

# SROC



The Red Rose Orienteering Club



BOF Club of the Year 2008

## Newsletter

January/February 2017

Editor: Dick Collins



### CompassSport Trophy

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March

You are needed!

**FREE ENTRY!** but please notify [davehargreaves07@btinternet.com](mailto:davehargreaves07@btinternet.com) by 26th Feb

# Odds and Ends

Congratulations to WCOC who have made it to their half century. They are putting on a whole range of different events this year.

World Orienteering Day is the 24<sup>th</sup> of May.

In the last Newsletter I mentioned that Maurice Collett was going to spend his 94<sup>th</sup> birthday with one of his daughters in Malaysia. Unfortunately, Maurice didn't make it out to the east. He was diagnosed with an aneurism (weakness in the wall of an artery) and has had two operations, one of which was to insert a stent. We wish him all the best for a speedy recovery.

The latest CompassSport contains an article about 10% of the entrants in the Swedish Veteran Sprint Championships going out-of-bounds by crossing a fence and adjacent hedge, both of which were marked as uncrossable. The alternative was to run several hundred metres to the right or left. The fence in question was 1.8 m high so it must have presented quite a challenge to get over it (these were veterans, remember). The writer of the article is quite critical of these competitors. However, it may be worth pointing out that the "mind-set" of many competitors is very much to get to the control by any means available and they may not look too closely at the map detail. In "normal" cross-country orienteering there are occasional OOB areas. These include private homes, SSSIs etc. I was going to include cemeteries but I ran (legally) through a cemetery at the Horwich Street event earlier this week. In general, however, you can head for the control by any route. If you want to fight through the dark green then that is up to you. I realise that readers will have differing views on this but my bottom line is that I think that the Planner had something to answer for. If you plan courses which encourage people to go OOB then that is precisely what will happen. If there is some reason why you cannot avoid the situation described above, then an extra control, several hundred metres to the right or left would have forced runners to take a correct route.

In the last Newsletter I wrote an article about Mick McGill, who had been accused of cheating by Arthur Boyt. Martin Bagness has responded by casting Mick in a much more favourable light. Arthur, however, is still going strong on an anti-cheating campaign. He says that any competitor who does anything wrong should be disqualified. Fair enough if it was intentional. However, he then says that if a competitor has punched (or believes that they have punched) at a particular control, but there is no record on the e-card/dibber, then they should be disqualified ***even if there is evidence from spectators or from the control box to indicate that***

*the competitor did punch at that control.* That seems a bit much to me. If a battery is about to run out it may or may not register (possibly depending on how long you leave the dibber in the slot) and punishing runners in that case would seem to be wrong.

One gets the feeling that fairly soon all the big events will involve contactless punching. If you are buying a new dibber then you should certainly consider getting a contactless one.

The latest CompassSport survey is about "How did you start orienteering". Interestingly "*Taken at gunpoint/kidnapped*" scores 2.6%. Possibly more interesting, in view of committee discussions about increasing membership methods, is that "*Found out about it from Twitter or Facebook*" scores 0%.

I made an error with the CST date in the Fixtures part of the last Newsletter. It seemed like the entire membership e-mailed me to point this out. Though annoyed that I had made an error I was amazed that so many people read the Newsletter in that amount of detail.

## JK and British Champs Relays

**FREE ENTRY!!**

Please let Mark Edwards know if you would like to run at  
[mark.edwards170@gmail.com](mailto:mark.edwards170@gmail.com)

# Club Dinner

A Reminder that the Club Dinner is on 31<sup>st</sup> March at Wyrebank in Garstang. See last Newsletter for menu. Guest Speaker is Derek Allison (5-Days Organiser). Organiser is Rowena Browne, Please notify her if you would like to come (rowenacrowne@gmail.com).

## Club Handicap and Social

The Handicap was held at Dalton Craggs on January 21<sup>st</sup> on a rather cold day. None of the runners complained about the cold but standing around at the Finish, waiting for the winner to arrive, was a bit on the chilly side. Roy McGregor and Juliet Bentley had organised the event and Roy had set 6 courses. The course which a runner had to do was determined by their handicap (based loosely on the Rankings list). Dalton Craggs isn't my favourite area largely due to the brambles. However, it is much better in the winter and runners seemed to enjoy their courses. Roy marched the assembled throng off to the Start and we waited for the first finisher. This proved to be Lucie Todhunter. However, when she downloaded, number 3 was missing. Convinced that she had been there she spent some time looking somewhat bemused. Maybe she didn't leave the dibber in the SI box long enough for it to register. Laurence Johnson arrived next to win the trophy, closely followed by younger brother Finlay. All duly arrived safely back including visitors from MDOC and LOC.

The Social and Prizegiving were at Burton Village Hall and included a quiz and a raffle. Prizes were awarded for the club age classes and for a number of other achievements.



**Lucie wonders how no.3 escaped**



David Downes looks a bit funereal in black



Alex Finch celebrates winning course 4



Auntie Sophie with Harriet (who is now a W1)

The prizewinners were as follows:

Club Handicap: **Laurence Johnson**

The Six course winners were Matt Rooke, Laurence Johnson, Finlay Johnson, Alex Finch Beth Davey and Michael Finch.

The Club age-class champions were:

W10	Ellie Todhunter	M10	Graeme Finch
		M12	Michael Finch
W14	Beth Davey	M14	Finlay Johnson
		M16	Andrew Rutter
W18	Annie Ockenden	M18	Laurence Johnson
W20	Sophie Roberts		
W21	Heather Roome	M21	Iain Embrey
W35	Lucie Todhunter	M35	Luigi Lerosé
W40	Sarah Watkins	M40	Steve Davey
W45	Juliet Bentley		
W50	Deb Murrell	M50	Quentin Harding
W55	Mary Ockenden	M55	Mike Johnson
W60	Jane Anthony	M60	Martyn Roome
W65	Miriam Rosen	M65	Michael Wilmore
W70	Dawn Lock	M70	Julian Lailey
		M75	Brian Looker
		M80	Peter Knott

The National and Provincial Trophy went to **Tony Marlow** in recognition of his organisational work. The trophy for Best Newcomers went to the **Lusardi Family** and the Most Improved Trophy to **Philip Gager** (who has moved 135 places up the Rankings).

The Overall Men's Champion was **Quentin Harding** and the Overall Ladies Champion was **Heather Roome**.



## Interland

Congratulations to Finlay Johnson (M16), Helen Ockenden (W20) and Jane Anthony (W60) who have been selected for England. This will be held in the Ardennes in southern Belgium.

# The Route



The BOF website contains an advert called "THE ROUTE".

This is the latest attempt to increase participation. It asks you to choose one of three challenges and to get ready to revel in adventure, entertainment and fun.

I can't say that I am impressed with the next paragraph. It says "*Expect to complete up to 10 km in distance during a burst of activity for just £15 per adult or £10 per junior (Route Breaker only)*". I think that that will have put off a good fraction of the casual readers.

Now, call me cynical if you like, but might this just be an attempt by the organising companies (see below) to extract pretty hefty entrance fees for something that is pretty standard? Take the statement on the BOF site which I have highlighted above in purple. What does it mean? I assumed that it meant that adults would only have to pay £15 when entering the Route Breaker course. In fact, it doesn't mean that at all. Adults will pay £15 when entering any of the Routes. What the statement actually means is that it is only on the Route Breaker course where you will cover 10 km. That seems pretty sneaky to me.

The BOF site continues ... "*This is a festival of exploration, entertainment, physical activity and fun! You will be treated to a challenge that suits your personality (not sure how they assess that - Ed.) and a festival atmosphere to help you along the way. Set in three stunning adventure playgrounds, whichever Route you head down will make you want to return for more*".

Assuming that you read on, all three challenges are available at three locations. These are Thames Chase, Cannock Chase and Delamere Forest, each on a particular date. It is all being run by BOF in conjunction with two companies, Perfect Motion and Trailplus. Paul Magner from Trailplus has asked DEE to help with the Delamere event which is on March 25<sup>th</sup>. The three Challenges are called Route Breaker, Route Camp, and Route Runner.

Route Breaker is basically a Score event where you have to take low and high value controls alternately. They have attempted to create a link with snooker, where the different coloured balls have different values, and the requirement that you pot red, colour, red, colour, red etc means that you are potting low and high value balls alternately.

They continue .. "Throughout the adventure you will naturally (? - Ed.) be returning to the main event hub several times as you look to access other control points. This gives you all the time you need to see your supporters, drink in the atmosphere and refuel as you go." i.e. there are butterfly loops, possibly with cafeterias by the sound of it.

It then says... "This Route is suitable for beginners, accumulators (what? - Ed.), hoarders (again, what ? - Ed.), thrill seekers (fair enough - Ed.), alternatives (this is getting weird - Ed.), friends, enemies, families .....".

Route Camp involves an outdoor gym challenge. After each control you have to do some exercise. They compare this with a boot camp and there are boot camp instructors to put you through it. *This Route is suitable for gym lovers, gym haters, boot camp aficionados, crossfit champions and school sports day enthusiasts (so, ... not me then - Ed.)*

Route Runner is a simple Score event.

Just to add to the fun the "Hub" will have "... music blasting out ...", a DJ and a Commentator.

This could be your sort of event ! However, note that you have to book your place via the BOF website.



## Leighton Hall

A message below from Alex Finch which suggests that we might have a new area.

*I had a meeting this morning with Lucy Arthurs whose family own Leighton Hall, and whose son goes to Silverdale school and is friends with Graeme. We discussed putting on Orienteering on their land which covers the area between Yealand Storth and Warton Crag.*

*There are a couple of reasonable (~Eaves Wood ) sized pieces of woodland on the estate so we agreed that a good start would be to aim for me to survey one of them this year and to then put on next year's club handicap on one of them at the end of January next year. There's every reason to think that if it goes well we could extend to other woodland on their land and maybe even eventually get back on to Warton Crag, part of which Lancashire Wildlife Trust leases from them.*



Miriam Rosen sent the photos of Dawn Lock competing in the Lancashire Cross Country Championships at Whitton Park on 6<sup>th</sup> January. It looks a bit muddy but no doubt worth it as Dawn got onto the podium having come 3<sup>rd</sup> in W70. Well done Dawn !



Frances Watkins and Mike Johnson present prizes to the winners at the Tim Watkins Trophy event.



## North West Night League 2016/17

Congratulations to David Roome, Heather Roome and Quentin Harding who, at the time of writing, are leading their respective classes.

# Fixtures

See SROC.org for details

## Night Street League

60/75 min score starts 6.30-7.30 £3/£1

Wed 8 March Poulton le Fylde

Wed 15 March Blackburn (includes Prizegiving)

## Sprint Series

Tue 9<sup>th</sup> May Stanley Park, Blackpool

Tue 23<sup>rd</sup> May Williamson's Park, Lancaster

Tue 6<sup>th</sup> June Salt Ayre, Lancaster

Tue 20<sup>th</sup> June University of Cumbria, Lancaster

Tue 4<sup>th</sup> July Clitheroe Castle

## Spring Series

Starts 12.30 – 1.30 £6/£2 Orange and Green

Sat 4 March Yarrow Valley

## CompassSport Cup Heat

Sun 19 March Simpson Ground (see above)

**Next Newsletter:** mid April. All contributions very welcome. Send to [dick.collins@btinternet.com](mailto:dick.collins@btinternet.com)

Photos particularly welcome. Many thanks