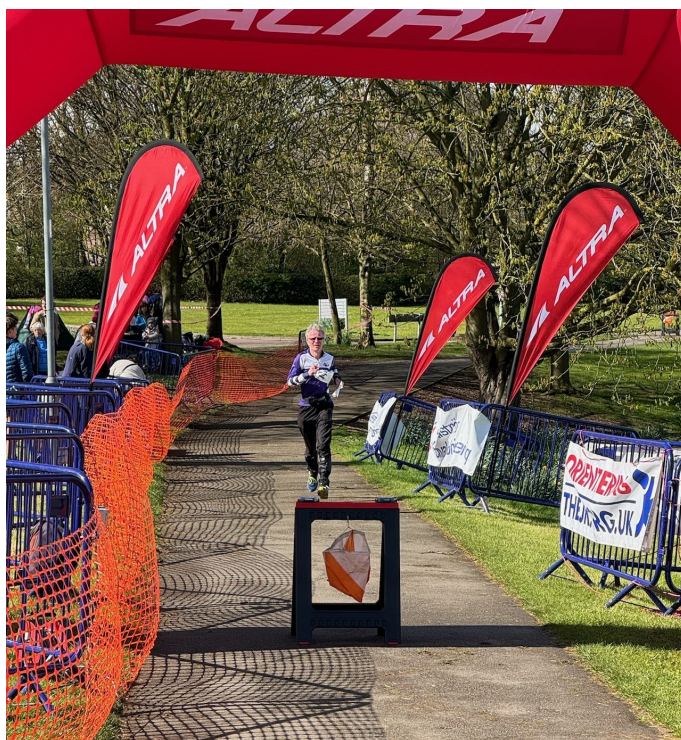




LEI NEWS

Editors
Chris
&
Ursula

The Newsletter of the Leicestershire Orienteering Club



LEI at the JK. M80 & Not Out

Dinner & Awards Evening



Summer 2024

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**Copy date for next issue:
13th September, 2024**

*Front Cover. JK Day 1 Finish
by Iain Phillips*

Points from the Editors

It doesn't seem long since we were in the midst of all the preparations for the JK, but by the time you read this we will be half way through the Summer League and Jane will already be plotting and planning the 2024/25 Winter League.

With everything that has happened in the last few months it has been a bit of a squeeze to get everything in this edition of the Newsletter and to include photographs of the various presentations that have taken place.

Included is a write up from the three major JK officials on the build up to the JK and the all the problem solving that goes into organising and planning a smooth running top flight event. But no mention of the new club Beanie hats!

If you were at the JK or the Ibstock event you will have seen our nice new shiny, go faster Si Kit and the new style security locks for the boxes (the security number has stayed the same). These will be used at all our Regional events from now on and some of the Local events. Most of the older style boxes are 10 to 15 years old and have become unreliable, hence the need for some new kit.

If you are looking for a summer holiday orienteering fix, there is still time to sign up for Croeso. We will be there, as will quite a few other LEI members. A chance to test your skills on some of the most technical areas in the UK.

Chris and Ursula

Ramblings from the Chair



Well, it's been a busy few months hasn't it and a bit of a white-knuckle ride at times too. I think I have just about gotten over the presentations at the club dinner now!

Thanks to everyone for bearing with us as we battled with the Mayor's party! We are looking at alternative venues for next year!

Many congratulations to all our award winners and especially our main club award recipients. Roger Edwards (Chairman's Tankard) for his work with the Beat the Street team, Derek Herd (President's Salver) for his continued contribution to club nights and Peter Leake (Tiger Trophy) for his many years of mapping and contribution to the club. I must also mention a unique landmark achievement for Iain Phillips this year, becoming the first club member to win the Clock Trophy for the 3rd time.

I am glad to say that thanks to the hard work of all the volunteers, JK2024 Day 1 was a fantastic event and was a great advert for the club. Much more about Day 1 and the JK in the rest of the newsletter. I would really like to thank everyone who helped out in the months running up to the event and on the day itself, it was a magnificent club effort. One of my favourite parts of the day was standing on the open roof in the centre of the event area. Looking out you could see dozens of competitors, everyone running in a completely different direction. It was quite a sight.

Well, done to those who competed for the club at the CompassSport Trophy Qualifier at Cannock Chase in February. In what I understand were pretty tough conditions there were still some excellent performances. Congratulations to our top 3 points scorers, Toni O'Donovan (100),

Cara Tolley (98) and Ellie Simpson (96). A 7th place finish in a very tough heat. There's always next year!

February also saw the East Midlands Championships where we had 7 champions, Hugh Chester, Eoin Simpson, Ellie Simpson, Toni O'Donovan, Peter Chick, Sue Bicknell and Don Moir.

March brought the Midland Championships and JK. Congratulations to Midland Champions, Andy Simpson, Peter Leake and Don Moir, and to Sue Bicknell for 3rd Place in the JK Sprint.

A small band of intrepid LEI club members made it up to Whitby for the British Long-Distance Champs. In what proved to be a very tough event, (I spent quite a lot of time sliding down slopes on my bum and using trees to pull myself back up the slopes) unfortunately no podium finishes with Sue Bicknell narrowly missing out with a 4th place. The British Middle-Distance Championships saw some familiar names back on the podium, Don Moir 1st, Eoin Simpson 2nd and Andy Simpson 2nd in their respective classes.

Congratulations to all our regional and national champions this year. Despite my own poor championship performances in 2024 (EM Champs 5th, Welsh Champs 9th, Midland Champs 14th, JK 54th, British Long DNF), I did on the whole enjoy these challenges; Pwll Ddu in the snow was interesting and I might not be rushing back to Mulgrave Woods in a hurry. All proved to be very different challenges to what we get on home turf. If you haven't orienteered much outside of Leicestershire or the East Midlands and get the opportunity to, there are many fantastic areas and events to explore throughout the UK and beyond.

It's all about the sprints for me for this summer (my attempts at long distance events not proving to be that successful). We will hopefully have at least 2 teams at the British Relay sprints at Birmingham University on 22nd June. The sprint relays are probably my favourite event to run. With Roger Edwards as the controller, I am looking forward to some good route choice options. The 23rd June sees the individual British Sprint champs at Warwick University; there looks to be a good number of entries from LEI already. An A final is the target, failing that, at least beating my brother. I am also trying out the Vienna 3 day sprint challenge at the end of August.

The 2024 Summer League started in typical fashion with freezing cold and hailstones at the Groby event. With 5 events completed it looks like it is going

to be very tight for the overall title, with I suspect, age adjustment and event attendance playing a major part in the overall result. The summer League continues through to mid-August with the final event being the Score Cup at Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Woods, followed by a buffet and presentation at Measham Village Hall.

A couple of additional dates for your diary, the club AGM will be on the Monday 28th October (venue expected to be Glenfield Village Hall) and Saturday 9th November is the Club Champs at Donisthorpe with buffet and presentations afterwards at Moira Village Hall.

OK, I'm off to do some sprint training.

Steve

Captain's Corner



Sadly (?) we did not qualify for the CompassSport Trophy Final this year, despite a high 30s turnout of LEI club members who battled the rather long courses at Chetwynd Coppice and Brereton Spurs. As a club we had suggested to WCH that the advertised courses were a little too long, especially with the climb involved, and heed was

taken initially. Ultimately though, the course lengths remained unchanged, and LEI's intervention roundly dismissed in the comments post event – although we were not named as such. (See [WCH-CSC-Qualifier-Officials-Comments-Feb24.pdf](https://www.walton-chasers.co.uk/WCH-CSC-Qualifier-Officials-Comments-Feb24.pdf) ([walton-chasers.co.uk](https://www.walton-chasers.co.uk))). Despite this many completed good runs and here are our scorers with their points: Toni O'Donovan 100; Cara Tolley 98; Ellie Simpson 96; Kevin Gallagher 95; George Normand 94; Alastair Paterson 90; Peter Chick 90; Edward de Salis Young 88; Karen White 87; Roger Phillips 86; Steve Edgar 86; Stephen Martin 83 and Maureen Webb 82. Well done to all and thanks for coming.

The JK Sprints were a resounding success and, if you ask here and there, you will find many people have said nice things about the event. I must take my new LEI Beanie off to the main players, Iain Phillips and Steve Edgar, for the organisation and courses which were excellent. I ran off the map on my course, which amused Steve when I told him, but nevertheless I relocated via the finish kite and got back to business. You've just got to love this sport!

On bank holiday Monday, LEI fielded two teams of three for relays at Stanton Moor. Fortunately, Ursula was able to step in to complete a team following Alison Hardy's rather nasty accident on Day 3 at Beaudesert which I heard needed quite a few stitches – something like 10 – hope you are back soon Alison.

Our lack of (available) juniors meant that we couldn't put up a fight at Hardwick Park for the YBT which is a shame, though it is a big exam year for some of our juniors.

The next thing on the horizon is the British Sprint Relays which are at Birmingham University on 22nd June. You might not read this before the event has been and gone but I hope that many of you will have signed up and given it a go.

See you at a Summer League somewhere. There are 17 events, so plenty to choose from, or just come to them all.

David

M80 & almost out



In my eightieth year and having spent the last 30 or so serving LEI in one position or another I have had to face the fact that my orienteering days are behind me.

I had paid my subs for the last five years in denial and hoping

for some improvement in my health, but it is not to be. With only 2 toes on one foot, my balance is iffy and my arthritic spine will not allow me to walk or stand for more than a minute or two before pain kicks in and I have to sit down. I cannot even easily write articles any more as I am losing my sight in one eye, so I am shedding roles left, right and centre. Some of you know my climbing club, having used their facilities. I have collated and edited their 150-page full-colour annual journal for 30 editions in all, but I have had to resign from that role and I no longer produce a magazine for the Ramblers.

It is with regret I felt I would have to resign from LEI, only to be surprised at the AGM to be made an honorary member so I can keep in touch.

I can look back on orienteering over many very eventful years and thank orienteering for making me a number of friends. It was 1991 I think, when I met Peter Hornsby professionally and, making small talk, bemoaned the lack of mountains in Leicestershire, where I had been obliged to decamp to for work. End result? - Peter came on one of my weekend climbing meets and I tried orienteering. The rest as they say is history. I've been Summer League

Coordinator, Club Chairman, Regional Chairman, planner, organiser and controller, part of the successful team that organised a British Championships and a JK...

Others memories?

An event which went ahead on Cannock Chase where you got out of your car and locked it and then the team slid it into the car park across the ice. An event where a member (AP) emerged from a swampy ditch looking like an advert for Tango. He was covered in a bright orange algae.

A trip to an event in the lakes where a dozen of us spent the weekend at my climbing club cottage. Friday evening, we walked the four miles over the hills to Elterwater and enjoyed some food and beers at The Britannia. After a busy Saturday rather than go straight back to the cottage we drove to a good pub I know and a certain PL said what a good pub it was and that he must remember it as he had never been there before. It was the same pub we had walked to the day before!

We returned to the climbing club cottage and enjoyed the open fire and chilled out if that is not a contradiction in terms.

The National Trust let a small cottage next to our club cottage all part of one old farmhouse and we are not allowed in our kitchen after 10.00 pm as their bedroom is just over it and soundproofing is negligible. In the early hours of the morning, pre-dawn we awoke to a clanging noise and found one of our number, an elderly gentleman, had taken it upon himself to wash up. To this day I don't know whether he was sleepwalking, but apologies to next door were profuse. As he is still with us, no names although several members will recall this.

Good old days!

One less welcome memory was an early event at the Evington Arboretum when, about to crash through a loose hedge, I realised it was a wide ditch with a stream in the bottom. I hesitated and a branch I had fended off sprang back and lashed me across the face. I had a cut on the bridge of my nose, one above my left eye and one below my right eye: Very lucky! Anyway, I tried to find my way back to the start, difficult with blood dripping all over your map. Back at the car attempts to clean it up failed so I made my way to the Cow & Plough and into the gents. You will know that mix blood with water and it goes everywhere. One poor bloke, middle-aged and heavy-built, came into the gents and literally screamed.

I finally sorted it out as best I could and went to the bar and had a pint of the guest beer till the others arrived. It made the front page of the EMOA News because the guest ale was called Intensive Care...

As for me going forward. I am awaiting eight weeks intensive radiotherapy for another medical issue but I am still very actively involved with the parish council, which with eighteen open spaces and seven buildings is a major undertaking; I am still a District Councillor and Scrutiny Commissioner; still on the steering group of Charnwood Landscape Partnership working hard to spend £5M; and I am also on the Board of Charnwood Forest Geopark, so I'm still keeping busy.

Some of you will recall the map of Charnwood Forest I had produced some years ago.

The first run of 3000 was underwritten by three local authorities and the Ramblers all undertaking to take 500 copies. That map won several international awards.

The map was at 1:25,000 based upon the Ordnance Survey but omitting all the details of little relevance to walkers. The addition of locally surveyed material I produced showed pubs, tearooms and permissive footpaths, many of which are not on the OS data. It also showed open access areas leaving an easy-to-read, uncluttered map showing just what walkers need to see.

It soon sold out and my publisher printed another 2000 commercially, updated locally again by me, and those have mostly gone with a few copies available out there.

I have just produced a third edition, again updated, probably the last I will be able to do, but this time, with the benefit of financial support from the Leicestershire Footpaths Association, Charnwood Forest Small Grants Scheme and the Heritage Lottery Fund. I have created a comprehensive guide on the back.

This map has been launched simultaneously (after eight month's work) with the XIth International ProGEO Symposium which took place in Loughborough, organised by the Charnwood Forest geopark with delegates from all over the world including Tasmania, New Zealand and Canada just to name the ones I talked to.

(ProGEO – is the International Association for the Conservation of Geological Heritage)

Charnwood is making a case for accreditation as a U.N.E.S.C.O. Global Geopark which will attract visitors from all over the world.

The guide on the reverse of the map (27 panels) gives a taste of the geology, history, ecology, archaeology, palaeontology, biology, etc, within the Geopark and includes some suggested walks covering these topics.

There are currently 169 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 44 countries, and currently eight in the UK including Anglesey, Shetland, the English Riviera (Devon), the North West Highlands, Brecon Beacons and Strangford, and Charnwood aspires to join them.

By making me an honorary member I can still use my connections to ensure orienteers interests are not overlooked.

Roy Denney

STOP PRESS

A date for your diaries.
The AGM will take place
on Monday 28th October,
2024
at Glenfield.

White Rose Weekend 2024

EBOR have sadly announced that they have had to cancel the White Rose event over the August Bank Holiday weekend. This is because of problems with access and permissions.

They hope the event will be back on the fixtures calendar in 2025.

Events Co-ordinator

Obviously, the main event we've had this year has been the JK on Good Friday. This is well covered elsewhere in this newsletter. We continue through the summer with urban races at Ibstock and Coalville and forest races at Cademan and the Outwoods.

We've also got our extensive Summer and Winter League programmes.

Events committee has also been thinking about our contribution to running national major events in the future as well as our level C programmes for 2025. Standby for a call to be an event official.

Iain Phillips

The final event of the

Summer League

is at the

Queen Elizabeth Jubilee Wood on

Wednesday 14th August

As always the event will be

followed by a

Buffet and Presentations.

If you would like food at the Buffet

please let Chris know.

The event will also be the

LEI Score Cup.

LEI Best Performances In 2024

EMOA Championships 2024 Champions

M10 Hugh Chester

M14 Eoin Simpson

M80 Peter Chick

M90 Don Moir

W16 Ellie Simpson

W40 Toni O'Donovan

JK 2024 Top 3 Results

Day 1.

3rd W80 Sue Bicknell

Day 2.

3rd M14A Eoin Simpson

2nd W14B Cara Tolley

3rd W18L Robyn Jarvis

Day 3.

2nd W14B Cara Tolley

Midland Championships 2024

Champions.

Andy Simpson M50

Peter Leake M85

Don Moir M90

Club Chat

The following BOF Incentive Awards have recently been achieved by members.

Navigation Challenge

5 stars:

Daniel Stothard & Toby Miles

4 stars

Sindy Chafer

3 Stars

Cara Tolley

Racing Challenge

Gold 5 stars

Ellie Simpson

Silver 5 Stars

Daniel Stothard

Silver 3 Stars

Aidan Chester

Bronze 5 Stars

Karen Ives-Smith & Susan Grant

Bronze 3 Stars

Cara Tolley & Sindy Chafer

Bronze 2 Stars

Hugh Chester

Colour Coded Standard

Green

Ellie Simpson & Daniel Stothard

Orange

Cara Tolley

Training Courses

EMOA are proposing to run a training day on

Saturday 12th October 2024.

Venue:

Grobby Community College

Courses Available:

Organisers

Planners

Controllers

Mapping Workshop.

The courses are free and lunch is provided. All members are welcome to attend.

If you are interested please speak to either Chris Phillips or Iain Phillips.

We would like to give a big LEI welcome to our newest members:

Ian Dixon and Suranne Tolley

We look forward to seeing you at one of the club's events soon.

EMOA Championships 2024



*Keeping it in the family!
Eoin, Ellie and Toni with their
trophies.*



*Photographs
Ursula
Williamson*

*Don adding the M90 to his
collection.*



*Ladies Score Cup 2023
Jo White*

EMOA Championships
2025
Sunday
16th February

Proposed venue is
Ratby and Martinshaw
(Subject to
Permissions)

Honest Guv– It's not that difficult

This is for brand new event officials...

And for those who have been around a while...

And this is also for those who are past their sell by date as event officials...

We are a very technical sport. We even have rules for the size of controls circles and the thickness of the lines on your map. Both are the subject of much debate in the pub, post event, and please don't start a discussion on whether the yellow on the map matched the IOF Test Sheet – or we will be there till closing time.

Most people in orienteering don't read the General Rules of the sport, and in fact you can muddle along without reading them. Until!... you become an event official and then you are suddenly confronted by 130 pages of the General Rules and if you are doing one of the Major (Level A) events there is an additional set of Competition Rules.

The key bits for most officials are on Safety, Mapping and Course Planning.

Don't worry, I guess there are only three people in the club who have read the whole lot and two of those helped write them. If you are involved in a local event (Level D) you probably only need to read about 30%, a little bit more if it's a Regional (Level C) or a National (Level B)

Actually, what I wrote in the last paragraph is not true (sorry). There is more, but it's the most interesting bit. A lot of technical bits of the sport are based on the International Orienteering Federation (IOF) rules and are not contained in the BOF rules. On the IOF website you will find a detailed explanation of all those odd squiggly lines and dots that make up the control descriptions and map symbols. So, when you are orienteering in LEI land and you come across a large extended black star on the control description, having read the IOF pages, you will know what it is!

(It's an Ant Hill)

The General Rules of Orienteering were updated from 1st January 2024. Most of the changes were a re-ordering of the contents and changes to aid clarity. There are some changes to the actual rules and if, particularly if, you are a controller or qualified as a Level A official you should have a re-read.

If you are new to being an event official (or maybe just thinking about it) where do you start? There's information on the club website, on the members pages. Chris Bosley has written two helpful guides that take you through the timeline of tasks that need planning before an event takes place.

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Retired Man Chronicles:

Retired Man feels under pressure to do well in East Midlands green courses as the winner of the Green Man trophy last year. But 2024 is not a good start as he tweaks his leg muscle tripping over brambles when planning Bagworth and again at Pooley. So, for the HOC event at Shatterford Wood, he was only walking to exercise but not strain his leg muscle. The course is 4.3km but he does 7km as he walks off the map... 'I wasn't the only one'. Split times reveal he spent 50 minutes between 2 controls. It's not an LEI area so not valid for Clock Trophy submission.

It's the middle of January and the weather forecast is for very cold temperatures. RM walks and jogs around the Shepshed Urban Night event. The après O with Chris B has sunk to the level of a couple of pints in The Crown and a Meal Deal from the Co op.

A few days later John walks to and from Beaumont Leys to deliver a torch and hat to the Phillips household. I warn him how cold it is and to take hat and gloves.

Wouldn't you think that a torch would be essential equipment for a night event? Luckily there is a very good torch with the Brownie equipment when Chris B calls to travel with RM to the night event at Dishley. 'How did you do?' I ask RM. 'I made 5 mistakes.'

At the end of January there is a Club night in Markfield. RM is not a happy bunny as he was held up in traffic caused by the junction 21A closure on the M1. Three lorries had spilt their loads of gravel at 5.00am and the clear-up has taken all day. Also, The Gynsills is not his

favourite pub and he complains about the price of beer.

On Sunday 11th Feb we are having a family lunch at The Bradgate in Newtown Linford as it will soon be Suzi and RMs birthdays. John phones the house 'Can I take some trousers, a top, sweater and socks?' so he can change in the restaurant car park' as he is running late from Beacon Hill. Later we hear RM was disqualified for failing to punch a control on a gate and he is moaning that he can't run fast any more even on the downhill slopes. His 'keep fit' watch shows different colours for his running speeds as proof.

The next day we are visited by Sue Bicknell who has walked along the roads from Anstey to Cropston with a rucksack of jam jars for me. Coffee and cake and chats about being 80 (getting old) and about the event at Beacon Hill on Sunday.

For his birthday present, daughter Suzi had bought two tickets to see a comedian, Hal Cruttende, at the theatre in Mountsorrel. Upstairs in the bar we meet Andy Portsmouth, with his arm in a sling, something to do with a motor bike accident I believe.

Next day the event at Fosse Meadows is cancelled due to flooding but as a consolation RM has discovered that a 5 litre keg of beer, given as a Xmas present, is about to go out of date. I search for recipes for Beer Chutney and a chocolate cake with beer to help out, but I needn't have bothered as he drinks all the beer. I have to use barley wine to add to the newly prepared chutney

vegetables instead. (Very tasty, similar to Branston pickle)

A week later and we still have floods. RM wants me to try lunch at the Royal Oak in Cossington, a possible après O venue. RM ignores the ROAD CLOSED sign and risks the drive by Cossington Meadows. Oh, dear it's a long stretch of flooded road but we go slowly through. However, the car isn't happy and stalls in the middle of the water. Panic, no wellies. We see a car approach the water's edge from the other end and turn back. Luckily the engine starts again but the automatic gear change is not happy. We make it to the pub and hope the vehicle dries out while we eat our lunch.

By early March RM is back from ski-ing and we look at his photos including mountains, cable cars, hotel food and one in the steam room where all you can see is steam.

In the garden, badgers and squirrels are digging up my bulbs; tulips are a favourite. I have asked John for some MALE urine. It's suggested to pour the urine on the soil as a deterrent. However later I hear that badgers just pee on top to replace their scent. Any gardeners out there to offer help?? No jokes about 'taking the p*ss' please.

It's Sat evening and the club dinner, Chris B is knocking on the door 'Where's my black shoes?' says RM looking round like a headless chicken. Several minutes pass as he rejects the idea of going in trainers and eventually comes across the black shoes. Chris owns up that he has not worn his best clothes since last year's club dinner.

Over the vicious speed humps on the drive up to Longcliffe golf course clubhouse and it's time for drinks and lots of news to catch up on. Derek was chatting about a Buckingham Palace Garden Party and the handkerchief tree. Pete Leake and Judy had been to the

orienteering at Sandringham Midlands champs and Pete came first in M85. Pete had handed his keys to download and afterwards driven away using Judy's keys. Fortunately, Sue Bicknell collected and returned the keys.

Time for food as we take our places at the tables expertly decorated with silver and purple balloons by Rachel. But there has been a mix up in the booking and two different groups are here for meals. In the far room (the normal dining area) is the Mayor's party and our tables are located at one end of the bar, near the exit to the ladies loo. After the food is served, it's time the winners were announced by Steve Chafer, trophies collected and photos taken with Ernie.

Did I mention the ladies loo? It's amusing at first, as ladies peep through the adjoining door and the sound of sea shanties and folk songs emanate from the Mayor's shindig. The ladies sidle through the gaps between our tables to reach the toilets. 'Sorry, sorry' they whisper. More and more ladies dribble through in twos and threes. Steve keeps his cool and jokes about it. Maybe there are some others muttering stronger words. Plod on with more trophies; cups and shields of various shapes and sizes but really impressive is the M85 Midlands trophy for Peter Leake in the shape of a large owl. More ladies for the toilets and the band next door have finished their set and try to come through but one man, with a pirate's hat, is in a wheel chair, not much room to manoeuvre. A few more awards done. Roger Edwards might as well keep his trophy as he has won it for the past seven years. We are all waiting to see which LEI member has won the Clock Trophy for the longest time taken on an LEI event. Unfortunately, the Mayor and all his guests begin to come through, some have drunk too much of the dizzy stuff, and now the bar has opened, we can hardly hear what Steve is saying. A

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big cheer goes up when Iain Phillips is awarded for his endurance efforts and wins the coveted Clock Trophy; a fox curling round a clock-face on a red and white control. Steve lets it be known that this is the THIRD time Iain has won.... perseverance? persistence? Or just slow?

March 12th is club night at Derek's new destination; land near the industrial area at Copt Oak. But all this miserable weather has returned, Rothley Brook is flooding the fields again, John is still coughing and claims to have no energy. I try to get rid of him 'there's nothing special for tea' but he still stays at home.

RM returns from the Whitwick schools' event where he helped at The Start. He thinks more than 500 kids turned up and one particular girl was so muddy she nearly wasn't allowed home on the school bus.

The Loughborough Uni event, JK Day 1, is looming and John and I go to the volunteers meeting. I am amazed. How does Iain Phillips hold all that info in his head?? Afterwards we visit the Jolly Farmers pub and discover that Peter Hornsby is a model railway ultra enthusiast. All these years and I never knew. Perhaps he should be re-named Hornby?

JK day 1 dawns, all that work put in by volunteers is put to the test and as far as I know it all went well. RM and I helped on the String Course alongside Chris Williamson who did an incredible job spelling the strange names that children have these days. The lure of a sweet for finishing meant children ran the course several times. I was also involved with my friend Linda from the WI Country Markets selling big cakes, jams and plants. We chatted to lots of lovely people. Unfortunately, at the very end, a powerful gust of wind whipped up our gazebo and

threw it over a low wall. Some of the plastic corner joints were broken beyond repair.

At the beginning of April, we drive to Devon to meet up with Suzi, Edd and two grandchildren. RM is in trouble already for not passing on a message about the evening. I was expecting that Suzi had made a meal but instead they had stopped at a Wetherspoons on the way. Food destined for a packed lunch is not quite the same as lovely lasagne.

Next day at the pool RM is swimming underwater and swims into the wall, receiving a vertical red mark on his forehead from hitting a tile. He shrugs it off. He can't blame that bump on the head for only bringing the contact lenses for his left eye. 'I can't understand it. I checked twice.'

We have a damp but lovely week long holiday enjoying the area near Clovelly. On the drive home we detour to cross the POW bridge (Prince of Wales), the second bridge across the River Severn as we have never used it before. From Wales we return to England on the original Severn bridge.

We stop at Wetherspoons Old Swanne in Evesham. RM would have had 2 pints of beer but spills half a pint over the table and my jumper. When we reach the petrol station at Beaumont Leys, we have less than 5 miles range of petrol remaining. Oh dear, RM thinks he has left his glasses in Devon.

I have sent a message to the O club that some of the plaques on the permanent White course at The Outwoods are broken or missing. I hope they will be mended before the Brownies visit in June. To my surprise RM returns from Club night with a bag of screws and new plaques for me to put up. The explanation being it would be quicker for me to do it

than to wait for the paperwork and permissions etc.

On the day we are supposed to be meeting with son Andrew and family, RM has gone to Doncaster leaving his car at Fieldhead to share lifts with other orienteers. A message from RM 'Running late. Can I meet him at Fieldhead?' is accompanied by a map of the parking location. On their return, the other orienteers seem surprised that I have appeared and equally surprised that at 2pm we are expected at Hick's Lodge. Its 2.06pm already with a 20-minute journey ahead of us.

23rd April is St George's Day and the Watermead event, with a George and the Dragon theme. RM did not read the information so did not realise there were controls worth different numbers of points and that George and Dragon controls **had** to be visited. Luckily, he had been to those controls.

John has volunteered to help Chris B with the Thursday evening Castle Hill event as Chris has an upcoming hospital procedure. After the event, food is at the Bradgate Arms. RM has time to come home and search for a missing/spare control box without success. Later Chris finds the box in his kit.

That's all folks, until next time, enjoy your orienteering and remember:

Read the instructions, take a torch to a night O and that different contact lenses are made for left and right eyes.

Irene Marriott

Honest Guv - continued from page 11

There is also a lot of information on the BOF website.

The club always provides a mentor for new officials and you can always ask the more experienced people in the club. LEI has 9 qualified Level A officials who are more than willing to help with suggestions, advice and technical information. They are Ernie Williams, Roger Edwards, Iain Phillips, Steve Chafer, Steve Edgar, Peter Hornsby, Bob Haskins, Chris Phillips and Ursula Williamson.

Having read so far, if you are new to the sport you might think – heck that looks like a lot of work. It possibly is, but it does have its advantages for the orienteer. Being an event official is known to help improve techniques, particularly being a planner. It is much more difficult to find a control feature when there is no kite there. It's rather nice visiting some beautiful areas when you are not under pressure and being chased by a horde of other competitors intent on going faster than you. Finally there is the satisfaction of putting something back into the sport that you have come to love or maybe obsessed by (it's addictive!!).

See page 9 and sign up now for some training or a refresher course. Complete beginners and old hands welcome.

Chris

Summer League 2024

The 2024 programme is shown below. The events are informal. Weekday starts are staggered from 6.30pm to 7.30pm and courses close at 8.30pm.
(These times may be advanced by 30 minutes at either end of the season).

For full details of the event check on the LEI website.

SL1	Wednesday 17th April	Groby Urban
SL2	Tuesday 23rd April	Watermead
SL3	Wednesday 1st May	Birstall Urban
SL4	Thursday 9th May	Castle Hill
SL5	Tuesday 14th May	Atherstone Urban
SL6	Wednesday 22nd May	Bagworth
SL7	Thursday 30th May	Tunnel Woods
SL8	Tuesday 4th June	Fosse Meadows
SL9	Wednesday 12th June	Glenfield Urban
SL10	Tuesday 18th June	Barrow Urban
SL11	Tuesday 25th June	Melton Country Park
SL12	Wednesday 3rd July	Sence Valley
SL13	Wednesday 10th July	Western Park
SL14	Tuesday 16th July	Burbage Common
SL15	Thursday 1st August	Markfield Urban
SL16	Tuesday 6th August	Outwoods
Score Cup & League Presentation	Wednesday 14th August	QEDJ Woods

Summer League Table 2024 (after 7 events)

Position	Competitor	Class	Club	Points	+Handicap	Attendance	Total
1	Andy Nicholls	M45	LEI	667	748	70	818
2	Ben Shannon	M35	LEI	695	723	70	793
3	Roger Phillips	M45	LEI	603	675	70	745
4	Bruce Bryant	M65	OD	507	649	70	719
5	Andrew Ward	M35	LEI	599	623	70	693
6	Liz Phillips	W60	OD	470	602	70	672
7	Alastair Paterson	M55	LEI	473	568	70	638
8	Stephen Chafer	M55	LEI	476	571	60	631
9	Ed De Salis Young	M55	LEI	483	580	50	630
10	David Cladingboel	M55	LEI	458	549	60	609

Summer League Table continued...

Position	Competitor	Class	Club	Points	+Handicap	Attendance	Total
11	Kevin Gallagher	M75	LEI	385	524	70	594
12	Roger Edwards	M70	LEI	387	511	60	571
13	Steve Edgar	M55	LEI	417	501	60	561
14	Stephen Martin	M65	LEI	378	484	50	534
15	Ed Cochrane	M35	NOC	458	476	50	526
16	John Marriott	M75	LEI	333	453	70	523
17	David Seaman	M50	LEI	406	471	50	521
18	Tom Hartland	M45	DVO	412	461	50	511
19	Paul Stothard	M55	LEI	374	449	60	509
20	Peter Chick	M80	LEI	318	433	70	503
21	Matthew Birkett	M45	LEI	370	414	50	464
22	Ursula Williamson	W60	LEI	315	403	60	463
23	Gerry Spalton	M75	OD	262	356	60	416
24	Jane Dring-Morris	W55	LEI	286	354	50	404
25	Keith Willdig	M75	OD	265	360	40	400
26	Rodney Hugo	M80	OD	238	323	60	383
27	Chris Phillips	M75	LEI	231	314	60	374
28	Jo White	W50	LEI	261	313	50	363
29	Tanya Taylor	W50	LOG	269	323	30	353
30	Kevin Bradley	M65	LEI	226	289	50	339
31	Chris Bosley	M75	LEI	205	278	60	338
32	Patricia Wong	W50	NOC	239	287	50	337
33	Tracey Brookes	W55	LEI	231	286	50	336
34	Sue Bicknell	W80	LEI	189	265	60	325
35	David Jenkinson	M60	LEI	224	277	40	317
36	Doug Dickinson	M75	DVO	211	286	30	316
37	Jonathan Lee	M60	LEI	214	265	40	305
38	Andrew Selby	M45	DVO	245	274	30	304
39	Carol Stynes-Martin	W55	LEI	202	251	40	291
40	Ian Salmon	M60	LEI	194	241	40	281
41	Dai Bedwell	M55	DVO	209	251	30	281
42	Peter Leake	M85	LEI	150	204	60	264
43	Jeffrey Baker	M70	LOG	177	234	30	264
44	Zeph Grant	M55	LEI	180	216	40	256
45	Alan West	M65	LEI	169	216	30	246
46	Karen Ives-Smith	W60	LEI	154	197	40	237
47	Daniel Stothard	M18	LEI	189	204	30	234
48	Peter Dargue	M70	LEI	140	185	40	225
49	Peter Hornsby	M70	LEI	147	195	30	225
50	Hebe Parr	W21	NOC	180	188	30	218

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. Local (D) events will only have a limited range of courses. Regional (C) events offer a range of colour-coded courses, with start times generally from 10.30am to 12.30pm. National (B) and major (A) events provide a range of age-related courses. Post-Covid, most orienteering events are normally entered in advance online. EOD will usually be limited and more expensive. 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 data, but events are sometimes cancelled. If you are uncertain as to whether an event will take place, check with the organiser, check on www.leioc.org.uk or check on www.britishorienteering.org.uk. The editors take no responsibility for wasted journeys!

EVENT STRUCTURE IN FIXTURE LISTS

- Local (level D) = relatively low-cost events providing local competition and aimed at increasing participation.
- Regional (level C) = events providing a wider variety of venues and competitors.
- National (level B) = events providing opportunities for more experienced competitors, giving a wider variety of terrain and competition for those who are prepared to travel longer distances.
- Major (level A) = major UK events, the best that orienteering can offer.

June 2024

Sun 02/06/24	Regional LEI EMOA	EMUL 2024 Ibstock Urban, Leicester
Tue 04/06/24	Local LEI EMOA	LEI Summer League 8, Fosse Meadows, Leicester, SP488908
Sat 08/06/24	Local POTOC WMOA	Brough Park Double Sprint, Brough Park, Leek
Sat 08/06/24	Local SYO YHOA	Saturday Series 9, Meersbrook Park, Sheffield, SK353839
Sat 08/06/24	Regional SMOC EAOA	Double Sprint Day - Milton Keynes, Campbell Park, Downs Barn and Pennylands, Milton Keynes

June Cont.

Sun 09/06/24	Local NOC EMOA	University of Nottingham, Local event, Nottingham
Sun 09/06/24	Regional WAOC EAOA	Bedford Urban based at Mill Meadows, Bedford
Wed 12/06/24	Local LEI EMOA	LEI Summer League 9, Glenfield Urban, Leicester, SK539058
Sat 15/06/24	Regional SYO YHOA	Stannington Urban Sprint, Sheffield, SK310882
Sun 16/06/24	National SYO YHOA	National Urban Event (UKUL), Walkley, Sheffield, SK337890
Tue 18/06/24	Local LEI EMOA	LEI Summer League 10, Barrow Urban, Loughborough
Wed 19/06/24	Local HALO YHOA	Lincolnshire Urban League 3 - Waltham, Grimsby
Sat 22/06/24	Local DVO EMOA	Allestree Park Local Event, Derby, SK348407
Sat 22/06/24	Major HOC WMOA	<i>Evening event - British Sprint Relay Championships, Birmingham University, Birmingham</i>
Sun 23/06/24	Major OD WMOA	<i>British Sprint Championships (UKOL), University of Warwick, Coventry, SP294756</i>
Tue 25/06/24	Local LEI EMOA	LEI Summer League 11, Melton Country Park, Melton Mowbray, SK756208
Wed 26/06/24	Local LOG EMOA	Lincs Urban League, Saxibly, Lincoln, SK892754
Thu 27/06/24	Local POTOC WMOA	Biddulph Grange Country Park, Biddulph,
Sun 30/06/24	Regional NOC EMOA	East Midlands Urban League 2024, Clifton, Nottingham

July 2024

Wed 03/07/24	Local LEI EMOA	LEI Summer League 12, Sence Valley Country Park, Ibstock, SK403112
Sat 06/07/24- Sun 07/07/24	National AIRE YHOA	AIRE Sprint Weekend Day 1 & YHOA Sprint Championships (UKOL), South Leeds, Sprint Weekend Day 2 Urban (UKOL), Little London, Leeds
Sun 07/07/24	National HH SEOA	Yvette Baker Trophy Final, Northaw Great Wood and Cuffley, Potter's Bar, TL296041
Wed 10/07/24	Local LEI EMOA	LEI Summer League 13, Western Park, Leicester, SK556047
Sat 13/07/24	Local DVO EMOA	Allestree Park Relay and Picnic, Derby, SK341404
Sat 13/07/24	Local POTOC WMOA	Tunstall Park, Tunstall
Sun 14/07/24	Regional DVO EMOA	EMUL 2024 Chesterfield Urban
Tue 16/07/24	Local LEI EMOA	LEI Summer League 14, Burbage Common, Hinckley, SP52940
Sun 21/07/24	National WOA	Croeso Day 1 (UKOL), Merthyr Mawr, Bridgend, SS864768
Mon 22/07/24	National SBOC WOA	Croeso Day 2 (UKOL), Cribarth, Ystradgynlais, SN829143
Tue 23/07/24	National SBOC WOA	Croeso Day 3, Carreg Goch, Ystradgynlais, SN819169
Wed 24/07/24	Regional BAOC WOA	Croeso - Rest Day Sprint, Brecon Town, Brecon, SO041285
Thu 25/07/24	National SWOC WOA	Croeso Day 4, Pen Rhiw Wen, Brynamman, SN732188
Fri 26/07/24	National SWOC WOA	Croeso Day 5, Llangynidr, Tredegar, SO117139
Sat 27/07/24	National WOA	Croeso Day 6, Merthyr Common, Tredegar, SO117139

August 2024

Thu 01/08/24	Local LEI EMOA	LEI Summer League 15, Markfield Urban, Leicester, SK490098
Sat 03/08/24	Local LOG EMOA	Wolds Mini Mountain Marathon, Massingberd Arms, Louth, TF369754
Tue 06/08/24	Local LEI	LEI Summer League 16, Outwoods, Loughborough, SK515159
Sun 11/08/24	Regional LEI	EMUL 2024 Coalville/Whitwick Urban, Leicester
Wed 14/08/24	Local LEI	LEI Summer League Presentation, Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Woods, Ibstock, SK384119 Mass Start 6.30pm
Sun 18/08/24	Regional LOG	EMUL 2024 Lincoln City Urban, Boultham Park, Lincoln, SK965691

September 2024

Sun 01/09/24	Regional WAOC	Yaxley Urban event, Yaxley, Peterborough.
Sat 14/09/24	National SLOW SEOA	City of London Race, TBC, London
Sat 14/09/24 - Sun 15/09/24	National YHOA	Dales Weekend Day 1&2 and YHOA SuperLeague (UKOL), Monk's Road & Malham Moor, Malham
Sun 15/09/24	Regional POTOC	West Midlands Championships +WML, TBC
Sat 21/09/24	Local POTOC	Hem Heath Woods, Wedgwood car park, Trentham
Sat 21/09/24	Local WRE	John Bennison Long O, Long Mynd, Church Stretton, SO414939
Sat 21/09/24 - 22/09/24	National DEVON	Caddihoe Days 1&2 (UKOL), Braunton Burrows, Braunton, SS463351
Sun 22/09/24	Regional	SYO Regional Event, Cowms Rocks, Snake Pass
Sat 28/09/24 - Sun29/09/24	National NGOC/ BOK	JIRCs, Mallards Pike, Cinderford JIRCs Relays Sandford & Lyncombe Woods, Churchill, N. Somerset ST433592
Sun 29/09/24	Regional DVO	EMOA League 2024 Calke Park, Derby, SK355240

LEI at the JK Behind the Scenes

The Major orienteering events are the highlight of any club's year (LEI have hosted 10 in the last 20 years) and events don't come larger than the JK especially when your day is also a World Ranking Event. We asked the major officials of the day at Loughborough University to share their thoughts.

Iain Phillips. The Organiser's View.

Arrangements for the JK in 2024 started over two years earlier with my first emails to the University in January 2022. The planners and I held a winter meeting on campus over a year before the event looking for a suitable start and finish location. It was snowing. My trainers never recovered. The decisions we made that day were all in vain as we couldn't use the buildings we wanted to use. Negotiations with the University to find suitable venues proved problematic as being a bank holiday, nowhere was open and most staff were on leave. So, we ended up at the Edward Herbert Building again, but as we'd used this arena for the sprints in 2019, we had to find new places for the start and finish. We also learned from previous JKs and WREs to keep the elite start away from the main start. Taking all this into account, this is how we ended up with the run in and start positions and I think we made the most of these.

The University provided lots of support with all the barriers, gazebos, chairs and tables coming from them and put into place by university staff. Paige Nutall led this team wonderfully and she herself learned a lot about orienteering on the day. My thanks also to my colleague from Mathematics Prof Zhou who, as APVC for Sport, Health and Wellbeing, presented the medals.

Anecdotes:

I decided early on that a string course would be more appropriate than our maze as I wanted to keep off the grass. Note that the starts were all on hardstanding for the same reason. I planned the string course and the day before the event Chris, Ursula, Kevin, Maureen and I put out our stakes and kites. Arguably the jointly highest qualified string course operatives ever.

The location of the commentary box caused many concerns with the need to have cables connecting the finish to commentary, thence to download and then to enquiries. Everything worked out well in the end, but this caused the most sleepless nights. Manoeuvring the box into place was very hard due to the slope, but with help (and his vehicle) from Simon, Bobbie from Amplified Sound and I eventually got it there.

The weather was mostly favourable, but for the downpour the day before as we moved 200 barriers around. The downpour on the day came just as I was about to sit outside with my lunch ...

The following two days I went to help on entries at Beaudesert. A much simpler job and good return and de-stress from day 1 activities.

So many people helped. We have medals for some selected helpers which we'll give out at a suitable time later in the summer.

As usual the campus changed many times in the planning. Three weeks before we became aware of the imminent demolition of the Whitworth tower. A multi month project, but with hoardings going up immediately. Where would

these be? No one knew. Late remapping a week before the event.

The new pavilion, where we held the presentations, was not even thought about when we started planning. The existing building demolished and the pavilion built over the time we prepared for the event. From my office, I watched with interest.

Steve Edgar. The Planner's View.

Planning started over a year before on a wet day and snow laying on the ground with a site visit between both planners and organiser scoping out an arena and start/finish area.

Initial courses last summer had both planners each creating test courses 1 and 14 and picking out a specific idea of some long legs through the area. I'd prepared some course calculation files to establish maximum course distances and I was keen to have courses nearer the top end of the range, in hindsight once we'd refined them, some courses end up a little over distance.

All course/map files were stored in the cloud, accessible by all officials and mapper, this really helped ensure we always worked on the latest data.

Once we'd reviewed our initial ideas and merged the best of initial plans, one of us planned a few courses and these were reviewed by the other. Later on, when courses were fine-tuned following feedback from the Controller and IOF advisors, planning changes were undertaken by me, with Steve C test running the courses and identifying map corrections and double-checking control descriptions, ages classes etc.

Initial course designs included more sites to the south west of the area but these involved larger blocks and less route choice, I know some courses may have felt convoluted but I felt it was more enjoyable and technical passing through

the complex housing blocks more than once thus longer courses had 2 sided maps.

On the event itself actual control deployment was split between both planners, with Steve C also acting as assistant organiser.

From the feedback I've heard since the event I think we did the best we could, and it seems everyone enjoyed it."

Steve Chafer. The Assistant's View.

When asked by Steve Edgar to assist him on the JK sprint planning, I was very pleased to accept and take on the task, especially as, although having run plenty of sprint courses, I had never actually planned a sprint course before. With an early task set to "have a go" at planning a course for Course 1 (M21E etc) and Course 14 (Novice) I made my first suggestion to Steve E back in early March 2023, just over 12 months before the event itself.

When I look back at these first "have a go" courses other than being roughly on the same area of campus they bear no resemblance to the finished courses at all.

Planning and organising a major event in an urban or campus environment has a unique set of challenges but also has some significant advantages compared to typical forest or moorland events. We were very fortunate to have Iain Phillips as Day 1 organiser on site as part of the academic staff of the university to liaise with the facilities and events team there, however it definitely didn't mean we would get what we asked for. After early discussions with the university the initial assembly, car parking, start and finish areas all changed.

Fast forward to August and we had a new assembly area agreed with the University, (we were given a short list of one, the EHB building) a new potential finish, start and elite start identified. We had also made good progress identifying possible

control sites. Reviewing these sites now, of the 89 sites identified at this time only a handful made the final cut.

From some early discussions Steve and I had discussed our split of work, but having 2 people working on different sets of courses was not going to work, so I settled into the role of being a second set of eyes and providing suggestions to Steve for alternative sites or legs. A considerable amount of time was given to the exact position of controls, many initially influenced by where the stake could be attached to, or the many ongoing changes being made by the university facilities team to the site. The last changes and temporary fences moved the day before printing.

Once we had the controller and IOF advisers on board, there was a significant amount of discussion around specific legs and position of controls, with many what in one sense were very small changes, but once you added them all up made a significant amount of work, including a final change to both the main and elite start. This was just as well given the weather on the day and the second planned start area now being a very nice patch of spring flowers.

It was later on in the process that I agreed to assist Iain with the organising, having been on board for the course planning since day 1 and having been involved in the conversations about organisational issues, it made some sense to be involved with the organising as well. As Steve E now was doing nearly all of the planning work on his own and I was only really checking purple pen files or test running courses on site with Sindy and identifying mapping and course issues at this time.

By the time I was on board with the organisation many of the major items has been agreed, the Assembly area, (even though they had still not finished building the covered area outside),

starts, finish, area for Trail O, String course, warm up, traders and Biathlon. Or at least that is what I thought. I think within a one-week period we changed the position of download, the commentary box and route from the finish about 4 times, only to revert back to the initial plan once all the issues raised had been solved.

I was given the task of dealing with the on the day signage, both for traffic coming on site and competitors on site. A big thank you to Kevin Gallagher for helping me with the kit for the signs and to Ursula for the never-ending sign printing.

Having worked with Steve E throughout the planning process, having visited each of the sites many times, putting out the controls on the day before the event and on the day, itself was a relatively straightforward process. The day before, assisted by Tracy and Sindy and with the use of some trolleys, the stakes and kites (with the exception of a few) were all put out and checked by the controller and IOF advisors. I also put out as many of the signs as possible, at least those I could attach to street furniture.

On the day of the event, I arrived on site at 5.30am putting out the remaining road signs on the way to assembly. By just after 6 am I had also taped off the OOB area on the course and put the temporary fencing up to block the gap near the building being demolished in the middle of the area. By 7.30am I had put out my 35 controls. It helped being in a small area. It took me two controls to work out the nuances of the new locks. I had to go back and redo the first one! Just as a warning there is also the odd fitting on the stakes that do not work with new controls and locks, fortunately I had spares. Check before you deploy!

A few more signs to put out and I thought that would be it. The start and finish teams did a great job in setting up their areas and there was very little to do there.

I was once told that drivers only register 1 in 4 signs they pass while driving. I was also told print twice as many signs as you think you need for the event, I did. It appears that some orienteers also register less than 1 in 4 signs when at an orienteering event. There were some issues but I think most people got to where they wanted to go by the time they needed to be there. Thanks to Ernie, Maureen and others for giving directions on the day. It is amazing how easy it is to see and read signs when there are not

several hundred people milling around in front of them.

Fortunately, we didn't have to collect the controls but I did still take down the temporary barriers and tape on the course, before dismantling all the signs. A pretty tiring day, 12 hours on site and over 41,000 steps completed. Many thanks to Steve Edgar and Iain Phillips who both did fantastic jobs. It was a pleasure helping.

Photo Gallery 1: LEI Dinner & Awards Evening



Photo Gallery 2: LEI Dinner & Awards Evening



Photos: Roger Phillips

