



T'VOICE

March 2016



NEWSLETTER AWARDS 07 09 10 11 12 15

CompassSport

The Thames Valley Orienteering Club Newsletter

Phot-O Gallery 1



Claire **Thames Valley Orienteering Club**

1 hr · Saint Albans · 🌐

We had a brilliant time at Waddesdon today. Really good, child-friendly courses which were accessible to both my 9 year old and 4 year old. The medals went down a storm too 😊

Like Comment Share

Thames Valley Orienteering Club likes this. Chronological

Thames Valley Orienteering Club Hi Claire, really pleased you enjoyed it. We have very similar junior courses at all our events, so hope to see you at another event!
Like · Reply · 1 · 1 hr



Claire **Thames Valley Orienteering Club**

15 February at 19:04 · 🌐

Our ten year old loved her first go at orienteering today at Waddesdon. Lovely helpful staff and she hasn't taken the medal off yet! Thank you. 🙏

Like Comment Share

Thames Valley Orienteering Club likes this. Chronological

Thames Valley Orienteering Club Thanks Claire, really pleased you all enjoyed it, hope to see you at another event, where we have electronic timing, which I'm sure your daughter would love too!
Like · Reply · 1 · 15 February at 19:47



British Orienteering and Waddesdon Retweeted a Tweet you were mentioned in
Feb 19 · New blog post: A fantastic #halfterm activity - Orienteering at @WaddesdonManor, organised by the @tvoclub ow ly/YXbz9

slimfit and Mummy on a Budget liked a Tweet you were mentioned in
Feb 19 · Two more days left to try the Orienteering challenge and win your own medal @mummyonabudget @tvoclub

Renee Curran and Mike Sandhu followed you
Feb 20

Retweeted a Tweet you were mentioned in
Feb 19 · Two more days left to try the Orienteering challenge and win your own medal @mummyonabudget @tvoclub

Waddesdon @WaddesdonManor Feb 19
Two more days left to try the Orienteering challenge and win your own medal @mummyonabudget @tvoclub
View conversation

Mummy on a Budget @mummyonabudget Feb 19
New blog post: A fantastic #halfterm activity - Orienteering at @WaddesdonManor, organised by the @tvoclub ow ly/YXbz9

Itsy Adventures Retweeted your Retweet
Feb 9 · Why not visit Waddesdon Manor this February #HalfTerm for outdoor orienteering
visitsoutheastengland.com/events/februar... #Aylesbury
pic.twitter.com/uqf7PJ

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visitsoutheastengland.com/events/februar... #Aylesbury
pic.twitter.com/uqf7PJ

Gina **Thames Valley Orienteering Club**
Yesterday · Edited · 🌐

Thank you for a great morning orienteering guys. Carl and I had a fantastic time with the boys 😊 . See you at Wendover 😊 — at Waddesdon Manor.

Like Comment Share

Thames Valley Orienteering Club, Jane Marie and Carl like this. Top comments

Thames Valley Orienteering Club Pleased you all enjoyed it! See you at Wendover!
Like · Reply · 1 · Yesterday at 13:52

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Facebook and twitter comments about the Waddesdon half term orienteering activities

T'VOICE

Thames Valley Orienteering Club Newsletter March 2016 Issue 232

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Front cover: Orienteering Gazebo at Waddesdon Manor – photo by Andrew Chalmers

Back Cover: View towards Didcot from Wittenham Clumps, Saturday Series.

From the Chair

I have noticed that my articles at the beginning of T'Voice seem to have been getting longer and longer. So this issue will be really short. But don't worry! You will find pages from me later in the issue.

It was great to see many of you out for the CompassSport Cup match in the New Forest. We ended up 5th out of 7, but that does not do justice to our performance. With 2265 points, we were only 33 points off the winning position. It would have been good to have had a few more people attending, especially juniors. What could we do to encourage more juniors to attend? Do let me know, so we can see what we can do for next year.

We are now heading into the big event season, with the JK and the British Long Distance Championships, followed soon after by the Sprint and Middle Champs. Hope to see many of you there.



Alun Jones / TVOC Chairman

Alun Jones – Chairman

News in Brief

Date for the diary: Event safety course

Provisional date for TVOC event safety course Saturday 18th June 09.00 - 13.00
(attendance at a course is mandatory for all wishing to officiate from 2017 onwards)

Christmas Common Injury

Some of you may know that I had to go to hospital following the Christmas common event with an injury to my leg. I'm pleased to say that it is all healed up now following stitches; it was well enough to get round the woods at Brockenhurst last weekend and should be nearly as good as new in another week or so. Special thanks to Claire Skidmore for taking me to the JR, Andy from Abingdon venture rescue for the first aid treatment, and Peter Riches for relocating my car back to High Wycombe. I'll spare you the photos... *Ian Buxton*

Wendover Chiltern Challenge

Entries are now open for our 2016 Chiltern Challenge Level B event at Wendover Woods on Sunday April 24th. For people who will be able to help, we are offering a Helper Discount. This will be applied when entering via Fabian4 using the code "tvoc16".

More details about the event are up on the TVOC web site here:
http://www.tvoc.org.uk/application/views/events/events_view.php

Let me also reassure you that British Orienteering have confirmed that entering this event will NOT affect your qualifying status for entry to the 2017 British Middle Distance championships, (should its venue be confirmed as Wendover Woods). *John Dalton*

Waddesdon Activity Week – in summary...

I thought you would like to know that there were 1397 participating children over the whole of the 9 day activity week at the Manor.

The Education and Learning Department staff at Waddesdon are delighted at the outcome.

As I think all the helpers found, it was hard work, but very enjoyable and rewarding to see such delight on the children's faces, especially when they received the medals that the NT were handing out. The parents and grandparents we spoke to said they thought it was very good and ideal for the children.

We may see some of these families at our future events. *Yvonne Hodson*

World Orienteering Day

The first ever World Orienteering Day will be held on Wednesday, May 11th, 2016. All schools, all O-clubs and all countries all over the world are encouraged to participate. By organising this ambitious project the IOF hopes to increase the visibility and accessibility of orienteering to young people, increase the number of participants, and also to set a new **Guinness World Record** for simultaneous orienteering.

Coaching Sessions

I plan to get some coaching sessions for beginner adults going in the near future, in the evenings at Shotover (and perhaps other places). Anyone who is interested please get in touch with me via email at benjosephgreen@gmail.com. *Ben Green*

CompassSport Newsletter Award

I am pleased to report that the TVOC newsletter has once again won an award from the Orienteering magazine CompassSport. This will be the 6th year that we have won an award since 2007. See the full report on page 8.

Membership News

New members

I am delighted to introduce the following new members to the club: Tim, Alison, Harry and Molly Baker, Phil and Jess Arnold, Rosie Sibley, and new junior member Benji Rojas. I'm sure everyone will make them feel very welcome when they meet them at events.

I'm also very happy to say that our Social Members, Heather Walton (SLOW), Laura Parkes (HH), Chris, Simon and Adam Poole (RAFO), Jegor Kostylev (INT) and Anastasia Trubkina (FVO) have all re-joined for this year. They are all in other clubs already, but want to have a connection with TVOC, and all contribute significantly to our club:



- ◆ Jegor and Anastasia are currently re-mapping and planning at Kingswood
- ◆ Heather has planned and hosted several Oxford Street-O events, and is hosting the final of this year's series, as well as being a member of the Emit/Registration team
- ◆ Laura has been busy with HH recently as she was the Planner for the Level B event in Ashridge on 21 February, but she is also a member of our Control Collection team
- ◆ Chris, Simon and Adam are all members of the Start team, but Chris is also the new co-ordinator of the Summer Series

We are very grateful for their continued interest in, and support of the club.

Having said all of this, TVOC is also very happy to offer Social Membership to anyone who has been a long-term member of TVOC in the past but who has now joined a club in a different part of the country. They won't be able to continue to make the contributions to the club that they previously did, but are very welcome to opt for Social Membership (£8), and receive the newsletter six times a year.

Membership renewals

I'm afraid that this current March edition is the last one that you will receive if you have not already renewed your membership, and do not renew it within the next two months. You will already have lost the £2 discount on senior fees for online entry to events, as British Orienteering will not have you recorded as a current member. From our next event (Shotover

on 16th April) the £2 discount on senior entry fees will not be available to you. I hope you will be interested in renewing, and remaining a club member.

I am pleased to say that many members have renewed since the publication of the last newsletter. I have contacted everyone individually, twice, in case the call for renewal had slipped their mind, or they hadn't noticed the email from British Orienteering.

The current situation is that there are only 13 households that have not renewed (excluding two that have moved abroad and said goodbye...for the moment), Of these, one has told me they won't renew for the moment as their children are too busy at weekend with other activities; and one has indicated that renewal is likely.

Publication of Membership list in May

The 2016 TVOC Membership List will be published in May and circulated with the May newsletter.

Last year I contacted all club members and recorded their individual decisions on whether they were OK for their details to continue to be published in this list. I have a record of all of those decisions. New members who join using our TVOC membership form have already told me their decision, but I still need to contact those who have joined online.

If any contact details have changed since the last Membership list, please can you get in touch and let me know so I can update the new list.

Carol Edwards, Membership Secretary

SCOA Junior Squad

Junior Regional Orienteering Squads Summer Tours 2016

JROS have announced their summer tours for 2016:

- ◆ Lagganlia, Scotland (M/W14s)
- ◆ Deeside, Scotland (M/W15s)
- ◆ Stromstad, Sweden (M/W17s and some M/W16s)
- ◆ "Gothenburg" (M/W20s) - somewhere in Scandinavia

Please see the JROS website for further details on selection races and criteria (www.jros.org.uk). SCOA usually fund 50% of the tour costs. JROS are also looking for volunteers to coach, cook or manage the tours - please get in touch with JROS if you are interested.

Training 2016

The Junior Squad has met several times since January. Over half term, a large contingent met with the SE and SW Junior Squads in a cold and wet New Forest to focus on rough navigation, attack points and map memory exercises. The more experienced tested their relocation skills while Laura Parkes coached the Orange/Light Green athletes on "aiming off". The day was finished by a squad meal in the local pub where Laurence ran a quiz. The athletes spent the next day at Bagshot learning the difference between Fine O and Rough O using map walks and attack points. Laura challenged the athletes with her contour session where the paths had

been removed from the map. The athletes enjoyed running under pressure in an “individual race mass start” and a relay race in the afternoon. More recently, the squad joined 10 members of the SN Junior Squad (yes, they have a squad!) for some fine navigation training at Windmill Hill.

Future training sessions are scheduled for:

- Saturday 23rd April TVOC area – hopefully Park Wood
- Saturday 28th May BADO area
- Sunday 9th July Location to be decided
- Saturday 3rd September Windmill Hill
- 24/25 September JIRCS – Aberdeen
- Thursday 27th October Location to be decided
- Friday 28th October Location to be decided

We welcome all SCOA juniors of about Orange standard and above and aged 10 or so to 18 years to join us at the Saturday training days. We meet at 1015 hrs and finish about 1500 hrs. You need to bring your lunch, a drink, £1 to cover map and access costs, and your orienteering kit. Please contact Simon Kippin (juniorsquad@scoa-orienteeing.org.uk) if you want to know more.



Simon Kippin / SCJS squad manager

Schools League

7 events have now been completed in the schools league this season, and leaderboard stands as follows. It looks as if the top places could be a much closer battle than in previous years, now that several students have moved schools and some new faces are coming along regularly. There are just 3 more events to go, at Shotover, Cutteslowe and Oxford University parks so this will favour those nearer to Oxford – but the results are by no means certain at the moment!

Pos	School	Points
1	Kings School, Witney	600
2	Charlbury Primary School	560
3	Holy Trinity Marlow	360
4	Headington School	340
5	Harwell Primary School	280

If you are competing regularly at events but have not yet signed up for your school, please sign up at one of the events so that points can be awarded.

Ian Buxton / Schools League co-ordinator

Colour-coded award badges

Are you eligible for a colour badge? You can qualify for a colour award badge by successfully achieving the 'standard' for that colour course (at a level C event or above) on 3 separate occasions. For yellow, orange, red, light green, green, blue & brown courses the standard is generally set by either the winner's time +50%, or the top 50% of those who started the course, whichever gives the most qualifiers. The white standard is achieved by all who complete the white course.

If you believe you are eligible for a colour badge, collect together the relevant results and contact Roger Baker who maintains the TVOC stock.

*email: rogerhbaker@btinternet.com phone: 01235 520447
post: Ludwell, Faringdon Road, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 1BQ*



Yellow & Orange badges

Roger Baker

Club kit – new stock now in!

The new stock has arrived, now a little longer length. If you would like a new TVOC o-top, please let me know what size, together with long sleeve or short. Price is £25. (cheques preferred, payable to TVOC). Shirts sizes are: - extra extra small, extra small, small, medium large or Bell tent! Medium is our most popular. Find me at a Saturday series event to take a look.

Just a reminder to the juniors that once they are club members and have completed 2 colour coded courses successfully, they are entitled to a club top at no cost. The top remains the property of the club and when returned in pristine and freshly laundered condition, can be exchanged for a larger size.



Peter in club kit

Peter Riches, 7 Raylands Mead, Bull Lane, Gerrards Cross SL98SJ petercriches@gmail.com

Peter Riches

2015 CompassSport Newsletter Awards

(This item has been reproduced from CompassSport magazine)

It's once again that time of the year where we give a big nod in the direction of all the hard working and long suffering editors of club magazines whose efforts may often be taken for granted but whose work, in the words of a previous commenter in this column, can be the glue that holds the club together. Now is not the time to debate those sentiments, it has been done before, but now is the time to come up with 2015's top ten publications, as decided by the CompassSport Newsletter Awards Committee. Not only that but best front cover too.

Before we begin, we think it would be only fitting to mention Barbara Warren WIM, who sadly passed away in late 2015 (See DEC15 issue). There is a case for describing her as the matriarch of all orienteering club newsletter editors, having been at the helm of producing WIM's Waffle publication for the best part of 30 years from 1981 onwards. Waffle may not have won CompassSport Awards but if there was a special Newsletter Award Medal of Honour, then Barbara would have been a worthy recipient.

Getting down to business, 164 magazines from 33 clubs and 3 regions were under scrutiny this time round. Leaving aside Scotland, where there are many small clubs and the regional magazine SCORE serves in many ways as a substitute, it would seem that about 50% of clubs still maintain a conventional regular members' publication, capable of being printed off in booklet form if desired. A couple of publications ceased in 2015 to be replaced by regular email bulletins; this is invariably a one-way process – once the magazine has gone, it's gone for good.

Beginning with Best Cover, there remains a wide degree of conservatism displayed by many editors and consequently many cover formats do not easily offer the possibility of winning this category unless facilitated by a spectacular photograph. So, for the fourth year running the winning cover does not display a conventional action shot. Instead, an eye-catching graphic on the cover of the January edition of DVO's Newstrack is the winner. Congratulations to its creator, editor Sal Chaffey.

Moving onto the main category we continue to champion the cause of "stuff that people enjoy reading" without religiously trying to tick all of the boxes of functionality that these days the club website is capable of providing. There are as usual a number of leading contenders and also a pack of chasers, not all of whom can be recognised in a single year and therefore may dip in and out from year to year. With this in mind, the winners for 2015 are, in club alphabetical order (editors in brackets): BKO - Newsletter (David Jukes), DEE - Deeside News (Jane Mockford), DVO - Newstrack (Sal Chaffey), LEI - LEI News (Alan and Wendy West), SAX -SAXalert (Rowan Purkis), SOA - Score (Sally Lindsay), SN - SNaggers (Ross Maclagan), SO - The Southdowner (Simon Thraves), SOC- SOCK (Jenny Dickin), TVOC - T'Voice (Ian Buxton).

Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to the editors for providing the judges with so much material to enjoy, although 36 parallel versions of the Scottish 6-Day event can wear a little thin after a while! Good luck for 2016.

Best wishes, Nick Barrable
Managing Editor

www.CompassSport.co.uk

The UK's Orienteering Magazine

Subscriptions Address only - 85 Deacon Road, Kingston-Upon-Thames, KT2 6LS

Editorial Address - 6 Glenmore Park, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5NZ



Nick Barrable / CompassSport

Oxford Street-O series

The Summertown results (February) have been published, many thanks to Ben who planned and the family for hosting us. The food was excellent and nicely warming after a chilly damp evening runaround. We also welcomed a couple of newcomers in Nat, Ahmed and Alex. Hopefully you enjoyed yourselves in spite of the conditions.

The leader board is now taking a firmer shape as more people now have the maximum number of scoring events. I can see it getting very tight at the top, although Roger Thetford and Marie-Anne Fischer are still hanging on to their leads at the moment.

Ben provided some organiser's thoughts following the event:

“Thanks to those who turned up to the Summertown Street O on a miserable evening, making the many months of meticulous planning worthwhile. I hope you all gained useful knowledge on non-consecutive house numbers and the wide variety of hydrant ratios in North Oxford. Apologies for not clarifying that First Turn, whilst closed to traffic, is open to pedestrians – albeit with a less direct route than indicated on the map. It seems to have been quite unclear what the optimal route was – I will have to go and give it a go myself!”

The format is a one hour score event on a Tuesday or Wednesday evening with starts from 6:30 to about 8pm. Usually there are about 30 controls with a variety of points available for each control. As it is evening a head torch is appropriate, especially as some lanes may be quite dark. For full details see the website at <http://oss.markandblanka.com/>

Thank you to all those who have volunteered to organise an event this season. If you haven't yet but would like to, contact me at one of this season's events.

The next event is on Tuesday 26th April in Botley.

Prizes:

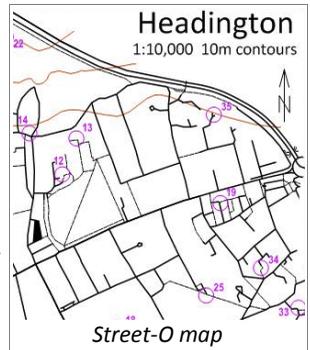
There will be leagues tables for both men and women. Prizes for top positions and the honour for taking the series title are at stake. Also this year as we have some historic data I'll try and have a go at a handicap system based on previous results. Expect some dubious mathematics to generate these results.

Hope to see you all at one of the last few events.

Robin Bishop / street-o series organiser

Summer Series 2016

The proposed dates, after consultation and feed back from many, for the summer series is below. What we need now is support from the membership to run these events. Most of those that ran events last year have stated their lack of availability this year due to other



events that they are involved in. Some have already stepped forward with tentative offers but what is needed now is confirmation of dates and locations that members are willing to organise, please let me know as soon as practicable what date and location you would like to use. First call gets the pick.

- ◆ Tue 10 May
- ◆ Wed 18 May
- ◆ Tue 24 May
- ◆ Wed 1 Jun
- ◆ Tue 7 Jun
- ◆ Wed 15 Jun
- ◆ Tue 21 Jun
- ◆ Wed 29 Jun
- ◆ Tue 5 Jul
- ◆ Wed 13 Jul

For events potentially at Brill or Shotover, earlier dates avoid the undergrowth, which may become a little boisterous given the mild winter.

Please send offers to chmpruns@gmail.com

Many thanks,

Chris Poole / Series Organiser

Relay Musings

From the Rules for Relays:

“The fair siting of controls is even more important in relays than in individual competitions. Anything which gives an unfair disadvantage to those leading is to be avoided at all cost.”

What could lead to an “unfair disadvantage”?

Obviously any dog-leg where a competitor would be likely to leave the control by the same route as that with which they approached it. Maybe point feature controls when the only sensible attack points are way off line.

What about the gaffling?

Other than “by the end of the race all teams must have done precisely the same legs”, what should the planner be aware of? Consider the usual 3-person relay with each leg being the same in both length and technical difficulty.

Suppose there are 3 routes to the first common control. Call these legs A B C

Then a further 3 routes to the second common control. Call these legs D E F

Finally a further 3 routes to the finish which are NOT independent. They are extensions of legs

A B C, so lets call them a, b, c

The 9 possible complete routes are:

ADa, AEa, AFa, BDb, BEb, BFb, CDc, CEc, CFc

Is it possible that some of these routes could be more advantageous than others?

Suppose lengths: A= 2.5k and a =0.5k

B =2.4k and b =0.6k

C= 2.3k and c= 0.7k

If I was the third runner I would prefer to be running Aa because, all else being equal, I might be helped to the second common control by seeing runners ahead and then have less distance to cover than them.

A team which had CDc, CEc or CFc for their third runner could be disadvantaged.

Unfairness could also arise if a, b and c , though equal in length, were not comparable in technical difficulty and terrain.

Is all this hypothetical?

Many years ago I remember having a ding-dong on the last leg of a Lake District JK relay, and finally getting ahead of my rivals at what turned out to be the last common control, only to find that while my last was a point control, one rival had a feature much nearer a path, and the other a "fence". TVOC vets had to be content with bronze - and it still rankles me!

Roger Baker

OMM LITE Chilterns event

Date: 16-17 July 2016

Location: Path Hill outdoors, Goring Heath, Reading
www.theomm.com/omm-lite-chilterns-2016

About the OMM LITE:

The OMM LITE is a fun, relaxed weekend for friends, family and clubs who love being in the hills. A perfect training weekend or chance to explore the trails. Ideal for families and groups who want to spend the day exploring the trails and the evening socialising back at camp.

All abilities are welcome from seasoned OMM veterans looking to get the training miles in to competitors new to navigation events. Open to ages 14 and over.

OMM LITE follows the same 2 day orienteering score format as the October OMM with teams



choosing their own routes and visiting as many checkpoints as they can.

But with a few crucial differences:

- ◆ Trails, bridleways & footpaths only. (not open access, due to the time of year)
 - ◆ Return to HQ at the end of day 1 and park next to your tent, bring everything you need for a comfortable weekend.
 - ◆ Based on a campsite with food and catering all weekend.
 - ◆ Make it as hard as you want, you can even go for a pub lunch during the race if you want.
- OMM LITE is about experiencing the OMM mountain marathon format without some of the more gnarly aspects. Allowing you time to practice/train and enjoy the freedom that comes from the score course format.

For more details, contact Alistaire MacGregor: a1@theomm.com / www.theomm.com

By email sent to John Dalton, club Secretary

Manic Irritation

Mindset has a lot to do with orienteering. For instance, if you could convince yourself you were being chased by a lion on a leg, you'd probably post a much enhanced split. At Christmas Common on the Blue, I proved the theory that increased adrenalin levels can have very positive effect. If you look at the Blue Course Winsplits, you'll find that you have to scroll down far deeper than usual into mediocrity territory to see who actually won one of the legs. Leg 2 was won by a competitor (Jim Prowting) placing 25th for the whole course. This was achieved because of his intense irritation at not being able to find the first control quickly (placing 77th) despite having (in his opinion) taken a careful bearing supported by pacing. He was caught by club mate Gryaznevich, saw red and charged like a demented bull to place first on the next leg, picking up 46 places on a route so straight that he wore out the red line between the controls pounding it with his feet despite intervening obstacles. Hills and old age conspired to prevent a consolidation of this improved level of performance on the rest of the course.

Jim Prowting

Chairman's Ramblings

A whole series of issues have been floating around in my head over the past few weeks. They are all linked, albeit some of them somewhat tenuously. Let me start with membership fees.

Membership fees

Membership of British Orienteering used to be quite expensive, £21.50 for a senior. Add in the £8 TVOC membership fee, and the total was nearly £30.

But three years ago, British Orienteering (ie its membership) agreed that membership fees should be substantially reduced, to £5, in order to encourage more members. So membership for a TVOC senior cost just £13. We welcomed this, and have seen our membership rising quite significantly in the last couple of years.

Unfortunately our rising membership has not been mirrored across all clubs, so British Orienteering's membership has risen only a little. And with funding from Sport England being reduced from 2017, there is a hole in British Orienteering's accounts. So this year's AGM includes a proposal for membership rates to rise steeply again, to £15 for seniors and £5 for juniors.

As I write this, it is not clear whether the proposal will be passed – although my expectation is that it will. The only alternative open to members is to vote the proposal down, which will cause significant problems for British Orienteering. Sadly there has been no attempt by British Orienteering to consult its members on the issue and to seek their views on the best way forward.

From my perspective, the increase is very disappointing news. Membership for a family of four will cost £48 in 2017 (£15+£15+£5+£5, plus £8 for TVOC), against £22 now. It's going to be quite hard to persuade people to join, if they only expect to do a handful of events a year. I would have far preferred the funding gap to have been addressed by a (relatively) significant increase in levy. It is currently £1.25; an increase to £2.25 would have dealt with the issue and would, in my view, have had far less consequence for people than the increase in membership fees.

So is there anything we can do now? Well, by the time this is published, the British Orienteering AGM will have happened. If the membership fee increase has been approved, then there really will not be much we can do. We could reduce TVOC's membership fee a bit. But even if we make it £0, it will not help that much – for the family of four above, their current £22 membership fee will still rise to £40. But it will help an individual senior, whose current £13 will then only rise to £15.

Would it make sense to use some of TVOC's surpluses in this way? Which brings me neatly on to ...

TVOC surpluses

TVOC currently has something like £15,000 in the bank. This amount has arisen over the years, mainly from event surpluses.

Now before you come up with some great ideas for spending this money, it is perhaps worth remembering that much of this is going to be needed.

- ◆ We need a certain level of working capital. The Chiltern Challenge has event expenses of some £4,000. Most of our event income comes through Fabian4, and most of it is paid at the end of the month AFTER the event, so on average six weeks after the event. So we need enough cash available to bridge the gap between expenses and income.
- ◆ Kit. We have some £10,000-worth of EMIT kit – controls, card readers, hire cards, etc. It is now some 10+ years old, and will need replacing before too long. I have become quite adept at replacing batteries in our hire cards, but the controls look pretty impossible to open. So at some stage, we are going to have to make a large purchase of a new set of kit. And no doubt there will be plenty of discussion about what we buy!

The surplus has grown bit by bit over many years. Our events generate a significant surplus, even though our entry fees are in line with other clubs. I think there are two main reasons:

- ◆ Mapping. We almost always use our own mappers, who do this work for us willingly and without charge. Were we to employ professional mappers, the results would almost certainly be worse quality maps, and they would be expensive. Our debt to our mappers is huge.
- ◆ Results. We have always done our level C and D results ourselves, but these days we also handle level B events. For an average level C event, that saves us some £400. With several such events each year, that soon adds up.

Against that, we have a number of outgoings:

- ◆ membership. Our current £8 fee does not cover the marginal costs of membership – basically the cost of the newsletter plus the affiliation fee we have to pay SCOA (broadly £2 per senior).
- ◆ Various occasional but recurring costs:
 - ◆ We bought 50 new EMIT cards a couple of years ago, costing over £2,000.
 - ◆ We purchased new OCAD licences for our mappers, again the thick end of £2,000
 - ◆ We have bought some new computers and card readers for doing results, close to £1,000
 - ◆ We are investing in training courses for some new coaches, plus first aid training.

These are all pretty vital outgoings, and I am glad that we have sufficient surplus to be able to fund them. As things stand at the moment, we are generating a surplus of around £2,000 a year. So what should we do with it? We could:

- ◆ Reduce our club membership fee to £0. Cost maybe £1200 per year.
- ◆ Reduce our entry fee for level C and B events by £1. Cost maybe £1800 per year.
- ◆ Reduce our entry fee for Saturday Series by £1. Cost again maybe £1800 per year.
- ◆ Free entry for club members to club competitions such as CompassSport Cup, Yvette Baker, JK and British Relays. Cost maybe £800.
- ◆ Free (rather than half-price) entry for all helpers at our level C and B events, Cost maybe £1000 per year
- ◆ Invest in a defibrillator for the club. Cost maybe £1500, needs replacing every 5? years.
- ◆ Invest in more training / coaching / support for juniors etc. I am sure you also have ideas for what the club could invest in.

Personally I do not feel we should reduce our entry fees. They are broadly in line with other clubs' fees, and we normally set our budget for our club events prudently allowing for pessimistic entry numbers. It is only if and when we get good entry numbers that the surpluses emerge. (Last July's level C event at Great Hampden was an exception, when we only had 160 entrants and only just broke even.) I also think it is important to have the capacity to invest in our club and our people.

So do please let me know what things you feel we should be using these surpluses for. Drop me a line to chairman@tvoc.org.uk

The development ladder

For some of you new to the sport, just learning what is required to navigate round your course

may seem enough of a challenge. But for many of you, once you have mastered the basic skills you may want to move onto new things, such as putting on events

Our level D events, whether Saturday Series or Summer Series, are a great way of cutting your teeth at planning and organising events. So please do volunteer. See the articles in this issue, and contact Chris and Nat. Note that you need to have attended an Event Safety Workshop; there is one in June – again see the article in this issue. And remember there is plenty of support available to help you on your way. We need new people involved in putting on events to ensure the club has a strong future.

The next step is to go on and organise or plan a level C event. And once you have that experience, you can go on to level B's, perhaps become a controller, gain more experience, then move on to level A's

I mention these latter steps because new rule changes from January 2016 make those last steps more challenging. To plan a level A event, you now need to have planned or controlled three level B events in the last ten years. There are not many people in TVOC with that experience. For those of you who are serious or half serious organisers and planners, do read the new Appendix C – see <https://goo.gl/Lf9EhG>.

JK 2019

I have mentioned before that the JK is coming to SCOA again in 2019. We have offered two areas, RAL for the Sprint and Bradenham Woods for the Relay.

I have recently been looking for organisers and planners for those two events. We are talking here about level A events, so the pool of people with the necessary experience to plan or organise at this level is pretty limited. But I am glad to say that there was a really super response from them. I now have both planners confirmed, along with one organiser, and a possible offer for the other event.

One of the great things about TVOC is the team spirit and the willingness to take things on. Thanks guys for coming forward so readily.

Alun Jones / TVOC Chairman

Saturday Series

The Saturday Series remains as popular as ever, and we have a strong calendar of events coming up, with the next three around Oxford:

Shotover	Cuttleslowe Park	University Parks
16th April 2016	7th May 2016	18th June 2016
Organiser: Peter Riches	Organiser: Ben Green	Organiser: Peter Priest
SP 564062 / OX3 8TD	SP 509105 / OX2 8LJ	SP 515072 / OX1 3PL

I'm starting to pick up some of the organising responsibilities from Mark, so I'm now looking for volunteers to organise and plan our Saturday Series events for September - December 2016. We'll be looking to expand our reach further South/East within our region in the second

half of the year, in order to keep attracting new people to the sport across our area. With that in mind, I've suggested some possible areas below – all will require a bit of a think and permissions check, but should have an up to date map and some possibility of parking.

In time, I'm putting a brief summary of our areas together, listing the practicalities of parking, permissions, seasonality etc., to help us make the most of the areas we have available for the Saturday Series – more to follow for 2017 events.

Clare and I planned our first Saturday Series event last summer at Penn Wood, and I can only echo Brad's comment from this newsletter – it's fantastic fun and there is great support available from Mark (series controller) and others in the club if you are new to planning or organising events.

Possible areas: (* = not used too recently for Sat series, map and parking should be okay)

Bradenham* (Park Wood) / Brill Common (tight on parking) / Black Park* (BKO map) / Bloom Wood (BKO map, last used by BKO: 22/05/16 [C], seasonal permissions) / Chesham Bois (tightish parking, December?) / Coombe Hill (recent map?) / Furze Brake (recent map?) / Green Park* / Hodgemoor (very tight parking, December?) / Hughenden (potential access issues) / Kingswood, High Wycombe (used for Level C in June 2016) / Langley Park* (BKO map, last used by BKO: 23/04/16) / Penn Wood* / Wendover (embargoed for British Middles in Oct 2017)

Possible dates : Any except crossed out ones

September 2016	October 2016	November 2016
Sat 10/09 (London City Race)	Sat 01/10 (SWOA Lev B/Poole)	Sat 05/11 (Salisbury city urban Sat/Southern Champs on Sun)
Sat 17/09	Sat 08/10	Sat 12/11
Sat 24/09	Sat 15/10	Sat 19/11 (Oxford City Race)
	Sat 22/10	Sat 26/11 (Southern Nights)
	Sat 29/10	

We will consider a further event in early December if there is a demand for it. If you have a 2017 date in mind, it isn't too early to let me know! BKO, HH and SN don't have their Level D's in the diary yet beyond August

What do you need to do?

Let me know you're interested, suggesting a date and area! The planner/organiser is responsible for organising the basic logistics for the day (but not the tents or timing), planning the courses, printing the maps and putting out the EMIT controls.

Thank you in advance

Nat Skidmore / Nat.skidmore@gmail.com / 07966 046142

SCOA Bulletin - March 2016

This bulletin provides a brief summary of current SCOA issues, including those items discussed at the recent Committee meeting.

JK 2019

SCOA is hosting this major event in 2019. This may seem a long way ahead but there is much to do, especially for a multi-day event. Areas have been identified, as below. We have Planners for days 1, 3 and 4 and still need Organisers for all days. Most importantly we need to identify an Event Co-ordinator and Event Treasurer. These are crucial roles to the success of the JK, and we need to fill them soon. So please think long and hard as to whether you have the skills and the willingness to take on one of them. Your Association really needs you. Please contact the chairman for details chairman@scoa-orienteeing.org.uk

The current proposal is that the events will be held in the following locations (but note that landowner permission has yet to be confirmed):

- | | |
|----------|---|
| ◆ Sprint | Rutherford Appleton Laboratories, Harwell |
| ◆ Middle | Windmill Hill (reserve area Minley) |
| ◆ Long | Cold Ash |
| ◆ Relay | Bradenham Woods |

SCOA Website

In keeping with the philosophy of pooling resources of the region, there is now a 'Resources' tab on the website where SCOA clubs can place information about equipment, etc that they are willing to share with other SCOA clubs.

Also on the website you can see a tab "Champions". Here you can see all the winners of both SCOA and Southern Championships for the past 20 years or so. Will your name be there too by the end of 2016?

SCOA League survey

Many thanks to the 129 people who responded to the survey. We concluded that

in terms of regional championships,

- ◆ there was a strong desire to continue with the Long Distance Championship - the date for the 2016 championships will be announced shortly
- ◆ there was also quite a strong desire for a Middle Distance Championship. We would welcome offers from clubs to host this, both for 2016 and for future years.
- ◆ there was less support for a Sprint Championship, a score championship, relays or other form of interclub competitions. We will not therefore pursue those.

in terms of the SCOA League,

- ◆ there was a clear desire for continuing with the league, and broadly in its current form.

- ◆ there was no appetite to switch to using level B events for the league
- ◆ there was little desire to move to an age-based league
- ◆ there was strong support for greater publicity and promotion.

So, even though we ended up making few changes as a result of the survey, at the least the results validated that the league seems to be as good as we can make it - except for improving the promotion.

To help raise the profile and identify the events as part of a league, we will ask event organisers to ensure the SCOA logo is on fliers and that the events are shown as SCOA1, SCOA2, etc.

Results after 8 of the 10 league events are on the SCOA website <http://www.scoa-orienteering.org.uk/scoa-league> with some close competition, especially in the Green class. There are just 2 more left to boost your scores: 22 May at Bloom Wood (BKO) and 5 June at Kingswood (TVOC).

Supporting Volunteers

To maintain event standards and meet insurance requirements, event officials (Organisers, Planners and Controllers) need to attend Event Safety and Welfare workshops before taking on those roles, ideally now but mandatory from Jan 2017. So if you are thinking of, or have already volunteered for such a role, and have yet to attend this short workshop, please let your club know and look out for forthcoming workshops around the region.

Level B Officials

Please note that under the new rules, officials for level B events now require approval by the SCOA committee and that this will be managed by Katy Stubbs. technical@scoa-orienteering.org.uk

SCOA AGM

The next SCOA committee meeting will follow the AGM on Thurs 2 June, 19.30, Society of Friends Meeting House, 1 Highfield Ave, Newbury, RG14 5DS.

All members are welcome to attend, but please let the secretary know beforehand so that she can provide papers.

Di Smith / SCOA Chairman



Saturday series at Oxford University Parks

Future level B and C events

If you find this table hard to read, have a look at <http://tinyurl.com/TVOC-plans>

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1											
2											
3											
39											
42	Su	24/04/2016	B	Wendover	John Dalton	Carol Edwards	Hedley Calderbank, HH				
43	Su	05/06/2016	C	Kings Wood	Alun Jones & Peter Riches	Jegor Kostylev	Mark Thompson				
44	Mo	29/08/2016	C	Grove + Wantage	Luke McNeill	Neville Baker	Liz Yeaton, SARUM				
45	Su	23/10/2016	E	Hodgemoor	??	??	??				
46	Su	20/11/2016	C	Shotover	Gary Mills	Ben Green	Alan Kersley, BADO				Fallback date if car parking not available is 18 Dec
47											
48	Mo	02/01/2017	C	Didcot Ladygrove	??	Martin Ricketts	??				Subject to permissions
49	Su	26/02/2017	C	Nettlebed	??	Ed Nicholas, AROS	??				May be dropped if Didcot Urban goes ahead
50	Su	09/04/2017	B	Hambleden	Jon & Glynis Wheatcroft	Mark Thompson & Peter Riches	??				
51	Mo	28/08/2017	C	North Abingdon	??	Charles B-G, SARUM					
52	Sa	02/12/2017	B	Common Wood & Penn Wood	Alun Jones	Neville Baker	Mike Pemberton, BKO				Southern Night Champs.
53	Su	03/12/2017	C	Common Wood & Penn Wood	??	Gary Walford	??				
54											

We have a full set of planners through to the end of 2017. But we do need organisers for some 2017 events. Please fill those holes for me. Just drop a line to chai_rman@tvoc.org.uk

Alun Jones / Chairman



THAMES VALLEY ORIENTEERING CLUB

Saturday Series

events in Oxfordshire/Buckinghamshire
Aug 2015 to July 2016

Do you enjoy challenge, excitement, maps, just being out in the countryside? Then come and try Orienteering – an adventure sport for all – at this series of Saturday morning events organised by TVOC. These events are specially designed for juniors, school and youth groups, and adult newcomers, in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. Courses on offer will be easy to moderate and a 5km course for experienced orienteers.

Registration: 10.00-11.30 a.m. Starts: 10.30 -12.00; courses close 13.00. Cost : £6 seniors (£4, BOF or TVOC), £2 juniors per map.

Come prepared wearing suitable outdoor clothing. No equipment needed though a compass may help.

The fixture list below is very provisional as permissions have yet to be sought. Check website nearer the time for details of any alterations.

Saturday Series fixtures – check www.tvoc.org.uk/saturdayseries.html for any changes

15th Aug 2015	Sue Jones	Wycombe Abbey, High Wycombe HP11 1PE
19th Sept 2015	Alun Jones	Kingswood, High Wycombe HP13 7UN
17th Oct 2015	Ben Green	Wittenham Clumps, Didcot OX14 4QZ
14th Nov 2015	Brad Sutherland	Brill Common, Brill, Nr Oxford HP18 9TH
19th Dec 2015	Jim Prowting	Big Wood, S Oxhey, Watford WD19 4LS
30th Jan 2016	Neville Baker	University Parks, Oxford. OX1 3PL Use park-and-ride.
20th Feb 2016	Yvonne Hodson	Waddesdon manor (new area) HP18 0JY
5th Mar 2016	Luke McNeill	Wittenham Clumps (change of date!) OX14 4QZ
16th Apr 2016	Peter Riches	Shotover (change of location!) OX3 8TD
7th May 2016	Ben Green	Cuttesslowe (tbc) (change of date & location!)
18th Jun 2016	Peter Priest	University Parks, Oxford. OX1 3PL Use park-and-ride.

The TVOC Schools league will run alongside the 10 events from September to June each year. Further details www.tvoc.org.uk contact Mark Thompson - markxt777@gmail.com or phone 01753 893590 evenings **Competitors take part at their own risk.**

PLEASE CHECK WITH THE WEB SITE BEFORE SETTING OFF!

WANTED! Planners for 2016/17 events. Contact Nat Skidmore with offers!
nat.skidmore@gmail.com



TVOC Level B - Chiltern Challenge, Wendover Woods Sunday 24th April 2016

Emit Electronic Timing Courses for beginners

Location:	Wendover Woods, above Halton and Wendover, near Aylesbury, Bucks.
Parking:	From Wendover, take the B4009 towards Tring. Take the right hand turn approximately 1 mile north of RAF Halton, signposted Wendover Woods and St Leonards (Aston Hill). Parking is in a field on the right off this road at the top of the hill at OS Grid Reference: SP892100, nearest postcode HP22 5NQ, http://streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=489152&Y=210005&A=Y&Z=115 . What3Words: http://w3w.co/segregate.bottom.mulled . Do not park in the main Wendover Woods car park.
Terrain:	Wendover Woods is on the north edge of the Chiltern Hills. The woods are owned by the Forestry Commission and cover 325 ha (800 acres). They contain a mixture of coniferous and broadleaved trees. Broad, flat areas on the hill tops, with deep valleys between. Network of large and small forest tracks
Map:	Scale 1:10,000. 5m contours. Major re-map in Autumn/Winter 2015 by Mark Thompson, following forest work
Courses:	Full range of colour-coded courses (White, Yellow, Orange, Light Green, Very Short Green, Short Green, Green, Short Blue, Blue, Short Brown, Brown and Black). Beginners welcome. Free String Course for the very young.
Starts:	From 10.30 to 12.30.
Entries:	Online at www.fabian4.co.uk from early January. Closing date: midnight, Sunday 17th April 2016. Entry on the day subject to availability of maps.
Fees:	Pre-entries – Seniors £12.00 (£14.00 non BOF), Juniors £5.00. On the day – Seniors £14.00 (£16.00 non BOF), Juniors £6.00. Seniors on White, Yellow, Orange courses – £5 pre-entry and £6 on the day. Emit timing card hire £1.50 per card. Lost cards charged at £45.
Facilities:	First Aid (St John Ambulance), water, toilets, Tom's burger van, Ultrasport.
Organiser:	John Dalton, TVOC Tel: 07767 362805 (m) 9am to 9pm. Email: secretary@tvoc.org.uk
Planner:	Carol Edwards, TVOC
Controller:	Hedley Calderbank, HH

The personal data you give will be used by the event organisers and their agents only for the purpose of processing and publishing the event entries and results, for conducting safety checks and to validate British Orienteering insurance cover. Submission of an entry for the event will indicate your acceptance of this procedure.

www.tvoc.org.uk

Orienteering is an adventure sport

All competitors take part at their own risk and are responsible for their own safety.

what3words

Perusing the Daily Telegraph the other day there was an article on **what3words**

The next day I was looking up details of the Chiltern Challenge and there was **what3words** in the parking details. This is the first time I have seen this in event details.

“Parking From Wendover, take the B4009 towards Tring. Take the right hand turn approximately 1 mile north of RAF Halton, signposted Wendover Woods and St Leonards (Aston Hill). Parking is in a field on the right off this road at the top of the hill at OS Grid Reference: SP892100, nearest postcode HP22 5NQ, <http://streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=489152&Y=210005&A=Y&Z=115>.

What3Words: <http://w3w.co/segregate.bottom.mulled.>”

what3words is a navigation tool which pinpoints a location more precisely than using a postcode and only uses three words for you to remember to find the location instead of numbers and/or letters such as grid references. Using the three words: segregate,bottom,mulled from above the location is at the top of Aston Hill at the gate into the event field.

I then went to Wikipedia from which I have extracted the following details:

“**what3words** is a geocoding system for the simple communication of locations with a resolution of 3 m. **what3words** encodes geographic co-ordinates into 3 dictionary words (for example, the Statue of Liberty is located at planet.inches.most). **what3words** is different from other alphanumeric location systems and GPS coordinates in that it displays 3 words rather than long strings of numbers or random letters or numbers. **what3words** has a website, apps for iOS and Android, as well as an API that enables bi-directional conversion of **what3words** address and latitude/longitude co-ordinates.

what3words is an alternative to latitude and Longitude, GPS coordinates and for use where street address are not present.[1] It also adds a level of specificity to postcodes,. [2][3] It has been reported that **what3words** can help delivery & logistics

what3words is a grid of the world made up of 57 trillion squares of 3 metres x 3 metres. Each square has been given a 3 word address. **what3words** has named the 17 trillion squares on land with 3 words in 8 other languages in addition to English: French, Russian, Spanish, German, Portuguese, Swedish, Turkish, Swahili.[15]

The main claimed advantages of **what3words** is memorability and unambiguous nature of words for most everyday and non-technical uses. [18][19]”

I am still learning how to use **what3words**. Try it for yourself if you haven't done so already.

Bernard Potter

Minutes of club meeting

Highlights from meeting held 15March16

The recent club meeting discussed items such as:

- ◆ Photography at events
- ◆ Purchase of new power supply / inverter for registration and download
- ◆ Updating of various maps
- ◆ Equipment officer post still vacant
- ◆ Possible night event series

You can read the full minutes online at
<http://www.tvoc.org.uk/application/documents/meeting%20minutes/Mins15thMar16.pdf>

The next meeting is on Tuesday 17th May 2016, 8pm at the Merry Bells, Wheatley

John Dalton, Club Secretary

TVOC Permanent courses:

you can download maps from the TVOC website, using
username **maps**
password **tvocmaps**

Fixtures

This information is not guaranteed to be correct or complete. Please check on web site or phone numbers given before travelling. If no details are given, consider the event as doubtful. See also <http://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/page/event> or the event aggregation site at <http://oevents.info>

Key: A = (Inter-)National, B=Regional, C=District, D=Local CD: Closing date for entries.

April 2016

Sun 03/04/16	C	MV Mole Valley 50th anniversary District event, Norbury Park http://www.mvoc.org
Sun 10/04/16	C	SLOW Kingston Urban Race (race 2 of SEOUL), Kingston http://slow.org.uk/
Sat 16/04/16	D	TVOC Saturday Series Shotover, Shotover Woods http://www.tvoc.org.uk
Sun 17/04/16	C	BOK & ASO Orienteering hosting Yvette Baker Qualifier, Black Down http://www.bristolorienteering.org.uk

Sun 17/04/16	C	SO Angmering Park (east) Level C, part of SO 2016 championship (event 1 of 6), Angmering Park Estate (East) http://www.southdowns-orienteers.org.uk
Sat 23/04/16	D	BKO Winter Saturday Series (Langley Park), Langley Park http://www.bko.org.uk
Sun 24/04/16	B	TVOC Chiltern Challenge, Wendover Woods http://www.tvoc.org.uk
Tue 26/04/16	D	TVOC Oxford Street-O Series http://www.tvoc.org.uk
Sat 30/04/16	A	British Long Distance Orienteering Championships (UKOL), Brown Clee Hill

May 2016

Sun 01/05/16	A	British Relay Championships, Brown Clee Hill
Mon 02/05/16	C	WCH WMOA Urban League 1, Tamworth http://www.walton-chasers.co.uk
Sat 07/05/16	D	TVOC Saturday Series Cutteslowe Park, Cutteslowe Park http://www.tvoc.org.uk
Sun 08/05/16	D	BADO Level D Event, Pen Wood http://www.bado.org.uk
Sat 14/05/16	B	SO Southdowns Weekend event 1/3. Friston Forest (north). SE Middle Champs, SE League, SO champs (2of6) , Friston Forest http://www.southdowns-orienteers.org.uk
Sat 14/05/16	C	SO Southdowns Weekend event 2 / 3, Evening Sprint Race, Hampden Park, Eastbourne http://www.southdowns-orienteers.org.uk
Sun 15/05/16	C	SO Southdowns Weekend 3/3. Friston Forest (central / north). Full Level C (white to black), http://www.southdowns-orienteers.org.uk
Sun 22/05/16	C	BKO Level C and SCOA league event , Bloom Wood http://www.bko.org.uk
Sat 28/05/16 - Mon 30/05/16	C	DEVON Tamar Triple Day 1-3, http://www.devonorienteering.co.uk

June 2016

Sun 05/06/16	C	TVOC Regional Event & SCOA League, Kings Wood http://www.tvoc.org.uk
Sat 11/06/16	A	British Sprint Championships (UKOL), Olympic Park
Sun 12/06/16	A	British Middle Championships (UKOL), Leith Hill
Sat 18/06/16	D	TVOC Saturday Series Oxford University Parks, http://www.tvoc.org.uk
Sun 26/06/16	B	NGOC Harvester Relays, Cleeve Hill http://www.ngoc.org.uk

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TVOC on line

Home page: <http://www.tvoc.org.uk>

facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/163648160391703/>

E-mail list: <http://groups.google.com/group/tvoc-members?hl=en> twitter: @tvocclub

Phot-O Gallery 2



Scandinavian team arriving to do the Oxford University Parks Saturday event



John Dalton at Wittenham Clumps



Mike Shires' Event Advertising

