

LEI News

editor - john cooke

The Newsletter of the Leicestershire Orienteering Club

Ramblings from the Chair



Since I penned the Chairs Ramble for the Spring edition of LEI News at the end of January rather a lot has

happened both within the Club and the wider field of Orienteering in general.

In February the Club reached a significant milestone in its history, becoming the 22nd club in the British Orienteering Federation to gain Club Mark. Club Mark shows that we are a sporting club that is well managed, pursues policies that encourage fair play, equality and guards the welfare of our junior members. My thanks on behalf of the Club to Judith Holt and the members of the Development Team who put in a lot of work to make this happen.

Many of you will be aware that earlier in the year British Orienteering finalised the

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revised event structure that will come into play on the 1st January 2009. Without going into too much detail (see the BOF web site for the nitty gritty) instead of the current 5 levels of events we will have only 3. How will this affect our fixture list? Not a great deal. The Summer and Winter Leagues will continue as at present. We expect to offer the current 5/6 colour coded events per year which I would expect to continue to form part of the East Midland league. The real change will be with Regional (Badge) Events. At the time of writing we are not totally certain how that will work out but as it will be some 30 months before we run that level of event again there is plenty of time to ascertain how the new scheme will work. Don't panic we are not abandoning the higher levels of competition as I will explain.

On 10th May 2009 we shall be hosting the British Middle Distance Championships at Cademan and Thringstone Woods. Under the new event structure British Championships classes will be available to all age classes, unlike previous years when only the elite competitors had British Championship Classes. This is the first time that the club has hosted an element of the full British Championships. We should take it as a mark of confidence in the club by British Orienteering. Please put the date in your diary as not only will it be a chance to run in a "British" without driving to the other end of the country but we shall need every club member to lend a hand on the day.

LEI has been asked to organise in October of 2009 the Compass Sport Cup and Trophy Finals. We are still looking at possible areas. As is often the case with

Orienteering the better areas do not always have the facilities and infrastructure to cope with large numbers.

Moving to 2010. In March of that year we will be hosting the new style Level One Midland Championships on the Belvoir Estate, using in addition to our normal area, land that has not seen Orienteering for 25yrs! If my understanding of the new event structure is correct the Regional Championships are intended to replace the old style National Events and run at a level only just below the JK and the various British Championships.

With three top level Orienteering events in the programme I hope that our members will not miss the old "Badge Events"

On more domestic matters we have over the last few months, with financial assistance from the National Forest Company and help from Leicestershire County Council and the Woodland Trust, been able to design and build another four Permanent Orienteering Courses and reinstate a fifth. Details of these new courses are on the club web site and hopefully, Irene, in the very near future, will be selling maps and course details at the club shop. Thanks to Roy Denney, Roger Edwards and John Marriott for all the (literally) hundreds of hours of work that have gone into this project.

If you have attended one of the Summer League Events over the last two months you will be aware that we are using SI equipment for most of them. This is partly because we have some of the EMOA kit, which we as a Club help finance, on loan throughout the summer and because we have also purchased further SI kit for the club including the

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Club Coaching

A club introductory coaching course is being held on the following dates:

- ◆ Monday 9th June - 19.00 to 21.00
- ◆ Saturday 14th June - 09.00 to 13.00

The course is aimed at enabling participants to support newcomers at Summer League and other events. For members who are school teachers it will cover how to introduce orienteering in primary schools.

There may be spare places for non club members.

Please contact [Roger Edwards](#) 0116 212 7547.

Roger Edwards

New Members

Welcome to the following who have joined the club this year:

Sarah Ford

Michael Pinches

Peter Murray

Drew Thompson

Wyn, Sandra, Emma & Ben
Sleeman

Nicholas & Imogen Wilson

Birthe Richter-Wilson.

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small download printer to use at C5 events. With some further purchases in the process of being made our total spend on SI equipment this financial year will be in the region of £1,300. With technology moving at its current rapid pace I envisage that that this level of spending will become a fixture in our

annual budget and that will only allow us maintain our present levels of equipment.

Finally congratulations to Mairead Rock and Ben Windsor on their performances in the Future Champions Cup.

Chris Phillips

LEI Club Development

Club Mark achieved

In February LEI became the 23rd orienteering club to achieve Clubmark status. Details of the benefits to the club and what needed to be done to achieve this end are given in more detail on the club website www.leioc.org.uk—go to <members> <clubmark>.

Judith Holt was presented with the Clubmark certificate, on behalf of the club, at the JK in March. This photograph of Judith holding the Clubmark certificate featured in the recent edition of Focus, the magazine of British Orienteering.

Course for people who want to get involved in introductory activities

A club introductory coaching course is to be held in June. The course is aimed at enabling participants to support newcomers at Summer League and other events. For members who are school teachers it will cover how to introduce orienteering in primary schools.

See advert on page 4 for full details.

Series of training opportunities

LEI will be offering coaching before the events at Burbage Common on Sunday 15th June, Snibston Discovery Park on Saturday 5th July and Evington Park on Sunday 20th July. The coaching will take place from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. approximately. Contact Judith Holt for further details and to book a place.

Country Parks / open day events

LEI took part in day 2 of the Burbage Common Countryside Weekend. The event took place on the 17th/18th May and LEI were in attendance on the 18th. We offered a terrain adventure (large string course) organised by Roger Kelly and a short and slightly longer white standard course with some introductory guidance if required organised by

Judith Holt.

The weather on the day was pretty good, unlike last year when it rained non-stop. There were a steady stream of takers on the Terrain Adventure course (based in the marquee) who were then pointed in the direction of the introductory courses which were a little way from the centre of the action. The success of this play was demonstrated by the number of children who turned with lollipops in their mouths, the prize for completing the Terrain Adventure.





Coaches Lee Powell and Judith Holt working with two separate groups at the Burbage Open

Schools Partnership. The children were introduced to the map with a 'map walk', given several single control exercises and then let loose on a couple of white standard courses.

The purpose of the exercise being to introduce primary school children to orienteering and

hopefully capture their interest for the future.

A schools event with a slightly different format was held at Guthlaxton School the following day. Roger Edwards organised this so that schools raced head to head over 2 rounds in pre-arranged teams.

British Orienteering Coaching Day

British Orienteering put on a days coaching in the southern Lake District on Saturday 10th May followed by a Regional event at Hamp's Fell the next day. A contingent from LEI made the trip north, see Irene's 'Club Shop News' article for further details.

Picnic at Evington Park July 20th

To add a social aspect to the Evington Park event why not bring a picnic to share and get to know other orienteering families.

Judith Holt

Success of our older young people

Three LEI juniors figured in the Future Champions Cup for 2008, Mairead Rocke, John Rocke and Ben Windsor.

Mairead finished 3rd overall in the W18 class including winning the long distance final at Cawthorne and Keldy on 4th May.

John finished 13th overall in M20 but did not take part in the Finals which reduced his potential score considerably.

Ben, a relative newcomer to the sport compared to the Rockes, achieved a very creditable 14th spot overall in M18 the class.

John has also been selected for the Great Britain team for the Junior World Championships to be held in Gothenburg from June 29th to July 6th

Schools events

Chris Bosley once again organised an event in Martinshaw West for schools belonging to the South Charnwood

Club Shop News

B'O'ng

Here is the Local, National and International News

B'O'ng

Locally, Mrs LEI copes with 'Retired Man' and finds treasure.

B'O'ng

Nationally, LEI overcomes catastrophe in the Lake District.

B'O'ng

Internationally, LEI avoids disaster in Belgium.

The news in detail from your newly promoted reporter, Mrs LEI. Irene over to you...

The Continuing Adventures of Retired Man & Finding Treasure

Only one of the two trunks of our special lilac tree needed sawing down. It was about 4inches (10cm) diameter and I had cut half way through, got stuck on a tough bit and went off to do some weeding. Enter Retired Man. I explained about the one trunk, the one which is already half sawn through I'm sure my readers already have finished the story.

Why don't men listen!?! Farewell, *all* of the special lilac tree.

After leaving written details, backed up by verbal instructions to switch off the

bread maker I set off to the dentist (root canal treatment). Quoting from Victor Meldrew, upon my return, "I don't believe it!" Retired Man has switched off the wholemeal bread dough in mid-cycle in the first bread maker, leaving the white bread dough, in the second, to carry on rising, up, out and down the sides of the bread maker – just visualise a mad professor's experiment. However, most of the dough was rescued and I invented cheese, onion and sun dried tomato bread plaits, which have proved most popular!

For those keeping tabs on Retired Man's attempts at 'Still being in your dressing gown', he has raised the World Record to 3:45pm.

Retired Man (in dressing gown) has been exceptionally busy planning Wakerley. I'm not sure who advertised in the event details 'Club Shop will provide refreshments' but it certainly put me in a panic. Oh dear, East Midlands Championship should bring more customers than a Summer League or Colour Coded. So I busily baked much more flapjack and parkin, tomato, red pepper flans and the newly invented bread plaits. And I still ran out of flapjack!

During a Wakerley conversation, Ian Wilson enquired, whether chronicling the Adventures of Retired Man were difficult to write – no, they are a way for me to let of steam (poisoning / murder being a little drastic).

"But he's such a TREASURE," replied Ian. I had never thought of that before, but I

have been calling him Treasure ever since.

Now for the National News where LEI members overcome catastrophe in the Lake District

Members of Plaid Coalville- 'A drinking club with an orienteering problem'. took up the offer of attending the LEI Coaching session in the Lake District.

Roy, Roger E, Bob H, Retired Man and self, Chris & Roger P, Dave and Rachel, Pete H and Peter L set off to the Lakes on Friday, met up at a pub in Coniston for food (and beer). We chose meals for Dave and Rachel who were still travelling when the time limit for last food orders approached. Despite mobile signals breaking up, we sent them a text when their chips arrived and got back a text saying "HANDS OFF HORNSBY!"

Some members of the group had been drinking for several hours and the message became corrupted to **Hans Hoff Hornsby** – the newest and first international club member well known for stealing chips.

Courtesy of Roy, we were staying in the Yorkshire Climbing Club hut near Little Langdale. The hut is normally men only and there was one bunk room, with three storey bunk beds – tricky when drunk.. I originally misspelled that as 3 STORY bunk beds but after a long day travelling, too much booze & food I didn't even need one story to send me to sleep.....aaaahh

Next day, Chris P discovered he had a flat front tyre. Probably a casualty of the rough track that led to the hut. Why do garages tighten the wheel nuts so much?

Then the jack wouldn't work and finally the wheel itself was stuck. It was like watching Fred Flintstone, Barney Rubble & friends as rocks & logs were used to bash & loosen the wheel nuts & wheel. While the rest of us went to the training, Chris P went in search of a new tyre instead of the space-saver version. Catastrophe averted.

Judith Holt had organised LEI's training but the forest was full of other clubs & squads making use of the area too. Unfortunately, Judith & her bicycle had been 'interacting' with a white van and she was no longer able to come to the Lakes, so Roger Edwards led the session.

In the afternoon we did our own thing: sculpture trails, permanent 'O' courses, long walks, or checking out the local hostleries. If you want a challenge, match the people from the list above to the correct activity; the activities are arranged in high brow to low brow order

In the evening we walked the short distance to Little Langdale for a thoroughly enjoyable meal (& more drink.). But the final bill was more than we expected; four more mains & an extra sweet than we expected!!! Financial catastrophe avoided we stumble back to the hut in the dark

On Sunday we whizz round cleaning up the hut & packing our bags. (We will need a reunion to swap back lost items) and travel to Hamps Fell. Originally, Laurie Fluck was coming to the Lakes but circumstances conspired to prevent this, so there was a pre entered place going spare on the M60S course. As we wait in the Start area, the official calls out Laurie's name, Roy answers 'Yes' and I step forward to take Laurie's place . I haven't orienteered for ages, so I was very surprised when the first half of this M60S course went without a hitch (I'm

secretly thinking 'This is a doddle') then I cross a wall separating the open limestone area from the wicked impenetrable forest of fairy tale dimensions. The map is a maze of brown; contour lines, spurs, re entrants, pits, depressions, form lines, ditches, gullies, knolls. It is so busy with all these close together brown wiggly things that I can't workout what's up or down. I do finish , but not in a time that would be a credit to Laurie. Amazingly, Roy, who is battling with a chest infection, does well.

As the other woman present, I'm sure Rachel will agree that the week end was akin to a two & half day committee meeting with tipsy teenage boys. All discussion was orienteering based but strayed into double entendre (double meaning) & innuendo (in your end o) For instance, I learn that reporters attached to army units are described as 'embedded' snigger, snigger . Rumours that I was in Hans Hoff Hornsby's sleeping bag are true---but it was his SPARE sleeping bag and I was ALONE (Due to misinterpretation of Roy's details, John & I had not brought our big sleeping bags, just thin cotton liners.)

Readers may like to put forward suggestions on how to disguise SI dibber boxes, as recently several were damaged by yobs while out in the competition area. One suggestion was to place them inside empty crisp packets as camouflage in litter strewn sites. Another suggestion was hollowed out plastic dog pooh. Good though this seems at first, competitors mistaking real dog pooh for plastic might get a bit cross. So do think your idea through carefully before you write in.

Back to the Lake district report. Rachel topped 'The Funnies' list with her, seemingly innocent, plastic, protective banana case. (Doesn't everybody have

one?) It's very large, very yellow & quite curved. 'Oh what a big one!' The game of 'Think of a 100 uses for the banana case' is dynamite and unprintable in a family magazine! I should sell them in the Club shop or I'm sure you would all run faster if they were prizes at the club dinner. Think of the amusing photos of club chairman presenting the proud Summer League champion with their banana case all our top runners have cupboardfuls of LEI mugs, a banana case would be much more useful.

A big thank you to Roy for organising the Climbing Hut and for cooking breakfast.

Puzzle Why do the yellow washing up gloves, in a male-exclusive hut, only fit women?

And the international news is from the TROIS JOURS de BELGIQUE where Retired Man avoids disaster to become the top LEI runner

The weather was beautiful so John & I decide to camp with Bed & Breakfast as Plan B should it start to rain. I am promised that the money saved by camping can be spent on **wining & dining** Little did I know that Retired Man hadn't actually booked a camp site just a ferry crossing and his orienteering entries..

Being on time /early are not words that are associated with the Marriotts, so it is with disbelief that we set off on Friday for Dover and arrive too early for the ferry. As it is lunchtime I am **'wined & dined' at the caff in Tesco's near Dover. Grrr**

A beautiful smooth crossing but when we arrive in Calais it is now 3.45 pm as they are one hour ahead. Better put the foot

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by piles of salad. My beef is lovely, but I'm sure I ordered lamb.



TROIS JOURS de BELGIQUE

Back in the tent we set the alarm on the phone to be up for John's start at 9.30am

Next morning we are in a panic, OK the alarm was on but the phone was set on English time

we jump in the car & go, luckily to the same nearby start as yesterday.

John's orienteering is consistent, doing OK except for one control. Still, beer food & sunshine puts everything right.

We have very little diesel left, but Treasure believes it's cheaper in Luxembourg. I don't fancy having to push an out-of-fuel, but heavy BMW in the hot sunshine. We didn't see any petrol stations in Arlon, but once we reach the border there are 5 in a row. Treasure was right.

We spend a lovely Sunday afternoon in Luxembourg. It's so clean & tidy & we walk around the city walls, down to the river & back up again.

Wining & Dining continue in Arlon & this

time we try out our French conversation in the Chinese restaurant. I am given a tasty chicken & egg soup, but I'm sure I ordered mushroom.

The main course was a selection of meals for two, sweet & sour chicken, pork & pineapple, beef & peppers, Chinese style squid (it still tastes like elastic to me) and rice of course. Well we ate so much that next morning we didn't need any breakfast.

Monday morning and John is orienteering in a forest used for training army tank drivers. There are even special symbols for abandoned tanks and foxes' dens. Today I am not allowed to sit and scribble notes for the Wild Flower Survey or even rough drafts of the Retired Man Chronicles, I put on an LEI shirt & try the entry on the day, 'short but difficult', course. I coped very well with short, but difficult needs more practice. John's orienteering is consistent, doing OK except for one control. Again, beer food & sunshine puts everything right



Irene relaxing in Belgium after her trials in tribulations with Retired Man.

We return to take down the tent and set off home this time avoiding Brussels. We break the journey at Tournai and then have to dash to Tesco Vin Plus in cite Europe loading up with beer & wine for ourselves, Andrew. Suzi & Edd We are in & out of the supermarket in 15 minutes. (John has a GPS thingy on his wrist and it was still switched on & logged our Tesco trolley dash)

And so after 3 days orienteering John Marriott is the top LEI runner in Trois Jours de Belgique . (He is the only LEI runner) Enthused with beer, bonhomie & more beer, he is seriously considering planning a Trois Jours de Wakerley & is looking for like-minded people to join him.

I am hoping he will send two photos of himself and myself to the web site . After

all we represented our club and survived **many near disasters**: no campsite, no money, no diesel, no corkscrew.....

And Finally

Guess which Man goes into the pub after the Burrough on the Hill Summer League event with only euros in his pocket (luckily does a deal with Roy The Banker)

Did you realise that Retired Man is only a few letters in the alphabet away from Retarded Man?? (Is that politically correct Editor??) (*possibly not PC but equally not inappropriate—ed.*)

And this is your reporter

Irene Marriott,

Retired Man Hits Back

Below is an extract from an email sent to me by John Marriott correcting some of Irene's claims—I leave the reader to decide who to believe—ed.

. . . (but don't believe everything that Irene wrote). It was her idea to camp at the event centre – I had a very nice camp site in mind just down the road. We went to Tesco's because the Vintage Inn pub I was planning to go to in Canterbury (which we have visited several times) didn't open until 11:30am and didn't do food until 12:00 and we wouldn't have had time to get to the ferry. As it was we still had time to find a nice quiet country pub for a pint in the garden after we had eaten in Tesco's – We could of course have eaten on the

boat, but we were both hungry and I wanted a rest. Irene had packed some cheese sandwiches for the journey so we had to eat them – didn't we??

Of course she was wrong when she said I made a mistake at one control – it was usually more!!! I won't bore you with all the other bits – at least I got round my courses even if my orienteering was down to my usual retarded standards. .

John Marriott

Spotlight on the Deep South

As your Access Development Officer I am constantly reviewing and researching our areas and looking for extensions or additions. In doing so if I come upon any interesting information for example the ecology, geology or history, I note it on file and sometimes include snippets in my access report or in Out and About. I thought the records would be of general interest so am going to start a series of occasional articles putting the spotlight on different parts of our patch.

I get several comments about why we do not use more areas in Northamptonshire and others asking why we go there at all. Given the distance involved from where the bulk of our members live, the similarity of most woodlands down there, the shortage of local members to map or stage events and the modest levels of turn out for events down there the Club feels that it can at most only maintain a selective presence. I have however done a considerable amount of research down there and on my watch we have added Fineshade, Fermyn, Old Dry Hills and East Carlton Park to our portfolio.

On this occasion I thought I would share my records with you on those areas south of Corby that we use or are potential areas we are keeping an eye on. Quite apart from those mentioned we have considered others and discounted them for the foreseeable future.

We have looked at the valley of the River Ise with Kettering Council. Wicksteed Park has been mapped for orienteering but the admission charges make it unusable for our purposes. Adjoining this we did produce a simple map of an area of parkland along the river and helped

Kettering stage a Try Orienteering day. They would not however pay for a professional map and it is too distant and too small to be of sufficient use to us to justify further involvement by the club.

The areas we are interested in comprise a continuous band of woodlands running for miles, east of the A6116 from Corby down to Lowick and the woodlands of the Boughton Estate, other than Boughton House and Park, itself. We do of course also have the distant outpost of Irchester.

BRAMPTON WOODS

About 200 acres in size between Market Harborough and Corby, this is a fairly uninteresting block of woodland for our purposes and whilst we are aware of it if we ever need another location in this area, it is very low priority at present.

FERMYN WOODS

Fermyn (which means farming) is right at the heart of the original Rockingham Forest which was part of continuous ancient woodlands originally stretched from Peterborough to Oxford and this area is little changed since the 12th century. The area has an abundance of mineral wealth and has been comparatively populous back to the Bronze Age.

Even though Corby is an industrial monstrosity based on iron and steel works it is surrounded by many pockets of fascinating woodland many of which

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resemble Irchester with steep banks left from early iron ore extraction. This was a boom area during the iron-age with a thriving industry in the making of tools and weapons. The ironstone and a ready supply of timber for charcoal production account for most of this history.

This is largely coppiced woodland gone wild with the more diverse area of the original Brigstock Park founded on sand and gravel extraction quarries. The area we now know as Fermyn was until recently Brigstock Country Park and Fermyn Woods. These were joined together to form a new Fermyn Woods Country Park as a joint venture between Forest Enterprise and Northamptonshire County Council. Just south of Fermyn lies Lady, Souther and Titchmarsh Woods which we used to use and the combined area if available to us would cover 506 hectares of which 438 is owned by the Forestry commission. Just to the north are Old Dry Hills and Harry's Park also Forestry Commission and we sometimes use this area by walking people in from Fermyn.

The former Brigstock Park area where the quarrying had been carried out is very detailed and the visitor centre regularly provides packs for the permanent orienteering course.

GEDDINGTON CHASE

This is part of the Boughton Estate in Northamptonshire owned by the Duke of Buccleuch one of Britain's biggest landowners. At about 600 acres, Geddington Chase is the third biggest ancient wood in Northamptonshire and was formerly part of the once extensive Royal Forest of Rockingham. The bulk of

the Chase is now commercially re-afforested but an SSSI defines the biggest block of remaining semi-natural broadleaved woodland.

The site is a good example of the wet ash-maple woods of the Midland boulder clay areas, a type which has declined significantly in the county in the last 40 years. In places the original coppice-with-standards structure is well preserved and elsewhere oak-ash high forest provides a contrasting habitat.

The tree canopy is predominantly oak and ash over a mixed scrub and coppice layer of hazel, Midland hawthorn, field maple, blackthorn, dogwood and grey willow. The ground flora is typically diverse including wild daffodil which is rare in Northamptonshire, but occurs here sparsely. The whole complex supports a wide range of common birds and insects.

The area is crossed by numerous rides and rearing of pheasants and shooting takes place.

We have met with the estate manager in the past to explore possibilities but did not take it further as we have numerous other areas in the district which is remote from our heartland.

(See also Old Head Wood and Grafton Park wood)

GRAFTON PARK WOOD

This is part of the Boughton Estate in Northamptonshire owned by the Duke of Buccleuch one of Britain's biggest landowners. This is just south of Brigstock and to the east of Boughton House itself and just separated from Old Head Wood by a minor road and a short stretch of farmland. Grafton Park Wood is

about 400 acres in size and is open to the public. The two woods are also separated by a disused airfield which could be an ideal event base. It was in fact a base during the war for American bomber squadrons.

The House is 15th century and was modelled on the palace at Versailles and is home to the Duke of Buccleuch

The wood is by Grafton Underwood a charming little village of long standing. The village is referred to in the Domesday Book as Grastone, the name derived from Old English meaning "homestead in the Grove".

The 'Underwood' was added in the 18th century, and possibly relates to the nearby Grafton Park Wood, which is a part of old Rockingham Forest.

Grafton is cut by numerous rides and is typical of most of the woodlands of that area. If we ever felt the need for another such event area it is one well worth considering if we could access Old Head Wood as well

HARLESTONE FIRS

This is part of the Althorp Estate, much commercialised since death of Diana and access charges are now prohibitive. Our map is very stale given recent fellings. Some areas of heathland in the vicinity have not been planted over, mainly on the Northamptonshire County Golf Course, and patches of heathland survive among the conifer plantation of Harlestone Firs, both on the rides and emerging after blocks have been clear-felled. The re-emergence of rare woodland plants unrecorded for 100s of years, at Harlestone Firs suggests that there is a rich seed source still surviving under the plantation areas. There are

also areas of mature woodland within the wood.

Althorp Park itself is also home to a number of splendid ancient oaks. Althorp, located seven miles west of Northampton and home to the Spencer family for around 500 years, is probably best known because of the late Princess of Wales. The house, which includes outstanding collections of paintings, ceramics and furniture, is set in 55 acres of undulating parkland. It is the Princesses final resting place.

IRCHESTER COUNTRY PARK

Truly the most unusual location we use, it is a pity this country park is so small and at the extremity of our area.

Set in the heart of the Nene Valley, the park was formerly an iron stone quarry - the distinctive 'hills and dales' landscape a testament to its heritage, looking every inch like a ploughed field but multiplied many fold. The furrows can be as much as 30 feet deep.

When the park was opened in 1971, nature and the locals had reclaimed it for their own. However, its history goes back much further: the stunning 'Wembley Pit' shows geology dating back 165 million years - a real Jurassic Park!

The park contains a mixture of mature woodland and grassy open meadows. With its varied terrain overlying ironstone and limestone rocks formed all those years ago, Irchester Country Park is a Regionally Important Geological Site. Quarrying ended in the 1960s.

The planting of over 250,000 trees provides visitors with a chance to see a working woodland - managed for its timber, recreational use and of course for

wildlife – from the green woodpecker to sparrow hawks.

The area has been mapped for orienteering for many years and there is a permanent orienteering course. It is one of the few areas where the best route from A to B which are 100 yards apart may be a half mile detour.

LADY, SOUTHER & TITCHMARSH WOODS

The area was first used in 1977 but not for some years. It is under mixed ownership but all managed by Forest Enterprise, our access is resisted by tenants with 'sporting' rights and when lost to us we moved activities to the nearby Fermyn Woods & Brigstock Country Park. We have an old but out of date map.

The area is made up of typical rather boring 'Northamptonshire' plantations. The combined area if available to us and including Fermyn would cover 506 hectares of which 438 is owned by the Forestry Commission.

OLD DRY HILLS & HARRY'S PARK

This is a large block of largely typical Northamptonshire plantation woodland. It is probably approaching 200 hectares in size. The south east end where we normally start any events is actually Old Dry Hills and is of a different nature to Harry's Park which makes up the rest of the area. Harry's Park is a fairly tangled and very boggy plantation with a myriad of ditch systems. Whilst we have used it for larger events it is not very attractive woodland and logistically it is difficult as we normally have to walk people in from the nearby Fermyn Woods.

It is all owned by the Forestry Commission and at one time we approached C N Spencer Ltd (Sawmills) of Brigstock to add their adjoining Laundimer Woods as this would give us a link through to Stanion Woods but they were not receptive. We have also approached Fermyn Hall for a link in the opposite direction to Fermyn Wood CP but again without success.

Without links into other woodlands this site of only modest interest and we are unlikely to expend much money, time or effort in updating the map.

OLD HEAD WOOD

This is a part of the Boughton Estate in Northamptonshire, owned by the Duke of Buccleuch one of Britain's biggest landowners. Just south of Brigstock it lies to the west of Grafton Park Wood and north of an abandoned WW2 US air force base. Not open to the public it is about 450 acres in size and could be used in conjunction with Grafton Park Wood if we wish to pursue woodland in this area

OUNDLE WOODS

A typical Northamptonshire working woodland of 58 hectares owned by the Forestry Commission. Given the levels of support we have in these distant parts and the number of similar sites available to us this site has not been pursued since our original enquiry.

PIPEWELL WOODLANDS

Probably about 250 acres in size this is a typical block of fairly tangled Northamptonshire woodland and given that it is a distance from our heartland

and we have a number of similar and larger areas in the district we have not as yet pursued this prospect. It is in the ownership of several parties possibly as many as 6. Part is leased by the Forestry Commission but they lease their area from one of the other smaller owner occupiers. We have his details and he would be the first point of contact if we decide to make enquiries

STANION WOODS

This is a fascinating smallish piece of woodland with a mysterious ownership. By itself it would barely do for a training event but could be linked through Laundimer Wood to Old Dry Hills if permission could be obtained.

It is a complex area of former iron ore extraction lines very much like Irchester, long neglected and now heavily wooded. It probably used to belong to British Steel and then possibly their residual authority but we have not been able to establish who owns it at present and neither could the Sports Development Officer at Corby which is close by.

Stanion Lane Plantation and the nearby South Wood are subject to threat from transport routes but are also being promoted for areas to be brought into properly managed woodland facility for Corby. Under the circumstances and given that we cannot get permission for Laundimer Woods we are just keeping a watching brief on these woodlands.

NVO

We also have maps of several old areas mapped by Nene Valley Orienteers before they were wound up and we took over their responsibilities.

BADBY WOODS

This small area is over the border into Northamptonshire near Daventry and we inherited the area when NVO folded. We still have the old map of the area but have not now used it for many years.

Badby Wood is ancient woodland – it has been growing there for over 700 years. It was designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest in 1985. It mainly consists of native hazel and oak trees with ash in wetter areas as well as a mixture of birch, elder, honeysuckle, holly and rowan. Within the wood there are bracken glades, ancient earthworks and a stream. Bluebells carpet the woodland floor in May and June.

Other woodland plants to be found include wood anemones while wildlife inhabitants include badgers, foxes and pipistrelle bats, and birds such as the nuthatch, wood warbler and tree pipit. Badby Wood was imparked in 1245-6, creating a deer park for the Abbot of Evesham who had a Grange at Badby. The park pale (the boundary created to keep the deer in) still exists in the form of woodland banks around much of the wood.

BUCKNELL & NORTH HAZLEBOROUGH

About 400 hectares of Forestry Commission plantation, this is to the west of Silverstone. We inherited the area when NVO folded and the map is very stale. Given the distance and the number of similar woodlands we have in Northamptonshire we are not using this at present.

HUNSBURY HILL

Situated approximately 2 miles from Northampton town centre is a park of some 38 hectares in area, dominated by the crown of an Iron Age hill fort on the crest of Hunsbury Hill. We have an old map having inherited the area when NVO folded but have not used it for many years.

There is historical evidence about the site going back to Roman times and iron smelting was an early industry. In 1970 it was developed as country-type park, albeit within a built up area. It comes complete with an ironstone museum and trains and playing fields.

Hunsbury Hill Fort which is a scheduled ancient monument was a major focus in the early settlement of the Upper Nene Valley (Iron Age and Roman periods).

LINGS WOOD

Lings Wood, which was common heath land in the 16th century, became deciduous woodland by the end of the 19th century and was subsequently changed in part to a conifer plantation. It is now managed by the local wildlife trust and is now designated a Local Nature Reserve. It is owned by Northamptonshire County Council and covers over 22 hectares in the Eastern District of Northampton itself and being now surrounded by residential areas, forms a valuable haven for wildlife in the borough.

The name 'Lings' dates back to the 16th century when it was common land of grass, heather - also known as 'ling' - gorse and birch. In 2000 the Wildlife Trust opened the Lings Environmental

Centre, a purpose-built extension to Lings House.

We have an old map inherited from NVO when it folded but have not used the area for many years.

SYWELL WOOD & PARK

Lying peacefully between the Northamptonshire villages of Ecton and Sywell, Sywell Country Park is a mixture of mature woodland, sheep-grazed meadows and the enclosed waters of an Edwardian reservoir.

Built to supply water to Higham Ferrers and Rushden, The 236 million gallon (28 hectare) reservoir and waterworks opened in 1906. This use ended in the early 1980s but today's country park still contains reminders of the reservoir's working past. The waters and banks of the reservoir are a welcome wildlife refuge for birds such as terns, kingfishers and swans. Different habitats within the park are managed for the benefit of other wildlife; native butterflies in the butterfly Garden and wildflowers such as bluebells in Hayes Wood.

We have an old map of the area which we inherited from NVO when it folded but have not used the area for some time.

Roy Denney

To check out the locations of the above areas go to Fixtures/LEI Country on the LEIOC website (www.leioc.org.uk) - ed.

BOC 2008



The British Orienteering Championships, held in the Culbin Forest adjacent to the Moray Firth, did not feature too many LEI members. Hardly surprising when you consider it is 400+ miles each way and no longer coincides with a bank holiday thereby requiring at least one days leave for those unfortunate enough to still be working (*smug grin appears on editor's face!*).

Those of you who went to the Scottish 6 Days last August will be familiar with the area.

As you can see from the table above those of us who did go got value for money as we were all out for well over an hour.

Our three intrepid M60Ls decide that having come all that way they ought to

do a relay run and came a creditable 13th out of 59 team in the Mixed Ad Hoc category

Individual results			
M60L	19(69)	Andrew Middleton	1:20:10
M60L	43(69)	Chris Bosley	1:32:24
M60L	62(69)	John Marriott	1:49:05
M60S	18(200)	John Cooke	1:40:11
W55S		Judith Holt	Retired



Relay result							
13	LEI Lightning						2:02:06
	John Marriott	26:05	3	C	7	26:05	3
	Andrew Middleton	55:47	43	A	23	1:21:52	20
	Chris Bosley	40:14	17	B	28	2:02:06	



Summer League 2007 for the Royal Bank of Scotland Shield



The 2008 summer league is nearly a third of the way through at the time of writing with 6 events under our belts. So far there have been a number of park and sprint races starting with Knighton, then East Carlton and Abbey Parks, and by the time you read this a school event at Guthlaxton college in Wigston.

This years joint event with OD is at Dilworth Clumps, you may have run on some of the area at the Willesley C4 last year, but the northern part of the area and the start are new to orienteering. For the first time in a few years, the club is organising a bike O under the auspices of the TCA. So you will be welcome to dust off your roadworthy bikes and helmets for an event based at Thornton on June 19th. Two new areas later this summer are Oakham Tops, a woodland trust area just to the west of Oakham and Bosworth battlefield. Linford Woodlands may be an unfamiliar name to some of you but the area probably is not as it includes Johns

Lee Woods and the surrounding national forest new plantings. Our final event this year is at Sence Valley on 2nd September. The mass start will be from the Queens head in Heather and not surprisingly, the prize giving will be back at the Queen's head immediately after the event.

This year the club have access to the EMOA SI kit and have purchased a splits printer and download box to try to make more use of electronic punching at our informal events. Where there is a risk of vandalism, we have tried using SI just for the start and finish (I notice from CompassSport that this approach has been used in the Kent Night Cup as well). The aim is to give more feedback to competitors and make timing and registration easier at events. Let me know if you think it is working!

Mark Foxwell



The LEIOC Annual General Meeting will be held this year on the 27th October at the Forest Hill Golf Club

THE LEICESTERSHIRE ORIENTEERING CLUB INCLUDING THE SUMMER TRAINING

Events are informal, usually with a social element
Weekday starts are staggered from 6.30 to 7.30 pm - courses close 8.30
(these times may be advanced by 30 minutes at either end of the season)
For non competitive training & other events (*) please try to arrive by 6.45 pm.
It is hoped that events marked (>) will have electronic punching
League events are indicated with (L)
Entry fees - Adults £3.00 - Juniors £1

Events are provisional, awaiting permissions etc. Please confirm
Coordinator Mark Foxwell 01509

DATE	DAY	EVENT		ORGANISER	NOTE
Apr 3rd	Thu	Knighton Park	> L	Mark Foxwell	Sprint
Apr 9th	Wed	Bradgate	> L	P Hornsby	Mass S
Apr 17th	Thu	East Carlton Park	> L	Liz Roche	Starts
Apr 23rd	Wed	Abbey & Riverside Parks	L	John Cooke	New r
May 6th	Tue	Castle Hill	> L	Rachel Simonetti	
May 15th	Thu	Burrough Hill	L	Andy Portsmouth	
May 21st	Wed	Guthlaxton College, Wigston	> L	Roger Edwards	Sprint
May 28th	Wed	Dilworth Clumps	> L	Iain Tebbutt	Joint v
June 5th	Thu	Outwoods	> L	Pete Leake	Regula
June 19th	Thu	Cycle-O	>	Dave Toach	Thorn
June 24th	Tues	Beauchamp College, Oadby	> L	John Marriott	Includ
July 5th	Sat	Snibston	> L	James Hornsby	As par 10am
July 9th	Wed	Swithland	L	Laurie Fluck	Botton
July 15th	Tues	Annual Orienteering Treasure Hunt	*	Peter Hornsby	Bagwo
July 20th	Sun	Evington Arboretum	> L	Dave leBoutillier	Park a
July 29th	Tues	Bosworth Battlefield	L	Roy Denney	New a
Aug 7th	Thu	Linford Woodlands	L	Simon Ford	Johns
Aug 13th	Wed	Borough Hill, Daventry	L	John Ward	OD or
Aug 19th	Tues	Oakham Tops	L	Roy Denney	New a
Aug 28th	Thurs	Watermead West	L	Chris Bosley	
Sep 2nd	Tue	Sence Valley	L	Mark Sherriff	Mass S

2008 SUMMER SMALL EVENTS PROGRAMME
TRAINING LEAGUE for THE RBS SHIELD

League scores are on standard handicaps and the best eight events count giving everyone a chance of success in the league if they perform as well as their age would suggest they should.

All events include a technical course. There will always be an introductory level course for novices and young children and where practical an intermediate standard course.

League points are also allocated for all training events

For more information on arrangements either with the organiser or league coordinator contact 01530 646695 or visit www.leioc.org.uk

S	GRID	SOCIAL VENUE
, starts 6-7pm	SK606008	Cow and Plough, Evington
Start 6.30 pm Car Park £1	SK524119	Griffin, Swithland
6.15- 7pm	SP833894	Red Lion, Middleton
map	SK583053	Beaumanor , Tom Hoskins
	SK554083	Railway, Glenfield
	SK766115	Stag & Hounds Burrough
- Starts from 3.30 -New area and map	SP598985	Black Horse, Aylestone
with OD New area and Map	SK322161	Masons Arms, Donisthorpe
car Event	SK514159	Priory, Nanpantan
ton area	TBA	Bricklayers Arms
ing Sprint for O&W P - New map inc Brocks	SP628994	Cow and Plough
rt of Leicestershire Walking Festival, starts - 1pm	SK416143	Robin Hood, Swannington
m car park	SK536117	Griffin, Swithland
orth area: School Holidays start 12th July	TBA	
at Cow and Plough, starts 10.30-11.30	SK629020	Cow & Plough
area and map- meet Shenton Station Car Park	SK397003	Red Lion,Market Bosworth
Lee and Bailey Sim (Welsh 5 day)	SK504105	Coach & Horses, Markfield
rganising (and entry fees)	SP585621	George, Kilsby
area and map	SK840074	Grainstore, Oakham
	SK602096	Woodman's Stroke,Rothley
Start 6.30 pm	SK391109	Queens Head, Heather

How to improve your score in the Summer League

Doing well in the summer league should just be a case of getting to know the summer league coordinator and buying him a few post race pints. In practice, (sadly,) it's a bit more complicated than that. The following should give a few tips and be an aid to checking your scores.

1. Either win your event or come very close to the winner. It's not just enough to run fast! Points are decided on your relative time to the average of the first three. This may mean that your score is a bit higher at the less well attended events, but the unexpected attendance of a British team member knocks your score down a bit!
(the average of first three becomes first 2 with less than 8 competitors and the winner if less than 4).

2. Run the right course. The long course scores are based on $100 \times \text{average time} / \text{your time}$. Medium course is scored out of 75 and short course out of 35. An additional point is that the medium and short scores are capped at 75 and 35 respectively, but the long course is not (for example, if you win long and are 10% above the average then you get 110). Medium and short are capped to dissuade stronger runners from entering these courses, winning by a long way and pushing down scores for other competitors. Note also that the ratio may change from 100:75:35 dependent on the event format. (E.G. 4 course events such as OD score 100:80:60:35, Joint events with LOG where there is a Green course and a longer RED score

100 for both courses.) Having said all that, it may not simply be a case of entering a longer course because you could get more points. You may score better on a shorter course, depending on technicality, relative length and level of competition. And of course the league is about enjoying yourself and improving your orienteering, so you should enter the course that you feel comfortable with. It's never much fun to still be out as it is getting dark.

(Score events work the other way around of course- so your points divided into the average points for the first three.)

3. Be a bit older! (Or younger if under 21) The league is handicapped so that your scores are increased by 4% for every age class away from M21 (M to W gets 4% as well.) On this basis for example, an M65 score is multiplied by 1.28 and a W40 by 1.12 to give the handicapped total. Although you can't change your age, it is worth checking that the summer league coordinator has your age class correct and has applied the right handicap as this is always the most difficult part to check. The more competitive amongst you will also want to check that your fellow competitors haven't gained advantage from a handicapping error in their favour!

4. Turn up to lots of events. League scores are based on your best 8 events, but you also get 10 points for each event you attend. Once you have attended 10-12 events, it is difficult to increase your

best 8 score by very much, so the attendance scores become more important. Getting people along to events is very much an aim of the summer league and for this reason points are given for attendance as well as performance. (Although if you attend more summer league events, we hope your orienteering will improve of course!)

5. Organise/plan an event. Event organisers get their best score for the season for the event they organise. (its a bit like playing the joker in it's a knockout - for those with a high enough handicap to remember) If you are unable to run due to helping, you can also claim those points- but this is strictly policed as you can carry over the maximum score to more than one event and raise your score significantly in some cases. Organising a summer league event is a good way to get into planning. If nothing else, you get to spend a lot more time to see how areas are mapped and the thinking behind planning- which can benefit your orienteering as well. Support for new planners is always available from experienced planners and controllers in the club. For the more experienced in the

club. this is a good chance to organise less standard events such as score, norwegian, map memory and sprint.

6. Be aware of training and "unscorable" events! Where events are marked as training in the league, you will get 50 points or your average score to date. This allows you to not worry about competing and use the event for purely training purposes. Your points may not improve but hopefully it will have been a useful session. Note also however, that if meaningful scores cannot be obtained from an event, then it may be declared a training event for scoring purposes. This has happened at a couple of events over the last year.

Finally a few reasons why you may not appear in the league. If you are under 8 years, competing in pairs or shadowed with assistance- you will not usually appear in the league (but will be in the event results.) Towards the end of the season, the league is adjusted to include only those that have attended more than one event.

Mark Foxwell

LEI 2008-2009 Winter League

The fixtures that will count towards the LEI 2008-2009 Winter League are shown in the accompanying table.

Winter League 2008-2009		
Sat	27 Sep	Knighton Park
Tue	21 Oct	Burbage Common
Sat	1 Nov	Abbey Park
Sat	15 Nov	Brocks Hill Country Park
Wed	26 Nov	Fosse Meadows (night event)
Sat	13 Dec	Xmas event Sence Valley
Thu	1 Jan	Evington Park & Arboretum
Wed	21 Jan	Beacon Hill (night event)
Tue	17 Feb	Donisthorpe Woodland Park

JK 2008



The 2008 JK was held in Sussex with event centre at Crowborough. It was most notable for the gradual deterioration of the weather which culminated in quite heavy snow for the Relays on Day 4. The picture below gives some idea of what it was like.

Nevertheless there were some sterling performances from LEI members as shown in the table on the opposite page.

Particular mention should go to Shirley Moir for winning the W70S class, Ben Windsor and Bob Titterington for 2nd place in M18L and M65S respectively



(Ben was 1st in race 1), John Rocke for 3rd place in M20E, Donald Moir for 4th in M75L and Mairead Rocke 7th in W20E (Mairead was running up from W18E).



The results of the Sprint race on Day 1 are shown in the table above. Three 4th places from six competitors seems a remarkable coincidence!

We only had one entry in the relays but they were unfortunately disqualified for mispunching on the middle leg.

John Cooke

JK Sprint Race—Day 1				
Class	Pos	Name	Time	K/sec
M18E	9	Ben Windsor	19:51	7.4
M20E	4	John Rocke	17:17	6.4
M55	4	David Bray	20:27	9.3
M55	15	Ian Wells	23:08	10.5
M60	21	John Marriott	24:00	12.0
W18	4	Mairead Rocke	19:39	8.2

Pos	Class	First Surname name	Race 1	Race 2	Overall
2(34)	M18L	Ben Windsor	55:25(1)	68:31(8)	123:56
3(56)	M20E	John Rocke	38:25(4)	67:14(3)	105:39
20(74)	M21S	Roger Phillips	73:47(26)	70:28(23)	144:15
20(117)	M55L	David Bray	67:47(25)	60:47(26)	128:34
	M55L	Ian Wells	dsq	77:34 (78)	
22(110)	M60L	Andrew Middleton	62:47(25)	61:55(20)	124:42
52(110)	M60L	Chris Bosley	65:48(31)	77:54(65)	143:42
72(110)	M60L	John Marriott	88:28(88)	74:16(56)	162:44
37(47)	M60S	John Cooke	74:29(38)	94:43(39)	169:12
	M65L	Peter Leake	75:54(50)	dns	
2(20)	M65S	Robert Titterington	44:31(4)	48:29(2)	93:00
4(20)	M75L	Donald Moir	48:05(4)	56:51(5)	104:56
	Red	Derek Ricketts	78:22(25)	96:09(18)	N/A
7(36)	W20E	Mairead Rocke	41:14(7)	64:39(9)	105:53
22(58)	W55L	Judith Holt	51:04(9)	78:31(36)	129:35
42(50)	W60L	Christine Middleton	73:29(39)	87:58(44)	161:27
1(6)	W70S	Shirley Moir	69:36(2)	65:08(1)	134:44

Recent events update



There have been three District or Regional events since the last newsletter was published:

Rough Park and Rising Wood 27 January 2008

District Event

Looking at the results pages on the LEIOC website I see that apart from a Summer League event in 2005 this area had not been used since before 2001. It had been planned to hold an event in the autumn of 2006, however the designated controller for that event concluded that the undergrowth was far too thick to make the area a practical proposition at that time of year, hence the January date for this event. There had been a lot of rain until a week before the event and the planner, Simon Starkey, reported that depressions had turned into lakes and paths into streams. However a dry week and pleasant spring-like weather on the day removed any potential problems on that front.

In addition to the aforementioned planner the other event officials were Dave Toach (organiser) and Graham Watson (controller).

Although in parts the area lived up to its name the event was well received and an attendance of 137 competitors satisfactory for an area which rightly or wrongly does not have the best of reputations.

Fermyn Woods 9 March 2008

District Event

Fermyn Woods is one of the more distant LEI areas and as such suffers in terms of attendance although 144 competitors was more than attended Rough Park.

	Rough Park	Fermyn
Brown	17	19
Blue	37	31
Green	40	30
Lt Green	14	16
Red		6
Orange	6	14
Yellow	13	21
White	10	7
Total	137	144

The main reason for this appears to be greater numbers on the Orange and Yellow courses due to a contingent of Scouts and young RAFO competitors.

Despite forecasts of storms the weather was sunny but cool. The courses, planned by Roy Denney and controlled by Roger Edwards, seemed about right in terms of time taken and appeared to be well received.

Wakerley Woods 27th April 2008

Regional Event

Like Fermyn, Wakerley is also one of LEIs more distant outposts. so a total attendance of some 274 competitors is very good. This figure was certainly helped by the event being nominated as the East Midlands Championships for 2008. This no doubt tempted orienteers from DVO, NOC and LOG who might otherwise have considered it too far to travel.

The planner (John Marriott) and the controller (Peter Leverington) discovered a in January that part of the forest was being used for a paintballing type activity on the day. This constrained the planning options somewhat but John was still able to produce suitable courses for the EM Champs.

The event was well organised, as usual, by Gary & Mary Boothroyd

The table alongside shows the breakdown of the competitors by age class and demonstrates a major problem facing orienteering, namely lack of numbers in the younger age classes. M/W21s and M/W35s show quite small numbers which does not bode well for the future when the numbers of the currently predominant 50 to 60 year olds will have dwindled. Will there be enough competitors to keep the sport viable?

John Cooke

Colour Coded	
White	4
Yellow	11
Orange	4
Lt Grn	6
Total	25

	Men		Women
JM1	-	JW1	2
JM2	5	JW2	3
JM3	6	JW3	2
JM4	9	JW4	4
JM5L	4	JW5L	3
JM5M	1		
JM5S	2	JW5S	4
M21L	8	W21L	3
M21S	6	W21S	3
M35L	4	W35L	1
M35S	2	W35S	1
M40L	10	W40L	4
M40S	6	W40S	7
M45L	15	W45L	3
M45S	3	W45S	7
M50L	17	W50L	5
M50S	13	W50S	3
M55L	18	W55L	8
M55S	3	W55S	1
M60L	17	W60L	7
M60S	4	W60S	1
M65L	8	W65L	1
M65S	3	W65S	1
M70L	6	W70L	1
M70S	-	W70S	-
M75L	3	W75	1
M75S	-		
Totals	173		76

Out and About



Red squirrels continue to struggle as their territory shrinks and one of the last English strongholds has been badly hit by Squirrel Pox. Freshfield near Formby has been decimated by the disease brought in by encroaching greys who are largely immune to its affects.

There may however be a future for the reds assisted from an unlikely source. As the numbers of pine marten have increased with much habitat assistance from man, it has been noticed that the red squirrel is doing rather well thank you. It seems that the marten is a successful predator on the grey, both species spending much time on the ground whereas the red is largely unbothered by the marten given that it spends much of its time high in the canopy.

A century ago the marten only survived in a few pockets in the highlands but since they became a protected species in the 80s they have been spreading into Perthshire, Lanarkshire and Lomondside in particular and it is now estimated that there are about 4000 adults at large.

Not only are some species doing well and other less well but many are changing their habits and trying to adapt. Goldfinch numbers are increasing as they learn to feed in gardens. They used to be comparatively shy birds only seen in the countryside. No one could describe the jay as shy but again it did not normally raid our gardens but it is increasingly doing so.

Wood pigeons, long tailed tits, collared doves and even woodpeckers are now seen far more often in proximity to our homes.

Turning to the woodlands we use, the fastest spreading and most troublesome of the deer now found in Britain is the pig-like muntjac. You may go months without seeing one but they are all about us and I have seen them at several local locations. You may well see one without realising it as this small brown stealthy creature is no bigger than a Labrador and if seen briefly, is often taken for a fox or dog.



By their very nature we cannot be sure of Muntjac numbers but they are widespread and especially common in the Midlands and South. They are steadily moving north and are now found in Tyne and Wear. North West England is free as far as I know and Scotland has so far escaped.

There are thought to be at least 150,000 and even that is 300% up in the last

decade and 20% in the last two years. This is bound to explode until habitat and food shortages cap it as they breed very young and at all times of the year unlike other species of deer. They are quite happy in urban areas and can be found within a few miles of the centres of Birmingham, Leicester and other Midlands cities. I must disturb one at least once a month wandering around the local woodlands and I am sure other event official out whilst the woods are quiet must do the same

Muntjac are active throughout the day and night but are secretive during daylight hours, making more use of open spaces during the hours of darkness especially where experiencing frequent disturbance. They are busiest at dawn and dusk. After feeding they digest their food whilst "lying up", which is when I tend to stumble on them.

Muntjac populations are often as high as 50 in a square kilometre in some areas and have been recorded at double that which is not bad for a creature which only escaped into the wild about a century ago. Having said this it is by no means a new species. They date back more than 15 million years and do not appear to have further evolved as they are such a resilient and flexible creature.

This compares with our native roe which only evolved about one million years ago and the comparative new species of the fallow, thought to only date back a mere one hundred thousand years.

This short stocky deer is more like a cross between a pig and a goat. Adult bucks weigh 10 to 18kg but only stand 44 to 52cm at shoulder with does slightly smaller.

A common name for the muntjac is the "barking deer" as it gives out a single,

loud bark together with various strange squeaks and screams in various circumstances. Miles from any other person in the early morning mists at Fermyn whilst putting out controls such noises conjure up images not for the faint hearted.

Muntjac have short branched antlers with one or two points and are quite long lived. Bucks can live up to 16 years and does up to 19 years. They are solitary animals and have one youngster (a kid) each year at any time of the year. During summer they are a reddish brown which turns to a grey brown during the winter. The bucks have visible upper canine teeth.

Unfortunately the muntjac feed on ground flora and species of less usual plants are under threat. Those such as broad-leaved helleborine, sanicle, wood



anemone, yellow archangel, primrose, dog's mercury and wood sorrel are not common nowadays and will become less so with the spread of this miniature deer. The bluebell, lords and ladies, honeysuckle and enchanters nightshade

(Continued on page 30)

(Continued from page 29)

are also under threat and this has a knock on effect up the food chain. As these plants decrease so does the insect population and the birds which feed on them and in turn the birds of prey which feed off them. Butterflies and moths also suffer and the whole ecology is under threat.

We have previously reported the onset of SOD, the sudden oak death syndrome and the further threat to our historic oaks from the oak processionary moth spreading from the continent. We also get periodic attacks from oak roller moths and on another threat from the continent as a fungal infection moved northwards through Spain encouraged by global warming.

Problems have now come closer to home and struck dramatically in our own back yard. Charnwood Forest has been hit and it is now looking as though the mighty oak which has over the centuries been taken as a symbol of endurance faces a battle for survival as a devastating disease hits home.

This contagion, previously known as slow oak decline, kills the plant from the top down. It is now back in a more virulent form and the problem is now simply known as oak decline. It has spread to over a hundred areas around the country, with literally thousands of trees affected so far. Experts fear that with global warming the disease will spread even more quickly in future and that oak decline could prove more damaging to the countryside than Dutch elm disease was in the 1970s.

The Forestry Commission fears that the number of reported cases is just the tip of the iceberg and the Woodland Trust confirms we have very real problems

with our oaks.

Charnwood Forest, here in Leicestershire, was first affected four years ago, and to date twenty trees are known to have died and hundreds more are now infected; 250 at the last count.

The first indication that a tree has oak decline is a yellowing of foliage. Leaves then start to thin and the tree dies from the top downwards, often described as having a "stag-headed" appearance, with large, leafless branches pushing

upwards like antlers. The weakened oak loses the ability to fight off attacks from insects or fungi and die long before their time. Oaks which often live for 400 years and sometimes much longer, are dying before reaching 40. This disease has appeared from time to time but has now returned in an "acute" form, killing trees very quickly and allowing less time for woodlands to recover, a condition which has alarmed wildlife experts.

. . . oak decline could prove more damaging to the countryside than Dutch elm disease was in the 1970s.

Roy Denney

East Midlands Championships



The East Midlands Championships for 2008 were held at the LEI Wakerley Woods event on the 27th April. The trophies were awarded at the DVO Hardwick Hall event .

LEI had a good representation in the championships with LEI EM Champions shown in the table alongside. The winners are pictured below courtesy of Roger Williamson (apart from Alison who you may just be able to detect was not originally in the photograph).

East Midlands Champions

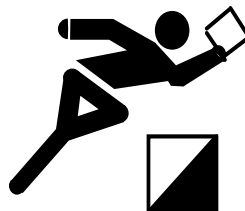
M10	Nicholas Wilson
M60	Chris Bosley
M65	Peter Leake
M75	Donald Moir
W40	Alison Hardy
W45	Ursula Williamson
W70	Shirley Moir

John Cooke



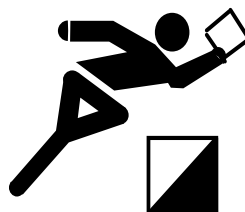
Forthcoming LEI Events

**Thursday 5th June
Summer League Event
The Outwoods, Loughborough**



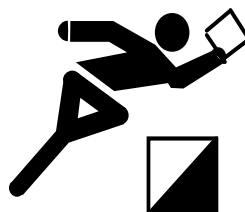
**Sunday 15th June
District and East Midlands League
Event, Burbage Woods**

**Thursday 19th June
Summer League Event
Cycle-O, Thornton area**



**Thursday 24th June
Summer League Event
Beauchamp College, Oadby**

**Saturday 5th July
Summer League Event
Snibston Discovery Park**



Fixtures



This fixture list is intended to list events in and around the Midlands and neighbouring areas, plus other items likely to be of interest. Unless otherwise stated District events offer entry on the day (EOD) to a range of colour coded (C4) courses with start times from 10.30 to 12.30. Local events (C5) will only have a limited range of courses. Regional and National events (C3 & C2) provide a range of age related courses and are normally entered in advance using a Standard Entry Form (SEF); EOD will usually be limited and more expensive. Most will offer a limited number of colour-coded course for EOD. Cheques payable to organising club, if not otherwise specified.

The OS map reference is either the car park or point from which the event will be signposted. The list is based on BOF registration, but events are sometimes cancelled. If you are uncertain of whether an event will be on, check with the organiser. The editor takes no responsibility for wasted journeys !

CHANGE OF EVENT TITLES IN FIXTURE LISTS

Please note that the new terminology for event titles described in the Autumn edition of LEI News has been introduced for the current and future fixture lists as follows:

- All C3 Badge Events will be titled Regional Events, but will retain the specific event titles (eg. Concorde Chase Regional Event).
- All C4 Colour Coded Events (5 or more CC courses inc Blue) will be titled District Events.
- All C5 or C4 Limited Colour Coded Events (4 or less CC courses) will be titled Local Events.
- Events that have specific titles not falling into the above categories will remain unchanged, but dependent on level of event (Score, Short, Night etc), they may be prefixed by Regional, District or Local.
- Championships (JK, BOC etc) and National Events remain unchanged.

June 2008

1st	WM	WCH WMOA Relays. Miflins Valley, Rawnsley, Cannock. SK028158.
	R4	Organiser: Andrew Waters, 01785 255260. waters@talk.talk.net Entries: Andrew Waters, 231 Eccleshall Road, Stafford, ST16 1PE, 01785 255260. waters@talk.talk.net CD: 18/05/08. £5.00/£2.00, SI card hire £1.00 and 50p. Chq: Walton Chasers. EPS-SI. Parking £1.00. Dogs allowed on leads only. Pre-entry via clubs only. Con- tact organiser for entry form. Teams of 3 from same club. Entry fees £ 15 per senior team (F-L), £6 per junior team (A-E). Signed from A460 south of Rugeley. www.walton.chasers.co.uk
5th	LEI Summer League—The Outwoods—see page ?? For details	
6th-8th	WM	WOC Selection Races & UK Cup
	O3	7th - UK Cup Final Middle Distance. Weston Heath, Shrewsbury. SJ559286. David Peel, 0114 266 3169. peellandsur- veys@btinternet.com £10.00/£7.50 non BOF Seniors +£2.00. EPS- SI. Parking £1.00. No dogs. Starts 3-4pm. www.sisyphus.demon.co.uk/POTOC
	O4S	7th - UK Cup Final Sprint Distance. Shrewsbury Town centre, Shrewsbury. SJ486124. Organiser: David Peel, 0114 266 3169. peellandsurveys@btinternet.com Entries: addressee TBA. CD: un- known. £12.00/£7.50. EPS-SI. Start 9am. www.wrekinorienteers.co.uk
7th	EM	DVO Summer Series Event. Ilam Hall, Ashbourne. SK131506.
	C5	Val Johnson, 01773 824754. gmjandfam@aol.com £1.50/50p. EPS-SI. White and Orange only. Dogs allowed on lead in car prk. Starts 10:30-11:30. Orange competitors may go on to a 45 minute score with their remaining time. Pre-marked maps. www.dvo.org.uk
8th	WM	HOC NATIONAL EVENT & World Ranking Event, Scoring event for UK Cup (selection race for WOC). Brown Clee, SW of Bridgnorth. SO595855.
	C2	Organiser: Rollo Rumford, 01905 726967. rollo.rumford@btinternet.com Entries: Mike Farrington, Brown Clee 08, Oak Lodge, Floyds Lane, Wellington Heath, Ledbury, Hfd, HR8 1NB, 01531 635502 (7-9 pm). browncclee08@harlequins.org.uk CD: 16/05/08. £13.00/£5.00 before 16 May 08. £15.00/£6.00 up to 28 May 08. Family Fee £32.00 before 16 May 08 and then £37.00 to 28 May 08. No EOD. Chq: Harlequins Orienteering Club. EPS-SI. String course. EOD CC courses - W, Y, O, Lt Gr & Red - £9.00/£4.00 - Family £23.00. Parking £1.00. Dogs on lead at all times in car park and assembly field. On Line Entries via www.fabian4.co.uk. www.harlequins.org.uk

June 2008 continued

12th	EM	LOG Local Summer Series Event. Lincoln University, Lincoln. SK967711.
	C5	Sean Harrington, 01522 791344. Sean@logonline.org.uk £1.50/£1.50. Dogs allowed on leads. www.summerseries.logonline.org.uk
15th	WM	WCH MTBO 2008 Chase Challenge incorporating National League Trail O Event. Sherbrook & North Cannock, Cannock Chase, Cannock. (non BOF event)
	MTBO	Organiser: Mark Stodgell - Co-ordinator, 01785 663888. mark@stodgell.co.uk Entries: Mark Stodgell, 56 Brocton Road, Milford, Stafford., ST17 0UH, 01785 663888. mark@stodgell.co.uk CD: 05/06/08. £7.00/TBA £2 surcharge non TCA members. EOD + £3.00. Chq: Walton Chasers. EPS-SI. Dogs allowed on leads only. Starts 11am-1pm. Entry fees: £7.00 TCA members, £2 surcharge for non TCA members, £2 discount for WCH members. EOD £3 surcharge. For more information please see website. Event series entry form or online entry at www.fabian4.co.uk. www.walton.chasers.co.uk
15th	EM	LEI District Event & East Midlands League. Burbage Common & Woods, Hinckley. SP451945.
	C4	Mark Foxwell, 01509 656695. m_foxwell@yahoo.co.uk £7.00/£2.00. EPS-SI. Parking £1.00. Dogs allowed on Lead. www.leioci.org.uk
15th	EM	DVO Summer Series - Street-O. Ashbourne, Ashbourne. SK180460.
	S5	Val Johnson, 01773 824754. gmjandfam@aol.com £1.50/50p. Dogs allowed on lead in car park. Mass start at 10:30. 1 hour score. Pre-marked maps. www.dvo.org.uk
19th	LEI Summer League—Cycle-O—see page ?? For details	
21st	EM	DVO Local Event. Elvaston Castle Country Park, Derby. SK412331.
	C5	Ann-Marie Duckworth, 01773 856824. john.duckworth@ngtuk.com £3.00/£1.00 Family entry: £7. EPS-SI. Incorporating the Derbyshire Schools Championships. www.dvo.org.uk
22nd	EM	DVO District Event. Carsington Pastures, Wirksworth. SK248546.
	C4	Derek Bishton, 01773 742951. dbishton@hotmail.com £7.00/£1.00 (inc Students), Family entry: £15. EPS-SI. String course. Dogs on lead in car park only. Parking £1.00. www.dvo.org.uk
24th	LEI Summer League—Beauchamp College —see page ?? For details	
26th	EM	LOG Local Summer Series Event. Twyford Woods, Grantham. SK947238.
	C5	Sean Harrington, 01522 791344. Sean@logonline.org.uk £1.50/£1.50. Dogs allowed on leads. www.summerseries.logonline.org.uk

LEI News

June 2008 continued

29th	EM	DVO Summer Series - Street-O. Allestree, Derby. SK352398.
	S5	Val Johnson, 01773 824754. gmjandfam@aol.com £1.50/50p. Dogs allowed on lead in car park. Mass start at 10:30. 1 hour score. Pre-marked maps. www.dvo.org.uk

July 2008

5th LEI Summer League—Snibston—see page ?? For details

5th	EM	DVO Summer Series Event. Darley Park, Derby. SK352372.
	C5	Val Johnson, 01773 824754. gmjandfam@aol.com £1.50/50p. White and Orange only. Dogs allowed on lead in car park. Starts 10:30-11:30. Orange competitors may go on to a 45 minute score with their remaining time. Pre-marked maps. www.dvo.org.uk

6th	EM	NOC Short Race. Rufford Country Park, Mansfield. SK646656.
	O5S	Catherine Hughes, 0115 8774089. catherine@midlandsnordicwalking.org Fees TBA. Format - two races - second one chasing start. www.noc-uk.org Full registration pending

9th LEI Summer League—Swithland Woods—see page ?? For details

10th	EM	LOG Local Summer Series Event. West Common, Lincoln. SK960717.
	C5	Sean Harrington, 01522 791344. Sean@logonline.org.uk £1.50/£1.50. Dogs allowed on leads. www.summerseries.logonline.org.uk

13th	WM	OD District Event. Burton Dassett Hills Country Park, Warwick. SP395520.
	C4	John Bowman, 01926 853720. jandsbowman@yahoo.co.uk Fees TBA. EPS-Emit. Parking £2.00. Dogs allowed on lead. Full registration pending

13th	EM	DVO Summer Series - Street-O. Matlock, Matlock. SK301604.
	S5	Neil Forrest, 01629 583899. neil.forrest899@btinternet.com £1.50/50p. Dogs allowed on lead in car park. Mass start at 10:30. 1 hour score. Pre-marked maps. www.dvo.org.uk

15th LEI Summer League—Treasure Hunt—see page ?? For details

20th LEI Summer League—Evington Arboretum—see page ?? For details

July 2008 continued

24th	EM	LOG Local Summer Series Event. Ostlers Plantation, Woodhall Spa. TF216627.
	C5	Sean Harrington, 01522 791344. Sean@logonline.org.uk £1.50/ £1.50. Dogs allowed on leads. www.summerseries.logonline.org.uk

29th LEI Summer League—Bosworth Battlefield—see page ?? For details

29th	WM	POTOC Summer Evening Event. Ramshaw Rocks, Leek, Staffordshire. SK026637.
	C5	John Pigott, 01538 383467. john@pigott.plus.com £3.50/£1.00 Senior non-BOF members £4.00. EPS-SI. Y, O, Lt G, G, Bl. Parking £1.00. Dogs allowed on lead only. Start 18.00 to 19.15. Registration from 17.30. SI card hire, 50p. www.sisyphus.demon.co.uk/POTOC

August 2008

3rd-	WOA	Creoso 2008
9th	C3	3rd - Day 1 Regional Event. Merthyr Common, Trefil. SO101151.
	C3	4th - Day 2 Regional Event. The Bloreng, Blaenavon. SO255099.
	C3	5th - Day 3 Regional Event. Pwll Du, Blaenavon. SO255099.
	C3	7th - Day 4 Regional Event. Wentwood, Usk. ST413949.
	C3	8th - Day 5 Regional Event. Mynydd y Garn, Hirwaun.
	C3	9th - Day 6 Regional Event. Clydach Terrace, Brynmawr. SO183133.
		Co-ordinator and Entries: Judith Powell, 22 The Willows, Raglan, USK, NP15 2HB, 01291 690702. j-powell@tiscali.co.uk CD: 15/06/08. Fees TBA. Chq: Croeso 2008. EPS-SI. String course. Colour Coded pre entry or EOD - W, Y, O & LG. Dogs allowed on lead at all times, not on competition area. Starts 9.00 - 13.00. www.croesomultiday.org.uk

7th LEI Summer League—Linford Woodlands—see page ?? For details

7th	EM	LOG Local Summer Series Event. Lincoln South Common, Lincoln. SK977698 .
	C5	Sean Harrington, 01522 791344. Sean@logonline.org.uk £1.50/ £1.50. Dogs allowed on leads. www.summerseries.logonline.org.uk

13th LEI Summer League—borough Hill Daventry—see page ?? For details

LEI News

August 2008 continued

17th	EM	DVO Street-O. Bakewell. SK221684 .
	S5	John Armstrong, 01335 348238. armstrongjim@talk21.com Fees TBA. Dogs allowed on leads at all times. www.dvo.org.uk . <i>Full registration pending</i>
19th	LEI Summer League—Oakham Tops—see page ?? For details	
23rd-	YH	White Rose Weekend
25th	C3	23rd - Day 1 Regional Event. Barns Cliff & Low North Park, nr Scarborough. SE957952.
	S5N	23rd - Local Night Score Event. Barns Cliff & Low North Park, nr Scarborough. SE947952.
	C3	24th - Day 2 Regional Event. Barns Cliff & Low North Park, nr Scarborough. SE947952.
	R4	25th - Day 3 Team Score Relay. Barns Cliff& Low North Park, nr Scarborough. SE947952.
		Organiser: Bill Griffiths, 0771 0002961. wr2008org@tiscali.co.uk Entries: Entry on-line preferable OR White Rose Entries, 30 Orchard Paddock, Haxby, , York, YO32 3DP, 01904 768066. wr2008entries@yahoo.co.uk CD: 1st 04/06/08. Entry Fees: Days 1 & 2 - £8.00/£4.00 before 4 June, £9.00/£4.50 before 27 July, £10.00/£5.00 after 28 July (these are BO discounted rates). See website for Day 3 team fees. Lim EOD Chq: Eborienteers. EPS-SI. Red, yellow, white, String course. Parking £1.00. Dogs allowed on lead in car park only. www.whiteroseweekend.org.uk
28th	LEI Summer League—Watermead West—see page ?? For details	

September 2008

2nd	LEI Summer League—Sence Valley—see page ?? For details	
14th	EM	LOG Lincoln "City Race". The Lawn, Lincoln. SK973719.
	C4S	Sean Harrington, 01522 791344. Sean@logonline.org.uk Fees TBA. EPS-SI. Dogs on leads.
20th	EM	DVO Local Event. Black Rock & Cromford Moor, Wirksworth. SK291558.
	C5	Val Johnson, 01773 824754. gjmjandfam@aol.com £3.00/£1.00 Family entry: £7. www.dvo.org.uk
27th	LEI Winter League—Knighton Park	

September 2008 continued

28th	EM	DVO District Event. Kedleston Park, Derby. SK313403.
	C4	Brian Denness, 01332 553658. briandenness@naims.co.uk £7.00/£1.00 Family entry: £15. EPS-SI. String course. Dogs on lead, in car park. www.dvo.org.uk

October 2008

5th	WM	HOC District Event & WML 8. Brockhampton NT, Nr Bromyard. SO682545.
	C4	Mike Farrington, 01531 635502. mike@farrington.me.uk £8.00/£3.00. EPS-SI. String course. Dogs allowed on leads in car park only - sheep in fields. www.harlequins.org.uk
5th	EM	LOG District Event. Stapleford Woods, Newark. SK861566.
	C4	Steve Bones, 01522 885933. eventinfo@logonline.org.uk Fees TBA. EPS-SI. String course. Parking £1.00. Dogs on leads. www.logonline.org.uk Full registration pending
11th	EM	NOC British Schools Score Championships. Sherwood Pines, Mansfield. SK612647.
	S3X	Catherine Hughes, 0115 8774089. catherine-hughes@hotmail.com Fees TBA. EPS-SI. www.noc-uk.org Full registration pending
12th	EM	LEI District Event, Charnwood Forest South. SK523118
	C4	Chris Phillips, 0116 255 0330. £7.00/£2.00. EPS-SI. Parking £1.00. Dogs on leads. www.leioc.org.uk
18th	EM	DVO Local Event. Markeaton Park, Derby. SK335370.
	C5	Val Johnson, 01773 824754. gmjandfam@aol.com £3.00/£1.00 Family entry: £7. www.dvo.org.uk
271st	LEI Winter League—Burbage Common	
27th	LEI Annual General Meeting. Forest Hill Golf Club SK480065—Light Refreshments provided	




LEI News

November 2008

1st		LEI Winter League—Abbey Park
2nd	EM	NOC District Event. Bestwood, Nottingham. SK565475.
	C4	Catherine Hughes, 0115 8774089. Catherine@midlandsnordicwalking.org Fees TBA. EPS-SI. String course. www.noc-uk.org Full registration pending
9th	EM	LEI Regional Event. Bagworth Woodlands, Coalville. SK458067.
	C3	Peter Hornsby, 01530 456066. mapping@lineone.net Fees TBA. EPS-SI. Dogs on Leads. www.leioc.org.uk Full registration pending
15th		LEI Winter League—Brocks Hill Country Park
16th	EM	DVO Regional Event. Shining Cliff, Belper. SK335522.
	C3	Organiser: Sal Chaffey, 01773 825418. dave.chaffey@zetnet.co.uk Postal Entries: Mike Godfree, Highfields, Mapleton Road, Ashbourne, DE6 2AA, 01335-346004. Mike.Godfree@btinternet.com CD (postal): 03/11/08, (online): 09/11/08. £10.00/£3.00 (inc Students). CC - £7.00/£1.00. Lim EOD +£2.00/£1.00. Chq: DVO. EPS-SI. String course. CC - W, Y, O, R. Dogs on lead, in car park. Entries preferred on-line via website: www.dvo.org.uk
26th		LEI Winter League—Fosse Meadows (Night Event)

December 2008

6th	 LEI	EM	LEI Annual Dinner and Awards presentation, Forest Hill Golf Club Sk480065
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December 2008 continued

7th	WM	HOC Regional Event. Postensplain, Wyre Forest, Bewdley. SO743791.
	C3	Organiser: Rollo Rumford, 01905 726967 (7- 9pm). rollo.rumford@btinternet.com Postal Entries: Mike Farrington, Brown Clew 08, Oak Lodge, Floyds Lane, Wellington Heath, Ledbury, HR8 1NB, 01531 635502 (7 - 9 pm). postensplain08@harlequins.org.uk CD: 21/11/08. £11.00/£3.00 (up to 14/11/08), £13.00/£4.00 (Up to 21/11/08). No EOD. Chq: Harlequins Orienteering Club. EPS-SI. W, Y, O, Lt Gr & Red - £7.00/£4.00. String course. Parking £1.00. Dogs allowed on lead at all times in car park and assembly field. On Line Entries via www.fabian4.co.uk. www.harlequins.org.uk
27th	LEI Winter League—Xmas Event Sence Valley	
14th	EM	DVO District Event. Whitesprings, Matlock. SK297645.
	C4	Paul Beresford, 01302 751549. paul@pberesford.fsnet.co.uk £7.00/£1.00 (inc Students), Family entry: £15. EPS-SI. String course. Dogs on lead, in car park. www.dvo.org.uk
21st	EM	NOC District Event. Walesby, Mansfield. SK669702.
	C4	Catherine Hughes, 0115 8774089. Catherine@midlandsnordicwalking.org Fees TBA. EPS-SI. String course. www.noc-uk.org

Ursula and Irene manning the Terrain Adventure registration and club shop at Burbage Common Open Day.

See article on page 6



Next LEI Events

LEI Summer League

Thursday 5th June 2008

Outwoods, Leicester

Starts 6.30 pm—7.30 pm

Sunday 15th June 2008

LEI District Event & East Midlands League Event

**Burbage Woods
SP447953**

**Mark Foxwell
01509 646695**

**£7.00/£2.00
(£2.00 discount for BOF members on production
of current membership card)**

SportIdent electronic punching