

NEWSTRACK

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Newstrack is the magazine of Derwent Valley Orienteers

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Thoughts from a New Chair

And no, this is not Rob reporting from yet another reclining position but a different pen being handled by a different person. Many of you know me but equally many of you will not so I thought I would take this opportunity to tell you a little about myself. I hope this will not cause you to regret voting me in as your Chairperson, in abstentia I might add, as too late is the cry.

Recently retired from Rolls-Royce where I had spent all 36 years of my working life, making my way from theoretical aerodynamics to computing and ending up being responsible for the design and acquisition of the equipment that tested (and broke) the engines. During that time I observed my wife bringing up our two kids, obviously in the right way as they have made us grandparents three times over. I say in the right way as we often find ourselves at orienteering events with the eight Gale Family members all competing and still talking to each other. The other interest that developed over time has been Bridge where I spent 25 years as Chair of the Rolls-Royce Bridge Club (don't even think it DVO!) and this still demands my time during the week (why I missed the AGM) though priority is always given to running at the weekends. I have relinquished the Chair of Rolls-Royce Bridge but currently I am President of the Derbyshire Contract Bridge Association.

So what are my views of the future for the club and the challenges it faces? Before attempting to answer that I feel that after two years on the Committee as Vice-Chair I am still very pleasantly surprised by the amount of time and dedication that members of DVO are prepared to put into the sport. We need to ensure we understand and agree the issues that face us and then channel our energies into the things that we can do. Making the sport accessible and affordable to a wider audience must be within our grasp and it is my view that it is not just the youngsters who need that attention but the Mums and Dads as well. If we get it right then Orienteering can be seen as a family sport and not something where the parents are on the sidelines shouting little Johnny on.

There is information elsewhere in Newstrack about the forthcoming Open Meeting at which you will have an opportunity to air your views with the new Committee. The Committee would welcome your input so if you want to get your thoughts in it is an ideal opportunity.

Finally, I must thank Rob for his work as Chair for the last three years, though still a member of the Committee, and also Steve Kimberley and Dave Brodie who have stepped down from their posts. There is one person (no two!) who does deserve special mention and that is Graham Johnson who has finally passed the baton of Newstrack Editor on to someone else (Dai Bedwell who is the second special mention as he has a hard act to follow!). Graham has entertained DVO, and a much wider audience, with his critical and amusing observations for many years and I believe has pushed people into thinking more about what we need to get out of the sport. I hope these articles will continue, as they provide great reading. Good luck, Dai.

Derek Gale

PS: With this issue of Newstrack you should all be receiving the latest membership list. Can you all check your entries, including email addresses, and send any corrections to Paul Beresford, please.

Chair's Report to the AGM - 20th October 2004

Yet again I can look back with great pride at the club's achievement over the last year. Lets start with the events that the club has put on. We've held 12 Local or introductory events, 7 District events, no Regional events but this was because the club put on the British Night Championships and had a major role in organising and planning day 2 of the JK.

We have had our successes in competitions too. I usually try to shy away from naming individuals for fear of omitting someone who has done really well but I must congratulate both Pauline Ward and Liz Godfree for being selected for England. We are also showing some depth in our competitiveness. For example, the success of our relay teams at the JK, British, etc. And we now have some promising juniors giving us our best ever performance in the Yvette Baker trophy. And at fear of risking retribution from every parent in the Club I'll specifically congratulate Erin Malley for her achievements over the last year. Further, we have capitalised upon many of these triumphs, turning them into public relation successes with press report within many of the region's newspapers.

But the Club also does a lot of work that isn't well publicised. It's not glamorous, just a lot of hard work but which we hope is sowing the seeds for the future strength of our sport. Currently, there is a tremendous amount of effort going into schools development both delivering quality orienteering training to teachers and providing a series of events to attract schools into the sport. The club is well on its way towards achieving "Club Mark" status. This is a nationally recognised standard which acts as a passport into Local Authority development opportunities.

Last night we had our last Fixtures meeting of 2004 where we finalised our schedule of District and Regional events up to the end of 2006 and reaffirmed our intent to hold a National event in 2007. Over the coming year the committee will be seeking volunteers to Organise, Plan and Control these events, and I'm sure we can count upon your generosity in filling these posts.

But as you know, DVO is not just about events and competition since we also have a strong social element in everything we do. Whether it's a cup of tea and a chat after a Wednesday night training run, an evening Bar-B-Q, visit to Chatsworth or even a weekend in Barcelona, DVO is always looking for the opportunity to have fun. And one of the best social events we have is our Club Championship. And one thing that always amazes me is the apparent horde of people queuing up to make fools of themselves in front of NEWSTRACK editors.

This brings me back to a more serious point. As you know I will be standing down from the Chair as I have reached the three year limit provided by our constitution. But I'm not the only member of the committee who will be stepping down this year.

Steve Kimberley has also been Club Secretary for three years. I must thank Steve because as well as keeping on top of this job he has always given sound advice in committee which has helped shape the direction of the Club.

Dave Brodie has relocated in Wales, so is stepping down as Fixtures Secretary. It is very rare that I look forward to anyone asking me to organise, plan or control an event but Dave's notes within NEWSTRACK and the e-group have been so entertaining and inviting that not only have they enticed several novice members to have a go, but I've almost cracked and volunteered!

Andy Smith is stepping down as Social Co-ordinator. Andy joined the committee two years ago and straight away injected some pace into the Club's social activities. This came at a time when the committee was running a bit out of steam, and has really helped us to get back on track. And there are some of Andy's ideas we can still use.

After 3 years, Tracy Grant is stepping down as Equipment Officer. Tracy quickly got to grips with our equipment, throwing out the stuff we don't need and buying the stuff we do. I particularly must thank her for her efforts in difficult, and at times frustrating, negotiations with Citex for the Club to rent a garage plot where we will build a solid storage shed. And I am pleased to report that this has reached a successful conclusion.

And my final thanks go to Graham Johnson who is stepping down as NEWSTRACK Editor. I just don't know where to begin in thanking Graham. Graham's first NEWSTRACK was February 1995 and it started "Welcome to your new-look, no-nonsense NEWSTRACK, featuring a new-but-strangely-familiar, no-nonsense editor." Well I'm not too sure about the no-nonsense NEWSTRACK but he certainly lived up to his promise as a no-nonsense editor - particularly where West Midland's events are concerned! NEWSTRACK is one of the essential elements that has underpinned the nature of our Club and you can only speculate what the Club would be like if Graham hadn't edited NEWSTRACK for the last ten years. Overall I think we would have been a lot poorer so I think the Club owes Graham quite a debt.

Finally, I'm stepping down after 3 years, 3 weeks and 3 days. During the whole of this time I have seen the committee and general membership tirelessly work without any thought of personal reward in order to develop a strong Club and put on the best possible orienteering events. Relative to this my personal contribution as Chair is almost insignificant so I thank the Club for the privilege in letting me play a small role in its history.

Robert Shooter,
Chair DVO 2001 - 2004

DVO Committee 2004-2005

Position	Name	Telephone	Email
Chair, EMOA Rep.	Derek Gale	01283 585244	Derek244@tiscali.co.uk
Vice-Chair	Rob Shooter	0115 9322945	shooterfamily@hotmail.com
Secretary	Paul Beresford	01302 751549	DVOCubSec@fsmail.net
Treasurer	Dave Bennett	01332 703830	davebderwent@aol.com
Club Captain	John Hurley	01332 553561	
Fixtures Sec.	Dave Walker	01332 574003	dave@walkerj222.freemove.co.uk
Committee	Pauline Ward	01773 850272	brian@bp-ward.freemove.co.uk
Equipment	Paul Wright	01773 856387	cpstwright@supanet.com
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Mapping, Perm. Courses	Mike Godfree	01332 515862	Mike.Godfree@bosinternet.com
Publicity	Viv Macdonald	01629 734307	viv.macdonald@chesterfieldbc.gov.uk
Development	Ronald Macdonald	01629 734307	r.macdonald@shu.ac.uk

Fixtures Secretary's Appeal for Help

I have listed below all of the DVO events we are proposing to promote over the next twelve months. However, they will not take place unless we have members to organise, plan and control them.

Planning and controlling can be the most satisfying of tasks but do take a little time and I have found from recent experience that if the load can be shared by having an assistant in each case then the task is easier and very enjoyable.

Organising events nowadays is a bit of a doddle compared to the good old days. The use of SI equipment and computerised registration and results reduces the need for manpower on starts and finishes and at events from C4 upwards we always hire toilets so no digging pits, erecting hessian screens and toilet tents. We have had new organisers at our last two District Events, Dave Vincent at Cromford and Emily and Rob at Calke.

If you fancy a go at organising for the first time why not speak to them for reassurance that it is not half as daunting as you may think. The secret is to recruit from our many experts a computer team, after that it all falls in place?

Enough of the waffle, here are the events details.

4 th Dec 04	Hardwick Park C5	O - Val Johnson P - Mike Godfree
5 th Dec	Eyam Moor C3	O - Steve Kimberley P - Dave Brodie
3 rd Jan 05	Belper Street Score S5	O & P - Johnsons
30 th Jan	Whitesprings C4	O - Required P - Tony Berwick C - Required Urgently
17 th Feb	Shipleigh Park C5	O - Val Johnson P - Required
26 th Feb	West Park C5	O & P - Rob Shooter
6 th Mar	Longshaw C5	O - V Macdonald & M Keeling P - P Addison & B Denness
19 th Mar	Black Rocks C5	O - Val Johnson P - Mike Godfree
24 th Apr	Crich C4	O - Required P John Armstrong C - Brian Ward
14 th May	Ilam Park C5	O - Val Johnson P - Mike Godfree
15 th May	Farley Moor C4	O - Required P - Rob Smith? C - Required
5 th June	Kedleston Park C4	O - T Peach? P - Sue Russell C - Required
11 th June	Foremark C5	O - Dave Walker P - Mike Godfree
17 th June	Dales Long Run	O - Ranald Macdonald
24 th Sept	Bottom More S5	O - Val Johnson P - Mike Godfree
2 nd Oct	Lindop or Carsington C4	O - Required P - J & D Gale C - Required
6 th Nov	Stanton Moor C4	O - Tracy & Ian Grant P - Dave Chaffey C - Required
2 nd Jan 05	Wirksworth Street S5	O & P Required

You will notice that the majority of the Saturday C5 events are organised by Val and Planned by Mike, however they are both quite happy for anyone wishing to gain experience to have a go under their expert supervision.
If you wish to fill any of the above vacancies please contact myself, Ranald or any other member of the fixtures committee.

Dave Walker

(and to show that it isn't that painful...)

Organising Cromford – A Novice's Tale

I've never been able to think while running. My brain insists on relaxing, in inverse proportion to the physical effort I'm applying to my legs. It wants to wander and daydream; it will not be directed. Inane jingles, rubbish and frivolities fill my head. Such a waste of time. I'm sure many of you know what I'm talking about.

But perhaps only David Brodie has managed the art of turning this phenomenon to his advantage - by imposing jobs on people while they are in this vulnerable state, with barely-functioning brains.

When, last April, as we trotted along near Breadsall on a Wednesday night run, he asked me about organising Cromford Moor, the only sensible thought that came to me was "Hmmm - sounds better than planning". And so it was that I took on the organising of a C4 for the first time.

Six months later, I was standing in the rain in the dark, trying to persuade a grinning farmer to do something about the deep water-filled ruts at the entrance to our parking field. Fifteen more hours, and then 200 cars would be slithering innocently and hopefully into this bog. The farmer continued to smile patronisingly, and insisted that "it'll be alright in the morning". Why would it be alright? It might be a complete disaster - cars unable to go forwards, and more piling up behind. If we could get them into the field, there was no certainty of getting them out again. It was going to go down in history as the worst DVO event ever.

That was definitely the worst moment in the six months since I had accepted the job. Half an hour later, the farmer had fetched his JCB and removed the worst of the ruts. Half an hour after that, the rain had finally stopped, and the surface water had started to drain away reassuringly quickly. All might be well, and all might be well.

I had expected the most difficult part of the job to be recruiting the 26 or so helpers. But that turned out to be straightforward. Two evenings on the telephone, and it was largely done. Basically, if they were going, they were willing to help - no problem. Big potential hassles - download and the start, and the time-eating string course, were handled by experienced people who needed nothing from me.

So what were the lessons learned? Or, to put it another way - what mistakes did I make? Well, next, I will:-

have a cancellation policy. OK - it wasn't necessary this time, but it wasn't a long way from being necessary.
liaise with the planner more so that I don't mark a route to the start through his courses,

visit the equipment store earlier to sort out what would be needed from the daunting range of stuff,
test that I could upload the results to the web.

By midday, it was clear that I was going to get away with it. Some mistakes made, but always someone around to step in or to advise. So - to anyone considering the job:-

- it isn't very difficult,
- there's plenty of experienced help,
- it doesn't take as much time as you might think,
- and it is rewarding.

Go for it.

Dave Vincent

(At this point I feel obliged to remind people not to believe all that they read in Newstrack – the "Experienced String Course Team" referred to above had done one string course before, about 12 years earlier. Elizabeth and James both compete often enough on these courses that we felt able to give it a go but hadn't bargained for the added work of surveying and drawing the map (useful introduction to scales and symbols for Elizabeth), untangling about 500m of tangles after the previous event and of course a complete dry run (including another map from scratch) around the Bedwell estate! Looking back on things, I would agree with Dave's summary though, which applies equally to the smaller job of organising the string course – it wasn't difficult (the clientele are generous in their praise!), our children had all the experience required, the time consuming bits were mainly our own making (most DVO areas have a pre-existing string map, and we doubled everything by having a practice around the garden), and it was certainly rewarding! - ed)

CAPTAIN'S JOG

Advance notice is given that DVO will be entering club teams in the following competitions in 2005:

- Feb 27th, CompassSport Cup Regional round, venue to be confirmed.
- March 28th, JK Relays, Hopwas Woods near Tamworth
- April 17th, British Relays, Penhale Sands, Cornwall

Anyone who wishes to may run for the club teams in these events, with the possible exception of the M45/50/55 class in the CompassSport Cup where I may have to select if there are limited start slots. The club will pay 50% of your entry fee if you are running in an official club team.

However if you wish to run for the club teams in these events, you must let me know well in advance either in person, by phone or by post. An e-mail option may be coming along shortly (or then again it may not).

John Hurley

Local Fixtures

December 2004

- 4th EM DVO Local Event. Hardwick Park, Chesterfield. SK/456634.
C5 Mike Godfree. mike.godfree@hosinternet.com £2.00/£1.00. www.dvo.org.uk
- 5th EM DVO Experimental Regional Event. Eyam and Bretton Clough, Bakewell. SK/209777. Organiser: Steve Kimherley, 01246 280430.
Entries: Robert Shooter, Rose Cottage, Cat And Fiddle Lane, West Hallam, Derbyshire, DE7 6HD, 0115 932 2945. CD: 19/11/04. £6.50/£2.50. Lim EOD + £1.50/£1.00. EPS-SI. String course. Dogs on leads and in car park only.
- 12th YH CLARO District Event. Dob Park, Otley. SE/195493.
C4 David Day, 01765 600941. £4.00/£2.00. EPS-SI. String. No dogs. www.claro-orienteering
- 12th WM WRE District Event Shobdon Hill Wood, Mortimer's Cross. SO/390636.
C4 Phil Bibby, 01746 762198. £4.00/£2.00. Dogs on lead. www.wrekinorienteers.co.uk
- 19th EM NOC District Event & Galoppen. Sherwood Forest/Budby, Mansfield. SK/625673.
C4 Bob Alderson, 0115 845 0771. r.alderston1@ntlworld.com £3.50/£1.50 +50p SI hire. EPS-SI. String course. www.noc-uk.org

January 2005

- 1st WM HOC Laurie Bradley New Year's Score Event. Kinver Edge, Kinver. SO/837826.
S5 Robert Vickers, 0138 43 77008. £4.00/£1.50. Parking 50p. Mass Start 11.30am. Registration opens at 10.30am. www.harlequins.org.uk
- 2nd SE SN NATIONAL EVENT & SN Trophy. Ash Ranges, Aldershot. GR/917557.
C2 Entries: Gill Sharp, 16 Mincing Lane, Chobham, Woking, Surrey, GU24 8RX, 01276 858828. CD: 13/12/04. £9.00/£4.50. Lim EOD +£1.00/£1.00. Chq: NE1-2005. EPS-SI. String course. Lim CC courses EOD - £5.00/£2.50. Dogs on lead in car park only. www.geocities.com/southern_nav
- 2nd YH SYO Score and Limited District Event. Beeley Woods, Sheffield. SK/318920.
S4 Kevin Walters, (0114) 250 9160. kevin.walters@cancer.org.uk £4.00/£1.00. CC courses will be W,Y,O and Blue. www.southyorkshireorienteers.org.uk
- 3rd EM DVO Belper Street Score Event, Belper Derbyshire
S5 The Johnsons, tel (01773) 824754. Email: gmjandfam@aol.com, www.dvo.org.uk
- 9th EA SMOC Regional Event. Bucknell Forest, Northampton. SP/660449.
C3 Entries: Helen Nisbet, 2 Hopkins Close Milton Keynes Village MK10 9AS. h.nisbet@virgin.net CD: 18/12/04. £8.00/£3.00. Lim EOD & Late entry + £2.00. Chq: SMOC. EPS-SI. Yes, String course. No dogs. www.smoc.info

- 16th EM LEI National Forest Trophy. Beacon Hill, Loughborough. SK/510145.
C4 Gary & Mary Boothroyd, 01572 756097. £4.00/£1.50 Ind +£1. EPS-SI. String course. Parking £2.00. Dogs on lead. www.leioc.org
- 23rd YH **EPOC Regional Event.** Ogden Water, Halifax. SE/066308.
C3 Entries: Dave Wakeford, 2 Rooley Farm Cottage, Rooley Lane, Sowerby, Halifax, HX6 1NS, 01422 832892. davewakeford@rooleyfarm.f9.co.uk CD: 10/01/05. £7.00/£2.00 Family £15.00. Lim EOD + £1.00/50p. Chq: EPOC. EPS-SI. String course. Lim CC courses. Dogs in car park only and on lead. www.eastpennineoc.org.uk
- 30th NW **DEE Reg. Event, Delamere Trophy.** Delamere Forest, Northwich. SJ/556711.
C3 Entries: Jenny & Nigel Beasant, 9, Primrose Hill, Cuddington, Northwich, Cheshire, CW8 2TZ, 01606 883605. nigel@beasantn.freemove.co.uk CD: 08/01/05. Internet entries: 16/01/05 £6.00/£2.00. Lim EOD + £1.00/50p. Chq: Deeside OC. EPS-SI. String course. Lim CC courses. Parking £1.00. Internet entry preferred. www.deeside-orienteeing-club.org.uk
- 30th WM WCH District Event & WM League. Hawksmoor, Cheadle. SK/032439.
C4 Norman Hall, 01785 257278. normandi@totalise.co.uk £4.00/£2.00 +SI hire £1.00/50p. EPS-SI. Parking £1.00. Dogs on leads. www.walton-chasers.co.uk
- 30th EM **DVO District Event. Whitesprings, Matlock**
C4 organiser required – check details on www.dvo.org.uk

February 2005

- 6th YH **SYO Regional Event.** Bradfield Moor, Sheffield. SK/236919.
C3 Entries: Doreen Best, 94 Ringstead Crescent, Crosspool, Sheffield, S10 5SJ, 0114 230 2621. colinallanb@yahoo.co.uk CD: 19/01/05. £7.50/£3.00. Lim EOD + £1.50/£1.00. Chq: SYO. EPS-SI. Lim CC course - up to Lt Green, String course. Parking £1.00. No dogs. www.southyorkshireorienteeers.org.uk
- 6th EM LOG District Event. Stapleford, Newark. SK/186566.
C4 Karl Pickworth, 01526 320136. pickworths@aol.com Fees TBA. EPS-SI. Dogs on leads. www.logonline.org.uk Full registration pending
- 17th EM **DVO Introductory Event. Shipley Park, Ilkerton**
C5 Organiser: Val Johnson, tel (01773) 824754 email gmjandfam@aol.com, www.dvo.org.uk
- 19th NW **MDOC British Night Championships.** Watergrove, Rochdale. SD/910180.
C2N Organiser: Sue Birkinshaw, 0161 980 5068. sbirkinshaw@cssystems.net www.mdock.org.uk Full registration pending

The Ex File – Just when you thought it was safe to open Newstrack

Failingdales

History repeats itself, the first time as tragedy, the second time as farce. Apparently Marx said that, but I'm not sure whether it was Groucho or Chico. You've already heard the tragic tale of our missed start times at the White Rose, so it was something of a surprise when, on my next trip to North Yorkshire, I suffered the same farcical fate, grappling with the travel directions to this National event.

After my miserable failure to find the Assembly at the October Odyssey last year, I should have realised that CLOK's approach to travel directions is a bit like a murder mystery weekend. Our clue was the junction of the A171 and B1416. The details said it was 5 miles south of Whitby but we found it 2 miles west. It was only after a thorough exploration of the little chartered reaches of those parts of Whitby not in the tourist guide that I realised that there are in fact two A171/B1416 junctions. The other one is 5 miles south of Whitby, did you know?

Imagine hopping from one leg to another for five minutes. Sounds pretty tiring doesn't it? Now imagine doing that for 70 minutes – in a bucket of treacle. It sounds like the sort of ordeal that people would pay good money to avoid rather than shell out 10 quid for, but that's as close an approximation as I can think of to match the experience of running on the heather that time forgot at Fylingdales, an area so desolate and devoid of vegetation that each tree is by its very nature a distinctive tree and lovingly identified on the map as such.

I can't say I was really expecting anything better but I fall for the National event ploy every time. I've heard of aversion therapy studies where smokers subjected to shocks can be persuaded to change their habit, but I guess I've just become addicted to electricity. National events on areas like Fylingdales are a bit like Christmas: I know I'm going to hate it, you know you're going to hate it, but we both grit our teeth, put on a brave smile and pretend that we're enjoying it, looking forward to the return to work at the end when we can be truly miserable without being ashamed to admit it,

One novel feature of the event was a bulletin board on the CLOK web site for pre- and post-event comments, some of which predictably questioned the status of the area as a National event. This seemed to me to be like going to Pride Park and complaining at the quality of the football on offer. What did they really expect? In truth this area was fine for a badge/regional event but, whilst the organisation was of National event quality, no-one could argue that it justified travelling further than from Nether Poppleton for.

The damning flaw of the area as National event was the complete absence of route choice. This was not the planner's fault, just the inevitable consequence of holding an event on moorland on which the straight-line route was bound to be the only sensible one. Another inevitable result of this was that it was impossible to avoid hunting for controls in packs, which also devalued the competitive point of the event. An early mistake on my part meant by Control 4 I had been caught up by the M45L starting 1 min after me and the M18A starting 2 mins. Fortunately/unfortunately all three of us ran at roughly the same speed so for the next hour we enjoyed the communal thrill of running round together. This was not deliberate following but simply impossible to avoid. If one

of us overshoot by as much as 30 metres - and it wasn't always me - the convergence on the correct control of the other rather gave the game away.

If all this suggests I had a wretched time, it would be wrong. I had a good run, finished in the top half and felt thoroughly exhausted by the end. It just goes to show how hard it is to please some people.

Graham Johnson

Sports Personality of the Month

DVO's own metrosexual **Brian Denness** hit on a wizard wheeze to improve his position in the results. Fed up of having to read from the bottom upwards to find out how he fared, he realised that the problem was that for the last few years he has made the mistake of competing against men of his own age. The solution was simple but ingenious, and so it is that the Wharnccliffe results show one B. Denness finishing third on W40L. Brian has worked out that he only needs another two similar results to guarantee him selection for the GB Ladies Squad, and a whole new international career opens out for him. I've heard of getting in touch with your feminine side but that's ridiculous.

Feeble Excuse of the Month

The Paula Radcliffe Award goes to Daniel Kimberley who retired at Fylingdales - because he was feeling hungry. Negotiations are currently ensuing with Macdonalds to open a franchise near Control 4 at Eyam so the poor lad can make it to the end of his course without passing out from malnutrition.

Public Service Announcement

Since time immemorial - apparently there is mention of this in the Domesday Book - the last DVO training run before Christmas has been marked by the serving of mince pies (perhaps Daniel Kimberley would like to turn up) but this year the tradition is threatened by an unlikely menace - a European shortage of lard, an essential component of mincemeat, it says here. Apparently it's the Poles who are to blame; since their accession to the EU, they've been taking advantage of preferential rates to sequester the European lard mountain for their sausages. It all sounds very unlikely to me but please ensure the preservation of this honourable institution by buying early for Christmas.

Christmas Cards

Instead of all of us sending each other Christmas cards this year (and demolishing a few trees), would you like to give a donation to the Woodland Trust? We will have a collection box at the Eyam event and the December open meeting. There will be a card for everyone to sign which we will display on the website and we will send - hopefully - a large cheque to the Trust.

Viv (01629 734307)

2934.4 Miles for 204 minutes

I recall our esteemed former editor in one of his many exchanges with other contributors making the point that there are always options to go orienteering within an hour's travelling distance. Well we did not limit ourselves to that: travelling 2934.4 miles over an eleven-day period to enjoy our first experience of the World Masters Competition.

Wanting to take the Spider back to its native Italy we packed our orienteering gear, our camping gear and eleven days of apparel into the car (and I should mention the Club Flag) and set off for Italy via France. The concept was to put the hood down as we left Church Broughton and not put it back up again until we came back again. Well, it was 8am in England so we decided to travel inside but that lasted until Dover. Over the Channel things did not improve so we continued down through France to Reims where the rain was coming down in stair rods so our plan to camp on the way down and enjoy sumptuous meals was abandoned and we found an IBIS for the night.

Day 2 – weather looks good so Plan A adopted – hood down – blast through France and stop just short of the Frejus Tunnel for the night, with a nice long lunchtime break. France of course does not go on holiday in July so there would be no problem in camping in our selected place. Right turn off the autoroute, up in to the hills, no – this is France – MOUNTAINS!!! On route we meet a quad bike, then 20, then 2000 – we seem to have emerged into a quad bike festival and there is no chance that there is any room at the inn or at least the campsite. A route choice faces us – back to relocate on the autoroute or up the mountain to Briançon and camp there. The latter is what we did and a magic trip it was – through the snow over the Col de la Galabrier and down into Ser Chavalier – not a cloud in the sky and the Spider in its element. Nice campsite though not exactly a French sumptuous meal in the Indian restaurant we chose in a mostly closed Briançon.

Day 3 and after a wonderful French breakfast overlooking the Alps we crossed over into Italy and made our way past Turin and Milan. The heat eventually overcame us and we had to put the hood up and the air conditioning on (Andy and Rob will not forgive us as they managed it in their MG – perhaps another story). Just before Venice turn left and up towards the hills – Recaro Terme awaits us. The brochure said our hotel was 4 star – be warned! The rooms were very comfortable and large and maintained to a very high standard. However, the rest of the service was non-existent – we appeared to be in a hotel that aimed at a clientele that came 'to take the waters' and were not a day younger than 60 – whoops! Where is that mirror. Anyway – we avoided them. We will dine out on the stories about the hotel in the years to come.

Day 4 – Sunday. The first real event is on Tuesday but most of DVO are in the event centre area so it seems sensible to find out how long it will take us to get there and meet up with the Godfrees, Duckworths and Dickenson (singular). Now it has to be said that when we booked this hotel the owners said that it was an hour to Asiago and would we like them to recommend somewhere closer. We of course knew better as an hour is not a problem for regular orienteers (see earlier note) so we set out vertically up one mountain, down the other side, along a valley, across a plateau, through a city that someone had failed to tell the Italian mappers that it had grown up from a village, and up another vertical mountain only this time joined by most of Italy. After 2 hours we had reached Asiago and found the Event Centre. Now it has to be said that it was a disappointment to us. A school hall where all the signs indicated that we were not

allowed in, only team leaders were authorised and Mike must have been a long time ahead of us. Pretending we could read neither English nor Italian we ventured in only to find we were wasting our time, as there was nothing there – stripped clear by the Godfrees. Okay – find the Godfrees – no problem as we had already been in touch and they were not in the main campsite but in the Asiago offshoot. After several interesting route choices we met up on the airfield to find the DVO enclave – three tents pitched to try and exclude a fourth (to no avail as an itinerant Russian in a Wendy House covered in noisy plastic sheeting took the remaining spot in the group).

Now there needs to be a quick word here about the format of the World Masters. There are two events on Tuesday and Wednesday that for some reason are called semi-finals. I suspect the reason is that each semi-final contains enough heats to accommodate all the entrants roughly divided into groups of eighty. Depending upon the number of entrants each heat provides enough runners to have eighty in the 'A' final, eighty in the 'B' final and so on. All entrants who start both Semi-Finals get a run in the finals though if you work the maths then you need to be in the first 16 to get into the 'A' final if there are 5 heats etc. but there are always enough finals for every entrant to get a run. There are practice events on the terrain on both Monday and Thursday. So the consensus was to go to the practice event at Marcesina where both the second semi-final and final will be held.

To test how long it will take to get to the Marcesina area we try a different route and it now takes us 2.5 hours. Nice run over the area but not timed, choose any route you like. This gives us a good perception of the area but little else. Back to Asiago to join into the Opening Ceremony where our little contingent joined up with other GBR entrants to march behind the Union Jack through the town.

The first semi-final and all to play for – Jen is off first so I elect to try and create the DVO base. This is around our flag, which needs to be seen to be believed. 20 feet high and looking magnificent but it fails to draw in the other DVO entrants so I go for a walk and by the time I get back they are all there taking up residence. However, you are no doubt bored by the lack of O information. Well the first day was in a well-managed forest that was a joy to run through. First control was straightforward but the second was over a fence but should I go right or left? Why do I always choose the wrong way – left when it should have been right – must learn to aim off. Not much time lost and on to number 3 which is difficult to reach but as I get into the area there are lots of people heading into the control to lead the way. This is perhaps the major complaint of day 1 – insufficient controls in the forest. Going well until control 5 where I cut the corner and end up on the wrong side of the hill. Relocate on the top of the hill and after a minor deviation locate the control. Now in the groove I run the rest in a reasonable fashion though up and over the hill in a direct line on control 9 was a mistake as round the hill must have been better.

The second semi-final runs into Italian efficiency. The car park is where we parked on our practice day but the event is a bus ride or a 45 minute walk to the assembly area. We look at the growing queue and decide to walk. Anne-Marie has the same view but less time to get to the start so runs all the way to the assembly and then on to her start. In our case we arrive at assembly 40 minutes later with some time to spare. No sign of the other DVO members so knowing that they must be there we put up our 20 foot flag and sure enough Liz arrives to tell us where we (DVO) are. Rather than take the flag down again we march in triumphal procession across the assembly area holding the flag

to be joined by Doug and then John Duckworth and family (John losing Anne-Marie's trainer in the process but Sarah proudly finding it later) all of whom aimed at the flag only to find it moving across the arena. It must have looked a bit like the Opening Ceremony. I was off first with a nice first control that has a clear re-entrant behind it that leads up towards the second control. Simon Ford is 2 minutes behind so I push on hard but the re-entrant flattens out and unexpectedly a fence appears. Guessing where I am I take a new heading and find the control. Now a long run across a beautiful forest looking for a rock face directly ahead. There it is, spot on, up between two crags and just off to the right is the control – only it isn't. Headless chicken mode now comes into play as I must be in the right place. Ah! A control must be over there as I can see people diving into it – must be mine – it is, my fourth! Well at least I know where I am so take a bearing and up through rocks, green shaded on the map and it still takes me 5 or so minutes to find my control and then I had similar trouble coming back to clock the control I had already found. This must have put adrenaline into the blood as I had a good run round the rest of the course. And Simon? Sadly he had the same problems on 2 and 3 that I had plus a few more and emerged across the open plain a good few minutes after me.

And so to the final – my two reasonable runs had placed me in the 'C' Final and bearing in mind that meant that 160 runners better than me were excluded from my race I could possibly win something! Alas, that thought only lasted just past the first control. I blame the person who asked me where we were but after completely mis-reading the map and thinking a down slope was an up slope I managed to get completely lost and only a conversation with Liz Smith managed to get me on track again. I hope I did not put her off! Picked up the next 6 controls relatively easily – a very nice combination of runnable forest and open grassland. However, complacency had set in as yet another map reading problem then occurred when I thought I was looking for a depression at the top of a hill only to find it 6 minutes later at the bottom. The final controls were straight runs across the open grassland but left me in 58th place overall. Estimated time lost 20-22 minutes so even with a mistake free run I would only have been 10th.

For the record the DVO achievements were:-

John Duckworth	36 th	H35 'A' Final
Rob Smith	62 nd	H40 'A' Final
Mike Godfree	16 th	H55 'B' Final
Doug Dickenson	62 nd	H55 'C' Final
Derek Gale	58 th	H60 'C' Final
Ted Smith	20 th	H60 'D' Final
Anne-Marie Duckworth	19 th	D35 'B' Final
Liz Godfree	6 th	D55 'A' Final
Jen Gale	54 th	D55 'B' Final
Margaret Keeling	17 th	D55 'C' Final
Liz Smith	27 th	D60 'C' Final

After it was all over it was only a simple matter of the remaining 1000 miles back to the UK with the weather reverting back to rain as we neared home. Overall, a very nice event and we are now contemplating Edmonton in Canada next year. (but not in the Spider, surely? – ed.)

Don't Forget Your Wellies, or Venetian Orienteering

For the last 25 years a rather strange O event has been held annually within the historic city of Venice. The Park World Tour visited a few years back but it otherwise hasn't received much attention within the UK. Karen and I have been meaning to visit Venice for a few years but have never quite sorted out a date to go; it was an over-heard remark from Doug Dickinson at the White Rose about the O event that set us thinking and really defined a date to make that long awaited trip. Thanks to low cost flights with Easyjet and a cheap hotel on the mainland, we decided a weekend in Venice would be affordable and worthwhile and if we could work out how to enter the event, negotiate split starts, etc then that would be a bonus.

The flights and hotel were duly arranged and after a lot of searching the web we eventually found quite a comprehensive (and bilingual!) event website. Perhaps we were looking in the wrong places or perhaps it is the stereotypical Italian way already alluded to in Derek's account of the World Masters, but everything really only appeared in the last month, which felt rather last minute for an event with nearly 3000 entries! Entries closed a few days ahead of the event, start lists appeared just 2 or 3 days beforehand and fees were collected in cash at the event centre the day of the model event.

Venice in early November was relatively kind to us - some light rain early on the Saturday didn't really hamper sightseeing (in fact the gondoliers punting down the Grand Canal carrying umbrellas were a sight to see in themselves!) and by the Sunday we had clear skies and reasonable temperatures. Despite the last minuteness of the entries system, the start (including a shuttle ferry between Arsenale and Punta Della Dogana) all ran like clockwork and I trotted up to the pre-start spot on cue for my start.

The race itself was great fun. The map was basically blue (obviously), grey for buildings beige for walkways and not much else mattered. Subtleties like pale grey for tunnels or green dots for trees were of no real significance - basically the challenge was finding a route across a maze of alleys and bridges without hitting a dead-end (lots of these) or charging down the wrong alley (quite difficult to relocate once contact with the map was lost). Physically the requirement to turn 90° around a blind corner every ~50m (the constant starting and stopping was really tiring) more than made up for the lack of climb. Dodging in and out of the tourists posed an additional hazard - I felt the walkways could have been colour-coded for their tendency to have 20 Japanese tourists posing for a photograph.

The best bit - crossing the Rialto Bridge, turning left and disappearing into countless back alleys.
Regrets? leaving Karen's running shoes in the hotel as we rushed to catch the bus and boat to the event.

The future? we'll certainly go back in the next year or two!

Dai Bedwell

STOP PRESS: A small group of DVO members have made a habit of visiting a European city in late October for the last few years. It has already been suggested that next year there might be a group going to Venice for some sightseeing, relaxation and to pick up the Street O for those so inclined. More details no doubt in future Newstracks.

DVO Shop

We will be at Eyam and this will be a great chance to do your Christmas shopping. We have O tops and O trousers in DVO colours and I have ordered some more sweatshirts. As a NEW line, I have also ordered polo shirts in navy with the gold logo and will have these at Eyam.

If you can't get there but would like some kit, please ring me.

Viv (01629 734307)

ODDS AND ENDS

Spotted in the "Bygones" supplement of the Derby Evening Telegraph – a photo of former club member Kevin Cuniffe on a trip to Zagreb with fellow British Rail employees in 1980. Nostalgia isn't what it used to be !

A message from BOF

The BOF email account with CIX will no longer be maintained from 1st January 2005. All emails should be addressed to user@britishorienteering.org.uk - emails to user@bof.cix.co.uk will not be collected.

Open Meeting January 2005

The next meeting in the DVO Open Meeting series is being held on Wednesday 12th January 2005 at Belper Sport Centre starting at 8:15pm, after some members have been for a run. The format will be changed so that it will not be an extension of the Committee Meetings but will run as its own series. It is expected that one or more of the Committee will talk about their work for the club and we will look for external speakers to address topics of interest. The agenda for January is not yet set but come along and help make it an enjoyable session. There will be plenty of opportunity to air your views.

Editorial

Well, that's about it for the first Newstrack of a new era. Not a classic, but hopefully a mix of the useful and the entertaining. I'm sure an editorial style will develop with a bit of time, though I'm playing it safe initially.

When Rob Shooter collared me (I was recovering from a Wednesday evening run around Allestree when he sidled up to me, lynch rope in hand, looking for a volunteer – I couldn't find the breath to refuse/escape) I was assured that having edited EMEWS for a while in the 1990's, Newstrack would be easy. I'm not so sure – Newstrack is a different proposition (or at least it has been under Graham's editorship). However, I must thank everyone's encouragement and most importantly contributions that so far have given me an easy introduction. Graham has even promised to continue an occasional review of major events that he has enjoyed.

Copy date for the next Newstrack will be January 12th. All contributions in Word, Excel or simple email text gratefully received.

Dai Bedwell