

Issue 170

Wessex Extra

October 2008



Wessex Abroad—at the Isle of Wight Nostalgia-O

highlights...

C2C	Pg 3
A Long Visit to Australia pt 2	Pg 8
Croeso	Pg 13
Devon Relays	Pg 18



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Chairman's Chatter

What We Have Been Doing.

Kay Sayer and Bill Brown put on a show at the Poole Festival of Sport at the Carter Community College and lots of keen children took part in the games and exercises.

Rob Hick and friends organised and planned our own Hardy Relays at Hethfelton and we had a reasonable turnout in good weather, with both relay entrants and individuals running the courses.

Bill Brown organised the launch of our new permanent orienteering course in Kings Park with great dedication and it was opened by Bournemouth Councillor Lisa Northover who also took part and her four children did several courses. The map has also been linked to the Littledown Leisure Centre area providing an orange standard course of over four kilometres.

Alan Hooper put on an informal event in Poole Park, helped by Wendy, and it happened in spite of the awful weather. Nick Hillman and his younger brother did about three courses clad only in short sleeved tee shirts and shorts - they are certainly hardier than me!

A small body of enthusiastic club members braved the rigours of the Welsh Six Days event, Messrs Hartley, Hick, Paget, Arman, and Brown X 2 took part and all survived, even the final day's truly awful weather, and Chris Brown did best coming first overall in W65S. Arman took the longest on a single leg at the penultimate control on the final day - 29 minutes - can you better that! (or do worse I should say)

It was of course our own clubs Regional event, the Dorset Delight, on the 12th of October. It was on Dur Hill and Holmsley. Ian Sayer was our planner, John Warren from Wimborne our Controller and Eric Whapples was the Organiser. Thank you to everyone for all their help and hopefully all of you who wanted to, got a run too.

Our AGM was at the Hamworthy Sports Club on the 25th of September. We had a good turn out and the non-orienteering Sayer quiz was excellent as always. We were joined by friends from Wimborne as usual.

In aid of the Increasing Participation exercise we had planned a series of five Saturday morning coaching sessions at the Bournemouth Sports Club. These were designed for youngsters aged say eight to fourteen and aimed to bring participants up to being able to take part in events up to yellow standard. So it was a 'ground up' coaching course for beginners and our 'fledgeling five' were doing the coaching work. The 'five' concerned are all experienced and well known senior club members I must add, and considerable efforts were being made to draw in school children from our area. The course started on Saturday the 4th of October and ran until 1st of November.

Meanwhile our efforts are still into obtaining the coveted Club Mark status, as well as the British Orienteering sponsored Increased Participation exercise.

Richard Arman

C2C, 28th August 2008

The C2C is a long distance cycle route, linking the west and east coasts in the far north of England. The name is a play on words of coast to coast, but of course pronounced “sea to sea”. Usually it is ridden west to east as this generally gives you a tailwind, and starts in either Whitehaven or Workington, the two routes joining up near Keswick, then across the Pennines to Consett where it splits to either finish at Sunderland or Tynemouth (nr Newcastle on the coast).

I’d be playing with the idea of doing it for a few years. Originally the thought was a cycle tour of a few days, but the more I looked at it and the more I researched the route, its surface, times other people take etc, it seemed that taking any longer than a single day would be a bit of a soft option.

There are quite a few options and alternate routes on the C2C, but my gut feel was to try and do the original route as best as possible. This seemed to be Whitehaven to Sunderland, but as my girlfriend Sarah is a Geordie, this was obviously right out. So Whitehaven to Tynemouth it was, with no on-road only options and no extra off-road sections. This also had the nice feeling of being the longest of the four combinations of start and finish at 136 miles (and a staggering 14,500’ of climb).

I originally planned to do it on a mountain bike, but with fairly slick tyres as according to my reasarch the standard off-road sections aren’t too rough. This would give me a laid back riding position for when I was tired, and low gears to tackle Whinlatter pass and the intimidating climbs in the Pennines. However about a week before I changed my mind on a whim and decided to use the road bike with some uber winter tyres on instead. My rationale was that 136 miles is really quite a long way and I would like to get it over with as fast as possible.

So the chosen morning dawned and my support crew (Sarah) and I set off from my house in Shap at about 0645 for the drive to Whitehaven. I couldn’t have done it without Sarah as the amount of food and liquid required for such a trip would be prohibitively heavy, and also the slight logistical issue of getting back to the other side of the country where your car is when you only have a bike and some very tired legs. Of course

having a car “follow” you across the route is not exactly in the spirit of the C2C, being the flagship of sustainable transport so I have slight guilt about this. However, I tend to walk the mile to the local Co-op and back rather than drive a 4x4 so perhaps I get the principle (even though owning a 4x4 where I live shouldn't be frowned upon!). Challenges are laid out before us and we just have to go and do them don't we?

Anyhow, we arrived at Whitehaven Tesco's, the bike was unloaded and off I went to the start, leaving at 0820. Signs aplenty on the way out of Whitehaven for the first few

miles and I was cruising along nicely. One thing that hadn't occurred to me, although blindingly obvious, was that this first section would all be uphill! Also another thing I hadn't factored in which is also obvious, was how often I would have to be slowing down and accelerating again while passing curious dogs who would quite happily be hit by a bike just to



see what it was. A minor navigation moment after about 4 miles delayed me for a few minutes, but I soon worked out the difference between the correct signs and the Coast to Coast footpath signs! After a few more miles I saw a rather daunting sign telling me that Sunderland was 127 miles. It was only here really it sunk in how far it was.

Whinlatter pass was the first big climb of the day at about 20 miles, and the first non-metalled sections coming down through the forest. This was quite wet and while relatively smooth for the majority, made me muddy for the rest of the day. Shortly after this I met with Sarah for the first time for a quick refuel. Keswick soon followed and here I made a navigational mistake. The correct route was on a disused railway, which was also quite muddy in places.

As I got toward the 45 mile mark I was starting to feel a little tired. Not good. A sharp climb out of Penrith then over the top to my second feed at Langwathby, about 60 miles in.

I stopped for a bit longer here, had some coffee etc, then on my way inextricably upward toward the Pennines. I was really looking forward to half way at this point, partly because I wasn't yet half way and I was already tired, and partly because it is on top of the infamous pass at Hartside. The climb up to the bottom of the actual climb had me in bottom gear already. I knew these next few hours were where the road

bike would struggle. However I did manage to ride all the way up, even turning my rear light on because of fog without dismounting. I didn't stop at the top as I was eager to go downhill for a bit. Sarah was apparently in the car park at the top but I didn't see much in the fog.

The descent from here was great, between 35 and 45 mph all the way down. This is where the road bike would make up time. However it was to be short lived. The climb up from Garigill took me totally by surprise, how steep it was and even at one point forced me to walk a short way. It was Hartside I wasn't looking forward to and that was ok,



but now it really hurt. The road seemed to go ever upward, continually in bottom gear, often having to get out of the saddle to have the leverage to turn the relatively big gear. I could feel cramp starting to come on in my thighs. Eventually though, ascent turned again to descent and I was quickly into Nenthead, where unsurprisingly things went up again.

Shortly after leaving Nenthead the highest point on the C2C is reached, which I knew about, but when I got there what I didn't expect at that point was the "Welcome to Northumberland" sign. A different county!

This gave me a bit of a lift and after another breathtaking descent the next climb wasn't so bad as a result. Yet another fast descent took me to Allenheads where I got my well earned third stop at around 90 miles.

This was a slightly protracted affair, and eventually Sarah told me to "stop prevaricating and get back on your bike". So I duly did and set off up another climb into the top end of Weardale. I was definitely in the North-East now, onto possibly the fastest and best descent of the day, running up to nearly 50mph. I flew past the sign to the third county of the day, County Durham. There was a choice to be made in Rookhope, the next village. The official map and guide seem to be really unclear as to which the official route was, and which was the option, so I looked to the signposts to see which way they took me. In the end only one route was signed at all, so up over Stanhope common it was. I was slightly nervous about taking a road bike across here, and rightly so as it turned out, but I wasn't daunted now I was on my second wind and I rode almost all the way up, just the last rocky bit defeating me. The level section across the top was tricky in places too, finding myself in ruts and fast sections suddenly turning rocky. An easy

mountain bike ride but not easy when tired with narrow slick tyres.

I survived and got across the road where I met up with where the alternative route would've come in, then on to the Waskerley Way. This is all off-road but a very good surface. 35mph off-road on a road bike is pretty impressive I think. I had a minor moment running wide on a corner nearly head-on into an alarmed mountain biker, but apart from that the run down into Consett was very easy. Just before Consett I picked up a signpost, Sunderland 27 miles. So 100 miles done since the daunting one and this made me feel very good, like I was almost there.

Consett itself was very slow and quite annoying. This is why I think the National Cycle Network doesn't work. Silly shared use paths, continually crossing the same road from side to side to get where the path is, and probably double the distance as compared to just picking up the correct road out of Consett. There were also some more curious dogs of course. I'm not sure how we're going to convince the nation to commute on bike when you have to jump through all these hoops to do so safely.

Anyhow, off my soap box, I soon got on to the Derwent Way, my route to the Tyne. Fast riding in the most part took me to Rowlands Gill, my final fuel stop. A pretty quick stop here just to refill water bottles, then back on to the Derwent Way. Soon the Tyne came into view which gave me another lift, and up and over Blaydon Bridge. After my experience in Consett, I was expecting the last ten miles to be fairly painful zig-zagging through the back streets and alleys and that's about what I got. The section in the centre of Newcastle was very interesting, with people sitting out drinking alfresco outside the bars next to fishermen casting into the Tyne and in the middle all sort of runners and cyclists. This was possibly the most dangerous section of the day, I had to brake really hard to avoid a runner who suddenly changed direction while wearing headphones. This section was short-lived and soon back onto the alleyways. The signposts weren't as liberal as they were in Whitehaven and a few times I had to stop and consult the map which was a bit annoying late on, particularly as my map reading brain had deserted me.

Finally I was on to the promenade up the last section of the Tyne as it meets the sea for the last half mile. Just one more curious dog to bypass then I met Sarah at the Finish. Time was now 2002. 11 hours 42 minutes from C2C, I was very happy and very tired. My bike computer indicated I was rolling for 10 hours 20, so 1 hour 22 stopped feeding my face or having map issues.

It's a week later as I write this, and my legs still hurt, and my neck's not been quite the same since. However I'm already wondering what the next challenge will be?

Alan Hartley

An Update on Activities Within Wessex OC.



A lot is happening behind the scenes and your committee felt that you should receive an update so that you are aware of what is going on.

The working party helping us towards achieving Clubmark status is well advanced with gathering all the material we need to enable us to apply for this award. In addition five club members have recently attended three days of coaching courses which has seen them confirmed as Level Two coaches. This will be a great asset to the club and help to train both existing and potential new members to enable them to get the most from our sport.

Another initiative which is rumbling along in the background is our involvement with the "Increasing Participation" project. We have co-ordinated a programme of activities which was launched in early October at the Bournemouth Sports Club on Saturday mornings.

These were primarily aimed at newcomers to our sport and we targeted selected schools in the area as well as other groups who may be a suitable source of potential new members.

The programme lasted for 5 weeks and took participants through understanding an orienteering map to learning how to read a compass and how to follow a simple course using their new skills.

We didn't quite get the attendance we hoped for but we are not deterred and will look for a different approach in the new year, if anyone has any ideas we would be happy to hear them.

So you can see that there is a lot of activity which we are confident will help breathe new life into our sport and lead to an increase in our membership. Watch this space for more details.

As always if you have any ideas or would like to get involved, please do not hesitate to contact one of the committee members.

A Long visit to Australia Chapter 2

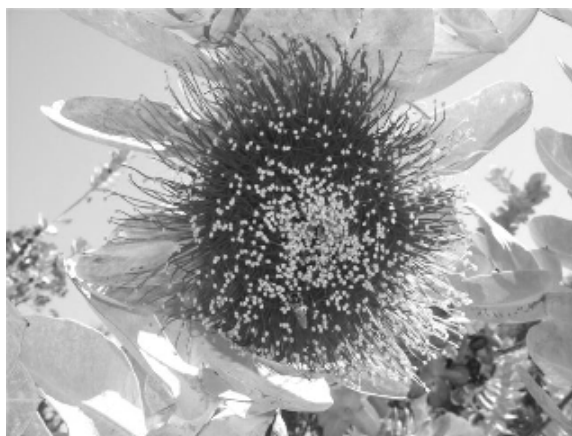
Albany to Adelaide

We spent 12 days with Trevor's sister and her husband Geoff in Albany on the southern tip of Western Australia. They live in a pretty house, which reminded me of an oversized gazebo, in a huge garden overlooking Oyster Bay. Like everywhere in Australia, Albany is growing but the early town still has its whaling station, now a museum, a replica



of the tiny wooden vessel in which the first settlers arrived, a military fortress, again a museum on Mount Adelaide and a delightful main shopping street sloping down to the harbour lined with pretty pastel painted shops which remind one of a wild west film! This southern tip of Western Australia is very green with a beautiful large harbour fringed with

turquoise sea and white sandy beaches which squeak as you walk on them. As always when travelling one is always too late or too early for some event and here we missed the annual visit of the right whales which bask just off the sheltered beaches with their calves. Rosemary takes her class of children to the beach to watch them. The Southern Ocean rolls in from Antarctica and even in the sheltered waters king waves can suddenly wash much further up the beach and catch visitors unawares. Western Australia is famous for the spring flowers and we spent a day walking in the bush beside the Kalgan River admiring their diversity and colour.



The distances to travel are so great in Australia and the communities so

small that even the tiniest hamlet seems to create a 'tourist attraction'. A winery will also serve cheese platters and provide smart seating on a veranda, the Cray fish farm has a tiny restaurant and a miniature zoo, a garage in a very rural settlement is converted into a Thai restaurant. Every where in Australia the people were very hospitable and have created pleasant places in a harsh land.

After a short revisit to Perth, which included snorkelling and cycling on car free Rotness Island and watching the Red Bull air race over the Swann River we boarded the Indian Pacific train. The Indian Pacific traverses Australia from Perth to Sydney but we were getting off half way at Adelaide, a journey of 2 days and 2 nights. We travelled Red Kangaroo so had a miniscule compartment of 2 opposing seats which converted into bunk beds; we had a tiny wash basin and a Lilliputian wardrobe. We bought our meals in the buffet car and spent most of the day in the lounge carriage.

The journey was amazing. As we left Perth at midday the train wound through the Avon valley with its rugged tree covered hills but by late afternoon reached wheat growing country with huge grain silos beside the track. The land gradually became less fertile reverting to eucalypt forest, scrub and salt lakes. It is 500 kilometres from Perth



to the gold mining town of Kalgoorlie and parallel to the track all the way is the water pipe which brings the only fresh water to the town. The road is also parallel to the train and Kalgoorlie needs 6 land trains each day to bring supplies. Later in the summer a bush fire crossed the road and destroyed a land train.

It was 10 at night when we arrived at Kalgoorlie but we were expected! A huge coach was waiting to give us a tour of the town. Everything was illuminated to show us the hotels, shops and important buildings, all painted pretty colours and all with lacework iron balconies. The gold

(Continued on page 12)

Future Events

For further details of any of the events listed here, go to the British Orienteering website. Or, if you don't have access to the web, contact a Committee member who will be happy to help.

WEDNESDAY ARMY ORIENTEERING EVENTS. BAOC organise orienteering events most Wednesdays for the Army and civilians www.baoc.org.uk

CAR SHARING TO EVENTS

As the price of fuel is rising by the day, it makes sense for all of us to share transport to events whenever possible. So if you are planning to go to any of the forthcoming events, please let others know via the yahoo group. If you are not on the Yahoo, get in touch with Ian Middlebrook at themiddlebrooks@tiscali.co.uk who will give you details of how to join. Joining this group does not mean you will be inundated with unwanted emails, but you will be kept informed of what is happening in YOUR club and any updates which you might need to know about.

NOVEMBER

- Tues 4th **WESSEX CLUB NIGHT, Bournemouth Sports Club. From 8.00 p.m.**
- Sat 8th **SARUM Orienteering Club Dorset Schools League/Western Night Leagues**, Longleat (Cannimore Woods) Warminster, Wilts. £4/£2. EMIT punching. White to Green courses + 1 hour score. Dorset Schools will start at 13.00 hrs. Night Leagues when dark. www.sarumo.org.uk
- Sun 9th **NORTH GLOUCESTER O.C. REGIONAL EVENT**, Sallowvallets, Coleford, Gloucestershire. SO607116. Online entries preferred to: www.fabian4.co.uk Fees: £10/£3. Limited. EOD + £2. White, Yellow, Light Green. String course.
- Also: **GUILDFORD ORIENTEERS District Event**, Waggoners Well, Liphook, Hants. See website for further details: www.guildfordorienteers.co.uk
- Sat 15th **DEVON District Event & Devon League**. King Tor, Princeton, Devon. SX561748. Fees: £7/1.
- Also: **BAOC (British Army O.C.) Night Event**, Blandford Training Area (to be confirmed) ST9030087.
- Sun 16th **BERKSHIRE ORIENTEERS** British Schools Championships, Hawley & Hornley, Camberley, Surrey. SU819587.
- Also: **KERNO (Cornwall) District Event & Club Forest League**, Hayle Towans, Hayle, Cornwall. SW574390. Fees £7/£2. www.btinternet.com/~kerno.orienteering

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- Sat 22nd **BADO (Basingstoke & District Orienteers) SOUTHERN NIGHT CHAMPIONSHIPS.** Greenham Common, Newbury. SU500645.
Org. Andy MacGregor, 0118 981 2598.
andy.macgregor@btinternet.com Fees £8/£2.
- Also: **NGOC (North Gloucester) Local Event,** Coleford. SO608116.
Org. Rodney Archard, 01432 356079. crescentccc.@tiscali.co.uk
Fees £3/£1. Yellow, Light Green & Blue.
- Sun 23rd **BRISTOL ORIENTEERING KLUB** District Event and Galop-
pen. Highmeadow Wood, Forest of Dean. SO546136.
- Also: **BADO (Basingstoke & District)** District Event, following Night
Event, Greenham Common, Newbury SU500645. Fees: £6/£2.
www.bado.org.uk
- Mon 24th **WESSEX COMMITTEE MEETING,** Bournemouth Sports Club.
7.15 p.m.
- Sat 29th **WIM (Wimborne) Day/Night Event,** Hurn Forest. SU105022. (TO
BE CONFIRMED)
- Sun 30th **SOUTHDOWN ORIENTEERS** Regional Event & SE League.
Broadstone Warren, Forest Row, East Sussex. TQ431324. Fees
£10/£3. Late entry + £1.50 on senior fees. Colour coded EOD only,
£7/£3. Senior BOF members deduct £2. Limited EOD + £3. .
www.southdowns-orienteers.org.uk

DECEMBER

- Sat 6th **WESSEX INFORMAL DAY/NIGHT EVENT.** Durr Hill, Burley.
Org. Dale Paget.
- Fri 19th **WIM (Wimborne) Street/Park Event,** Blandford. Chris Branford.
ST887059

For further details of events, see your copy of SINS or log on to the SWOA website or the relevant Club's website (links through BO). 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.

Explanation of Abrieiations.

- E.O.D. Entry on the day.
S.E.F. Standard entry form (if you don't have one, ask us).
E.P.S/S.I. Electronic punching using SportIdent system.
E.P.S/EMIT Electronic punching using EMIT system.
C.D. Closing date (for pre-entries).
C.C. Colour coded courses available.
Org. Organiser.
GR Grid Reference.

(Continued from page 9)

mine was impressive. An enormous hole in the ground with trucks 4 times the size of a London bus working 24 hours and looking like dinky toys at the bottom of the mine it was so huge.

We were rocked to sleep by the train and woke in the morning to cross the Nullarbor Desert.



This was an impressive land, completely flat, a limestone plateau with only salt scrub growing in the red earth. No water, so no livestock, but wonderful huge skies, wispy clouds and a harsh bright sun arching from dawn to dusk.

For 477 kilometres the track is dead straight and the journey slow as we waited for freight trains to pass. We passed the time talking to Maynard and Lesley who described their life on a station in the outback where they used to gather the cattle by aeroplane!

The desert became low sand hills as we prepared for bed to watch the stars through the window and eventually sleep and arrive in Adelaide at 7 in the morning.

Madeleine Bridle

Congratulations to Rob
Hick who came 6th in the
Brown Galloper.

CROESCO 2008

Day 1 Merthyr Common

it was a grey overcast morning that greeted us at Merthyr Common. Having enjoyed a gentle warm up to the start a nice heavy shower just before my start time ensured a good soaking!

With a steady climb to the start control and plenty of heather to cover I was pleased to see the cairn I had chosen as my first attack point come into view and ran straight into the control. With approx 700m run to the next control I concentrated hard on the abundance of pits and depressions requiring only a slight correction to locate this.



Cairn on Merthyr Common

Having developed a feel for the map and with good concentration I started to enjoy the challenge of a complex map. I continued to

run well up to control 10 but then with some 1200m to 11 my concentration obviously started to waver. Trying to remain focused on the map detail as I ran didn't quite work as I ended up at the wrong crag some 300m to the South East of the one I should have been at!!

The wheels really fell off for 14 and 15 as at one point I really wasn't sure of my position! So an average time became - well not very good at all. I began to wonder just what the rest of the week had install?!

Rob Hick

Day 2 The Bloreng

After a very painful run the day before on Merthyr Common I had spent most of the evening and morning stretching and massaging my ultra-tight calf muscles in readiness for another blast around some Welsh moorland. This time it was the Bloreng, an area previously used for the British Champs 2007.

The Bloreng has some nice big holes and rocky bits when they are not hidden by seas of bracken! Unfortunately the buzz around the start was that the area wasn't as runnable as it had been. Now as I remember it there were some pretty rough parts before! There was also one particular area of depressions that had got me lost in 2007 so maybe navigating through there successfully would be even more of a challenge this year.

1 was easy along the top of a steep bit to a reentrant, 2 was fairly easy too but I missed it. Controls 3 and 4 involved swimming in bracken and after somehow fluking 3 missed 4 by a mile but it didn't matter - my ankles were working again almost pain-free and it would take a lot more than chest-high bracken and bad navigation to wipe the smile off my face! I carried that smile from there to the end with no more mistakes. I even nailed the bit that had got me lost the year before! I might just go back again for some more abuse, probably not in August though!

John Hartley

Day 3 Pwll Du

Having run on this area in last year's British Champs and enjoyed it, I was looking forward to another run on this complex area of old quarry workings.

My first seven controls were all well placed in a maze of tracks, crags, small ponds and lots of contour detail. This is certainly not the New Forest and required plenty of concentration.

Some faster running was then enjoyed over some old spoil mounds out to the West before a long climb across marsh and long grass to the next control. Back into the quarries and a little time lost on one control before a timed road crossing and a short loop of controls into the finish.

The drizzle had now turned to heavy rain, you couldn't get much wetter! Even trying to put dry clothes on back at the car was a race against the elements!

Rob Hick

Rest Day

Whoopee! A leisurely start to the day then off to Cardiff to see the Bay Area. This was the first time there for all of us (Chris, Richard and Bill) and we found it most impressive and attractive.

A large bay is contained by a sea wall around the old docks area. This gives a constant water level to encourage visiting and permanent boats. All the backup marinas, hotels, bars & cafes are there to complete a very welcoming environment. Add to that some very impressive new and old buildings, to complete the picture.

We did the lot: Techniquet Centre (an excellent science & technology experience), the huge Millenium Performance Centre and it's Piazza, a personal tour, just for us, around the attractive Welsh Assembly building and finally browsing market stalls with genuine Welsh produce.

Bill Brown.

Day 4 Wentwood West

This day was furthest from the event centre and the only forested area being used in the competition. Richard Arman had run there before and the map he had (approx 20 years old) was either solid green, or green hashing for undergrowth! Once at assembly I managed to get a glance at a couple of maps. They looked quite white. Had the area changed?

The forest was amazingly clear - very runnable. Spiked every control cleanly through to 7 then on to 8. Oh no, something's not right! I had drifted left and found a gully, but no control. Eventually realised what I had done and picked up the gully with the control in. The next leg was awful. I decided to go straight and ended up crossing a valley with lots of recent felling. Eventually cleared the felling, guessed roughly where I was and contoured across to control 9 - spot on.



The penultimate control was a gully. I end up in some thick bracken - this can't be right. Work my way back out. Spot a control, check it out - a depression. Find it on the map and head back to the gully. Finished 3rd, only 2 minutes down. Could have won today, how frustrating!

Old Oak at Wentwood West

Dale Paget

Day 5 Mynydd y Garn

WSX had their earliest starts on Day 5, the day with no rain, but glorious sunshine!! The Assembly area was in a field, another first for the week, and our preparation consisted of sitting in the sun watching the finish go up and the whole area come to life.

We were running on Mynydd y Garn, a largely buff coloured map with lots of closely spaced contours and more pit symbols than anyone had seen on one map before.

Except for the end of one leg, I read the contours and features well. A very steep descent to the penultimate control, a scramble alongside a fence to the last control, through a gap in the fence and there was the finish. I finished 2nd for the 4th consecutive day, this time just beating an hour - not often I do this! I went to the top of the Table with this run..... and stayed there!

Chris Brown

How We've Changed Orienteering

Having joined Wessex OC in 1989, I've have seen the club develop over nearly 20 years.

The Club offers me today no more or no less than it did 20 years ago. I enjoy the sport no more or no less than I always have.

However, I orienteer less now than I did before, due to both the travelling costs and increased entry fees.

These are just my opinions being a mediocre, non-competitive orienteer.

Obviously computer technology has 'bettered' the sport from the point of view of how much analytical information we can get from split times and leg comparisons, but frankly I don't particularly care about all that. I still have my first generation CASIO split time watch, and so I knew how long I took between controls in the old days.

But perhaps life has been made easier for the mappers now they have OCAD to produce the wonderful overprinted, waterproof maps. But what about all the wastage? In the old days part of orienteering was to mark up your own map - and only a few master maps were produced. The responsibility was more on the competitor to remember to bring their own red pen, and of course a plastic bag too.

But are we really so much better off? I see how much organisation still goes into putting an event on, and the stresses, and what about all the costs now a days? Come on, were the pin punches as expensive as the SI equipment, the batteries and the software upgrades etc.? Is it really all worth this amount of expenditure of club money?

Well not from my point of view certainly, so who are we catering for then? Are there more people who demand this sophistication or do the majority wish we could go back to the simpler days? Did we really care if our run time wasn't accurate to the hundredth of a second? And wasn't it fun all huddled together checking the pin punch cards, holding them up to the light to see the needle holes, and then making the decisions as to whether to allow or disqualify a competitor?

Having recently been to an IOW event which used all the old ways, not a scrap of modern technology anywhere, I could see that it wasn't the orienteering that has changed at all, it's just us humans beings trying to be more clever.

But I suppose British Orienteering lead the sport and the clubs have to follow suit - but do we? How is it that the IOW OC manages to survive then? Does it mean that British Orienteering would not accept event

results if produced in the old manual way? Would people not come to events if they were not run with SI?

Well, all I can say is, if push comes to shove, we can at least go back to the simpler life; it will always be there, so perhaps we shouldn't throw out the old equipment just yet. The simpler an event is to put on, the more likely people are to organise them. If we could use the old equipment and the old system, perhaps more of us would step forward to put more events on! Why not try?

Liz Lockton

Annual Quiz

Once again the AGM was followed by a light hearted quiz for which we were joined by several members of Wimborne OC. In all there were 5 teams, mostly containing 6 players although a couple of teams had 7 when late comers arrived.

The first round on 2008 Olympics Team GB Gold Medal winners stumped a few but straight away 3 teams gained a reasonable lead over the other 2 teams.

By halfway through the rounds it was proving to be a hard fought battle between the Hedges on 71 points, the Springs on 64 and a half and the Towers on 63.

The penultimate round of questions on a theme of Grape and Grain saw the Hedges maintain their lead with 107 points but the Springs and Towers were neck and neck with 94 and a half points each.

The last round on rhyming animal names saw some surprisingly high scores but the final outcome was that the Hedges finished victors with 122 points, the Towers narrowly crept into 2nd place with 109 and a half points just ahead of the Springs with 108 and a half. Bringing up the rear were the Boulders on 91 and a half with the Streams on 90 and a half so very little in it between these two teams.

The Hedges team members (Roy Morgan, Wendy Hooper, Ian Middlebrook, Bill Brown, Dick Keighley and Tim Houlder) all went away with a bottle of wine for their efforts.

Ian Sayer

Devon Relays

Orienteering is a solitary vice so orienteering relay events, apart from the JK and BOC, tend to be rather complicated. The planner, Roger Green commented "a lot of teams did not grasp the format. As well as being on a large notice, it was described in great detail on the entry form which has been around for a couple of months. The winners were a two man team (Wessex Raiders) and a foreign team (from Sweden) who just popped in to see us on their holiday. They grasped the format in a foreign language (I think he means the Swedish team, not Wessex Raiders). Both teams were really good at orienteering as well as being able to understand the format. You know what they say - if in doubt read the instructions".

Dale & I had already exchanged a couple of emails on the format and following a session in the bar to iron out the details had come up with the perfect strategy. As with all relay plans to achieve the outcome as drawn up relies on perfect execution. That's of course where it so nearly all went wrong. Mass start on the Yellow with Dale leading off, expected winning time 9 minutes and expecting Dale to be leading. Dale comes back in third place - you just cant get decent runners these days!!!

I manage to rescue things by having a clean run on the next course and handed over to Dale in what appeared to be 1st place (but only by seconds). So far so good. We both had to run somewhere in the region of 14k so were trying to conserve energy which was not easy over the steep bolder strewn moorland terrain. By this time we were both out on our respective courses and I was due back about 2 minutes before Dale. I had a right mare of a leg choosing the wrong direct route rather than a longer but faster around route and wasted some 4 or 5 minutes and just knew Dale would be back way before me, he wasn't! He also had made a pigs ear of a leg. So much for perfect execution.

We eventually finished about 90 seconds down on the QO team of 5 and were moderately please with our overall performance. A few minutes later it transpired that one of the QO team had miss-punched, elevating us to winners. Must be a moral in there somewhere but I was too tired to work it out.

As with all the summer relays, great fun. You want to try it sometime.

Gavin Clegg

A New Permanent Course

Kings Park in Bournemouth now has its very own permanent course.

I worked with the park ranger, Brian Heppenstall, from November last year to get this in place. On the face of it, it should have been easy, just a map and a few post and Bob's your uncle. Somehow things are never that straightforward. So we missed our target of launching the course before the start of the school summer holidays. It drifted into August and youngsters were rather thin on the ground. But we had a good turn-out from families in the Neighbourhood Management Scheme with their children. This, combined with a great turn-out of club members, made it quite an occasion. (See the pictures on our web site).

It cost nearly £600 to set up the course and this was met by the Springbourne and Boscombe West Neighbourhood Management Scheme. This scheme had been funded for the past 5 years by the EU and ours was one of their last grants. They were really pleased to have such a great facility in the park for so little money.

It was touch and go that the launch event could take place because a group of travellers had invaded Kings Park just 4 weeks before. But they were out in good time. Another last minute problem was that two of the posts had been put in the wrong place by the council 'heavy gang'. Richard Arman manfully slaved away on the day and modified all the maps to account for this. Thanks Richard. But, as a result, I'm afraid the map will not be available on our web site until the mix-up has been sorted out.

One novelty I tried was to link Kings Park with the existing permanent course in the Littledown Centre by using the strip of parkland (Littledown Common) lying between the two. I put out some temporary controls there for the day. This made a 'Very Long' course for the day and several people tried it and found it quite interesting. Unfortunately there were two goes at vandalising the controls, so care would be needed if we were to try this again.

We now have permanent courses in Upton Country Park, Poole Park , Littledown Centre and Kings Park and participants can graduate to real forest using WIM's permanent course in Moors Valley Country Park. So we are beginning to build up a stock of good local facilities.

Bill Brown



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REGULAR CLUB EVENINGS/TRAINING

The Club Evenings are held on the FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH at Bournemouth Sports Club.

Training Evenings take place on a weekly basis. Every Tuesday at Bournemouth Sports Club at 6.30pm, 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 p.m. 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 p.m. 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