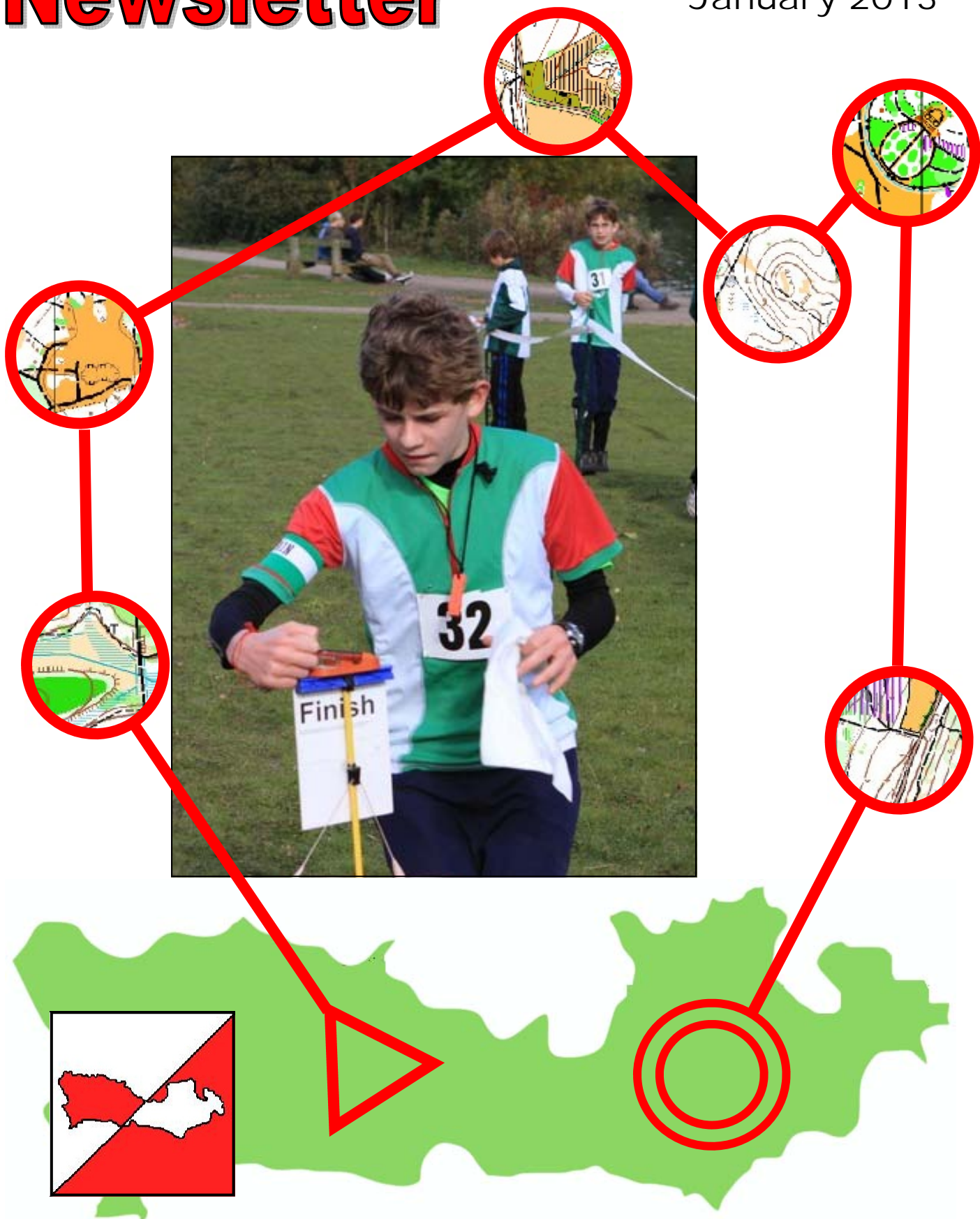


# Berkshire Orienteers

## Newsletter

January 2013





## Editorial

This is my first edition of the BKO newsletter following the resignation of Keith Ellis from the post of Editor. He has worked hard at the task over the last couple of years and did well to provide members with an informative and interesting newsletter. Most importantly, he kept to a regular schedule with an issue appearing every two months. So, on behalf of all members, my thanks to Keith for his important contribution to the club.

I offered to take on the task, initially for this issue, but also for future issues as well. However, as I am the current Club Secretary, I feel that it would be difficult to be both Editor and Secretary. With the AGM coming up in February, there will be a chance for some changes in role (and hopefully some new faces) so decisions for future issues can wait until then.

I hope you find this issue interesting and enjoyable. Newsletters may be assembled by the Editor but much of the material is provided by others. So my thanks to those who have submitted material for this issue. Please think ahead and consider writing an interesting event report or other article for a future issue. And don't forget to take a camera to an event and submit your photos as well!

David Jukes

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



The AGM of Berkshire Orienteers will take place on

**Friday 8th February at 7.00pm**

at The Bull in Theale.

All club members are invited to attend this important annual event.

### **Agenda:**

- Chairman's Report
- Treasurer's Report / Membership Fees
- Election of Club Officials
- Awards

*Please note that you can attend either or both of the AGM and Annual Dinner*

## ANNUAL CLUB DINNER

The AGM will be followed by the Annual Club Dinner. This will commence at approximately 8.30. Menu options and cost will be circulated by e-mail shortly and will be published on the web site.

**AGM/Dinner Fun Activity:** We are inviting club members to nominate the 'best' events they attended in 2012. There will be different categories — current ideas are (1) best technical area; (2) best mess up; (3) best urban area; (4) best planned course; (5) best junior course (white/yellow/orange). Bring your maps along and we can vote for the winner in each category. There may even be prizes! Suggestions for other categories welcome - e-mail [secretary@bko.org.uk](mailto:secretary@bko.org.uk) with your ideas.



## Situations Vacant

Our sport only exists due to the commitment and enthusiasm of members to assist in various tasks. These are necessary both for the staging of events and for the various administrative jobs which allow the club to function effectively. We are all volunteers and offers of help — whether a small minor task or a more involved role as a key official — are always appreciated. Here are some of our current needs:

### Committee Posts

At the Annual General Meeting, club members elect committee members who attend regular committee meetings (usually 6 per year) to plan the various activities that the club is involved with. Several of these are designated key club officers but the constitution also allows for some additional ‘committee members’.

For the past year, the committee has been short of members. We have had no ‘Development Officer’ and been short of extra ‘committee members’. Although the club has continued to function, a full complement better reflects the membership and reduces the pressure on those who attend. The following is a full listing of the positions:

- Chairman, Secretary, Fixtures Secretary, Treasurer, Development Officer and Membership Secretary together with four further members

If you would like more details of any of these posts, please contact Katy Stubbs who would be delighted to discuss what would be involved. Joining the Committee as a ‘committee member’ is a great way to find out about how the club functions and to put something back into the sport.

### Event Officials

The club has a loyal band of regulars who are willing to act as mappers, planners, and organisers. Experienced and qualified members also act as controllers for both our own events and those of other clubs. We are always in need of volunteers to act in these key roles as well as provide additional on-the-day support. Acting as a planner or organiser for a small local event provides a good introduction to the tasks and support from experienced members will always be provided to new volunteers.

Our current needs are for the following:

- **URGENT! An organiser for our SCOA League event at Bloom Wood on Sunday 19th May.**
- Looking a bit further ahead, the Committee will soon be considering plans for the summer including the Urban Parks Challenge Series on Saturdays and summer training activities on Wednesday evenings.

All offers of help for events should be directed to Andy Parry, our Fixtures Secretary.

## **Your 2012-2013 Committee**

Chairman:	Katy Stubbs	chairman@bko.org.uk	0118 978 2875
Secretary:	David Jukes	secretary@bko.org.uk	0118 969 2514
Fixtures Secretary:	Andy Parry	fixtures@bko.org.uk	
Treasurer:	Peter Entwistle	treasurer@bko.org.uk	01628 635278
Development Officer:	<i>Vacant</i>		
Membership Secretary ( <i>acting</i> ):	Ian Hudson	membership@bko.org.uk	
4 Committee Members :			
* Ken Ricketts		ken.ricketts@bko.org.uk	
* Dave Rogers		dave.rogers@bko.org.uk	
* <i>Vacant</i>			
* <i>Vacant</i>			

### **Cover Photo and Puzzle:**

The front cover photo shows the St Andrew's team captain completing his course at the recent British Schools Championships held in November. See inside (page 8) for a detailed report on their successful participation in the event.

Also on the cover are 6 small extracts from BKO maps. How many can you recognise? As a clue, they are all maps used at 'Winter' Saturday events during 2012. No prizes for this—answers can be found at the foot of page 19.

## **Club Notes**

*Keeping you informed about the club and its members*

### **Club Champions 2012**

The club championships were held in conjunction with the BADO SCOA League Event on 18th November at Chawton Park near Alton. The senior classes, results were based on a 'handicap' system derived from members national ranking scores. For juniors, courses were specified for each age category. Congratulations to the following:

- **Richard Powell** (Seniors),
- **Gill Godbold** (Veterans),
- **Ian Cooper** (Super Veterans),
- **Alexandria Marwick** (M/W12) and
- **Jacob Marwick** (M/W14).

Overall Club Champion is Gill Godbold with the highest 'score' on the day of 109%.

Three of this years champions have managed to retain their titles from last year **Richard Powell**, **Ian Cooper** and **Alexandria Marwick**. **Jacob Marwick** ran up a course and therefore claims the M/W14 title despite actually being only an M12. He thus avoided competing against Alexandria which might have led to some family tension!

The trophy and certificates will be presented at the Club's AGM in February.

### **Nopesport Urban League 2012**

Not many BKO members competed regularly in this national league competition. With competitor's best 6 events to score, our best results were in the Ultravets (65+) classes. In the men's 3 BKO members appear in the top 20 (out of 118 listed): **Martin Wilson** 9th (with 4 scoring

events), **Bryce Gibson** 13th (with 4 scoring events) and **Richard Rae** 20th (with 3 scoring events). In the women's, **Janet Gibson** came in 10th (with 4 scoring events) out of 55 listed.

### ***Southern England Orienteering Urban League (SEOUL) 2012***

Introduced in 2012 for the first time, the aim was to provide a more local variant of the Nopesport Urban League. The SEOUL included events from the South-West to East Anglia.. Our own Windsor and Eton event in September was included in this League. BKO members appear more frequently in the final results for this League and most successful was **Martin Wilson**, second in the Men Ultravets class. BKO top performers were:

- Open Women: 9th **Kezia Jukes** (with 3 scoring events)
- Men Veteran: 42nd **Neil Frankum** (3 scoring events)
- Men Supervet: 10th **Nigel Houlst** (6 scoring events - having attended 11 of the 13 events)
- Women Supervet: 15th **Gill Godbold** (3 scoring events)
- Men Ultravets: 2nd **Martin Wilson** (6 scoring including 4 wins - having attended 8 events); 8th **Richard Rae** (6 scoring events)
- Women Ultravets: 6th **Janet Gibson** (5 scoring events)

### ***National Ranking List as at 1st January 2013***

<b>Pos. (National Pos.)</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>YOB</b>	<b>M/F</b>	<b>Points</b>
1 (533)	Dan Straka	1966	M	6596
2 (564)	Alexander Moore	1992	M	6563
3 (598)	Ian Cooper	1943	M	6518
4 (662)	Martin Wilson	1947	M	6451
5 (693)	Simon Turton	1965	M	6412
6 (696)	David Jukes	1952	M	6410
7 (734)	Andrew Graham	1955	M	6365
8 (923)	John Methven	1970	M	6151
9 (930)	Neil Frankum	1969	M	6140
10 (933)	Simon Moore	1960	M	6139
11 (960)	Nigel Houlst	1953	M	6112
12 (1066)	Stefan Stasiuk	1951	M	6002
13 (1086)	Richard Rae	1946	M	5983
14 (1258)	Derick Mercer	1964	M	5792
15 (1414)	Mark Foxwell	1964	M	5651
16 (1607)	Alan Jones	1967	M	5432
17 (1766)	Ken Ricketts	1954	M	5246
18 (1952)	Lenka Straka	1967	F	5041
19 (2037)	Colin Godbold	1957	M	4934
20 (2039)	Robert Lattimore	1995	M	4931

The above are the top 20 club members in the national ranking scheme. Congratulations to **Dan Straka** for an excellent performance during the year. His top score, and the best score for any BKO member during the year, was 1129 points and was on the technically difficult and physically

demanding Craig a Barns, Day 3 of the 2012 JK. The second best score was **Ian Cooper's** 1125 at the recent TVOC event in Wendover Woods just before Christmas. And congratulations to **Lenka Straka** for being our top female making it a husband and wife double!

### ***Committee discussions***

The Committee last met in November and matters discussed included the following:

- **Providing electronic registration and timing at BKO events.** With the departure of Tim Booth to the USA, one of our regular Emit specialists will be lost. Also, he frequently supported the main Emit team who we often used to provide a full Emit package at our main events. The future of the Emit support team is a bit uncertain although a replacement for Tim has apparently been recruited. The Committee is aware of these changes and is reviewing our options. One possibility would be for the club to invest in improved equipment to enable us to run a full registration and results system. This though would involve a significant investment. This will be costed before reaching a decision.
- **Membership database.** Another consequence of Tim's departure is that the web based system he has run and which we adopted about 2 years ago will be closed. Replacement options have been discussed and Ian Hudson will initially set up a spreadsheet with the data.
- **BKO website.** A third consequence is that our web site, currently operated and maintained by Tim, will need new arrangements. The site will continue for the time being but Andy Parry is will be discussing with Tim future options.
- **Club nights.** Despite a fairly low turnout, the committee has agreed to keep the weekly evening sessions going, provisionally until Easter, but they will be kept under review. Although currently running at a loss, some funding from BOF has helped.
- **Southern Championships 2014.** The club expects to hold stage this important competition on Star Posts, Bracknell. The area is therefore subject to an embargo for those wanting to compete in the event. However, car parking issues have arisen with changes in policy with the Crown Estate and so mapping (which would have been using a professional mapper) has been delayed.



## **Concorde Chase Regional Event SUNDAY 27th January 2013 BAROSSA, Sandhurst/Camberley**

- **MAP:** 1:10,000 map, 5m contours Re-surveyed 2010, updates 2011 & 2012
- **TERRAIN:** Runnable forest with areas of heathland, well contoured in places – including Range area.
- **COURSES:** Black, Brown, Short Brown, Blue, Short Blue, Green, Short Green, Very Short Green, Light Green, Orange, Yellow, White and Long Orange plus Free String Course.
- **ENTRIES:** As parking and assembly are in a secure area, pre-entry is REQUIRED – there will be no EOD. Online entries to [www.fabian4.co.uk](http://www.fabian4.co.uk). **Closing date is 24th January 2013**

**For full details, see the BKO website: <http://www.bko.org.uk>**



## Membership Memo's

Ian Hudson

Now the festive season is over it is time for me to remind you to renew your BKO membership. Those of you who have already renewed can skip this first part.

As described in the November newsletter, BKO is changing its membership structure in line with the new British Orienteering membership scheme. Therefore BKO membership levels now mirror BO with Senior and Junior members only.

The 2013 membership fees are:

	Senior	Junior
BO fee	£5	£2
BKO fee	£6	£1
Total payable	£11	£3

As all BKO members will now also be BO members, renewals are via the BO website:

<http://www.britishorienteering.org.uk>

Any questions? E-mail [ian.hudson@bko.org.uk](mailto:ian.hudson@bko.org.uk)

As mentioned in a "Berkshire Orienteers Update" e-mail in December, the member's database has had to be redesigned, re-sited and the data transferred over. It is a good opportunity to correct data and I will be crosschecking against the BO database; so now is a good time to make sure that that data is correct.

### *New Members*

Finally, in the last couple of months we have had some new members:

- The **Ellis Family** from Sonning Common, Peter, Louise, Jennifer & Dominic. Although I think it will be a few years before Dominic is out in the forest on his own.
- **Charlotte Merrison & Dominic Light** from Twyford.
- **Mark Foxwell** who now lives in Maidenhead and has transferred from LEI. Mark has shot straight in at 15 in the BKO rankings watch out the top ten!

## Represent your club

There are two opportunities for you to help your club in important national competitions:

- **CompassSport Cup**: This national competition for clubs is run in two stages—heats and finals. The heats are being held on Sunday 17th February and BKO will be competing at the event on Headley Heath, Surrey. Full details are not yet available but please try to join us for this event.



- We will also need members to join us to make up teams for the **JK Relays** on Easter Monday, 1st April, at Hambledon near Henley. Details to follow - watch out for further information in a future 'Berkshire Orienteers Update' e-mail.

David Jukes

## St Andrews School heads North for success at the British Schools Orienteering Championships

Glynn Thomas

It's been a very busy and exciting term for St. Andrew's School's orienteers - not to mention successful, too! There have been plenty of normal Saturday or Sunday events which we have attended in our minibus, some of them organised by BKO and others further afield.

On Saturday 13th October, we spent the day at the Kingsbury Water Park in Warwickshire, taking part in the British Schools' Score Championships. There were a dozen boys and girls between Year 5 and Year 8 in our squad that day, and when the final scores had been worked out, we were delighted to be presented with certificates for 2nd place in both the girls' and the boys' competition (they're separate at the BSSC). Our boys' captain, Ben Hutchins, was our top scorer with 195 points.



We returned from Warwickshire in very buoyant mood, and continued our preparations for the big weekend - the BSOC in the north-west. Friday 16th November arrived, and we headed up the A34 in two minibuses. We were booked into Manchester Youth Hostel, a modern building

on the site of the old Potato Wharf, and after a 4-hour drive (with stops en route), we checked in and realised what excellent accommodation we had. After the evening meal, we spent the Friday evening at Parrs Wood, near Didsbury, with two games of 'Sector 7' Laser Quest and a game of 10-pin bowling. At one point, Pudsey Bear appeared with a collection bucket, as it was the evening of the BBC's Children in Need.

On the Saturday morning, I took the children for a tram ride through the city of Manchester and on up to Heaton Park, while my colleagues Ian Farquhar and Kate Jennings drove to the same location in the minibuses. I had prepared two courses around the permanent map, one of white equivalent for the 12 children in Years 4, 5 and 6, and the other yellow for the 5 older pupils from Years 7 and 8. There was a slight drizzle, but everyone eventually found their way to the meeting point at the Temple, an edifice from the year 1800 which is the highest point in the City of Manchester.

During the afternoon, we had a splash about in one of the pools at the Manchester Aquatics Centre and were able to see some top quality water polo matches in the main pool. We held a briefing



after the evening meal and discussed the following day's main event. We each had a blank copy of the BSOC map and the children were able to imagine what they might see, although we did not know exactly where the courses would take them.

After another comfortable night's sleep, we travelled about 45 minutes west of Manchester to Delamere Forest and collected our bib numbers from the registration tent. We had relatively late starts, which meant we did not need to rush. Eventually, I took the girls to their start, while Kate went with the boys a couple of hundred metres further on. It wasn't too long before all the children had disappeared into the forest, and we headed back to the assembly field, where Ian was waiting and taking photos as each St. Andrew's pupil ran from the final control to the finish line.

With the whole group back together again, we ate our packed lunch and waited for the presentation of awards. Our B5 boys won bronze medals, and then we heard that Francesca Rogers and Isabella Woodward had been the two fastest girls in the country on the G6 course. As we reached the overall school results, we held our breath as other schools in the Prep/Middle Schools category were mentioned. 'Third place....second place.....and the winners are St. Andrew's School, Pangbourne!' There was such excitement amongst all our children, and the trophy was duly collected and held aloft. It had been a magnificent effort by the whole squad.

As you can imagine, the atmosphere in the minibuses on the way back to school was wonderful. When the trophy was re-presented in Monday morning's assembly and collected by Ben Hutchins and the girls' captain, Liberty Jennings, we realised that it had been worth waiting the nine long years since our previous victory on a national scale. With a visit to St. Andrew's of our former pupil, HRH the Duchess of Cambridge, AKA Catherine Middleton, a couple of weeks later, the sense of elation had barely diminished since we left Cheshire with the national trophy on board.

We are already booked into youth hostels for next year's BSSC (in Druridge Bay, Northumberland) and BSOC (at Shipley Country Park, Ilkeston). Who knows what we can achieve in 2013?



## 2013 Event Highlights: January—July 2013

2013 will provide BKO members with the opportunity to participate in many top events within easy reach of home:

- January: BKO Concorde Chase
- March/April: JK 2013
- April: SCOA Sprint and Middle Championships
- May: British Long and Relay Championships

Included on the map are some additional quality events a bit further afield:

- April: Southern Championships
- April: British Sprint and Middle Championships
- April: BOK Trot

Looks like March-April could be very busy for the orienteering enthusiast with the JK at Easter being followed by great events on all 4 Sundays in April!

And once these are over, why not enjoy a holiday in northern Scotland at Moray 2013 — 6 days of high quality competition on some of the most technical terrain available in the UK .

### **British Sprint and Middle Championships**

**Sprint: Saturday 20th April,  
Loughborough University**

**Middle: Sunday 21st April,  
Stanton Moor, Derbyshire**

### **BKO Concorde Chase**

**Sunday 27th January,  
Barossa, Sandhurst**

### **Southern Championships**

**Sunday 14th April**

**Penhale Sands**

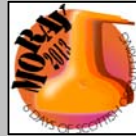
### **BOK Trot**

**Sunday 28th April, Stourhead**

**Moray 2013 (Scottish 6 Days)**

Sunday 28th July —

Saturday 3rd August



**JK2013**

Sprint: Friday 29th March, Whiteknights

Long (1): Saturday 30th March, Hambledon

Long (2): Sunday 31st March, Cold Ash

Relay: Monday 1st April, Hambledon



**SCOA Middle and Sprint Championships**

Sprint: Saturday 6th April, Wellington College

Middle: Sunday 7th April, Bagshot Heath

**British Championships—**

**Individual and Relay**

Long: Saturday 4th May, Winterfold

Relay: Sunday 5th May, Holmbury Hill

**CompassSport Cup Heat**

Sunday 17th February,  
Headley Heath

## Venice 2012, a very wet weekend!!

**Katy Stubbs**



Earlier this year, after a rather alcoholic evening out with friends Tim, Melinda and Christine in Sheffield, I agreed that it would be a great idea to go to Venice for the street event they run every November. I then promptly forgot until I started getting emails about possible apartments. We finally agreed on an upper floor (fortunately) one near the Rialto Bridge and I booked flights.

A couple of weeks before the event the news was full of stories about the worst floods in Venice for many years. Venice often floods a bit in the winter months but only at high tide and checking the event website it said that there was no high tide predicted for the race. So Tim and I reassured Melinda that we would be OK, we all decided that taking wellies wasn't necessary and put the problem out of our minds.

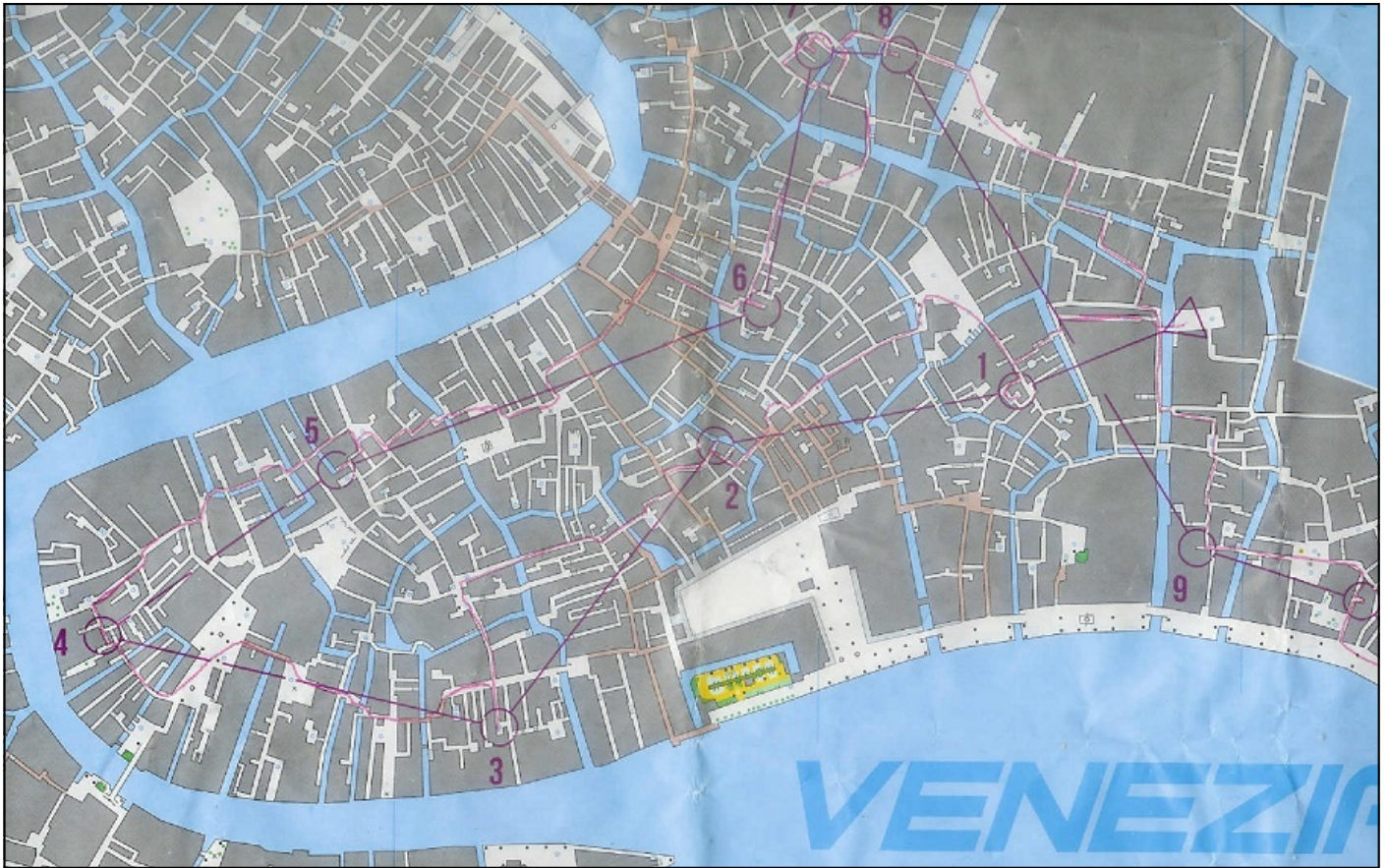
Arriving on the Thursday afternoon Melinda and I took the waterbus from the airport all the way to the Rialto Bridge. The weather was hazy but sunny and reasonably warm, the apartment was on the third and fourth floor of an old building with a lovely large terrace, the local agent told us where the nearest supermarket was and we stocked up on essentials (wine, olives, cheese, breakfast) before watching the sun go down on the terrace. The agent also said that there was a moderate tide predicted for the Sunday morning with high tide at 8:30am so it should be down by the time we started the race. We noted the unusual arrangement at the bottom of the stairs with a raised (marble) step protecting the hall inside the building and joked that we hoped it wouldn't be needed.

On the Friday we did some sightseeing, with clear blue skies, no wind and perfect views over the city from the church on San Giorgio and on Saturday after Tim and Christine had arrived, walked around the markets near the Rialto and then wandered around the narrow streets. I soon saw that some of them are so narrow that two people would have to squeeze past each other. Also I realised that the streets marked in brown on the previous orienteering map were definitely worth avoiding as they were full of tourists stopping and looking at the numerous shops full of expensive designer wear, Venetian glass and carnival souvenirs. Not to mention the locals delivering everything to and from the shops and hotels on baggage hand trollies! On the way back I got a shock – a control was already out! It turned out it was for the so called sprint/park event that day, not the following one, so I didn't feel at all guilty having an old map with me whilst we walked around as obviously the competition areas overlapped.

We were starting to worry about the predicted high tide the following day. Guidebooks talked about sirens warning of the expected levels over 90cm (where some flooding would start in the lowest part of the city) and that evening we checked in the local bar about the following morning. The report was not reassuring, the levels were now expected to be high, about 120cm, which would mean around 30cm in St Marks Square.

At 5:30am on the Sunday the sirens sounded, three notes which meant very high and peaking at 8:30. But the wind continued to rise and the rain pour down and an hour later they went again,





this time with four tones, the highest level possible. Looking out of my window down into the street, the water started to appear, peaking at just below knee height, but we were in a relatively high part of the city. Tim decided to go down to St Marks Square to see what it was like in running shorts and came back with the news that it was as high as the top of his legs (he has long legs!!). He also said that we had water, not only coming under the door, but also seeping up into the supposedly protected hall. Checking the event website it said that start times were being put back by half an hour and then later by an hour. So at about 10:00, in the hope that the tide should be turning, Melinda and I set off for the assembly area. The streets were chaos with many tourists trying to keep dry with either knee high boots (not likely!) or bin bags tied with string or taped to the top of their legs. The boardwalks were floating away in some places as the water was so high. The sight of people trying to manhandle large suitcases to get to water buses would have been funny if they weren't so upset about it. We just plodged through the water, there was no point trying to stay dry, it got up to the bottom of my shorts, so well above my knees in places. The water was clear so you could see the pavement and the lighter stones marking the edges of the canals, so it was fairly safe.

When we got to the event centre we found out that they had abandoned start times, so it was just turn up at the start and run. The problem was that the high wind was from the SE and basically stopping water from getting out of the lagoon, so not only was the tide much higher than expected but it was being held in place as the water just couldn't get away.

So about 11:45 we set off for the start, there was still water at knee level in many places. Queuing in a very jovial crowd for about 15 minutes I finally set off around 12:15pm. Start to 1 was rel-



atively easy and not much water so I planned my next two routes before I got to 1. From 1 I headed north away from St Marks, through an open square, over one bridge then over another and took to the knee deep water as the boardwalks were packed. Wriggle round a church to avoid as much as possible of the really busy street and over another bridge to the control. From 2-3 I could either go down to St Marks or stay north and pick a straight route west then due south. No contest really as the distances were the same. 3-4 I really had to keep a count of the number of bridges crossed, then through the big square and again straight into the control. Some of the lanes were very narrow here and I had to keep using my only Italian of scuizi (not sure how that should be spelt but it seemed to work).

4-5 was a left or right choice, no great difference in distance so I picked left to keep away from the crowds, but made my first mistake, getting confused by the very small paths next to the winding canals and having to stop to check my compass and decide which way to go at one bridge. 5-6 was easy, wriggle through past our apartment, pick up the main Rialto route which was nice and wide, so getting past the tourists was relatively easy, then take the quieter right turn and straight into the control. 6-7 was another left or right route, this time I went right to avoid the tourist areas. 7-8 was the shortest leg on the course and the only one where I went the wrong way. I was too busy looking at the following leg! I went over the wrong bridge, realised I hadn't reached the next bridge quickly enough and had to retrace my steps. Very annoying!!

8-9, the bridges pushed me into crossing into the large square, the challenge was to work out what to do after that. I wanted to find diagonal paths, but the most obvious one would involve back-tracking, so I went for the route close to the start (but not back through it as the lane was packed when I started). 9-10 was simple, then I had to go out into the howling wind and water being blown up off the lagoon for a very long run over three big bridges to the last control and finish. Steady time, not winning by a long way, but there again I can never beat the top UK W55s and I was satisfied with the lack of big mistakes.

Although the locals are used to floods, this one (it ended up being nearly 160cm above mean sea level) was bad, but even so most just got their pumps and brushes out and got on with clearing up when the water finally drained away. Some had waterproof boards across entrances but in many places the water just seeped up from the foundations anyway. What I later found out was that in Venice, although the sewerage is treated, normal washing water goes straight into the lagoon which explained the rather odd smell on my shoes and clothes after I got back to the apartment.

When I was running, I slowed down or walked when I was going through water with pedestrians around, but unfortunately some of the faster runners were not so considerate. Many locals were already upset by the time I ran through and they were shouting at runners to slow down, even if they were already walking. In the end the local police stopped the race, despite the fact that by the time they did so most water had gone and there was no longer a real issue. The organisers have already announced that next year's race is cancelled, mainly to protect a World Cup race planned for 2014. With the tides (the Mediterranean is not as predictable as most other places in the world) this event may never happen again, so I am glad I did it, it was certainly an amazing experience.



## Ash Dieback Disease

I expect all orienteers will have been concerned when reports that 'Ash Dieback Disease' had reached UK woodland appeared at the end of October. The impact on the British landscape is potentially great and is the concern of government, landowners and nature organisations. For orienteers there is a potential threat to the sport. Of course many events are held in areas where ash trees are not significant but where they are there is the possibility of new restrictions. British Orienteering has issued advice which is reproduced below. Please comply with any bio-security requests at events you attend to minimise any impact on the sport. Additional information has been issued by BOF in the form of FAQs; see: [http://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/images/uploaded/downloads/governance\\_ash\\_dieback\\_FAQs.pdf](http://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/images/uploaded/downloads/governance_ash_dieback_FAQs.pdf)

### Advice for orienteers on Ash Dieback disease

Concerns have been raised in the media recently over the threat to ash trees in the UK following the identification of the potentially deadly disease of Ash Dieback (*Chalara faxinea*).

British Orienteering has issued the following advice to all clubs on the biosecurity measures that should be taken by all orienteers (i.e. Planners, Controllers and control hangers, as well as competitors) when holding or participating in an area suspected to contain Ash trees:

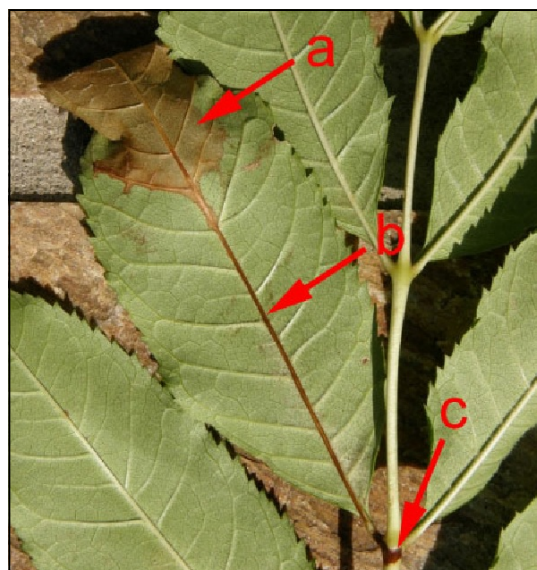
- Thoroughly wash all footwear before leaving the area, ensuring that all mud, soil and leaf litter is removed. Event organisers may wish to provide water, buckets and brushes at a suitable location i.e. at a point where there is little risk of further contamination.
- On returning home, rinse all boots and shoes in a chlorine based cleaner or garden fungicide and allow them to dry thoroughly. N.B. please read the manufacturer's label and follow their instructions on use and disposal of the product.
- Thoroughly wash and dry all kit and any other clothing that may potentially have been contaminated with fungal spores.
- Clothing and footwear should not be reused for at least 48 hours after drying.

While it is currently thought that the disease is restricted to East Anglia and the South East of England, this position may change as Forestry Commission pathologists and surveyors enter more woodlands.

**Peter Brett, BOF Environment Officer**

These images are taken from a Forestry Commission document showing how to identify the disease. You can find a link to it from their ash disease page at:

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara>



# Nightmare at 6

Ian Hudson

I love a bit of night orienteering don't you? All that deep darkness in the forest, your whole world consisting only of what is caught in the beam of your headlight. Keeping tight contact with the map, mentally ticking features off as you move silently through the night. So when asked, I was definitely up for the Southern Night Champs on Esher Common in December, especially as my age class was running the green course a mere 4.1 km. Katy and Annika were also running the green and off before me, so some competition, game on!

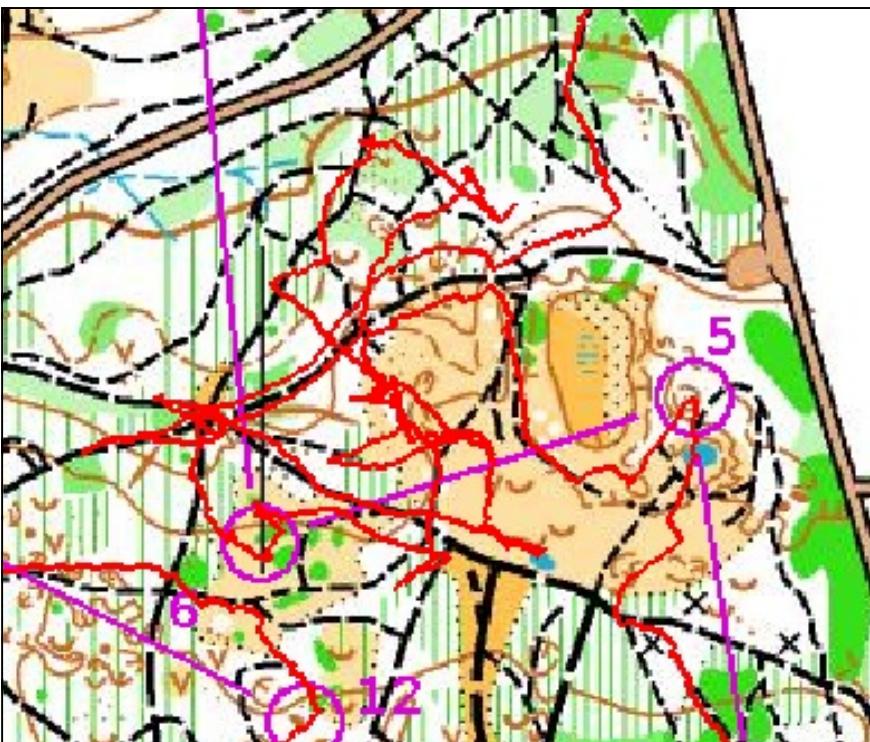
[Note: My GPS route is on Routegadget if you are interested enough to follow this tale of woe as you read. SLOW hosted the event.] *[I have also included the image below showing leg 5 to 6 from Routegadget. Editor]*

1 & 2 were no problem, although if I am being critical I went up the wrong side of the re-entrant to get to 2. Now over the top of the spur towards 3. A little hesitation on the best place to cross the fence above the control but over it and straight down into 3. As I turned to leave Katy came up-hill. One down!

3 to 4 was going to be mostly a path run, but I should have noticed my map contact and mental ticking off wasn't tight enough when I failed to spot a fork in the path and went down the wrong path. Luckily for me I turned off in the correct direction, at the correct distance down the wrong path and hit the right path where no path should have been. This alerted me to what I had done and I corrected my rather loose contact with the map and hit the control right after Katy, doh!

The route to 5 was off NW on a path close by 4 until I reached a hide and then on a bearing across open ground to 5. Headlights converging made 5 easy to find. So start to 5 has taken me 14.5 minutes.

Now it all starts to unhinge. Taking a bearing to 6 from the map, off I go across the open ground with the intention of reaching a path and turning right westwards towards 6 until I reached a path junction on the left. I skirt around a gully and climb a knoll but I am still on the right bearing as I hit a path and turn right. Unfortunately it wasn't the correct path, did I check off features as I ran on a bearing? No. Did I check my heading as I ran down the path looking for a junction to the left? No. Did I find that junction? No.



What I found was a large path crossroads, which made me a little unsure about my exact position. But I knew all I had to do was relocate. I turned left and ran downhill to an even bigger path junction. I explored most of the paths radiating off this junction and then decided to get back to the open area to the west of 5 and give it another try. Mistaking another path for my original erroneous path I ran back on my original bearing, which might have worked if I had started from the correct path.



My contact with the map was now quite a slack one and I was getting closer to headless chicken mode. Looking at the GPS trace I definitely thought I was further west than I was but I was searching in an open area and the map told me control 6 was in an open area. The error here was that 6 and I were in different open areas. But I wasn't losing it and packing in, no siree! All I had to do was relocate.

On one of my journeys back towards 5 I found a pond, looking at the map it could only be one; at last I was relocated! Deep breath and take a bearing towards 6, off I go. By now there were no other orienteers around so no headlight clues. The trace shows I didn't make it first time. Once I had gone far enough without finding it I turned around and retried. This time I didn't go back to the pond but took the bearing from a path junction closer to the control but from where I could see the damn pond. This time ELDORADO, I ran down what appeared to be a conifer hedge in forest to a thicket and there it was, 6 beautiful 6! After I had caressed it a couple of times (just to make sure it was real) I dibbed and was off to 7. But that's another story.

So 5 to 6 on the map is a straight-line distance of approximately 300 m, my split was 33.75 minutes. It should have been in the region of 3.375 minutes; hopefully I have just explained why the decimal point is in the wrong place. I did not see Katy again until download and I don't recall seeing Annika at all in the forest. But for the records I wasn't last on the green and those behind me were not all older than me either.

For those of you without access to Routegadget I would like to point out that control 6 was in the middle of a network of paths on the map and as it is dog walking country even more on the ground. This can be seen by the amount of off path running my GPS trace shows. Also it turned out that the area around 6 didn't look that open at night. If you are now scoffing at my ineptitude and haven't tried night orienteering, stop that scoffing until you have!

**Did anyone else have a control on their Christmas cake?** In my defence, it was not my idea! On Christmas Eve I had just iced my cake and posted an image on my Facebook site. Quite quickly Alan Yeadon added a comment: 'Suggest you put an O-control next to one of the distinctive trees'. So the control was added! It did lead to a comment from one of my daughters: 'You really are the most boring person I know'. I can live with that!

David Jukes



## Events

This listing, provided by Andy Parry, shows a selection of forthcoming events. It is extracted from the national listing and shows all Level A events (important national events including championships) but only more local events or activities at lower levels. For a full listing, look at the British Orienteering web site.

Date	Name	Level	Club	Venue	Town	Ref
Sun 6 Jan 13	BADO Level C and SCOA League Event	Level C	BADO	Humbly Grove (Weston Common)	Lasham	SU695444
Tue 8 Jan 13	SLOW Night Street-O Race 5	Level D	SLOW	Southfields	London	TQ254729
<b>Wed 9 Jan 13</b>	<b>BKO Club Night - Bracknell</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>BKO</b>	<b>Birch Hill Primary School</b>	<b>Bracknell</b>	<b>RG12 7WW</b>
Sat 12 Jan 13	SN - Saturday Series 5 Frith Hill	Level D	SN	Frith Hill	Deepcut nr Frimley	SU906578
Sat 12 Jan 13	TVOC Saturday series Wendover	Level D	TVOC	Wendover	Wendover	SP888090
Sat 12 Jan 13	SN Night Challenge	Level D	SN	Frith Hill	Frimley	SU906578
<b>Wed 16 Jan 13</b>	<b>BKO Club Night - Bracknell</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>BKO</b>	<b>Birch Hill Primary School</b>	<b>Bracknell</b>	<b>RG12 7WW</b>
<b>Sat 19 Jan 13</b>	<b>BKO Winter Saturday Series (Yateley Common)</b>	<b>Level D</b>	<b>BKO</b>	<b>Yateley Common</b>	<b>Yateley</b>	<b>SU833592</b>
Sun 20 Jan 13	SCOA League New Forest	Level C	SOC	Busketts Lawn	Southampton	SU329100
Wed 23 Jan 13	BKO Club Night - Bracknell	Activity	BKO	Birch Hill Primary School	Bracknell	RG12 7WW
Sun 27 Jan 13	BKO Concorde Chase (Barossa)	Level B	BKO	Barossa	Sandhurst	SU871611
Tue 29 Jan 13	SLOW Local Event	Level D	SLOW	Richmond Park	Richmond	
<b>Wed 30 Jan 13</b>	<b>BKO Club Night - Bracknell</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>BKO</b>	<b>Birch Hill Primary School</b>	<b>Bracknell</b>	<b>RG12 7WW</b>
Sat 2 Feb 13	Dorset Schools & Wessex Night League + limited Colour coded	Level D	SAR-UM	Vernditch	Salisbury	SU052210
Sat 2 Feb 13	SN - Saturday Series 6 Eagle House - from Wellington College	Level D	SN	Eagle House	Crowthorne	SU836634
Sun 3 Feb 13	Midland Championships	Level A	NOC	Sherwood Forest	Mansfield	SK626675
Sat 9 Feb 13	British Night Championships (UKOL1)	Level A	SYO	Tankersley	Sheffield	SK360968
Sun 10 Feb 13	TVOC Chiltern Challenge	Level B	TVOC	Christmas Common	High Wycombe	SU715933



Tue 12 Feb 13	SLOW London Street-O	Level D	SLOW	Teddington	London	
<b>Sat 16 Feb 13</b>	<b>BKO Winter Saturday Series (Bloom Wood)</b>	<b>Level D</b>	<b>BKO</b>	<b>Bloom Wood</b>	<b>High Wycombe</b>	<b>SU860890</b>
Sun 17 Feb 13	Compass Sport Cup Round 1	Level B	SLOW	Headley Heath	Leatherhead	TQ192531
Sat 23 Feb 13	TVOC Saturday series Big Wood	Level D	TVOC	Big Wood	S Oxley Watford	TQ113939
Tue 26 Feb 13	SLOW Local Event	Level D	SLOW	Wimbledon Common	Wimbledon	

The following details are some of the events that BKO is preparing to stage (or help stage) further ahead.. Put them in your diary now to avoid disappointment!

Date	Event Name	Level	Location	Town	Grid Ref	Postcode
Sat 16-Mar-13	BKO Winter Saturday Series (Swinley East)	Level D	Swinley East	Bracknell	SU906661	SL5 8AX
<b>Fri 29-Mar-13</b>	<b>Jan Kjellstrom Orienteering Festival - Sprint</b>	<b>Level A</b>	<b>Whiteknights Campus</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>SU733719</b>	<b>RG6 6UD</b>
<b>Sat 30-Mar-13</b>	<b>Jan Kjellstrom Orienteering Festival</b>	<b>Level A</b>	<b>Hambleden</b>	<b>Henley</b>	<b>SU772855</b>	<b>RG9 3BW</b>
<b>Sun 31-Mar-13</b>	<b>Jan Kjellstrom Orienteering Festival</b>	<b>Level A</b>	<b>Cold Ash</b>	<b>Newbury</b>	<b>SU520737</b>	<b>RG18 9XP</b>
<b>Mon 1-Apr-13</b>	<b>Jan Kjellstrom Orienteering Festival - Relays</b>	<b>Level A</b>	<b>Hambleden</b>	<b>Henley</b>	<b>SU772855</b>	<b>RG9 3BW</b>
Sat 27-Apr-13	BKO Winter Saturday Series (Rushall Woods)	Level D	Rushall Woods	Bradfield	SU576733	RG7 6DN
Sun 19-May-13	BKO SCOA League Event (Bloom Wood)	Level C	Bloom Wood	High Wycombe	SU860890	SL7 3RE

### Cover Puzzle Answers:

*Going from the start triangle to the finish: 1) Benyon's Enclosure. 2) Hawley and Hornley. 3) Rushall Woods. 4) Upper Star Posts. 5) Langley Park Country Park. 6) Bloom Wood.*

## Club Kit



Ken Ricketts



Brian Burt



Andy Parry

### **What have all these club members got in common?**

They are all proudly wearing their BKO tops. Whether at major championships, night events, BKO summer urban events or just as one of the organising team, the tops enable you to stand out from the crowd and be recognised as a BKO member.

As you can see, the tops come in both long and short sleeved versions and in a range of sizes. Price £20. There are also some sweatshirts available.



Catherine Springett



Richard Rae



Ian Hudson

**Sue Wilkes** keeps our stock so if you don't yet have a club top, give Sue a call on **01635 522356** and she will be able to get you kitted up. Alternatively, send her an e-mail on: **sue\_w26@yahoo.co.uk**