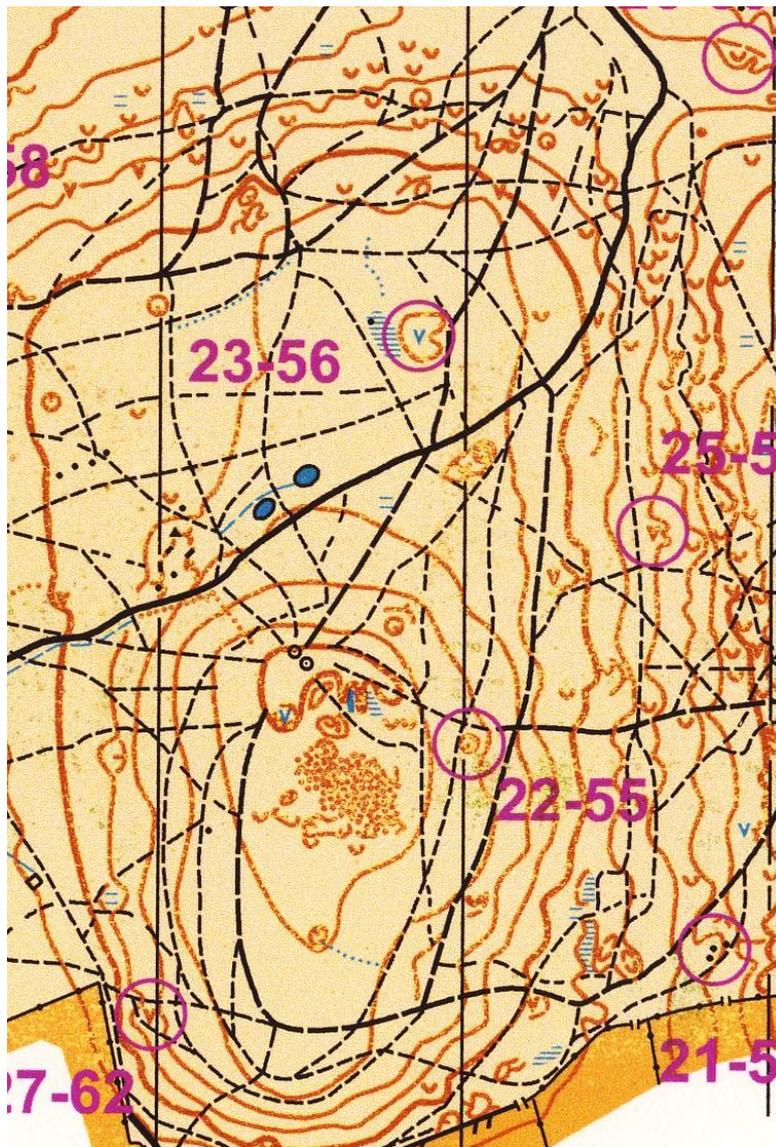


Aire Affairs

January 2013



Airienteers
Orienteering in Airedale and Wharfedale

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EDIT O - Pete Jones

Hi All Airienteers,

A hearty welcome to 2013, especially to those who survived the bracing start to the year on Baildon Moor. The next three months see some fairly intense O activity, and if you haven't already done so, I'd suggest you enter both the Midlands Champs (Sherwood) and the JK (Chilterns) shortly.

And we mustn't forget defending the compass sport cup. The first round is on 17th Feb at Slaley - against EBOR, CLOK and NATO. It's important we get a good turnout here, let's not rest on our laurels. Please see the website for more details.

It's been good to see a number of the new AIRE hoodies out and about and for those who don't already have one (at the bargain price of £17.40), there's a reminder later in this issue. In this edition we've a couple of articles about non standard O activities by some of our members, and for future editions, I'd be happy to take any similar contributions that might be of interest to our membership. And please have a go at the map competition - see page 18.

And finally I'm setting a new challenge for 2013 - the highest point for an AIRE buff (under your own steam). I'm putting the marker down as 5518m(18,103ft), Thorong La Pass, Nepal. See my good lady's article on our Himalayan adventures.

AIRE NEWS

Chair Affairs - Ian Marshall

As I write on New Year's Eve, it is a time to reflect on another very full year of activity for Airienteers, both competing and in providing opportunities for people to orienteer. As one of the most prolific providers in the country in terms of events, our club owes a huge debt to its volunteers.

Volunteering may seem a small thing, but I would like to acknowledge all helpers with busy lives for whom helping at an event, or acting as a main official can have a big impact on an already pressed schedule. Thank you one and all.

The New Year sees the resumption of the series of Wednesday Night Street events. The ones I have been to so far have been hugely enjoyable with a different vibe to Sunday events and new faces dipping into the navigational challenge. If you know any of these new people, please encourage them to join the club for 2013 – and for existing members, don't forget your British Orienteering membership renewal if you have not already done it.

Could I repeat the appeal for someone to consider filling the role of Publicity Officer? See the last issue for a summary of how important I feel this role is. Please discuss with a member of the committee if you are interested – we can supply the contacts.

Finally, congratulations to Steve Watkins (M40), Peter Haines (M55), Ali Wood (M60) and particularly Lucy Haines and Laura King (both W14) on their selection for Interland 2013.

A good year in the sport to all members.

JK 2013 Relay Entries - Nick Jones

The JK 2013 takes place over the Easter weekend 29 March – 1 April. The Relays take place on Monday 1 April. In the absence of any other volunteers I have again agreed to co-ordinate the Club entries for the relays (I must be mad). There are two entry dates for the Relays. The earlier (and cheaper!) date is **3 Feb 2013**. The final and more expensive date is **10 March 2013**.

| | 3 Feb 2013 | 10 March 2013 |
|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Trophy & Senior | £36.00 | £45.00 |
| Junior | £22.50 | £28.50 |

As with last it has been agreed that the club will cover the cost of Junior (& Student) entries. Seniors will be asked to pay the fee appropriate to when they advise me of their wish to run in an Aire Team. Thus if you are a Senior and advise me prior to the 3 Feb 2013 that you want to run you will be asked to pay £12.00. If you advise me after 3 Feb 2013 you will be asked to pay £15.00. You may be aware that JK 2013 is using the EMIT system. The entry fee for the Relay includes the hire of an EMIT card. All Relay teams will use Hire cards (even if individuals have their own EMIT card) . Therefore the earlier you advise me the cheaper it will be for you and the club.

The classes on offer are as below.

JK 2013 Relay classes

| Class | Title | Details |
|--------------|------------------------------|--|
| A | JK Trophy | |
| B | Women's Trophy | |
| C | Men's Short | |
| D | Women's Short | |
| E | Senior Men (M120+) | |
| F | Senior Women (W120+) | |
| G | Veteran Men (M165+) | |
| H | Veteran Women (W165+) | |
| J | Intermediate Men (M48-) | Same technical difficulty as Green, Orange, Green. |
| K | Intermediate Women (W48-) | Same technical difficulty as Green, Orange, Green |
| L | Junior Relay (M/W40-) | Same technical difficulty as Orange, Yellow, Orange |
| M | Mini Relay (M/W12 and under) | Same technical difficulty as Yellow for all legs. |
| N | Mixed Ad Hoc | Same technical difficulty as Green, Green, Orange. Approximate distances will be 4.5, 3.5, 2.5 km |
| O | Ultra Veteran (M/W210+) | On trial for JK2013, no permanent trophy will be awarded |

Note that there is a new class on trial this year. For class O, the trial Ultra-Veteran class, the total of the British Orienteering age classes (not the actual ages) of the entrants counts. The ages shall be added together with the addition of 10 for each Women competitor and this total must be equal to or greater than 210. This class will run the same courses as class H.

If you want a run please contact me asap advising me of your Name, Age Class & BOF No and if you have any preference for Class to run or relay leg to run. However I cannot promise to meet any/all requests as I will endeavour to place people into teams on a best fit basis, where appropriate seeking guidance from those far wiser and more knowledgeable than me. Often this is not the easiest of things to do(that's sorting out teams not asking for help!) so please bear this in mind.

JK 2015 in Yorkshire

YHOA are looking for key officials, in particular an overall co-ordinator, and club representatives. If you are interested, please have a chat with Nick Jones in the first instance.

Changes to Membership for 2013

As your membership renewals should now have come through , I'll repeat this section from the last AA so everyone should be clear what's different for 2013. British Orienteering is changing its membership categories and for 2013 there will only be Adult (21 or older on 31 Dec of the membership year) and Junior (20 or younger on 31 Dec of the membership year) membership. The annual fees being £5 & £2 respectively. There will no longer be Family, Student or Associate categories. There will be no Local or Regional BO members. All BO members will now be Full National members. Aire is amending its membership categories to fall in line with BO (and to make it simple for our Membership Secretary) and the Club Membership fee for Adults is £10 & for Juniors is free. Whilst there will no longer be a family membership category the net effect should not increase the overall club membership fee for those who previously had family membership.

AIRE Hoodies

Airienteers hoodies, available in any colour with the Airienteers owl logo embroidered on the front and "Airienteers Orienteering in Airedale and Wharfedale" on the back in either black or white. Good quality - a bargain at £14.50+VAT. The full range of adult sizes is available in a huge range of colours. Zip up and Children's sizes are available but not in as many colours. Check out the website <http://www.leavershoodies-school.com/colours.html> If you would like one please either contact Joyce Marshall on 01943 862997 (and tell her size, colour and text colour) or order direct from Top Marks in Ilkley Tel 01934 816789.

marshall@marshalls.myzen.co.uk



| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|------|-------|-----|
| ADULTS SIZE | S | M | L | XL | XXL |
| Chest (to fit) | 36" | 40" | 44" | 48" | 52" |
| KIDS - AGE | 5/6 | 7/8 | 9/11 | 12/13 | |

JUNIARIES

Juniares Edito

I was pleased to be selected to represent England at the World Schools Championships in Portugal in April 2013. Lucy Haines was also selected, so well done to her. Read Ruaridh Mon-Williams article about the British Schools Champs and selection race in this edition. Good luck to Lucy Haines and Laura King who were selected to represent England at the Interland competition in March at Breda southern Holland; this is Laura's first competition for England. I have had a great year of orienteering in 2012 and am looking forward to a good 2013, I am sure there will be many more junior successes to celebrate.

Joe

British Schools Orienteering Championships - Ruaridh Mon-Williams

What do you get when you have about 1,000 screaming 7 to 17 year olds in a field? No, it's not the new Glastonbury but the British Schools Orienteering Championships. This year these championships were held on the 17th and the 18th of November in Delamere forest, Cheshire.

The Saturday was a selection race for some individuals for the World Schools Orienteering Championships to be held in the Algarve in spring 2013 and a training day for others. Sunday's event was the main British Schools Championship. The people who came from Aire were Joe Woodley, Lucy Haines, Laura King, Scott Marshall and Ruaridh Mon-Williams. Ian Marshall had organised the Ilkley Grammar school team which also included Max Taylor, Liam Portz and Ben Priest and Bruce Woodley had organised a team from Guiseley School which also included Zach Carol and James Hardy.



Joe, Laura, Lucy and myself were all competing in Saturday's selection race, our aim was to get into the top 5 if possible (5 orienteers are selected from each group and although both Saturday and Sunday count more weighting is given to the first day).

The terrain was littered with paths, but fairly vague in-between with lots of ankle gripping brambles and leg shredding brashings, even where white forest was marked! Though disappointed, Joe Woodley produced a solid 3rd place. The rest of us were sadly a bit further down, Lucy Haines was a

little unhappy as she had made a massive mistake on her first control which meant she came in 8th overall, leaving it all to play for on Sunday. Laura was one of the first to start and came 14th. I had a solid yet slightly disappointing run coming seventh, so I knew on Sunday it was all or nothing, I had to give everything I had if I stood any chance of being selected.

The rest of the team went to the training event on the Saturday, this was an area very close to the School Qualification Event with similar terrain (nice paths, nasty brambles) and provided everyone with a good warm up to the bigger event being held on the Sunday. Ian Marshall, Scott, Liam, Max and Ben arrived early afternoon, perfect timing as the earlier greyer weather had disappeared making way for blue skies and sunshine – a lovely winter afternoon.



The lovely, but cold, weather continued into Sunday when we all met again for the School Championship races. The assembly area and finish were in gently rolling green fields and we could see that the planners had been kind as it looked as if our final control led to a lovely downhill finish. The terrain was similar to Saturday's but there were few requirements to leave the paths, the courses for all of us were easier. We all knew everything was to play for. Joe Woodley and Lucy Haines did brilliantly, both ending up 1st! Laura King had a great run and came 6th, improving her result from Saturday. I came 3rd, happy with my run but absolutely gutted about my stupid mistake to control 10. Scott had a good run coming in 19th, Liam came 31st, Max came 47th and Ben came 55. The solid performances from Scott and his friends gave them a high position in the year 11 team category, only just leaving them out of the prizes. Prize giving was fun with the biggest cheers going to those with the largest contingent from their schools (notably Ullverston!)

I would like to say thank you to Ian Marshall for organising the Ilkley Grammar school team and I'm sure Joe would say the same to his Dad for the Guiseley team! I don't think I'll have made selection but I'm sure Joe will have (well done to him!) and I hope Lucy will have, but whatever our results, it was a great weekend!

In two years time the British School Orienteering Championships comes to our area and I plan to be there. I hope we can get lots of school teams out to support this fun event.

FEATURES

The Polaris Challenge - Al Powell

For those unfamiliar with the event, the [Polaris Challenge](#) is essentially the OMM on wheels - i.e. the original two day marathon race for mountain bikers, that nowadays forms part of the OMM mountain marathon series. Running in various guises for over twenty years, the race follows a 2 day score format with an overnight camp. On the A course this is a remote camp, so you need food and equipment for 36 hours - whereas on the B and C courses everyone returns to the event centre overnight, where there is beer, catering and evening entertainment. The race is also a little different in that both pairs and solo riders are allowed.

I've been doing mountain marathon races for quite a long time now, but a knee injury forced me to stop running a couple of years ago, so I began doing a few mountain bike orienteering events instead - which is where the idea having a crack at the Polaris was born. The venue for the 2012 race was also in the Yorkshire Dales, so I'd no excuse but to get an entry in and start doing some training.



After spending most of the summer climbing (for work) and riding (for fun) up massive hills in the Alps and also making a trip to the Mountain Bike Orienteering World Championships at the end of August, everything was pretty much set on the training front by the end of September. However the bike setup, race kit and tactics present another series of challenges in this kind of event - and I'd still got quite a bit of learning to do. Tyres needed to be selected, map boards built, kit weighed and re weighed in the run up to the race - i.e. all the usual stuff before a mountain marathon, but with a whole pile of bike kit to play with as well.

Finally the weekend arrived, with a clear and frosty Saturday morning and a great forecast - i.e. so far so good. On the start line at Askrigg I began to worry if weight saving had gone little too far however, as I had just 9 gears on the bike - versus most peoples 20 or 30. I'd gone for the 'absolute minimum' weight plan as usual - but this had involved taking quite a few parts off the bike, as well as out of the rucksack - so time to see if it would work, or all go horribly wrong...

On day one we had 7 hours to play with - so I headed north into Swaledale first, picking up checkpoints along the valley before overtaking my brother after about an hour, at which point it was all going extremely well! Back south over the moors into Wensleydale it all started going wrong however - as first I slashed a tyre, then crashed the bike crossing a ford and ended up getting totally soaked - all of which took a good 15 minutes to repair. Luckily this happened in the first half of the



day, so I had time to recalculate and managed a clean run over the tops to Buckden, before heading north again for the final hour to the overnight camp. All in all a brilliant days riding, with over 100km and nearly 3000m of climb - it turned out I'd got a 50 point lead as well, so everything to go for on day 2.

Recovering at the overnight camp is often a big factor in races like this, so the good weather was a definite bonus as we enjoyed a lovely sunset across the Dales. Lying in a freezing tent all night without a mattress gave me a few more hours to ponder the wisdom of obsessive weight saving again, but eventually it got light and we were soon packing tents and getting ready to set off.

With 5 hours available on day two, the camp field rapidly emptied as stiff limbed riders pedalled off into the morning mist. After an hour or so I finally warmed up and things seemed to be going pretty well again - but there's always a degree of uncertainty on score events like this, where everyone is taking different routes. I'd done a lot of homework at the overnight camp, calculating timings for potential routes etc - so had a good idea where I needed to be by what time, in order not to come in late. Nevertheless, the final grind across the moors through a massive bog had me nearing the limit, but it wasn't far down to Askrigg again and the very welcome site of the finish.

At download it turned out I'd opened the gap a little further to win by over a 100 points - so a great result overall. The brilliant thing about the Polaris however, is that it's a great weekend's riding for everyone - even if you've only got a basic mountain bike or a cyclocross bike, you'll still have a good time. Being an orienteer gives quite an advantage against most mountain bikers too - so if you fancy a go, then check out the OMM website for the next event in June 2013.

Mountain Bike Orienteering in the UK

There is a small but very dedicated band of mountain bike orienteers in the UK (including the likes of our own Ian Nixon). The sport is split into two distinct formats: MBO Score events (previously known as Trailquests) are currently the most popular, with a good calendar of races across northern

England and typically 60-100 riders turning out at many events. They are run on a mixture of lanes and bridleways using modified OS maps, with around 2-4 hours riding time and the usual points values for controls and penalties for lateness.

MBO - mountain bike orienteering - events are exactly what they say: orienteering on a mountain bike, using the path networks on an O map. Currently there are only a handful of these events in the UK each year, attracting smaller numbers of riders - but we're always trying to find more suitable maps and areas. Next year there is an MBO sprint event scheduled at Penistone Hill for instance, to follow the Aire foot O race in July and talks are currently on hand about using Lindley Moor (Claro area) just north of Otley. If you fancy finding out more, then check out the British Mountain Bike Orienteering (BMBO) website: <http://www.bmbo.org.uk/>

Annapurna Circuit - Ruth Jones

It might not be an article about orienteering but it's what some of us get up to when we're not actually at O events. This was my third trip to Nepal and my husband Pete's (Ed) first. This is a whistle stop tour of our 17 day trek.



A six hour drive from Kathmandu to the start of our trek, the last hour on a very rough dirt track. Blue skies and sunshine set the tone for the whole trip.

Everywhere people were out in the fields harvesting rice, which is threshed by buffalo. Started walking at Bhulbhole and had a very pleasant stroll to our first night's stop. Here the valley is wide and intensively cultivated. Passed several huge bamboo swings erected for a festival a few days ago.

The next couple of days were very warm as we continued up the valley which gradually narrows into a gorge, giving us no option but to walk on the dirt road. Saw a monkey sunbathing in the middle of



a rock face on the other side of the valley; wild honey combs under an overhanging rock, and 2 huge lizards.

By Day 4 more of the route was on the old trekking paths rather than the road and it was starting to feel more alpine with pine forests covering the hills. Bit of a sting in the tail with a 400 metre climb at the end of the day. Consolation

is the stunning views of the Manasulu range from the lodge.

Reach Chame, the administrative capital of the valley, and currently the end of the road. Went through a really old village enroute – looked positively medieval, apart from the power lines, solar panels and satellite dishes! Every house has piles of wood stacked outside for the winter. Views of the mountains getting better all the time. After Chame it's all forested, with lots of wood cutting taking place and the occasional apple orchard. Can tell we are getting higher as waterfalls on the north facing side of the valley are frozen.

The next couple of days walking took us through a series of fantastic Buddhist villages – Upper Pisang, Ghyaru and Nawal. All the houses are Tibetan style – 2 or 3 storey with flat roofs used to store wood and fodder, built round courtyards with one gate into them and few windows. They use wooden ladders made out of tree trunks to access the upper floors. Most have prayer flags fluttering over them. Good views as we gain height. The fields around the villages are bare, dry, and stony, difficult to believe they manage to grow potatoes and wheat. Some houses have apple trees tucked away in sheltered corners.



Watched the old villagers coming down to the Stupa to make their devotions in the morning. Valley is getting more arid with far less vegetation, although there is the occasional big old deciduous tree. Visited a monastery and had a look in the Gompa (temple). Very colourful wall hanging, but all the monks are in Kathmandu for the winter. Quite a lot of cloud on the mountains today, and windy. Planning an acclimatisation trip up to an ice lake at 4600m tomorrow .



Change of plan as is really windy. So instead of the ice lake, we go up to Millarepa's Cave, a shrine, at 4000m. Walk up very slowly through pine woods which provide some shelter from the wind, though I still wear 4 layers and 2 pairs of gloves . Great views all the way. Needless to say, coming back down is a lot easier, if rather dusty. We then go on to Manang, the last village in the valley, which even boasts a 'picture house' !

No wind and the Annapurnas (II, III and IV) look magnificent as we continue climbing up the valley towards the Thorong La pass. No more trees, just low scrub. Only buildings are trekking lodges and tea huts. Fire in the lodge tonight fuelled by dried yak dung.

Definitely getting cooler at night now, and lots of the streams and waterfalls are frozen, but the sun is still shining for us. Pete achieved his personal height record when we reached Thorong Phedi (4450m). The last hour's walking was up hill to Thorong High Camp (4833m) so Pete immediately broke his own record. Feel like you are in the high mountains up here – no vegetation, just scree, bare rock, snow and glaciers in a 360 degree panorama. Not a lot of oxygen though.



The big day crossing the Thorong La pass finally arrived. Took 2 and a half hours of very slow plodding on my part, to get to the top, where the first thing we did was dive into the conveniently placed tea hut for a much needed cuppa – it was really cold and windy up there. New height record of 5518m established - including the AIRE buff. Quickly took a few photos and then began the long descent to Muktinath, which is both a Hindu and Bhuddist holy site.

Spent the next four days walking back down the Kali Gandaki valley, the deepest in the world with two 8000m peaks on either side - Annapurna I to the east, Dhaulagiri to the west. As you travel south you leave the arid rain shadow area behind and gradually it gets greener and warmer.

For our final few days walking we leave the main valley and head up to Ghoropani and the viewpoint at Poon Hill. It's 1500 metres of ascent in 5 hours but there's so much to see in the numerous villages that you don't notice the climb, or maybe we have got used to it now. The next morning we joined the masses viewing the sunrise from Poon Hill. Would have been great but for the 200 other trekkers up there but the views were pretty cool. Back to the lodge for breakfast before leaving to walk down to Birethanti, our last stop. I'd walked this route in reverse on my first visit to Nepal, so was disappointed to find they had built a dirt road part way up, destroying what had been a lovely path. Such is progress. Great views of Machapuchare from the lodge at Birathanti.



Venice 2012 – Snorkel O - Nick Jones

Venice, it conjures up so many different images: Shakespearean plays, masked balls, historic & iconic tourist destinations, gondolas & gondoliers and Street O. Street O!!! Well yes that's the main reason I've been going back to Venice in mid-November for the last eight years or so, having done my first Venice event in 2004. We think of Urban/Street O as being a relatively new orienteering phenomenon but this year was the 33rd edition of the Venice Street event.

OK, I hear you saying, you go once or even twice, but why go back again and again. Why do golfers play the same course time after time? Why do runners keep doing the London Marathon or Great North Run? I suppose it's because each time it's different, perhaps only subtly, but it is different.



Look at the Venice map and you can see so many streets, canals & bridges, so many potential control sites, so many route choices. Couple this with the ideas of different planners from different start areas and you have an almost limitless canvas to work from. There is one "square" I've been through on each race. Each time I arrive in the square I think "oh here again, how did I get here this time". It's like an old friend that you are pleased to see but weren't expecting to.

In the past I've been for long weekends and taken in the sights and sounds of the city as well as the actual event and I've also done it as a flying visit (literally) going out Saturday & back Sunday. This year with a little more time on my hands it was again a long weekend leaving on Thursday & back Tuesday. I joined "Goodair Tours" (Guy & Judith from EPOC) travelling out & back with them from Manchester & staying at the Hotel Casa Boccassini which is on the northern side of the main island near the Fondemento Nuove (FN) waterbus stop.

The journey was uneventful and after arriving at the hotel we headed for a nearby restaurant for our evening meal. This was followed by a post meal stroll to a bar/restaurant on the waterfront at FN for a beer/wine/coffee/hot chocolate prior to retiring for the night, an activity that was to become the norm for all 5 nights of our stay – that's the beer/wine/coffee/hot chocolate etc. not the retiring for the night. This bar was less than a stone's throw from the hotel where Aire members Fred & Gill Ross were staying. They had foregone the pleasures of flying out, opting for a more leisurely train journey.

Friday was a day for exploring (or for some re-exploring) so we purchased a 12 hour waterbus ticket (at €18 pretty good value) and set off on a tour of the islands. First stop Murano (glass production) and yours truly was sorely tempted to buy a piece of glassware for the new house. I resisted but regretted it for the rest of the trip. Well at least I have an excuse (as if I need one) to return to Venice for next year's race. We moved on to Burano (lace production) where we strolled around and had a spot of lunch. We all decided that this could quite possibly be one of the best "Sprint O" venues on the planet, although from an organisational/logistical point perhaps a bit tricky. I wonder if the organisers of WOC 2014 think so. The afternoon saw us taking the waterbus to Torcello, one of the oldest of the islands and where the original settlement of the Lagoon occurred. With time to spare we embarked on a waterbus trip round some of the remaining islands, finishing back at FN at about 5.30. Usual evening routine, pleasant meal at one of the many restaurants and a stroll to our "local" bar for a drink.

Saturday. After breakfast it was down to the Event Centre, which as always was at the Sports Centre near the Arsenale, to register for both the Park Race (Saturday afternoon) and the main Street race (Sunday). I can't think of any other large "O" event where you enter online and then pay for when you arrive. With an entry of some 3900 for the main race that's quite a bit of EOD takings. Having picked up our race numbers and assorted bits of information we strolled back to the hotel, bumping into Ruth Ker on the way back. It was Ruth's first Venice event and I'd lent her some of my maps from previous years. Ruth had decided not to do the Park race and was instead walking one of these courses to get an idea of the map and "terrain".

Following a relaxing morning and a light bite I headed off for the Park Race. Actually it wasn't in a Park. The part of Venice where it is usually held, St Elena, which does actually contain a park, has been embargoed as it is a potential venue for the WOC 2014 Sprints. I'd opted to run the long Park Race which turned out to be 5.2km, longer than anticipated. I'd tweaked my hamstring 2 weeks earlier at Yeadon and hadn't run since then. Hoping that the Park Race would be short(ish) I was intending it to be a test to see how the hamstring was feeling. I set off steadily, anxious to see how the hamstring fared. Luckily it felt OK and I started to enjoy the race, but it certainly wasn't the short race I'd expected. The organisers had blown up the main Venice map from 1:7500 to 1:5000 and were using an area including the Arsenale, St Marks & The Rialto for the race. Survival was the

order of the day and this was accomplished. I was therefore looking forward to the main event with a bit more confidence.

We knew that the organisers had already put Sunday's race start back half an hour to 9.30 because of the promised high tide, which was scheduled for 8.30 Sunday morning. No doubt they hoped this would give enough time for the water to recede prior to the race start. How little they knew. In common with a lot of Europe the previous days had been seen heavy rain and this was now flowing down the rivers from the Dolomites. The wind was also picking up and a strong on shore breeze off the Adriatic was forecast. With an anticipated high tide, water arriving from one direction and an onshore wind from the opposite direction we were in for an interesting time!!

Early Sunday morning at about 5.30am I was woken by the sound of an air raid siren. Obviously not an air raid but the method the Venice authorities have of warning the residents of a particularly high tide. The siren went again at about 6.30am. This was going to be a high tide with a difference.

We had arranged to meet for breakfast at 8am. The other EPOC folk were already at breakfast when I made my way down. Luca, the hotel owner/manager, had already placed some bricks & planks out so we could get to breakfast across the courtyard without getting our feet wet. As we finished breakfast we could see the water gradually making its way through reception and into the breakfast area. Those who had come down earlier had already gone back to their rooms. For those of us remaining it was a case of climbing out of the breakfast room window and using the bricks placed in the courtyard to get back to the stairs to the first floor bedrooms. Looking out of the windows into the street below we could see the water was at least a foot deep and although now about 9am and thus past the time for high tide it showed no inclination to subside. The north side of the main island is, I think, a bit higher (we are only talking a few inches) than the south side so what was happening down at the Start, Finish & Event Centre.



Luckily we had our spies. Andrew, Linda & Robert Kelly were staying in a hotel only a few metres from the Event Centre and Finish and alongside the Canale di S. Marco. What could they tell us? A phone call/text provided the answer. Controls were still being put out but the Finish was being dismantled. Not the Finish control but the tents they usually use for download & post-race drinks.

Download & drinks were now going to be back in the Event Centre. Starts were being put back to 10am. The water was very high and the strong wind was preventing the high tide receding as quickly as it would normally. We just had to stay put for the time being.

Another text from Andrew and we discovered the Starts were back to 10.30. By about 10am the water outside our hotel was starting to recede. A further text and it was now going to be a Punching Start, last start 13.30. Turn up and go when you were able to get to the start.

The previous evening I'd been out and discovered where the start was so it meant that I could go straight to it rather than having to go to the Event Centre and then retrace my steps. At about 10.45 I decided to set off from the hotel. The water had receded and I could get away with a bit of a paddle as I exited the hotel. However as I rounded the corner at the end of the street I was confronted with water up to calf deep and this set the tone for the rest of the morning and the race itself.

Some things are inevitable. Your toast will at some point land marmalade side down on the carpet. Ali Wood will eventually decide not to punch at a control by a crossing point (sorry Ali!) and if you go to Venice enough times you will surely encounter a high tide. This one was exceptional though. The 8th highest tide in the last 200 years. It reached 1.50 metres. People were wading through St Mark's Square, suitcases on their heads and water up to their waists. Some even swam in the Square. At one point on his course Robert Kelly realised that he was the only person in St Mark's Square, an iconic venue of European tourism, but was aware of flashing lights all around as he was being photographed by hundreds of people in the hotels & cafes that surround it.

I started my race at about 11.30. I say race but to be honest the concept of racing had long since gone out of my mind. It was now a punching start. People were queuing up and starting as soon as they got to the front of the queue. There was no minute interval, the organisers wanted to get people off as soon as possible. They always put in their information a request that in high tide conditions competitors walk through the flooded areas and only run where the water has receded. The majority of competitors were doing this but even then it's difficult not to create splashes. However, there are always some idiots who choose to ignore the requests of the organisers and they were running through water that was at times calf to knee deep. As you can imagine this certainly "p----- off" both the locals who were trying their best to keep the water out of their properties and other tourist who were doing their best to get around on the duck boards. In the end even those runners who were doing their best to abide by the organisers wishes were getting abuse. The end result was that at about 12.45 the Police stepped in and prevented any further starts. Some people didn't get to start at all.

As a race it was meaningless. The conditions, although improving as the morning went on, were not conducive to a fair race. Early starters were at a serious disadvantage. Some runners chose to ignore the organisers' requests whilst others did their best to comply. Some didn't even get a start. I chose to be sensible and walked when I had to but attempted to run when conditions allowed.

As I say, as a race I think it was meaningless. However as a spectacle and event it was something else. I wouldn't have missed it for the world. Some people can remember where they were when JFK was shot or they heard the news of Princess Diana's death. I can say I was at "that" Venice race.

Whilst there was another siren sounding early on Monday morning the conditions were nothing like as bad as the previous day. Pretty much an average high tide I'd say. We took ourselves off to Padua by train, leaving the locals to dry out, and enjoyed a wander around another of the cities in this part of Italy with Shakespearian connections. Tuesday we were homeward bound and returning to the UK's own rain and flooding.

I feel sorry for those, Ruth for example, for whom Venice 2012 was their first Venice street event. For me it was disappointing not to be able to race, but what an experience.

So, will I go back? You bet, if only to get that bit of glassware. However it won't be in 2013 as the organisers have decided to suspend the event next year due to the controversies surrounding this year's event. They have taken the decision to protect the WOC 2014 Sprint. A brave decision but quite understandable.

I hope all those who failed to comply with the organisers requests to walk through the water reflect on their actions which must certainly have contributed to both the early cessation of the race by the police and the decision of the organisers to cancel the race in 2013. It shows what can happen when people are so self-centred and thoughtless they don't consider the consequences of their actions, either immediately or in the long term. Let's hope that the race can resume in 2014, I'll certainly aim to be there.

AIRE CLUB LEAGUE 2012/13

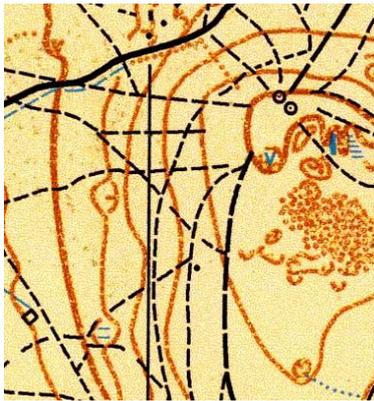
These are the 12 counting events for the next round of the club league, will be. Your best 7 scores will count.

| Date | Club | Venue |
|-------------|-------------|------------------------|
| 23 Sep 2012 | CLARO | Lindley Moor |
| 11 Nov 2012 | EPOC | Ogden |
| 18 Nov 2012 | AIRE | Middleton Woods |
| 20 Nov 2012 | AIRE | Park Wood & Black Carr |
| 2 Dec 2012 | CLARO | Hollin Head |
| 6 Jan 2013 | AIRE | Buck Wood |
| 20 Jan 2013 | EPOC | Haw Park |
| 17 Feb 2012 | NATO | Compass Sport Cup |
| 24 Feb 2012 | AIRE | Valley of Desolation |
| 3 Mar 2012 | CLARO | Swinsty |
| 14 Apr 2012 | AIRE | Danefield |
| 12 May 2012 | AIRE | Harden Moor |

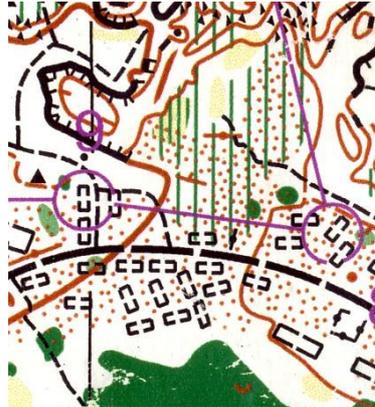
JANUARY MAP COMPETITION

All you have to do is identify the areas. Most belong to AIRE and the rest are all within Yorkshire.

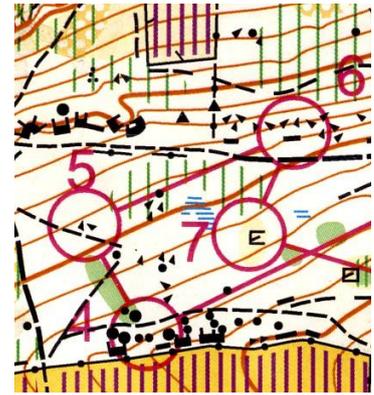
E-mail your answers to the editor before the end of Jan (pjrj@blueyonder.co.uk). The first to get them all correct may feature prominently in the next edition.



1



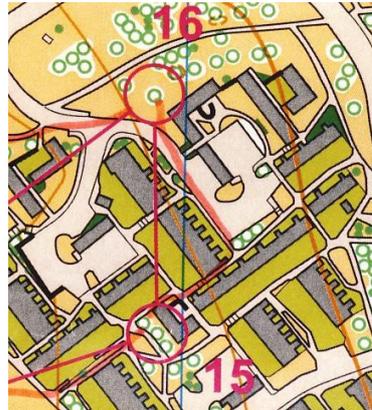
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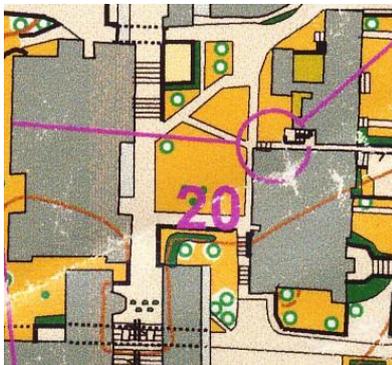
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5



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7



8

TUESDAY NIGHT RUNNING

| DATE | LOCATION | AREA | TEL NO | GRID REF |
|---------------------------|--|-----------------------|--------------|----------|
| 29 th January | Chris & Helen Burden, 12 Carlton Grove, Shipley, BD18 3AS | Shipley | 01274 583853 | SE145365 |
| 5 th February | Rob & Lindsey King, 3 Alexandra Place, Ilkley, LS29 9ES | Ilkley | 01943 435415 | SE115479 |
| 12 th February | The Roundhay Fox, Street Lane, Leeds, LS28 2EP | Roundhay | | SE325383 |
| 19 th February | Bowling Green Pub (Wetherspoons), Otley, LS21 3AB | Otley | | SE203454 |
| 26 th February | Pete & Ruth Jones, 11 Woodlands Grove, Baildon, BD17 5BD | Baildon | 01274 596850 | SE136388 |
| 5 th March | Ian & Joyce Marshall, 6 Oak Close, Burley-in-W'dale, LS29 7PJ | Burley-in-W'dale | 01943 862997 | SE165457 |
| 12 th March | Simon & Rebecca Bowens, 44 Holt Park Crescent, Cookridge, LS16 7SN | Cookridge | 07921 039251 | SE261404 |
| 19 th March | The Brown Cow, Ireland Bridge, Bingley, BD16 2QX | Harden & St Ives | | SE104393 |
| 26 th March | Rob & Lindsey King, 3 Alexandra Place, Ilkley, LS29 9ES | Ilkley | 01943 435415 | SE115479 |
| 2 nd April | Rest day after JK | | | |
| 9 th April | Chris & Helen Burden, 12 Carlton Grove, Shipley, BD18 3AS | Shipley | 01274 583853 | SE145365 |
| 16 th April | Steve & Alex Watkins, West Barn, Thompson Lane, Baildon, BD17 7NB | Baildon Moor | 01274 580764 | SE142385 |
| 23 rd April | Murgatroyd's Fish & Chip Shop, Yeadon, LS19 7BN | Yeadon/Rawdon | | SE216408 |
| 30 th April | Ian & Joyce Marshall, 6 Oak Close, Burley-in-W'dale, LS29 7PJ | Burley-in-W'dale | 01943 862997 | SE165457 |
| 7 th May | Sara Dyer & Steve Webb, Faweather Farm, Birch Close Lane, BD16 3BG | High Eldwick | 01943 871606 | SE142418 |
| 14 th May | Jack Bloor Fell Race, Ilkley | Ilkley Moor | | SE116471 |
| 21 st May | Simon & Rebecca Bowens, 44 Holt Park Crescent, Cookridge | Golden Acre and Eccup | 07921 039251 | SE261404 |

Meet at 7pm. Everyone welcome – young, old, fast, slow. Eat together in a pub afterwards or bring food along for a communal meal if the run is from someone's house. For further details contact Joyce or Ian Marshall on 01943 862997

SELECTED FIXTURES

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Sun 6th Jan | AIRE REGIONAL | Buck Wood | www.aire.org.uk/events/eventslist/eventslist_v2.asp |
| Wed 9th Jan | AIRE NIGHT SCORE LEAGUE | Peel Park Bradford | www.aire.org.uk/events/eventslist/eventslist_v2.asp |
| Sun 13th Jan | SYO REGIONAL | Big Moor | www.southyorkshireorienteers.org.uk/ |
| Wed 16th Jan | AIRE NIGHT SCORE LEAGUE | Holt Park Streets | www.aire.org.uk/events/eventslist/eventslist_v2.asp |
| Sun 20th Jan | EPOC REGIONAL | Haw Park | www.eastpennineoc.org.uk/ |
| Wed 23rd Jan | AIRE NIGHT SCORE LEAGUE | Danefield | www.aire.org.uk/events/eventslist/eventslist_v2.asp |
| Sun 27th Jan | EBOR REGIONAL | Bishop Wood | www.eborienteers.org.uk/ |
| Wed 30th Jan | AIRE NIGHT SCORE LEAGUE | Yeadon Streets | www.aire.org.uk/events/eventslist/eventslist_v2.asp |
| Sat 2nd Feb | AIRE YHOA NIGHT LEAGUE | The Chevin | www.aire.org.uk/events/eventslist/eventslist_v2.asp |
| Sun 3rd Feb | NOC MIDLAND CHAMPS | Sherwood Forest | www.noc-uk.org/ |
| Wed 6th Feb | AIRE NIGHT SCORE LEAGUE | Myrtle Park | www.aire.org.uk/events/eventslist/eventslist_v2.asp |
| Sat 9th Feb | SYO BRITISH NIGHT CHAMPS | Tankersley | www.southyorkshireorienteers.org.uk/ |
| Sun 10th Feb | SYO YHOA SUPERLEAGUE | Tankersley | www.southyorkshireorienteers.org.uk/ |
| Wed 13th Feb | AIRE NIGHT SCORE LEAGUE | Roundhay Park | www.aire.org.uk/events/eventslist/eventslist_v2.asp |
| Sun 17th Feb | COMPASS SPORT CUP | Slaley | www.compasssport.co.uk |
| Sat 23rd Feb | AIREDALE SPRING OLITE SERIES | Shipley Glen | www.aire.org.uk/events/eventslist/eventslist_v2.asp |
| Sun 24th Feb | AIRE YHOA SUPERLEAGUE | Valley of Desolation | www.aire.org.uk/events/eventslist/eventslist_v2.asp |
| Sat 2nd March | AIREDALE SPRING OLITE SERIES | St Ives, Bingley | www.aire.org.uk/events/eventslist/eventslist_v2.asp |
| Sun 3rd March | CLARO | Beecroft | www.claro-orienteeing.org/ |
| Sat 9th March | AIREDALE SPRING OLITE SERIES | Northcliffe Park | www.aire.org.uk/events/eventslist/eventslist_v2.asp |
| Sun 10th March | SYO REGIONAL | Rivelin | www.southyorkshireorienteers.org.uk/ |
| Sat 16th March | AIREDALE SPRING OLITE SERIES | Calverly Woods | www.aire.org.uk/events/eventslist/eventslist_v2.asp |
| Sun 24th March | AIRE REGIONAL | Danefield | www.aire.org.uk/events/eventslist/eventslist_v2.asp |
| 29th Mar - 1st Apr | JK | Chilterns | http://www.thejk.org.uk/jk2013/ |
| Sun 7th Apr | HALO - YHOA SUPERLEAGUE | Scardale | http://halo-orienteeing.org.uk/ |
| Sat 13th Apr | LOC DOUBLE MIDDLE DISTANCE | Graythwaite | http://old.lakeland-orienteeing.org.uk/ |
| Sun 14th Apr | LOC DOUBLE CLASSIC | Graythwaite | http://old.lakeland-orienteeing.org.uk/ |
| Wed 17th Apr | AIRE SPRING SPRINT SERIES | Horsforth Hall Park | www.aire.org.uk/events/eventslist/eventslist_v2.asp |
| Wed 24th Apr | AIRE SPRING SPRINT SERIES | Chapel Allerton Park | www.aire.org.uk/events/eventslist/eventslist_v2.asp |

For more complete details see the BOF Website - <http://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/>