

# THE WRITE TRACK

## Newsletter of



Orienteering  
Newcastle and Tyneside



Issue 2009/3

September 2009

### Editorial

Thank you to all who have contributed to this edition. It is greatly appreciated.

There are details of the A G M, a review of the Bike 'O' event and a report from the World Trail 'O' Championships in Hungary.

Provisional schedule for 2009 Write Tracks:

Issue 4 articles by 15/11/09 for distribution at beginning of December, so articles for the next issue to me by 15<sup>th</sup> November, please by email or send to 29 Reedswood Crescent, Cramlington,. NE23 6RW or hand to me at an event.

Thanks, Nicola.

### Dates for Your Diary

#### Annual General Meeting of Newcastle and Tyneside Orienteers Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October

Please note that the Annual General Meeting of Newcastle and Tyneside Orienteers will take place on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2009 at "The Badger", Ponteland at 7:00 p.m.

The Badger is adjacent to Dobbies Garden Centre at the junction (roundabout) of A696 and B6545 between the Airport and Ponteland. There will be opportunity to order a meal and to socialise after the brief business of the evening.

### Yvette Baker Trophy

18<sup>th</sup> October

The Yvette Baker Trophy Regional Heat will be held at the NN event on the 18<sup>th</sup> October at Hamsterley. We need as many juniors as possible to attend.

### British Schools Orienteering Championships 21<sup>st</sup> / 22<sup>nd</sup> November

On the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2009, the North East is hosting the British Schools Orienteering Championships. We are expecting in the region of 1000-2000 children to descend on the North East for yet again another fantastic sunny weekend of Orienteering. As with the JK this requires planning and organisation for it to be a huge success. Plans have been going on behind the scenes for some time now but as time gets nearer we are asking all club members who have not been involved so far to step forward. The majority of the work needed now is on the weekend of the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. The location for the Saturday event is the Queen Elizabeth II Country Park and for the Sunday event Druridge Bay. If you can be of any assistance, please contact Paul Boyles.

Timings are 11am until 3pm on the Saturday and 9am until 3pm on the Sunday. Even if you can only help for a couple of hours on either or both the days, it will be a great help. If you already help on a regular basis and have not been contacted then contact your normal team leader.

Car park Sat/Sun: Andy Curtis  
Registration/Information Sat/Sun  
Rosie Mason

Dibber Distribution Sunday  
Start/Finish Saturday: Richard Field  
Start Sunday Chris Bradford  
Finish Sunday Mike Hardy  
Prize giving Sunday Peter Firth

This is a major appeal to club members and friends and relatives to help in some way. They do not have to be orienteers to help.

The club's reputation is riding on this event and I am sure as always you will step forward and offer assistance.

Those of you who have children or know friend's children who would like to compete in the championships (courses are White to Light Green standard), please contact John Crosby [nsoaA@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nsoaA@hotmail.co.uk) for full details and an entry form.

## Satnav 2009

By John Crosby

**A** series of introductory and training events, being held in a local park not far from you.

**C**ome along and bring a friend. Courses for novices plus coaching and the possibility of a run out for those with some experience. (this will depend on the available area). Check closer to the time.

Sat 26th September Carlisle Park, Morpeth  
from the bandstand + 4km course

Sat 10th October Bolam Lake,  
from the Visitor Centre + 3.5km course

Sat 17th October Plessey Woods,  
from the Visitor Centre + 4km course

Sat 24th October Carlisle Park, Morpeth,  
from the bandstand + 4km course

Sat 14th November Choppington Country  
Park from the East Gate + 3.5 km course

## World Trail Orienteering Championships

By John Crosby

The championships were held near Miscjok in Hungary, a University town and past centre of industry. The weather was warm and sticky with only one spell of rain.

The competition was held on two contrasting areas. Day One found us on a contoured area of open, lightly wooded country. There were some very distant controls and eyesight problems would not help some competitors, Those with sharp eyes would benefit. The results were very close and a lot of points were won or lost on the timed controls, of which there were four. I was reasonably happy with my result and found myself in with my usual group of competitors.

Day Two was a complete contrast and a total disaster for me. It was in a Zoo and, with animals and general public around, there were slight distractions. At the end I got 8 from 20 controls correct. When I checked my normal opponents, they were there also so it was not just me. None of my timed controls were correct (I am pretty sure my answers were correct. It is just that the planner had not put the flags where I thought they were). When I looked at the solutions, 4 of my answers had been the either or answer and I had gone the wrong way.

I really need to concentrate more on my contour reading and get more practice - not an easy task when there are so few competitions in the UK compared with Scandinavian and Eastern European countries.

If I decide to continue next year, the European and World Championships are in Sweden and then the next week in Norway. So we shall see.

Thanks to the club committee for their support.

# Vision 2010 – Interim Review

By Richard Field

In 2005 we set ourselves the following aims.

By 2010 we intend:

- To be financially secure
- To be resilient to loss of key members, with expertise in depth
- To have fully trained manpower
- To be fully equipped with equipment and other resources
- To have increased membership (20% more units than in 2006)
- To be known about to potential members and participants
- To be well respected, with good quality events
- To have tangible benefits for members
- To have an active junior section
- To have better orienteers
- To have effective internal communication

The final review of this project will be presented to the AGM in 2010 but in the meantime we are conducting an interim review to see how close we are to achieving our aims and thus what we still need to do.

I will be collecting evidence by means of a short survey to all members and by interviewing all Committee members plus anyone else who has something to say. If you wish to contribute in person then please contact me.

## Background

Once the Project was agreed we took two major decisions. Firstly, we applied for and achieved Clubmark status which recognises that policies exist within the club to cater for juniors and all sections of the local community. Secondly, we altered the club administrative structure by reducing the work of the Committee and delegating most of the day to day duties to Working Groups of 4 members. This has spread the load and greatly increased the number of members directly involved in the running of the club.

We currently have 4 Working Groups – Fixtures and Mapping, Competitions, Training and Development, and Policy and Planning all of which meet regularly and report their findings to the full Committee, which meets every quarter. We also have a Liaison Group, comprising the Club Secretary and the WG Chairmen, which meets between Committee meetings to make sure that we are all pulling in the same direction.

Whilst some of the aims can be worked out on paper, many of them are more subjective and so will require us to hear the opinions of as many members as possible. Please complete the short survey included with this newsletter and return them to me at an event or by post to Richard Field, 33 Kestrel Drive, Ashington, Northumberland, NE63 8JS.



## Scottish 6 Day Snippets

---

**A** good start to the week – one of our more mature club members got their days muddled up and booked accommodation starting on the Sunday not Saturday.

Interesting places to download – in the barn with the donkeys, then the following day with the chickens.

Overheard at the start;

My only mistake yesterday was trying to run my course in the right order. If I'd run my course in reverse I'd have done really well.

I couldn't dib quickly – there was a frog in my way

12:34:56 on the 7/8/09 – How's that for a memorable finish time?

## Bike-O 2009

---

This year our 4th Bike-O was held in the very quiet roads around Capheaton. This venue was also blessed with a VERY bike-orientated café run by local ladies selling tea/coffee, slabs of cake, and bowls of home-made soup at very reasonable prices. Apart from us there must have been over 100 other cyclists who called in to the café.

The event was a 2-hour score event planned by Neil & Sheila Sprot and attended by 20 club members. Unlike last year, this event suited every grade of cyclist from the very fit like Adrian Barnes, Barry Young (NN), Joanne Field, Willard and Oliver Wright to the very enthusiastic like Robbie Wright (aged 7), with all standards in between.

Feedback has been very positive and we are planning to return to the same general area next year. Provisional date is 25th July 2010.

Our thanks to Neil and Sheila for all their hard work and to all who turned up and who were rewarded with a very enjoyable day.

## Registering Coaching Sessions

---

Coaching sessions are now registered via an online BOF portal. British Orienteering makes no levy charge for these sessions but does need to know the numbers of participants, as Sport England funding is dependent on targets for how many people participate in the sport.

Please remember to let John Crosby know the numbers of seniors and juniors who attend club or regional coaching sessions which take place separately from 'events'.

## Army Orienteering League

---

From Boris Spence via NEOA information

The Army Orienteering League (Military League North) starts on Wednesday 23rd September at Warcop. Events take place on each second Wednesday from the 23rd September at locations throughout the North East and North West until April 2010. Army Events are open to all civilian BOF members and details of each event can be found at [www.baoc.org.uk](http://www.baoc.org.uk) or [www.clok.org.uk](http://www.clok.org.uk)

## The Perfect Birthday Cake

Courtesy of Paul Boyles

