

# Black and Green

September 2014



Dear members of NOC this newsletter attempts to inform and set out some of the challenges that your committee have grappled with over the last several months. Most importantly the recruitment of essential committee members whose functions are essential to the smooth running of events, the continuing development of standards in performance and the dissemination of information both for the committee, the membership and the general public.

It is a truth universally acknowledged that a club is only as strong as its least committed member and whilst sometimes one can appreciate the Groucho Marx view about individuals and an organisation, then those who wish to participate in Orienteering events ALL need to take some responsibility for assisting in the provision of those opportunities to participate in our sport?

As I hope you will know Catherine Hughes (Volunteer Co-ordinator) and Lindsey Brown (Coaching Officer) recently had to announce their resignations (and many thanks for their hard work). These are vital roles in both the development of the club membership and the provision of events. Those regular readers of the web site will also know that the committee have been seeking an Editor for the Black & Green and a Press & Publicity Officer for well over a year. These roles are perhaps, not quite so significant but are important in the healthy development of the club and its role locally and regionally.

The most significant post of Volunteer Co-ordinator has been advertised, the committee has sought to 'head-hunt' potential "volunteers" but without success. This pivotal role enables the club to hold a register of all suitably qualified event organisers, planners and controllers together with the constituent 'teams' that staff each major event. The Volunteer Co-ordinator then can allocate, after consultation, personnel for each event.

With major autumn and winter events on the horizon, in some cases there are still no essential people to fulfil the roles that we all expect. If we are unable to recruit such people, then, the committee will have no other option than to begin to cancel events.

So I ask you, dear reader, to consider your commitments, discuss with those nearest and dearest and volunteer your services for the good of our club and the continuing enjoyment of our sport here in Nottinghamshire.

Please contact any committee member to discuss these positions and the commitment and skills they require, our e-mail addresses are on the web site.

The rest of this document reminds you of events, some opportunities but also allows us to mark the passing of a very committed club member Alan Beardsley who died in the summer. We reprint here below David Olivant's moving eulogy.

Andrew Breakwell  
Chair

## Alan Beardsley

1948 – 2014

It was with a sense of shock and loss that we learnt of Alan Beardsley's death from a suspected stroke. Alan had been a stalwart member of NOC for 30 years and carried out every role - planner, controller, helper in all areas and especially from my point of view as one of NOC's reliable team of mappers.

Alan was quiet, self-deprecating, always willing to help and one of the nicest guys you will come across. He was a regular at the Scottish Six Days "NOC house party" and on the wider front will be remembered for putting together the annual photo competition in CompassSport magazine. He was excellent at general knowledge quizzes and written and verbal word games.

For me as a fellow age-class competitor he was one to try to beat.

As a mapper Alan was responsible for updating many of NOC's maps including on several occasions Sherwood Forest and most recently Clumber Park for the Robin Hood Trophy in 2014. At the other end of the scale he has mapped scores of schools across Nottinghamshire and as planner produced some of NOC's most memorable competitions.

I remember the first time he appeared, it was after a summer weekday evening event at Vicar Water, one of the first held there, and we had retired to the pub in Old Clipstone to discuss a certain route choice, over, around or under a railway embankment. It became clear that this quiet stranger was going to be here to stay. Before long he expressed an interest in mapping and has been involved continually since.

Alan was a teacher at Sutton Centre where he introduced orienteering, did coaching with a number of students and quite often took a mini bus of students to events until he retired in 2002.

From 1971 to 1974 he taught in Africa in Zambia at a remote boarding school in the village of Sesheke on the banks of the Zambesi.

In addition to nearly 30 years orienteering, for the same length of time he was a National Park ranger based in the Peak Park at Fairholmes. Sadly it was there on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July that he was taken ill.

We will miss him.

David Olivant

### Fixture Programme from November 2014 – Event Volunteers

Date	Event	L e v el	Volunteer Officials
Sat 8 Nov 2014	Winter League & AGM COLWICK PARK	D	VOLUNTEER(S) PLEASE
Sat 15 Nov 2014	Night Event RUSHCLIFFE COUNTRY PARK	D	VOLUNTEER(S) PLEASE
Sun 23 Nov 2014	Winter League SANSOM WOOD	D	VOLUNTEER(S) PLEASE
Sun 21 Dec 2014	EM League WALESBY & BOUGHTON BRAKE	C	Planners : Nick & Janet Evans Organiser : Alison Slater Controller : Richard Torr
Sun 4 Jan 2015	Winter League BESTWOOD COUNTRY PARK	D	VOLUNTEER(S) PLEASE
Sat 31 Jan 2015	Night Event BURNTSTUMP COUNTRY PARK	D	VOLUNTEER(S) PLEASE
Sun 8 Feb 2015	Winter League SILVERHILL WOOD	D	Planner/Organiser : Paul Hudson
Sun 22 Feb 2015	EM League HARLOW WOODS	C	Planner : Joe Taunton Organiser : REQUIRED Controller : David Cooke
Sun 15 Mar 2015	Compass Sport Cup Heat SHERWOOD PINES	B	Planner : Andy Llewelyn Organiser : REQUIRED Controller : REQUIRED
Sun 12 Apr 2015	EM Score Championships CLUMBER PARK	C	VOLUNTEER(S) PLEASE
Mon 4 May 2015	EM Urban League NEWARK	C	VOLUNTEER(S) PLEASE
Sun 5 Jul 2015	Yvette Baker Trophy Final NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY	C	VOLUNTEER(S) PLEASE
Sun 13 Sep 2015	EM Urban League SOUTHWELL (TBC)	C	VOLUNTEER(S) PLEASE
Sun 11 Oct 2015	EM League SHIREBROOK WOOD	C	VOLUNTEER(S) PLEASE
Sun 8 Nov 2015	EM League THORESBY NORTH	C	Planner : David Cooke Organiser : Robert Parkinson Controller : REQUIRED
Sun 20 Dec 2015	EM League BRAMCOTE HILLS	C	VOLUNTEER(S) PLEASE
Sun 14 Feb 2016	EM League THIEVES WOOD	C	VOLUNTEER(S) PLEASE
Sun 28 Feb 2016	Midlands Championships SHERWOOD FOREST	A	VOLUNTEER(S) PLEASE

There are experienced planners and organisers available to mentor volunteers who need help. Please contact Andrew Ridgeway in the first instance if you are available:  
[andrew.ridgeway@talk21.com](mailto:andrew.ridgeway@talk21.com)

### ADVANCED NOTICE

The NOC Annual General Meeting will take place after the Level D event at Colwick Park on Saturday November 8<sup>th</sup> at 12.30 refreshments provided !

Important matters to discuss.

Agenda and papers to follow.

### **Rushcliffe Country Park, Ruddington, NG11 6JS**

**Saturday Autumn Programme on:  
30 August, 20 September, 18 October, 1 November, 29  
November & 13 December**

**Start anytime between 11.30 - 11.45am and see how many controls you  
can find in 45 minutes.**

**For more experienced club orienteers there will be a harder version  
available for training.**

**Walk, jog, run on your own or with friends / family and learn to navigate  
with the orienteering maps**

**All specialist equipment will be provided and the activities will be suitable  
for all ages and levels of experience and fitness. Coaching advice for all  
and exercises adapted for more experienced club orienteers.**

**Adults £2; children / students £1; family groups £3 Children under 12  
must be accompanied by parent/carer**

For more information contact:  
Hilary Palmer 01159820651 or ro@noc-uk.org

Park in the main car park (£1 voluntary fee) and meet at the picnic tables by the  
Environmental Centre

### **Experienced Planners and Controllers Conference: Saturday 4th October 2014**

The annual conference for experienced Planners and Controllers will be at Rushcliffe Country Park. The main presenter will be Barry Elkington (OD) and there will be an opportunity to share experiences of your activities and consider the implications of the revised Rules of Orienteering.

Lunch provided!!!

Please inform Ranald Macdonald ([r.f.macdonald@btinternet.com](mailto:r.f.macdonald@btinternet.com)) or your club EMOA representative if you wish to attend.

**NOC** – Pauline Olivant ([p.olivant@btinternet.com](mailto:p.olivant@btinternet.com))