

SOUTH MIDLANDS ORIENTEERING CLUB

issue 117 FEBRUARY 2007



SMOC Signals

Chairman's Chat

We are really into the winter orienteering season now. There didn't seem to be much on within easy reach of SMOC territory before Christmas but now there are a plethora of regional events within range from now until Easter.

I've just got back from my first badge event of the year at Ashridge. Unsurprisingly a bit squelchy in places but it really was a case of running in sunlit forests.

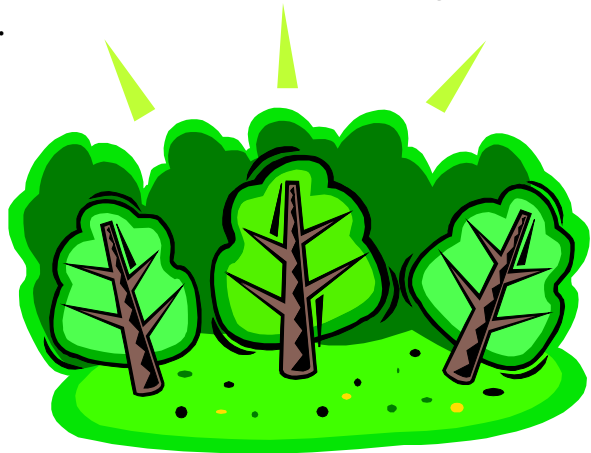
Coming down a level the first Keyne-O of the year was held at Blue Lagoon and was combined with the Club Championships. Blue Lagoon is surprisingly challenging and Stan's Green Course made the most of it. And we managed another lovely day with plenty of old and new faces putting in an appearance.

Keyne-O events will continue through the winter and spring before the Summer Series kicks in with similar informal events but going a little further afield. If there is anyone out there who would like to try their hand at planning an event these Keyne-O and Summer Series are an ideal opportunity to put a toe in the water. Experienced planners will be available for 'hand holding' if needed. Contact me in the first instance for further details.

Finally for those, like me, that find course analysis interesting the latest internet thingy is a "Route Gadget" which enables you to draw your course on the map and compare it with others. See the Ashridge results on HH website for an example.

May you always run in sunlit forests,

Steve



South Midlands Orienteering Club presents
Keyne-O

A series of low key orienteering events in Milton Keynes parks. Featuring:

- A very short, very easy course of about 2k suitable for kids, families and pushchairs.
- A short, easy course of about 4k suitable for less fit adult beginners, older kids who know what they are doing and orienteers wanting some sprint training,
- A fairly easy longer course of about 8k suitable for fitter adults to try orienteering and to provide a challenging run for orienteers. In smaller areas this will include an element of street navigation.

Events will take place on Sunday mornings with starts from 10:30. As informal events they will feature self timing and master maps available for mark up before the start. There will be a flat charge of £1 per map to cover production cost.

Dates and provisional venues for the next events of 2007:

18 th . February	Willen.
18 th . March	Furzton and the Finger Lakes.

There will not be a Long course at the first event. The area is too small. Instead there will be a shorter but trickier course for Club Championship competitors and anyone else who fancies trying some more technical orienteering. It's too small an area to get very lost in!

These are provisional venues so do check on the SMOC website for final details. <http://www.smoc.info>

Come along and bring a friend!

Happy new year all, hope everyone is healthy and happy.

I am gearing up for the Thetford Thrash at the end of the month, and of course the local events too-- and am keen to get to more Sunday events.

If anyone is planning to drive somewhere and could put up with giving me a lift over the next few months I'd be really grateful, and will get to you from Bedford, where I live.

My number is 07708 331923, Jason Falconer



I said today I'd sort out trophy engraving etc. I have the Open trophy and the Ladies, and I think I know where the Junior is.

Does anyone know who has the Handicap trophy? I can't find any indication on the website or in Signals who won it last year. Or maybe the year before?

Richard Pownall

SMOC's 21st Birthday Event is scheduled for Sunday 1st
April
with the Annual Dinner on Friday 31 March.
Watch the website for details

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

*The Brindle family from Cranfield
and*

the Marsh family from Leighton Buzzard

Colour Coded Awards

Following on from the article in the previous edition of SMOC Signals, hopefully you are now familiar with the colour coding of courses at District Events. There is an award scheme associated with these courses. Colour coded awards are made for good performance at District Events

A competitor qualifies for a Colour Coded Award by achieving the Colour Coded Standard for that colour course on three separate occasions. Pairs can qualify for Colour Coded Awards on the White, Yellow and Orange courses.

A White Colour Coded Standard is achieved by anyone who successfully completes the White course.

The Colour Coded Standard for courses other than White is calculated using whichever of the following two methods gives the larger number of qualifiers:

- The time that is achieved by at least 50% of those who started the course, which includes those who retire or are disqualified. Each pair or group on Yellow and Orange courses (if any) should be treated as a single starter.

OR

- 150% of the winner's time.

The Controller may extend the qualifying time if there are reasonable circumstances to do so, but may not reduce it. The Colour Coded Standard time for each course is usually calculated and displayed the final results.

How to claim your Colour Coded Award

To claim your Colour Coded Award you must achieve the Colour Coded Standard in three separate events.

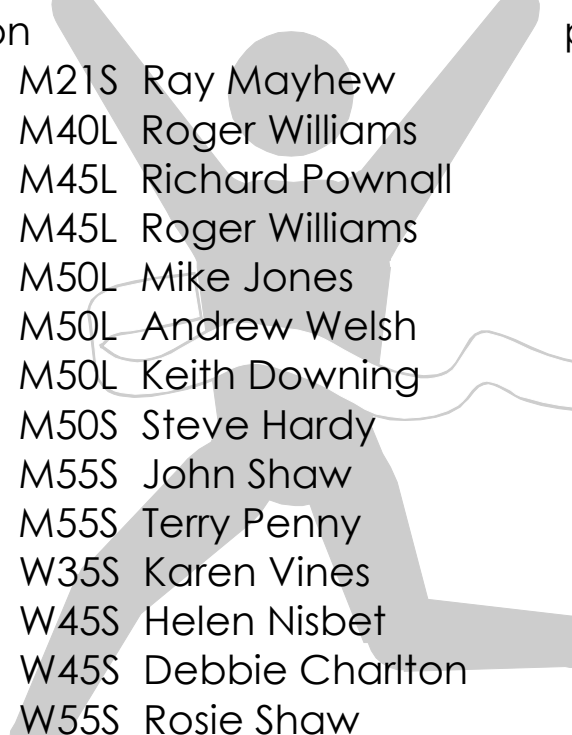
The award is a sew-on badge with a background colour appropriate to the colour of the award made. These can be sewn onto O-tops and worn with

pride, with the ultimate objective of collecting enough awards to put a Russian general to shame!

SMOC members can claim their awards by sending their details together with the details of the three qualifying events (event name, event date, and organising club) to the Membership Secretary, Helen Nisbet.

SMOC in the rankings 2006

Now that most of the 2006 results are in and loaded onto the rankings list, here is the final listing for 2006. The number of SMOC members doing the full 6 events is probably at an all-time low, but there are some good totals. Congratulations to all.



Position			points	events
157	M21S	Ray Mayhew	1015	1
129	M40L	Roger Williams	2445	3
33	M45L	Richard Pownall	6838	6
72	M45L	Roger Williams	5983	6
65	M50L	Mike Jones	6473	6
69	M50L	Andrew Welsh	6404	6
221	M50L	Keith Downing	1854	2
25	M50S	Steve Hardy	6646	6
88	M55S	John Shaw	2074	3
100	M55S	Terry Penny	1415	2
44	W35S	Karen Vines	1121	1
48	W45S	Helen Nisbet	3556	6
57	W45S	Debbie Charlton	2473	3
30	W55S	Rosie Shaw	2685	3

Minutes of SMOC Committee meeting, 12th January 2007

Attendees: Steve Hardy, Helen Nisbet, Robert Dove, Keith Downing, Jason Falconer, John Shaw, Val Russell and Karen Vines

Apologies: Sue Leaker, Richard Pownall, Rosie Shaw, Stan and Jen Holroyd

1) Future Events

- Edgewick Farm, Woburn Sands. It was agreed to put on a Keyne-O type event at the Woburn Sands centenary festival on Saturday 14th April 2007, between 1pm-4pm. The area is big enough for the short and medium courses and a long course could be fitted by extending to local public footpaths.
- Keyne-O. During the summer, Keyne-O will transmute into the usual Summer Series. In May and June, suggested venues were: Marston Vale and Broughton Park. The Summer Series final will be on the morning of 29th July at the Frontier Centre, with two other activities in the afternoon/ Organisers / Planners needed for these events.
- SMOC's 21st birthday event. This is rescheduled for 1st April. It is proposed that SMOC AGM and dinner be held the night before.

2) A committee member will attend the EA fixtures conference on 4th March. A bid for a regional (badge) event for February 2009 should be put forward.

3) It appears that Keyne-O events will not be liable for BOF levy. (At least not at the current size.)

4) Planned Events

- Keyne-O
14th January: Blue Lagoon - Ready to go.
18th February: Willen North. In progress.
18th March: Teardrop Lakes & Furzton – mapping underway.
- Salcey Regional Event (Midland Champs)
A subcommittee will handle the preparation for this event. Keith Downing to chair as Organiser.

5) Matters arising (and not covered elsewhere in these minutes)

- Keyne-O will start appearing in fixture lists. Flyers will be produced for distribution to running clubs, gyms, Youth groups, Parks Trusts notice boards etc.
- Grants are available for development of Orienteering – some extra kit for low key events will be requested.

6) Secretary's report

EAOA is thinking about rebranding. It was decided that, so long as this process is cost-neutral, SMOC has no opinion about the matter.

7) Mapping

- An extra copy of OCAD should be bought to help with the mapping associated with all our planned events.
- The Frontier Centre has asked permission to include their map in Welcome Packs. SMOC would prefer it if this includes the opportunity for users of the centre to take the maps away with them as there is information about SMOC on the maps.

8) Membership.

Registering local members with BOF is creating extra work and is subject to delays. However, this extra burden should not occur next year.

9) Coaching.

This will continue to be offered at events.

10) SMOC Signals

No-one has requested a paper version. The fixture list and contact details of club officers no longer needs to be included as that can be easily obtained once online anyway. (Links to the fixture list pages for nearby club websites should be added to the SMOC site.) The copy date for the next issue is on the 28th January.

11)AOB

- Library exhibition
Luton library is reopening and someone is needed to talk to the public on 24th February.
- Suggestions for small areas in Luton we could bring into use include Stockwood Park, Norton Park and Luton Hoo. We have a lack areas on Northampton too. However the club needs to grow before we have the resources to put on events in such areas.
- Spare plastic bags will be placed in the equipment shed.
- City Challenge, a commercial 'adventure racing' organisation has requested use of A SMOC map for one of their events. Ouzel Valley North seems to fit their requirements though we would charge commercial rates for both maps and any remapping.
- The Brogborough map is on sale at Marston Vale at £1.50 per map.
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12)Next meeting: 7.30pm, Friday 16th March 2007. Non-committee members are welcome to attend but they should contact Steve Hardy first.

Thanks for all the kind comments about the courses at Blue Lagoon but I must make it clear that it was only thanks to John Shaw's help before the event, and on the day along with Stuart that you had any courses to run at all. I managed to badly tear my calf muscle whilst out course checking on Christmas Eve Day, and spent most of the next week or two with my leg on a cushion - its tough being a planner! ("Business as usual, really!" said Jenn as she brought my umpteenth meal on a tray!).



Along with making all the map corrections, John did most (all) of the control tagging and checking - I just did the armchair bit - literally! I managed to hobble round on the wednesday before the event for some last minute changes and some more map updates with John. But short of sorting out the punches and kites John just about did everything. John, please take a bow!

Thanks also to the usual team of help on the day that ensured everything went smoothly and also made sure all the tucker got scooped afterwards at the 3 Horseshoes - thanks are due to Richard for organising the provisions.

Thanks folks. humbly yours, Stan

New Look SMOC Signals

Regular readers will notice a few items missing from the magazine and this is because they are featured in other sections of the website.

You will find fixtures under 'events', with links to local club websites, SMOC personnel under 'contacts' and results of SMOC events under - yes you've guessed it 'results'.

Fuller reports on events will still be included in SMOC Signals so please do not stop writing them, whether they be more details before the event or post event reports.

EMBERTON PARK

I thought that I should inform you that we no longer have an orienteering course here at Emberton Country Park.

Unfortunately, over a period of many years, the old signposts for the course that we did have were damaged or disappeared and owing to the fact that they were hardly ever used anyway, they were not replaced. However, it might be worth considering re-instating such a course. Unfortunately, I do not have any expertise on site with regards to orienteering, so would need some advice. Would you be able to help, or could you give me contact details of somebody who might? Obviously, if we are to re-introduce an orienteering course here, it must be done properly.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Thank you

David MacCarter, Park Manager

EMBERTON COUNTRY PARK , Tel. 01234 711575
Website www.mkweb.co.uk/embertonpark

WOBURN SANDS

Woburn Sands is celebrating its centenary this year, and will be holding several events on the weekend of the 14th/15th April. Edgewick Farm will be the focus of the Saturday - this is a 22 acre site that the Town Council acquired from Milton Keynes for the benefit of the community. It backs onto the Bow Brickhill bluebell woods. A group of us have been working to restore the site to hay meadows and encourage wildlife.

We would really like to put on a low key orienteering event to introduce young and old to orienteering and to the area, maybe a string course and a white or yellow? Would SMOC be able to help us with this? We obviously wouldn't expect a proper orienteering map of the area, but we do have some base maps that could be adapted. I'd be happy to show anyone around.

This could be an opportunity to get some new members for SMOC. We hope to have several other events that day, such as a hog roast, wood carving, stalls etc (a bit like a mini Marston Vale event).

I really look forward to hearing from you, Val

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