

NEWSTRACK

June 2007



Great Moments from the Orienteering Archives

Inspired by Jessica Beresford: Wee Willie Winkie tries his hand at Orienteering

Newstrack is the magazine of Derwent Valley Orienteers

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Thoughts from the Chair

I have just returned from a British Orienteering Council Meeting where much of the day was spent debating the decisions that may be required if the funding from central government via Sport England and UK Sport does not materialise. It made me wonder about the overall health of the sport in the UK. I then look at the plethora of fixtures around our region in what is usually regarded as the quiet season. With Summer League events during the week at all our East Midlands Clubs and with many C5 events at the weekend there are very encouraging signs that at the grass roots level we are seeing a great deal of strength. These events are also attracting newcomers to the sport, encouraged by the efforts of the coaches and the development activity. This is just what we need. At this level we are self-funding and do not need to rely upon external funds. Or do we? Much of the development activity is supported by these funds and the investment needs to be continued, as it is a long route before the benefits are really established. I feel sure this will be recognised by those with the decision though the path by which the funds are obtained may be somewhat different to the past.

As I am sure many of you are aware Dai is taking a lengthy break from this country and as a result he is relinquishing his joint roles as Newstrack Editor and Fixtures Secretary. I would like to thank him on behalf of you all for the efforts he has put in and wish him well in his new job in America.

Derek Gale

Volunteering at JK 2007

On behalf of the JK 2007 co-ordinating group I would like to thank all those members of DVO who gave so generously of their time to help at Enquiries during the weekend:- Derek and Jen Gale; Steve, Amy and Daniel Kimberley; Dave Bennett; Mike and Liz Godfree; Helen Finlayson and Neil Forrest; Brian and Pauline Ward; Stuart and Katie Swalwell; and last but no means least, my long suffering wife, Evelyn. Others, who pitched in when things got hectic, included Dave Bennett (again!), Anne Marie Duckworth and Rex Bleakman. My gratitude to you all.

Alex Ross

Open Meeting – Wednesday 11th July 2007

The next open meeting will be on Wednesday 11th July at Sawmills Village Hall, on the A610 between Riply and Ambergate The hall is booked from 6-45pm so that people can go for a run beforehand. (Crich Chase was delightful in the spring sunshine last time – Ed)

DVO National event at Longshaw – Sunday 9th December 2007

DVO are hosting a National event at Longshaw estate on Sunday 9th December and every member of DVO who enters will be expected to help. Please let Mike Godfree have your paper entry and you will be able to run for half price. If everyone helps, then we hope the shifts will not be too long as it will, no doubt, be cold and possibly wet. We are grateful to the following members, who have agreed to be team leaders and who will be organising the teams in due course;

First Aid/Safety – Sue Russell and Randal Macdonald

Car parking – to be confirmed

Far start – Mike Gardner

Near start – Helen Finlayson and Neil Forrest

Finish – to be confirmed

Clothing dump/drinks – Dave Bennett

Road crossings – Malc Spencer

Registration/enquiries/e-card hire – Val and Graham Johnson

Entries – Mike and Liz Godfree

String course – Michelle and Andy Mackervoy

Download – Jen and Derek Gale

If you are planning to run at Longshaw please let either one of us know (NOT the Team Leaders), so that we can start allocating you to teams. We look forward to hearing from you!

Viv Macdonald – 01629 734307 or email r.macdonald@shu.ac.uk

Margaret Keeling – 01773 852991 or email margaretkeeling@w3z.co.uk

The National Trust will also be selling their Christmas trees that weekend, so you can do some shopping as well!

Sports Personality of the Month

At the top international events, start areas are quiet and ordered so as not to distract competitors in their pre-race mental preparation. Idle chit-chat from start officials or less serious competitors can ruin the meditation process and lead to the loss of precious race time for the elite competitors. Imagine then the consternation caused when Ann-Marie Duckworth hastily removing her O-top in the start lanes of the JK, after finding it was on inside-out! It took several competitors till their third control to regain their composure...

DVO Annual Awards Presented at the Club Dinner on April 28th

At a successful Club dinner (in other words everyone managed to get to the building) the DVO Catering (Fairly) Ltd crew managed to feed nearly sixty hungry orienteers.

During the evening the usual annual awards were handed out and towards the end Tony Berwick presented a quiz entitled "How well do you know DVO?" which is now available on the DVO website. The answers might appear in an edition of Newstrack one day.

The award winners were:

Pauline Ward - DVO Orienteer of the Year

Jessica Beresford - DVO Junior Orienteer of the Year

Harriett Lawson - Most improved Orienteer

Bemrose School - Most Enthusiastic Newcomers for their performances at the British Schools and the Yvette Baker Trophy events

Val Johnson - Newstrack Reporter for launching the "Just for Juniors" Feature

and the **Sports Personality of the Year** was.....

Jessica Beresford, for running a course in her pyjamas (with O-suit over the top, of course!) (see Newstrack cover for an artist's impression of how this might have looked)

Situations Vacant

Wanted! Volunteer to coerce those of a generous nature to organise, plan or control events in Derbyshire, then write names on a form and email to Ian Whitehead. Please apply to outgoing fixtures secretary, care of the editorial address.

DVO Fixtures

The following DVO fixtures have vacancies that need to be filled if the schedule is to happen (I'm not popping back from the states to fill gaps like I did last season):

Linacre, Sunday 18th November – organiser needed

Poolsbrook C5, Saturday 26th January 2008 – planner/organiser needed

Calke Park C4, Sunday 3rd February 2008 – planner, organiser & controller needed

Crich Chase C4, Sunday 2nd March 2008 – planner and controller needed

Hardwick C4, Sunday 11th May 2008 – planner, organiser and controller needed

Advance notice: planner and organiser needed for C3 regional event at Shining Cliff, November 2008. Probably worth having a look at the area this autumn to check map and runability in representative undergrowth conditions!

DVO Club Championships 2007 – Stanton Moor, Sept 2nd

The DVO Club Championships will be held on Sunday September 2nd, at Stanton Moor. The format will be roughly as in recent years, i.e. handicapped starts so that everyone finishes at noon; if you run faster than the handicapper reckoned on then you win! There will be two senior courses ("long" and "short") and one junior course (for the separate junior trophy) of about yellow standard.

Entry to the event is free to members of DVO, but you need to remember your picnic!

Please let me know, preferably by email (paul@pberesford.fsnet.co.uk), if you'd like an entry so that pre-printed courses and handicapped start times can be prepared - entries by the 26th August, please.

As this is the last Newstrack before the Championships I have not as yet completed the final details; Final details will be put onto the website, if you require the final details by post please let me know.

Paul Beresford

News from the Jackson Household

We have moved from our house in Ockbrook to 139, High Lane West, West Hallam near Ilkeston (tel 0115 932 4911). We have done this so that there is enough room in the house for my new partner, Sue, and her daughters Nicole and Heather. We plan to get married next summer on the 7th June near Dovedale. It is not by chance that the new house backs onto open countryside and has a good footpath running from near the house. I hope that we can entertain DVO for an evening run at some point during a summer series.

Andy

Tortoise and the Hare

I am not sure that Peter Bourne will forgive me for this title but it aptly describes Day 1 of our trip to Sierra Mágina, just outside of Jaen in Spain. The Gales and the Bournes entered a two-day World Ranking Event at Los Romerales in April just for the fun of it. The courses in Spain only go up to the age of 55 so all of us were running up a class. The area was forested, with many very steep ravines running through it, the bottoms of which were quite useful as paths if you could get down to them. The entries to the event were not high, about the same as a C4 event over here, which may in part explain why there were no toilets, no Wilfs, and no Ultrasport. I am not sure where the Spanish get their kit but some of them turned up in minibuses with their Club names on so they are well organised in other ways.

Day 1 was a bright sunny day and Peter set off a few minutes ahead of me on a 4.9km course with 215m of climb. The first control was in a re-entrant at the end of a plateau that was easy to locate. The route choice to the next was challenging in that you could go along the bottom of the ravine but at this stage I was not sure this was possible and could be difficult to identify a suitable attack point so I took the up and over approach which had some climb but the control was easy to find. Control 3 was just off the bottom of a ravine so I dropped down into the bottom and ran along a smooth shingle surface to clock the control just slightly ahead of Peter who

approached from the other direction. (Meeting #1). Scramble out, cross the road and the drinks point to hit number 4 spot on. Control 5 was a Puesto cazador(*) that was up the re-entrant then over two more re-entrants and on the far side of the third. There was some green on the map here so I decided to run a little high to avoid it and in doing so also avoided noticing one of the re-entrants so when I went down to my control it was not there. Eventually I came across another Puesto cazador which turned out to be my Control 9, not as bad as it sounds as the course looped round but it enabled me to realise what I had done so I quickly traversed the 150m to my control to clock it shortly after Peter (Meeting #2). 6 was an easy saddle with 7 an easy run along the top of a ravine with the control on a stream source except that it was further down the side of the ravine than I expected so I miss it as I run past. Recognising features on the far side of the ravine I turn round to run back to see Peter pointing down the slope to where it is and managing to get there before me (Meeting #3).

Determined to get away I scramble out and take the straightforward route over the spur to number 8 and I of course know where number 9 is except I miss it. I am standing on a saddle inspecting the map when Peter joins me (Meeting #4) and together we make our way to the control. Getting away again on the route to 10 which is back over the road to a knoll and then on to 11 which is in a shallow re-entrant the other side of a huge hill. I decided to take the anti-clockwise route that unfortunately had a huge ravine just before the huge hill and that took some time to negotiate. However, not as long as it took me to go round the hill where I had a lot of difficulty in deciding whether I had gone far enough and, of course, I had not. Never giving up I eventually went far enough and then pressed on to 12, which was a boulder on an open hillside. As I climbed up from below Peter popped over the hillside and clocked it just in front of me (Meeting #5). 13 and 14 were short legs in a dog-leg shape so I was optimistically able to wave bye-bye to Peter as I made my way to 14 as he was approaching 13 and for once it was justified as I did not see him again through 15, 16 and the finish. Needless to say, the Brits did not distinguish themselves on this day. Day 2 was better but that is a different story.

* a rather small circular stone construction that may have been a shooting butt for those that are vertically challenged but is the right size to put a flag in the middle.

Editorial

Well I guess many folk already know that the Bedwell clan are moving stateside around the end of the summer, so this will be my last Newstrack (for a few years at least). The editing role has been generally fairly easy thanks to a steady stream of good material from a wide variety of club members. Graham Johnson has been very helpful in creating the cover and writing his amusing articles and while I know these articles are very popular, I think the variety obtained by a large number of correspondents is what really sets Newstrack up as a useful and appreciated club service (well, no-one complains!). I will try to write the occasional article about orienteering in New England and, who knows, maybe the traditional DVO autumn (fall?) weekend away might find its way across the pond one of these days...?

If anyone is interested in taking on the editorial mantle, I'd be happy to discuss what is involved (principally collating the contributions into a document with a page count divisible by 4, taking it to Staples or similar for printing and then posting)

Dai Bedwell

Kit Review (1)

I was wandering the aisles of Sainsbury's when I spotted the ideal solution to all those sore feet/blisters – Elastoplast Extreme plasters! **Extra Tough, Extra Strong Adhesive** was promised – just the job I thought to protect those tender bunions while squelching around a soggy course.

I had the opportunity to try out these wonder plasters on my recent weekend in the Lakes – I'd rubbed a mild blister doing a fell race on the Saturday, so appreciated having *extreme* protection for Sunday's national event. The result? After 96 minutes on a relatively dry if steeply contoured Caw, the plaster had come off my foot and was drifting around, useless, in my O-shoe. Verdict – another triumph of marketing over substance.

Dai

Kit Review (2)

This is unlikely to become a long running series, but here goes...

I thought the "Planet Fear" tights on display at the exotic tent at the JK (it never did blow away, so I would have lost my bet...) would go well with the new DVO tops – the black and yellow design setting off the DVO colours a treat in the spring sunshine. A tad expensive but hey – they even have a natty little pocket at the back for your whistle! Now I can't quite work out whether I like them – I've worn them at two short, fast events with no undergrowth – the JK and British relays. At both these events I ran better than I had any right to, so that qualifies them as 'lucky' tights, to be worn at all important races from now on. However, after just two short outings, in areas with practically no undergrowth, there is significant pilling of the shin area; I really don't think they'd survive a White Rose forest. I'm also sceptical whether the zips at the ankles will welcome an hour's immersion in Lakeland marsh. So in summary they seem ideal for, er, JK and British relays.

(Perhaps I need slightly more positive reviews if I'm to attract the steady stream of freebies normally associated with top equipment reviewers?)

Dai

FOOTPATH RELAY - SATURDAY 30TH JUNE 2007 from Hartington Hall Youth Hostel

I could do with some more offers to marshall the changeovers. Various times during the day in the vicinity of Hartington. It could well fit with your run. If you do not yet have a run organised, then Graham or Val might have one or two legs available in the team.

Mike Godfree - 01335 346004 or email Mike.Godfree@btinternet.com

DVO Just for Juniors



Derwent Valley Orienteers

presents

Derbyshire Schools and Youth Group
Orienteering Championships 2007

as part of

Shipley Park Local Event, Saturday July 14th

Car parking at the visitors centre (50p) – Grid Reference: SK 432454

Registration from 9.30am –11.00am

Start Times from 10.30 – noon

Entry Fees : £1.00 (Junior rate)

Individual and Team(School or Youth Group) Competition

COURSES

<i>BOF Colour Coded Standard</i>	<i>Championships School Year Group</i>
White	Years 5 and 6
Yellow	Years 7 and 8
Orange	Years 9 and 10
Light Green	Years 11, 12 and 13

**Medals for the first 3 male and 3 female on each course.
Primary, Secondary and Youth Group Team Trophy
awarded for the best 6 scores from any courses.**

Juniors are invited to come along and run whether or not they are part of a school or group team. Championships open to all juniors who either go to school in Derbyshire or are members of DVO.

To enter in advance and reserve maps, fill out the attached form and return to the organiser with a SAE by July 1st. Cheques made payable to Derwent Valley Orienteers.

Entries will be accepted on the day subject to map availability.

**This is a local event also open for those not eligible for the Championship
Entry Fees: Adult £3 Junior £1**

Organiser: Val Johnson 01773 824754 email: gmjandfam@aol.com

Planner: Paul Wright

City of Derby Years 5 and 6 Orienteering Championships **Allestree Park Thursday 24th May 2007**

Following the local cluster competitions thirteen Year 5 and fourteen Year 6 teams completed in the finals. So with four per team we had a 108 children all looking forward to an exciting event.

Jemma Beadle SSSCo, Bemrose School and Rex Bleakman, (DVO) were the main organisers. They with the three volunteers from Derwent Valley Orienteers and eight Year 10's from Bemrose School arrived at 8.30 am to set up the courses and start/finish area for this electronic punching event.

Races started soon after 10.00 am and to say that the children found these longer, technically more difficult courses challenging would be a true statement.

However, as the results show, whilst some teams did not finish, or made mistakes, many teams did very well completing their courses in good times.

Year 5

Ashgate Primary A team	9.41 min
Shelton Juniors	9.44
Ashgate C team	10.15
Dale 2	10.19
Springfield 1	10.21
Springfield 2	10.26
Redwood A	10.30
Moorhead A	11.05
Nightingale Juniors	11.15
Park View	12.00

Other teams either missed controls or did not finish.

Year 6

St Werburghs Primary	16.02 min
Springfield Primary	16.13
Shelton Juniors	17.03
Normanton A	17.17
Ashgate A	17.27
Redwood B	21.37
Park View	22.27

Other teams either missed controls or did not finish.

Congratulations to the 2007 Champions Ashgate and St. Werburghs.

Thanks to my co-organisers Jemma, Val Johnson, Derek and Jen Gale plus the volunteers from Bemrose School.

We look forward an even larger entry for 2008, the finals for which will be held on a technically slightly less challenging area.

Rex Bleakman

How to Improve your Orienteering – A Tip from the Master

Sitting in the back of Andy Jackson's car, I picked up a copy of 'Why Don't Penguins Feet Freeze?', the book of extracts from the New Scientist column where readers pose and others answer questions of a vaguely scientific nature.

As I idly flicked through the pages, my eye was caught by one reader who wanted to know why, when he was stumbling home from the pub, he tended to stagger to the left rather than the right.

I ignored the suggestion that, on the way to the pub, he probably had his change in his right pocket and his keys in his left, and was therefore unbalanced on the return journey. My attention was then caught by the following.

It was suggested that everyone has one leg which is stronger and more flexible than the other so that when walking blind drunk or as in a forest (you knew there had to be a point to this some time) with few landmarks or recognisable features, the tendency was for the stronger leg to walk with a longer stride, thereby causing a deviation to the non-dominant side. Taken to its ultimate conclusion, this could, it was speculated, cause someone to walk in a circle back to their original starting point.

So all those years of literally running round in circles have nothing to do with poor navigation but everything to do with the strength of one of your legs.

Another reader suggested that this natural imbalance could be rectified, and a safe journey home guaranteed, by the simple expedient of inserting a beer mat between the sole and foot in the non-dominant shoe. I'll bet those orthotic-dependant orienteers are feeling a bit sick now. Instead of shelling out a three figure sum on expensive plastic inserts, they could've just nicked a bit of cardboard from their local boozer.

Graham Johnson

Wednesday Evening Club Run Goes Walkabout for the Summer

As usual from the July open meeting till the beginning of September the Wednesday evening runs go walkabout. Why not join us for a footpath run? There are usually several groups of various speeds to do 60-70 minutes running in the countryside of Derbyshire.

All runs meet at 7 p.m. with a sociable tea or beer afterwards.

Wednesday 11th July run prior to the open meeting from the Village Hall at Sawmills, on the Ambergate/Ripley road.

Wednesday 18th July run from the Godfrees', Highfields, Mapleton Road, Ashbourne.

Venues for the rest of the summer from Mike Godfree or the club website.

Local Fixtures (all C4 events offer £2 discount for senior National or Local (East Midlands) members of British Orienteering)

June 2007

- 9th EM DVO Local Event. Rosliston Forestry Centre, Burton on Trent. SK243176.
C5 Rex Bleakman, 01283 733363. bleakmanhome@btinternet.com £3.00/£1.00. No dogs. www.dvo.org.uk
- 10th EM NOC Local Event. Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham. SK622393.
C5 Bob Alderson, 0115 845 0771. www.noc-uk.org
- 16th-17th SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIPS Loch Doon, Dalmellington
C2 16th - Scottish Individual Championships.
R4 17th - Scottish Relay Championships. www.ayroc.co.uk
- 16th EM DVO District Event & EM League. Kedleston, Derby. SK313403.
C4 Michelle Mackervoy, 01332 557892. £7.00/£1.00, Family entry: £15. EPS-SI. String course. www.dvo.org.uk
- 23rd 24th WM WCH Chase Challenge 2007
C4S 23rd - Park Race. Tamworth Castle, Tamworth. SK207035.
O4 24th - Long-O, Cannock Chase, Cannock. SK049122.
Jim Knight, 01283 840020. jim@knight4336.freeserve.co.uk Day 1: £7/£2
Start times 1800 - 1900. Day 2: £9/£4 Courses 7 - 23 km. EPS-SI (free
hire). Dogs on lead. CD: 21/06/07. EOD: +£3.00 per day. www.walton-
chasers.co.uk
- 24th EM LEI District Event & EMOA League. Burrough Hill, Melton Mowbray.
SK765115.
C4 David LeBoutillier, 0116 2910274. £7.00/£2.00. EPS-SI. Parking £2.00.
Dogs on lead. www.leioc.org.uk

July 2007

- 1st EM NOC Little John Relays. Bramcote, Nottingham. SK500384.
R5 Andrew Jones, 01623 461192. andrew.jones4@ntlworld.com
- 7th DVO event at Rosliston is now CANCELLED
- 8th EM NOC Local Event. Brierley Forest Park, Mansfield. SK481598.
C5 Catherine Hughes, 0115 8774089. £2/£1. www.noc-uk.org
- 14th EM DVO Local Event & Derbyshire Schools Championships. Shipley Park,
Shipley. SK430450.
C5 Val Johnson, 01773 824754. £3.00/£1.00. EPS-SI. No dogs.
www.dvo.org.uk
- 15th EM NOC Local Event. Rufford Country Park, Mansfield. SK646656.
C5 Catherine Hughes, 0115 8774089. £2.00/£1.00. www.noc-uk.org
- 22nd EM NOC Local Event. Silverhill, Mansfield. SK473622.
C5 Alan Beardsley, 01623 640094. alan.beardsley@care4free.net £2.00/£1.00
Students £1. EPS-SI. www.noc-uk.org

August 2007

- 5th-11th SOA Spey 2007 - Scottish 6 Days see www.scottish6days.com

12th EM NOC Local Event. Oxclose Wood, Mansfield. SK481598.
C5 Keith Streb, 01623 473401. £2.00/£1.00. www.noc-uk.org

25th-27thYH **White Rose Weekend**
C3 **25th - Day 1 Regional Event.** Pickering Forest, Pickering.
S5N 25th - Night Score Event, Pickering Forest, Pickering.
C3 **26th - Day 2 Regional Event.** Pickering Forest, Pickering.
R4 27th - Day 3 Three Team Score Event. Pickering Forest,
MTBO 27th - Day 3 Mountain Bike Event
www.whiteroseweekend.org.uk/

White Rose Relay entries for DVO teams through Graham Johnson

September

2nd EM **DVO Club Championships, Stanton Moor**
C4X **Closed event for DVO members only. See advert in Newstrack for details**

8th EM DVO Local Event. Shipley Park, Heanor. SK430450.
C5 Val Johnson, 01773 824754. gmjamdfam@aol.com £3.00/£1.00. EPS-SI.
No dogs. www.dvo.org.uk

9th EM LEI Score Cup. Snibston Discovery Park, Coalville. SK413142.
S5 David Anderson, 0116 287 4088. £2.50/£1.00. Also White and Yellow.
www.leioc.org.uk

15th-16thYH **Dales Weekend**
C2 **15th - NATIONAL EVENT,** Attermire, Settle. SD830654.
C3 **16th - Regional Event.** Langstrothdale, Kettlewell. SD905790.
www.aire.org.uk

30th EM **DVO District Event & EM League & YBT Round. Carsington Pastures, Wirksworth. SK250538.**
C4 **Stuart Swalwell, 01335 347814. stuart.swalwell2412@virgin.net £7.00/£1.00, Family entry: £15. EPS-SI. String course.. Dogs on lead in car park only. www.dvo.org.uk**

DVO Summer League

It's back from the verge of cancellation, with a new format for this year – three courses (long, medium and short) for a conventional run out with a map. Val Johnson is the series co-ordinator.

15 June Darley Park, Derby
22 June Calke Park, Ticknall
29 June Bottom Moor, Matlock
6th July Elvaston Castle, Borrowash
13 July Willesley, nr Ashby de la Zouch (organised by LEI)
20 July Black Rocks, Wirksworth
27 July Allestree Park, Derby (subject to confirmation of permission)

Captain' Slog

The Guildford Four. The Birmingham Six. And to the annals of infamous miscarriages of justice must now be added the Pwll Du Three. We wuz robbed.

The cause of all this iniquity was the disappearance of a control on the first leg of the M/W12 relay at the British Relay Champs. Some, not finding the control where it should have been, ventured on, others searched in vain, wasting vital minutes and falling behind the rest of the field. The time lost through this delay was never recaptured so not only did those who ignored the aberration gain valuable ground, they also enjoyed the advantage of continuing to seek out the remaining controls in their own isolated pack.

At the end of the relay, DVO's premier junior trio found themselves six minutes down on the winning group and in fourth place, cruelly denied a prize in a team that, due to the geriatrification of its senior members (some of who will attain the grand age of thirteen next year), will never again have the opportunity for a shot at glory in this class.

An analysis of the split times revealed the amount wasted by the first runner on a fruitless search for a non-existent control was indeed six minutes. Some years ago, before the advent of electronic results, there would have been no alternative but to resort to a Gallic shrug of the shoulders, but the solution now seemed a simple one: eliminate from the overall time, the legs either side of the offending control.

Well, you'd've thought it a simple and obvious solution but apparently not to the organisers of the year's premier relay competition. A rejection of the complaint by those organisers led to an Appeal. The Appeal Committee's dithering meant that the prize giving was over before their refusal to tamper with the results filtered back, this on the ground that there was no provision in the rules for removal of the individual legs within a competitor's overall time – despite this having been applied to elite courses only the day before. I cannot imagine the same result, had we been talking about the Men's Open Relay result.

I was surprised to find DVO the only club to register a protest but, as time has passed and lengthier opportunity has been afforded to analyse different teams' times, it seems that the missing control may have deprived the second-placed team, Swansea, the chance of a JK and British double. DVO is no longer a lone voice and we have not heard the last of this. It is probably too late to change the result of the British this year but at least steps can be taken to ensure that the horrible fiasco is not repeated in the future.

Sadly this was DVO's only chance to climb onto the podium of winners but this should not detract from the achievement of Messrs Duckworth, Bedwell and Jackson in securing a meritorious fifth place in the highly competitive M40 class.

For actual medal winners we have to look back a few weeks before, to the JK where Pauline Ward, Liz Godfree and Jen Gale took first spot in W165+. This too was not without its controversy because this feat required the disqualification of two faster

teams both for mispunching. At least this was one decision that we had no quarrel with.

And so a frenetic period of activity comes to an end. After CompassSport Cup, JK and British, I have tallied up what everyone owes and those on the E-Group will know what the damage is. If you haven't received the spreadsheet, please email or ring me and I'll let you know the final score. Cheque preferred to cash so I can keep track of who's given me what. I should not have to come chasing but will do if payment's not received by the second half of June. Thanks to those who have already obliged.

Next up is the Footpath Relay on Saturday, 30th June. I hope to have filled places by the end of the month of May, but if you feel that I've missed you out and you would like to take part, please let me know.

Graham Johnson, Club Captain

We must be able to do better than that?

It must be something to do with being Newstrack editor, but things haven't been going well for me recently. I had the perfect weekend in the Lake District planned – an early get away in time for some mountain biking in Grizedale Forest on Friday afternoon, an English Championship Fell Race around the Fairfield Horseshoe on Saturday and the Caw National Event on the Sunday.

The mountain biking went well – the trails around Grizedale are just right for my standard, with the purpose-built single-track sections testing but not too difficult for a relative new-comer. The fell race was OK, but didn't really feel like a championship race – the start was chaotic, there was no atmosphere around the run-in/finish and the officials' attitude when I suggested that wearing a dibber strapped to your wrist might be inconvenient was very disappointing. The basics were there though – a well marked and marshalled course around some superb terrain.

The National Event had all the makings of being a classic – I love open moorland events and had run well at Caw during the Lakeland 5 days in 1994. The map was drawn in 1991 and according to the final details was simply being reprinted for this event – there wasn't anything to change really – just contours and crags and the occasional marsh. Ah, the final details. This is where things started to go awry. I looked at the details on the website around the time that entries closed to make sure that my on-line entry had been received. I then returned to the website and printed off a copy on the Friday morning before setting off. Both times the course details clearly said that (in line with BOF guidelines) the M40L would be run on a 1:15000 scale map. This was OK as, in contrast to the British Champs, the area had been surveyed with a view to printing at 1:15000 – back in 1991 1:10000 maps were simply enlarged versions of the smaller scale.

Well the day dawned fine which was just as well, as the linear parking and long walk to the start would have been deeply unpopular in the heavy rain that had hit Ambleside the day before. In the pre-start I was annoyed that there were no 1:15000 maps on display, but there was no spare official to listen to my complaints. I picked up my map out of box 2, quickly searched for the elusive M40L on the descriptions (why can't we have loose descriptions at the start of a prestige event?

Why can't the descriptions list the classes running that course – I can't remember if I'm running course 2 or 5 or 9) then frantically looked for the start triangle. Ah, there it is, just above a large bowl re-entrant with a marsh in it. Strange, the first control appears to be back along the route we walked to the start. That can't be right... It wasn't – I'd picked up the map the wrong way around and was looking at the second half. I didn't recall seeing anything about the maps being double sided; we'd managed a full M21L on one map the last time I'd run here. Unsettled, I set off again on the new bearing, eventually hitting a wall about 200 m short of where the control should have been. Hmm, that's not right... It wasn't. Eventually it dawned on me that the map was 1:10000 but it took nearly 20 minutes to work all this out, relocate and find the first control. From then on it was rather a pointless exercise – on this kind of area a minute's error is difficult to recover – 15 minutes was impossible. At least I had plenty of time trudging up the excessive climbs to ponder some aspects of the modern O event – why do we expect young people to come to events when the walk from the car to the start is further than their courses, why can't we get the paperwork right, why don't we communicate that things have changed from what must have been only an early draft of the final details that appeared on the website? Can't we make the assembly area feel more like a big event (the enquiries tent was down before anyone would have tried to report missing friends, and a note in the details encouraging clubs to meet up around a clothing dump at assembly wouldn't have been difficult?)

In hindsight the O event which should have capped a perfect weekend for me was actually the weakest part of it. In a part of the country with many alternative attractions, I'll think twice before doing a big event in the Lakes again. I'll certainly need a lot of persuading to take the children to a Lakes event, as there is a consistent lack of young-children-friendly facilities. I know these things aren't necessarily easy, but limiting National events to those without young children is tough on the M/W35-40's. Surely if we all pitch in and help early enough we can make our National Event at Longshaw a more memorable event than this?

Dai Bedwell

Land's End to John O'Groats Charity Cycle Ride

At the end of July, Simon is cycling solo from Land's End to John O'Groats in order to raise money for Asthma UK. He is planning to complete the 950 mile journey (via home) over 10 days, with the selfless support of his loving wife (me) and Samuel as the back up crew.

We will have the arduous task of setting up camp each night and preparing the vast quantities of food which he will need to refuel. He may look skinny but he eats loads as it is! In the morning, when we have been abandoned by Simon, we will then have to break camp, visit lots of tourist attractions and drive to the next campsite.

As a reward for my devotion and dedication, I get to partake in 3 days of Orienteering at the Scottish 6 days on the return journey - strange reward, some might say. Surely there must be a beer festival on somewhere instead?

Anyway, down to the serious side. If any of you would like to show your support by sponsoring him, see/e-mail myself or Simon with a pledge or use the online facility at www.justgiving.com and search SIMON DAVIS.

Thanks for your support,
Rachel Davis



Derwent Valley Orienteers

District Orienteering Event and EMOA Galloppen Event

Kedleston Park

Saturday 16th June 2007

By car: The event will be signed from the A38 just north of its junction with the A52 on the outskirts of Derby. Car parking is at Kedleston Hall (SK312403)

Cost: **Seniors** £7 (reduced to £5 for National and East Midlands members of British Orienteering); **Juniors/Students** £1; **Family** £15 (reduced to £11 for National and East Midlands members of British Orienteering). Please show your membership card. On White, Yellow and Orange courses, family groups running together pay only one Senior entry fee.

The event will use SportIdent electronic punching. If you do not have a SportIdent card, you can hire one at Registration. Hire fee of 50p for Seniors, free for Juniors.

Registration open 10 - 12

Starts from 1030 - 1230. Starts times will not be allocated.

Courses: String, White, Yellow, Orange, Light Green, Green, Blue, Brown

Maps: 10:000, A4 size. Maps will be pre-marked but not be bagged.

Terrain: Open parkland with areas of woodland.

Dogs on a lead at all times.

Organiser: Michelle Mackervoy 01332 557892

Planner: John Armstrong

Controller: John Hurley