

## Club Newsletter Mar 2012



On TV – Sky TV attended the BKO premier event of the year, the Concorde Chase for a forthcoming Get Involved feature. Richard Barrett, British Orienteering Regional Development Manager is seen here being interviewed for the programme. The Concorde Chase held at Yatley and Minley was a huge success with almost 700 competitors taking part on a cold, crisp day. A report is included inside this edition of the BKO newsletter.



Keith Ellis, Editor

## Tell us your news

How time flies, I have now been editing the newsletter for two years and a lot has happened in this time. At the AGM I decided to step down from the Committee role due to other commitments but have agreed to continue to produce the newsletter for another year. It takes more time than you may imagine and is only possible with contributions from club members so please continue to send in your news, views and ideas, the more different contributors we have, the more interesting the newsletter will be.

In this edition, we have a report on the Concorde Chase, an update on the Saturday events, CompassSport Cup results, news from the AGM plus of BKO success at the British Night and SCOA Championships. I hope that you enjoy this edition and until next time, happy orienteering.

Keith

## Concorde Chase 2012

**Keith Ellis / Stephen Beale**

In compiling this report I thought that a view should also be taken from a BKO competitor and so I invited Stephen Beale to give his thoughts from the event and this follows my overview.



Stephen Beale

This year's Concorde Chase was held on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January at Yately Heath and Minley Woods. The event was organised by Andrew Graham, Andrew Southwood was the planner and Katy Stubbs updated the map for the event. Thanks go to these club members, to Roger Thetford from TVOC who was the controller for the event, to Eric Harper who controlled on the day and to everyone who helped to make this major event a success.

The event was held on a very cold day but with no rain it was possible to wrap up warm. These conditions were

considerably better than the previous major event held at the venue when rain meant parking had to be restricted to the sides of the tracks. Happily this time with firm ground, parking was relatively straightforward with all competitors being able to park in a single field close to the start, finish and administration area.

A full range of courses were planned by Andrew and while undertaking car parking duties, I heard favourable comments from early competitors returning.

With almost 700 competitors taking part this was a successful event with the most popular courses being blue (137 competitors), short blue (106) and green (105).

The best BKO performances on the day were:

Black	No entries	
Brown	Keith Ellis	(34 <sup>th</sup> – I was the only entry though)
Short brown	Simon Turton	(16 <sup>th</sup> )
Blue	David Jukes	(37 <sup>th</sup> )
Short blue	Martin Wilson	(3 <sup>rd</sup> )

Green	Clive Conner	(27 <sup>th</sup> )
Short green	Nigel Jefferies	(2 <sup>nd</sup> )
Light green	Sue Parker	(6 <sup>th</sup> )
Orange	William Jefferies	(7 <sup>th</sup> )
Yellow	Ben Hutchins	(1 <sup>st</sup> )
White	Adam Methven	(4 <sup>th</sup> )



Eric Harper, on the day controller with event organiser Andrew Graham

Andrew Graham commented on the large number of BKO helpers who were willing to volunteer in advance and to take on extra duties on the day which all helped to make the event run smoothly.

It was also great to see Sky TV at the event, providing another opportunity to show orienteering to a wider audience. If this event was anything to go by, the sport is continuing to prove popular.



The busy car park shows the popularity of the event

To give the view of a BKO member and someone new to the sport, here are Stephen's recollections of the day:

“For the novice orienteer each event presents a new set of experiences and with them, new mistakes to learn from. As I'm sure everyone has experienced the learning curves can be steep but yet that's one of the appeals for the newcomer; the opportunity to apply the lessons learnt the previous week and learn from them. At least in theory...

Before The Concorde Chase my previous event ranked as one of my worst performances yet (and I include in that my very first event!) – fortunately I was able to lay the blame squarely on my equipment. How often does a compass re-align itself?! I'd never thought to check before! After spending a good 10 minutes staring baffled at my “orientated” (and I use the term loosely) map I threw down my compass (not literally of course) and navigated my way round using features alone....sadly the early mishap threw me and in attempt to regain some time I ended up losing more by making a series of silly mistakes (another lesson learnt!).

And so it was I arrived at Yately Heath for my first Concorde Chase, armed with a new compass and a new lesson learnt: always check your compass before hand and be prepared to doubt it if it's not making sense!

An early arrival gave me the chance to overhear of an incident involving a dog running off with someone's socks in the car park (the poor sod) and to pick up another lesson; never leave your socks (or shoes!) unattended in the vicinity of dogs. Not strictly an orienteering lesson but one that could come in useful somewhere in the future.

At the start my preoccupation with collecting and orientating my map quickly caused me to attempt (several times) to punch my dibber upside down. Thankfully a helpful steward showed me the error of my ways and I was off!

Once I had successfully orientated the map and myself I found the first control without too many major mishaps. The next series of controls I ticked off fairly smoothly (for me at least) until control 5 where I managed to miss a fork in the path and I found myself staring down towards a forest road. A relatively minor error though and I was back on track quickly enough.

Controls 8 and 9 I found to be particularly enjoyable. Both were buried in forest slow run/walk with a number of obvious route options linking them. I was particularly proud of my clever use of a small ride to guide me into number 9 but with hindsight there may not have been many other ways to go about it!

A series of longer legs then ensued including control 12 which I managed to overshoot due to failing to properly read some intricate landforms on the map. As I backtracked I realised I'd originally been within meters of the control. Unfortunately there had been a great big earth bank between me and it!

As I approached the road crossing and controls 13 and 14 I thought to myself, “these should be nice and easy, time plan ahead for the next couple of controls”. With my head buried in my map I had almost begun crossing the road before realising I hadn't punched on 13. It seems planning ahead can sometimes be more hassle than it's worth...

With the help of some thoughtful army chaps control 16 posed no major problems despite being sunk in a pit half way up a slope in open forest (how nice of them to dig and man a fix hole right next to the control!).

The rest of the controls passed without any major navigational mishaps and so I cruised into the finish for some squash, a well needed toilet stop and having thoroughly buried the nightmare of the previous week's debacle behind me.

And what was the most important lesson I learned this week? Never leave your socks on the ground in the car park."

## **Too long**

Apologies to Bryce Gibson who pointed out that in my review of the year in the last newsletter I implied that he had won the British Champs for M70L and not M70, sorry Bryce, it was a terrific achievement whatever the distance, perhaps the long course next time?

## **Saturday events**

Two more Saturday events have been held since the last newsletter, those held at Star Posts on 21<sup>st</sup> January and at Bloom Wood on 18<sup>th</sup> February. Star Posts attracted a record entry of 150 reflecting the continued popularity of the venue and ease to get to for many members. Eric Harper, planner for this event gives us his report:

### **Record numbers at the Saturday event at Upper Star Posts**

**Eric Harper**

BKO has been holding events on Saturday mornings in the winter months for around 10 years now. We started out with the idea of trying to attract newcomers and families by putting on limited number of courses in an informal atmosphere. The idea was that the event could be put on by a handful of people with everything set up on the morning of the event and all cleared away by 2 o'clock. Having the longest course being of Light Green standard meant that we could use some of our smaller areas that couldn't support a full event. Even though the events would be low key we still wanted to give the competitors the feel of a large event by using electronic punching and having pre-marked maps.

From small beginnings these events have flourished with quite a few new members having come into the club after their first experience of orienteering at one of these events. They have also become popular with more experienced orienteers so much so that we decided that we would put on a Short Blue course, if the area could support it, and it didn't mean sacrificing the informal and minimalistic nature of the events.

It has also been a good way of giving novice planners experience of planning low key events before moving onto the larger ones. Experienced planners also like doing them as there is less pressure. However we do insist that all courses planned should meet the appropriate guidelines for each course and as such I have acted as controller for most of these events for several years now. This is largely a hands off exercise – I know most of our areas very well so can advise without going out to check sites. As I print all the maps I get to see the courses in advance. I usually walk around the White and Yellow on the day just to make sure the controls are visible and on the correct sides of junctions.

We tend to use a basic core of areas each year and have a few we don't use every year. One of the best areas we have is Star Posts which is where the event on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January was held. The area is excellent for a Saturday event – it has good parking; we are allowed to set up registration right by the Look Out so we do get people showing interest and the area is good enough to plan challenging courses at any level. We always get a good turn out when we hold the event at the Look Out and this year we had a record number of 150 entries in the results. If you take into account the fact that quite a few of the entries on the White and Yellow were pairs or families 189 people actually took

part in the event. We may not be able to use Star Posts for a Saturday event next year as we are planning to hold the Southern Championships on it in January 2014.

The event was planned by Martin Wilson who is a very experienced planner having planned amongst many other things, 2 Concorde Chases in recent years. One of the problems with using the same area each year with the same parking and registration place is that it is sometimes difficult to find variations on the courses especially for the junior courses. Martin decided to have the start across the other side of the main car park and this opened up a lot more possibilities for the courses which people came back from with lots of nice comments.

I can't finish this without mentioning Glenn and Di Wass who run the registration and the computers at all the Saturday events and whose continuing support has been vital to the success of these events. There are a small team of people who also contribute to these events but some cannot come every month so if you are willing to help at any event please let Glenn or Di know at [Saturdays@bko.org.uk](mailto:Saturdays@bko.org.uk).

For those interested in the BKO results, top performances at Star Posts included:

Amy Croll + 1	white course	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Francesca Rogers	yellow	1 <sup>st</sup>
Claire Betts	orange	6 <sup>th</sup>
Simon Moore	light green	1 <sup>st</sup>
Helen Fraser	light green	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Simon Turton	blue	6 <sup>th</sup>

### **Almost 100 attend Bloom Wood event**

**Jane Courtier**

A dry Saturday attracted a good entry of 98 to the beech woods. Visibility through the trees was good to the slopes and horse jumps, though some paths were covered by dry leaves undisturbed during the recent pheasant shooting season.

There were plenty of juniors, including 1<sup>st</sup> Cippenham Scouts who showed that they had been picking up hints from an earlier training session with Katy Stubbs by all finishing the White course successfully in times of between 17 and 22 minutes. The winner on White was Sebastian Gray from St Mary's, Slough.

Yellow had BKO members in the top two places, Amy Croll first and Jacob Marwick second. Some family groups also tried out this course.

On the Orange course the best placed BKO member was William Jefferies in 4<sup>th</sup>. Several adults had their first attempts at orienteering on this course and found out how fit and persistent you have to be as an orienteer but also how much detail you can discover in a beautiful wood.

BKO's Andrew Southwood won the Lt Green with Richard Rae and Ken Ricketts in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> places. A large entry of 38 attempted the tricky Short Blue course. It was won by Dave Rollins of BAOC, Simon Turton in 3<sup>rd</sup> was the best BKO position.

Steve Courtier who co-planned the event with Jane commented “Apologies to those on the Short Blue who had difficulties with the mapping of control 5/15 – with hindsight we should have shifted the labels to improve clarity, a learning point for next time”.

*I think that everyone who volunteers to take the plunge and plan or organise an event should be congratulated for the effort and forgiven the odd mistake, without their commitment we would have no orienteering. Ed*

The remaining Saturday events this year are:

10<sup>th</sup> March Snelsmore Common

21<sup>st</sup> April Rushall Wood

## CompassSport cup

**Keith Ellis**

This year’s CompassSport cup competition was held on 19<sup>th</sup> February at Bradenham, hosted by TVOC. Unfortunately BKO finished bottom of the four competing clubs, in part due to a lack of runners to enable scoring to be optimised. However a hardy band of BKO members did attend and scoring was as follows:

- |         |      |
|---------|------|
| 1. HH   | 2335 |
| 2. SN   | 2314 |
| 3. TVOC | 2311 |
| 4. BKO  | 1484 |



Discussing pre race tactics; BKO runners Ian Hunter, Keith Ellis, Martin Wilson and Ken Ricketts

The BKO scorers were:

1 Andy Straka	W21	00:58:19	Blue Women	94
2 Ian Cooper	M65	00:45:42	Green Men	94
3 Janet Gibson	W70	00:54:41	Short Green	94
4 Keith Ellis	M45	01:54:36	Brown	89
5 Steve Fletcher	M60	00:53:23	Green Men	86
6 Andrew Southwood	M45	01:04:04	Blue Men	84
7 David Jukes	M60	01:04:13	Blue Men	83
8 Lenka Straka	W45	00:58:42	Green Women	82
9 Robert Lattimore	M18	00:41:04	Light Green	80
10 Helen Fraser	W35	01:22:10	Blue Women	76
11 Andrew Graham	M55	01:16:35	Blue Men	74
12 Richard Rae	M65	01:00:10	Green Men	74
13 Chris Speed	M55	01:18:37	Blue Men	72
14 Gill Godbold	W55	01:09:45	Green Women	72
15 Derick Mercer	M45	01:21:44	Blue Men	70
16 Andy Parry	M50	01:31:30	Blue Men	66
17 Fiona Clough	W50	01:18:16	Green Women	66
18 Bryce Gibson	M70	01:13:51	Green Men	64
19 Katy Stubbs	W55	01:21:09	Green Women	64

### Competitor's Conundrum

**David Jukes**

So there I was enjoying my run round the Blue Men's course at the CompassSport Cup heat at Bradenham. I had briefly lost my concentration at control 5 and charged around for about 5 minutes before relocating and going straight in to the control.



I had got to control 11. This was a bit tricky as it was marked as a fence corner but the fence appeared to have disintegrated between the map being drawn and the control being sited. All I



could see was a single fence post rather hidden in a yew tree. However not much time lost. I then looked in detail at the next leg. What I saw is shown on the map extract.

My usual first thought is to consider the direct route and to see what obstacles might slow me down. I then consider if there are alternatives which would be quicker or safer. In this case, the direct route would be a slight drop down to a fenced open area. Across the open area, over the fence on the other side and then up a mostly runnable wooded slope with the option of crossing a semi-open area or swinging around the south side of it if it looked too rough. The loss of height would not be too great and the climb the other side would be relatively easy.

However, I then noticed that the line joining the controls was bent to avoid the field and instead suggested that I should go around it to the north. So the conundrum was what 'authority' to place on the red line. Did it suggest that the field was 'Out of Bounds'? Why had it been bent? I did not want to be disqualified but also I certainly did not want to put at risk future land permission. The red line went through some thick green and therefore a route which avoided the field would need to go quite a long way around to the right.

All of those thoughts only took a few seconds but it left me uncertain what to do. I checked the legend to see if there was any additional guidance. The yellow was clearly just 'Open land' and a different screen used elsewhere on the map was for 'Cultivated Land'. Another symbol of thick black (or red) vertical lines was for 'Out of Bounds'. The fence symbol (a line with double tags) was given as 'High fence'. So there was nothing to show that I could not use the field. Had a red overprint been left off in error? Had I forgotten some warning in the final details?

My decision was to follow the direct route and to see if for any reason the field might be out of bounds when I reached it. When I got to the fence it was obvious that it was much less of a barrier than it appeared from the map and easy to cross. The field was rough pasture with no sign of animals. So I went across and followed my planned route into the control.

I was however puzzled. At the finish I asked Andrew Graham which route he had followed. He had avoided the field as the red line had indicated to go around. In the evening I checked Routegadget. Nearly everyone had gone around. Of the 23 routes marked, only 3 had crossed the field and mine was the most direct. Having clearly shown this as my route and with all the top people having gone around, some right up to the major path, I thought I should check with the planner. I sent off an e-mail and enquired what he had intended and why the line was bent. His response was that "the line joining the controls was bent to avoid crossing the high fence" and that competitors were free to cross the field. So at least I had not strayed into an unmarked OOB. But was the planner correct to do this and put doubt into my mind? I decided to check the BOF Rules of Orienteering (yes, they do exist!) and I found this (the bold is in the rules):

**"3.1.16 If the controls are to be visited in a prescribed order they shall be joined by straight lines.** These lines should be broken to avoid obscuring important detail, diverted to meet up with compulsory routes, broken or diverted to indicate compulsory crossing points, and broken or diverted to avoid lakes, 'out of bounds', or other areas that cannot be crossed by competitors. If necessary lines joining controls along tracks should be offset."

So from this I infer that the planner was in error. The area could be crossed, the line should have been straight and the decision should have been left to the competitor.

The planner also commented that he thought that "the best routes avoided the field and minimised extra climb." I checked the splits. Overall I had finished 23<sup>rd</sup> and for most of my legs I was between 10<sup>th</sup> and 35<sup>th</sup>. For Control 12, I was 5<sup>th</sup> (my best split position) and was only beaten by

those who were the top 4 finishers. I had clearly done much better on the leg in comparison to others and so I conclude that the direct route was certainly the quickest for me.

Was I wrong to cross the field as the line had been bent suggesting that the field was OOB? I will leave you to decide. What would you have done?

## **Stop press - SCOA Championships winners**

**Keith Ellis**

BKO achieved success in the SCOA champs held at the SARUM Saunter event at Hamptworth on 26<sup>th</sup> February. BKO top three placings were:

M10	1	James Waite
M10	2	Adam Steinmetz
M14	2	Philippe de Frécho
M21	1	James Hargreaves
M65	1	Martin Wilson
M65	2	Ian Cooper
M65	3	Richard Rae
M70	3	Bryce Gibson
W70	1	Janet Gibson

Well done to all our winners.

## **BKO Personal Performance System Review**

**Martin Wilson**

### **Background**

In Spring 2011, I introduced informally a prototype spreadsheet system comparing any individual's performances against the average of their six best ranking point scores.

The scheme was approved by the BKO Committee for use, and during Autumn 2011 information and results were made available on the club web site. PPS included 'Hot ROD' (Run Of the Day) Gold, Silver and Bronze awards for each event, a Performance League and a Performance Cup. Additionally during this period, PPS was used as the handicapping method for the revived BKO Club Championship.

### **General review**

PPS appears to have worked well overall, in terms of what it set out to do. Some features:

- It provided excellent visibility of newer members and their improvement throughout the season
- It produced a close finish to the League, despite only three events to count out of six
- The administration overhead was not too high, easing as more members came into the scheme
- It enabled a flexible Club Championship to be provided that allowed a broad range of ages and experience to be included with minimal organisational and handicapping effort

What was not as expected:

- Improvers and Juniors produced very high scores on occasions (120-150%+)
- Some experienced Senior and Veteran club members produced low scores for most events, but produced one very large score (110-125%)
- The HOT Rod awards were somewhat dominated by Improvers and Juniors

What the system did not include:

- Members who had less than three previous ranking runs
- Juniors under 16, as these do not obtain ranking points at events
- Members of other clubs who run for BKO as a second club.

## Considerations

PPS competitors appear to naturally divide into a number of informal categories, defined by consistency of performance and whether they are improving as newcomers or juniors (16-20). The perceived categories are shown below.

### Category A: Seniors, Very Consistent

Have 6+ ranking results already. Tend to run close to RP% target (95-100%). Likely maximum PSS score of about 102.5%.

### Category B: Seniors, Less Consistent

Have 6+ ranking results already. Tend to run below RP% for long periods, but occasionally have very large score(s). Likely maximum PSS score of about 125%.

### Category C: Seniors, Improvers

Have 3-5 ranking results already; are included in PSS. Tend to improve quickly over first 10 ranking events. Likely maximum PSS score of up to 150%. Best scores during Autumn 2011:

Gill Godbold : 159% and 108.2%	Simon Woodley : 124.1% and 122.5%
Colin Godbold: 122.5% and 117.2%	Deb Bouch : 128.5%
Graham Farhall : 114.9% and 107.2%	

### Category D: Juniors 16-20

Have 3-6 ranking results already; are included in PSS. Tend to improve quickly over first 10 ranking events. Likely maximum PSS score of around 140%. Best scores during Autumn 2011:

Robert Lattimore: 137.2%  
Charlie Oakley : 116.7%  
Alex Moore : 107.5%

### Category E: Senior and Junior (16+) Starters

Have 0-2 ranking results already; currently not scored in PSS, though their run and ranking points received are shown in the Workbook. Will tend to improve quickly over first 10 ranking events.

To understand why these differences are arising, it is necessary to look at the overall ranking system for each age group.

### Summary of thoughts at this stage

I believe the use of RP% as a target mechanism is the best option around. It has some significant advantages:

- It is objective, and is always based on recent historical measured results

- It includes all age ranges from 16 upwards, at all performance levels, once three ranking scores have been obtained
- It is modified after each performance to maintain accuracy and relevance
- It allows members to compete on any course and in any event that awards ranking points
- It is simple to understand, and for individuals to work out their own score
- It is relatively easy to administer

I believe that we should continue to use the system, and optimise it to cater more closely for the particular circumstances as outlined above. The most recent edition of *Focus* has an article on the current Competitions Review, which supports the idea of Local Club Competitions and Club Leagues 'based on a local series of events having an individual competitor component'. We thus seem to be in line with current thinking.

### **Modifications to PPS for Spring 2012 season**

#### **Modification 1: Operate two separate divisions, one for established Seniors (6+ scores), and one for Senior Improvers and Juniors.**

It seems to be impractical and somewhat illogical to attempt to compare results of established Senior competitors, whose performance is naturally slightly declining each year, against Improvers and Juniors, whose performance is increasing rapidly. It will be better to keep them separate.

Competitors will be allocated to a specific Division, as follows:

Senior Division: have six current ranking scores at the start of the Season

Improvers Division: Seniors with 3-5 current ranking scores at the start of the Season, and all Juniors.

The scoring system for Improvers will remain as at present. Each Division will have Separate HOT Rod Awards and League results. The Performance Cup will remain as a single club-wide competition.

Competitors will only change Division at the start of Season. Members who reach 3 ranking scores during the season will automatically join Improvers from their fourth ranking event onwards. Administratively, this is not complex to provide. The key is to limit movements and change to each Season, not to each Event.

#### **Modification 2: Classify competitors within the Seniors Division as Category A (very consistent) or Category B (less consistent), with modified scoring for Category B.**

Category A will be competitors whose six scores are within a range of 10%. (Highest score/Lowest score < 1.1).

Category B will be all other competitors.

Category A competitors will be scored as at present.

Category B competitors will be scored as at present up to 100%, and receive 10% of any score over 100%. Thus a score of 116.4% will be adjusted to  $100 + (10\% \text{ of } 16.4) = 101.6\%$ .

The thinking here is that Cat A competitors are very unlikely to exceed 102%, whereas Cat B competitors could reach as high as 120%. 'Top-slicing' the Cat B high scores brings them back to the same likely maximum as for Cat A. Note that this top-slicing only kicks in once 100% has been reached. This change would not have altered the results of the Club Championship, but the winner

would have been awarded 102.1% rather than 121.2%. This arrangement seems more balanced and competitive for all competitors. (I suspect top-slicing may quickly become known as the ‘bandit tax’, which perhaps is fairly accurate!).

Administratively, this is not too complex to implement. Once competitors have been categorised at the start of the season, the Workbook will make automatic calculations in line with the algorithm shown above.

Improvers who move into the Seniors division will automatically be put in Category B for one Season, even if their initial scores have been highly consistent. This is to give more time and more results to establish their longer-term consistency.

**Modification 3: Members with 0-2 ranking scores will be included in PPS results, but do not qualify for Awards or League and Cup competitions.**

We already include newer competitors with less than 3 counting events within the PPS Workbook. Their results will now be shown against a yardstick ranking, but not included in Awards or Competitions until they achieve 3 event scores and then automatically become Improvers.

These competitors do not have sufficient ranking runs to provide a meaningful yardstick of performance. A simple way of providing scoring for them is to specify a fixed target ranking point score, and measure their PPS score against that. The proposed yardstick will be 70% of the highest UK ranking scores in their age group. At the moment, we have some newer members with scores close to these levels. The yardstick will be rounded for simplicity.

This provides a mechanism to give early entry and visibility of performance of new Seniors and Juniors. The yardstick will not change over their first three events, so it will give ‘artificial’ scores, but this should not matter, as they are not used for Awards. It is the relative improvement that can be seen.

**Summary**

With the limited yet significant changes suggested above, I believe the PPS system will show more consistent results and be fairer, and as a result will maintain credibility with all competitors. We can now begin to see how we can establish a performance pyramid for all members. Hopefully people will feel motivated to challenge themselves to move on through the categories as their skills develop.

**Other Fixtures**

Fixtures listed on The British Orienteering website include:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>Venue</b>
17 <sup>th</sup> Mar	SN	Firth Hill
18 <sup>th</sup> Mar	SOC	Queen Elizabeth Country Park, nr Horndean
1 <sup>st</sup> Apr	BADO	Butter Wood
21 <sup>st</sup> Apr	BKO	Rushall Wood

## First Prize – a Week in Wales.....

**Ken Ricketts**

.....2<sup>nd</sup> prize is 2 weeks in Wales! But seriously folks, this year sees Croeso 2012, six days of orienteering in Wales. Based around Aberystwyth on the west coast, this will offer quite a change from our more usual southern woods. Except for Tuesday and the sprints at the end of the week, the areas are mostly open with lots of rocks and contour detail. A couple of them have never been used for orienteering before.

There is self-catering accommodation available in the University. Some of this is arranged as flats with 7, 8 or 9 single rooms and some shared facilities. If we booked a block the cost per head will be around £100 for the week, only about twice the cost of camping on your own. I am willing to co-ordinate this if enough people are interested; please get in touch with me at [ken.ricketts@bko.org.uk](mailto:ken.ricketts@bko.org.uk)

For more details see <http://www.croesomultiday.org.uk/>

## BKO Youth League Update

**Ken Ricketts**

Only 2 more events to go this year – Snelsmore Common (9<sup>th</sup> March) and Rushall Woods (16<sup>th</sup> April). Six juniors have already completed at least four of the first six events. There are quite a few more juniors with good points scores from two or three events, who need to complete a fourth to get an award. If you do more than four, then of course you get to drop your lowest score, which can further improve your position.

After some hiccups, the new scoring system seems to have settled down. Certainly the results are less of a foregone conclusion than they were last season. I did wonder whether I had made the target times a little too tough, but there have been several scores of substantially more than 100 points, although no-one has yet achieved this more than once. The current leader is Alexandria Marwick, with 320 points from her best 4 of 6 events. However, her brother Jacob is close behind with 296 points, and these have come from just 4 events. There are several others who could still take the lead with one good run, and more who could do so with two more scores, so it isn't over yet! The leaders are:

Age Class	Name (Age)	Points(Events to score)
Under 10s	Alexandria Marwick (7)	320 (4)
10-11	Charlie Betts (10)	239 (3)
12-13	Jacob Marwick (12)	296 (4)
14-15	William Jefferies (14)	58 (2)
16+	Robert Lattimore (18)	137 (4)

On the team front, last years winners St Andrews school are again miles ahead of everyone else. Although a larger number of teams have been recorded, most appear to only be represented by a few runners attending one or two events. If you are one of these, see if you can get a group from your school/youth group to take part, and give St Andrews some opposition to run against!

Please can you make sure your details are entered correctly and clearly on the entry form, as the scoring system depends upon your age to calculate your points. I have had to make several corrections due to ages being incorrect, and some runners that I believe to be juniors (they have entered a school name) have not received a score because no age has been entered for them. Also,

please note that, to give the rest a chance, orienteering clubs are not eligible for the team competition. This means that if you put your 'O' club name in, you will be shown as 'Independent' in the Youth League results.

Ken Ricketts  
youthleague@bko.org.uk



## British Night Championships

Congratulations to Ian Hudson who won the M60S group at the championships held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February at Hamptworth in the New Forest.

Other finishers were Katy Stubbs (9<sup>th</sup> in W55L), Simon Turton (7<sup>th</sup> in M45L) and Alain Wilkes (4<sup>th</sup>, M60S). Well done to everyone who completed the course in the dark.

## Chairman's Report to the AGM for 2011/2012

Here is the report that Katy Stubbs, Clubb Chairman delivered at the AGM held at the Bull, Theale on 24<sup>th</sup> February.

### Events

BKO have had a busy year putting on more activities and events than ever. To start with our events since the last AGM, we had a first time organiser for Rushall Woods in May, Helen Fraser, with Andrew Graham planning and Colin Duckworth of TVOC controlling the event. The weather was kind and although Rushall Woods are rather remote compared to some of our other areas we still got 237 competitors.

The October event at Hawley and Hornley was very popular, with 388 runners, one of the bigger events of recent years as those runners wanting to do the Blue course found out, total of 150 ran the course on the day. Fortunately the club did have the facility to print maps on demand so we managed with some effort to get them all out there. This was one of the more problematic events as we had major problems finding an organiser. In the end it became a collaborative effort with myself doing most of the pre-event organisation on the basis that I was originally going to be away at the weekend and Peter Entwistle looking after the helpers and us both being there on the day. Steve Bouch planned some testing courses, ably controlled by Pete Jones of SN, who also couldn't be there during the actual event and thanks to Eric Harper for standing in whilst Pete was away.

This year's Concorde Chase had a smoother run-up than last year, although with two landowners and a busy road to cross there were challenges, ably met by the two Andrews, Graham as organiser and Southwood as planner, doing events at this level for the first time. The map of Yateley Heath and Minley was re-surveyed and updated by Katy Stubbs. Thanks should also to Roger Thetford, controller for much advice and assistance. Numbers were higher than last year with 646 runners on the day and although I have not yet seen the accounts, hopefully we managed to break even.

We also had two collaborative events with adjoining clubs. We worked with SN with their inaugural event at Wellington College in April, which was very popular, BKO mainly providing manpower as the major officials were from SN. We also joined with BADO for the New Years Day event on Greenham Common. Tony Ludford from BADO organised with much assistance from Glenn and Di Wass on results. Again finding officials was a problem and the result was an absent planner and partial remapper (Katy Stubbs) and some very kind control hangers and collectors on the day in Alain and Sue Wilkes. 112 runners braved hangovers and a windy common on the day.

Our smaller events are continuing to prove very popular. We have had eight of our informal Saturday events since the last AGM. They continue to be very popular and we had our highest ever number of runners at Star Posts last month, 156. Di and Glenn Wass have carrying on being organisers for all of these events this year and we thank them for their commitment. Thanks also to the various planners (Ken Ricketts, Martin Wilson (2), Eric Harper, Steve Fletcher (2) Dick Rae, Mike Pemberton and Jane Courtier). Two of these are new to planning, partly as a result of a planning course put on at our new Club Nights, which I will talk about more in a minute.

We extended our Summer Saturday Park/Urban series to five races in 2011, kicking off with a repeat event at the University of Reading (Whiteknights) planned by Dave Jukes. Numbers were down from the first event, perhaps the novelty value had worn off. This was followed by events on a new map of South Hill Park (Birch Hill, Bracknell), planned and mapped by Eric Harper and a repeat visit to Ashenbury Park planned by Ken Ricketts. The fourth event was on another new map of Great Hollands, in Bracknell, again planned and mapped by Eric Harper and the final event was on yet another new map of Lower Earley, planned by Tim Booth and mapped by Neil Frankum. A group of people organised these events, Ken Ricketts and Andrew Graham took on the first two, Glenn and Di Wass the third and Andrew Graham the last two, but we were struggling to find organisers for these events. We got between 33 and 77 runners at these 5 races, down some extent from the first year, but we did not promote them as heavily this year, partly because of uncertainty about having organisers.

For 2012 there are at two more maps in preparation of Easthampstead and Wildridings in Bracknell and Sandhurst Memorial Park, both being done by Eric Harper.

The summer Wednesday evening events had more of a training theme this year which we intend to continue in 2012, Eric Harper ran the computing side and planners included myself (Katy Stubbs, 2), Alan Philips, Andrew Southwood (2), Simon Turton, Neil Frankum, and John Owens. These continued to be successful with numbers ranging from 21 to 64. I have already mentioned that whilst we have new planners coming forward we seem to have even fewer people willing to take on the role of organiser. It is quite simple, if we don't have an organiser we don't have an event! So please search your consciences and offer occasionally. I am sure Helen Fraser would be happy to let you know how she felt about offering to do her first event.

### Mapping

I have already mentioned the new maps that have been done by Eric Harper and Tim Booth during the year, two in Bracknell and one in Lower Earley and those in preparation by Eric for this summer



in Bracknell and Sandhurst as well as the update of Yateley and Minley. In addition, I (Katy Stubbs) have revised Swinley East following recent felling, ready for our event in May and done minor updates to Bloom Wood, Lily Hill and Black Park for various Saturday events. Another new map in preparation by Tim is Windsor and Eton, ready for our first large urban event in September.

### Schools and Community Work

The Berkshire Primary Schools competition continued last year, again due to the contacts that Denise Harper has within Berkshire, and we also hosted a senior schools competition, both finals were on new areas Wellington College and Dorney Lake. This wouldn't run without the continued support of a number of BKO members who are willing to turn up and help at these midweek events. The abolition of the posts Schools Sports Co-ordinators looks likely to reduce the opportunity to run these competitions across the whole of Berkshire, but the local contacts that Denise has made means that we have already been asked to run competitions in at least a couple of LEAs, so the enthusiasm continues and we have seen children coming from the schools events into our Saturday events and participating in the Youth League.

The distance to the British Schools Championship, which was held in Scotland did not deter St Andrews School, who came 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in the Middle/Preparatory section, with the girls doing particularly well this year, winning the year 5 class and being 3<sup>rd</sup> in the year 6 class. As for last year runners from St Andrews stand out as the most improved juniors of the year and the committee have decided to award Jim's Jug for the most improved performance to Charlie Betts of St Andrews. Charlie isn't able to come to the AGM but we will make sure he receives his award, probably at a school assembly.

### Club Nights

I reported last year that, with the support of British Orienteering with funding for a coach, we were about to set up a weekly Club Night, based in Bracknell. The intention was to start at the end of March, however the person that had been interested in coaching dropped out as he decided to continue working full time. However by the time the club knew this we had already made a commitment to dates and had managed to locate a room in South Hill Park (via Denise's local contacts) for free. So we did a preliminary 6 weeks aimed purely at club members to gauge their level of interest. There was a range of different evenings, Dave Rogers did two technical training sessions, I did two on planning events and Richard Barrett did two outdoor sessions, at one of which I managed to get in my assessment to become a licenced coach.

We had a reasonable level of interest so the committee decided it would be worthwhile continuing with the initiative if we could get a coach in place. During July Jason Edwards agreed to be the coach and we have been using rooms at Easthampstead Baptist Church since September. The only problem is the cost of these rooms, which is not covered by the numbers attending the evenings, but fortunately we have a grant from British Orienteering which makes up the difference, at least for the first 40 weeks. I am currently putting together a schedule running into our Wednesday evening training and as soon as the evenings are light enough to do work outside we will be trying to recruit newcomers as well as existing members.

### Committee matters

As members know, one of the committee, Alan Springett, was hospitalised after heart problems at the White Rose weekend at the end of August. He is still unwell and in hospital, but we hope that he will recover and return to his duties as membership Secretary. David Jukes has been temporarily covering his duties and I already have a volunteer (Ian Hudson) to continue to do so for the near

future. A number of committee members have said they will be retiring this year. Andrew Graham resigned as Fixtures Secretary in the middle of last year due to work pressures (although he then immediately took on the job of organising this year's Concorde Chase) and I would like to thank Andrew for his work firstly as Newsletter Editor and then as Fixtures Secretary. Eric Harper agreed to take on the land permissions part of his role (as a non committee post) and I have been filling in for Andrew for the rest of his duties. Keith Ellis has also indicated that he wishes to resign from the committee due to work pressures and again I would like to thank him for his work on the committee over the last two years. Keith currently looks after publicity and is our Newsletter Editor. Keith has kindly agreed to continue as Newsletter Editor (again as a non committee post). Neil Frankum has also said that he wishes to step down from the committee, he has been on it for 14 years.

Finally, Denise Harper has said that she does not wish to continue as Development Officer. Denise has been on the committee for a number of years as a committee member. She has done an enormous amount of work behind the scenes over the years, not only with schools but helping Eric out with the equipment and continues to be one of the main faces at enquiries that greets newcomers to events. As an example Denise recently put together the package of documents which enabled the club to renew their Clubmark designation.

For all of her work, much of which is behind the scenes the committee have decided to present the Derek Harding award to Denise Harper. I would also like to thank all of the BKO committee for their support and everyone who has been either an official, or helped at any of our numerous events this last year.

#### New committee members

Some new committee members were appointed at the meeting; Ian Hudson who will act as a temporary membership secretary and Andy Parry who will become the Fixtures Secretary. There is still a vacancy for a further committee member and so if anyone is interested in undertaking the role, they should contact Katy Stubbs.



Denise Harper receiving her award from club chairman, Katy Stubbs

#### **Awards**

Winners of the club championship announced in the last newsletter received their awards including Alain Wilkes who was overall club champion. Denise Harper was presented with the Derek Harding award for her services to the club.



Alain Wilkes, first club champion for some years.

### Your committee members

<b>Chairman:</b> Katy Stubbs	0118-978-2875	<a href="mailto:katy.stubbs@bko.org.uk">katy.stubbs@bko.org.uk</a>
<b>Secretary:</b> David Jukes	0118-969-2514	<a href="mailto:secretary@bko.org.uk">secretary@bko.org.uk</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b> Peter Entwistle	01628-635278	<a href="mailto:treasurer@bko.org.uk">treasurer@bko.org.uk</a>
<b>Fixtures:</b> Any Parry		<a href="mailto:andy.parry@bko.org.uk">andy.parry@bko.org.uk</a>
<b>Membership:</b> Ian Hudson	0118 9784077	<a href="mailto:ian.hudson@bko.org.uk">ian.hudson@bko.org.uk</a>
<b>Development:</b> Vacant		
Ken Ricketts	0118 9787168	<a href="mailto:ken.ricketts@bko.org.uk">ken.ricketts@bko.org.uk</a>
Dave Rogers	01344 628-623	<a href="mailto:dave.rogers@bko.org.uk">dave.rogers@bko.org.uk</a>
+ one vacant post		

### Welcome to new members



### David Jukes

Since the last newsletter we have had a few new members join the club and so I would like to welcome the following:

**Helen and Andrew Tyrell** (W21 and M21, Caversham): Helen and Andrew's first experience of orienteering was at our November Saturday event at Benyon's Enclosure. They have previously been runners and hill walkers and felt that orienteering might be something they would enjoy. After another Saturday event in January, they were brave enough to compete in our recent Concorde Chase so it looks as though they are enjoying this new challenge.



**Mark Saunders** (M21, Reading): Mark, reputed to be a fast runner, has joined us after hearing about orienteering from Keith at the Reading Park Runs. He came to our Saturday event in December and our New Year's Day event at Greenham Common. He can recall, many years ago, trying orienteering with his parents but not too seriously.

- **Charlotte and Clive Connor** (W45 and M55, Yateley): Having competed as independents for a time, Charlotte and Clive are hoping to attend many more events this year.
- **Debbie and Robert Gardner** (W45 and M45, Sandhurst) and their children Benjamin (M14), James (M10) and Sophie (7): Ben and James have been regular competitors at our Saturday Junior League events running for College Town Junior School.



**Lucy Perrin** (W35, Earley): Having also met Keith at the regular Reading Park Runs, Lucy came to the Greenham Common event with her children and has subsequently been at our Saturday events.

Finally, at some point in the Autumn, **Sejal Naik** (W35, Ealing) joined us but somehow we failed to record her membership at the time. So, with apologies, a rather belated welcome to her as well! As we are still operating our membership administration on a temporary basis, please send any membership enquiries to [membership@bko.org.uk](mailto:membership@bko.org.uk) to ensure they are delivered to the appropriate person.

For newsletter contributions please contact Keith Ellis on 0118 9771101 or email [keith.ellis@bko.org.uk](mailto:keith.ellis@bko.org.uk)