

Fixtures

Club Events

2.12.07	QOFL 2	Kingscliff	ST 271321	R.Llewellyn 01823-350532 Team 1
27.12.07	Christmas Street Event**	Taunton	Flier Enclosed	Ted Heath 01823-251985
6.1.08	QOFL 3	West Quantoxhead	ST117410	R.Craddock 01823-323850 Team 1
27.1.08	QOFL 4	Buckland Wood	ST190176	Ron Foord 01460-259743 Team 2
16.3.08	Galoppen	Blackborough	ST100084	Richard Sansbury 01823-288405
2.3.08	QOFL 5	Ham Hill	ST478 165	Adele Appleby 01404-861127 Team 3
20.4.08	QOFL 6	Cothelstone	ST183335	Ted Heath 01823-251985 Team 2

You are advised to check event details before travelling.

Start times for QOFL 11.00 –13.00

Edition 117 of Quonicle will be distributed at
Buckland Wood- 27th January 2008
Copy to me by 18th January please.

The QuOnicle



The Newsletter of Quantock Orienteers

No. 116 November 2007

In this Issue

Page 3	Chairmans Chat
5	News of People
6	Club News
7	Mapping pt2
9	Events
13	History
14	Team Allocation
16	Fixtures

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

Quantock Orienteers Committee

Chairman	Bill Vigar	01823-680679	Mapping
Secretary	Ted Heath	01823- 251985	Website
Treasurer	Roger Craddock	01823-323850	
Committee	Bob Lloyd	01823-333251	Permissions
	Brian Pearson	01823_252407	Club Captain
	Richard Sansbury	01823-288405	Fixtures
	Brian Fletcher	01935- 424569	Youth and Schools
	David Holmes	01823-451343	
	Nick Fernandes	01935-424128	
Other Club Officials			
	Tony Milroy	01278-427875	QOFL
	Mike Crockett	01458-445540	Membership Quonicle

Editorial

We start a new orienteering year with a new chairman. I have included a photo which does, I hope, let newcomers to the club know who he is. Bill himself would have preferred an action shot but the camera can't really do justice to his unique running style and after all, the first time most of newcomers see him is at the laptop entering names etc.

I've been pondering what to say in this issue. I could complement Bill's statement by saying that the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the editor. I do agree with some of what he says and am reminded an item that John Pilkington said in 1984, "there is a danger of professionalism creeping in". It hasn't just crept, rather leapt, in but

with the improvement in standards it became very necessary.

I went to the re-run of the first November Classic a few weeks ago. It was black and white copies of 25000 series OS maps to be marked up from master maps and cardboard control cards pinned on to our O tops. Not everything was authentic however. They did have portaloos and not hessian screens around hastily dug trenches and the controls were cloth unlike the hardboard ones we used to hump around.

Talking of controls reminds me that there have been several questions about orienteering in quiz programmes recently. I gather there was one on University Challenge, which I didn't hear, but since then two on Eggheads (BBC2 6pm). The celebrity team had very little knowledge. One questioned the fact that orienteering was a sport and the other didn't know the colour of a control but correctly worked out that as orienteering sometimes took place at night that Orange and White was the only reasonable colour (the alternative answers being Green and White or Blue and White). Maybe some of this effort at improving our sport should be spent in education.

Finally, speaking of improvement, anything that you would like to see in Quonicle please let me know. It's been running for a long time now and perhaps needs a revamp.

Mike

Chairman's Chat

Firstly, I should explain that the contents of this 'Chat', and of future ones, represent my own views and opinions, they are not necessarily those of the QO committee. As a former prime minister, Andrew Bonar Law, I believe, once remarked, when defending an unpopular action his cabinet had just taken "I must follow them I am their leader"!

Our national governing body, known to most



of us as BOF, seems to have gone into hyper-active mode recently. Firstly they dropped the 'F' from their name to make themselves BO. Then they re-organised the membership arrangements, largely, I suspect, in an attempt to impress their grant providers by showing a rise in membership. They are now in the process of completely changing their decision making processes, and if that were not enough action, they also want to re-organise the event structure by doing away with Regional (Badge) events, leaving a few National events, with everything else being based on Colour Coded courses. In parallel with all this, they are trying to persuade all clubs to become 'Club Mark' approved, and to fill in a multi-page questionnaire showing their aims and objectives for the years 2009-13.

I cannot help wondering if all, or in deed any, of this activity, is in the best interest of the average club member. You may be familiar with the old saying, 'He who pays the piper calls the tune', as long as BO rely on quangos for about 75% of their income, their freedom of action is severely curtailed, remember another old saying 'There's no such thing as a free lunch'. Making children aware of orienteering by having their school grounds mapped is fine, but to quote yet another old saying 'You can lead a horse to water but you cannot make it drink'.

The reality of the situation is that 'proper' Orienteering is a minority activity, with participation limited by inclination, transport and available venues. The current official line seems to be that 'growth is good' and should be pursued by every means, such as running around town centres. As a club, we try to achieve financial self sufficiency, so that we can decide our own priorities, maybe the status quo is not such a bad thing after all.

If you have any views on these matters you wish to air, please feel free to contact any committee member or write to Qonicle, or even come along to a committee meeting.

Bill Vigar

News of People



Congratulations to

Tim Wood who married Frances Hunt at the Bishops Chapel in the Bishop's Palace in Wells on 25th August. Fran is the Bishop's secretary and Tim is a former secretary of QO. (Dare I suggest they have a common interest.)

Tim first joined QO when West Mendip OC ceased in the early 1980s.

Photograph Eric Purchase Photography

Congratulations also to QO club members Joanne Miller and Ian Williams who were married on 1st September in Chester. Jo and Ian will shortly be finishing their studies.

We wish them both success in their studies and happiness in their future life together.



Congratulations also to Lennox and Ted Heath who are grandparents. Their son Richard and wife Gale now have a son Finn.

Welcome to new club members

Chris Denton of Taunton Hydrographic Office.

John Paterson of Minehead. John, a teacher, comes to us as a result of a schools event organised by Brian at Taunton.

Kiran Thakur of Bampton

Issy Modica of Taunton

Kiran and Issy are juniors who came along to QOFL 1 and have now joined us.

Southern Champions

W16 Zoe Round

M70L Bill Vigar

M60S John Trayler

Southern Night Champions

M70L Mike Crockett

W60S Margaret Crockett

M40S Ian Bartlett

Club News

The minutes of the AGM held at The Ruishton Inn on 12th October are now on the club website.

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

If anyone would like a printed copy please contact either Ted Heath or myself

Compass Sport Trophy

The first round of 2008 trophy will be held at Sallowvallets on 13th January. Anyone who is interested and has not yet registered an interest, please contact Club Captain, Brian Pearson on 01823-252407

Maps for Club Events (Part 2)

You may recall that in Part 1, I tried to tempt people to have a go at a simple recording and plotting exercise.

If you tried this, and found it easy, I will try to expand the general principles with another example. If you tried it, but it did not work, or if you didn't think it was quite 'you', don't worry, you could still contribute to map revisions by just crossing out things that have gone, there was at least one path at Bovington the other day that should have been crossed out years ago!

In my Part 1 example I said don't worry about the length of your pace, this was because you should have returned to the starting point whatever your pace length was, as long as it was constant. In a more practical example you will need some way of 'calibrating' yourself, so that whoever is adding your information to the map can fit it in.

Lets suppose you are walking along a forest track, with the map you are correcting, and you find a new path disappearing into the wood, never mind where it goes at present, first you must identify where it joins the main track you are on. The main objective is to place it with respect to the nearest feature that is already on the map, this is the aspect people will notice most. Standing at the junction of the track and the new path, take a bearing of the track, and pace along it counting your paces to this nearest mapped feature, it may be a path or track junction or a ditch.

This one measurement is not enough to allow someone to position your path correctly, as your pace length is not known. Go back to your new path and pace in the opposite direction until you get to another feature that is on the map. If the track is straight you need not take another bearing, but it is good practice to do so, if nothing else, it gives a check of the first one you took. Now you have two pace counts and the cartographer can scale your numbers to fit it between the two features already on the map.

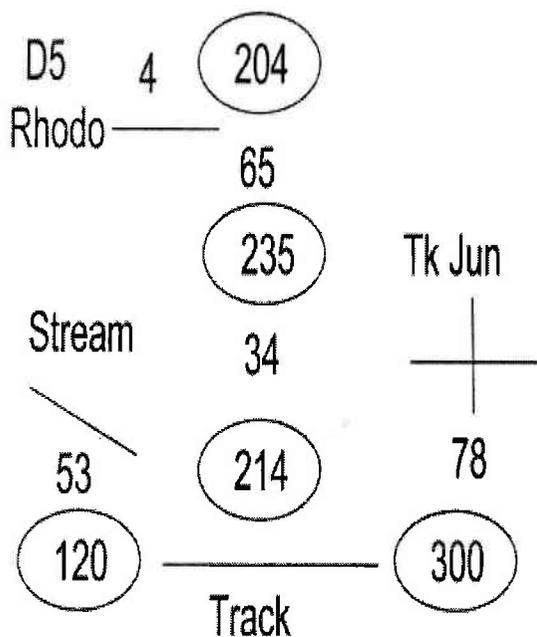
Having fixed your new path end you can now find where it goes. This is just more bearings and pace counts until, hopefully! you emerge onto another track or path that is already on the map. As a cross check it is a good idea to repeat the fixing of this end with respect to other features as

for the beginning. Things never fit exactly, but your cartographer will complain if the 'fit' is very poor, otherwise they will just tweak it a bit so that it does fit!

As a matter of interest, how did you record any of your bearings and paces? I expect most of you will have written them in a column, from the top of the page downward, obvious huh! Actually no, the best way is to start at the bottom of the page and record them one above the other upwards. I distinguish bearings from distances by always putting a circle around a bearing. If, during your survey, you find a thicket at the left side of the path, draw this at the left side of your column. When you have dozens of items on your paper, and are trying to recall what they mean when you get home, writing upward gives you a 'head up display' and helps you recall where you went.

Some people try to draw this detail directly onto their map as they go, but I find this only suitable for very simple changes like showing that a track junction is actually staggered, not straight across as shown on the map.

This is a typical example of the type described above.



The main track bearing was 120 to the left (when facing the path), it was 53 paces along it to a stream. In the opposite direction the bearing was 300 (the track was straight), and it was 78 paces to a track junction. The bearing of the path was 214, then, after 34 paces it changed to 235, after another 65 paces there was a 5 pace diameter Rhodo bush on the left, beginning 4 paces from the track, there was also another bend at this point, onto a bearing of 204.

I should stress that there is no right and wrong way to record these details, I have described what suits me, others may prefer a different way. The main requirement is that, when you either draw it up yourself, or give it someone else to draw, it can be unambiguously understood. Another similar example is adding a new point feature, you have found a knoll that is not at present on the map. In this case the method is similar but the details are different. You still need to find two nearby features that are shown, if you are lucky, and both are visible from your knoll, all you need is a bearing to each of the features, this will uniquely define your position. Ideally the two bearings should be at about 90 degrees from each other, but anywhere between about 30 and 150 degrees is OK. I will deal with the 'unlucky' case in Part 3.

Events

Staple Common Marathon – QFL1

During the autumn, the old mixed woods of Somerset become a place of contrast. The beauty in the colour of the falling leaves, the increasingly damp conditions and general decay that takes place in the undergrowth all blend together to make an exploration into the inner recesses of an old mixed wood plantation, an enlightening, almost spiritual experience. I noted the wonderful range of Lichen which adorns so many of the trees and dead wood; Dimerella, Lecidella, Cladonia and Parmelia Squarros, to name but a few. As we all know Lichen tends to grow on the north side of a tree, something I increasingly took notice of while I was wandering in the woods; I seem to remember passing one particular lichen clad tree from all angles at least 5 or 6 times. I also stumbled across a variety of Fungi, some of which I got to know quite well as I passed the same spot time and time again. I never knew until I read it up in my handy 'Know your Fungi' book, that the Oak Mushroom rarely grows on an Oak tree, or that the Blue Milky Cap can look red at different times of the day...amazing!

You might be wondering what I am blabbering on about? Well, the truth is that I spent an awful long time wandering aimlessly between control one and two on what should have been a good event for me (I was fitter than usual). I took an unbelievable 1hr35mins to cover about 200 metres (Yes, that's correct and I have run half

marathons faster). However, in doing so, I did have time to appreciate the wonderful environment the event took place in and although I felt like screaming my head off at times I actually enjoyed the run. Don't ask me how I got lost; suffice to say I ended up a good kilometre away from where I should have been! A succession of ploughed up ground, recently felled trees and blind stupidity meant I mistook the 'ruin' at control two for a lump of old moss, not once, but about 10 times. If I hadn't have bumped into Rosie Wych at a river crossing, who kindly indicated where I was, I would surely have retired.

Once back on track with the "never ever give up" motto firmly stuck in my mind and the thought of grilled wild mushrooms sautéed in sprigs of Lecidella for when I got home, I made no further major mistakes and for me, ran the remaining 18 controls in a reasonable time. Of course, by this time I was well and truly warmed up! It would be true to say that I was extremely happy to finish and a little embarrassed as I came up to the download van, where the tongue in cheek smiles of Richard S, Bill V and Mike C were there to greet me saying, "Good run Keith"? Yes but No but I cried! There's always next time and the grilled mushrooms were rather good!

Keith Bolling

Sue Craythorne coped admirably in this her first attempt at organising for QO. Even she couldn't take care of, what has become the traditional Quantock weather as the accompanying picture shows.



Control Flags Drying on Sue and Bill's lawn

Course Winners were

Blue	Clive Hallet BOK	Orange	Abigail Kerr BOK
Green	Jackie Hallet BOK	Yellow	Kiran Thakur QO
Light Green	Rowley Craddock Ind	White	Matthew Pearson QO

BOK narrowly won the Yvette Baker competition from QO with Wimborne in third place.

Ed. If you thought the weather was bad spare a thought for the organisers of the British Schools Championships today at Bovington. It was awful, but the cheerfulness of the helpers was truly amazing.

Long O - Pinkery

Extracts from Andy's comments

Did somebody say tussocks? Thank you all for coming, and I hope you had a good day. My initial reservations for holding the event the day after Devon's, thinking numbers would inevitably be down were unfounded and we actually had about 85 overall- some running both events as part of the 'two moors challenge'

When I first looked to hold the event on this area (I have used it many times for KIMM training in the past mainly due to its footing!), I had intended using an enhanced OS map. Typically Bill dismissed this and said he would survey and produce a suitable O map, which he did single-handedly from scratch within about six months- some feat considering the remoteness of the area. Given the limitations of time and budget, I think the results of his efforts were far more than I anticipated. In addition to producing the base map, he also did the course overlay work, printed the finished maps, ran the event software on the day and even found time to put out and check controls- a veritable one man orienteering event (all this from a man in his 70s!) On your behalf I thank him enormously. Together with Bill, many other stalwarts of the club assisted either behind the scenes, or on the day itself: Lennox and Judy (oh! and Ted apparently) in the kitchen, Roger at the manned control, Sue at the start, Rosie, the controller, for practical advice when necessary and knowing when to back off also when required, and finally Mike for assisting with collecting controls. Again thanks to you all for giving up your day.

Lastly my thanks to Alan Bailey of the Pinkery Centre for use of the facility. I'm sure you will agree it made a great event centre.

And so to the courses themselves:-

To say the area is entirely rough open is a bit of an understatement. It really was a lottery as to what you would find: you may have been battling through tussock grass up to you waist unknowing that there was an unseen perfectly useable track 10m to your side. That however was part of the fun of this event. The limitations imposed by the scale and basic nature of the map meant that only large features could be mapped and subsequently used as control sites. We made the courses slightly longer than normal to reflect the 'relative' flatness of the terrain. Global warming assisted you greatly, the fine visibility making navigation simple- it was still amusing however seeing the crocodile of runners heading for the large memorial stone on the skyline near the manned control rather than reading their maps and going to the actual standing stone in question!

Congratulations to the overall winners of this and the two moors challenge events.

I hope you all enjoyed your runs and look forward to seeing you again. On that note I have a request to QO club-members. I have planned and organised six of these events now and feel it's time to hand over the baton.

(Masochistically, I miss actually taking part!). I would appreciate it if someone were willing to take on the challenge for next year- I can obviously assist with advice where required. I look forward to receiving a flood of applications.

Andy Rimes (QO)

Quantock Orienteers History

Now that every one gets SINS it is rather pointless repeating the same article or similar in the Quonicle. I had intended a short version for SINS and an expanded version for our own members but seeing that the shortened version was already three pages there wouldn't be much room for anything else in the Quonicle.

A few comments about the SINS article

There were quite a lot of unexplained occurrences during my *research*, that sounds good doesn't it?

I am still trying to find out if there was a chairman before Dave Parkin. There was an announcement in SINS that a Quantock Orienteers badge

event in 1970 was cancelled and then the next edition said that the cancelled event was nothing to do with QO. I wonder what happened there.

I was informed that at one Badge event, the controller came down on the Saturday, declared the courses too long, shortened them by 1 km and added 250 metres of climb which by my calculations equates to adding 2.5km in length. The controller then left to run in the Northern championships on the Sunday leaving the planner to face the wrath of "King 'arold" and co.

I tried to find Keith Vickery, by contacting the Australian Orienteering Federation in the hope that he continued orienteering after his emigration. They circulated their associations but I have had no response. I am not surprised as he did withdraw from BOF membership on the grounds that it was too expensive for the two or three times per year that he orienteered.

Barry Bibby who did a considerable amount when with QO was awaiting a hip operation when I first contacted him and had had it when he wrote sending the Byfoot Trophy photograph. Unfortunately the photograph couldn't be included in SINS although I did think it had a wider interest than just QO. However I have included it here. Those in the photo are



GC DB RR BB TT

Rosemary Roach who was introduced to Orienteering by Erik Peckett and I notice in the latest edition of Compass Sport that Carol McNeil was also introduced by Erik. Gavin Clegg (Neil's elder brother, now with Wessex. David Brain who died unexpectedly shortly

after that event. Tim Taylor of Millfield School who later became head of a school in the Midlands before retiring and now living in Blue Anchor, and of course Barry himself, we wish him a speedy recovery.

As I mentioned in the SINS article I am indebted to those who have delved through their archives to find items for me. One who deserves special mention is John Pilkington who spent one Sunday evening on the phone reading out bits from all the maps he still has, even though he has moved house several times since those early days. John is now living near his daughter who lives in Kent. John, we wish you well and very many thanks.

Team Allocation

Quantock Orienteers for many years has divided its membership into three teams so that the tasks of event organisation are spread more evenly around the club.

Recently the QOFL organising teams have become unbalanced. Lennox has canvassed your preferences and attempted to redress the imbalance. Everyone has been allocated to a team. It is known that some members are unable to help but if circumstances change and you find that just for once you can manage one of the dates shown then please feel free to ring your team leader, the name at the top of the list, and offer your services.

The Fixture list has a team allocation to the QOFL series and that is the one at which you may be asked to help. Helping at an event is a good way to get to know your fellow club members and quite often paves the way for other activities within the club, such as car sharing.

Please check the details on the next page and make sure they are correct.

Late Item

Gavin Clegg has asked me to let you know there is a night event at Hethfelton near Bovington on 15th December. More details from Gavin or me (I have an electronic version of the flyer.)

Team 1		Team 2		Team 3	
Roger Craddock	Ted Heath			Richard Sansbury	
Bussell Andrew	Bolling Keith			Appleby Adele	01823-288405
Clegg Neil	Bowman Andrew	01823 681451	01458 210251	Bartlett Ian	01404 861127
Craddock Judy	Chesters John	01823 257210	01297 35612	Baybutt John	01749 840797
Edmonds Marie	Chesters Ruth	01823 323850	01404 813679	Butcher Peter	01935 817000
Elliston Steve	Crawford Hugh	01823 286565	01405 813679	Craythorne Susan	01934 842238
Gray Declan	Fisher John	01237 451900	01404 850457	Crockett Margaret	01884-840631
Gray Donald	Foord Ron	01760 452887	01823 451332	Crockett Mike	01458 445540
Harvey Norman	Gard Sue	01761 452887	01460 259743	Cudmore Chris	01458 445540
Holmes David	Hartley Graham	01823 413748	01823 680679	Daniels Jan	01373 813735
Holmes Jan	Heath Lennox	01823 451343	01934 744854	Darton Pete	01935-824704
Llewellyn-Eaton Joel	Lloyd Bob	01823 451343	01823 251985	Denton Chris	01935 411789
Llewellyn-Eaton Rhys	Pakes Jeff	01823 350532	01823 333251	Fernandes Nick	01823 662890
Llewellyn-Eaton Richard	Pascall Charlie	01823 350532	01278 433687	Fletcher Brian	01935 424128
Longhurst Martin	Patterson John	01643 831371	01984 618642	Hands David	01935 424569
Mallinson Jim	Pye Elizabeth	01278 784714	01643 703946	Hext Tony	01823 285936
Milroy Tony	Pye Ian	01278 427875	01823 430434	Hooper David	01935 473933
Nicholson John	Robertson Ewan	01278 732711	01823 430434	Knipe Matthew	01823 431628
Pearson Brian	Ryan Tim	01823 252407	01823 400292	Larcombe Mark	01935 472745
Pearson Graham	Spenlove-Brown Tim	01823 432252	01884 242495	Mortell Ken	01935 424002
Pearson Jim	Traylor John	01823 661091	01749 670884	Nickolls Jim	01458 447344
Philip Chris	Trembath James	01823 252938	01278 420132	Richardson Geoff	01935 473095
Pottage Barrie	Vigar Bill	01278 662106	01823-430925	Scott Mary	01458 252008
Rimes Andy	Windsor Steve	01823 451942	01823 680679	Tennant Jenny	01934 744693
Round Alice	Williams Ian	01822 331148	07854 962617	Wakeling Garry	01460 52906
Round John	Williams Stephen	01823 331148	01278 434670	Waite Xanthe	01749 675696
Round Zoe	Williams Joanne	01824 331148	01278 434670		01823 321979
Wood Tim		01749-672705	0115 8789760		
Wych Rosie		01823 451942			