

# The QuOnicle



## The Newsletter of Quantock Orienteers No. 140 November 2011

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Editor—Adrian Edwards, 35 Clover Mead, Taunton TA1 3XD  
Tel 01823 325119 Email [adrian\\_edwards@btinternet.com](mailto:adrian_edwards@btinternet.com)

[www.quantockorienteers.co.uk](http://www.quantockorienteers.co.uk)



## **Quantock Orienteers Committee**

Secretary	Jeff Pakes	01823 321900	
Treasurer	Roger Craddock	01823 323850	
Committee	Bob Lloyd	01823 333251	Permissions
	Rosie Wych	01823 451942	
	Mark Maynard	01823 251262	Fixtures
	Bill Vigar	01823 680679	Mapping
	Robert Green	01749 840769	
	Jim Mallinson	01278 784714	
	Richard Sansbury	01823 288405	

### **Other Club Officials:**

Mike Crockett	01458 445540	President
Tony Milroy	01278 662535	QOFL
Judy Craddock	01823 323850	Membership
Nathan Fernandes	01935 424128	Webmaster
Adrian Edwards	01823 325119	QuOnicle

## **EDITORIAL**

Like our President, I was also reduced to the role of spectator recently as I hurt my foot on day 1 of the Long-O and decided not to run on day 2 (yes yes I know, it was 'only' a blister! See Richie Hill's write-up on Page 14). I'd already planned to camp out at the day 2 event base, a rather beautiful campsite nestled in Lorna Doone country. I spent the first few hours of Sunday skulking around trying to at least look cheerful, whilst seething with frustration and feeling like a lame racehorse (ok, donkey). Then I took a 'hobble' down by a stream near the finish. It was a beautiful warm sunny day, the scenery was spectacular, and suddenly things didn't seem so bad. To be honest, if I *had* been running I would probably have been cursing the heat!

It also gave me a chance to 'mingle' a bit and chat to other competitors, some of whom had travelled a good distance to be there. I remember talking to one chap from the Midlands who had come down with a friend. They took part in last year's Long-O event as a 'pre-OMM' warm-up, and came back down for this year's event even though they hadn't entered this year's OMM. Why? They enjoyed the scenery, they felt welcomed by the friendly people, and they particularly liked the laid-back atmosphere of the event. Well done Rosie, and everyone else who helped make it another great event for QO.

—*Adrian Edwards*

## **POST FROM THE PRESIDENT**

I write this with some trepidation. By the time you read it I will have more idea if I will ever get back to competing. However I am not sure if I will miss it as much as I first anticipated. I am enjoying the extra days in the week and the occasional breakfast in bed.

A few weeks ago I was fortunate to drive to the Doone Valley for the second day of our Long O weekend. What a glorious day! I had offered my services, very late in the day, and was told that everything was under control. Consequently I donned my presidential hat and wandered around talking to everybody and was even offered a cream tea at 9am by the campsite proprietor. I was also thanked for coming and thought this is great "Thank you for doing nothing". May I in return say a big thank you to all who worked so hard in putting on a good event.

What was so heartening was the friendly atmosphere and the spirit of both the organiser team and competitors. This was enhanced, in no small measure, by the inclusive refreshments, the location and the weather. I would recommend the campsite to anyone who wants to get away into the countryside for walking or just relaxing. I also know that while QO members organise events such as this, together with its comprehensive list of shorter events we are in safe hands. Long may it continue. In fact as a tribute to the organiser I could say "The future is Rosie".

Since I started this piece I have been into hospital for a "Half Knee replacement" or to give it its full title "An Oxford uni-compartmental replacement" and am back walking with sticks around the house and looking forward to venturing out soon. Thank you to all who sent cards visited or made enquiries. I was very much appreciated. I reciprocated whilst lying in my comfortable hospital bed by thinking of those from our club and others who were in small tents taking part in the OMM in the wilds of Scotland near Perth. No doubt Adrian will be giving more details elsewhere.

Best Wishes to you all.  
Mike

Post Script . I visited the Physiotherapist , or as a friend said physio terrorist, today, I heard words creeping out through her gritted teeth such as excellent and perfect. In fact things went very well. I must

now step up the walks. I did 1.5 km yesterday but felt tired today. Tomorrow similar is planned so the future looks good.

—Mike Crockett

## CLUB NEWS

### News of People

A warm welcome to four new families this month:

- Matthew Parr, Maxine Warren and son Elias from Bridgwater.
- Chris and Sarah Hasler and their children Thomas and Eleanor from Bishops Hull.
- Chris and Vicky Page and their son Andrew from Taunton
- Richard and Sandy Keogan and their children Matthew and Joanne from Curland.

### Nath in the News

QO webmaster Nathan Fernandes was in the news recently - a feature in the "Bristol Evening Post" in which he reassured potential university students with disabilities. Nathan, who has cerebral palsy, is in the second year of his Business Enterprise course at Bristol UWE. He also runs his own website design business (VEU design, responsible for the prestigious QO website among many others!) and has started an initiative called VEUCan to provide disability awareness workshops, talks and mentoring. Nath also finds time for a hectic social life, and is actively involved in the West Country carnival scene. Nath—when do you find time to sleep?!



*Nath Fernandes*

## JOG Report

This term Nick Fernandes has been the Lead Coach for JOG. At each event he is responsible for providing appropriate coaching, which can take a variety of forms from a 'set activity' e.g. pace counting to a tailor made coaching session for an individual child. It's still early days and Nick is anticipating qualifying as a Coach Educator and training up a team of coaches to help at JOG events in the future.

This JOG season started on a sunny day in late September. Roger planned and used the area surrounding the Park for the Orange course. This added a challenge! (especially when one of the controls was vandalised). The event was well supported by regulars and several new faces too. It's always a good venue for drawing in new people just visiting the park and looking for activities to do with their children.



*Andrew Page gets his Hare badge*



*Tom Hasler gets his Squirrel badge*

Sheila Braine planned some adventurous courses at Longrun Meadows on 1<sup>st</sup> October. Again we had warm and pleasant weather and this encouraged a massive turn out. We started in French Weir Park which provided the added extras of a superb children's playground, ice creams AND conkers to collect!

Many thanks to the Bussell family for running the event at Netherclay Woods on 8<sup>th</sup> October. The courses were planned by Richard Sansbury and included an interesting 'windows' course for the Orange level children. This is where you are given a map showing only a small area around each control, the rest of the map is blanked out! After the initial shock children seemed to enjoy the challenge.

15<sup>th</sup> October found us at Wind Down. Ian Husband had kindly agreed to help Tom Hollingsworth plan the courses, logistically a good idea as there are neighbours. However Tom (and his family) then moved house, was he trying to tell us something?

The courses were excellent with interesting route choices for the orange course and MASSES of mud to keep everyone happy!

King's College was next on the fixtures and, as usual, the groundsman was very helpful, making sure we had everything we needed. Adrian Edwards used this safe area well and the yellow and orange courses took children between the buildings which was a good exercise for most! Again we were very well supported. It was at King's College that Grace Williams bounced up to me and asked if she could assist at JOG as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award Community Service. I had to think a long time about that!

John Trayler put a lot of thought into the courses he planned for Fyne Court. We started timing some of the runners and it became clear that there was a very competitive element emerging and it was at this point that Roger had the idea of starting a JOG league (Read about it below). John's courses were great, the white course people could go off by themselves in a very safe but interesting area. The yellow course had a variety of line features to follow and the orange were fully extended with some legs giving a variety of route choices.

Twenty acre Wood was on 5<sup>th</sup> November and Rosie had a cracking idea for an 'extra orange' course as an added challenge for the most able. The new league put everyone on their mettle and some very sweaty bodies charged in at the end of their runs. Another good muddy area for anyone interested in the subject.

The day for the King's Cliff Wood event dawned bright and amazingly warm. The Green family had planned the usual white yellow, orange but with the addition of a score course. 11 seniors and 3 juniors entered the score course, everyone was delighted that so many people turned up to have a go and the competition was fierce! Again the league sharpened the competitive edge of the children's runs and more children were keen to run unaccompanied. A very sincere thank you to all the planners this term and to Bill Vigar and Dave Holmes who provide updated and pre-marked maps for all events. Amazing. We are so grateful.

## **JOG League**

A new feature of this term's JOG events is the Junior League (JOGgLe?).

Judy, who must be the most anti-competitive orienteer in the country, had this inspiration that the children needed a competitive edge to their runs to get them coming on a regular basis! Our juniors have now had three events and a set of regulars are now fiercely competing for points calculated by Jeff Pakes' cunning spreadsheet.

Adults, also, have been catered for at the events planned by Rosie Wych, and the Green family. As their children have been keen to run on their own to score, Spencer Modica, Guy Loader, Adrian Edwards, Paul Williams, Peter Hudd (BOK) and Elaine Green have been free to all show a competitive streak in the 'all control' and 'score' courses provided!

So, after three events (four out of the six JOG events count this term) we have the following leaders:

Orange: 1.Grace Williams (200pts), 2.Huw Williams (174pts),  
3.Amy Hallett (119pts)

Yellow: 1.Thomas Hasler (273pts), 2.Niamh O'Mahony (239pts)  
3.Issy Modica (191pts)

White: 1.Fionnuala O'Mahony(245pts), 2.Heather Green (154pts)  
3.Tate Modica (64pts)

If the children find the league a fun idea, we will extend it to all the JOG events next term and use it as a guide to the award of badges and end-of-season trophies.

*—Roger and Judy Craddock*

## **Purple Pen Course in January**

Dave Holmes has agreed to run an evening course to familiarise planners with the use of Purple Pen. If you are interested in attending we are suggesting: **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> Jan OR Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> Jan.2012. 7.00-8.30pm You MUST bring your own laptop.** (Venue 67 Staplegrove Road Taunton)

Please let us know which is the best date for you and we'll select **one** of those dates. Here is the programme Dave will cover:

- Setting up PP with a map
- Placing the control circles
- Organising the courses
- Adding the control descriptions
- Fine tuning the presentation
- Printing your maps directly from PP
- Using the QO JOG Purple Pen Template

For each section, discover 'How to', Tricks, and Pitfalls.

### **ANOTHER 'FYNE' MESS**

With motoring costs increasing and the QOFL series starting late this season, I'd decided to rely on local JOG sessions to keep my sharpness up. Fyne Court is one of my favourite JOG venues. It's a bit like the Quantocks in miniature with its downsized combes, woods and open views at the top. Inspired by Jim Mallinson's 'A Fyne Day at Fyne Court' article (QuOnide 128), I tasked myself with emulating Jim's celebrated memory map feat. While referring only to a map nailed to Judy's registration desk, he had collected all 32 controls in 47 minutes in the corresponding JOG of two years ago.

I was confident about the navigation required because I'd planned at Fyne twice before. Potential *bête noirs* (almost literally) were the frisky bullocks that gave chase to me in early 2009 plus the bull which tends to stand sentry on a gate- but I was prepared. I would be relying on my new arsenal of cow-shooing techniques.

Things started well. I'd obviously remembered Jim's article because I spent plenty of time planning ahead. This I did while marking up all 25 controls from a reworked 'all controls' map borrowed from the planner, John Trayler. Secondly, I'd simplified the map by memorising the route I'd elected to take. Without referring to my compass, I collected the first 15 controls in as many minutes, through the small wood surrounding the visitor centre, past Bob Lloyd on gate monitor duties and into the fields immediately adjacent. I arrived out of breath at a hide at 141 in a sweet little wood. "I can see you're taking it more seriously than me," smiled a dog-walking JOG-ger approaching the control from the SE. I swiftly headed NE.

Inevitably, my initial recollections of the map began to fade. In a bid to outpace my memory loss, I ran faster. Consequently, some features flew by unrecognised. Despite this, subsequent controls were roughly where they lay in the abstract route etched in my mind. I soon passed a relaxed-looking Bob by a control at another gate, surmising that he'd traversed the next wood to follow the migrant cows he was monitoring.

Next I ran downhill to the SE wood, a path run. Funny, I couldn't remember if the path was supposed to be *inside* the fence. Soon I took a left uphill towards the boundary fence with open land, as planned. The field patterns looked strange and the buildings too distant- I must have turned left too soon. I checked my compass for the first time. No, I was 'upside down' and was about to run East, not West! Uh-oh.

Luckily, familiar territory was around the corner. I recovered to punch 221 and several more controls but doubt had set in. John, stationed on the exit gate to the S field, saw me walk past the church walls, desperately checking for non-existent controls! I picked off the remaining flags in the ornamental wood and finished on 50 minutes. My card showed some 29 punches. Tired, I unwound on a bed of

undergrowth by registration poring over the map. John arrived. How had I got on? A picture of a misadventure gradually emerged...

Half way round my would-be blaze of glory, I had 'performed' a 180 degree error and headed anti-clockwise round the central wood back to 521. A vague symmetry to the area didn't help as I read the N wood as being the SE wood, and vice versa. I'd kept running for a full kilometre of growing uncertainty before I acknowledged my error at 171, where I was about to head E off the map.

Of course, trying to 'outrun' my memory backfired. The speed with which I traversed the longer N wood made it feel as big as the small SE wood I should have been at. Running hard also created "oxygen deficit", affecting my power to think and to recollect. And while I'd bit off more than I could chew, Jim had sensibly returned to the master map twice during his feat. I'd forgotten that he'd allowed himself to do that. A clue should have been Bob Lloyd. Quite obviously, he had stayed put. Unfortunately I'd oversimplified the map by not memorising valleys and slopes. I'd thus encountered Bob again by walking W up to 131 again and not E, down then uphill to 171. I'd launched onto a second clockwise circuit of the northern area, duplicating four controls (521,131,151,451). Maybe Bob could take it as a compliment. I'd imagined he could traverse the length of the map in several minutes without getting out of breath, even if it was all downhill!

Why had I made my initial mistake at 141? The bearings I had assumed were wrong. Fearing a conversation with the dog walker would make me forget my route, I left the control too soon, in the opposite direction to him. I should have been less grumpy and chatted! My run was: 111 351 191 331 301 311 201 501 131 151 451 231 521 341 141 521 131 151 451 171 221 181 481 291 601 121 531 401 351. Despite five duplicate punches and getting lost, I only missed one control (431). I'd cut it 'Fyne' but was ultimately 'Court' out...

\*with apologies to Laurel and Hardy, who knew a thing or two about a comedy of errors .

—Jeff Pakes



## **EVENTS**

### **QO Long-O—1st/2nd October 2011**

For the last 4 years, I've been using the QO Long-O weekend (and previously the Two Moors Challenge) as preparation for the OMM. Usually, it's used as a fitness gauge, normally "inspiring" more intensive training, and a chance to check out our equipment and nutrition strategy.

#### *Day 1 – St. Audries*

The weather was un-seasonally warm, so with my partner for the OMM, Adrian Edwards (Adge), we decided to load up on a little extra water for the day. As we were helping out with car parking for the event, we were the last to head out on the 3 hour score. After looking at the map we decided on an ambitious route and headed off for our first control. Due to the heat, Adge started to get a hot-spot before we got half-way to it, which required a bit of foot care under a bit of shade.

Pace slowed, as hot-spots turned to blisters, which meant the original plan had to be adapted on the fly. The St. Audries area is quite an open area, which allowed us glimpses of much of the local wildlife, from birds of prey to stags.

Adge battled on through the pain, and although we finished 13mins over our 3 hour limit, we had achieved a respectable score. The cause of the blisters remains a mystery, as the same shoes had been used previously and on the OMM without any issues, suspicion lies with the heat as a major contributing factor.

It was only on reaching the finish, did we remember that someone had volunteered us to help collect some of the controls! With Adge's feet actually bleeding, there was no way

he could have gone back out, so I set out for the lonely run out to three controls (2 of which we had actually been the last through – should have collected them then!)

By the time we got to Cloud Farm it was pitch black. So, after a minor operation on Adge's feet (and a very thorough hand wash), this year we decided to forego the usual rehydrated meal and instant coffee, and found a lovely little pub just down the road from the camp site, for a well earned steak & chips (and additional rehydration!).

## *Day 2*

Sunrise on Cloud Farm, revealed a stunning location for the start of Day 2. As I donned another fetching set of Lycra running tights, Adge reluctantly decided he wouldn't run. Breakfast was courtesy of the farm café – you really can't beat a full English to help prepare you for a day on Exmoor.



*Richie Hill (camouflage tights!) at the day 2 start*

Personally, the Start to Control 1, has to be one of the most horrible I have ever done. I decided to head up the re-entrant (everyone else seems to have gone up high and around to it), this meant that at one stage my map was in my mouth, as I needed both hands to climb a near vertical slope at the end. Also, dragging my foot out of the carcass of a dead sheep is a memory which will stay with me for a very long while!

An hour in and the hot-spots I had developed on Day 1, started forming little pockets of pus (which got bigger as the hours went on). As my pace was slowing, I decided to make the most of the time and practice my bearings, which despite my lack of orienteering in the last year, was surprisingly accurate (however, some of the legs were done at little more than a walking pace!).

I did have a little giggle to myself as Richard Sansbury blasted past me on route to control 17, only to run past the site (by a good 200m) to the top of the ridge, as I plod up to it. There are some moments when the tortoise can feel a little smug! (Note - He had caught me back up by the time I got to 18).

The format of the Long-O weekend provides ideal training for Mountain Marathon events. Although Exmoor is a stunningly beautiful location, I still find it the most challenging area in which I've ever orienteered. So, if you've never had a go at doing both days – challenge yourself for next year. It will hurt, but it's worth it!

—*Richard Hill*



*Above: A pair of Pearsons    Below: Long course winner Mark Brown*



## **South West Sprint, Pounbury—2nd October 2011**

### **A short report of a short event!**

At the presentation, Erik Peckett called for an alternative word in the name of this event - so the short event in question is the SW Sprint Championships at Poundbury, Dorchester. He felt that 'sprint' put a lot of people off. I have used 'short' but I could use exciting, brilliant, intense, to describe the 100% + concentration required for a few minutes (10-20) to complete the run around very complicated streets, yards and alleys. Prologue in the morning and a Final in the afternoon, similar courses but in different areas of Poundbury.

The start of the Prologue was situated in an open ground NE of the competition area with only small trees for shade on one of the hottest October days since records began. Call up fortunately meant crossing the road into the shade of the buildings for 4 minutes prior to the off. Straight into the detail - stay on the road or go onto a raised, walled pavement - control around the corner at end of wall - next alleyway on the right into courtyard - control tree on right. The following controls were various combinations of street alleyways and courtyards only interrupted by a bit of park/play area at 7. Concentration was vital throughout especially towards the end with other courses converging on the finish.

After a lunch break everybody was at Assembly to see the Final start times - slowest to start first and fastest last - so being the quickest for my course it was a late start and an added dimension - pressure! The final course was more of the same and I managed to maintain concentration until 14. At 13 I left the square by the wrong street - ended up in the wrong yard - back out, cross the street, down in alley into the right yard - 30 seconds gone and the run blown I thought. Luckily it was still good enough for a win - just!

An excellent event run and organised by Wimborne Orienteers. Next years is at Exeter University in June - Lookout for it and have a go!

*-Tony Hext*

## **OMM 2011 Perthshire—29th/30th October** **Short Score course**

After last year's Original Mountain Marathon being on our doorstep (Dartmoor), it was time for a road trip. Race partner Richie Hill and I set out for Perthshire on Friday morning with 450 miles in front of us. After the inevitable traffic chaos around Birmingham and a few stops for McDonalds/Starbucks/leg-stretching, we eventually arrived at the event centre (the wonderfully atmospheric Cultybraggan Camp, an ex-WW2 POW camp) some 9hrs later and feeling like we'd already done a major event. Luckily we'd had the forethought to book some nice accommodation this year, so after registering we left the campers behind and headed for the comfort of a Travelodge near Perth. Even more luckily it was situated right next to a splendid pub who didn't mind serving up food to two weary travellers 9:30 on a Friday night!

The next morning we headed back to Cultybraggan Camp to catch our bus to the day 1 start. After 20 minutes we were deposited at the base of a hill and told that the start was 'up there'. They weren't joking! It took us about another 20 minutes of reasonably hard climb just to reach the start position, but I do remember thinking 'better to get some climb done now, before the clock starts ticking'.



*The only bit of road on the OMM...*

After that initial climb, our first couple of kilometres were actually reasonably flat as we headed east from the start following a fence line and crossing some open ground to the foot of Creag Each, a 'Graham' of 672m. Needless to say our first control was on the top of it, so we joined a steady procession of people following the path of a stream up the steep west side towards the summit. Still, 30 points in the bag – we were up and running.

Two other controls were located around the slopes of Creag Each and we managed to pick up another 40 points without too much bother before heading down the northern side to pick up 10 points the other side of a valley. At this point the going was flat but boggy as we headed north to a control located at a stream junction at the foot of Creag Gharbh. Then it was decision time – start heading east towards the finish and pick up some lower value controls on the way, or go for the 40 points on top of Creag Gharbh? We must have been feeling fresh or foolish because within seconds we were heading northwards up our second Graham of the day. At this point the weather decided to turn from 'poor' to 'nasty' and visibility was significantly reduced, but our nav was spot on and we contoured round the summit to find the control. By this point I was starting to feel the effects of all those climbs, and was looking forward to a descent into a valley and a chance to stay at the same altitude for a bit. As we headed east towards the overnight camp we picked up an access road running alongside a huge over-ground pipeline – a welcome opportunity to put the map away and switch the brains off for five minutes.

The respite didn't last long. Between us and the overnight camp was another mountain peak, Ruadh Mheall, at 820m. Apparently it's the 2187<sup>th</sup> highest mountain in the UK, but the way I was feeling it may as well have been Ben Nevis. Still, it was directly between us and the finish, and somewhere up there was another 20 points – best get climbing. It was somewhere around this point, with the wind raging and rain stinging my face, that I swore I would never set foot on a mountain again. I vaguely remember seeing quite a few grouse, something that could quite possibly have been an eagle, and some magnificent stags looming out of the mist. I regret to say I didn't pay

much attention to any of it at the time – if it wasn't marked on the map, I wasn't interested!

We made it up and over the peak picking up the 20 points, and a camera flash in the distance was our first welcome sign of the overnight camp at the western end of Loch Lednock. With thoughts of collapsing in a tent with a nice hot brew we nearly ran past the compulsory control on the way in, and I did have to remind my partner that it is usual practice to visit the finish control. A few teams obviously forgot, as we saw them lumbering back up from campsite to finish looking rather annoyed. Day 1 done – we'd got 170 points, and been out for 4hrs 59mins and 35secs of our 5hr allowance – had I but known I'd have treated myself to a 24 second sit-down somewhere!

The overnight camp itself was wet and tussocky, with a river feeding into Loch Lednock our water source for the night. My dampened spirits were raised a bit when Richie (freshly changed into his dry kit) popped out for the call of nature and returned looking as wet and muddy as he had all day. Me: "What happened to you mate?" Richie: "I fell into a bog". Me (laughing): "Did you not wonder why there was a big space in the middle of all these tents...?" What are friends for!

We awoke at 6am to the sound of bagpipes drifting down the valley. Now my grandfather was Scottish so I probably shouldn't say this, but I abhor bagpipes – and being woken by them on a cold dark morning in the middle of nowhere did nothing to change that perception. There was also a guy with a loud hailer banging on about a '7am wakeup call', obviously having forgotten to put his watch back for daylight saving. He realised his mistake when he got heckled from 100 tents simultaneously. Still, we didn't have too long to hang about – our efforts on day 1 had put us in 19<sup>th</sup> position, and with it a place in the chasing start.

The weather was much brighter, the scenery was stunning – and then our OMM came undone! Having picked up our maps, we broke a golden rule of 'Score' events and didn't pay due respect to the piece of knotted string that indicated how far we could expect to travel in

the next 4 hours. If we had of done, we may have realised that we'd have precious time to do little else than make the 15km south east to the finish given the lie of the land. Instead we got tempted by an arcing route that would allow us to pick up some higher-value controls, and set off north from the overnight camp.

It was a long and arduous climb up the lower slopes of Creag Uchdag, a "hands and knees" job in places, and by the time we'd bagged a 10-point control above a crag we started to realise we were going to be pushed for time. We abandoned our 'arc' route and started heading south east as fast as we could, which wasn't particularly fast given the boggy conditions. We were glad to pick up a fence line – always a handy navigational 'handrail', and in this case a very literal handrail that stopped us sinking without trace in a few particularly sticky spots! We bagged another 10 points on a control more or less directly on route, but then missed the next one – our only navigational error of the weekend, and an indicator of the pressure that was creeping in as we both cast nervous glances at our watches.

There were a few compulsory controls and a taped route to guide us into the finish at Comrie. We got our 'second wind' as we hit some firm ground, but by this point we knew we were in for a time penalty. We crossed the finish line 17 minutes late, losing 36 points for our efforts, giving us a day 2 score of minus 6. Heroes to zeroes! Some consolation came when we realised quite a few teams had also been caught out this way, and subsequently the controller's comments on the OMM website included an apology for the situation with the short score day 2 start and finish locations. Still, after a few cups of soup we were already planning our revenge on next year's OMM – I guess my promise to myself that I'd never touch a mountain again had evaporated with the mists...

Richie will probably tell you he finished first (there was *another* Richard Hill in the winning pair), but overall we came 45<sup>th</sup>.

So, what did I learn at my second OMM?

- Dartmoor has hills,  
Scotland has mountains
- I still don't like bagpipes
- The Scots are very friendly,  
even if you're English
- Always trust the knotted  
string!

—Adrian Edwards



*Finished!*

## **Yvette Baker Trophy Qualifier—13th Nov 2011**

Whilst not being renowned for our juniors, a team of 12 enthusiastic JOG orienteers represented QO in the Yvette Baker Trophy Qualifier on Holne Moor on Sunday 13 Nov. On their first competition on open moorland in damp conditions all of them put their JOG experiences to good use and without exception all of them put in credible runs against a strong Devon Junior presence.

After negotiating the car park entrance, with pushed assistance in many cases due to the muddy slope, the team congregated around Judy and Roger's car to collect dibbers, compasses and coach's pep talk. A 1k walk to the start as a warm up and then an explanation of how the start procedure works as they were not used to the box system. With Amy, Jo and Tate off first the team were ready. With the start kite out of view, and approached using a taped route, it



did prove confusing for some and led to some long times to punch the first control. Once they got used to the leats and earth walls as line features, the soggy shoes, a very orange map and a few navigational errors sorted out by asking or joining forces all of them completed the course

smiling and at a sprint as demonstrated by Tom Haslar below.

Unfortunately we did not qualify this time but it has given all of them a taste for competition and I expect we will see them at QOFLs in addition to the JOG events as they hone their skills in preparation for next year.



	<b>YB position</b>	<b>(Galoppen position)</b>
<b>Orange Girls:</b>		
Amy Hallet	3	(16)
<b>Orange Boys:</b>		
Tom Hallet	9	(15)
Matthew Keogan	10	(17)
<b>Yellow Girls:</b>		
Joanne Keogan	2	(10)
Issy Modica	5	(19)
Niamh O'Mahony	6	(20)
<b>Yellow Boys:</b>		
Thomas Hasler	7	(9)
Kieron Hopkins	9	(16)
Elliot Smith	10	(18)
<b>White (not counted on YB):</b>		
Jack Williams	n.a	(1)
Tate Modica	n.a	(2)
Eleanor Hasler	n.a	(3)

I am sure they would like to thank Roger and Judy for organising their entry and on behalf of myself, Roger and Judy I would like to thank all the parents who took them there.

*-Nick Fernandes*

*[Ed: I'm sure they would all like to thank Nick as well for his coaching and encouragement]*

## **QOFL1, St Audries, 20th November**

This is not the event write-up—QOFL1 took place the day before this edition of QuOnicle went to press, so the full report will be in the January edition. In the meantime I wanted to thank all those who volunteered to help out. This was my first event as ‘Organiser’, and I was feeling a little nervous— I then found out Avon Schools were joining us with around 100 children, and suddenly I felt *very* nervous! I had nothing to fear—with a superb team of volunteers behind me the event went like clockwork, despite a larger-than-average turn out for a QOFL (in total we had 188 runners).

Planner Graham Hartley did an excellent job with the courses, and all the competitors I spoke to had enjoyed their runs. With Richard Sansbury as controller, the ‘course’ side of things was always in safe hands. They even planned some excellent warm weather.

And if any of you have been thinking about volunteering to be an Organiser but have been a little apprehensive, don’t be. As I found out good advice is only a phone call away when needed, and encouragement was their in abundance. If you’d like to give it a go, please get in touch with Mark Maynard (01823 251262).

—*Adrian Edwards*

## **JOG FIXTURES—AUTUMN 2011**

**Saturday** events are from **2.00-3.00pm**  
**Sunday QOFLs** are from **11.00am-1.00pm**

Junior Orienteering Group fixtures for the remainder of Autumn term:

Sat 3rd December	Orchard Portman
Sat 10th December	St Audries
Sun 18th December	Lydeard Hill (QOFL)

Please confirm fixtures at  
<http://www.quantockorienteers.co.uk>

Ring Judy Craddock on **01823 323850** for more information

## **SELECTED OTHER EVENTS IN THE SOUTH WEST**

QO Fixture are on the back page, but here's a selection of other events taking place across the South West in the coming months:

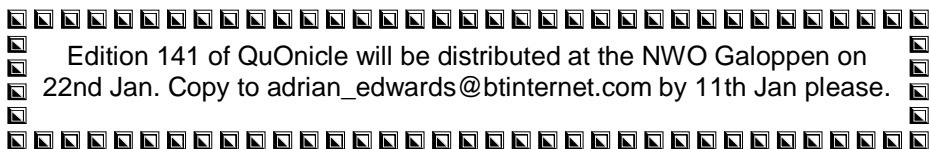
<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Grid Ref.</u></b>
04.12.11	Devon League	Princetown	SX589736
10.12.11	BOK Forest League 3	Ashton Hill Woods	
26.12.11	Boxing Day Canter (WIM)	Ringwood	SU115047
02.01.12	Devon New Year Novelty	Bovey Tracy	SX805795
07.01.12	BOK Forest League 4	Purdown	ST611764
22.01.12	NWO Galoppen	West Woods, Marlborough	SU165667

## Fixtures Senior Club Events

26.11.11	QOAD1	Dead Women's Ditch, Quantocks	ST162382
10.12.11	QOAD2	St Audries	ST117410
18.12.11	QOFL2	Lydeard Hill, Middle Hill, Aisholt Common etc.	ST181338
30.12.11	Xmas Novelty	Sheldon <b>(NOTE: date changed)</b>	ST122079
14.01.12	QOAD3	Holway (Taunton streets)	ST239240
29.01.12	QOFL3	Crowcombe Park Gate/Dead Woman's Ditch	ST162383
12.02.12	QOFL4	Cothelstone Hill and Twenty Acre Plantation	ST190326
18.02.12	QOAD4	Triscombe Stone	ST164359
03.03.12	QOAD5	Castle Neroche	ST271161
01.04.12	QOFL5	Priors Park Wood	ST228167
15.04.12	Galoppen	Croydon Hill	SS974420
13.05.12	QOFL6	Staple Hill	ST247172

The Forest League (QOFL) is our series of regular events with colour coded courses, White to Blue to suit all abilities. Start times 11am to 1pm. Costs: Senior £7 (£5 BOF members), Junior £2, Families £12, Dibber Hire £1. Please see page 27 for a list of JOG fixtures.

**PLEASE CHECK DETAILS BEFORE TRAVELLING:**  
**[www.quantockorienteers.co.uk](http://www.quantockorienteers.co.uk)**


 Edition 141 of QuOnicle will be distributed at the NWO Galoppen on  
 22nd Jan. Copy to [adrian\\_edwards@btinternet.com](mailto:adrian_edwards@btinternet.com) by 11th Jan please.