

# *Berkshire Orienteers*



## *Newsletter*

*November 2007*



Denise Harper at the launch of the Pope's Meadow permanent orienteering course in Bracknell.

## **Berkshire Orienteers Officials**

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Telephone 0118-947-1344 e-mail [reganne@talk21.com](mailto:reganne@talk21.com)

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**Fixtures Secretary** Liz Yeadon. Telephone 0118-9345412 e-mail: [liz.turbin@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:liz.turbin@tiscali.co.uk)

**Membership Secretary:** Alan Springett. 07712-672712 e-mail: [cat.spring@virgin.net](mailto:cat.spring@virgin.net)

### **Committee Members :**

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Telephone 0118 9433029 e-mail: [drumble55@hotmail.com](mailto:drumble55@hotmail.com)

## **BKO E-mail Group**

Please note there is a very useful BKO members e-mail group. To join the group you have to ask to subscribe to the group by e-mail to [bko-mailing-list@bko.org.uk](mailto:bko-mailing-list@bko.org.uk)

Any message to this one address goes automatically to all current members of that group. You can leave the group by sending a message to that address that you wish to unsubscribe.

If you have changed your e-mail address or if the Club does not have your e-mail address then please send details to either Alan Springett, Membership Secretary, or to Reg Parker, BKO Secretary.

## **Club Kit**

**Sue Wilkes** is responsible for the sale of Club Kit.

So if you need to UPDATE your club kit or need trousers without gaping holes in them then give Sue a ring and she'll sort you out. Why not purchase a new blue Club sweater?

**Sue Wilkes can be contacted on 01635-522-356 or why not try to contact Sue at events?**

## **Pope's Meadow POC Launch**

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September saw the launch of the latest Permanent Orienteering course in the Bracknell Forest district. The Council's ranger service has been working with Berkshire Orienteers to develop orienteering courses in schools and parks across their borough. Courses have now been provided at Lily Hill Park, Ambarrow Court and a total of 29 schools in Bracknell Forest with the intention of encouraging children and other members of the public to explore the borough's open spaces. Pope's Meadow in Binfield is the latest addition.

The project is a collaboration between Berkshire Orienteers, the council and with Canon who provided regular volunteers who wanted to help the community and the environment. Money has been provided by the Big Lottery Fund.

The permanent courses have been fully mapped and training has been provided to schools. It is hoped that once orienteering skills have been mastered at school, pupils and young people's groups will be able to extend their experience in the safe environment of the borough's parks – and hopefully beyond that through joining and participating with Berkshire Orienteers.

Borough Council Ranger Marie-Anne Phillips said: “The people who attended our launch really enjoyed trying the course, trying out some map reading and exploring Pope's Meadow. We hope the course will encourage more people to visit the sites and to try orienteering.

A copy of the map and guidance notes can be obtained by emailing:

[rangers@bracknell-forest.gov.uk](mailto:rangers@bracknell-forest.gov.uk)

### **Other Sources of Orienteering Information**

**BOF:** <http://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/>

**BKO:** <http://www.bko.org.uk>

**SCOA:** <http://www.scoa.me.uk>

**SCOA Junior Squad** <http://www.scjs.org.uk>

**General:** <http://www.nopesport.com>

**SEOA Answerphone** 020-8948-6056

**Midweek Answerphone** 01256- 883265

#### **Colour Code Standard badges**

If you have achieved the required standard on colour coded courses you may apply for a badge. For further details apply to Bryce Gibson, telephone 0118-947-2220

## Hallowe'en Happenings at Basildon Park



BKO member and National Trust Volunteer, Anne Parker, was kept very busy over half term as one of the organising team of half-term Halloween activities at Basildon Park, a NT property west of Reading which was used in the 2005 filming of 'Pride and Prejudice'.

In conjunction with BKO members, Anne arranged for the gardens and shrubbery adjoining the house to be re-mapped, and then devised a trail, based on the O map, which required the use of the map to find the 9 items lost in the grounds by the witch. Letters had to be collected and re-arranged to discover the name of the witch – and this proved the most challenging task. Have you ever heard of a witch called Dotty Dora?? That was Reg's contribution – though not the only one, I hasten to add.



Er, witch way do we go now?

The activities, which also included an indoor trail, making witches hats and masks, and demonstrations of pumpkin carving, were hugely popular with children, parents, and grandparents alike, and Anne was kept extremely busy for 5 days – only sneaking off for a few hours on Saturday to watch her beloved Reading playing at home.

We did manage to use the outdoor trail as an introduction to orienteering – in the few quieter moments - and distributed flyers for our beginner's Saturday series. It would be wonderful if we could use this event to further develop Orienteering for the public at Basildon Park – we'll have to see if Dotty Dora can wave her magic wand and make it happen....

Denise Harper

## Foot and Mouth Disease

The following comes from the Defra website:

*"Foot and mouth disease is an infectious disease affecting cloven-hoofed animals, in particular cattle, sheep, pigs, goats and deer. Since 3 August 2007 there have been 8 confirmed cases of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in Surrey and Windsor and Maidenhead.*

*Following extensive surveillance work, veterinary risk assessment and there having been no further cases of FMD discovered, Defra reduced the size of the FMD Restricted Zone from Sunday 21 October. The FMD Protection Zone has now become part of the FMD Surveillance Zone.*

*There is no need for people to stop visiting the countryside. At the present time, the only effect on rights of way and other public access is within the infected premises. The Protection Zones around the infected premises have now been lifted and all restrictions to rights of way and land with public access rights, apart from those on the infected premises, have been removed."*

Given the lack of new cases we should be able to anticipate the lifting of all restrictions in the not too distant future although given the furore over the latest cases and whether restrictions were lifted too soon after the Pirbright outbreak they are likely to be very cautious. Undoubtedly the decision of when to lift restrictions on Crown Land/Windsor Great Park (including Swinley East) where the deer were a concern will be steered by Defra.

Swapping the Saturday events on 10 Nov and 19 Jan seemed a sensible precaution and hopefully things will be back to normal well before the New Year.

## Travel & Trek

Many orienteers like the great outdoors and if you want to experience some wonderful adventure holidays in exotic places then visit the website of former Army Orienteer Terry Crosby: <http://www.travelandtrek.com/>

The latest Newsletter is ready to be viewed at: [http://www.travelandtrek.com/Monthly Newsletter.htm](http://www.travelandtrek.com/MonthlyNewsletter.htm)

Included this month:

- Nepal 2008 Dates On The Site (Incl Rhododendron Trek)
- Nepal Flight Watch
- Kevin Adams Summits Everest!
- New Trek....Upper Mustang for 2008
- Reminders for Pakistan (2007) and South Africa (2008)

## BKO events

Here are the latest details on the programme of **Saturday events**.

*Please note the changes made to the events on 10th November and 19th January - effectively they have been swapped because of the continuing Foot and Mouth Disease control measures.*

This series offers courses from White to Light Green. We use e-mit and publish results on the BKO web site. Anyone is welcome and if you know of any newcomers who might like to have a go these events are ideal.

If any of you very busy people can spare some time on a Saturday, or would like to have a go at planning you would be very welcome. Note that you **DO NOT** have to commit yourself to every event. I have an e-mail list and send a reminder before each event and you can let me know if you are able to help. Alternatively come and have a run and stay for a chat.

Whether or not you are able to help, why not put these dates and venues in your diary now?

<b>10 Nov:</b>	Dinton Pastures	SU 785718	<b>N.B. Revised location!</b>
<b>1 Dec:</b>	Langley Park	SU 013823	
<b>19 Jan:</b>	Swinley East	SU 901682	
<b>23 Feb:</b>	Benyons Enclosure	SU 632643	
<b>15 Mar:</b>	Bloom Wood (+TVOC?)	SU 861888	(Enter parking at SU 856891, down narrow lane, past the 3 Horseshoes pub)
<b>26 Apr:</b>	Rushall Wood	SU 576735	
<b>10 May:</b>	TBA		

All these events are organised by Reg and Anne Parker. Registration is from 10:00 with starts from 10:30 - 11:30am.

.....and don't forget:

**27th January: BKO Regional Event, Concorde Chase. Burghfield Common, near Mortimer.**

## **Orienteering at the Berkshire Youth Games 2008**

You may remember that in 2006, orienteering was invited as a demo sport to the Youth Games at Bradfield College. For various reasons, the 2007 Games as planned did not occur, but in 2008 the Games will be held on 2 sites on different days. Orienteering has been invited to be one of the major competitive sports at the Berkshire Festival of Sport on April 1<sup>st</sup> (yes, not joking!) at Bulmershe College, Woodley, near Reading.

This is a fantastic achievement as we are now up there with other major sports – football, rugby, cricket etc. and is a testament to all the development work which has been happening in recent years in Berkshire. The main consequence at present is that I am being contacted by Partnership Development Managers in most of the Unitary Authorities to arrange insets and training for teachers so that they feel competent to teach orienteering in schools. The aim will be to get the children up to standard to compete in the festivals which will be held in each authority in order to select the finalists for the actual Youth Games in April.

I have also been working on the template, rules and guidelines for the final, which had to be submitted to Berkshire Sport last week for distribution to the Unitary Authorities. I was given a great deal of help with this by Pauline Olivant from NOC, my RDO colleague in East Midlands, where orienteering has been a sport in the Nottingham Youth Games for many years. I have also received a lot of help and support from the new Senior Competition Manager in Berkshire, Tim Dancer, with whom I will be working closely on this project over the coming months. I have been allotted RDO project time to meet the extra demands this will require, with a view to making this sustainable by delivering training to enable school staff themselves to run most of this in future years. .

Next term I will be assisting each authority who requests it to stage their selection finals – we already have one arranged for Wokingham in February, and I'm sure I will be asked to be involved in others. If any-one would like to volunteer their help, that would be great, but especially for the final on April 1<sup>st</sup>, where we will use Emit timing, as we will need a lot of assistance from people who know what they are doing – i.e. YOU.

I am really hoping that the platform this will give BKO to be seen as a presence can be exploited to the full, by promoting our events to schools, and very importantly, as a build up to foster interest and encourage entries into the British Schools Championships which BKO will host in November 2008. It would be wonderful if we could have a number of new Berkshire Schools competing in that event and the Berkshire Youth Games is the perfect first step towards making that happen.

**PLEASE PUT APRIL 1<sup>st</sup> IN YOUR DIARIES NOW.**

Denise Harper

## **Hawley and Hornely District Event 14<sup>th</sup> October.**

This was my first try at organising an event, and almost everything seemed to go very well. This was thanks in large measure to the help and advice received from others, especially Liz and Alan Yeadon. I had read in some organiser's notes somewhere that, if everything is running smoothly, then the organiser is the one with not much to do, and this certainly seemed to be the case. Having a team of helpers who knew what needed to be done, and got on and did it, left me with plenty of time to stroll around and worry about what might be going wrong, without anything much actually doing so. So my secret hope that it would be such a disaster that no-one would ever ask me to organise anything ever again has been dashed!

The String course was one thing I almost forgot about, probably because like many experienced orienteers I'd never actually done one myself. Several names had been suggested for planning and running it, but all turned out to be unavailable for one reason or another. This meant that I was on site a week before the big day, planning it myself and drawing up a map. I did wonder whether I'd made it too long, or led the tinies through too many brambles. Reg and Ann Parker, who ran it on the day, assured me that the kids seemed to enjoy themselves.

There were apparently a number of comments that the signposting to the event was very good. This was partly down to Liz and Alan who supplied the signs and advice on where to set them out, and partly due to my wife who helped put them out. She also dashed up to the roundabout on the A30 near Blackbush when I was told that the grid reference on the BOF website was incorrect, and put some extra signs there. This error was due to the need to pass details to BOF before the courses, and the route in, had been finalised.

The only real drama came later on, when the parents of a 14 year-old girl reported that she had not returned from the Green course after more than 2 hours. As time went on we became more and more concerned, especially after everyone else had finished and the course closing time had passed with still no sign of her. Search parties were organised, but failed to find her, and eventually I called the police to report her missing. Fortunately, at least 4 hours after starting and about 5 minutes after two policeman had arrived, she strolled back in through the start area, quite unaware that anyone had been looking for her! All's well that ends well, but this has highlighted the need for a more formal procedure for dealing with overdue runners, even if it doesn't happen very often.

Once again, many thanks to all those who helped, especially those who stayed late in order to help search for our missing runner.

Ken Ricketts  
Organiser

## **Junior Squad News**

The SCOA Juniors planned and organised an Army event of Wednesday, 24th October 2007 at Star Posts. We had well over 300 entries and made a tidy sum in support of the squad's coffers! Well done to all those who helped, and particularly the planners [Simon and Alex Moore] and the controller [Tim Booth]. Thanks also to everyone who came along and took part.

Peter Bray [SN] has been selected for the START squad - the world class development squad run by British Orienteering. Peter follows in a long line of juniors from the SCOA junior squad who have progressed into the START squad and on to the British junior and senior squads. Congratulations to Peter!

The South Central Junior Squad will be holding Saturday training days as follows:

- | Saturday, 3rd November 2007 - Anderwood, New Forest and overnight stay [Dan Straka and Matt Whipple, planners]
- | 23rd to 25th November 2007 - Lakeside weekend for 15 and 16 year-olds in the Lake District [coach: Dave Rogers]
- | Saturday, 1st December 2007 - New Forest area [coach: Colin Hicks with Dave Rogers]
- |

We welcome all SCOA juniors of about Orange standard and above and aged 10 or so to 18 years to join us at the Saturday training days. We meet at 1015 hrs and finish about 1500 hrs. You need to bring your lunch, a drink, £1 to cover map and access costs, and your orienteering kit.

If you want to know more or will be coming along, please contact Dave Rogers, SCJS Squad Manager:

Tel: 01344 628 623;

Mobile: 07799 075 236;

E-mail: [rogersda@pbworld.com](mailto:rogersda@pbworld.com)

You can also visit the squad's website at [www.scjs.org.uk](http://www.scjs.org.uk)

## **Some Fixtures November 2007 onwards**

N.B. Check the event has not been cancelled by looking at the appropriate website before leaving home!

### **NOVEMBER**

**10 NOV: SARUM Night Regional Event and Southern Night Championships. Sidbury Hill Tidworth SU230502**

Heather Haskins, 01980 600897 [hd.haskins@ntlworld.com](mailto:hd.haskins@ntlworld.com) [www.sarum.org.uk](http://www.sarum.org.uk)

**10 NOV: OUOC Oxford City Race 2007. University Parks, Oxford SP515072**

Scott Collier, 07791 564449 [organiser@cityrace.org.uk](mailto:organiser@cityrace.org.uk) [www.cityrace.org.uk](http://www.cityrace.org.uk)

**11 NOV: NWO Regional Event & Southern Championships. West Woods, Marlborough. SU 166667**

Ken Stimson 01793 535759 [ken@stimsonk.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:ken@stimsonk.fsnet.co.uk) [www.northwilts.org.uk](http://www.northwilts.org.uk)

**11 NOV: HH District Event. Northaw Great Wood, Cuffley. TL300038**

Bob Kay, 01727 853316 [robert.kay@btopenworld.com](mailto:robert.kay@btopenworld.com) [www.happyherts.org.uk](http://www.happyherts.org.uk)

**18 NOV: SARUM British Schools Championships. Cranes Moor, Bovington, Wareham. SY828887**

Chris Branford, 01258 453716 [chris@branford.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:chris@branford.eclipse.co.uk) [bsc07@owls-count.net](mailto:bsc07@owls-count.net)  
[www.bsoa.org](http://www.bsoa.org)

**18 NOV: CHIG "Mitre" Regional Event and SE League. Epping NW, Epping. TL418007**

John Duffield 020 8281 0676 [john.duffield@ntlworld.com](mailto:john.duffield@ntlworld.com) [www.chig.org.uk](http://www.chig.org.uk)

**18 NOV: WAOC District Event. Maulden Wood, Bedford. TL074392**

Bruce Marshall, 01223 246280 [bmarschall@theit.org](mailto:bmarschall@theit.org) [www.waoc.org.uk](http://www.waoc.org.uk)

**25 NOV: SLOW OK Nuts Trophy and Regional Event. Devil's Punchbowl,**

**Hindhead. SU879370**

Dick Clark 01737 379894 or 07956 668728 [dick.clark@maxima.co.uk](mailto:dick.clark@maxima.co.uk)  
[www.sloweb.org.uk](http://www.sloweb.org.uk)

**DECEMBER**

**1 DEC: MV Night Event and SENiLe - SE Night League Event. White Downs, Dorking. TQ114494**

Neil Lewer, 01737 769453 [neil.lewer@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:neil.lewer@hotmail.co.uk) [wwwmvoc.org](http://wwwmvoc.org)

**2 DEC: MV District Event. SE Vets Championship and Families Competition. White Downs, Dorking. TQ120495**

Neil Lewer, 01737 769453 [neil.lewer@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:neil.lewer@hotmail.co.uk) [wwwmvoc.org](http://wwwmvoc.org)

**2 DEC: SOC District Event & SCOA League Event. Burley North, New Forest. SU240092**

Tim & Jill Holt, 023 8081 4003. [tim.holt2@virgin.net](mailto:tim.holt2@virgin.net) [www.southampton-orienteers.org.uk](http://www.southampton-orienteers.org.uk)

**16 DEC: TVOC District Event and SCOA League Event. Wendover Woods, Wendover. SP882100**

Ali Kempson, 01235 767144 [ali@broadmarsh.f9.co.uk](mailto:ali@broadmarsh.f9.co.uk) [www.tvoc.org.uk](http://www.tvoc.org.uk)

**30 DEC: SN Regional Event & SN Trophy. Ash Ranges, Aldershot. SU 896527**

Paul Wallace-Stock, 01252 519355; [Paul@wallace-stock.datanet.co.uk](mailto:Paul@wallace-stock.datanet.co.uk).  
[www.southern navigators.com](http://www.southern navigators.com)

**JANUARY**

**6 JAN: MV Regional Event. Sheeplease & Effingham Woods, Dorking. TQ088517**

Neil Lewer, 01737 769453 [neil.lewer@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:neil.lewer@hotmail.co.uk) [wwwmvoc.org](http://wwwmvoc.org)

**13 JAN: Compass Sport Cup and Trophy. Yateley Details TBA**