

THE WRITE TRACK

Newsletter of



Orienteering

Newcastle and Tyneside



Issue 2019/4

December 2019

Editorial

Welcome to the final edition of the year. My special thanks to our contributors, especially at this busy time of year. Each is credited alongside their piece. Blank pages avoided again!

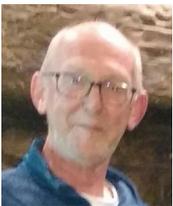
Your club and British Orienteering membership is due for renewal before the end of the year, no matter when first taken out. Unless there is a Direct Debit in place to renew automatically, this needs action from you via the British Orienteering website as soon as possible. Thanks to those who have already taken this route (to coin a phrase!)

Your orienteering age class applies from January 1st. Your 2020 age class is the age you will be on 31/12/20. Apart from the lengthy M/W21 stretch, adult classes change every 5 years from M/W35 (which therefore includes those at 36, 37, 38 & 39). If pre-entering a 2020 event before the turn of the year (eg JK2020 – see below) remember to enter the class correct at the time of the event.

If you are reading this close to publication, don't forget that each NEOA club has seasonal events: our Plessey & Bolam outings, NN's Boxing Day Charity Score and CLOK's New Year Team Score (where fancy dress is encouraged with extra points.) John Crosby is assembling a NATO expedition there, so contact him if interested.

[Peter Firth](#)

Chairman's Ramblings



As the year comes to a close, once again we can be proud as a club. The events that we have put on this year have been at the highest standard. This is as a result of those members that give up their time and energy to map, plan and organise. To all who have helped in any way – Thank You!!

There are lots of activities around this time of the year. If you can join in the fun at one or more of the local events, we would be happy to see you. Check the website for details of both our events and those of other local clubs.

Next year we have a busy programme, including the JK2020, so all the support and help you can give would be gratefully received. Hannah has kindly offered to co-ordinate volunteers, so please contact her with your offers of help.

I wish you all a very good Christmas and a prosperous New Year and hope to see you at an event soon.

[Brian Davies](#)

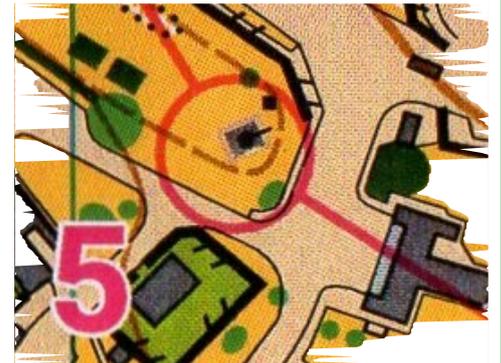
Orienteering with the army cadet force

For a number of years I have regularly attended Cramlington cadets. Of the different activities, nav. is one - usually OS maps, 6 number grid references and using a compass. At annual camp we do orienteering and there is usually an orienteering competition. Last year and this I took part in the regional orienteering championship. If you win, you go onto the nationals. Last year I was first in the regionals as a junior girl and went onto win the Nationals by 12 seconds.

This year was eventful We set off to the regionals not knowing where we would be competing. We headed off down the A1 to arrive in Catterick Garrison. I had not been here before but looking out of the window I saw a sign for Foxglove nature reserve. Mam and Dad had been here in the summer holidays. It's a nature reserve in the middle of the army barracks. We were directed to the start area which was also start for the cross country.

We hadn't been there long when I was called to start. I was to go out first. I stood with the starter who proceeded to explain what the symbols were on the map and the different colours. Luckily Staff stepped in and told her I had won nationals last year. There was only one map symbol that I had not encountered which I don't think many will have come across

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|---|--|--|------------------------|
| 5 | 158 | X | | | SW side of Battle Tank |
| 6 | 174 | S | | | Spring |



So off I went The first 2 controls were in a wooded area marked as white but more like light green - then out into the barracks, a bit of urban. There were some pockets of wooded areas within the rest of the course. 17 controls later I was finished. There was just one control I had a problem with. Ah no! I had been disqualified - mis punched the control I had a problem with. I was in the correct place - I checked from a number of different attack points and always came to the same place. I could see the corner of the building from the wood but the number didn't correspond. I couldn't believe it! Staff went to talk to the organisers and later everyone who had been disqualified was reinstated. I was not the only one. (I discovered later that the control had the wrong number on and there were two controls on the same stream with similar numbers and they had been mixed up.) I had won! And off the nationals I would go.



Nationals were a few weeks later near Liverpool. Last year we competed in sand dunes and I was so hoping that we would again, but it turned out we would not be. This year's final was in the Army barracks, running across the ranges, but there were no tanks. Another enjoyable course which I had completed without making any errors.



All I had to do was wait to see if I was fast enough to win. I won!

Senior Girls Orienteering champion by over 4 mins.

Hannah Brown

City Race European Tour



Feedback from the Gateshead/Newcastle races in the summer included the suggestion from an orienteer with appropriate experience that the terrain used was of sufficient quality to match that used by the City Race European Tour each year.

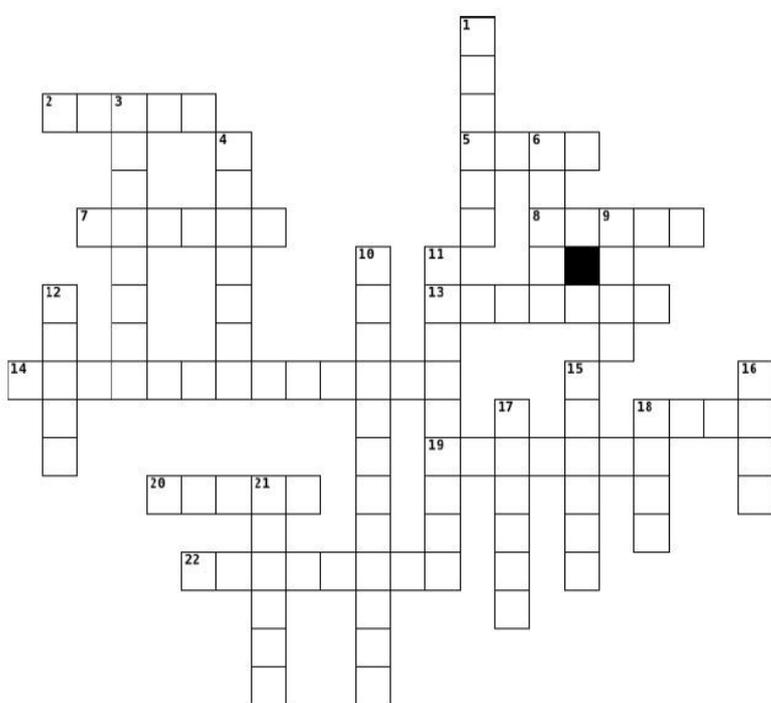
Your committee considered whether to accept the challenge of applying and decided to do so. The application has been accepted for a date to be decided as part of the 2021 series.

The series consists of nine urban races through the calendar year in major cities across Europe as the title would suggest. Events have been held in the likes of Barcelona, Porto, Rome, Antwerp and Paris. On this side of the North Sea venues have included London, Bristol, Manchester, Edinburgh and most recently, in October, Liverpool, where over 300 participants appear in the results. It is expected that a supporting and contrasting race is organised on the day preceding or day after the main event – be it sprint, park, forest or other variation. The underlying theme of Race Tourism is present as well as being visible to populations and potential sponsors. A ranking league is produced based on an average of best scores in four events. Winners get 1000 points and followers proportionally less according to time taken. Coventry is another English City providing a venue in the 2021 series.

Freshen up your knowledge of description symbols

in this word puzzle compiled by **Jeremy Lakey**

(solution on the last page)



Across

- 2. (5)
- 5. (4)
- 7. (3,3)
- 8. (5)
- 13. (3,4)
- 14. (6,7)
- 18. (4)
- 19. (7)
- 20. (5)
- 22. (4,4)

Down

- 1. (6)
- 3. (8)
- 4. (7)
- 6. (5)
- 9. (4)
- 10. (6,6)
- 11. (5,4)
- 12. (5)
- 15. (6)
- 16. (4)
- 17. (6)
- 18. (4)
- 21. (6)

Particularly for those who have come to the sport relatively recently, the mysteries of symbolic control descriptions can be revealed courtesy of Simon Errington at

<https://www.maprunner.co.uk/iof-control-descriptions/>

Copies to keep on waterproof paper are often available on request at NATO event registration.

JK 2020 entries open!



The Jan Kjellström International Festival of Orienteering is one of the largest orienteering events in the UK, and it comes to the North East at Easter next year. It is hosted by the whole region.

1. Friday 10th April: Sprint - Stockton Riverside
2. Saturday 11th April: Middle - Sneaton Forest
3. Sunday 12th April: Long - Pickering Forest
4. Monday 13th April: Relay - Hutton Mulgrave & Skelder

Entries are now open, just head over to the [JK website](#) for all the details and links to the entry system. Early (cheapest!) closing date 26th January 2020

Of course such a large event cannot be put on without a similarly large army of volunteers. Many members are already taking on major roles. There are a few team leader roles still to fill - go to the [Volunteering](#) page and if you see something you could do, please let me know. We will then need lots of manpower on the weekend itself, with the majority of members of NEOA clubs helping on multiple days, as well as helpers from clubs outside the region. When you enter the event, there is a question where you can indicate which days you would be willing help - please offer what support you can when you enter, and we'll be in touch much nearer the time with jobs allocations.

OR watch out! I will be out at events asking for your help. You don't have to compete to help. If you are available, we would be grateful and this would be a wonderful opportunity to see what the JK is about. It's not up this way very often. If you fancy entering but not sure what to do, there are members around to advise.

Being a volunteer at a major event like the JK brings many benefits:

1. £5 meal / traders voucher for each day / shift you work
2. Chance to help stage a premier UK event and learn how it all fits together - especially for future major event organisers.
3. Be part of a team, make new friends, and meet other orienteers from around the UK.

If you can spare some time email me or speak with me at events.

Hannah Brown NATO volunteer coordinator

<brownkayleighhannah@gmail.com>

CompassSport Trophy 2020

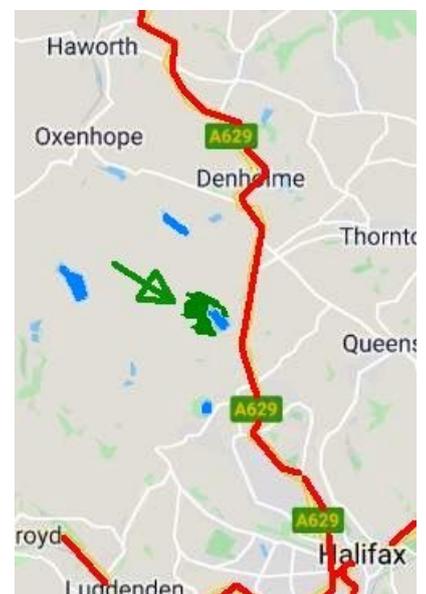
The qualifying round for the Compass Sport Trophy will be held on Sunday 15th March at EPOC's event at Ogden Water, Halifax. I know this is quite a long way for us to travel, but NEOA are combined with YHOA and this year it's Yorkshire's turn. I hope everyone will make an effort to compete - the more people we have, the better our chances. Please put the date in your new 2020 diaries now and make sure you are available on the day.

Tricia Davies, Club Captain

For a look at a previous competition map (1:7500), check out:

<https://www.epoc.routegadget.co.uk/rg2/#85>

and note the mix of forest and moorland incised with two steep sided reservoir feeder stream valleys.



Running through history: Blyth South Beach

An occasional series looking at stories behind mapped areas.

Next to the South Beach car park are a collection of odd shaped buildings coloured grey, pink or white. These buildings comprise Blyth Battery, which was active in both World Wars as part of coastal defences and were constructed during WWI (Grey), WWII (Pink) and between and after hostilities (White).

A major attack on Hartlepool in 1914 prompted construction of coastal defences, of which those at Blyth Battery are some of the best survivals, built to protect the Port of Blyth and a submarine base. WWII brought the base back into use with some upgrades.

Built initially from August 1916, it housed searchlights and two 6 inch guns. At this time four officers and 75 men manned the post.

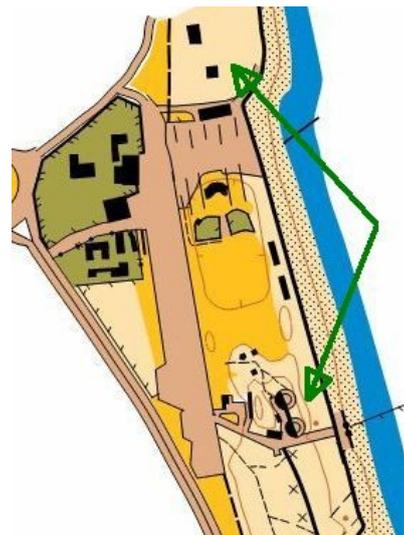
In February 1940 the buildings were returned to use and again supplied with 6 inch guns, manned by 5 officers and 110 men reverting by 1944 to Home Guard use and then mothballed.

The present buildings, some listed Grade II, include gun emplacements, ammunition store, observation post and searchlight enclosures. Also present previously were more temporary accommodation blocks.

In April 2019 two replica guns were installed in the gun emplacements.

The site is now maintained by Blyth Battery Volunteers and is open to the public on certain seasonal days, with occasional enactments also. The exterior of the buildings are always accessible as part of the South Beach amenity space and there are information points to read.

P.F.



Across: 2) upper 5) ride 7) wet pit 8) tower 13) anthill 14) linearthicket 18) cave 19) boulder 20) copse 22) barerock

Down: 1) quarry 3) pipeline 4) thicket 6) ditch 9) wall 10) brokenground 11) earthbank 12) cairn 15) saddle