

SOUTH MIDLANDS ORIENTEERING CLUB

issue 133 OCTOBER 2009



SMOC Signals

Chairman's Chat

It doesn't seem like long since I wrote the last of these and not a whole lot has happened on the orienteering front since then. Though I wasn't there by all accounts SMOC at the Scottish Six days was a great success, socially at least. And James Nisbet is to be congratulated for his third place in M10A which included a win on one day.

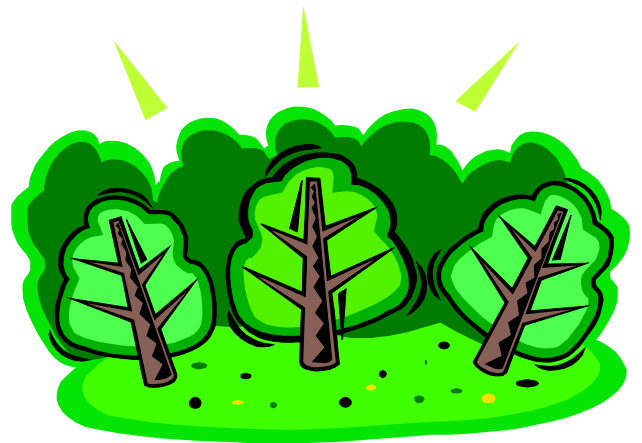
The first Keyne-O of the season at Campbell Park has taken place. About fifty competitors enjoyed some challenging courses planned by Mike Jones who took them to corners of Campbell park I didn't know existed.

Next year the park events will run from March to November. There seems no logical reason not to continue orienteering through the summer in the Milton Keynes parks where dense undergrowth is scarcely a problem. Also, while we get reasonable numbers to the winter events they are something of an endurance test to organise and plan - running a course in rain, snow or frost is OK but sitting around in a tent for three hours is less fun and hanging kites in sub zero temperatures before dawn isn't much fun either.

Coming up soon is our District event at Stockgrove please come along and help if you can and have a run too - it's an updated and extended map.

May you always run in sunlit forests,

Steve



Don't forget.....

STOCKGROVE PARK EVENT
SUNDAY 4th OCTOBER from 10am

This great event will soon take place and looks to be busy. Thanks to all that have offered to help!

However, we really could do with a few more helpers.

Please could you let me know asap if you are available.

Thanks! Rachel

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We are pleased to offer a warm welcome to the following new members:

the Herbert family from Bletchley,

Kelly Gladstone from Milton Keynes,

Lucy and Swapnil Khedekar from Milton Keynes,

the Waters family from Moulsoe

and Christopher Taylor from Leighton Buzzard.

Orienteering Photography

Everybody always says that orienteering isn't a spectator-friendly sport which doesn't offer many chances to see what's going on and that's generally true.

The web site 'Ultimate Orienteering' has had a competition for the best O-photos of 2009 and entries have now closed. The winning photos are well worth having a look at.

<http://www.ultimate-orienteering.com/?p=1870>

Hi

I was clearing out recently and came across the graphics tablet we used to use for tracing base maps and surveys with OCAD 4 in the 1990s in the days of Windows and before XP and Vista.

The latest OCAD uses scanning and cannot use a tablet. I do not know whether it is usable with the later Microsoft operating systems.

I prefer the space so need to get rid of it.

If anyone wants it, please get in touch with me. Otherwise I will dispose of it.

Regards, Robert Dove

Setting a good example for children takes all the fun out of middle age.

- [William Feather](#)

Suburbia is where the developer bulldozes out the trees, then names the streets after them.

- [Bill Vaughan](#)

To get something done, a committee should consist of no more than three men, two of whom are absent.

- [Robert Copeland](#)

Roger on his Plinth

Brief History, when Trafalgar Square was built it was commissioned with four plinths, the money when it came to put a statue on the last plinth so in the 1840's it was left empty. Recently it has started to be used as a place to put art work. Anthony Gormley the artist behind many large scale modern art works in the British Isles including the "Angel of the North" the statues on Crosby beach has arranged to have the 4th plinth for 100 days (6th July to 14th Oct 2009) and put one different person on it every hour during that period, to get a place you had to enter a random draw and I entered very early, within the first 100 and at the time of the last draw in the beginning of September some 32000 people had applied.

Why did I enter? I thought it would be a good opportunity to put scouting and orienteering on in a different environment, at the start of the event there was a 1 in 7 chance of getting a place and I didn't get called in that cut but made the second one and accepted the only time I could make, my choice was between missing the Scottish 6 day (3rd Aug) or the White Rose on the 29th August 2009 at 02:00am, getting a little longer in the tooth I decided not to do my hour then drive to Yorkshire for the White Rose, many said there was a day when I would have. – they "Artichoke" the organisers of the "One & Other" Living Art Project gave me a "Plinther Profile Page" = www.oneandother.co.uk/participants/roger-de-tingewick - at that address you can see my hour on the plinth

What to do, do something that combined things I enjoyed doing, Orienteering and Scouting. We in my scout troop use a small game that involves the main points of the compass and that with few adjustments, it could be played in the square, so that was in. Being so high whatever was to be done had to be big enough for the crowd to see. So it was to be a construction project, which we often do in a scout evening, build something from rolled tubes of newspaper, I built an Icosahedron.

Before going, I had spoken with the organisers about any height restrictions on flags on the plinth as there were restrictions on other items, this was mainly because my scout flag is twice as high as the SMOC one. It was during this conversation I found out about Adrian Bailey of Harlequins OC and his hour, mainly because he was applying to use the square for an event in the main square while on the hour. On to the Plinth I took an orienteering control flag and the "SMOC" flag, it just having 10 years of life, it was the first of the club feather flags, appearing in the Aberfeldy's 6 Day in 1999. Control flags were used for the main compass points in the game.

Having said something about orienteering and touched on the compass it was left to Adrian, Simon and Helen Errington of Happy Herts OC who organised mapping, maps and other equipment for the hour and ensuring that enough people would be about to man and hold control flags at the control sites to putting on an event for an hour.

The 4th Plinth experience consisted of, get to London, not a place greatly visited by myself, signing forms to releasing the footage etc to the Wellcome Trust, SkyArts etc, an interview (Talk about yourself), a photographic session, then out to see what those on the plinth are doing, then load up the JCB Cherry Picker that delivers and collects you, then off you go, a brief chat with the Plinther descending and then you perform before you are collected and returned to ground level for a cup of tea, sign the visitors book and you are discharged to the real world.

Adrian or www.oneandother.co.uk/participants/dadge was on the 11th September 2009 at 13:00. The Erringtons had set up parallel courses, on top of the plinth and slightly larger version in the square itself. The six controls were laid out so that the course seen on the map was a letter. There were lots of letters and the aim was to run enough courses to the spell "One and Other Orienteering Club" I think – this was successful and within the hour all the courses were run by various people and they totaled a total of 8.5K of running, The first orienteer to do a course was tracked all around the course, there were no obvious errors, also the youngest orienteer there was spot lighted in the camera as she went from control to control on a scooter. The biggest barrier to getting the message across is the height of the plinth the power of your PA system. I do think the orienteers injected a bit of colour with the "O" kit into the sea of dark blues and blacks of most in the square. Really it is about people watching the hours and making their own mind up. Would I do it again, Yes, deciding on what the content would be is a bit more of a challenge, if had to repeat content of the hour would I, yes but I need to improve the delivery. If I didn't want to change things slightly I don't think I would have learnt anything from the experience.

Roger Williams
54th member of the 02:00 4th Plinther Club, 1290th Plinther
South Midlands OC
1st Tingewick Scouts

Well done Roger

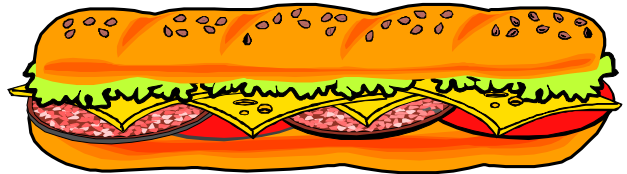
Wilf's

As you may know the Event Catering side of the Wilf's business has been on the market. The sale is now complete, the new owners are Ean & Jane Scott based in Bowness on Windermere.

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A bit of background.... We opened the Café in Staveley in 1997, 6 years after starting the Event Catering business. Since then both businesses have gradually grown but particularly in the last 5 years both have increased in size hugely. Both have had new opportunities that we've had to turn down because we just didn't have the time to give enough attention to new projects or couldn't get the staff. Anyway after 18 years of events we decided to concentrate on the Café & buffet business. The new owners, Ean & Jane, will inject a new energy in the Event Catering business and have ideas of their own to expand.

We've been very concerned to make sure that our event customers are looked after, so things like the 'Mug offer' continues, there are still mugs to buy! Ean & Jane are going to all the events that we have booked in & will be using our contacts. To maintain the quality of product & service we will be providing a lot of support and until they have really got to grips with what's involved.. helping at events. Just the staff will gradually change. Don't worry they have the recipes all the favourites including the chilli & flapjack!



On a personal note we'll miss it lots, the great (and the not so great...) places we've set up in and the customers have always been brilliant, we hope to see you at the Café.

As an organiser, past & present, if you have concerns or wish to talk through if this has any impact on your event please get in touch with either Ean & Jane or ourselves. Future organisers should get in touch with Ean & Jane.

SMOC Signals deadlines

| issue date | copy deadline |
|---------------|------------------|
| 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>

