleaner at home etc.) So don't be surprised when you next go to an event to find that the organisers have provided buckets, brushes etc. for you to wash your shoes with!

How successful such measures will prove to be, time will tell. But we must be seen to be acting responsibly, otherwise we may be refused access to forests in the future. Adapting Gavin's closing line.....

“May you always run in sunlit, ash-filled forests”

Julie



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Windsor and Eton Urban Orienteering **(from a non-orienteer's prospective.)**

An early start on a reasonable day re weather. A 7.30am start to arrive at the Sayer's "battle bus" (MPV) a comfortable wagon. Off we go and the journey ensues with sunshine all the way to the event - a good start!

After a relaxed journey we arrive at the leisure centre, which is a hive of activity. There are various people about. A lot of dads doing their bit and taking their offspring to an impressive and very busy swimming pool on a Sunday morning. The dads are probably gathering points so that they can go to the pub lunchtime in exchange for taking the kids to the pool.

The car park is already pretty full mostly with orienteers who have descended on the leisure centre for their urban event. Urban events are a fairly new concept for the orienteers and appear to be gathering in popularity in a lot of areas - home and abroad. This day's event was around the towns of Windsor and Eton and across the park of the leisure centre. If the locals have not yet experienced urban 'O' events it may come as a bit of a surprise!

In my experience of these events the best advice I can give to any future observers is to find a well placed coffee shop (just follow your nose) and if it seems busy, it must be pretty good if the locals patronise the establishment, find an outside seat, (if it's not raining) settle down with your coffee/tea plus a pastry maybe and a good book until the competitors start to appear from various directions around you.

Now if you have not been privy to these events I feel I must just forewarn you of certain sights you may not be prepared for. Firstly the 'uniform' which is usually some pretty colourful and extremely tight fitting Lycra outfits worn by both sexes. This sportswear can cause 'palpitations' to elderly 'genteel ladies'. The same warning should be given to elderly 'gentlemen' especially if they have any heart problems! The outfits are similar for both sexes. It's the Lycra you see.

People fly out of narrow lanes, across the town centre squares, up alleys all desperately clutching maps and compasses and often standing on one spot with a totally 'bemused' look while orientating

their maps and themselves! After a bit of strenuous decision making (you can tell this by the deeply furrowed brows) - they head off confidently in their chosen direction. As you sip your coffee and carry on reading your book. Hello, here they are again - like a streak of lightning and sporting an even more confused look heading off in a completely different direction from before.

This exercise continues on for quite a while until all are gathered in and are accounted for back at the finish.

As Windsor Castle dominates the town, I wonder if HRH is in residence this weekend - if one is, one probably has a very good view of many of one's subjects whizzing around below - as one sips one's coffee. Cheers Mam! I raise my little finger as I raise my coffee cup!

You may ask "why do I go along?"

- 1. If I didn't I would hardly ever see my husband.
- 2. I often go for a walk around the area - I'm not in a hurry.
- 3. I can usually find a good coffee shop - follow my nose- no map required - just observe where the locals go!

Urban events are usually considerably shorter than the courses that take them up hills and down mountains and send them battling through dense vegetation and inhospitable terrain. They are also more visible for anyone watching. Plus you can also be privy to 'the post mortem' which involves small huddles of orienteers, animatedly discussing and comparing 'route choices' and where they went up a blind alley and did you see X Y or Z? This process usually takes a while so I wonder if HRH has decided to have a cup after watching this event - she must be exhausted by now.



So, home we go - post mortem continues for a while - thank you for letting me tag along - another place I hadn't been to before - book almost finished and a very pleasant day - and a dry one!

Cheers! - coffee of course!

My sincere thanks to Kay and Ian Sayer, Julie Astin and of course my husband for putting up with me for the day.

Valerie Clegg

WINDSOR & ETON URBAN RACE, 30th September 2012

I really enjoy urban races, they focus your brain and make you think quickly; dithering over which route to go can cost you time. Julie Astin and Gavin Clegg came with us to the event, Valerie Clegg came along for the ride and for some sightseeing in Windsor. We arrived quite early, so we were early starters which was good as the crowds around Windsor were much thinner than later, making it easier to weave around them. We started right by the River Thames and I had 4 controls on the north side which were o.k., although I did hesitate on one or two of them which lost me time. We had to cross a footbridge over the Thames for the rest of the course, and my course took me past Windsor Castle. I had not been to Windsor Castle since I was 15 when I went with my parents for the day. I still remember the visit as I insisted on wearing my white stiletto shoes and they were agony! Control 5 was on a corner, then past the Castle to my no. 6. A bit of hesitation there but found it o.k. 7 was a well (although I didn't realise that until I studied my map at the finish) and on to no. 8. This was where I made a bad error. From the well it was straight on and first

on the right, then right again, but I ran past the first right and went further down the road to another right. I was expecting to see a right hand bend on this road, which I did, but there was no park on the other side of the road. Scratched my head a few times and then decided I must go back and start again. Of course, when I was running back I realised what I had done. I took 8.03 for this control, which should have only been a couple of minutes. 9 was in the same park to the south, an easy tree. 10 was o.k., 11 was inside a car park so that was fine. 13 was on the edge of a railway arch. 14 over the footbridge to Baths Island and the railway ran over the island but with only two arches open to run through. 15 was also on the island, a copse, and then a run back over the footbridge to the last control and 9 seconds to the finish. A great course, would have been better if my brain had been working properly! I came 4th out of 9 competitors so better than I expected.

Kay Sayer

LONDON CITY RACE, 22nd September 2012

The London City Race has to be one of my favourite urban events. I have competed each year since its inception in 2008. Its not an urban sprint so you do get your monies worth and also see the sights of the City. Each time the race has been held at a different point in the City which has opened up different perspectives every year.

Fortunately the City itself is fairly quiet on a Saturday. The major obstacles are the busses. I heard one tale this year of someone running diagonally across a road with a bus travelling at about the same speed creating a moving road-block for him!

The first race in 2008 started near Liverpool Street Station and introduced us to the Barbican, a multilevel area of fun and games. I think it was this first year that in the Barbican a mugger got chased and apprehended by a couple of orienteers!

2009 and Paternoster square in the shadow of St Pauls was the venue.

2010 took us onto the Southbank near the Mayors office with a start over the river near the Tower. My route took me over the millennium bridge. The wobbly bit wasn't a problem but the tourists were!

2011 and a start and finish in the Barbican complex caused a few problems for some.

This year we started very close to Temple Underground station. I had sussed out which way my course went from the box. Straight into the Inns of Court made you focus right from the start (as you should do always!). The classes for London are a little different from most

urban events which meant my having to compete in the over 50s rather than the over 55s. Having won the previous two years I was fairly certain that with the new batch of speedy M50s that had 'come up' this year I was unlikely to retain the trophy. Particularly as one was Quentin Harding who, if you saw the article in Compass Sport a little while back, is pound for pound the best male orienteer in the country. Quentin is also the 2012 double World Masters champion. Suffice to say he won.

I was running fairly well and had picked out the tricky 3 to 4 leg which caught out some and due to an opened gate, allowed others to take a disqualifiable route (see Controllers comments on the web site). 4 to 5 tricky route but fastest split so thinking well. Could have made 9 to 10 to 11 better but hadn't clocked the different levels early enough. Fortunately there were steps but a stepped route is rarely a good option. Some tricky loops in the later stages then a finish back through the Inns of Court. Pushing hard into the finish, which was just as well. Ended up 4th but more importantly 1st over 55 just 2 seconds ahead of James Crawford. James and I are incredibly evenly matched in the urban stuff. He got his own back at the Southampton urban where he beat me by 1 second!

I would thoroughly recommend the race and I believe next year there is an ultra-sprint in one of the London parks on the Sunday. So an excellent excuse to make a weekend of it.

Gavin Clegg

EPIC EPPING, 23rd September 2012

After a lovely day on Saturday taking part in the London City Race we stayed on in London to run in the Southern Championships on the Sunday in Epping Forest. Sadly the weather did not last and by the time we had collected Rob from the East end of London and arrived at the assembly area (just in time for our starts) the rain had started.

I should have known that it didn't bode well as I set off for the start, following two or three others. As I was a bit late I ran along the track then started having doubts as to whether I was going the right way. Eventually I met up with people going to the start having run two sides of a triangle, but at least I was well warmed up for the start.

By then the rain had really set in so I wondered how long I would be able to keep my glasses on. Took number one pretty steadily to get used to the map and forest as there were lots of changes of vegetation (but very few, if any, distinct). Hit number one so set off to two more confidently. Well after several minutes looking where I thought the control should be I realised that I really didn't actually know where I was. And worse than that it was one of those lovely vague areas of forest where there wasn't any nice feature to relocate from. This really wasn't going well. Should I pack up and go home now?

Having more or less decided that was a

good idea I then sort of stumbled across an area that looked about right and, sure enough, there was my control. So I better carry on.

Taking it very steadily and using the intermittent paths wherever I could I managed to get around the next several controls without too much problem. However control eleven was in the same area as my number two and guess what? I had problems again. A depression in the middle of some undergrowth. Well I found a patch of undergrowth and had a good look around in there but nothing doing. Again decided that I may as well pack up and go home (I was really wet by now) but sure enough then came across my control so had to keep going.

Well, after over two hours I managed to finish the course, thoroughly soaked and not at all impressed with my performance. 27th out of 31 finishers but with the small satisfaction that six people on my course either retired or didn't complete the course. And at least I hadn't taken as long as the last finisher on my course, over 4 hours!!!!!! Now that really is epic.

Ian Sayer

Orienteering in poems and prose

A series of amusing orienteering articles and poems done in the style of various well-known authors that have appeared in NGOC's newsletter "Legend" over the last year have all been collected together in a booklet. This is being sold in aid of the S.W. Junior Squad. There are nineteen articles and poems in the styles of John Betjeman, Enid Blyton, Raymond Chandler, P.G. Wodehouse etc. 44 pages for £2. Available at NGOC events (or from the Legend Editor by post at £2-50: Alan Brown, 10 Brizen Lane, Cheltenham, GL53 0NG. Pay by cheque payable to NGOC, PayPal or bank transfer).

Forest Challenge!



The orienteering board game for 2-6 players

This "ever-popular" board game is available for sale for a third season. A good idea as a present for the orienteer in your life or buy one for the whole family to play after Christmas lunch or for club prizes. The game contains all you need to "Step over the line." Buy your copy at an NGOC event (£8-00) or by post from the Legend Editor: Alan Brown, 10 Brizen Lane, Cheltenham, GL53 0NG (adding £2-00 for post and packing). Pay by cheque payable to NGOC, PayPal or bank transfer. All profits will be donated to the Woodland Trust (the club has recently given £300 to the trust). For more details email: legend@ngoc.org.uk

OMM (Original Mountain marathon) 2012

It was hard to believe yet another year had gone by and with late October comes another OMM. This year's event was to be held in the Howgill Fells, which are to the East of the M6 opposite the Lake District. Event headquarters was in the small town of Sedbergh with the imposing hills just to the North. This year we had opted for the Medium Score course which allows a little more choice as to just how much or little you wish to try and do ! With a map scale of 1:40.000 it's easy to try and do too much with ambition usually outweighing achievement!

The map had two very distinctive halves. The Western side being very steep sided slopes (300m +) rounding out onto grassy tops, but with quite a firm surface. While to the East the gradient wasn't so severe but with very wet boggy ground like Dartmoor.

Starting from a farmyard we had 6 hours to bag as many controls

as possible before the compulsory final control at the overnight camp. After climbing up through some very wet and muddy fields it was then a case of the only way is up! This is not like a 1 hour score in the local forest judging by the amount of time it takes between controls! Once up on top with clear blue skies the views were stunning although with a very cold wind. After what seemed endless climbing and descending we crossed the road onto the boggy side of the map and managed a couple more controls before the welcome site of the overnight camp. It's always nice to get the tent up and some hot food. All the teams this year were overnighing at the same location so it was quite a sight with nearly 3,000 hardy souls all camped out in one big field.

As seems to be the case on the OMM at some point it starts to rain and sure enough it did for most of the night! So the following morning provided a complete contrast to the

previous day with low cloud, mist and persistent drizzle, just what you need!

So gone was the ability to see the control locations from afar and instead the need to concentrate on pace and bearing as we disappeared into the mist. For day two we had 5 hours. Our third control of the day was particularly satisfying having waded across endless marsh we came up exactly on the rocky re entrant we were aiming for and another 30 points in the bag! Having worked our way back across more bog it was across the road again and straight up about 350 meters which for me was the hardest climb of the whole two days and all for just another 30 points! I should point out that controls are worth between 10 and 40 points usually depending on how much effort you have to put in getting to them.

You might think that contouring would be easier once up on top but the slopes are so steep that my ankles and associated ligaments really started to suffer as the hill always

seemed to be right side up.

Coming down onto the relative flat yet more muddy fields after the last control made the last 1km run to the finish seem relatively easy. Our combined result for the two days put us in 76th position out of some 220 teams that had started that course. Ironically another former Wessex member, Mark Lockett, finished 77th!

But I take my hat off to John Brooke and his running partner..... who finished an amazing 9th overall on the Elite course. Well there is always next year!

Rob Hick



FORTHCOMING ORIENTEERING EVENTS

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

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

NOVEMBER 2012

Sat/Sun24/25 **SOUTHERN NAVIGATORS** Saturday: Urban Race, Woking;
Sunday Regional Event, Hindhead Common.

DECEMBER 2012

Mon 1 SLOW SOUTHERN NIGHT CHAMPIONSHIPS, Esher
Sun 2 NORTH WILTS colour coded at Defence Academy, Shrivenham. Pre-entry required for this event. Yellow – Blue courses.
www.northwilts.org.uk
Also: **SLOW OK Nuts Trophy, Esher.**
Mon 3 WSX/WIM Monthly Club Night, Parkstone Grammar School. All welcome.
Sat 8 WIM 3 IN 1 Events, Ringwood North.(MTBO a.m., schools/informal p.m., Night league at dusk).
Also: **SOUTHAMPTON**, Local event Matley Heath, New Forest.
Sun 9 SARUM Yvette Baker Trophy Final, Collingbourne (tbc).
Wed 12 BAOC Collingbourne Wood (no further details)
Thurs 20 WESSEX Committee Meeting, 68 Kings Avenue, Christchurch.
Sat 22 BAOC, Military Challenge. Mytchett & Ash Ranges.
Wed 26 WIM Boxing Day Canter, Moors Valley. Work off that Christmas Dinner!!

JANUARY 2013

Tue 1 SARUM New Year's Day event, Longleat.
Sat 5 WSX Informal & Night League, Poole Park & Poole Town.
Wed 9 BAOC event. No further details.
Sun 13 NORTH WILTS, Level B and SWOA Galoppen. Savernake Forest.
Sat 19 WIM Dorset Schools, MTBO & Night event, Avon Heath.
Sun 20 SOUTHAMPTON Level C event, Busketts Lawn, New Forest.

Wed 23 **BAOC** event, Bordon Heath. No further details.
Sun 27 **BERKSHIRE** Concorde Chase, (Level B) Barossa

FEBRUARY 2013

Sun 3 **WIM** Winter Warmer, Ibsley (to be confirmed)
Mon 4 **WSX** Club Night, Brownsea Island.
Wed 6 **BAOC** event, Pyestock.
Sat 9 **SARUM DORSET SCHOOLS & NIGHT LEAGUE**, Collingbourne.
Sun 10 **THAMES VALLEY**, Chiltern Challenge, High Wycombe.
Sun 17 **WSX** Compass Sport Cup, Agglestone, Studland.
Wed 20 **BAOC** event, no further details.
Sun 24 **KERNO (Cornwall)** Galoppen, Cookworthy, Devon.
Also: **HAPPY HERTS** Level B, Burnham Beeches.
Wed 27 **BAOC** event, Moors Valley.

PLEASE NOTE

****We run a local informal event every month, on a Saturday (excluding August). These events are an ideal way for newcomers to try orienteering in a safe environment.**

****Coaching will be available at all our events, including informal's, for all abilities. The coaching is FREE. If you would like individual orienteering coaching, please contact Kay Sayer, k.sayer@ntlworld.com**

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.

Not The November Classic, Yet Again

As most members will be aware this year's November Classic had to be postponed as the very heavy overnight rain caused a stream in the middle of the area to become a raging uncrossable torrent. Whilst this may be the first time this has ever happened, for me it continues a series of unfortunate events that means I have not completed my long course at the November Classic since 2005, the various reasons being;

2006. A combination of having virtually the last start time and totally messing up the first five controls meant I was not going to finish before the course closed, so I decided to retire.

2007. Recovering from an injury so I just entered a short course and walked round. My navigation though was much better than it normally is when running. Is there such a sport as Walk O ?

2008. I was meant to be away in Norway with work on the date of the event so did not enter. My

trip though was postponed, but not until after the entries were closed so I just turned up with the rest of the family and went for a run round the forest using an old map.

2009. Woke up in morning of the event to find our central heating system was not working and water was dripping out from the boiler over its electrics! I decided that getting that fixed was more important than going to the event.

2010. I did not bother to enter as WSX were holding an informal and a night event at Rempstone on the day before and two events on a weekend is enough for me these days.

2011. I was injured again and could walk OK but not run, however I was already entered onto my long course. I decided that walking round the proper route would take too long so I did all the controls as a score course. This rather confused the download team who seeing the printout showing an error on

each control said ‘ I don’t know what you’ve done but you seem to have gone very wrong somewhere’

2012. We all know what happened. Having one of the earliest start times I did manage to get to the start in the pouring rain, only to huddle around trying to keep warm with about 50 other people for 20 minutes while the organisers decided whether or not the event could go ahead.

Perhaps in 2013 I can break my run of non-finishes by completing two November Classics in the same year.

Roger Crickmore

RESCHEDULED WESSEX CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

The Committee has considered the re-scheduling of our Championship event, following the cancellation of the November Classic this year.

After pouring over the British Orienteering fixtures list to source a suitable area, the Committee has found a suitable alternative venue for the Club Championship.

We wanted to use an event which had similar terrain to our usual Championship event, i.e. the New Forest. After great deliberation, the Committee has agreed that we will use the Southampton Orienteers event on 17th March 2013 at Kings Garn Gutter, in the New Forest.

This was originally registered as a Level B event, but has been downgraded by BOF to a Level C due to there being a Level B event on the same day in Scotland!!!

So, Roger, you may be able to finish two Club Championships in the same year!

WESSEX COMMITTEE

MEET YOUR WESSEX CLUB MATES

DANIEL WHAPPLES

- Name and Age Group** *Daniel J Whapples – M32 (orienteering age group M21)*
- Home Town(s)** *Bournemouth*
- Occupation(s)** *Yacht Designer / Business Development Consultant*
- When and why did you start Orienteering?**
I started back in 2009 after being hassled by my father to try it! I have always loved the outdoors and trying new things and being very sporty, orienteering seemed a good idea.
- What Clubs have you been a member of?**
Only Wessex, the best obviously!
- What are your orienteering achievements, best results, and most memorable event?**
Achievements – Getting round all the courses so far without injury or missing a check point!
- Best Result –** *Honestly couldn't tell you. Although I have always finished in the top 75% of the group!*
- Memorable Event –** *South Coast Path Relay 2012. Great day, lots of fun with everyone involved. Definitely doing it next year (all being well?!)*
- If you could improve one aspect of your orienteering, what would it be?**
Learning to read the map better. Knowing what all the symbols mean etc.
- What training do you do?**
I train 3 times a week in the gym. A mixture of weights, core and cardio to give me an all round workout for strength and stamina.
- How many countries have you orienteered in?**
Only England so far with one day spent in Wales during the 6 days when I shadowed my daughter Caja.

What is your favourite orienteering area?

Hard to say as they have all been different and therefore their own unique parts. I would say I love running in the forest, the New Forest to be exact as it is always challenging, beautiful scenery and a good mix of terrain.

What has been the biggest turning point in your orienteering life?

Becoming Vice Chairman of the club!

Thumb compass or base plate?

Thumb compass as it is out of the way so to speak, when running but right there when you need it.

How would you raise the profile of orienteering to increase participation?

I am planning to use social media to raise the profile to a wider audience and take it more into universities etc as a first step.

Who is the most inspiring member of your Club?

My father! Only because he is still as passionate about it as the day he started and he is still getting around the courses without too much trouble!

What have you always wanted to do but have not done it yet?

I would like to travel to Iceland. It has always intrigued me and it would be awesome to travel around in those huge 4x4s.

What do you do when you are not orienteering?

I always find something active to do. You will generally find me outdoors enjoying the weather!



Article in Poole Advertiser on 30th September 2012 , Poole Town Race

THE first Quays Walk around the waterfront of Poole is set to take place in October.

Taking in Lifeboat, West, Great and Poole quays and Fisherman's Dock, the circular walk on Sunday October 7 is the inaugural round walk of the town.

Organised by the Rotary Clubs of Poole Bay, the circular walk which takes in Baiter, is part of a two year project to help the Borough of Poole map and promote public rights of way across the town.

The waterside route takes in the two bridges and many town attractions and the free event from 10am-4pm starts and finishes at Baiter Park slipway. The walk can be done in 1/2 hour at a brisk pace but the club hopes people will take their time and explore the many attractions along the way. At the start all walkers will be given a walking map and a route description with offers from local businesses.

The other event organised by Rotary was the first ever orienteering Poole Town Race, when more than 100

competitors aged eight to 83 turned out to run seven different races.

Organiser Bruno Smith from Wessex Orienteering Club said: "So many people new to orienteering came along to learn what to do, back in May. We raised more than £1,250 from the event, passing it to Rotary, who were able to buy some of the drums for Hamworthy Community Partnership's "A Different Drum" project, for young people across the area, a marvellous end to a great day out."

The Rotary Clubs are seeking Sponsors for the 5 Quays Walk and intend that any money raised will go to local charities.

(Article sent by Bill Brown)



XXXIII Meeting Orientamento Venezia

How do you fancy a weekend in Venice?.....said my husband out of the blue!
Are you joking, it's a place I would love to go. When?

After the initial joy of the possibility of spending a romantic weekend away realisation dawns - it's an Orienteering event isn't it? It might be, came the reply. Nothing new there then, still it's another chance to see more of the world.

So we are off to Venice! We left Poole at 7.30am on Saturday for Gatwick Airport to board the midday flight to Venice. We met Julie Astin at the airport and had a coffee before our flight. After breezing through Marco Polo airport we walked out into a slightly misty and chilly Venice. We boarded a water taxi and floated silently through this wonderful city which was shrouded in a grey mist. Buildings appeared in a ghostly fashion as we glided by. The architecture was breath-taking and all that I had imagined.

We disembarked from the boat and walked through the narrow alleys to our accommodation following a YouTube video Gavin had downloaded to get us to the hotel. It was called the Charming Inn, which was very apt as it was exactly that.

We went out to find the "registration" area. It was all well organised and didn't take long. We wound our way back through the city passing beautiful designer shops and stunning architecture. Yes so a lot of the buildings were shabby and with peeling paintwork, but this merely added to their charm and elegance how many hours did the stone masons take to produce the incredible detail of the carvings? Probably a lifetime for most of them and for very little reward. The colours were a mix or pale pinks, warm yellows, terracotta and many other mellow colours all sitting spectacularly side by side.

We walked past the quay by the sea and watched while a huge cruise ship passed by. I read an article recently saying that these huge ships are causing damage to the foundations of the buildings in Venice with the "wake" that they cause. Why do they insist on coming in so close, why can't they drop anchor further out and use the water taxis and give them more business?

After getting our bearings we returned to our base and got organized for Sunday, and went to find food! Which didn't take long! It was pleasant to see most "eateries" full with families and groups of people out for a meal. Back to the "Charming Inn" and a good sleep after a very early start.

In the early hours of the morning we were woken by the sound

of a siren which lasted for a while, it then changed pitch three times. After looking out of the window we saw the water surging through the alleyways and rising. We knew that the city is prone to floods but the speed and the height of the water was unexpected.

We went down to the reception desk in our hotel complete with wellies, Gavin with sandals and bare legs! The hotel had about six inches of water running through the area. I had my wellies and jeans

rolled up to my knees. After the water came boots I just waited till my boots were filled and them often! At St Marks Square had water at waist height, this area!



rolled up to my knees. After the water came boots I just waited till my boots were filled and them often! At St Marks Square had water at waist height, this area!

The locals had constructed several

which were about three feet high, which worked very well but was a bit dodgy when you had to pass other people. We made it to a small cafe for breakfast. The staff were smiling and laughing and doing their best to push the water out. The waiter burst into song now and then which added to the 'ambience'.

managed to construct several "board walks"

We then had to make our way to the start of the orienteering. Which was fun and wet! We had heard that the start times had been put back and then that they were letting competitors just go as and when they pleased. People were wondering if it would be called off but it seemed to be going ahead so Gavin made his way to the start, which was down one alleyway with people 6 abreast and queuing for about 50 mtrs!

The competitors were asked to try not to splash the public! Do they know this is a sort of race! However once the shopkeepers had complained the Police eventually stepped in and stopped the race. One competitor was punched on the arm by an Italian woman as she splashed by ooops! About 2/3rds of the competitors managed to get a run and fortunately for Gavin the prize giving went ahead as he had posted the fastest M55 time and won an entry into the 5 day Apennines race next summer which we were going to anyway as its just before the World Masters.

We are looking forward to going back to Venice, next time with some better weather!

Valerie Clegg

PHOTO GALLERY



Competitors at the start of the London City Race 2012



Congratulations to Gavin Clegg for winning the Summer League Trophy 2012

Ian Sayer in his Games Maker uniform by his BMW in its splendid Olympic livery. Unfortunately, he had to give the car back.....

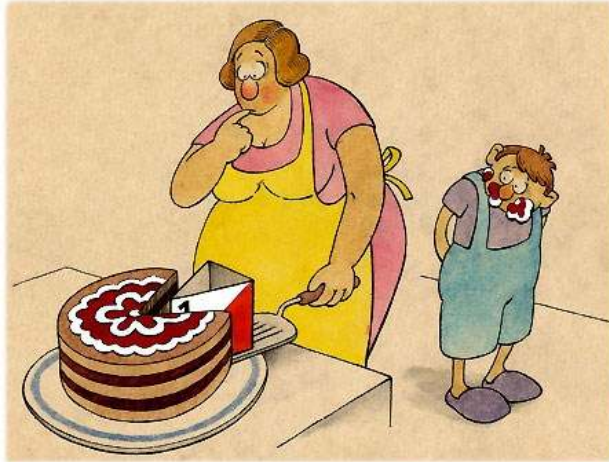


Love Orienteering

Stumbling in the forest, wet on the hillside
Or lost on the plain, I will be your fixed point
Your sure bearing, your Pole Star at night
And your sun at noon.

Brushings and thickets, depressions and swamps
Set your course for me, running-in with speed
To log your finish and hail your triumphs
Forgive your misses
Attend your wounds
Review your course
And rest, at ease in my love

Peter Keene



The author: Yuriy MANAEV (RUS)

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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.

