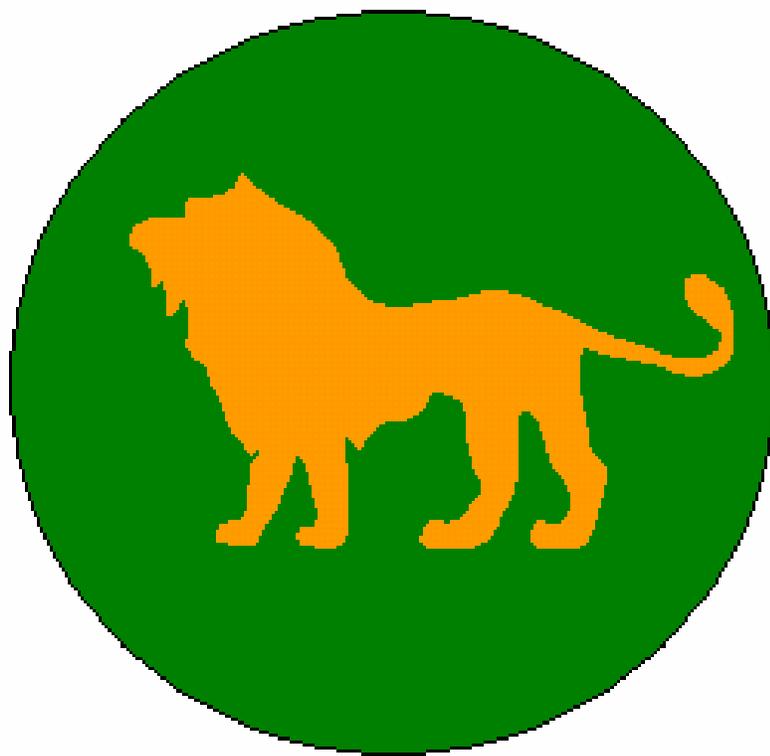


SOUTH MIDLANDS ORIENTEERING CLUB

issue 123 FEBRUARY 2008



SMOC Signals

Chairman's Chat

In the first place a happy new year to all my readers.

On the orienteering front there was quite a happy start with record numbers turning up at the first Keyne-O of the year at Shenley Wood. This despite it being a far from ideal day; while not actually raining it was decidedly damp. There were also quite a number of new faces. It seems clear that increased publicity is helping; this in part resulting from being in the Parks Trust calendar which gets us into the local paper and also from the work of our new publicity officer.

However, personal introduction is still a good way to get people into orienteering so we are still keen that you should come along and even keener that you should bring your friends!

The first Keyne-O of 2008 was in marked contrast to the last of 2007 which had the distinction of being the wettest yet - I managed to hang the controls in the dry but by 10:00 it was tipping it down. The few brave souls that did turn out seemed to be those that had left home before the rain set in. At least it did mean we now have an up-to-date map of the Woughton Green segment of Ouzel Valley. The core of the area is little changed but expanding Milton Keynes has affected the periphery, though oddly enough increasing rather than decreasing the usable area.

Thinking further ahead this is probably a good time to be looking into multi-day events in the summer. For the more adventurous there are plenty of options abroad but for those of us staying in the UK there is the Welsh 6 Day. This can provide an ideal introduction to technical orienteering though for those used to East Anglian woods or Milton Keynes parks it might be a bit of a shock to the system. I well recall taking over 3 hours on one day at my first Scottish 6 day...

May you always run in sunlit forests,

Steve



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2008

We hope that you will want to continue your SMOC membership for 2008. Membership subscriptions include membership of the BOF and EAOA and are as follows:

	Senior	Junior	Family
LOCAL	£6.60	Free	£11.00
NATIONAL	£16.50	£3.85	£22.00

For a full list of the benefits of membership, both National and Local, see the SMOC membership page on our website <http://www.smoc.info/members.htm> .

Full-time students who are 21 and over continue to pay at the Junior rate but need to provide the BOF Office with proof of full time higher education before they will send your membership card.

New to orienteering? If you have not been a member of an orienteering club during the past three years then LOCAL membership is FREE for the first year.

Please renew your membership directly to BOF, either using the form they sent you before Christmas or, for those of you who have mislaid it, the form on the website <http://www.smoc.info/forms/MembForm.pdf>

Please would you renew your subscription as soon as possible.
Thank you

Helen Nisbet
Membership Secretary

Does anyone know if you can buy Emit back-up labels at somewhere other than Emit Online? I was staggered to see that they are £26.50 for 550 - I don't know whether it is the price or the quantity that is most shocking. If every event I go to used Emit, it would take me over 30 years to use the lot!

Or is anyone interested in sharing a batch?

Regards, Helen

Congratulations to James Nisbet, aged 8, on obtaining his Gold Badge for JM1. James achieved his badge for winning at Salcey, Epping and Kinver Edge in his first 3 events at this level. Well done James!



The British Orienteering National Badge Scheme awards badges on the basis of performance over a series of events. Badges are graded Championship, Gold, Silver and Bronze. Details of how the Badge Scheme works are on the BOF website (not the easiest page to find – http://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/downloads/documents/Appendices_JBadgeScheme.pdf). It is available to all age groups but is a particularly good way of encouraging youngsters to develop in the sport.

RANKING LIST

These were the end of year positions for 2007. Several names will move up an age class in January so there will be some changes for 2008

class	pos'n	name	points	events
M21S	196	Jason Faulkner	821	1
M35L	66	Jason Faulkner	2667	3
M40L	168	Roger Williams	956	1
M40S	128	Paul Rushmer	1092	1
M45L	52	Richard Pownall	6829	6
M45L	73	Roger Williams	6376	6
M45L	186	Dorien James	2811	3
M50L	60	Mike Jones	6670	6
M50L	97	Andrew Welsh	6057	6
M50L	103	Keith Downing	5967	6
M50L	202	Haydn Leaker	3011	4
M55S	13	Steve Hardy	7219	6
M55S	58	John Shaw	5173	6
M60S	43	Robert Dove	5279	6
M60S	78	Terry Penny	1977	3
W35S	15	Karen Vines	6545	6
W45S	25	Helen Nisbet	6158	6
W50L	109	Ann Harris	3243	4
W50S	96	Ann Harris	1022	1
W55S	12	Rosie Shaw	6871	6

Well done everybody

Orienteering from your armchair without getting your feet wet

I didn't go to the Sprint Races organised by ShUOC (Sheffield University) on Saturday 8 December, before the National Event at Longshaw on the Sunday. Since it didn't stop raining all day in Matlock, it seemed a fair decision, but it turns out there was more snow than rain during the day in Sheffield. I did visit the event web site however, but in the way that randomly browsing web pages often does, I came across something which might be of interest to many others who weren't there. In fact, if it's as good as the comments written about it, you may never need to get out of your warm arm-chair again to experience the pleasures of O.

All computer-gamers may have discovered their own favourite, but the world's top orienteers seem to have their own best-kept secret world with their own avatars running through superb forests in their own designer o-kit, either on their own, or competing in world-wide competitions. And guess what - the winners still have Swedish names!

There is a free demo version for you to try, but if you're worried that your computer has slowed up like your legs in real life, then you can't use that excuse, race time is also slowed up to compensate. Perhaps that's a rule that the real world should adopt to compensate for my addled brain. The software seems to be made in the US and is available for purchase on line for about £20 at present exchange rates.

I've not used the game, but the following write up taken directly from the orienteering website <http://www.osnow.co.uk/training/cf.htm> has this to say about it: Keith

This is about the best orienteering game ever, possibly one of the most **addictive** and **never-ending** games I have ever played!

The aim of the game...

To get around a course in the fastest time using the compass and map, as per usual. The only difference to real life is that you aren't actually moving your legs, but clicking happily on your mouse! You can play in both 1st person and 3rd person so you can see your kit displayed on your runner. Kits can also be easily edited in Paint Shop Pro or other software and the ShUOC new kit can be downloaded (on the right). The program can run on rubbish computers and it really doesn't make a difference how fast your computer is as the clock is also slower (meaning older computers don't lose out in competitions).

Randomness...

There is even a randomiser for you to make your own maps for the game! This is very good to create a map in seconds which will be challenging depending on the parameters you feed into it. There is the size of the contour features, the amount of water, the amount of rivers, paths, rocks not to mention the green and open areas!! The possibilities are endless and there are even pre-made 'seeds' if you can't be bothered to set the parameters which randomly generate a map.

OCAD?

This is possibly the best part. You can make a map in [OCAD](#) the mapping software for orienteering, and then create a 3D version which you can run on! Awesome!! So far I have made a real map of Loch Vaa in Scotland! It went down a treat! So not only can you create random maps and players kits, you can also make your own maps and upload them to the internet for everyone to play!

Online!

With online tournaments where you can race against people around the globe to see how good you are at virtual orienteering is a sheer bonus. This means that people share their best (and worst) maps and courses and you get a great feeling of competition with races going down to the second! The multiplayer option also lets you play on a network or dial to a local computer to play just with your friends in a chasing start! It really is one of the best multiplayer games I have ever played - and it doesn't involve shooting people or committing some kind of homicide.

You can even see where people went on the course and how they beat you with the 'Post Run Analysis' (pictured above). It really shows you where you lost it or is brilliant for use with race and route choice making!

If you are interested in Orienteering and haven't tried it then do!

Even if you aren't interested in orienteering it is one great game and will get you hooked forever! There is even a free demo to try with multiplayer capability!

Full details and on-line purchasing at: <http://www.catchingfeatures.com/>

Dear Friends, Partners and Supporters,

Thank you – you did it for us!

I'm delighted to tell you that last week **we were successful in securing £67,700 from The People's Millions**, a National Lottery fund, to enable us to plant over 23,000 trees at Shocott Spring Community Woodland between the communities of Shortstown and Cotton End.

Many thanks for all of your support and votes in helping us achieve this success – we could not have done so without you. Look out in the New Year for details of our public tree planting event at Shocott Spring on Sunday 10th February, when you are welcome to come along and help us plant some of the 23,372 trees.

Please pass this message and convey our thanks on to anyone else who you know supported us.

Many thanks again for your help and support, it is much appreciated.

James

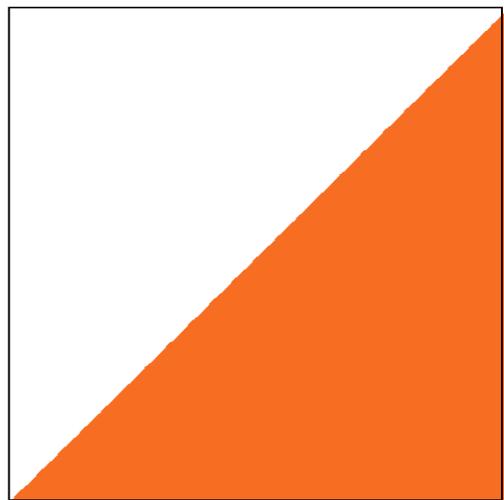
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Don't forget to check the website for
fixtures, results, SMOC personnel,
SMOC Signals deadlines
or any other information you require
<http://www.smoc.info>



SMOC Signals deadlines

issue date	copy deadline
April 2008	23 March 2008
June 2008	25 May 2008
August 2008	20 July 2008
October 2008	21 September 2008
December 2008	16 November 2008