

SOUTH MIDLANDS ORIENTEERING CLUB

issue 132 AUGUST 2009



SMOC Signals

Chairman's Chat

We've recently been in the process of moving house so orienteering has taken a bit of a back seat for a while. We did manage to make it to Keith's Summer Series event at Brogborough and he had again produced technically and at times, if you count thorn bushes, physically challenging courses on quite a small area. Which just goes to show you don't have to travel to Scotland to get tricky orienteering. I'm writing this very late which gives me a chance to congratulate James Nisbet and Rosie Shaw for some good runs on the first couple of days in Scotland (though Day 3 obviously didn't suit SMOCies!) Apologies if any other SMOCies had storming runs but the website doesn't let me search for runners by club so I'm relying on remembering who's there and how old they are.

My house move has had one positive for Orienteering in that I have discovered that the area near our house in Great Linford should make an excellent venue for Keyne-O with a couple of linked parks and a complex network of paths expect an event in 2010. There are probably more areas that with a bit of imagination we could use for small events, check out your area.

Finally I must add my congratulations to Keith Downing for being awarded the Bill Stevens trophy for services to East Anglian orienteering. Keith has always been there to plan, organise, whatever and no one deserves the award more.

May you always run in sunlit forests,

Steve



SMOC Social Evening

at Ye Olde Swan, Woughton-on-the-Green
Thursday 20th August



Come along to this summer social evening. Some of us will be there at 7:00pm for some good pub food. Or come along later around 8:00 for a drink in the beer garden.

Ye Olde Swan re-opened in November 2008 following a £200,000 refurbishment. They have a fixed price menu with 2 courses for £10 or 3 for £12.

Grid ref: SP877375, postcode: MK6 3BS



You may not be aware of the “[One and Other](#)” Art Project which involves standing on the vacant 4th Plinth in Trafalgar Square for one Hour

I entered the Draw to stand on the plinth and my number has come up

All being well I am to stand on the Plinth from 02:00 to 03:00 on Saturday 29th August 2009

You can see what is up there and saying about me by looking at – [Roger's Plinth Profile](#)

(If you are going to pledge to watch then consider having an “Icon” in jpeg form to add at the right point as it will add some variety from the Standard “Thumbs Up” icon)

All supporters are welcome

Hope to see you at the foot of the plinth

Roger Williams

Greensand Ridge Relay

Just looking at my 'sent mail', and I realise that after all the results processing, records calculations etc. I never actually wrote to you guys, the SMOC runners and marshals, to thank you for your contribution to what ended up, I think, as a very successful day. I hope you have had the opportunity to see the results and debrief on the website.

I have received a great many appreciative comments, many of which explicitly asked me to pass on that appreciation to the team. With no less than 190 participants this year, we've certainly created a popular summer tradition. I have voiced some thoughts on future numbers, and the solo runners in particular, in the comments on the website. I'd appreciate your thoughts and feedback on that subject too.

Well done, too, to the running team, who once again arrived in Northhill (just) ahead of handicap. Although in truth, the rest of us would have been languishing well below the par time without Rachel's magnificent 8 minutes and 22 seconds ahead of her handicap time. Only eight other runners bettered that margin on the day, and six of those were on the longest leg 3, with about twice the scope for extending a handicap variance. Truly quite a find!

I haven't quite finalised the accounts yet, but even with an unexpected extra insurance bill (many thanks to John for patience above and beyond the call of duty for sorting that out), the extra team numbers should keep us in the black. I think a small raise on what is really a nominal entry fee is justified next year.

One last thing - would marshals please have a check to see if you might have somehow ended up with dibber number 263135. It was one of the spares issued to changeovers in case of the need for an early start. I don't know which, but I see that Sue issued 263136, so it might have been at Maulden. It wasn't used by a team, but somewhere along the way it didn't make it back home with me.

Many thanks again - we'll do it again next year! Richard.

Greensand results are now posted at
<http://www.smoc.info/GSRR/index.shtml>

Our Keith ...

Today, at the EAOA AGM, Keith Downing was awarded the Bill Stevens Trophy for Services to East Anglia Orienteering when he stepped down after 6 years as EAOA Secretary and 20 years on the EAOA committee.

When we formed SMOC in 1987 most of us had only competed in one or two events and therefore the experience of Roger Cole, Stan Holroyd and Keith Downing was essential. Keith became our first secretary, edited the newsletter (and wrote most of it).

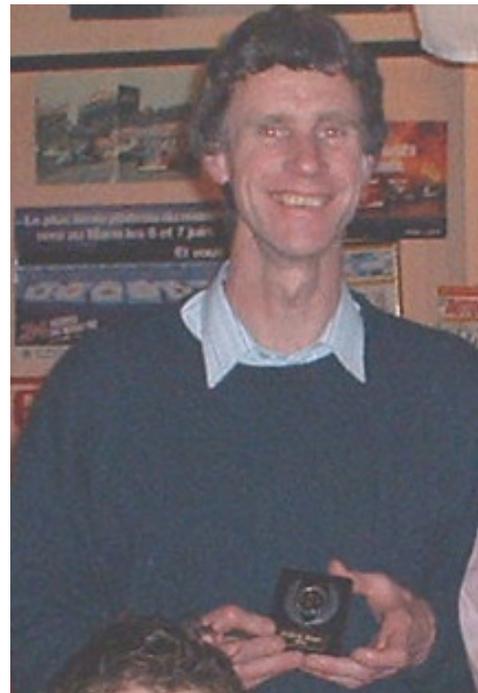
We learned that Keith had orienteered since 1967 as a school boy using photocopied ordnance survey maps on which he failed to copy his course, but still managed to come third by following. Most of us don't follow that well! Keith obviously had a spirit of adventure as he went on to orienteer across England, and by the time SMOC had formed, across Europe. I can remember being very impressed that somebody should travel all the way to Estonia to get lost in a forest.

From memory and a skim through old SMOC Signals, as well as being secretary and newsletter editor, Keith has been our club chairman as well as organising and planning more club O events than I could account for. He was on the earliest mapping groups, helped organise and participated in the first Greensand team for the Club. He has encouraged lesser orienteers to spread their wings and go to the Scottish 6 day, Keith has always been willing to step into the breach and has the honour of being the only person to have been SMOC's chair more than once.

Keith has just been awarded the Bill Stevens Trophy. This is given each year to somebody deemed to have made a significant contribution to the East Anglian Orienteering Association. Keith's contribution goes back 21 years to when he became SMOC's first representative on the EAOA committee. With just a short break he has continued to do this task and contribute to EAOA ever since. However, his contribution has gone far beyond this. As well as organising and planning SMOC events, Keith has been a very reliable and prolific controller in the region.

Congratulations, Keith, on being awarded the trophy. SMOC can't think of a more deserving orienteer!

Rachel Thomas





Sorry scratching our heads on what to say - there's so many memories. Keith has always been, and still is, not just a good friend, but an enthusiastic orienteer whose knowledge of the sport stretches back in time to "the" reentrant" and "a" spur depending on whether or not the feature was actually shown on the black and white maps of yore. He would even say he remembers using a lode stone - though he would always say he never uses his compass - he keeps it in his pocket - just in case!

BH (before Hilary) he was always to be seen around the Holroyd car on the scrounge for a spare sandwich or cup of tea.

It is certainly true that his experience and knowledge back at the start of SMOC kept us on the straight and narrow and preserved us from the over enthusiasm of some other founder members! He was the first SMOC signals editor - indeed he wrote most of it himself - its a shame because I believe those first editions with the faded patchy printing have disappeared.

Stan and Jenn

Being the second editor of SMOC Signals I remember the days when Keith was known as our 'International Orienteer' as he travelled far and wide to send us reports of his orienteering. On a personal level, he's always been helpful to my two boys and especially to Nathaniel when he chose orienteering as one of his GCSE sports.

Sue

SMOC Signals deadlines

issue date	copy deadline
October 2009	20 September 2009
December 2009	22 November 2009

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>

