

The QuOnicle



The Newsletter of Quantock Orienteers

No. 128 November 2009

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Editor—Mike Crockett, 50 Elmhurst Lane, Street, BA16 0HH
Tel 01458-445540 E Mail mjcsquared@talktalk.net

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

Quantock Orienteers Committee

Chairman	Richard Sansbury	Fixtures
Secretary	Ted Heath	
Treasurer	Roger Craddock	
Committee	Bob Lloyd	Permissions
	Brian Pearson	
	Jeff Pakes	
	Mark Maynard	
	Bill Vigar	Mapping
	Adrian Edwards	
Other Club Officials		
	Ian Bartlett	Club Captain
	Tony Milroy	QOFL
	Mike Crockett	Quonicle
	Judy Craddock	Membership
	Nathan Fernandes	Webmaster

Editorial

A very busy time at No 50 at the moment. There is an event every Wednesday and Sunday with the occasional JOG event on Saturdays when it can be fitted in. (Judy's three line whip usually means that I do).

Although I am in the twilight of my controlling career I am doing more at this moment in time than for a few years, and enjoying it very much. Controlling can be at times very frustrating but generally a very satisfying job. Three events (two by the time you read this) and all at the

moment enjoyable, working with dedicated people who can share a joke is very rewarding. It is said that one's orienteering improves as well but unfortunately that doesn't seem to be the case at the moment. However there is always next year, M75, and so much to look forward to.

This edition of Quonicle promises to be a bumper edition. I think it is appropriate to say that the views expressed are not necessarily those of the editor or committee.

I have repeatedly said that the time has come to hand over the reins of Quonicle to someone younger and an offer of help has come at last.

Adrian Edwards, a new committee member, has agreed to become editor from the next issue, Jan 17th. As Adrian isn't able to recognise some of you I have agreed to be "roving reporter" and rustle up some articles from you. More next time!

May I join with your chairman in wishing you a Very Happy Christmas and a really good orienteering new year.

Chairman's Chat



I'm not a naturally smiley person. I envy those who find it easier to be jolly rather than grumpy. Perhaps this disposition is common among orienteers as the first thing many do on completing a course is curse their mistakes, grumble about the vegetation, criticise the map and complain about the courses. This does not go down well with the planner and controller who have given up a substantial amount of their time to put the event together, and

will probably wonder why they bothered. So I try to make sure I can come up with something positive to say, and show that I have enjoyed myself.

Like most people, if I see someone I know while out and about, at least I'll nod "hello" or give a wave. What is the appropriate greeting though if you meet someone halfway round an orienteering course? The same? It seems many think not, as often I encounter people who seem completely oblivious to my existence. This feels very odd. Strictly according to the rules competitors are supposed to be completely independent, unless competing as a group. It certainly would not be right to distract someone who is concentrating. But it would seem pretty harmless to give a small acknowledgement and exchange a quick greeting - if you have the breath!

Sometimes other competitors ask me to stop and help, and despite what the rules say, I will stop briefly. At the local level the competition is not that aggressive and the person asking for help is likely to be new, and unlikely to be doing well enough to be significantly advantaged by whatever help I can give. Also, not helping would come across as very rude. I just hope my brief assistance is enough to keep them going and encourage them to come again.

If I don't see you, have a Happy Christmas!

Club News

Congratulations to our junior team who won the South West round of the Yvette Baker Trophy at our galoppen at Neroche and Staple Common. The team comprised Callum Scott Hartley, Eleanor Pearson, Matthew Pearson, Danielle Loader, Andrew Appleby, Molly Essex and Morganne Dunn, Shane Davies and Kieron Dunn and Jonathon Richardson., Joel Llewellyn-Eaton, Tim MacDonald, Eleanor Richardson, Josh & Nick Loader, Thomas Baker and Matthew Williams

It was hoped to send a team to Crawley for the Final. Despite arranging subsidised transport a team of sufficient numbers couldn't be raised and so we have had to forgo the chance opportunity to compete. Efforts are now being made to produce a competitive team for the Compass Sport Trophy 1st Round near Fordingbridge on 24th January

News of people.

Dave Holmes. Dave is now recovering at home after his latest period of treatment. He is making slow progress. We wish you well Dave and look forward to seeing you with us sometime in the New Year.

Rich Hill. Rich was recently posted to Colerne near Bath and has moved there with his family. Shortly after his move he was sent to Afghanistan. He is due back shortly. We wish you and your family well Rich.

Welcome to new members

We would like to welcome two new members John Went and Sam Smith.

John has joined as a senior local member. He now lives in London but used to be a family member when he was at school in Taunton. During this time John, his two sisters and both parents ran at events. John's father Richard was Chairman of QO between 1998 -2001 and then treasurer for a further three.

Sam is a senior, local member living at Compton Martin, south of Bristol and quite close to Cheddar.

We look forward to seeing both at our QO events, starting with the QOFL on 6th December at Wind Down?

From SWOA

At the last SWOA committee meeting Jeff Pakes was approved as a Grade 3 controller

AGM

The Quantock Orienteers AGM took place after the Sprint O event on Saturday 10th October. The minutes are on the QO Website.

If you require a hard copy please ask

JOG Notebook November 2009

This term started earlier than usual as we joined with the Sprint O initiative with the first event at Vivary Park on 12th September.

As we anticipated this was a good venue, highly visible to the general public in the centre of Taunton but.... (not anticipated!) we had a sunny and warm day too, 47 children participated that day.

All of the venues for the Sprint O drew in extra youngsters, due mainly to the easy access. It is worth considering an event in Taunton at least once each term to continue raising our profile in this way. Now that we have maps with a 'safe' area for juniors and an extended street area for seniors this makes it a viable idea. Perhaps we should consider a Sprint/Street O Series, a competition to encourage more seniors to join in?

So far this term we have had 7 events, numbers of children at events have been: Vivary: 47, Blackbrook:21, SCAT/Castle: 44, Taunton Green: 30, College way: 49, Orchard Portman: 29, Fyne Court:19.

So far, although we have had some excellent training ideas from planners only a few seniors have made use of it.

Judy Craddock

There was space here for a photo of Judy but she was adamant. -No!!!

MAPPING AND CARTOGRAPHY

EVER pondered on how the maps you get at events are put together and how you could even begin to produce something that good? Roger and I had the chance to find out when we went on a mapping course in Hampshire recently.

The grant-funded course was at Longmoor Camp, next to the A3 but surrounded by much woodland. It was formerly an important transport interchange for the army but that weekend chock-full of Territorial Army types, all in military clothes. Housed in sergeants' messes (single rooms not dorms, thankfully and like 60s' student halls of residence, rather spartan, with blankets not duvets) and fuelled by stodgy army grub from the canteen, Roger and I arrived relatively fresh for our super-intensive course.

The course tutor's mantra was that 80% of what appears on the final map can be prepared on your PC prior to the fieldwork. By that stage, you will have a black and white outline of everything except 'point features'. These are things such as knolls, pits, benches which no one else bothers mapping but orienteers love because you can hang a control on them. Your fieldwork will allow you to fill in the big white spaces you've left with various shades of green for your woods depending on how runnable or jungle-like it is. Then yellow for open land, etc.

The first step is to obtain an Ordnance Survey map excerpt (1:50k) for the area to be mapped, via the online 'Get-a-map' facility. That then gets imported into OCAD (or Orienteering Cartography and Design), the software we learned about. Next up, any other useful online maps we could lay our grubby mitts on.

Google Earth? You can see boundaries between different vegetation types from the air, great. But too often the foliage is snapped in summer and therefore appears verdant, hiding paths and roads and blurring

boundaries. Local authority websites were a handy source, particularly of large-scale maps of schools and suburban woods, and showed plenty of useful detail. These could then be overlaid on top of the OS map. Left a bit, right a bit...

Now for some virtual tracing paper. OCAD lets you draw over the top of your backing maps. Tracing over the line features (fences, roads, paths) is easy enough. More difficult are curved features like boundaries of woods and contours. You have to draw these by marking out tangents. Don't worry if you're not a mathematician, an artist or an engineer. You just need a desire to learn and a tutor with patience (it got tested by me) and – bingo! It's easy.

What about the fieldwork itself, the surveying? Bill Vigar did an excellent introduction to this in QuOnicles 115-121 (September 2007 to September 2008). As is often remarked, QO are very lucky to be able to call on the services of Bill (maps the main competition areas) and Dave Holmes (maps mainly schools, streets and parks). Without their efforts, we'd either be using out-of-date maps or be paying large sums to commercial mappers. After all, it's a time-intensive, specialist process. It puts your event entry fee into perspective, does it not?

What next? As long as I'm in full-time employment, I don't think I'll have time to do much mapping. Unfortunately, I had to turn down an opportunity to map a school Yeovil way recently. Realistically, I see myself doing small revisions to maps used for JOG events. However, I've gained an awareness of the processes and have some rudimentary cartography skills. Remember the map on the back of the Galoppen hand-outs? That was mine - I think I got more satisfaction out of producing that than anything else I did for that event!

Jeff Pakes

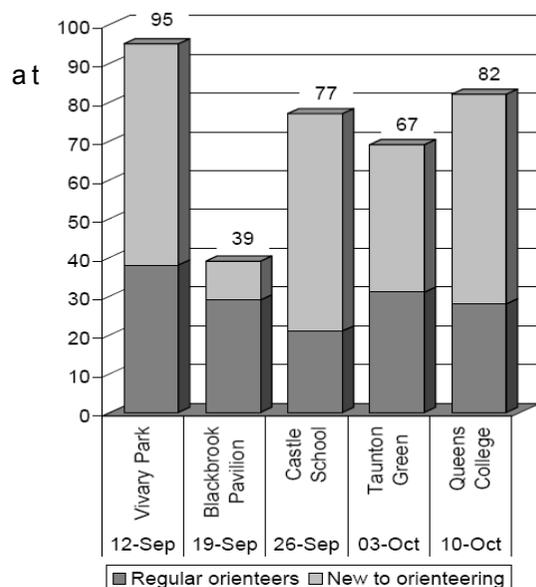
Taunton Sprint-O series

Orienteering in the parks and streets of Taunton



The "Award for All" project events have now happened. So how did it go? It went very well! Lots of people came, the majority of who were not regular orienteers. It was especially good to see lots of families coming.

Attendance at QO Sprint-O series



This graph shows the attendances the five main events.

The first event at Vivary Park was held on a hot sunny day, the park was full of people and there was a really vibrant atmosphere at the event. The press came and you may have seen the article in the Gazette, if not the cutting is on the website.

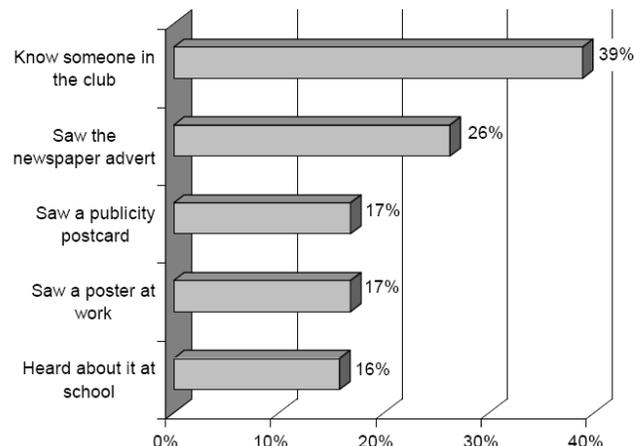
The second event at Blackbrook had surprisingly low attendance and I'm at a loss to know why this was the case. A bit disappointing as this was a great area to use.

The remaining three events were never going to be quite as visible as the first one but attendance remained high and we saw a number of regulars coming back time and time again.

As well as the five main events we held a sixth event on 17th October at Orchard Portman. The objective of this was to bridge the gap between the urban events and the normal forest event. We had white yellow and orange courses on offer and also a simple score course. Although this was a much lower profile event not featured in the main publicity, 50 people came along.

Will these people come again? I think many will. Many are now involved in JOG and I noted several of the familiar people on the results list for the Galoppen and at the Cothelstone QOFL. I expect there will be some drop-off but there is no doubt we have boosted the numbers of families coming involved in the sport.

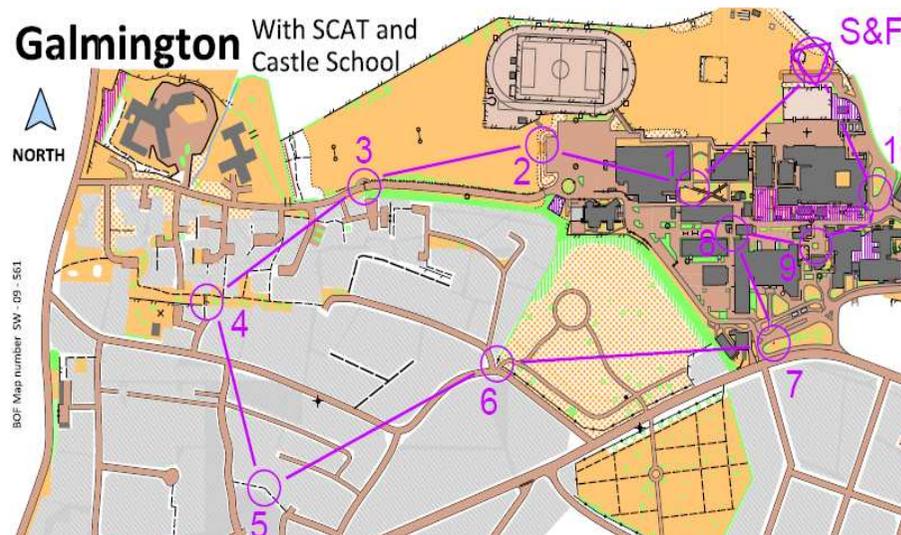
Where newcomers found out about the series



We asked people to say how they heard of the events. For those who did not declare themselves to be regular orienteers the most common way people found out was by knowing someone in the club. It was interesting to note that the rather expensive adverts in the Gazette were noticed by so many.

The events themselves were to a very high standard. The mapping

was first class, produced professionally by Simon Beck. Proper urban courses were planned by Jeff Pakes at Blackbrook, Chris Denton at Taunton Green and Pyrland, Rosie Wych at Queens College and Comeytrove and myself for Vivary Park and Castle School. No doubt we will hold more events in town so we can use those maps again, as it was quite a surprise to me just how good some parts of Taunton are for urban orienteering. In particular the streets around Blackbrook and Pyrland were ideal with mazes of paths and plenty of route choice. Here is an example of just one of the courses, from Castle School showing a variety of urban terrain:



The project has been an expensive exercise, the main cost item being Sportident kit. This is a rough summary of all the costs on the project:

Category	Description	Approx cost
Publicity	Newspaper advertising	£600
	Poster printing	£150
	Postcard printing	£250
Electronic equipment	Sportident kit	£9100
	Laptop	£300
Mapping	Survey & cartography	£1800
	Printing maps	£150
Other equipment	Tent	£400
	Signs and banners	£200
	Orienteering kites	£150
Other costs	Taunton Deane park hire fees	£50
	Equipment insurance	£150
TOTAL		£13300

Project costs have been mostly paid for with a £8300 Award for All grant from Sport England. This money has come from the national lottery as part of the government's strategy to encourage more participation in sport. The remaining £5000 has come out of club funds.

So was it all worthwhile? Very much so! Let me remind you that the objectives we had when we decided to embark on this venture were (1) to promote our sport, and (2) to be a means of funding the new SI system.

Both objectives have been achieved. We now own a brand new Sportident kit which we could not have afforded to buy without this project. We have also done a lot to promote our sport and get new people, especially families, involved. As a bonus we have some great maps to use again and experienced how to make a successful urban event.

I'd like to thank all who assisted with this project, either by contributing to the preparation and publicity, or by helping out on the day. I'd particularly like to thank Judy & Roger Craddock for their support, Andy Rimes for Sportident and Dave Holmes for help with the mapping

Richard Sansbur

Events

SW Galoppen – Craddock Moor, Liskeard

Sometimes you set out from home in glorious weather conditions, only to find that on reaching the destination of the event, it's anything but glorious. Other times it can be miserable at home but turn out to be sunny and warm when you get to the race. Fortunately it was a case of the latter for the first of this season's Galoppen events. Combined with the fact that having moved to West Devon, I didn't have to set off before sunrise, I was relaxed and ready for what Craddock Moor had to offer.

As mentioned, conditions were decidedly warm and pleasant for late September and Craddock Moor allows for some fast running so I was hoping for a good time. With only 140m climb on brown, things were looking better and better.

Craddock Moor has a wealth of features contained on the 1:10 000 map so concentration is of the utmost importance. I'm glad to say I managed this for the first leg and the second before resorting to 'Hunt the depression game' for the third control which involves running frantically from one depression to the next in the hope that I'll eventually stumble on the right one. Similar errors occurred on several other legs but by using features such as standing stone circles and prominent trees, I was able to keep moving round the course at a pretty good rate, completing the clockwise loop in just under an hour and a shade under 8 minutes per km which pleased me no end.

If you didn't make it to this event, you missed a treat. No doubt, a large number of other orienteers will have whizzed round the brown course faster than me but it's nice to be able to run and not have to battle against 'jungle like' vegetation. Let's hope the rest of the season continues in the same vein, though I sincerely doubt this will be the case. Ever the pessimist.

Ian Bartlett

QO Galoppen

Mike Crockett

Held at Staple Common and Neroche this event was blessed with quite pleasant weather. Neroche was used for the junior courses and Staple Common for the longer senior courses. The organisation was led by Jeff Pakes who had a reliable band of helpers with him for this his first venture at this task. Will Kromhout set some challenging courses as a first time planner for QO although he has planned many times before with his former club Devon. Sue and Roger Hateley were as thorough as ever in their controlling roles.

Sport Ident was used for the first time at a major event and appeared to function smoothly.

Leading competitors were

Clive Hallet of BOK from Ben Chesters of Sarum on the Brown.

David Malliphant of BOK from Brian Pearson of QO on Blue

Ben Malliphant of BOK from Brian Fletcher of QO on Green

Michael Hallet of BOK from Sarah Gibson of Sarum on Orange

Matthew Pearson of QO from James Bussell of QO on Yellow

Ellie Rogers Ind from Suki West on White

QO Long O

Mike Crockett

Our annual prestige event was based at the Outdoor Activity centre at Simonsbath. The centre provided an ideal base for preparation and relaxing afterwards with refreshments provided by Lennox and Judy as part of the entry fee.

Soup provided by Lennox was very welcome



Once again Martin Longhurst provided three challenging courses with Rosie Wych organising and controlling and Bill Vigar once more providing an excellent map at 1:25000 with 10 metre contours (and they were still very close together in places). The weather was clear which aided navigation. Had it been foggy then things would have been much more difficult.

The Joe Lee EPS was originally developed for use on the Karrimor Mountain Marathon and so it was appropriate that it was used for this event where instant recording is not at a premium. It coped well as usual.

Results

Long Course (19.6km 710m)

Tim Britton (M21) of BOK was a clear winner by 25 mins from Chris Turner (M45) of Wimborne

Medium course(13.2km 520m) was a much closer affair

Robin Kohler (M50) of Devon 5 mins ahead of team mate Nigel Worsey (M50), with Andy Rimes (M45) a further 4 mins adrift.

Short Course (7.8 km 275 metres of climb)

Bill Vigar(M70) who declared himself Non competitive 16 mins ahead of Mike Crockett (M70). One minute covered the next four places five minutes behind Mike.

Full results of both these events can be seen on the club website.

The OMM (formerly KIMM)

QO had three competitors at the event in the Elan Valley of mid Wales.

Richard Sansbury accompanied by Ian Bowles of Devon were a very creditable 27th place on the Medium Score event. Martin Longhurst accompanied by Joe Pickles were 71st on the Long Score and recently re-joined John Went was 69th on the A course.

In addition former member John Kirby accompanied by son Sam was 63rd on the Long Score.

Joe Lee - beyond the peak of its prime. A view by Mark Blackstone

Quantock Orienteers have always been a quirky club (I often thought the Q stood for Quirky) with more than its fair share of characters. Everything put on by QO is slightly different from other clubs. Even their forests are distinctive.

So back in 2004 QO purchased the Joe Lee system of electronic punching :- a small simple system affordable by a small club. Its first major launch in April 2004 at Cothelstone treated us to this new system with its small units neatly camouflaged as canes and the bits to carry round which I have always referred to as the teaspoon.

Its reception by the O public was unfair. It was compared with the relatively new SI system. The EMIT version was hardly known, and in fairness Joe Lee was not as easy to use as SI, but it was far superior to punches and control cards .

Later events utilised pieces of string some 9.5 inches long provided by Bill so that the teaspoons did not get lost – One suspected these strings were all washed and recycled for further use!

Then SWOA declared Joe Lee as unsatisfactory although I for one was unable to see what locus SWOA had to make such a decision. As an outsider you could see this caused ruptions within the club, so when the time came to move on, QO went out, and with grant money purchased SI.

Joe Lee will still get outings for small events and will no doubt in time be used for “Retro” events.

Meanwhile, QO has lost one of its famous quirks. Not to be outdone, the recent Staple Hill event had its own quirks with the green course being printed at 2 differing scales. A neat experiment and I bet no one used the 1:10000 as the 1:7500 was much much easier to read.

Long live QO and all of its quirks, even though the Joe Lee role is now much reduced. It served its time well.

Perhaps SWOA will condemn QO's forests next. I certainly hope not.

wad some power the giftie gie us to see oursels as ithers see us (Burns)

It is mid morning in a quiet office, somewhere in Whitehall. A senior civil servant (SCS) had asked one of his juniors, Smythe (JCS), to come and see him.

SCS "Ah Smythe, do come in, take a seat, coffee?"

JCS "No thank you sir, I have had three already this morning."

SCS "I've just had another phone call from the PPS, he is asking how we are getting on with identifying the budget reduction targets, He particularly mentioned Orienteering, wanted to know what it was, and why we were funding it. You remember I asked you to do some research on it last week. How are you getting on?"

JCS "Well sir, I had a look on their web site but that did not help much, seemed to be all about committees, reports, rules and targets, just like us really, ha! ha! oh, sorry sir, just my little joke."

SCS "Quite Smythe, do carry on".

JCS "I did have some success, I remembered my wife telling me that the husband of one of her friends actually did it occasionally. As they only live a few doors down from us, I went to see him. He had some magazines and things which he lent me."

SCS "So what is it all about then and who does it?"

JCS "They like to refer to it as a sport sir, and although there seems to be a few really fit sporty types doing it, the typical participant seems to be a middle aged, middle class, affluent, white male, a lot of them see it more as a leisure activity."

SCS "A sport you say, I don't remember seeing anything about in the press, or on the television, do they win medals and things?"

JCS "They have a problem there sir, it's difficult for the media to cover, most of the action takes place out of sight in the woods and .."

SCS "You don't mean ..."

JCS "No, nothing like that sir, they just run as fast as they can through the trees".

SCS "So if the media don't like it, it's not going to be an Olympic sport then? nothing for us to crow about in 2012"

JCS "I'm afraid not sir".

SCS "So what are we getting for our money then Smythe"

JCS "They say there are lots of health benefits, you know the medics are always going on about exercise sir, it must be saving the NHS quite a bit. Some of the schools do it as well, so it must help reduce junior obesity and encourage independence.

SCS "So if you were in my position Smythe, what would you tell the PPS?"

JCS "Well sir, I'd try and give him a balanced assessment, point out the health benefits on the plus side, and the low profile on the down side".

SCS "That's no good Smythe, that's just passing the buck, expecting them to

take the decision, you've got to grasp the overall picture, what do you think they keep us for? We have to decide the issue, but put it to them in such a way that they think they made the decision themselves. Look at it this way, since the PM has started using the 'C' word he has got them all jumping around like headless chickens. Our minister probably has dreams where he is swimming in water full of giant letter 'Cs' that keep pushing him under. He may not have a double first from Oxford like us Smythe, but he's no fool, he knows how to bend with the breeze, and how to shelter from a storm, he already knows he has to produce cuts, even if it's only a couple of hundred thousand, he just wants us to warn him about any possible down sides, like are there any unemployment repercussions? or will there be any adverse media stories? So what's the situation there Smythe?"

JCS "No problems there sir, no media interest, and most of their work is done by unpaid volunteers, so there would probably be no than half a dozen job losses, some of them are part time anyway. There is one thing I don't understand though sir, why are they asking us anyway, surely it's the Sport England or the Sports Councils' money, shouldn't they be asking them?."

SCS "Strictly speaking you're right Smythe, but the minister can't trust them, nobody has to vote for them, so they see things quite differently, and as they get their funds from him, he can lean on them to see things his way. It's no good pointing out the health or educational benefit to him, he's not responsible for either of these, he's just sport, and at the moment that means medals in 2012 and things with lots of media coverage. We don't need to mention that most of those who do orienteering will most likely vote for the other side when the election comes, he will realise there is no down side there himself. In fact, the overall down side is negligible. I know it's only a few hundred thousand but he is desperate Smythe. I shall suggest a complete cessation of funding, as this will simply reinforce his current view, it will be well received, appearing to be indispensable is the key to our profession Smythe, this 'C' thing could get out of hand, you never know where it may lead.

Just as an aside Smythe, let me pose a hypothetical question to you, what would you have suggested if they had asked us about funding for Sailing instead of Orienteering?"

JCS "It must have more or less the same user profile sir, mostly well heeled people enjoying their leisure, but probably lacks the health benefits, so I suppose we would recommend cutting that too."

SCS "There you go again Smythe, you're just not thinking. Not only does Sailing do Olympics, they win gold medals at it. Furthermore I happen to know our minister was quite a keen dinghy man in his youth, you can't picture him running through a wood can you? That's why it's a hypothetical question, he already knows he couldn't cut that, so there's no need to ask us."

From the QO Westminster correspondent

A Fine Day at Fyne Court

Jim Mallinson

The e-mail shot from Judy Craddock sounded too good an opportunity not to miss **"Neil Clegg has planned a map memory challenge with a twist, come and have a go!"**

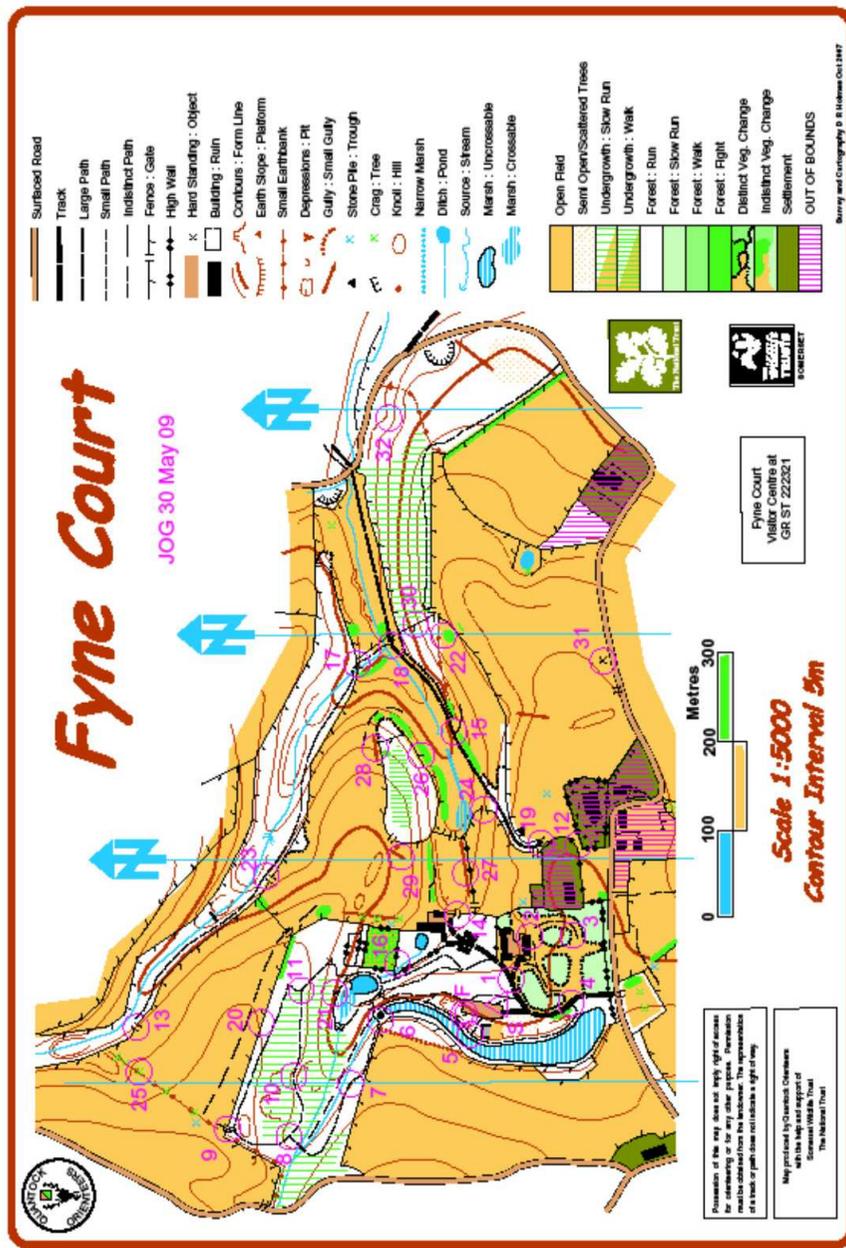
And so, after a little course checking on Wind Down, I found myself at Fyne Court on a fine Saturday afternoon.

"Here's one for the challenge" I was greeted with as I walked towards Judy and Neil. A brief explanation followed. All 32 controls out there are used for the 1 hour, map memory, score course, and there is only one master map – at the start. You can come back as often as needed.

Soon I was off, remembering the advice so many have written about in the past – take your time at the master maps, don't rush off in too much of a hurry and simplify things. A first look at the map showed basically three loops, one small of 4 controls round the gardens, one medium heading north, and one long heading east. The small loop (1-2-3-4) seems easy – save that for the end when brain fatigue has set in. Let's do the medium loop first – an easy path run to a junction, pick up two more before the open, across the open for 2 more then back for a few more – memorising only a few significant points and the rough locations of controls.

A few minutes later and it was off – along the path for 4 controls (5-6-7-8) then turn right at the end (10) and back and up to the open (9). Across the open for 2 controls (25-13) before back to the woods (20) and in (11) before heading back. At this point, my memory was starting to fade. Coming back past the pond I knew there was one nearby – try west along the path. Yes – there it is (21), now back to the master map. Back round the E side of the pond, running along the path I see one on a wall. Over the wooden barrier, down through the nettles, jump down off the wall over the stream, through more nettles to the control (16). Now back to the start, if I can remember where it is, but before getting there I find control 1 – might as well do the short loop whilst I'm here – so round to 2-3-4 and then back to the start.

A quick check shows I have collected all the west-most controls on the short and medium loops. Now for the long loop – down through the buildings, 4 controls out into the valley, then across, back along the wood, north cross the field, back to the wood, down the valley to 3 close controls, along the track



along the fence to one more, south across the field, back to the walls and house and back to the finish – again, memorising the most important features.

Several minutes later and off again. Through the buildings and down the valley for 3 controls (14-24-15) – funny, I thought this should be the 4th. Carry on down the valley thinking I’ve come too far, then at the next control (18) realise I have come too far. Never mind, up the hill (19) and back along the valley to pick up the one I’ve missed. Don’t see it first time (lucky! Neil was close by to say I was about 5 metres away from it). Back to get it (27) then round the side of the hill and up through the brambles (26). Drop back down through the brambles as the wood looks rather thick, through the gate and up by the side of the wood (29). Head just off north across the field (23), then contour back to the wood (28) and continue down to the streams (17). Along the track to the road – the woods look rather nasty here, go along the road looking up. See the re-entrant and control, so up to it (32) continue up to the open and along the forest edge. At this point I’m looking at my control card to see how many I still had to visit (something you can’t do with electronic punching!). Realise I’ve 4 to get, so over the stile and round the bramble patch (22) then south across the field (31). Just 2 more – must be by the walls, so head for the corner of the wall and follow it along (12), then back out to the left to the gate (19). Now back through the gardens to the finish. All controls collected in just under 47 minutes – much to the amazement of Judy and Neil – hence this article. Quite a challenge and well worth the visit. Even looking at the map, the optimum route does not appear obvious – a well planned event. My route was certainly far from optimum!

What did I gain from this you may ask – after all it was a ‘training exercise’. Well, apart from having a pleasant run (much more pleasant than running along the beach), I managed to simplify the map to remember 5 or 6 key parts on each loop and to use them to both navigate and relocate. With so much detail on many maps, it is often difficult to ignore the unimportant and identify only the important – like the control feature and attack point.

And how did the editor greet me after his return from the same course? – “You’re too fast, too young, and have got too good a memory”. It’s just a pity more people didn’t take the opportunity to get some valuable training in without the pressures of QOFL, League, Galoppen, Ranking Points, etc. I will be looking forward to more events of this type, and hope more of you will make good use of them.

to the road for the re-entrant, up Note Scale is approx 1;6600 and

Fixtures Continued

Selected Events in the South West and nearby

13.12.09	Walton Chasers National event	Beauesert Cannock Chase	SK 050125	Jane Christopher 01785 660133
13.12.09	Devon Local	River Dart Country Park	SX 731700	Susan Porter 01752 892421
26.12.09	Wimborne Boxing Day Canter	Ringwood Forest North	SU 122088	Karen French 01202 814958
27.12.09	Devon Christmas	Lympstone	SX 990084	Helen Taylor 01395 274152
1.1.10	NGOC New Year Score	Mallards Pike North	SO 651127	Alan Brown 01242-580096
24.1.10	Compass Sport Trophy 1st Round	Hampton Ridge Fordingbridge	SU 169145	Entries through the club captain.

For a more comprehensive list please see the SWOA or British Orienteering websites

Late news

Devon galoppen went ahead on Sunday despite torrential rain and flooding during the previous few days. Parking was, by necessity alongside the road, but adequate. It was an excellent area with many intricate remnants of mining activities from the past. The only downside was the low gorse on the early parts of the courses. The day was, as forecast, blustery with outbreaks of rain but generally fine for my time out. Later I looked back towards Dartmoor and saw very black skies and wondered if everyone was as lucky as me. I hope so.

PS Rain did come and three late runners caused concern but turned up safe and well in the fulness of time..

Fixtures

Club Events

6.12.09	QOFL 2	Broomfield Hill and Wind Down	ST221 342	Ted Heath 01823 251985
28.12.09	Christmas Novelty See Flier	Triscombe Stone	ST163 359	Jim Mallinson 01278 784714
17.1.10	Regional See page 21	Croydon Hill	SS973 418	R Sansbury 01823 288405
31.1.10	QOFL 3	Blackborough	ST100084	Adele Appleby 01404 861127
14.2.09	QOFL 4	Ham Hill	ST478 165	R Sansbury 01823 288405
7.3.10	QOFL 5	West Quantoxhead	ST116 410	Ted Heath 01823 251985
11.4.10	QOFL 6	Kings Cliff	ST270320	R Sansbury 01823 288405

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 1 pm.

Costs :—

Senior £5.00, Junior £1.00 ,Families £10.00 SI Dibber Hire £1

For selected other events in the South West see page 23

You are advised to check event details before travelling

Edition 129 of Quonicle will be distributed at
QO Regional Event at Croydon Hill – 17th January 2010
Copy to Adrian or me by 7th Jan please.
Adrian - e.mail adrian_edwards@btinternet.com