

Berkshire Orienteers

Newsletter

November 2014



Benyons Inclosure
Winter Saturday and
Youth league Event
4th October 2014

Unfortunately a rather wet event with the bracken only just beginning to die back. However the event officials were still smiling.

Fiona Clough
heading into the
bracken



Ian Hudson and
Katy Stubbs with a
British Orienteering
Federation umbrella



Manning Registration -
Sue Parker (left) with
Glen and Di Wass



Editorial

This issue contains a reminder from our Membership Secretary that membership renewal time is nearly with us. Although we hope that members will renew, it is inevitable that we will lose a few members. Reasons are many: families grow older or larger, jobs change, other commitments become more important or, for some, declining health forces a rethink of what can be done. Luckily we also have a slow but steady interest from new people and some of these become members and even actively support the club in its work.

However the club is not large and new members are not numerous. This places a heavy workload on those who regularly volunteer to take on a role at events or responsibility for some aspect of club management.

At the recent club committee meeting we were reviewing the club's 'Development Plan'. Many items would require club members to do things - like running club nights or publishing event details on external websites. As the discussion continued it struck me that in fact we can aspire to do many things but those sitting around the room were actually already heavily committed to supporting the club. So who would take on these important additional tasks?

What the club actually needs is more members so that the tasks can be spread thinner. But how to get them? What I think is needed is someone with expertise in publicity (or marketing). In fact Thames Valley OC have grown quite rapidly in the last few years based mainly on the application of targeted marketing making use of effective publicity material. It may not give quick rewards but BKO needs to do more and, in my view, we need someone with experience and enthusiasm to step forward - and quickly. Otherwise we might find that the leavers start to exceed the newcomers and membership might fall and the club go into irreversible decline. Can you help?

David Jukes

BKO Advent Calendar 2014 — Depression Puzzle Special



For this issue, as you may have seen on the back cover, you have been provided with an orienteering Advent Calendar to get you through the days leading up to Christmas. However this is a Calendar with a difference. For each day before Christmas you will find the circle contains one or more depressions from a BKO map used during 2014. The challenge for BKO members is to try and identify the BKO maps used for each control circle. *Note that the scale used may not be the same as on the maps.*

To make it easier, all the maps are available on the BKO Routegadget website so even if you did not attend the event or have not got a copy of the map then you can still join in the challenge. The Routegadget page can be found at: <http://www.bko.routegadget.co.uk/rg2/> The solution will be in the next issue of the Newsletter.

For those of you who manage to get to the finish circle, there you will find a 'star', also from a BKO map used in 2014, to welcome in Christmas Day. **Happy Christmas everyone!**

An alternative use of the Calendar is to pin it to a dart board and see what score you can get with three darts!

Cover Photo: Navigating the concrete jungle: The 7th London City Race one again visited the Barbican, a multi-level urban area. The photograph shows **Richard Rae** pausing to check his route to reach a higher level so as to come back across the lake just visible at the bottom of the photo. The photo was taken by Gytautė Akstinaitė, a Lithuanian orienteer and 'self-taught photographer with background of Architecture', and used with permission. For more photos see:

<https://plus.google.com/photos/106964527116567479069/albums/6062240017457898193>

Club Notes

Keeping you informed about the club and its members

Results from Level A Events

- In September the 2014 British Sprint and British Middle Championships were held in the West Midlands. The Sprints were at Keele University and the Middles on the northern edge of Cannock Chase. Not many BKO members attended but the Methven Family were there with **Adam Methven** (M10) just missing the medals with a 4th place.
- More recently, in October the Midland Championships were staged at Longshaw, to the SW of Sheffield. Top BKO performer on this occasion was **Martin Wilson** who gained second place in M65L.

Race the Castles

It might have seemed a long way to go but the opportunity to run through and around historic castles and a royal estate was enough to attract a few BKO members north of the border. The 'Race the Castles' event in October was an opportunity to attract international competitors to Scotland in advance of next year's World Championships (WOC) and it provided the WOC organisers with a chance to test some of the systems to be used at the WOC.

*See photos on
inside back cover*

The first weekend (Friday 10th - Sunday 12th) saw **Nigel Hoult, Derek Mercer, Fiona Clough,** and **Martin Wilson** participating in urban events in Edinburgh and Stirling. The first few controls at Stirling were inside Stirling Castle, a technically difficult location (*see map inside back cover*). Best result this weekend was Martin's 2nd place at Edinburgh, just 11 seconds down from rival Mike Smithard of Deeside Orienteers (based around Chester).

This was followed (Saturday 18th /Sunday 19th) by an event on the Balmoral Estate on Royal Deeside and a final event on the sand dunes at Forvie, north of Aberdeen. Here there were 3 BKO members: **Stefan Stasiuk, Martin Wilson** and **Annika Hermik**. At Balmoral Martin just missed out, coming in second to Mike Smithard on a tough and hilly area. The following day, on the complex coastal dunes, the three competed again. Here it was Martin's turn to have a winning run and he came in first, a full two and a half minutes ahead of Mike - a fitting end to the week.

Committee News / Discussions

The Committee met in late September and the following are some of the topics discussed:

- Club training nights have been changed to Tuesdays and, based on just 3 nights, there had been little change in attendance. It was agreed to continue with the Tuesday sessions for a bit longer (perhaps a month) to see whether there is any improvement.
- Orienteering clubs have been advised by BOF to consider adopting the status of a 'Community Amateur Sports Club' (CASC). This is because there are tax rules which might result in the club having to pay tax on some of the income - we could even be expected to pay tax going back several years. To simplify the arrangements (and to avoid having to pay tax), the rules recognise the status of CASCs but requires them to conform to certain requirements. A small group, led by Treasurer **Pete Entwistle**, have looked into the details and are recommending we comply with these requirements. It is therefore likely that the Committee will be recommending some minor changes to the Constitution at the next AGM.
- The Committee reviewed the current Club Development Plan with some suggested amendments proposed by **Ken Ricketts**. Various suggestions were made and these will be incorporated to produce a final version to cover the immediate future.
- The website has been hosted by one company for several years now and **Andy Parry** has

been investigating alternatives. The plan is to move the site to a new host in the near future - members may recall that the 2014 Concorde Chase led to us reaching our download limit and competitors were briefly unable to download the final details until Andy had intervened.

- **Brian Sewell** reported on progress with the updating of the event IT systems. We are making progress and will aim to select the appropriate software at the next meeting. The aim is to be in a position to use club equipment for our event planned for the 30th May next year.
- The Committee was aware that **Katy Stubbs** has indicated that this will be her last year as Chairman. Of course not everything that she takes on is a part of the Chairman's role. She has agreed to produce some Terms of Reference to allow potential replacements to be more aware of the tasks involved.
- Details of the club's permanent orienteering courses on the club and BOF websites have been checked and updated by **David Jukes**.

Regional SCOA Committee News

There was also a meeting of the regional committee in September. Top items of interest are:

- Details of forthcoming key events were confirmed:
 - * 15th November 2014: BADO staging the Southern Night Championships at Pamber
 - * 8th March 2015: SARUM are staging the SCOA Long Distance Championships 2015 at Sidbury Hill, Tidworth, to the West of Andover.
 - * 9th May 2015 (Saturday): British Sprint Championships based at Aldershot. The event is being organised by BAOC with support from other clubs in the region (except TVOC and BKO)
 - * 10th May 2015 (Sunday): British Middle Championships based at Naphill to the west of High Wycombe. TVOC will be leading this event but will be assisted by BKO members.
- A new SCOA levy structure was adopted for implementation from 1st January 2015. Currently all regional events (Levels A-D) have to pay an 18p levy per person (with juniors counting as a third). The new system will only apply to Levels A-C but will be at the higher rate of 45p although the agreed figure is aimed at raising the same amount of funding. This will simplify accounting arrangements linked to the generally smaller Level D events.
- As previously noted, SCOA is also introducing a club regional membership fee of £2 per BOF member. This fee will be paid as a lump sum by clubs and not by the individual members.

Berkshire Orienteers **is on Facebook !**

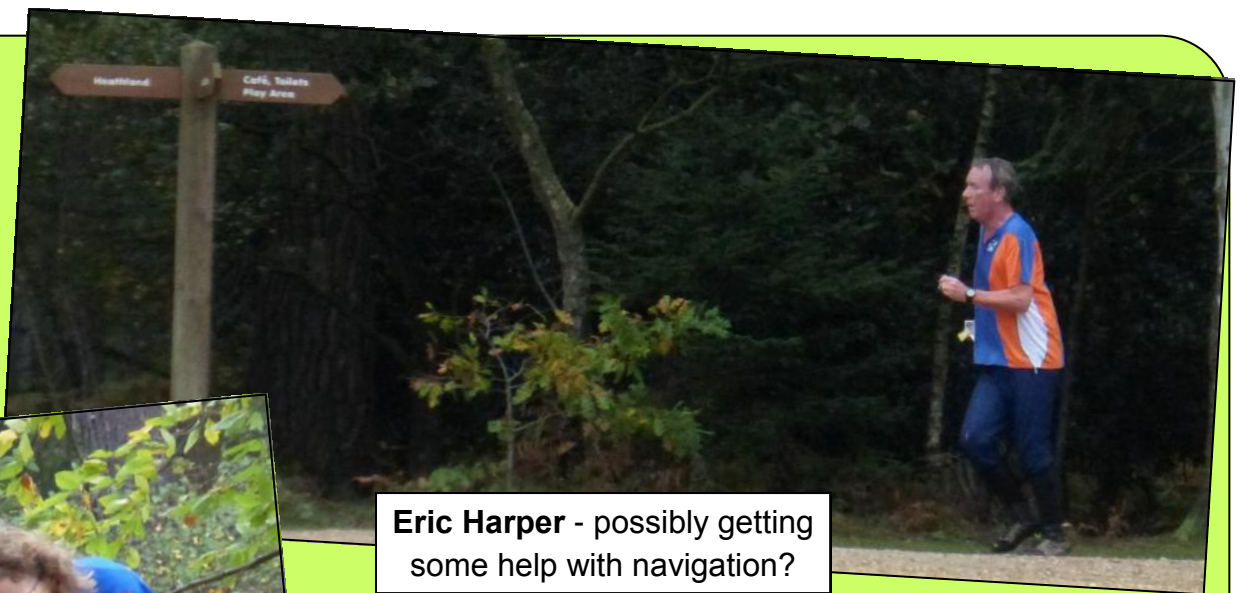


Newsletter Distribution:

Our thanks to those who have indicated that they will be happy to only have the newsletter as a pdf file sent by e-mail as this does save the club money. If you are willing to only receive the newsletter by e-mail as a pdf file, please let me know and I will add your name to the list. **newsletter@bko.org.uk**



Gill Godbold



Eric Harper - possibly getting some help with navigation?

Black Park: SCOA League Event - 26th October

This event was delayed from our normal September date due to fixture congestion. **Fiona Clough** was the Organiser with **Ken Ricketts** planning the courses. Pre-entries were quite low (at only about 85) but on-the-day entries brought the number of competitors up to around 200. Walking from the car park to Registration took people through a local monthly craft and farmers market providing an excellent range of post-event refreshments.

Membership Memo

Ian Hudson - Membership Secretary

Things have looked up on the membership front since the last newsletter with the following new members to welcome:

- **Eoin Sharkey** from Wargrave. Eoin (pronounced Owen) who has been to three or four of our events; took the plunge and joined at the end of August.
- **Jean-Rene Blaie** and his daughters **Sara & Anabel** from Hillingdon. I know Jean-Rene has orienteered whilst living in Spain so welcome to the slightly damper UK.
- The **Schult Family** from Englefield Green. **Bruce & Kim** and their children **Bradley, Tyler & Kami**. More juniors for the club with potential for improving the clubs performance in the CompassSport Cup.

As it is now November, just a reminder from me that your subscriptions are due on the 1st January. Those paying by Direct Debit can relax but others can renew your BO/BKO membership from this month at:

http://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/page/renew_membership

Once again our subscription fees are unchanged. To remain a member of BKO in 2015 you will pay:

	Senior	Junior
BO fee	£5	£2
BKO fee	£6	£1
Total payable	£11	£3

A bargain, I hope you agree, for this newsletter alone without taking into account the event entry fee reductions.

Your 2014-2015 Committee

Chairman:	Katy Stubbs	chairman@bko.org.uk	0118 978 2875
Secretary:	Derick Mercer	secretary@bko.org.uk	
Fixtures Secretary:	Fiona Clough	fixtures@bko.org.uk	
Treasurer:	Peter Entwistle	treasurer@bko.org.uk	01628 635278
Development Officer:	Ken Ricketts		
Membership Secretary:	Ian Hudson	membership@bko.org.uk	

4 Committee Members :

Andy Parry, David Jukes (newsletter@bko.org.uk), Dave Rogers and Brian Sewell

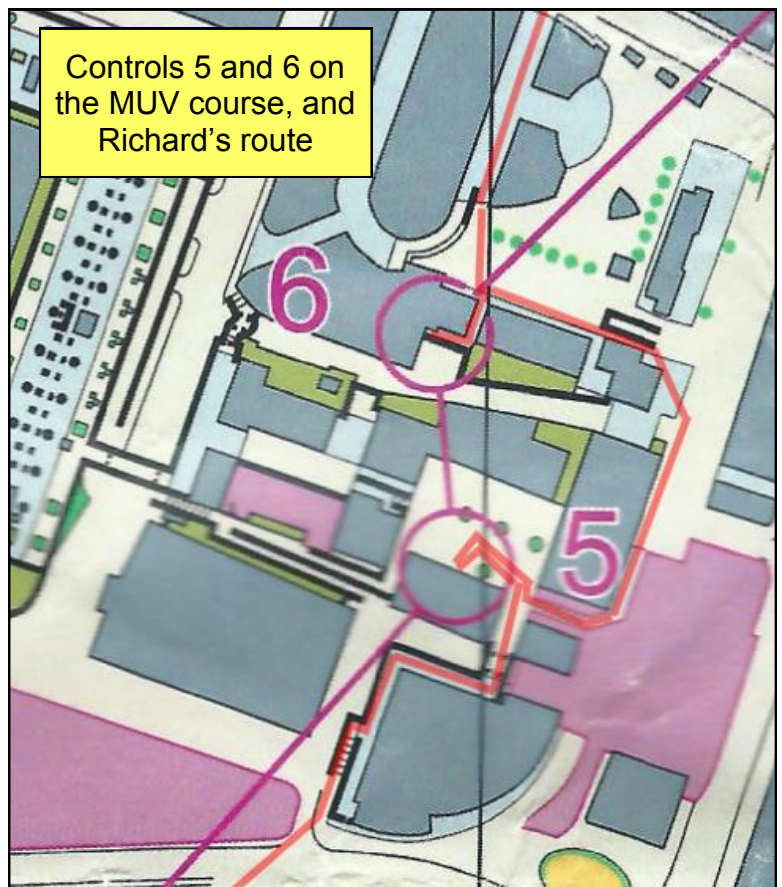
City of London Urban Race

Richard Rae

Good urban O-areas need lots of narrow alleys, canopies, stairways, under-passes and ramps linking the runnable zones to add interest and complexity to the event. The City of London race, organised by SLOW, has all these in abundance. This year's event was centred again on the Barbican Estate and featured the most complex urban map I have run on. I counted at least 4 main accessible levels – below street level, street level, mid-level and upper level – which often overlapped. I had ran there three years ago, with considerable confusion in places, and was looking forward to a 2nd attempt. To add to the challenge, you may run past famous buildings - Saint Paul's Cathedral, the Gherkin, Lloyd's Building, and many others are in the area. Perhaps best to keep your eye on the map, however.

The start was on London Wall Street. The MUV (M65+) course began with a number of fairly straight-forward legs – left or right round the block, allowing for the narrow alleys at the end? In retrospect, I might have been better choosing the other option, but stopping for a fuller analysis of a leg's options often wastes more time than it may save. Control 2 was sited in the grounds of St Paul's. Legs 5 and 6 were close to Moorgate Underground station and required careful inspection to spot the optimum route (*See map right*). For control 6, the "Canopy End", I'm glad I read the description, as it would have been easy to run under an earlier canopy, thinking the kite was on the south side of an uncrossable wall. I chose the eastern route via the underground station stairway which is probably shorter than the western route via the road. However, there was another shorter route to the west via the stairway "SW" of the "6". On my map, the printing ink appeared to merge, forming an uncrossable boundary. It was not clear if the stairway was negotiable, but some competitors chose this route, as can be seen on RouteGadget.

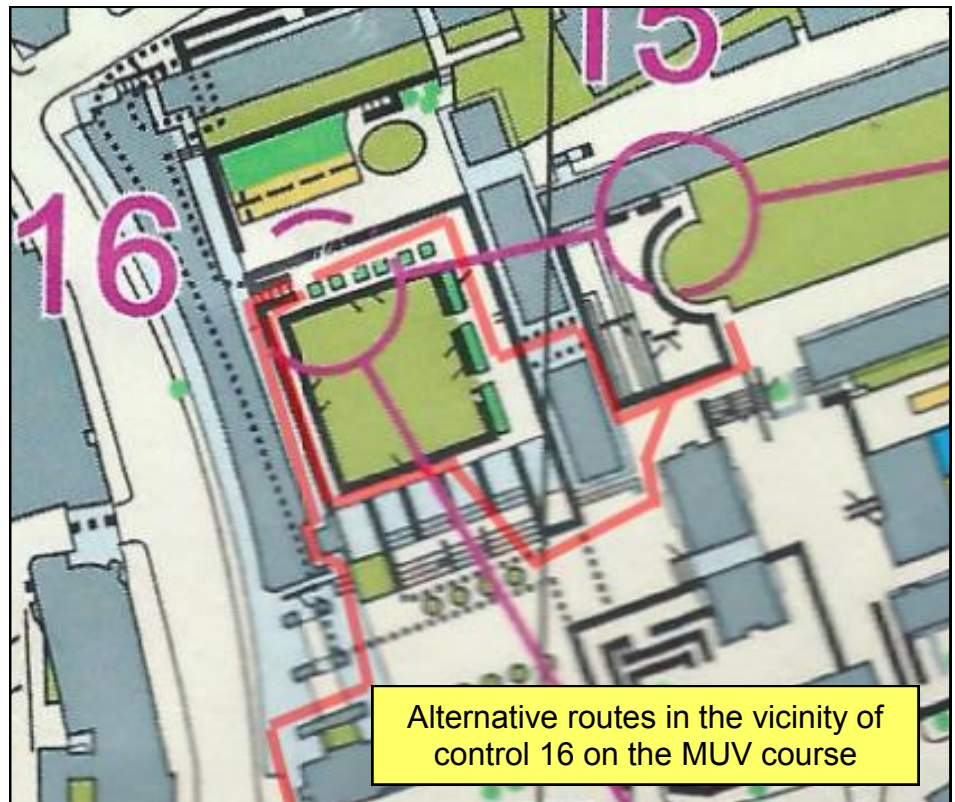
Proceeding via Exchange Square, just north of Fenchurch Street station, the rest



of the MUV course was straight forward until control 15, a “Fence end” at the foot of a ramp. So far, I had not made major errors, and had kept moving consistently. However, the planner had put a sting in the tail of the MUV course by keeping the complex multi-level terrain for the final controls. There, my problems started.

Control 16, a bush masquerading as a “Thicket” adjacent to sunken tennis courts in the Golden Lane Leisure Centre, appeared to be surrounded by uncrossable walls and buildings. How to get to it? I ground to a halt. My eyesight wasn’t up to spotting the shortest route under the very narrow canopy and into the garden via an underpass. I needed a very large magnifying glass to see this route a few days later. I also had a temporary mental block about using an underpass which stops at an uncrossable wall, although in practice, the underpass continues under the wall and so is passable. A longer, but perhaps more obvious route involved descending 2 short stairways beneath a canopy to the tennis courts. Perhaps it was sweat in my eyes, or, more likely, my failing eyesight, but I could not resolve the stairway symbols and interpreted them as uncrossable walls, so ruled out this route. However, I had been in this area three years before and remembered a long sloping underpass between 2 uncrossable walls, so reached the control by this circuitous route. (See *map above right for options and map on next page for my actual route. Also shown right is an aerial photo of the area in the vicinity of control 16.*)

Looking ahead, control 17, another bush in a concrete tub masquerading as a “Thicket”, had me worried. It was sited in a mid level of the Barbican Estate. I had been very confused in this zone in the earlier event, and had spent a lot of time on Google Maps trying to



clarify things. However, this leg passed smoothly – back along the long sloping underpass to street level, down an wide alley, under a canopy, up another sloping ramp between uncrossable walls to a canopied upper level, and then, down a stairway to the mid-level containing the control. My route was by no means the shortest route from control 16 to the wide alley at street level. The shortest route is to the west under a canopy. However, this route involves more detailed interpretation of the map, and probably slowing down to negotiate corners and obstacles. My longer route, run without much thinking on my part to street level, does not appear to have cost me too much time.

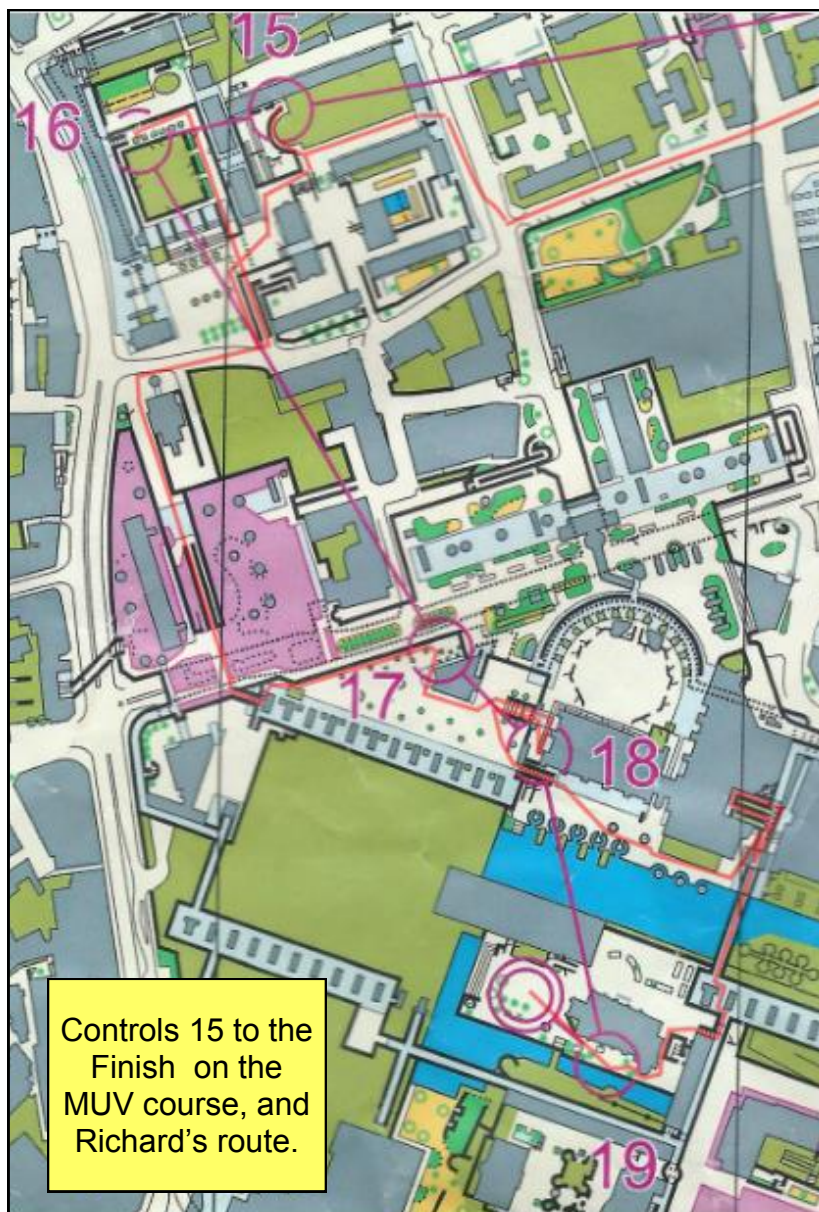
Control 18, the “Stairway, Foot”, was at the end of a short leg across the middle level to the upper level by another stairway. This control was sited to provide a tricky route choice for the final leg to control 19, the “Wall, N. side”.

The potential routes to control 19 involved crossing the Barbican lake by a mid-level walkway. There were 2 possible routes as explained by the organisers in the final details. Route A

appeared longer and made use of a long underpass at mid-level, curving in a semi-circle at first. This route led directly to the walkway across the lake. Route B appeared shorter, but required descending to street/lake level then ascending to the mid-level walk-way via a couple of ramps. Perhaps not much in it. However, the entrance to the route A underpass was not immediately obvious to me, and 3 years earlier, I had successfully negotiated Route B. Thinking “better the devil you know”, I opted for Route B, and shuffled off down sets of stairways, across the lakeside terrace and into the dark concrete portal to the Barbican labyrinth. Inside, I discovered the devil did not remember me. Neither did the organisers' notes help. Confused, I retreated to the entrance and ground to a halt for a second time *[Editor: See cover photo!]*. Trying again, I noticed a sign to the upper walkway. Thankfully, this led to the ramps, the lake crossing, and down an easily over-shot stairway to the lakeside terrace, the last control and finish.

I finished about half-way down the MUV results, but was quite pleased with my “run” as I have had an ankle problem which has reduced me to walking round courses for most of the last year. My SplitsBrowser graph was almost a straight line apart from a steeper gradient at control 16, indicating reasonably consistent navigation.

There are no contour lines on the London City map. The organisers said there were no hills, so no climb was stated. However, the day before, I had run the Guildford urban race which was the same nominal distance, 4.4 km, but featured a climb of 135m. On both days my times and navigation were very similar, so I must have climbed an awful lot of stairs in London!



Know your sport: Administering the sport

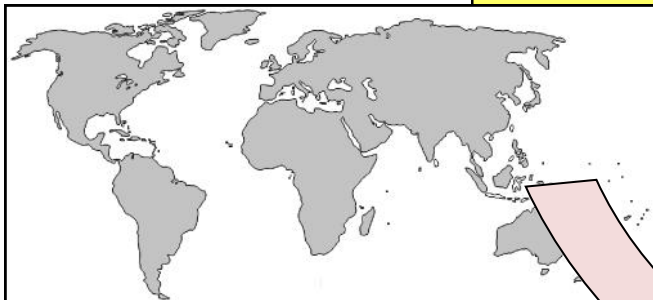
So you enjoy going to orienteering events, you know that there are defined courses, you have joined a club, you have learnt the symbols used on maps, you search for events on the internet. Ever wondered how this all happens and how it is coordinated? Here is a brief summary:



The International Orienteering Federation (IOF):

At the top of our sport is the body which co-ordinates activities on a global scale. It is the IOF which establishes the standards for maps (ISOM and ISSOM) and the rules used for international events.

They are the organisation which decides on the staging of the various World Championships, allocating the responsibility to different national bodies but ensuring the events are staged to their standards and rules. As well as 'foot orienteering' the body also regulates mountain bike orienteering, ski orienteering, and trail orienteering. The IOF was founded in 1961 and recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 1977.



British Orienteering Federation (BOF):

For us here in the United Kingdom, the national governing body is the BOF (which for marketing and other purposes has adopted the shorter term: 'British Orienteering').

BOF is actually a 'limited company' and has official Articles of Association (running to 45 pages). These define how BOF is managed. There is a Board of Directors which provides leadership and direction and there is a Chief Executive who manages the organisation on a day-to-day basis implementing the decisions of the Board.

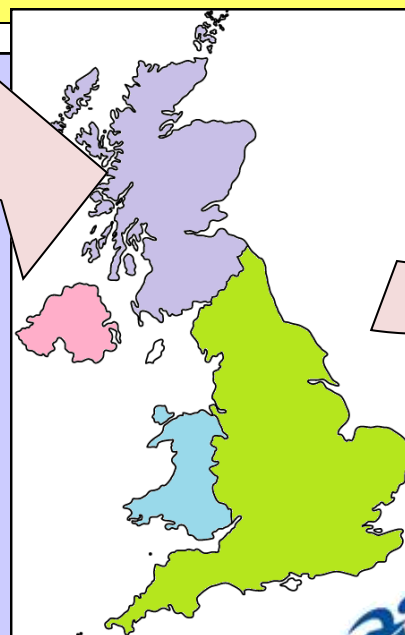
When you join and become a member of BKO via BOF you are actually becoming a member of the company with rights as laid down in the Articles.

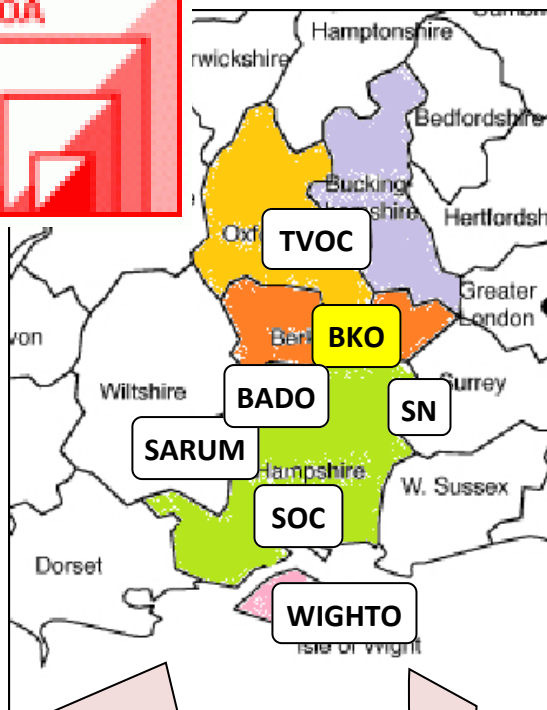
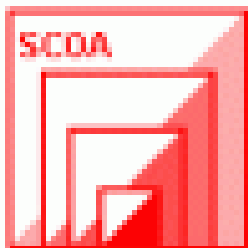
One of the Articles sets out the constituent bodies (Associations) that make up the Federation. These are:

- Northern Ireland Orienteering Association
- Scottish Orienteering Association
- Welsh Orienteering Association
- Each of the nine Regional Associations of England:
 - East Anglian Orienteering Association, East Midlands Orienteering Association, North East Orienteering Association, North West Orienteering Association, **South Central Orienteering Association**, South East Orienteering Association, South West Orienteering Association, West Midland Orienteering Association and Yorkshire and Humberside Orienteering Association
- British Schools Orienteering Association

BOF adopts the national rules of the sport which are based on the IOF rules but with some minor local variations to take into account the national situation. The national body tries to ensure consistency in the way events are staged, they control and manage the various national championships, and they select and manage national teams to participate in international events such as the World Championships.

When we in BKO put on events, we register them with BOF which gives us insurance cover. This does however come at a cost - all registered events are subject to an event levy which helps contribute to BOF's income.





South Central Orienteering Association (SCOA)

As indicated above, there are nine regional associations in England and their boundaries were based on those of the regional Sports Councils (which were a source of funding). Our regional Association, SCOA, helps coordinate activities in the region. It often seems a bit of an unlikely collection of counties being tall (N-S) and narrow (E-W)

This regional coordination may seem quite limited but it does involve things like the staging of regional championships, coordination of clubs' own events (avoiding clashes with other clubs in the region), organising a regional junior squad, promoting training opportunities and running a badge scheme. A regional committee meets regularly to progress this work. To fund its activities, SCOA also operates an event levy scheme.

The main 'open' clubs in the region are:

- **BADO** - Basingstoke and Andover Orienteers
- **BKO** - Berkshire Orienteers
- **SARUM** - Sarum Orienteering Club
- **SOC** - Southampton OC
- **SN** - Southern Navigators
- **TVOC** - Thames Valley OC
- **WIGHTO** - Wight Orienteers

The main 'closed' club is the British Army Orienteering Club (**BAOC**) which is linked to SCOA due to the presence of many army bases in the region - notably Aldershot.

It is perhaps worth noting that anyone can join any club as boundaries are not strictly defined or enforced. To further complicate things, two clubs actually also have members, and hence links, with other regions - SARUM with SWOA and SN with SEOA.

Want to find out more?

- IOF: <http://orienteering.org/>
- BOF: <http://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/index.php>
- SCOA: <http://www.scoa-orienteering.org.uk/>
- BKO: <http://www.bko.org.uk/info>

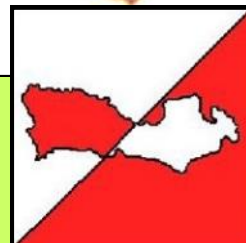
Berkshire Orienteers (BKO)

And so to our own club - **Berkshire Orienteers**.

Originally set up as 'Reading Orienteers' in 1968, the expanding membership, particularly towards Bracknell and Maidenhead, led to the adoption of the current name in 1990. There is a short constitution setting out the terms of membership, the appointment of the club's officers and the requirement to hold an Annual General Meeting.

The club is managed by an Executive Committee and the current membership and the roles of the officers is shown in every Newsletter. The Committee usually meets every two months to consider key topics such as forthcoming events and activities, mapping, equipment, club development work and finances. There are also reports of relevant regional and national activities and debates about any topics on which clubs are being consulted.

Any member can stand for election to the Committee at the AGM and it is always good to have new members bringing fresh ideas. Of course, members don't have to be on the Committee to help the club in many ways - whether with the staging of events or with more routine administrative tasks.



Event Summary

This listing shows a selection of forthcoming events — most of the local events and some of the more important ones from further afield. For a full listing, look at the British Orienteering web site.

Date	Name	Level	Club	Venue	Town
Sat 8 Nov	SN Trophy & SE League	Level B	SN	Mytchett	Frimley
Sat 8 Nov	Dorset Schools & limited Colour coded event	Level D	SARUM	Bulford Ridges + MTBO	Tidworth
Wed 12 Nov	Military League South	Level D	BAOC	Barossa	Camberley
Sat 15 Nov	Southern Night Championships	Level C	BADO	Silchester Common	Tadley
Sun 16 Nov	BADO Level C and SCOA League Event and BKO Club Championships	Level C	BADO	Pamber Forest	Tadley
Sat 22 Nov	TVOC Saturday Series Big Wood	Level D	TVOC	Big Wood	South Oxhey near Watford
Sun 23 Nov	CHIG Regional SE League	Level B	CHIG	Epping NW	Loughton
Sat 29 Nov	SN Farnborough Urban Event	Level C	SN	Farnborough	Farnborough
Sun 30 Nov	OK Nuts Trophy	Level C	SLOW	Wisley Common	Wisley
Sat 6 Dec	SN - Saturday Series 3	Level D	SN	Frith Hill	Frimley
Sun 7 Dec	SCOA League	Level C	SOC	Fritham Plain and Bentley Inclosures	Lyndhurst
Sat 13 Dec	TVOC Saturday Series Kingswood	Level D	TVOC	Kingswood School	High Wycombe
Sat 20 Dec	BKO Winter Saturday Series (Yateley Heath)	Level D	BKO	Yateley Heath	Yateley
Sun 21 Dec	TVOC Regional Event and SCOA League	Level C	TVOC	Shotover Country Park	Oxford
Thu 1 Jan	New Years Day Score event	Level D	SARUM	Everleigh TBC	Tidworth
Sat 10 Jan	TVOC Saturday Series Black Park	Level D	TVOC	Black Park	Slough
Sat 10 Jan	SN - Saturday Series 4	Level D	SN	Long Valley South	Aldershot

Given below is the current advance planning for BKO events in the first half of next year. Keep the days free to join us and, if possible, please assist the organisers by offering to help. We will be needing as many volunteers as possible to help run our annual 'Concorde Chase' event in January as this will attract competitors from quite a distance.

Date	Event	Officials
Sat 17 Jan	Saturday/Youth League: Burghfield North	Organiser – Glen & Di; Planner – Mark Foxwell
Sun 25 Jan	Concorde Chase – Cold Ash	Organiser – A Wilkes; Planner – D Rogers; Asst Planner – A Parry; Controller – Roger Thetford
Sat 14 Feb	Saturday/Youth League: Langley Park	Organiser – Glen & Di; Planner – Andrew Southwood
Sat 14 Mar	Saturday/Youth League: Swinley West/ East	Organiser – Glen & Di; Planner – Brian Burt
Sat 11 Apr	Saturday/Youth League: Rushall Woods	Organiser – Glen & Di; Planner – Peter Wilson
Sat 9 May	<i>British Sprint Championships: Aldershot</i>	<i>No official BKO involvement</i>
Sun 10 May	British Middle Championships: Naphill, High Wycombe	TVOC lead organisers and planning; BKO to provide support
Sat 30 May	Great Hollands (Level C)	Organiser – ?; Planner – Mark Foxwell
Sat 2 May / 6 June ?	Summer Parks: Sandhurst?	
Sat 20 June	Summer Parks: Easthampstead & Wildridings?	
Sat 4 Jul	Summer Parks: Ashenbury Park?	
Sat 18 July	Summer Parks: Birch Hill?	



The Concorde Chase

(Level B Event)

Sunday 25th January 2015

Cold Ash, Hermitage



World Orienteering Championships 2015 + Scottish 6-Day

SCOTTISH 6 DAYS
ORIENTEERING
HIGHLAND 2015



*Next summer sees the World Championships return to the UK for the third time. Previous UK events were in 1976 and 1999. In 2015, the WOC will once again be based in the same part of Scotland - Inverness and the Moray Firth. In fact, one area (Darnaway) will have been used in both 1976 and 2015. After the 1976 event, the following year saw the inaugural Scottish 6-Day event making good use of the areas used in the WOC. In 2015, the two events are running in parallel. Our own **Martin Wilson** has been invited to help with the planning of one day in the Scottish 6-Day event. Here he gives us a flavour of what is involved.*



Scottish 6-Day Planning : Martin Wilson

Why plan an event 600 miles from home? Well, it offers the chance to plan on high-quality terrain (lots of contours!), many courses, a huge entry, and a one-off opportunity attached to WOC 2015. Add to that spending more time in the beautiful Highlands of Scotland, time sadly lacking since finishing the Munros, and it's a no-brainer. I can be at the site in six hours via Luton Airport. One of the day organisers lives in the Scottish Borders, and it takes him five hours to make the same trip!

I am Lead Planner for Day 2 of the Scottish 6 Days event, to be held at Glen Strathfarrar on Monday 4th August 2015. Roger Scrutton, Chairman of SOA, is Co-Planner. I am designing the main Senior TD5 courses, a total of 19 courses, from M/21E down to M70/W60. Roger is handling all junior courses (TD1 to TD4) and the 'golden oldies' of W65/M75+, and the EOD equivalent courses. The planning numbers are mind-boggling: almost 4,700 competitors and 41 courses in total ("and be prepared to develop additional parallel courses if entry numbers show them to be necessary"!).

The S6D is a separate company, with its own assets and organisation. They manage the central provision of equipment and maps, and handle the logistics of moving and erecting marquees, stiles, etc, and handle all the landowner permissions for terrain, assembly and parking. The Day Organisers from the Scottish O clubs who help on the day say that it is easier than putting on an event of their own, because so much is already in place.

When I started in June, the area, parking and assembly had all been agreed with the two landowners, who are cousins. A week later, I received the first full O map of the area. This was a work of art from Steve Barratt of Stirling Surveys. I spent my first morning in the terrain trying to QA the map (as you do...) but gave up after a couple of hours, as every copse, contour, rock and marsh appeared correctly on the map. Only very small changes have been needed in the months since then.

Everyone has been very welcoming to me. I was worried that there might be some resistance to 'the planner from the South', but this was not the case - being Scottish probably helped here! I've made several significant suggestions for change, and have been backed up each time. The guiding principle from S6D has always been to provide the very best competitor experience they can. The landowners are very keen to have the event on their land, and having direct contact with them has been very advantageous for me. Landowners in Scotland are not allowed to charge for land access (oh that this was the case in England also...), but payment is usually made for car parking and assembly areas.

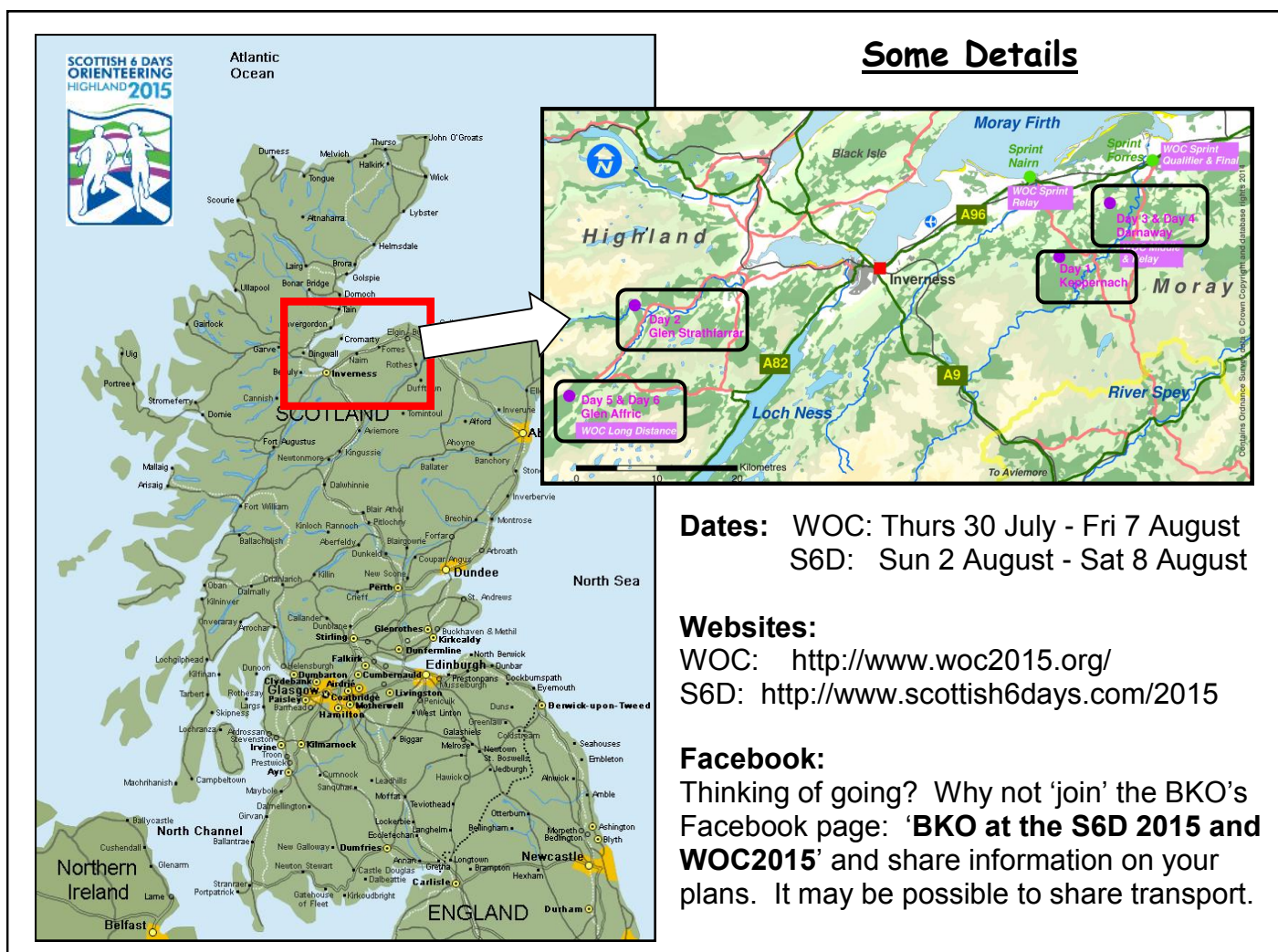
This is the first occasion that Glen Strathfarrar has been used for orienteering. We have therefore had to conduct test running to establish the speed metrics that enable us to set correct course

lengths. I developed six test courses, from M21E down to 'Green', and we ran those in early August, exactly a year before the event. I took the opportunity to run my own class course a day early. It was a strange feeling to be staring down at my map on the ground before starting, knowing I was going to be the first person ever to run a prepared O course in that area. A nice perk of the job!

Day 2 will be a rest day for WOC competitors and their spectators. We are thus expecting a high turnout of very good runners on this day. It would be easy to set courses which are long enough for the very best runners, but we have also to be mindful of the average holiday orienteer. Different parts of the area have significantly different runnability, so getting this balance right will not be easy, but if courses do turn out a little long for the slower runners, the next day is a rest day for S6D competitors!

There is significant security round the WOC maps and courses – planners are not allowed to send a map file and courses file in the same e-mail, for instance. Day 2 is not part of WOC, so we're a bit more flexible. Yet we were warned that on the test running day, where some Elites were present, we were not allowed to discuss anything about any of the WOC forests, in case we gave away any information of value. Plus I had to get the WOC15 website changed to show that Strathfarrar was no longer an embargoed area for Elites.

I won't comment here on the terrain or courses, for obvious reasons. But Glen Strathfarrar is a very beautiful area, partly forested, partly open, and the views up the glen are fantastic on a nice day. (Perhaps I'll modify some courses to ensure runners spend some time looking at the best views!). But if you are thinking of coming to the whole event, I'd thoroughly recommend it. Days 3 to 6 will be in WOC areas in Darnaway and Glen Affric, and should be superb. And I know the Scots will do all they can to make it a great event for everyone. Just remember to book your accommodation in good time, that's all – there could be 4,700 other people trying to do the same thing!



O-Ringen 2014 in Southern Sweden

Alan Yeadon



Liz and I have friends who live in Lund in southern Sweden and we thought it a good idea to visit them and taste the famous O-Ringen orienteering event. The event this year was centred on Norra Åsum and took place from the 19th to the 25th July. The huge camping site and event centre was situated here on a large tract of army land. We stayed in the neighbouring town of Kristianstad. There were orienteering events on five days and one rest day. An elite sprint race was held on the rest day in Kristianstad in a park near our hotel and we managed a ringside viewpoint.

We could easily travel to each site within one hour. Day 1 and Day 2 were on the same site at Vastanaberget Vanga. This proved to be a hilly forest area so that my navigation was slow over a very complex area covered in rocks (glacial moraine perhaps?). However, we did manage to complete the courses on the first two days. The third day was a rest day and we met up with our Swedish friend (also called Liz!) and we visited a lovely rural manor house called Backaskog Slott. This large manor house came with complete with lake and gardens. This visit was quite a nostalgic one for our Swedish friend because this was the place where she was married about 40 years ago. So as well as orienteering there are plenty of places to visit including a never ending seaside with beautiful sandy beaches.

However, to return to orienteering aspects. One amazing feature of the O-Ringen is the size of the entry. If we get about 3000 to 4000 runners it is classed as a big event and I would not argue with that but the O-Ringen in 2014 attracted 22,571 entries covering age ranges from 5 to 90. So the scale is much larger than we had experienced before. The car parks were huge and very well managed. If you arrived mid morning you could expect a long queue to enter the car park and also a queue to exit later. However, we found the queues moved steadily and the large number of marshals directing traffic made parking easy. In fact the event relied on 2500 volunteers to carry out a large number of tasks such as parking, starts, download, enquiries. In addition there were coaches that ferried runners from the main campsite at Nora Åsum. In fact they had hired 100 coaches to transport runners to and from events and these coaches used a separate entrance and separate exit.

There were several features of the O-Ringen that were new to us. On each day are eight different starts. Each Start had a different sponsor. The sponsor for our age groups was Team Sportia. This firm in Sweden has sports shops in many towns and sells sports equipment. Team Sportia had a large marquee at each event. In addition there were eight different finishes all arranged in parallel fashion. So we had to use the team Sportia Start and the Team Sportia Finish.

Another new feature we found was that at each event you could have a shower. There were two large shower areas. One was for men and one for women. Each area was surrounded by a tall plastic wall to ensure privacy (Glastonbury style!). Several huge tankers were used each day to supply the vast amount of water required.

The maps we used were very clear with a 1:7500 scale and 5m contours and printed on water proof paper with control descriptions also on the map. As I mentioned earlier I found the first two days hard going. The area was very hilly with lots and lots of rocks but one feature that helped was the existence of ancient stone walls which helped as attack features or catching features. I was very happy to complete the first two day courses. The area for Day 3 was a much flatter area next to the sea at Frisebode. It was essentially a sand dune area with collection of patches of fir trees and gorse bushes as well as open areas and many paths. This proved to be my best day,

Days 4 and 5 events took place in wooded terrain but the going was easier than Days 1 and 2. I was able to make good use of paths although I must say I did not choose the faster direct routes. I had problems on Day 5 with control 4 which only about 170 metres from a clear track. Perhaps I



got led astray by finding other controls. I tried again from a different attack point and failed but on the third go I went straight to it! Time taken 32 minutes. I found the other controls easily and managed OK on Day 4.

You will find details of the events and a vast range of photos on the O-Ringen website at:
<http://www.oringen.se/live/bilder2014.4576.html>

And for 2015 ..

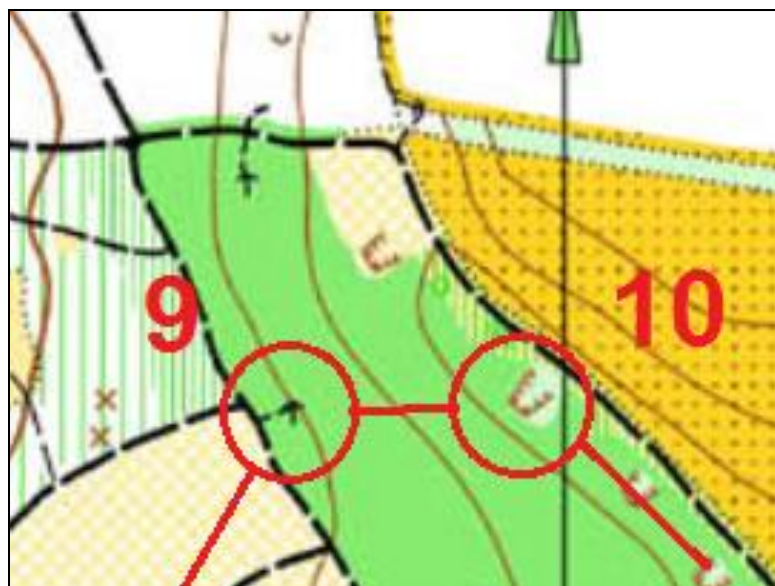
The event will be close to Gothenburg with the event days running from Sunday 19 July —Friday 24 July. Further details are on their website. See:

http://www.oringen.se/english.1_en.html

Missing Control? Don't Panic!

David Jukes

Our sport is complex and mostly run by volunteers with limited time. We have mappers who have to criss-cross complex terrain trying to construct maps which show the shape of the ground and the position of pits, gullies, depressions, banks, ditches, fences, distinctive trees, knolls, etc... They also have to judge



how fast people can get through a section of wood (run, slow run, walk or fight). And then planners take over and have to devise interesting courses through the area and position the controls accurately on the features checking that the map provides a fair test of navigation to that point. At larger events, we also have controllers who provide guidance to the planner but also seek to prevent errors arising. Despite all this, mistakes and errors occur.

At a recent event the navigation appeared relatively straightforward. However when I arrived at control 9 and looked at the route to control 10, I knew I needed to be cautious. It was a short leg which went through a 'difficult to run' section of wood. I decided

this needed an accurate compass bearing and a steady trot with pace counting (although there was a significant track and a field just beyond the control to prevent me going too far). I followed the bearing and, after about the correct number of paces, the feature appeared and I dropped down the earth bank into the feature. But there was no control. I looked around, checked the control description, circled a bit more and returned to the point where I thought the control should be.

And then I saw it - a branch had been pushed into the earth and on it were two bits of insulating tape. And on one of these was the number '91' - the number that should have been on my control. This to me was proof that I was in the correct place. Clearly the control was missing but I was where the planner wanted the control. – perhaps the control had been stolen (unlikely given the area) or had someone forgotten to put it out?

I headed off and completed the rest of the course without incident. At download I reported my problem and they indicated that I was the second to report this problem (although the first to comment that they had found tapes) but, curiously, others had found the control.

Subsequent investigation by the club officials indicated that there was an additional similar feature which had not been mapped (from the map extract you can see that there are several similar features just into the wood along the track). The mapper had failed to spot the extra one in the quite dense woodland. The planner, when investigating possible control sites, selected the site for control '91' and marked the location with tape. The controller, when checking the sites will have found this and confirmed it as suitable. The likely error occurred when, in heavy rain on the Saturday, the control was placed in the unmapped feature despite it not having the taped branch indicating the correct location.

I repeat that mistakes can and will happen in our sport. So what should happen to the results? The rules of the sport state the following:

"If a serious problem has been identified and is found to have affected the outcome of a competition, then appropriate action must be taken. Full details regarding what constitutes a serious problem and the consequences of results adjustment are contained in Appendix A: Event systems." (Section 31.2) and

"... the option to remove splits either side of a problem control, ... can be considered as a possible solution to an affected race. The decision whether or not to adjust the results however is still not one that should be taken lightly. Removing splits can have dramatic effects on the outcome of the race and may not be justified if only a few competitors are affected." (Section 8.11.6 in Appendix A).

The organisers at the event decided that, given that some competitors found the control (in probably the wrong location) and others failed to find it at the correct location, adjustments were needed to the recorded times. The decision was taken to remove the times that all competitors had taken to go from control 9 to control 11 and the results would be based on the remaining time.

So what lessons can be learnt?

- If you are asked to help put out controls for an event, make sure that you locate the tape marking the location. If you think you are in the right location, I would suggest you position the control but make sure you report it to the planner or controller so that they can check it before the event starts.
- As a competitor trying to locate an apparently missing control, you should always look out for some tape marking the correct location for the control. If the control has been vandalised it is highly unlikely that the vandals will have also removed the tape. In the absence of any indication that you are actually at the correct place, try to relocate to see if the error is yours. It is also worth considering what mistake might have been made by the event officials - for example, could the control description say 'Eastern depression' when it should have stated 'Western depression'.
- It is also worth knowing the additional advice contained in Appendix A: *"If a competitor encounters a problem with a control they should, however hard it may seem, endeavour to continue the race without pre-judging the outcome of any protest or ruling on the problem."* If there has been a problem and the organisers decide to remove the splits, it is important that you have tried hard around the rest of the course!

Finally, don't forget that the officials are volunteers and without them we would have no sport. So even if something has gone wrong, please recognise that they will have spent hours trying to give you the opportunity to compete. Please don't be too critical and certainly don't get abusive (as if any BKO member would!). The officials will be upset that something has gone wrong with their event - no doubt they will also have learnt some lessons.

Race the Castles Scotland, October



Derick Mercer



Nigel Hoult

Part of the urban map of **Stirling** showing **Stirling Castle**



Martin Wilson



Fiona Clough

Photos by Wendy Carlyle,
available on Flickr

BKO ADVENT CALENDAR 2014

