

Fixtures

Club Events

20.1.07	Night Score (Wessex league)	Montacute	ST 498168	M.Crockett 01458-445540
28.1.07	QOFL 3	Croydon Hill	SS 978424	R Sansbury 01823-288405
11.2.07	QOFL 4	Ham Hill	ST 480165	R Sansbury 01823-288405
11.3.07	QOFL5	Castle Neroche TBC	ST 267158	R Sansbury 01823-288405
22.4.07	2X2 Relay	Blackborough	ST102083	R.Craddock 01823-323850
13.5.07	QOFL 6	Ramscombe	ST 164378	R Sansbury 01823-288405

NB New Start Times for QOFLs will be 12.00 –14.00

Entry Fees for QOFLs will be £4.00 and £2.00

Other Events in the South West

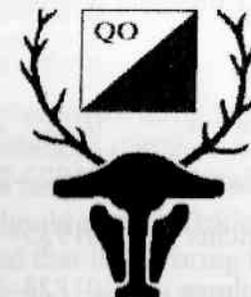
14.1.07	NGOC Galoppen	Mallards Pike	SO 651127	Roger Coe 01594 510444
21.1.07	NWO Galoppen	Cranham	SO 907124	Nina Stimpson 01793 535759

Continued on Page 15

You are advised to check event details before travelling.

Edition 112 of Quonicle will be distributed at
The Sarum Badge Event 25th March
Copy to me by 18th March please.

The QuOnicle



The Newsletter of Quantock Orienteers

No. 111 January 2007

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QO Website <http://www.quantockorienteers.co.uk/>

Quantock Orienteers Committee

Chairman	Roger Craddock	01823-323850	
Secretary	Christine Vince	01935-863429	
Treasurer	Andy Rimes	01823-451942	
Committee	Bill Vigar	01823-680679	Mapping
	Bob Lloyd	01823-333251	Permissions
	Brian Pearson	01823_252407	
	Richard Sansbury	01823-288405	Fixtures
	Brian Fletcher	01935-424569	School's liason
	David Holmes	01823-451343	
Other Club Officials			
	Ted Heath	01823-251985	Website
	Tony Milroy	01278-427875	QOFL
	Mike Crockett	01458-445540	Membership Quonicle

Chairman's Chat

Roger is away on the far side of the world and so on his behalf -

A Happy New Year

Editorial

Orienteering is not the only time one has route choice decisions. I was driving back from Colchester the other day and was faced with M25 Northern or Southern route. The advice was Southern because it was more scenic. However as I approached the decision point the information signs said long delays between junctions 28 and 30 and so this was the thing that influenced my decision to take the northern route (not the fact that there was a toll at Dartford.) Another stupid mistake! The delays were horrendous.

As we look back on 2006 there must have been many other route choice decisions which influenced our lives, both in orienteering and other walks of life. We had the National or local BOF membership to contend with. Sorry, that should now be British Orienteering. The powers that be have decided that it will bring the orienteering element to prominence. The abbreviated version certainly will. At club level there has been the Joe Lee problem, Tent or No Tent and we still have the team leader problem. Please give the team leader problem some thought, we don't want to lose events because of lack of an organiser.

What does 2007 have in store? January gets us under way with three consecutive galoppens. There then seems to be a rash of Regional events in nearby areas. In April we have the JK in the Forest of Dean and then the British Champs not much further away in South Wales. Also in May Springtime in Shropshire is being heralded as great way to spend the bank holiday weekend. Then August sees the Scottish Six Days return to Speyside. On-line entries are now being taken. Somewhere in between we have the remaining events of the QOFL series.

All in all it promises to be a great 2007. Enjoy yourselves and may all your decisions be good ones.

PS I had an E Mail entitled "Number of SINS" forwarded to me by our secretary with the comment that it wasn't an invite to Pre Christmas Confession.

News of people

Welcome to Peter Butcher who joins us from Southdowns Orienteers having moved to Winscombe. Peter's first event with us was at Cothelstone. And he has since joined us, so we must have made a good impression.

John Pilkington sends his good wishes to QO and its members. John was a founder member of QO but now lives in retirement near his daughter in Kent.

I had an E Mail from Clive Allen recently which I share with you

Hello Mike

Now that my eldest grand-daughter is almost 12, the opportunity is coming up for me to run in a 3-generation family team in relays. This of course requires me to be a member of the same club as the other members of the family, so I am sorry to say that the time has come for me to leave QO and change my allegiance to SN.

Although very much a sleeping member for the past few years, and not really all that active in the club when I did live in the region, I have much enjoyed being a member of a such a closely-knit club and keeping in touch with old friends via *The Quonicle*. I hope to attend the Scottish 6-Days in 2007 - my first year as a M65 - and to meet a strong QO contingent there.

This year for me has been heavily dominated by the World Championships right on our doorstep. Both Birthe and I put in many working hours on a whole variety of tasks before and during WOC. The organisation was widely regarded as very successful, making our memories that bit fonder. Now I am re-mapping a very complex sand-dune forest near Jutland's west coast. Becoming an M65 will - hopefully - encourage me to train a bit more and see how well I can do again. But average Danish winters don't give much opportunity for any

competitive training, so time will tell. I'm playing a lot of table-tennis now, which helps general fitness.

May I take the opportunity of wishing the club well for the future; with such an experienced nucleus of membership, now including many more than the 60-pluses, QO should go from strength to strength.

I would have supported the membership fee increase, by the way; within the price ranges you are working in, I think most people nowadays would not be turned off by the cost of joining. In fact I think many people would say that the fee level should reflect the value of the membership and a higher fee even makes the club membership more 'prestigious'.

By comparison, the Silkeborg OK fee is about £62 per year for the two of us! That does include a contribution to the amount the club has to pay DOF in relation to the size and membership structure of the club, and also to our region 'Nordkredsen' (DOF has 3 regions), i.e. there is no payment on top of that until we come to enter events. And SOK does have its own clubhouse, a very nice one too.

All the best

Clive

We wish Clive and Birthe all the best with their new club.

Membership

Most of our members have renewed their membership promptly. Thank you .

Those of you who intend to do so but have yet to put pen to paper bear in mind that entry fees for district and regional events will be £2.00 more for non card holders.

The Case for Regional events – Really? – an observation on Arthur’s letter in the last Quonicle

I found the very negative tone of Arthur’s letter quite sad and a far cry from the attitude I experienced when I first came to orienteering. It is true that times change but, in my view, not always for the better. The tone and content of Arthur’s letter encapsulates much of the negativity and bureaucracy to which I refer.

Taking his comments in turn.

Regional versus District event. It is true that there is no direct age comparison at District Events but a perusal of the results will tell you that certain age groups gravitate to certain courses eg. M55 and M60 L competitors usually choose the Blue Course. M21, 35, 45 and 50 L seem to like the Brown course. Allocating Age Badge standards to different colour coded courses gives people the opportunity to get a Badge standard, if they wish. Indeed the easier access to this opportunity might provide more encouragement than the existing system. The argument about the distance vis-à-vis M21 is a little tenuous as most 21’s seem to find the challenge of a Brown Course more than enough. Whether their performance at the Nationals would be much better if they ran a couple of Km longer at the odd badge event I doubt. As for recognition and the chance to become competitive, we are a small community of sportspeople and our squad coaches usually spot the talent, encourage it and assess performance at all events. If I see a W19 beating most of the field on a Blue course I know she is better than the average!!

I wasn’t aware John Fallow’s article was about abandoning Regional Events or that QO had made that decision, I certainly haven’t seen it in any committee meeting minutes.

As for QO shirking their responsibilities I find the suggestion insulting, even without badge events we do a pretty good job through the winter and the summer.

Arthur’s comments (he is ‘controller of controllers’ in the SW) about controllers shows an inflexible attitude to what are, in a number of cases, shortfalls which border on the trivial. For example would SWOA really deny Mike Crockett his Grade 1 status just because he hadn’t planned a level 3 event?! Mike has and does control many top class events (eg JK) making decisions about Level 1 and 2 courses, is SWOA really suggesting he shouldn’t be approved? Is our sport really the place for such petty nitpicking? And anyway the only difference between the Badge event and District courses is the length not the technical difficulty.

Finally Arthur’s comments on the EPS system need clarification because there is a lot he is not telling you. He implies that SWOA turned down our request to use the Joe Lee system because it was not approved, according to a letter he wrote to me in his role as secretary of SWOA, this is not true. The fact that the system is not approved gives SWOA the opportunity to choose whether to reject or accept it. They chose to reject it for reasons that I believe would not stand up to close scrutiny.

To wit: 1. There was a delay in producing the results at the Compass Sport Cup - this was an organisational failure not a failure of the system. **2. The question of whether we could print results on an A4 sheet or not** - The importance placed on having results printed on A4 sheets cannot be a serious objection to ANY system!!! Rather one would wish to have the results printed so that people can read them and people can read our results. **3. The Controller made decisions to reinstate people because they had trouble with the system** - the Controller's decisions have nothing to do with the system but about decisions made in his job as a Controller; one could argue that he was wrong not to disqualify people because the system worked perfectly however we are operating in an amateur sporting environment and I know most fair minded people would agree with him. SWOA said the system is A LOT trickier than SI or emit - it certainly is not a lot trickier; it is a little slower but providing one sees the light flashing the control will register to the dibber and importantly it is the same for every competitor. The

people who come to our events and carry out the procedure correctly do not mispunch, our juniors never complain or have problems. At our last event not one person had a problem with the punching. Of course the onus is on the competitor to 'cope!' with the particular system, it always has been; we ask juniors to cope with the manual punching and some of them don't have the strength to operate the punch!! **4. There was a time drift on one start control** –this is correct but the problem was sorted and nobody was disadvantaged. Nobody is suggesting that technical problems do not arise with ANY system but that is not a reason to condemn the system or Emit and SI would be damned as well.

5. We are the only club that has bought the Joe Lee system - This is true but whether any other club has bought the Joe Lee System or not is irrelevant as to whether it should be approved for the event. As a 'matter of fact' QO did seek to get approval from BOF when they bought the system but BOF were not able to tell us what we had to do to get it approved, there was no approval procedure in place!

As to his final comments, what are these 'balance of probabilities' of which he speaks? His final paragraph suggests SWOA will never approve the system irrespective of the FACTUAL justice of our case, this is in direct contravention of the natural justice we can expect from a democratic organisation which is supposed to be answerable to its members. We bought the Joe Lee system because it was a lot cheaper than SI or Emit (our dibber costs about £5 and gives you splits at the end), it works and there has been no evidence that SWOA can present to say otherwise; Bill has spent hours carrying out tests to see if he can find faults without success. I did put these points to the SWOA committee but they refused to consider them because they said I had not bought the system!!!!!! I cannot see the connection between my criticising their decision (refusing to allow us to use the system) and who bought it!!!!

I do not know what future action the QO Committee intend to take but I hope they take the SWOA committee to task about this matter.

Ted Heath

Quantock Runners

On the Saturday before Christmas a group of QO members gathered at Dead Womans Ditch for a pre-Christmas training run. Ted had marked some points in the forest with degradable markings (flour) and we set off at intervals to find them all. The photo shows some of the runners tucking into mince pies and soup supplied by Lennox and discussing various aspects of the run.



Photo Lennox Heath

The general concensus was

1. That control 6 should not have been used as the map was dodgy at that point.
2. That platforms are more easy to spot when there is a control flag on them.
3. That a figure of eight taken by one runner was definitely not the optimum.
4. That some of us couldn't decipher the letters FLOURD into a Christmas related word.
5. That we all enjoyed it .
6. Thanks to Ted and Lennox for their efforts.

Events

November Classic, Wood Crates, 5 November 2006

The November Classic was held on a gloriously sunny day, reminding me of the lovely time we had in the summer, cycling round this part of the world. We certainly didn't have any trouble finding our way to the event. SOC were hosting the Army's Inter Corps Championships and the Interland 2007 Selection Races, so there were quite a number of very polite, fit-looking young men and women around, and lots of cars with European number plates. This also meant that we were using the latest Emit equipment, which in my opinion registers at a control even faster than SI. The drawback was that everyone had to have a start time (rather than being allocated a time block) so we were back to having long loo queues but no convenient bushes on the way to the start.

The event was held on an area that was absolutely typical for the New Forest. The first nine controls were in deciduous forest with good running and the last three were over open heathland. My first control was on a gully that actually I couldn't see (but never mind) and my navigation to the second was spot on (or just plain lucky, I suspect). On the way to number four, I managed to lose my sense of direction and had to do some rigorous compass work to get back onto track. The route between numbers six and eight involved going round a hill to a control on the far side, which I frequently find difficult and over which I was taking great care. Such great care that I realised only just in time should have involved a visit to control seven ... After that there was a fairly straight run following the line of the road on the edge of the map, onto the heathland and back towards the finish. It became extremely fast at this point and, with an uphill finish, I was not the only one to collapse onto the grass right after the finish. The official report on the event mentioned several sprained ankles which does not surprise me at all.

Thanks go to Southampton Orienteering Club for providing a thoroughly good day out. It is always a pleasure to run in the New Forest and this was no exception. Next year will be the 40th running of the November Classic so, if you have never been before, why not look out for the flyers and come along on 4 November 2007.

Christine Vince

There were 12 competitors from QO who finished the event; their placings are shown below.

QO results for the November Classic 2006

Zoe Round	JW5S	12 th of 22
Ian Bartlett	M40L	21 st of 48
Matthew Knipe	M40S	13 th of 14
Mark Larcombe	M45L	32 nd of 40
Tony Hext	M55L	42 nd of 57
Dave Holmes	M60L	30 th of 47
Arthur Vince	M65L	4 th of 32
Mike Crockett	M70L	4 th of 25
Bill Vigar	M70L	6 th of 25
Sue Gard	W45L (W55)	10 th of 26
Adele Appleby	W45S	14 th of 22
Christine Vince	W50L	26 th of 33

New Year's Day Score Event, Heavens Gate, Longleat

The weather forecast was for (more) rain and wind, so I went armed with several kit options all the way up to waterproof jacket and thick leggings. In the event it was gloriously sunny if not terribly warm. So I opted for a helly with my QO top, rather than go out in short sleeves (which I have done on New Year's Day at previous SARUM events).

The start and finish were at the group of statues at Heavens Gate, giving a choice for slower runners like myself of starting down a very steep slope and going for the controls out in the parkland, or staying roughly on the level and going round the forested part. I chose the forest and ran mainly round the paths, keeping out of the brushings as much as possible. We were using the latest Emit kit again, which not only registers if merely placed over the box but also gives elapsed time, which is brilliant for a score event. With 15 minutes to go (and a long history of being late back), I decided to go for one more control close to the finish – only to realise when I got there that it was the first one that I had visited! Much gnashing of teeth, followed by the decision that, with 9 minutes to go, I could get down the very steep slope to the nearest parkland control – and back up again in time. Fortunately I made it with 20 seconds to spare – just was definitely enough in this case. I also got 15 controls which is rather better than usual; perhaps I am slowly improving.

The clouds had come over whilst we were running, but the rain held off until we had eaten our sandwiches, though we had a wet drive home. Thanks to SARUM for putting on their usual entertaining New Year event. It has been some time since I last ran a score event and I had forgotten how much fun they are.

Christine Vince

Devon Christmas Event

Having spent our Christmas in Plymouth the Devon event at Dartmeet on the 27th December was an ideal opportunity to run off the Festive Excesses. As we drove past all those familiar Devon areas, Burrator, Virtuous Lady, Plym Forest, Soussons and many others, we wondered what Brimpts Farm had in store. I must admit that the name didn't suggest intricate contour detail or in fact forested areas. However the sight of Permanent course marker as we drove in did inspire some confidence.

Parking was very tight and we were glad we arrived early at what was obviously an outdoor activity centre. A large crowd eventually gathered for the briefing to explain some of the complicated additions to the score event and then we were off.

Basically it was a one hour score with 28 controls but each even numbered control had a clue of some sort which had some relevance to Christmas. The answer had to be written on a piece of paper which was also in the map bag. There was a word search, five Dingbats and a Soduko style grid. (I didn't manage to get the hang of this one until I found the results on the internet later in the week, rather late to have any effect on my score.) In addition there were 4 map memory controls.

The area was basically a farm with some areas of forest and rough open stretching down to the River Dart. Not too interesting from the point of view of orienteering but with the added complications of route choice and puzzles one's mind was fully occupied. I made the mistake of assuming that the lines of planting on the map were accurate and finished up in an area of ficht much further left than the control I was aiming for. This, coupled with a bad selection of route, meant that I was well down the field of 80 plus competitors but still enjoyed the run and didn't finish up with too much excess baggage as a result of the previous two days indulgence.

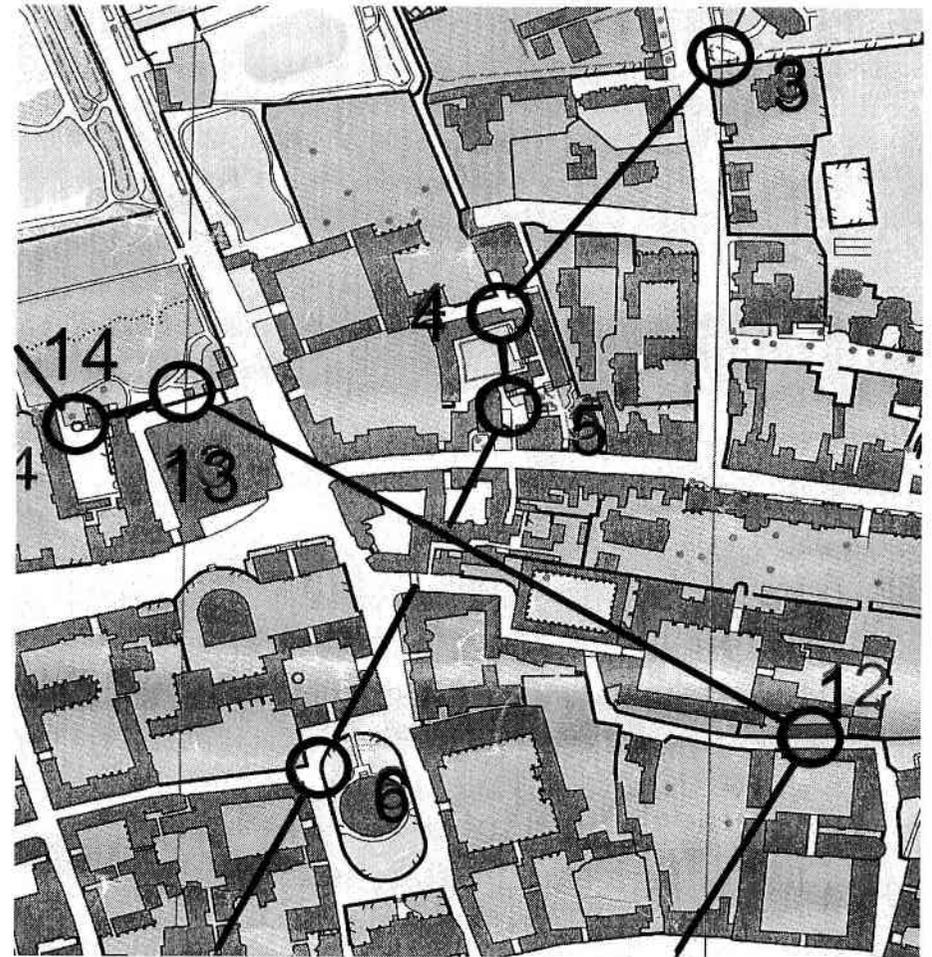
Mike Crockett

Urban Orienteering – the way to find new ‘terrain’?

Mid-morning on Sat Nov 4th I found myself anxiously lining up in the start lanes for the inaugural **Oxford City Street Race**. The weather was bright but frosty – thermal top and shorts seemed to be the order of the day, and we had to pin on our competitor numbers. The course I ran, for ‘supervets’ (that made me feel good!) was 4.2km. First couple of controls were around the park, a bit like Vivary, but then the fun started. Routes went diagonally across blocks of buildings and Oxford colleges, as you can see from the section of the map. No concessions were made for traffic or Saturday afternoon shoppers – suddenly the reason for wearing the numbers was apparent, as pedestrians recognised that a race was on and often (but not always) stood aside to let runners pass. My route took me straight through a degree ceremony at the Radcliffe Library (control 6 on the map) and across the pedestrianised High Street packed with tourists, and down an alley and between the tables of a pub garden. Onlookers everywhere looked surprised but the word ‘orienteering’ was heard many times – what tremendous publicity for our sport!

The student organisers had had trouble negotiating access in some colleges (do you blame them?), so the planner used hot-spots in places where permission was granted. On the map controls 4 and 5, which are only 40 metres apart, were in Wadham College (so they informed me afterwards), where in total they had placed seven sites, on different levels. Competitors (self included!) were running round like headless chickens - at one point I sprinted down a passageway and through a door into the back of the college kitchen. Thought it prudent to retreat rapidly as the cook was fingering a large cleaver. Having located your controls you then had to manage to navigate your way out of the place – resulting in another chicken run. You can see another hot-spot at 13 and 14 in the grounds of Trinity College. As the race went on the pace got more and more frantic and suddenly the thermal top seemed a very bad idea.

Punching was with the latest Emit units with a display telling you which control you have just visited. They trigger when you are within 1 metre



of the site (which is a metal board with the sensor placed centrally). The experts simply bang the Emit brick on the board. On finishing I found that I had registered an extra control when passing close to another site (not mine) on a building corner. By the finish I was exhausted, and couldn't understand how 4.2km had taken 40 minutes. Careful measurement of the route though showed an actual distance of well over 6km because of the non-direct route choices, and then of course there was the time spent in Wadham College kitchens.....

Overall a novel orienteering race with a difference. The success of this event has provoked considerable national interest with an informal series of races planned for 2007 in places like York and Cambridge (not surprising) but also in the City of London and Milton Keynes (help!) IOF have produced a mapping specification for this type of event, and some forward thinkers are asking difficult questions like 'how do you map a multi-storey car-park on a sheet of A4' Many see greatly enhanced possibilities for publicity and sponsorship of our sport in this kind of non-traditional environment. Any QO volunteers to help with a map of Taunton...?

David Holmes

Southern Night Championships

Oldhouse near Crawley was the venue for this year's Southern Nights. I know Crawley is a long way for those in the South West to travel but being near London one would expect a good turn out. As it happens there was a very poor attendance. I was the only M70, Margaret the only W60 Short and in fact the only person on her course. Jim Mallinson the only other QO member there did have some opposition. It will be interesting to see what turn out there is for the British Championships at Sheringham in Norfolk in February.

Parking was on a private road very near the Start and Finish which in view of the heavy rain that had fallen leading up to the event was a god send. Some light rain fell during the event and we had thunder and lightning on the way to the start. The area was forested with a good ride network, however heavy vehicles had been along the rides and the rain during the days before had made it wet, very wet! The maps were printed on waterproof paper but I don't think mine would have survived if I hadn't put it in a poly bag part way round.

I was the holder of the trophy and as I returned it to the organisers duly polished I remarked that I would be taking it home again as I was the only one on the course. A voice from the corner said "You have to complete the course first". Did he know something that I didn't? I

dismissed this from my mind but as I searched for the first control his words flashed through my mind. Eventually I found it, and the next, but an inaccurate compass bearing and misreading the contours meant that number three meant that I was really scratching and took a needlessly long safe route after I had finally relocated. If things carried on like this would I complete before course closure time? However things did improve and apart from going to the start instead of the finish I had a relatively error free run and so managed to take the trophy home again.

Margaret was 1st W 60S and Jim 2nd M55 L (by just 25 secs)

Mike Crockett

Night Orienteering

Although at first the thought of orienteering at night appears to be a little daunting, it can also be a very satisfying experience. Firstly you don't have to run, walking at steady pace with careful navigation is often much quicker than travelling at speed and thereby missing an essential navigational feature. Secondly there is a much greater degree of satisfaction finding a control by accurate navigation, elephant tracks and the sight of other competitors are much less helpful.

What is needed?

1. A head torch, although not essential, is a big help as it allows more use of the hands.

A good hand torch is an alternative but be careful to keep it away from the compass when taking a bearing.

A spare set of batteries can be useful but you will also need a small torch so that you can see to change the batteries easily.

Some people also carry a high powered hand torch to supplement their head torch when nearing controls. I used to do this but have been unable to find a light enough replacement since my last one failed.

2.A cagoule although not often compulsory is advisable, and the bag can also hold the spare batteries and small torch mentioned above.

Apart from this the equipment is the same as for daylight events.

Many of the local night events are one hour score. The advantage of this is that you can limit yourself to a reasonable course depending on your ability and also the organiser shouldn't be too stressed waiting for an indeterminate length of time.

The forthcoming night event at Montacute 20th January should be ideal for newcomers. It is an enclosed area and therefore wandering off the map will not be a problem. The area is parkland and so the going underfoot is reasonably clear of obstacles and there are very few depressed features.

The format of the event is a one hour score, but because the area is relatively small we have devised two courses, printed back to back, each with the same number of controls and points value. You can start on either course and go onto the other map when you like but cannot go back onto the original once you have turned over.

As we expect some of the fast boys to complete in less than the hour there will also be a map memory available to use up any spare time.

At the afternoon's informal event there will also be recommended easy courses for newcomers

I hope I've whetted your appetite. Why not come along and give it a go?

Montacute House Car Park. Afternoon 2.00 - 4.00 evening 5.30 - 6.30pm. With courses closing at 8 pm.

Other Fixtures continued

Date	Event	Venue	Grid Reference	Contact
3.2.07	Wim Night Owl	Inside Park Blandford	ST864052	Chris Branford 01258 453716
4.2.07	BOK &ASO	Worlebury Woods	ST326626	J. Hurford 01179735931
18.2.07	Wimborne Regional	Ibsley & Rockford	SU 150067	K. Staunton 01425 653629
	NB Pre Entry	By 5.2.07		
25.2.07	Devon Long O	Woddbury Common	SY040847	Roger Green 01392-278512
4.3.07	SOC Long O	Hampton Ridge	SU190137	J. Dickin 02392 410164
25.3.07	Sarum Saunter Regional	Grovely Woods	SU025348	C. Duncan 01722 320872
6-9.4.07	JK Weekend	Forest of Dean		M.Forrest 01629 650815
29.4.07	BOK Trot	Gare Hill	ST772385	T Walker 01275 462879

This Fixtures list has more events than usual. However it is by no means comprehensive. More detailed lists can be obtained from the SWOA and British Orienteering websites.