

Club Newsletter

March 2011



We're off. The first moments of the first event of the year, the BKO New Years Day score event at Whiteknights campus, Reading University. There is a report for this event including more photos inside.

Another year begins



Keith Ellis

I always think that I will have too few articles to fill the newsletter but every time, BKO members come up trumps with some interesting features. This month we have Alan Jones giving us his early orienteering experiences and Nigel Hoult has risen to the challenge of giving us his memories of an orienteering year.

Organising and planning events is a crucial activity that makes our sport possible. Andrew Graham includes a plea for help with forthcoming events, do offer to help if you can. We also have a report on the AGM including the full transcript from Katy's chair report for the year. Plus there are reviews of our first events of 2011, fixtures to look forward to and the latest ranking list so plenty to read in this edition.

Until next time, enjoy your orienteering.

Keith

New Years Day

One hundred and thirty competitors took part in Berkshire Orienteers' New Year's Day orienteering event held at the Reading University Whiteknights campus. As is traditional on New Year's Day, a score event was held with planning by Andrew Graham.

A clever method of planning made the best use of the limited area with two events being held simultaneously and competitors switching between the events when they had judged that they had collected the optimum number of controls on the first event.

The University campus provided an excellent setting for the event and a change from the more traditional kind of orienteering held in woods and heathland. The campus provided some tricky navigating around the buildings and running on tarmac, parkland and through woods.

The event was won by Charles Bromley Gardner of the British Army Orienteering Club, with Craig Blackford (Basingstoke & Andover Orienteers) second and Ben Adams (British Army Orienteering Club) third. Alan Phillips was the highest placed of the Berkshire Orienteers runners, finishing in 15th place, just ahead of Dan Straka who finished 17th.

As with any of the events held by Berkshire Orienteers, new orienteers are always welcome and so it was encouraging to see 18 independent competitors participating (presumably new to the sport) plus some local school students.



Ian Cooper punching at one of the controls at Whiteknights campus



They're off – the start of the event

CompassSport Cup

This year the event was outside of the SCOA Region with a longer drive to the event than normal. Consequently the number of BKO competitors was lower than usual but thirteen valiant competitors made their way to Longleat for the competition.

As the results below show, BKO came last but there were some impressive performances with Ian Cooper and Simon Turton both scoring 93 points in the Blue and Brown courses respectively. A special mention should also go to Alan Jones who only started orienteering this season but tackled the brown course and scored 79 points. "I have usually been doing the light green course" explained Alan. Well done to all the competitors who travelled to Longleat to represent BKO.

1	BOK	2404
2	SOC	2220
3	DEVON	2083
4	WIM	2066
5	BKO	933

Name	Class	Time	Course	Points
1 Ian Cooper	M65	00:52:14	Blue	93
2 Simon Turton	M45	01:11:12	Brown	93
3 Tim Chesher	M45	01:31:29	Brown	84
4 Richard Rae	M65	00:42:51	Green	84
5 Alan Jones	M40	01:55:24	Brown	79
6 Kezia Jukes	W21	01:20:18	Blue	78
7 Kenneth Ricketts	M55	01:03:55	Blue	71
8 David Jukes	M55	01:04:25	Blue	68
9 Derick Mercer	M45	01:07:37	Blue	64
10 Catherine Springett	W50	01:00:02	Green	62
11 Andrew Graham	M55	01:11:00	Blue	59
12 Alan Springett	M60	00:50:52	Green	56
13 Ian Hudson	M60	00:54:35	Green	42

Top scorers Ian Cooper and Simon Turton:



Concorde Chase at Barossa

Around 500 competitors took part in this year's Concorde Chase on a freezing cold day at Barossa. It was good to see the high level of interest with the event held on a Saturday this year due to the availability of the venue.

Katy Stubbs organised the event and Martin Wilson was the planner so many thanks to them for stepping up to arrange our premier event of the year.

Katy's comments posted on the BKO website after the event were as follows:

“Apart from issues around the control that went missing before the start of the event, from an organiser's viewpoint I think it went well on the day. We had significant challenges in the months leading up to the event, with land permission being refused for the original date of Sunday, then refusal to grant the entire area so we couldn't use the range danger area and then finally parking on the land being blocked.

The event was saved by negotiations by BAOC to allow us access to hard standing parking and the willingness of BAOC members to man the gates to satisfy the security requirement. So again I would like to thank everyone who helped on that front as well as all the BKO members who turned up on the day (including two with arms in plaster).

Also thanks to all the competitors.”

And Martin commented as follows:

“Barossa is less wooded than it used to be, and without access to the fenced ranges area to the west now has more open terrain than forest. However, the blocks in the SW of the map have matured over the past years, and now provide some fun intricate sections to catch the unwary. I hope the final kilometre of your courses kept you all thinking right to the finish. I felt that the open terrain for the longer courses worked best when used to provide route choice between forest blocks, so I only used a small number of controls in the open parts east of the long marsh. The 1.5k leg 12-13 on Black had a myriad of route options - I never did manage to work out which one was best! For all courses, Roger Maher's newly revised map opened up interesting new corners and control sites.

The junior courses were planned well up to the appropriate technical difficulty. Orange and Yellow courses were no giveaway, and even White managed seven changes of direction and a marked forested route in just 1.7k.

The disappearance of control 186 was a mystery, and very unfortunate. It had been checked on Friday, in a small dry ditch some distance from any track, in a quiet section of the forest. Our apologies for any inconvenience caused. The bracken everywhere had been flattened down significantly during the cold weather, and controls had to be hung low in many areas.

Competitors seem to have enjoyed their run in this beautiful area, and from the early Routegadget views it is clear that there was plenty of route choice, with more than a

few mistakes made in the more technical sections. I hope the combination of all these factors plus the dry weather made for a great day out for you all.

My thanks go to Neville for his extensive help in reaching the final agreed courses.”

Sandhurst made an interesting venue for the parking and registration, especially watching the residents hard at their morning exercise in the freezing cold at 8 o'clock in the morning.

With regards to the results, BKO had a few notable performances with the car parking duo of Ian Cooper and Peter Bennett finishing second on their respective courses, light blue and green. Charlie Betts topped the orange course finishers with a good win and Angela Hargreaves, Francesca Rogers + 1 finished first on the white course.

Thanks go to everyone who helped to make the event a success.

May event – Rushall Woods

Our next SCOA league event will be held at Rushall Woods on 8th May. An event organiser and planner are required. Anyone interested should contact Andrew Graham, Fixtures Secretary.

Summer Series

Following the success of the Aumer Parks Challenge last year, a further series is to be run in 2011.

The series of events will comprise:

- 21 May – Whiteknights
- 11 June – Bracknell (South Hill Park?)
- 25 June – Woodley (Ashenbury/Airfield Estate)
- 9 July – Bracknell (2)
- 23 July – Lower Earley

It was proposed and agreed that each event would normally provide 4 courses: Short Junior, Long Junior, Medium, Long. The Junior courses would be designed to provide safe courses complying with BOF guidance. Medium and Long courses would be for over 16s only and would potentially include road crossings. It was noted that Glen and Di Wass had not been offering to attend these events as ‘on the day’ organisers and that this role would need to be filled.

Help needed with upcoming BKO Events

Andrew Graham

We have a pretty busy programme of events coming up over the next few months and need volunteers for planning and organising.

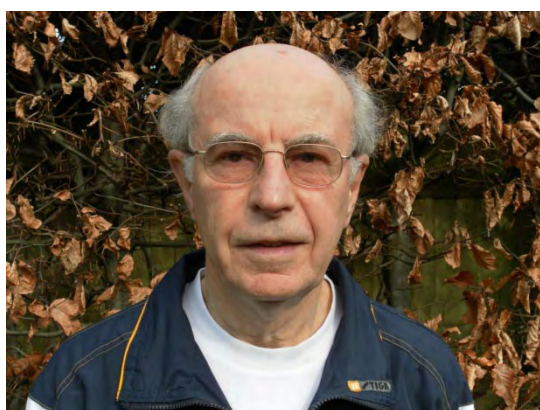
The first and most urgent priority is for a planner for the Saturday morning event at Langley Park north of Slough on 16 April. We have a newly updated map from TVOC and permission agreed with the park managers but if we cannot find a planner very soon we will have to cancel.

The list of other events is below. Please get in touch with me on drumble55@hotmail.com if you are willing to plan any of these events on these dates and/or help in their organisation.

Weds	04/05/2011	Summer Evening runs	Star Posts
Sunday	08/05/2011	Colour Coded	Rushall Woods
Weds	11/05/2011	Summer Evening runs	Birch Hill, Bracknell
Weds	18/05/2011	Summer Evening runs	LilyHill Park
Sat	21/05/2011	Summer Parks Challenge	Whiteknights Campus, Reading
Weds	01/06/2011	Summer Evening runs	Swinley East/West
Weds	08/06/2011	Summer Evening runs	Bloom Wood
Sat	11/06/2011	Summer Parks Challenge	Southill Park
Weds	15/06/2011	Summer Evening runs	Ashley Wood, Knowl Hill
Weds	22/06/2011	Summer Evening runs	Dinton Pastures/BBQ
Sat	25/06/2011	Summer Parks Challenge	Ashenbury Park/Woodley Estate
Weds	29/06/2011	Summer Evening runs	Swinley East/West
Sat	09/07/2011	Summer Parks Challenge	Bracknell (location TBC)
Sat	23/07/2011	Summer Parks Challenge	Lower Earley, Laurel Way

Know your club members

Peter Bennett



Age: 70.

Clubs: Just the one, BKO. Although when I joined in 1977 it was called Reading OC.

Hometown: Wokingham since 1968 when Gill and I married. Previously lived in several of the southern counties and London.

Achievements: Organised quite a few Concorde Chases and club events. Co-organised the 1989 British Champs with Bryce Gibson at Star Posts. In those days it

was a pretty big event, 2000 to 3000 competitors, sponsors, hospitality marquee, TV coverage, etc and we had a team of over 200 helping!
Won the British Night Champs on a number occasions (in age class) – first time in 1979 as an M35.

Almost won a JK relay (M35 I think) with John Hague, Dick Agar and myself. We had just finished celebrating our victory when there was an announcement that an official complaint had been lodged. Apparently one of the second placed team had approached a control from the ‘wrong’ direction and the control code was not displayed clearly enough on that side – something about the correct code had been stuck over an old code, and a bit of the old code was visible. A pretty lame complaint we thought! But surprisingly it was upheld and the course declared void. From that time I have never been a fan of ‘official complaints’. If upheld, they tend to cause more problems than they solve, with courses voided, so everyone suffers because one or two were disadvantaged, not to mention the disappointment and extra work for the officials.

When did I start orienteering? My first event was a TVOC event on Goring Heath just before Christmas 1976. Earlier that year I watched Chris Brasher’s TV documentary of the 1976 World champs at Aviemore and was hooked!

Other interests: Keen table-tennis player, playing in two local leagues and the county vets team. I also play indoor and outdoor bowls – quite a contrast to my other pursuits!

Employment: Part-time self-employed, running a ‘passive income’ business on the internet. More of a club than real work! Prior to that, I was a design and development engineer with Ferranti in Bracknell until they folded and then a Project Manager with the Civil Aviation Authority in London. I learned a lot about orienteering during my Ferranti days from work colleagues and ‘old-hands’ like David Thomas (SN) and BKO’s Mike Pemberton.

What training do you do: Apart from gym sessions, I try to get a run in twice a week – mainly steady 4 mile terrain runs. One of these is often a local army event; there’s one most Wednesdays. I must say that BAOB put on a great series of events and excellent value at £2.50!

My training should include more work with the map, because most of my errors these days are due to not looking at the map often enough – of course this may well be due to the fact that at 70, I almost have to come to a dead stop to get the map in focus!

What is the best thing about orienteering: For me it’s the competitive aspect, pitting my wits against the planner, the mapper and the other competitors. Besides this, Gill and I have always loved maps and solving puzzles, so orienteering is an ideal sport for both of us.

What is the worst thing about orienteering: Blowing it big time when you are having a great run.

Most memorable run: Probably my first British Night Champs victory at Old Windmill Hill in 1979. I was a virtual unknown in quite a big entry for Night-O ,

with Terry Harper and Dudley Budden the favourites for the M35 trophy. I had prepared well with plenty of night training and map studying. And to aid fluency through the controls, I had even memorised the control descriptions, which in those days were posted out to competitors a few days before the race.

I started off far too quickly and lost my footing on a steep bank, ending up on my back in a five foot deep bramble patch. Painfully extracting myself, which seemed to take an age, I decided to calm down and take a much more cautious route wherever possible – thankfully this strategy paid dividends as the rest of my run was error free and the opposition hit quite a few problems on their straighter routes. I can still remember most of the detail of the course after 32 years, but not the control descriptions!

Biggest Goof: After 35 years of orienteering I've probably covered most possibilities! The most recent was the first day of last year's 5-day event in the Lake District. It was a really long trek to the start with several hundred metres of climb on a hot day – it took me about 40 minutes, but just before I got to the clear station I realized my dibber was still in the car! A good hour's round-trip to retrieve it! Needless to say, I didn't have a good run that day! Mind you I was relating this story to another competitor on my second trip to the start, and he had done exactly the same thing in a Scottish 6-day. But when he got back to the car to retrieve his dibber, his wife had taken the dog for a walk and taken the only car keys with her, and he had spent half an hour trying to find her!

Orienteering ambition: I have not done much foreign orienteering, unless you count Scotland and Wales as foreign; just a couple of French 6-day events. So sometime I would like to do a World Masters. If not, I just discovered that there's now a [UK Masters Cup](#) each year for each of the older age classes, based on one's 8 best results in championship/national type events, so maybe I'll make do with aiming for a top three in that – perhaps my first year in M75!

What have you done that others might not have/Claim to fame: I try to avoid responding to questions like that. I was once asked a similar question on a Company management training course, and not being able to think of anything else, I mentioned my recent victory in the British night orienteering champs. Unfortunately, my 'reward' for this information was to give the course members an off-the-cuff 15 minute talk on the 'Joys of orienteering'. Not only that, but if any member of the audience got bored or couldn't hear, or I had not given them at least 20 seconds of eye-contact during the talk, they had to instantly put up their hand until I had corrected the fault! Needless to say, my so-called friends, had their hands up immediately, and most of the class followed suit!

Musings of a beginner

Alan Jones

As a beginner to orienteering (age approaching mid-forties) I have been asked to write about my experiences so far.

I started running whilst at school and ran competitively until I was about 22, then ran on and off and now I run once or twice a week with a local jogging club. It was during an inactive period that I saw a programme on tv about night orienteering which

looked fun so I googled orienteering and was surprised to see it existed as a sport and that there were clubs everywhere.

I found a club that was reasonably local to me (NWO) (I live in Thatcham) and tried my first event in May 2010 at Fyfield Down at Orange level. The event was going ok until I got to a later control and I wrongly assumed the control I could see in the distance was the next one I needed, I hadn't realised that there was a corresponding number on the control and on the map guide and consequently from being in the wrong place I headed unaware into an out of bounds area searching fruitlessly for my next control but I did enjoy the experience and not getting shot by the gamekeeper was a bonus.

NWO suggested I may like to join BKO as was more suitable to my location (hope that was the reason anyway!).

My experiences of BKO having joined in September 2010 are good, having found several members of the club to be approachable and helpful including; Alan Springett, Katy Stubbs, Ken Ricketts, Keith Ellis & David Jukes. There is a good website and a great newsletter.

I have done fourteen events now (there always seems to be an event somewhere!) and they have all been Light Green (apart from the initial Orange and the latter two were brown (although I finished these almost last was pleased not to DNF)).

Now for the amusing bits!;

- ran out of bounds at Fyfield Down as above (not allowed of course)

- ran opposite direction from a control point at a Reading Uni Saturday Parks Challenge to the way I was supposed to be heading (apparently a compass has a South as well as a North!)

- At this year's new year day event I was almost last away as forgot to orientate my map and nothing made sense

- Used a marsh to navigate at Lucas Castle and was in up to my knees and sinking fast!

Apart from the basics above I need to learn the terrain colours on the map, the features and control point descriptions and the scale of the map to how far I run on the ground (counting steps I am told). Also navigating ahead as I always seem to be the person stood by a control looking at the map when others caome along and are straight off again without stopping!

I am pleased how friendly a lot of orienteers are whistle appreciating it is a competitive sport, I have been shown several times by fellow orienteers where I am on the map whilst being hopelessly lost, and in return I endeavour to assist others looking lost (pay it forward!)

That's my musings over and I look forward to improving my map and compass skills (and to reduce the number of times I seem to go over on my ankles whilst trying to navigate) and hope to represent BKO in many future events (unless I get pointed in

the direction of another club again!) but most of all enjoy this new form of running that I have happened upon.

One last thing to any fellow novices, I have found that using route gadget after an event very useful as a learning tool by using the pause option when looking at a better orienteer's route choice by looking at which route I would take and then seeing which route they took to each control.

It's always good to welcome new members to the club and great to see Alan enthusiastically venturing into the sport. Many thanks for your contribution to the newsletter. Does anyone else have any orienteering experiences to share in our next edition? Ed.

School report

In the last edition of our newsletter we reported the victory in the British Schools Championships for Ascot Heath School. We have since received two reports from the students themselves so have published them here so that you can see the excitement that the early orienteering experience has brought to the school team.

Victory for Ascot Heath

The British Orienteering Championships were on Sunday 21st November. Lots of schools took part in this event, including schools from Scotland. There were some very good map readers and runners of all ages. Everyone did very well and a big thanks to everyone who ran the event, the marshals, the teachers who arranged transport and everyone who took part.

Halstead St. Andrews Primary were the 3rd best school in the country. They came 3rd in the whole school competition. In second place was King Henry VIII prep school, but in first place was Ascot Heath Junior School. I couldn't believe my ears when my school was called out, it was amazing I had a tremendous feeling inside me. I was over the moon.

Well done to all of my team mates and everyone who took part. Hooray for Ascot Heath!



Ascot Heath strikes gold!

On the 21st November 2010 a team from Ascot Heath Junior School went to Hatfield to compete in the British National schools orienteering championship.

It began with an early start with everyone meeting at school at 8 O'clock to travel together. When we got there Mr Parsons (our school coach) rounded us up to walk over to the start which took about 10 minutes. Once we got to the end we set up base with the Berkshire orienteering flag flying high. Mr Parsons gave us a pep talk and he also handed us our numbers. We were all feeling nervous and excited at the same time.

The first start time was 10 o'clock. Most of us left at around 10:23. Mr parsons went down to the finish and at the start Miss Evans and Denise (orienteering coach) helped everyone get on their way on time. When our time was called we got given a map and a compass.

The team had great success and it was a race full of drama and excitement! A few of the team got a bit lost and had to retrace steps to find the correct numbers in order. It was a very good feeling to get over the finish line. Overall Ascot Heath Junior school won!! Roman Francis a year 5 boy came third in the whole event and had an amazing fast run. The Year 5 girls came 2nd in the year 5 part and so did the boys.

Then at the very end of a long day we found out that Ascot Heath were the best primary school at orienteering.

It was a good day and I am proud I was able to take part.

Orienteering 24 years Ago

Nigel Hoult

I thought I'd take up Keith's challenge, and give you my recollections of an orienteering year – 1987, the year I started orienteering for real (although I'd attended a couple of Saturday training events the year before). I joined Reading OC – the predecessor of BKO – in that year as a local member, becoming a member of BOF the year after. My first event was the Concorde Chase in February, which was held at Bucklebury. I ran the Red course in about 86 minutes, but I never got a copy of the results, so I don't know if I came last. If anyone's still got one, please let me know! After that I started running Green, and despite running off the map at the next event (Sluffers and Holly Hatch in the New Forest) my navigation slowly got better.

It's amazing how little changed between 1987 and 2000. The punch cards in 1987 were cardboard, and tended to disintegrate in the rain unless you put them in a bag or covered them in sticky-back plastic; waterproof Tyvec ones came later. We sometimes had control codes that were letters rather than numbers, and written rather

than symbolic control descriptions were the norm for all courses at colour-coded (District) events. You didn't get overprinted maps except at badge (Regional) events (and not always then), so carrying a pen to mark up your course and a plastic bag to cover the map was essential. One thing that has changed is the membership structure. At that time, local members paid nothing to BOF but I believe they could only compete at colour-coded events; non-members didn't pay a surcharge but were only allowed to run at three events, although I don't think this was ever enforced.

Mapping was probably the biggest change: in those days, the survey was usually by club members but the printing was invariably professional, whereas nowadays most surveying is done professionally, while clubs will often laser print their own maps for smaller events. Interestingly, the map for the Bucklebury event I mentioned was surveyed by (amongst others) Daryl Cruickshank – still an active BKO member.

Unfortunately, I didn't keep any ROC newsletters from 1987, but I have one from 1988, and many of the Committee of that time will be familiar to present day BKO members. Don Cload was Chairman, while his wife Sue (see the January newsletter) looked after the club kit. Bryce Gibson handled the colour coded badges, as he continued to do for many more years. Katy Stubbs was Membership Secretary, but had just been elected to the BOF Technical Committee and was looking to stand down, while Dave Stubbs and Phil Brown were launching fitness training at the Castle Hill centre in Maidenhead on Winter Wednesday evenings (I don't think this lasted long as not many came).

Club AGM

An enjoyable evening was had by two dozen BKO members who attended our AGM on 12th February. Katy Stubbs began the evening with the Chair's report for the year, included in this article. This was followed by Peter Entwistle giving his financial report. The accounts are in good shape but Peter explained that we will need to increase event fees in the next year to cover increased land charges and ensure that we make a profit at events to fund mapping, replacement of EMIT equipment and other club expenses.

All committee members volunteered to continue if re-elected which they were so your committee remains the same as for last year.

While the recipients could not be present, the two annual awards were made;. Firstly Derek Harding award was presented to Anne and Reg Parker in recognition of their efforts running the Saturday events until Di and Glenn Wass took over the reins. Secondly, Jim's Jug was awarded to James Palmer as the most improved junior having moved from the yellow course to green course in just one year.

The formal part of the meeting was followed by Tim Booth giving a tribute to Dave Stubbs, former club chairman who sadly died last year at the JK Sprint championship. This was then followed by an enjoyable dinner including a tricky quiz in which the venue for major championships had to be identified from small pieces of maps. A control description quiz was also held for younger members.

Here is Katy's report for the year:

Events

BKO have had a busy year putting on more events than ever during the last 12 months.

The three larger events weren't without their challenges.

At our May event, held on Hawley and Hornley, the organiser (Peter Entwistle) arrived on the morning to find that the toilets had been burnt down overnight. The rest of the event went well however with around 260 runners enjoying the courses planned by Dick Rae.

In October, the event in Swinley West was very popular, organised by Ken Rickets and planned by Neil Frankum. Beautiful weather and lack of other events locally meant we had a record turnout of 420. Maps had to be recycled and competitors were very understanding, but we were complimented on a very competitor friendly event (although the queue for the loo did get very long at times). However we did make a loss at this event, mainly due to the comparatively high numbers of runners that we had to pay the higher rate of levy on and Crown Estate charges. I will refer to this later on.

The year's Concorde Chase probably presented the greatest challenge. Issues around land permission meant that the original date of Sunday 30th January was refused. The committee considered many different options from moving the date, which would mean we would have to come forward to 2nd January; moving the location, which would mean replanning all the courses and some remapping or changing to the Saturday. In the end moving to the Saturday was the least worse option. This turned out to be not without its' own problems as we were still not able to use the entire area and then finally we were refused permission to park out on the land.

Many thanks from myself, as organiser, to Colin Dickson and BAOC for arranging the parking and providing the security at the gates, and to the planner, Martin Wilson, for being able to replan the courses, twice!

Feedback on the day was that the courses were well received, although we did have a control stolen before the race started, which caused some problems, as well as a lot of post-race calculations to prove that taking split times out does not always give the expected result.

Numbers were certainly lower than previous years with only 487 runners on the day. However looking at other local events, our pre-entries (456) were very similar to Ashridge the previous weekend (467), and significantly higher than the Wimborne event last weekend (263). Provisional figures show that the profit from the event will not cover the full amount of the new map of the area (a cost we shared with BAOC).

On a much more positive note our smaller events are continuing to prove very popular.

We have had 8 of our informal Saturday events since the last AGM.

Reg and Anne Parker gracefully (or perhaps gratefully) retired from organising these events in May at the end of the 2009/2010 season. They have been organising them

with the assistance of the rest of the Saturday crew since they started in 2003. The club owes a big vote of thanks to both Anne and Reg and the committee has decided to award the Derek Harding award to them for their hard work over so many years. Unfortunately they are not able to be at the AGM so I will pass the trophy over to them at some convenient time.

Di and Glenn Wass have taken over the mantle for this year and we thank them for their commitment (which is not inconsiderable). Thanks also to the various planners (Andrew Graham, Ken Ricketts, Eric Harper, Andrew Southwood, Denise Harper and Katy Stubbs)

We also started a series of 4 Summer Saturday Park/Urban races, kicking off with a very popular event at the University of Reading (Whiteknights). The new map was produced by David Jukes, whose contacts at the university made the events possible (Eric had been trying to get access over the last couple of years but without success). This was followed by events on new maps of Wokingham, based on Cantley Park and West Norreys (produced by Ken Ricketts) and Woodley Airfield, based on Ashenbury Park (produced by David Jukes). Ken and David also planned their respective events. The fourth event was a Dinton Pastures event by Liz and Alan Yeadon, re-scheduled from January 2010. We got between 137 and 37 runners at these 4 races, some of whom were aiming to complete the entire series. These events were also ably supported by Glenn and Di Wass who ran the computing side. Glenn and Di have decided that 8 events a year is more than enough and will not take on these events for the next season, starting in May, so we need people to look after the organising/download at these informal events.

For 2011 we plan on a series of 5 Summer Park/Urban Races, using Whiteknights and Ashenbury again, but adding 2 or 3 more new maps including Lower Earley and Bracknell.

The new map of Whiteknights was also used for an informal event before the British Orienteering Roadshow in October where a select group of 22 enjoyed a sprint around the campus as well as our New Year's Day Score event which attracted 130 competitors. Both events were planned by David Jukes, and organised by Denise and Eric Harper and Andrew Graham respectively.

We continued the summer Wednesday evening events, Eric Harper ran the computing side and planners included Eric and Denise Harper, Katy Stubbs, Andrew Southwood, Alan Phillips, Neil Frankum, Andrew Graham and Ken Ricketts. These proved to be increasing successful as they were advertised as events, with an average of 42 attendees.

One recurring theme over this last year has been the ever increasing load taken on by a limited number of people. You will recognise the same names appearing again and again as organisers and planners. It is important for the health of the club that more club members take on these roles even if only on an occasional basis. We have lots of experience in the club and many people offered to help in reply to the recent questionnaire but we need these people to come forward. Please think about what you may be able to do and help us all out.

Youth Competition

We have also started a Youth League this year based on the Saturday events. This is open to any junior who can compete as an individual and also count points for their school / other youth organisation (such as scouts). Ken Ricketts is administering this and we have had 5 events to date. Hopefully this will act as an incentive for juniors to attend events regularly.

Schools and Community Work

The Berkshire Primary Schools competition has continued both last year and is currently ongoing for 2011. This is mainly due to the contacts that Denise Harper, our Regional Development Officer has within Berkshire, but also due to the support of a number of BKO members who are willing to turn up and help at these midweek events. As I am sure you know, the posts of Regional Development Officer have been made redundant by British Orienteering, the good news for BKO is that Denise is able to dedicate her remaining time as RDO until the end of March to the Berkshire Schools competition, which is seen by British Orienteering as an excellent example of club/school/local authority co-ordination.

One very significant outcome of the work with schools was the participation of Ascot Heath School in the Primary Schools section at the British Schools Championships last November. They joined our regular representative, St Andrews School, who compete in the Middle/Preparatory section. Ascot Heath and St Andrews both won medals in the individual or age class team competitions, but the surprise was in the whole school competition, where St Andrews came third, but Ascot Heath won the Primary School Trophy. Congratulations to both of them.

Looking at the improvement of juniors throughout the year, runners from St Andrews stand out as the most improved and the committee have decided to award Jim's Jug for the most improved performance to James Palmer of St Andrews who has moved up from Yellow courses at the beginning of last year to completing Green at the recent Concorde Chase, a very impressive jump. Again, James wasn't at the AGM but we will make sure he receives his award, probably at a Saturday event.

As a consequence of contacts within Bracknell, with whom we worked closely over the last few years both in schools and local parks, Denise Harper and BKO were approached to map South Hill Park for a permanent course. This was done by Katy Stubbs and the first phase of the permanent course put in place during the summer holidays as a community project. This has given us links to both South Hill Park and with local community leaders and we plan on capitalising on this in the following year, more later.

Committee matters

A number of committee members have taken on specific roles over the last year. As already mentioned Ken Ricketts is administering the Youth league (and the SCOA League). Keith Ellis, has not only taken over as Newsletter Editor, but is also taken on the mantle of publicity and is being successful in getting some articles in local newspapers as well as getting information out to various sport websites. David Jukes,

as Secretary, has started sending regular updates to members via the new membership database and these seem to be well received.

We have been considering setting up regular Club evenings for quite a few months, based around the Participation Club programme. Firstly we decided that we needed to find out what the membership actually wanted and the membership survey was created, put on the website by Tim Booth and analysed by Alan Springett. You have all seen the report in the Newsletter so I am not going to go through the details here, but it gave support for regular club nights throughout the year, with a desire for both technical and (to a slightly lesser extent) physical training. One issue with regular evenings is the manpower available within the club and, as you have already been told, we have problems getting officials for our current programme. British Orienteering has some funds available so we are about to set up a weekly Club night, based in Bracknell with a coach for the first year paid for by BO. It will hopefully start towards the end of March, depending on getting final location and contracts signed. This will not only hopefully attract local newcomers (the participants side of the programme) but also give both a regular base for BKO and also the training that members have asked for. Further information will be in the next newsletter and email updates.

We have replaced the (deceased) pole for one of the club banners to a heavy duty one which will hopefully last longer, bought chains and padlocks to secure controls during park/urban races and bought a couple of Emit joker units. We have also recently bought a printer and power supply to allow us to print maps at events on waterproof paper. Thanks to Alan Springett for donating the kit to convert from dc to ac (you can tell I'm not an electrician).

Finally, I have already mentioned that recent large events have lost money, or not covered the costs of mapping, which is essential to the existence of orienteering. We also need to budget for replacing all our Emit equipment, which will soon reach the end of its guaranteed life. It was therefore with regret that the committee has decided to increase the cost of most events and also to introduce a surcharge to non members even at Saturday events. However we have had one benefit (apart from the anticipated increase in income), in that club membership is increasing and currently stands at 203 units. So we have an increased pool of interested local orienteers that we can now contact directly.

Looking forward, apart from the initiatives above (Club night, increased Summer Park series) we don't have any Major Events in the near future, however just to point out that SCOA host the JK in 2013 and work already moves ahead with that, so if anyone is interested in getting involved please let me (Katy Stubbs) know.

Thanks to the BKO committee for their support this last year and everyone who has been either an official, or helped at any of our numerous events this last year.

Your committee members:

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Saturday events

The Saturday events continue to be successful with the January and February events attracting a good number of participants.

On 15th January an event was held at Benyon's Enclosure there were 95 entries, boosted by the inclusion of a Blue course. It was good to see representatives from five local schools participating and these included St Andrew's school, Meadow Vale primary school, Wildmoor Heath primary school, Altwood and Ascot Heath. BKO success included Fergus Sweeting winning the white course, Charlie Oakley winning the light green course and John Briggs finishing second on the Blue.

The next event was held at Bloom Wood on 19th February and attracted 97 participants, again boosted by the inclusion of a blue course.

Forthcoming events

BKO Saturday events:

19 th March	Upper Star Posts
April	To be confirmed
7 th May	Rushall Wood (near Bradfield)

Other events:

12 th Mar	SN	Merist Wood near Guildford
13 th	TVOC	Hambledon, Southern Champs
20 th	SARUM	Big Wood, near Salisbury

27 th	SAX	Millbank, Sevenoaks
3rd April	SN/BKO	Wellington College (SCOA league)
9 th Apr	SO	Brighton, British Sprint champs
10 th	SO	Crawley, British Middle distance champs
17 th Apr	SARUM	Fonthill, near Salisbury (SCOA league)

BKO Youth League Update

Ken Ricketts

Well, we're over half way through the first season of the BKO Youth League, and how are we doing? Pretty well by the look of things; there are a lot more competitors generally, as well as a lot more juniors, running at the Saturday events. I know that at least some of you are checking the scores, because I hear from you when I make a mistake!

After 5 events, 10 juniors have already taken part in at least 4, and 2 have already scored the maximum possible 400 points – indeed they had done so after 4 events! Well done Charlie Betts and Thomas McManners. With 3 more events to go at the time of writing, there should be quite a few medals to hand out at the end of the season. Remember, you need to take part in four events to get a medal, so don't miss the remaining ones.

The team competition has been dominated by St Andrews, who have long been a mainstay of junior participation in BKO. However, newcomers Meadowvale School from Bracknell are putting in regular appearances and building up a solid points score in second. It would be nice to see a few more teams taking part. Why not see if you can get your (or your child's) school interested?

So what of the future? One thing that will almost certainly change next season will be the scoring system. So many juniors have run up from their expected courses that the bonus for doing this has been awarded far more than anticipated. This has led to situations where almost every runner on a course has received the maximum 100 points. In addition to this, the limit of 'best 4 events to count', means that the leaders have already scored the maximum number of points possible, so there are certain to be multiple first prizes for this season. I am considering changing the scoring system for next season from being position-based to being time-based, similar to that used in the SE District League. In essence, there would be a 'target time', expressed as minutes per kilometre, for each course/age combination. Completing the course in exactly this time would score 100 points; going faster would score more points, being slower would score fewer. Some advantages of this:

1. There would be no maximum possible points score for the season – your 'best four events' could still be improved upon
2. It should therefore produce a clear overall winner at the end of the season
3. With running up or down catered for by having different target times for different age groups on the same course, there would be no need for any further bonus or penalty system

What do people think of this? Please let me know at youthleague@bko.org.uk

National ranking positions

The following are the ranking positions at Thursday 24th February and include members who are registered with BKO as their first club (from filtering the rankings on BKO):

Pos. ?	Name	Club	YOB	M/F	Points	Contributing scores ?
1 (380 +2)	Ian Cooper	BKO	1943	M	6983	1253, 1138, 1149, 1152, 1142, 1149
2 (485)	Simon Turton	BKO	1965	M	6835	1156, 1172, 1121, 1129, 1125, 1132
3 (536 +1)	David Jukes	BKO	1952	M	6768	1144, 1132, 1109, 1119, 1136, 1128
4 (659 +5)	Dan Straka	BKO	1966	M	6626	1143, 1109, 1124, 1062, 1095, 1093
5 (818 -8)	Richard Rae	BKO	1946	M	6470	1060, 1074, 1062, 1082, 1154, 1038
6 (863 +5)	Keith Ellis	BKO	1964	M	6412	1047, 1083, 1068, 1093, 1076, 1045
7 (872 +63)	Martin Wilson	BKO	1947	M	6400	1105, 1028, 1095, 1070, 1031, 1071
8 (943 +1)	Andrew Graham	BKO	1955	M	6341	1083, 1035, 1039, 1097, 1037, 1050
9 (1088 +2)	Andrew Southwood	BKO	1964	M	6159	994, 1004, 1013, 1105, 1018, 1025
10 (1140 +6)	Simon Thomas	BKO	1981	M	6081	1016, 992, 982, 954, 1085, 1052
11 (1163 +4)	Ken Ricketts	BKO	1954	M	6056	1007, 1004, 1008, 1009, 1026, 1002
12 (1257 -4)	Derick Mercer	BKO	1964	M	5958	1018, 991, 992, 996, 966, 995
13 (1348 -42)	Peter Bennett	BKO	1940	M	5841	986, 977, 1011, 938, 961, 968
14 (1360 -1)	Alan Springett	BKO	1950	M	5830	1004, 950, 948, 1029, 953, 946
15 (1697 -8)	Steve Fletcher	BKO	1951	M	5389	926, 900, 776, 868, 979, 940
16 (1700 -8)	Neil Frankum	BKO	1969	M	5387	1141, 1039, 1087, 1097, 1023
17 (1805 -10)	Araba McMillan	BKO	1964	F	5246	898, 813, 897, 856, 913, 869
18 (1814 -7)	Steve Bouch	BKO	1950	M	5223	858, 845, 946, 838, 871, 865
19 (1849 +516)	Mike Pemberton	BKO	1949	M	5157	745, 862, 1015, 796, 915, 824
20 (1866 -10)	Ian Hudson	BKO	1951	M	5136	833, 889, 845, 912, 836, 821
21 (1881 -7)	Kennith Oakley	BKO	1962	M	5121	992, 752, 938, 833, 707, 899
22 (1884 -7)	Nigel Hoult	BKO	1953	M	5120	977, 997, 1017, 1053, 1076
23 (1898 -6)	Eric Harper	BKO	1951	M	5109	886, 832, 876, 823, 830, 862
24 (1915 -8)	Gina Marwick	BKO	1970	F	5077	958, 886, 861, 880, 814, 678
25 (1961 -8)	Bryce Gibson	BKO	1939	M	5013	795, 849, 843, 805, 837, 884

Newsletter contributions

Keith Ellis

Do please send me your contributions for future newsletters, the more different people we have contributing the more interesting our newsletter will be. Contributions could be on any orienteering theme or anything else that you feel would be of interest to fellow members.

We have had some interesting pieces submitted again this month and I would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to contribute. All future contributions would be welcome, including any photographs to accompany your piece.

The newsletter is issued every two months with the edition going to print at the end of every second month, the next printing being at the end of April for the May edition.