

THE WRITE TRACK

Newsletter of



Orienteering
Newcastle and Tyneside



Issue 2011/1

March 2011

Editorial Dates

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

The Write Track will now be published just after each committee meeting, so that any outcomes can be shared with club members as soon as possible.

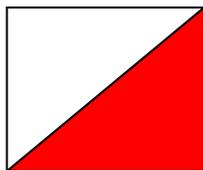
Issue 2 articles by 5th June for distribution 12th June

Issue 3 articles by 11th September for distribution 18th September

Issue 4 articles by end of November for distribution at beginning of December

Email to <crosbynicolaAThotmail.co> or send to 29 Reedswood Crescent, Cramlington, Northumberland. NE23 6RW or hand to me at an event.

Thanks, Nicola.



Chairman's Blog

Paul Boyles

I keep thinking the weather is getting warmer and then they forecast more snow. Will this winter never end? Great to see so many people out at Dipton on what was the events third attempt. It was amazing to see how the area had changed from when we first planned it back in November.

You may have noticed that this Write Track is slightly later than normal. This was to allow us to put any items in from the committee meeting last week.

So what's going on at the moment. Well, we have the National event at the end of March on Ray Demense coupled with the sprint event in Newcastle. If you haven't got your entry in yet, there's still time. There will be colour coded entry on the day on the Sunday. Promises to be a great event with over 400 runners so far on the Sunday.

For the computer minded we're looking into a Facebook page. We have to check out a few legal issues with it but hope to have this up and running in a couple of months. Club Nights have been delayed as we hoped to have them up and running by May. We are now looking at a September Launch. Watch this space.

Relays and socials - we are looking at more relays as a club with the Harvester been held in Sheffield this year. For anyone who hasn't been before, this is a fantastic opportunity to orienteer as a team with great camaraderie. Patrick will be getting details out soon. For the summer nights league we are looking at incorporating a venue near to a pub to meet up after, have a drink and discuss your run. Again keep your eye on the website for details. We're also looking to have these events planned by a novice planner overseen by an experienced planner, so we can bolster our ranks of planners. Please contact Bob Richardson if you would like to get involved

with planning or even organising. Remember without planners and organisers we can't hold events.

The development and training group are meeting on the 22nd March. They are busy trying to organise a weekend away at Kielder for the Juniors for the May weekend. Other training days are been organised by club coach Ruth Wilson. Any juniors that would like to talk through their runs at any event please talk to Ruth or Me and we'll gladly go through them with you.



Well that was a whistle stop tour of the committee meeting whilst I sit here at work. One final thought from me. I was talking to a new member of our club at Dipton. I say new, he's been a member for 12 months. I felt quite bad that I'd never spoken to this person before. If you are new to the club or have been with the club a while and I've never spoken to you, grab me at an event and tell me. It's sometimes hard to see everyone when you run, but I'd like to speak to all members at some point.

Bike-O

This year's Bike-O will be on 24 July with Start/Finish at Netherwitton Hall. Limited places so book early. Details available from Richard Field <richard.field33ATgmail.com>. A flyer will be available on the club website soon and in the June issue of Write Track.



Harvester Relay – Club Trip?

16th/17th July

The Harvester Relay is an overnight orienteering relay competition for teams of 7 or 5 runners. This year the event is easily accessible from Tyneside (in South Yorkshire) and there is a full programme of supporting races, so it is possible to come share in the team spirit but not run the main event. It promises to be an exciting weekend and an ideal opportunity for NATO members to get away together, socialise and indulge their passion for orienteering!! You can tell I am not a sales man; I would have got Paul B to write this but he is a Yorkshire man and the article would have been full of references to “God’s Country” and similar!

The Harvester starts during the night and continues into the day. It is centred around an assembly area and (free!!) campsite. This year there are even showers available at the assembly arena. Possibly a new feature for some people is a live results display so we can all see who has had that “night” mare.

While teams have to have people willing to run at night, NATO has a selection of willing madmen and the intention is to combine with NN to enter as many teams as we can (probably all in the handicap class). Please do not be shy in coming forward!

As well as the main relay there are also a middle race on the Saturday, an ultra sprint (in the assembly area) on the Saturday evening and an urban race (from the assembly area) on the Sunday.

The event is in Eccleshall Woods near Sheffield where the first Harvester was run 33 years ago. Here is a runnable complex suburban woodland broken into three parts by minor roads. Technical difficulty is

provided by a mass of thickets that are comprehensively mapped.



Part of Ecclesall Woods

If you have any questions please approach either Patrick Smyth or Paul Boyles (I trust him enough to give him this task – but take care he does not start of the attractions of Yorkshire!). I already have several expressions of interest and some firm commitments, so if also interested / committed, please let me know.

Patrick Smyth 01661 843880

<patrickmysmythATlineone.net>

“Welcome to Jesmond Dene”

Jeff Mason

Most NATO members know or know of Jesmond Dene, even those flung far to the west along the Tyne or domiciled in the uttermost suburbs of Alnwick.

But a near-vertical sided tree filled gorge, strung with parallel paths and desperate steps, cut through by a raging torrent and surrounded by the residences of Jesmond and Heaton doesn't promise much for "O", so it was good that those who came to the event seemed to be pleasantly surprised, reaching parts where daily dog walkers seldom set foot.

What went right

Officials were appointed. Permission was obtained from Newcastle Parks Dept., Rosie persuaded Kevin Wright at 'Disability North' to let us use his car park, map finished, courses planned, courses controlled, maps printed five days before event, equipment assembled. Lots of help and co-operation within NATO.

On the day nearly 80 people, including lots of club members, juniors and newcomers enjoyed orienteering on a new (?) area.

What didn't

This takes a bit longer and doesn't outweigh what went right but you should know that during the preceding weeks, a few ducks were paddling hard against the current to stay in the same place.

Once we knew that the event was going to be four days before we were away (on 17 Feb) Rosie and I agreed to organize and plan. As I hadn't started the mapping and December 2010 wasn't a good mapping month, Fred agreed to control so that the mapper was obliged to indulge in a little light 'multi-tasking'.

Newcastle City Council's £6 million Ouseburn Project meant that clearance of laurel and brambles as well as trees damaged by the snow and ice was and is ongoing so any mapping of the veg was from week to week. New paths and fences appeared. The map will need updating very soon. A week before the event, a route along the edge of the 'Donkey Field' was blocked off so it had to be out of bounds and the Light Green course re-planned. (From the pages of 'The Journal' this looks likely to be a major access saga; our event just coincided with the start of it).

Fortunately with OCAD it's possible to redraw sections of map and email to

Competitions Working Group - report

Richard Field

controller and printer relatively close to the event date. You do hope however, that when you've mapped a bit it stays mapped for more than a week.

Permission seemed to be regarded as a formality by Sarah Capes, the Park Ranger and we made personal contact, submitted formal request, map, risk assessment and insurance details and all was well...but local government some characteristics like those of us putting on Orienteering and official permission arrived by email on the Friday afternoon before the event. Still, it arrived and the insurance was validated !

Normally and despite appearance, I enjoy the challenge of getting all the controls out before a deadline (especially as Fred had offered to help - still a challenge but only half the stress). Unfortunately on this Sunday morning I didn't wake because I hadn't slept. 'Sickness and diarrhoea' usually cover it but that's too much information already with the cornflakes. Anyway the challenge and the adrenalin and Fred got the controls out and later the Curtises and Fred collected them in, for which many thanks. (I'm writing this 36 hours later and I think I'm a lot better).

Thank you to all the NATO members, kindred clubs, scouts, friends and relations who came along, competed and made the effort worthwhile.

Special thanks to Rosie's team of helpers - car park, registration, patrolling, start and finish. The start team had the worst of it as you were left facing the wind and rain without shelter. Sorry to Annette, Helen and Judith.

Extra special thanks to Peter for numerous helpful communications, Paul for organizing equipment and results, Adrian for printing the maps, Fred for his help and support as Controller and Rosie for her help and support as Rosie.

This Working Group currently comprises Alasdair Wilson-Craw (Chairman), Bob Richardson, Fred Miller and Richard Field. We meet roughly every 4 months to consider all aspects of the running of club events.

At our meeting on 22 February 2011 we covered the following items.

Training

- **H&S Training.** We will be assisting in the cascading this new BO training to all event officials.
- **Training for new organisers and planners.** We are planning to run short introductory courses for members new to organising or planning and who wish to play a part in the running of events. These courses will be followed up by assisting experienced organisers and planners at events in 2011.
- **SI Training.** The Start and Finish teams are to get training in the basics of SI.

Officials for Fixtures. Whilst we are well ahead in allocating officials in 2011, we are always in need of more volunteers. If you are interested contact Bob.

Organiser's Checklist. Further suggested amendments have been added and the revised checklist is available from Richard.

Planner's Guide. Fred is nearing completion of the NATO Planner's Guide.

Equipment. The club is still looking for someone to store and keep an eye on our equipment. If you have some spare garage space then contact Alasdair.

Club Championships. We are planning to hold the 2011 Club Champs at the Slaley event on 25 September, using the existing tables of factors.