

MDOC NEWS

Newsletter of Manchester & District Orienteering Club

December 2022



Featuring:

NWOA Sprint Champs, WTOC,
Bavaria 5 Days, Hungarian TrailO,
End of season results & much more!



Editorial

Welcome back to MDOC News. This will be my final edition as editor and of course I'd like to say another big thank you to everyone who has contributed over the last 4 years. I hope you have enjoyed reading about the achievements and adventures of club members both near and far. It is hard to pick out a favourite article amongst the many wonderful pieces, but we have had some stand-out contributions from regulars Ian Gilliver and Peter & Jillyan Ross with their various articles on: Errwood, Belgium, Offerton, Tyvek, M60 ORingen, JK77, Orienteering Songs, at least four different trips to Italy and new for this edition... Bavaria! I'd also like to thank Peter Cull, whose wonderful photos have brightened up even the darkest winter editions. As yet we still do not have a replacement newsletter editor, so please give it some consideration if you think it is a role that you would enjoy.

Also in this edition we have more successes to celebrate as 2022 draws to a close, including 3 new North West Sprint Champions. The full article is on the next page but well done to Anna, Chris and Sue. The curtain has fallen on the 2022 MDOC Champions League and although special mention goes to David Wathey who led for most of the season, it was Jillyan Dobby who flew up the rankings in the final quarter of the season to become the new club champion. Martin Green finished in second place with Chris Rostron in third, Cecilia Fenerty in fourth and Andy Thornton in fifth. We also have Junior champions for colour coded courses, huge congratulations to Harriet Farrell (White), Tanvi Kutty & Alvari Rostron (Yellow), Edith Grundy & Sam Tyler (Orange), Emily Sparks-Welsh & Elias Rostron (Light Green).

A lesser known competition that also drew to a close this Autumn was the British Trail Orienteering League (BriTOL). There are only a small number of TrailO events each year but for 2022 BriTOL used 5 of these to rank the best UK competitors. We have known for a while that MDOC excels in TrailO (and the articles on pages 5 and 12 also back this up) but this really was confirmation of just how fantastic the season has been for us.

Out of the 75 ranked competitors MDOC finished with 4 in the top 5!

River Edis-Smith was best of the bunch, finishing 2nd in the league, largely thanks to his superb JK win. Third place went to Ben Kyd who won the final event in Leicestershire. Fourth place was John Kewley who managed to finish in the top 5 at all 5 counting events. Fifth place was myself and I thoroughly enjoyed every event. TrailO has been a revelation for me this year and has helped to refresh my enthusiasm for orienteering as a whole. If you do get a chance to try it in 2023 I can't recommend it enough. As a side note, because the winner of the league actually represents Germany in international competitions, this means that the top 4 GB competitors challenging for the 4 places at next years world championships are all from MDOC - sensational!

Other leagues and competitions have been drawing to a close over the last few months, including the UK Orienteering League, the UK Urban League and the North West Urban League, all of which are summarised on page 4 with full results online. It is important to make the most of this time of year to celebrate our successes as a club and to motivate us all to keep going into the new year and the new season ahead. Whether your goals for 2023 are to win your class, to top a league table, to try a new event or just to keep on enjoying the sport, I wish you the best of luck.

That's it from me, I'm sure I'll see you all again soon in a distant forest - happy orienteering!

Sam Drinkwater

North West Sprint Championships 2022

The North West Sprint Championships was held by Deeside OC on October 8th. The venue was Edge Hill University which, despite being a fairly small area, provided a good challenge for fast sprint orienteering. The format was a two part sprint, with times being added together to give an overall champion. There was a big turn out from all around the country, but for North-West championship purposes only NWOA clubs are included in these results.

In the W21 category MDOC had strength in depth with three of our best athletes competing. Anna Drinkwater, Ruth Beresford and Alison Fryer finished 1st, 3rd and 5th respectively, dominating even over the strong PFO contingent in the race. As well as winning W21, Anna also won the overall Women's Open course, taking home the trophy as the overall champion of the North-West.

MDOC had two juniors competing; Sam Tyler finished in a fine 3rd place for M14, while Blake Edwards secured an excellent 2nd place in M12 with the fastest time on the second stage. The Men's Open course had two members competing; Dominic Wathey finished 3rd for M18 and Sam Drinkwater finished 2nd on M21.

In M50 Liam Corner finished 2nd (and 3rd overall Vet) while Jim Edwards finished 4th. In M55 we had a double podium with Trevor Hindle in 2nd place and David Wathey just seconds behind in 3rd. For W55 Hazel Hindle was our best finisher in 5th place and in W60 Marie Roberts also finished 5th. Unfortunately Cecilia Fenerty and Penny Heap both mispunched on their respective courses. M60 was a crowded class, with Stephen Bingham in 7th and Graham Heap in 10th.

On to the Ultra Veterans and we had three competitors in M65; Martin Green in 4th, Eddie Speak in 11th and Stephen Nicholls in 14th. We also had three M70's; John Britton in 3rd, John Williams in 5th and Ian Gilliver in 12th. Alison Doyle finished 4th on W70 behind a trio from SROC. Finally, the Hyper Veterans and another class victory and championship gold medal for Chris Rostron on M75, MDOC also took a fine silver medal thanks to Trevor Roberts. In M80 Dave Mawdsley added a bronze to his ever increasing medal tally. Last but not far from least was another championship gold medal for Sue Birkinshawe on W85.

Well done everyone!



MDOC's trio of champions with their gold medals

UKUL Results

The UK Orienteering League 2022 consisted of 24 events in various regions of the country. A competitors best 8 results count with a maximum of 50 points per race and a maximum points total for the league of 400.

Last year our best score was 375 thanks to John Britton, but this year two members exceeded that total. Well done to Chris Rostron who scored 386 points and took second place M75 and 54th overall. But on top of the MDOC table once again was John Britton with 390 points for 43rd overall and the second best M70. Clearly age isn't slowing them down too much! The full MDOC top 10 is as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1) John Britton M70 | 6) Liam Corner M50 |
| 2) Chris Rostron M75 | 7) Benjamin Kyd M20 |
| 3) Jillyan Dobby W70 | 8) Trevor Roberts M75 |
| 4) Sue Birkinshaw W85 | 9) Eddie Speak M65 |
| 5) Dominic Wathey M18 | 10) Alison Doyle W70 |

In the club league we once again finished in 20th place with a team consisting of the above names plus: Paul Turnock, Jane McCann, Cerys Manning, Jonathan Malley, Trevor Hindle and Mark Burley.

UKUL Results

This year the UK Urban Orienteering League was a series of 22 races with best 7 to count. Our star performers were Irene Crawshaw 4th in Womens Hyper-Veteran, Ruth Beresford 7th in Womens Open, Trevor Roberts 7th in Mens Hyper-Veteran and perhaps most remarkably Liz Hamer-Davies 10th in Mens Open, very impressive for a W55!

NWUL Results

Closer to home the 5 race North-West Urban League provided rich pickings for the team with the following podiums and top 10's:

- Alvari Rostron won the Mens Young Junior competition, with Blake Edwards taking bronze.
- Aini Rostron took bronze in the Womens Young Junior competition.
- Sam Tyler took silver in Mens Junior with Elias Rostron in 10th.
- Edith Grundy finished 5th in the Womens Junior competition.
- Dominic Wathey secured a bronze in Mens Open, with Sam Drinkwater in 6th, Ben Kyd in 7th and Liz Hamer-Davies in 9th.
- Womens Open was our strongest category with a fantastic win for Emma Mason as well as 4th for Ruth Beresford, 7th for Alison Fryer and joint 8th for Michele Dawson and Anna Drinkwater. They'll no doubt make a formidable relay team next year!
- Mens Veteran was also strong with Liam Corner taking silver, Jim Edwards in 6th, Paul Turnock in 8th and Simon Freytag in 9th.
- Impressively, Cecilia Fenerty finished 6th running up in the Womens Veteran competition.
- David Wathey took 9th and Jane McCann 10th in the Super Veteran classes.
- John Britton finished 7th and Alison Doyle 8th in their respective Ultra Veteran classes.
- The Mens Hyper Veteran class was dominated by MDOC with Chris Rostron taking gold. Behind him was a crowded field with Trevor Roberts in 5th, Ian Watson in 7th, Chris Kirkham in 9th and Doug Edwards in 10th.
- Last but not least the Womens Hyper Veteran competition held a silver medal for Irene Crawshaw, as well as joint 6th for Julie Brook and Sue Birkinshaw.

World Trail Orienteering Championships

Ben Kyd

Earlier this year I was lucky enough to be selected to represent Great Britain in the World Trail Orienteering Championships 2022 taking place in Jelenia Góra, Poland, alongside fellow MDOC teammates John Kewley and Dominic Wathey, as well as a few others from different clubs. With my TrailO experience at this stage consisting of many online TempOs plus a few “Google Map” PreOs and the odd actual PreO event, I was mainly going into it expecting nothing more than just to enjoy the week competing on the high-quality courses that the event would put on offer.

This 8 day adventure started a couple of days earlier as I dragged my luggage onto my local train station, embarking on my 33½ hour journey with a few of the team through 5 countries that I’d somehow been convinced was a better option than flying (Ed: I approve!) Arriving in Jelenia Góra in the early evening, we headed up to the hotel where most of the other British team were based and settled in ready for the start of the pre-WTOC weekend of world ranking events.

The first day brought a TempO competition, more specifically my first ever one besides those found on the TempO Simulator. A couple of other Brits and I managed to get an early start in the runnings so got there early and got the course done before the rain started later in the day. Bar a little navigational hiccup moving from one station to the next (ironic I know!), it was a nice little park with lots of rock detail, and though I was happy with my result - coming 24th overall and 3rd junior - I knew there was a lot to improve on as I’d made multiple mistakes across the 6 stations and thought I could’ve gone quicker. Still, an encouraging day nonetheless.



The next day then began with a mere 300m walk from the hotel to the start of the PreO, which presented many similar challenges to the previous day with lots of rocky areas plus some contour work and some tricky finishing tasks across a lake. I managed to get through fairly cleanly with only 2 mistakes, but obviously with the high level of competition that had travelled for the weekend there were many people with no mistakes. I still came 45th though, and again 3rd junior, so overall not a bad day and a lot was learnt ready for the main events the following week.

Tuesday brought the beginning of the official WTOC proceedings, as we travelled up into the woods for the model event; a chance for us to warm up for the days ahead by completing tasks which the course setters had made similar to ones we would find in the coming days. On offer were 2 timed TempO stations and 12 PreO tasks, as well as a self-service time control (we had to time it ourselves!), which predominantly focussed on some large boulder fields and cliff networks, with some tasks involving fine, indistinct contour detail. Much to my surprise, I was 1 of 6 people who made no mistakes across the PreO and TempO, finishing 6th overall as 2 others managed to beat me by 1 second on the combined TempO times, however to have a result like that just before the world championships brought a great boost to my confidence.

The rest of the day was then spent, like most nights of this trip, relaxing and recuperating ready for the next day's challenges. Activities of choice often included a swim in the hotel's pool as well as a lengthy relax in its neighbouring hot tub, which interestingly seemed to be the place where many international friendships were formed, discussing the tasks that had been presented to us during the day as well as many topics completely unrelated to orienteering. Then came dinner, normally being a very pleasant selection of dishes even with the vibrantly coloured broths that formed all our starters for the week, before finally we retired to the hotel's bar where our team manager would brief us on the events that lay before us the next day.

What did come that next day was the TrailO Relay, an event where 3 people from each country complete a short PreO course and a TempO station (2 TempO stations for the 3rd leg), with a team's score being their combined TempO times plus 60s for each mistake made on the PreO. Given this was the first set of international competitions I'd attended, it was no surprise to me that I wasn't selected as part of the British open team, but this did mean I could relax for the day and soak in the atmosphere in the Japanese gardens that the day's event was taking place in. Our open team (including our very own John Kewley) did struggle on the day, finishing 17th out of the 21 nations competing, but our para team managed to secure a 6th place finish, landing them on the podium (reserved for the top 6 people/teams here rather than the top 3 like normal convention dictates).

It wasn't a day completely absent of orienteering though, as all those who didn't compete in the official relay got the chance to compete in the public version, where everyone ran the same relay leg of 12 controls. Having decided with a fellow Brit to treat it as a sprint PreO course and use time as a tie-breaker in our little unofficial competition, I jogged around and finished the 55 minute time-limited course in just under 20 minutes, getting all the tasks correct. This again brought a boost to my confidence as I geared up for my first proper competition the next morning.



That was the TempO, which brought us back to the Japanese gardens for an early 0930 quarantine before we waited to leave and walk the long journey down the hill to the qualifiers. There were 2 separate heats which ran along the same path and looked at similar kites on a sloped hillside with lots of rock and contour detail, and the 6 British competitors split evenly between them. It's safe to say my heat went well, where after a tense morning of competition I managed to qualify into the final in 15th (with the top 18 in each heat progressing), with 4 mistakes across the 6 stations on my course, however not so lucky for fellow MDOCers John and Dom who missed out on a place in the final in the other heat by a matter of seconds!



After a speedy lunch it was straight back into quarantine for me before being umbrella'd through to the first of 9 stations of challenging rocky forest that made up the final course. Given it was my first time in a final I decided to take them slow, which seemed to pay off, even when the pressure built as I approached the final station that had been set up in front of a wall of onlooking spectators, who cheered nervously as the official stood behind me waved a tick or cross in the air depending on whether I got the answer right or wrong. I managed to keep my cool, landing Britain's best ever WTOC tempo result with a 21st place, and though I've still got a long way to go, I think for a first attempt this was pretty good!

The final 2 days were then taken up with the PreO, confronting us with 73 tasks and 4 time controls over a long 4 hours and 5 minutes in total. The first day mainly consisted of a lot of long distance work, looking up hillsides at rocks and cliffs (unsurprising given this was what most of the PreO in the model event had). It's safe to say my lack of experience hindered me here, as I made 10 mistakes over the 40 tasks on offer that day, so though my time controls were strong, I still finished in 77th that day out of the 146 competitors: not a bad result in the context of the world championships but one I know could've been better.

For a few of the team Saturday often involves a 9am 5k at a local parkrun, and this Saturday was no different, as the one 800m from our hotel was too good to miss, even if we did almost double the run's attendance! After that, it was back to the same event centre before being bussed out to the second course. I fared better on the course than the previous day, this time getting 29/33 in the steeply sloped woodland. Most people had found this an easier day, but I still managed to finish in a better position of 56th, bringing my position overall in the open to 65th. Though this wasn't as good as my TempO result, I was still really happy with it, and have taken away a lot from those courses that I will use in the future.

After attending the closing ceremony in the park opposite the hotel, which had also been home to the opening ceremony plus all the medal ceremonies and even a low-key volleyball game we'd participated in against the Lithuanians, most of the countries then congregated in the dining room of the hotel for a final banquet which was a much more joyful occasion as we reflected on the week we had all just experienced together.

Overall, this experience was one that I thoroughly enjoyed, and I feel that I've learnt a lot by completing some tricky well-planned TrailO courses alongside the best from around the world. I want to specifically thank MDOC as well as NWOA and BOF for the grants that they provided to allow me to make this adventure a lot more affordable; I'm very grateful for every penny that was given. I now look forward to gaining more experiences like this in the future as I continue to compete internationally and build towards hopefully being selected for WTOC 2023 in Czechia.

Bavaria Forest 5 Days of Orienteering

Peter Ross

Our hire car, the one we picked up at Munich, was an automatic. Horrors! We discovered the 'automatic' feature only extended to the gearbox, the rest you have to do for yourself. Starting the engine was a mystery that took some solving. There was nowhere to put the key, and nothing to turn. There was indeed a button to press but that could have been any one of my shirt buttons for all the good it did. The situation required ingenuity and nerve. Or serendipity. Who knew in what direction the automatic was going to choose - and when, or how? Those multi-storey car parks can be terrifying places.

Steering up the autobahn trying to find the handbook on the internet...

The Bavarian Forest 5 Days of Orienteering was centred in a lovely town called Bodenmais, bang in the middle of the really forested part of Bavaria. The sort of town, that if you are walking into it from your hotel through the woods you will see deer. Bodenmais is a haven for cross-country skiing in the winter and hiking and biking during the summer. Just about everyone who visits Bodenmais, and there are plenty of them, are German. The Tourist office had just one pamphlet that wasn't in German - it was in English - but it was advertising an attraction in Czechia just a few miles away across the border.

As you might expect, the Bavarian Forest 5 Days of Orienteering had a strong bias towards forested terrain. True, there was an urban, but really it was all about the forest. The parking/assembly for Days 1, 4 and 5 was just 5 minutes up the road from the town centre, and in the middle of a huge forest. Day 2 was the urban, just 20 minutes car ride from Bodenmais, but Day 3 was another forest a mere ten minutes by shuttle bus from the town. The maps took some getting used to because the forested terrain could be knee high in bilberries. As a consequence white was sometimes an aspirational forest/run, although to be fair, the visibility was likely to be good. It was best to tramp around the greens. The streams were a challenge too - often very narrow and difficult to spot under the bilberry bushes. On day 1 the courses were advertised as classic distances and twenty percent of the competitors failed to complete. Bilberried, for sure.

For my own part I will never forget control 222. It was just 2m from the edge of a forest ride and in a bilberry patch. Literally so: the bilberries were 1m high and the top of the kite half that. I saw a German lady get within (what turned out to be) two paces of it and turn back disappointed. I went to have a look anyway; it was that kind of day. And there it was! An unmistakable flash of white and orange within the green and purple. I turned to the lady and - my lack of German evident - I put two fingers up three times with one hand and pointed to the bilberry patch with the other. There could have been a terrible misunderstanding but there wasn't. "Zwei, zwei, zwei" she cried with joy, wading once more into the bushes.

Actually, I have it on good authority (a DEE member, and German speaker) that the positioning of control 222 stretched the German vocabulary of even the German orienteers. He told me that he had learnt a surprising number of brand new words and phrases whilst in the vicinity.

Finally an arduous climb back to the car park. Fortunately there were plenty of foraging opportunities for those who love - yep, them bilberries.

The urban sprint was just 20 minutes down the road in a town called Viechtak, whose Mayor had kindly agreed to shut the roads to traffic for the afternoon. In an excess of zeal the lively town square was closed to orienteering competitors too which meant that the Finish, which could and should have been amongst the music, bratwurst and beer, was sidelined to a discreet and not terribly well mapped alleyway nearby. The courses were very straightforward and would have benefited from an MDOC planner to add the necessary sophistication that the location and the Mayor deserved. But maybe the Bavarian urban wasn't about sophistication at all, maybe it was just about having an enjoyable, sunny day out amongst friends.

Another day, another forest venue. The foraging opportunity on shuttle bus day included wild raspberries as well as bilberries: both to be found on the way to the Start/Finish but the competition area itself was perfect: fast forested open, on sloping ground, with boulders acting as the majority of the control sites. The white areas of the map were white, as you'd call white, and the visibility was mostly excellent. Course lengths were proper middle distance. The assembly area was beautifully positioned with a panoramic view across the many other forests of Bavaria. The DNF figure dropped to less than 2% and you could feel the morale amongst the competitors improve.

"The sun was out, the sky was blue
Sausages on the BBQ
Happy indeed were all of us
Carried home in the shuttle bus"

The following day was advertised as middle distance but we couldn't help but notice that the competition area was adjacent to the infamous Day 1, so it looked as if it was going to be tough. It turned out that there are more types of forest than you might think. There wasn't much white on the map, it was mostly green with rides and quite steep, but the courses were not too long. So the day was indeed tough - but bearable. The DNF was only 1%, but maybe the scoring system, which allowed competitors to drop their worst day, was affecting behaviour. Those controls just had to be found.



Jillyan on her way to 5th place overall

It has to be said at some point - now, for example - that Bavaria is one of the most hospitable places you could ever hope to visit. Yes, they have their funny ways: the shops close all day Sunday, there are frequent regular train services in rural areas, and the local brewery sponsors orienteering, but putting these quirks aside for a moment, the Bavarians are thoughtful, generous hosts. The orienteering might have been tough and uncompromising but the setting was the opposite. It's always nice to feel welcome.

Mind you, there is also a feeling that Bavarian cuisine is steeped in tradition. One evening I chose the bread dumplings, brown gravy and pork option for my evening meal. Looking at it took me a long way back, beyond even the era of school dinners. The dumpling - mercifully, there was only one - resembled the round shot that the Bavarian artillery must have lobbed at the Austrians in 1805 just down the road at the siege of Ulm, and you got the feeling that both sides would have recognised the colour, consistency and flavour of the gravy. The pork was just that. Pork. Probably nowadays a rare breed in the UK, but not so rare in Bavaria. No shortage of calories, and no shortage of takers, because as the week went by I realised that this was a popular local dish.

Quote from the final day's orienteering: "I was in the circle, and looked at my control descriptions: 'foot of 7m crag' but the forest was so thick that I couldn't see the crag". So said David of Airienteers. Yes, the Bavarians planners had saved the best till last. The Day 5 competition area had plenty of white as you'd call white, plus the energy sapping bilberry white, plus all shades of green, plus extensive jumbles of large boulders and crags.



Peter flying through the forest

No visible elephant tracks, but in the dark green it wasn't going to be possible to spot the elephants, never mind their tracks. Good fun, actually. Pity I was so busy leaving 8 planning my route from 9 to 10 that I forgot to actually punch number 9, which was actually the easiest control on the map (path/road junction). The overall MP tally on the day was less than 2%, of which I was one. Hey ho..

And talking about the map, I'm happy to tell you that the Bavarian paper provided the best map I've ever used. Crinkle free, mud repellent, bilberry stain resistant, and the print as sharp as could be. The paper/material is called Robuskin, MDOC take note! Or better still, take delivery of a couple of reams thereof.

And the automatic? Well, the difference between the D/N/R etceteras became obvious soon enough, the creep was manageable, uphill was good, the flat bearable, but bendy downhill was certainly not. There you are. 4/10.

From the Archives

Our resident archivist Graham Heap has found this article from The Daily Herald, Tuesday 8th February 1949, which introduces Orienteering as 'The new pastime'. It introduces various challenges which we would now think of as training exercises, including what is surely an early precursor to TrailO, before leading up to the 'cross-country' version of the sport that we now know as 'regular' FootO. It is really interesting to see that this predates even the oldest UK orienteering clubs by 15 years.

They vote on votes at 18

Seventeen years old Janice Yood of Blackburn put a really "live" question (Feb. 1) when she asked: "Should the vote be extended to people younger than 21?" Here are opinions of other Youth Service readers.

JUDGING by the numbers who have joined political youth organisations, many young people are keenly interested in the welfare of their country; if the 18s have to fight for their country they should have a say in who governs it; the youngsters of today are better educated and so more capable of voting.—David Robertson, aged 16, of 23, The Mall, Faversham, Kent.

WOULD it be wise? They claim that young people are far more politically-minded than were their parents at the same age is hardly enough to vote on. Do we really know enough to help decide who shall govern us, or are we just beginning to know a little? I think the latter. So, for the present at least, leave it at 21.—Robert T. Hodge, 17, of 259, Kilburn-lane, London, W.10.

I AGREE. But before elections non-party lectures on just what voting means should be given all over the country. The vote should then be withheld from all those who did not attend at least three lectures.—Norman Griffin, 24, of 26, Hathaway, Leamington Spa.

IT deserves the fullest support. Young people are no more politically mature at 21 than at 18. In addition, they are often required to undertake adult responsibilities without receiving an adult's privileges or wages. Give them both the vote and the rate for the job at 18.—Peter Evans, 23, of 5, Hertford-avenue, East Sheen, London, S.W.14.

DEVISE an educational standard, or some similar method, below which the vote should be withheld, irrespective of age. This would cut out the youngsters whose horizons are bounded by frivolities to the exclusion of everything else. At the same time the vote should be withdrawn with the issue of old age pension books.—Terrence Evans, of 7, Lenten Pool, Denbigh, N. Wales.

IF we are expected to fight for our country at 18, then we should have all the rights of a citizen, including the vote. Otherwise, let compulsory service start at 21.—Derrick A. Anderson, 20, of 13, Cranham-road, Romford, Essex.

YOUTH Service

WHAT HAVE YOU GOT...

... that will interest other readers of Youth Service?
A story, a poem, a drawing, a photograph, an opinion, a question to ask, an idea, an experience, a holiday plan?
If so, and you are not older than 23, send it to:
Youth Service, (The Daily Herald, 2-12, Endell-street, London, W.C.2.
All contributions published will be paid for.

This week's POEM

WRITER of this week's poem is L. A. Richardson, aged 24, former RAF navigator, now of 179, Great North-road, Eaton Socon, Huntingdon.

AN OLD MAN DIES
If this is Heaven,
Give me another hour
To watch the sun descend
Into her night.
If these be Angels,
Let me look again
On the grey heron's
Solitary flight.
For my old mind,
Chiselled to understand
Sparrows that fall, tears,
Sighs and shame and blight,
Stiffes in this perfection,
And eyes grow beauty-casual,
I, of the night, am night.

Too drab!
POINTS from the report on a survey conducted by the

Sports Arena introduces The new pastime

by Tom Stephenson
PEOPLE are beginning to talk about "Orienteering," a sport which began in Sweden, where it has 350,000 followers and 1,500 clubs. It has spread to other Scandinavian countries, to Switzerland, and recently to Canada and the United States.

Direction-finding, as we might name it (although it is more than that), is based on the ability to use map and compass,* plus an observant eye and a capacity for estimating distances. From a suitable viewpoint competitors are asked to judge the distances of visible landmarks from 500 yards up to, say, ten miles. Then, with the aid of a map, they must name selected landscape features.

Route-finding
A simple route-finding exercise is to walk 500 yards in a specified direction, the distance being estimated by timing or by counting strides. Then you turn in another given direction, intended to bring you to a determined station on a recognisable line such as a road or footpath. You will probably finish wide of the mark and will lose points accordingly. For the next game a route is plotted on the lines of a miniature golf course. At the start you may be directed to walk 35 yards on a compass course of 65 degrees. That should bring you to a point where a card may direct you to proceed 45 yards at 345 degrees and so on from post to post until you complete the round.

It's fascinating
These and other simple exercises lead up to the most highly developed form of the sport—cross-country "Orienteering" over a course of several miles. For this maps are provided, marked with the points to be touched on the course. Each team makes its own way between the stations. The race is thus not necessarily to the swiftest, nor won by following what appears to be the shortest line on the map. There are infinite possibilities in this fascinating game, specially recommended for all would-be mountaineers.

* Map-reading for the Country-goer 2s 3d, post free from Ramblers' Association, 20, Buckingham-street, London, W.C.2. is an excellent introduction.

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Hungarian TrailO Weekend

Alain Kyd

48 hrs in Budapest and 2 WREs to compete in. This was my first experience of an international orienteering event and as my first ever real life TrailO event was a week earlier at Bagworth Woods it really was a baptism of fire. Competitors from 14 nations descended on Göd, and its abandoned golf course just to the north of Budapest.

Day 1 was TempO. 7 Stations with 5 tasks. At the first station I was concentrating so much that at the end the station 'manager' apologised for the horses. Apparently 6 horses had galloped across in front of me during my 53 seconds!! I'd heard then but somehow missed them. Unfortunately, despite the focus I got 3 of the 5 wrong. First station 4 Zeros threw a lot of people with the highest of these attracting 56% correct.

The rest of the event went pretty well for myself and Ben alike. I managed to win station 7 with one of only 2 clear 'runs'. Jan Furucz being the only other. I had noticed a fisherman near the Charlie kite as I sat down which suggested it wasn't on an island at all. Other people commented afterwards how the occasional passing walker (or fisherman) had helped give them some sense of depth on a pretty grey day.

Juha Hiirsalmi won the day. Ben came in top junior in 6th and I was very pleased with my 17th position which well exceeded my expectations.





Sunday's PreO took place on the same terrain as the TempO just further to the south. Some tasks were long range and at its extreme the zero tolerance was increase to 24 metres. For many it was also the first time using the ToePunch recording system ahead of WTOC 2023.

The bumps, ridges, lakes and woodland of the old golf course proved challenging especially with the more distant problems with no one recording a clear round. Viewing from different angles and trying to take bearing helped to some degree. (No pun intended!) The last 4 tasks seemed by far the trickiest and we returned to the same area we'd been for Station 7 the day before. Were the kites in the water or not? On top of the right very distant embankment or not? Far enough up the re-entrant or not? Task 29 and task 32 only 17% and 23% got correct. Ben ended up 25th (2nd Junior) and myself 44th.



Ben secured top Junior over the weekend scoring some low world ranking points and a bottle of wine along the way. Ben has now moved to 78th in the World Rankings, 1 place ahead of fellow Brit Charles Bromley Gardner. With me making my debut in 268th.

Last editions caption competition winner



"They'll never guess you're wearing a toupee now!" - Peter Ross

There's no new caption competition for you this month, but I wanted to include this photo from Stella Heap, taken in between races at the Lakes 5 Days. It's a great reminder of what a wonderful, family friendly sport we have and how lucky we are to spend our time in the beautiful outdoors.



MDOC Fixtures

Please note the vacancies for organiser, planner and controller. Without them the events will NOT take place. Please consider giving a little of your time to help the club and the local orienteering scene.

Tue 27th December - Spunch 3 - Alderley Edge

Sat 7th January - John O'Goats Charity Event - Lyme

Tue 10th January - Night Street League - Timperley

Sat 14th January - Spring Series - Heaton Park

Sun 22nd January - Spunch 4 - Dunham Massey

Thur 26th January - Night Street League - Bramhall

Sat 28th January - North West Night League - Brereton Heath
PLANNER & CONTROLLER NEEDED

Tue 7th February - Night Street League - Whaley Bridge

Sat 11th February - Spring Series - Reddish Vale
CONTROLLER NEEDED

Sun 19th February - Spunch 5 - Biddulph Grange

Thur 23rd February - Night Street League - Reddish

Tue 7th March - Night Street League - Hazel Grove

Sat 11th March - Spring Series - Wythenshawe

Sun 12th March - Spunch 6 - Lindow

7th - 10th April - JK Festival - South Lake District
LOTS OF HELPERS NEEDED!

Sun 23rd April - Yvette Baker Trophy - Philips/Prestwich Forest Parks

May 9th, 18th & 23rd - Come and try it introduction events at Lyme
ORGANISERS, PLANNERS & CONTROLLERS NEEDED



WTOC 2022
Natasza Figiel