

NGOC Chairman's Report 2010-2011

When I took the Chair from Chris James this time last year I was very conscious that I had never been chair of anything before, and had no idea what would happen. I am pleased to be able to report that at least from my perspective nothing disastrous seems to have happened, and indeed the club has ticked along very satisfactorily over the last year. I put this down to three things: we are lucky to have a very experienced and dedicated committee who just get on with the job, and leave the Chairman thinking and believing that there is nothing to be done. Everything works, from fixtures, to membership to finance to events, and on your behalf I thank the committee for continuing to put in all the time and effort that they contribute to the successful operation of the club. Second, we have club members in the James's and Camerons who provide a conduit and sounding board between us and British orienteering, so that we in the club can focus on local matters whilst they, and to a far lesser extent, I, ensure that we do not become just too parochial. I very much appreciate their efforts to keep us engaged and informed about the goings on in our governing body. Third, and something I'll come back to shortly, we have a small but slowly growing pool of volunteers in the club who are prepared to give something back to the club and orienteering not only by putting on our events, but also doing the 'behind the scenes' work that keeps events and the club going – Eddie McLarnon on the website, John Fallows on computing - to mentioned just two. Once again may I thank all of them on behalf of all of you, for helping to make NGOC a healthy and active club.

I said last year that I felt we had three pressing issues to address – the cost of access, increasing participation, and volunteering – and that these would be the focus of my efforts during the year. You will know by now the current state of the access issue; the cost problem is on hold, and has been somewhat overtaken by the wider issue of ownership of public forests, and the future of the Forestry Commission. We can't do much about this at the moment, but it will come back into focus next year.

I have already touched on the vital subject of volunteering. I am very pleased to see some new or newish names on the 2011-12 fixtures list – Gary Wakerley, Caroline Craig, John Shea – and I would encourage everyone in the club to have a go at planning and running a club event. I am also conscious, however, that as a club we seem to have stopped organising larger events, and a major reason for this is a lack of people able and willing to organise these. We have some prime terrain on our patch, and it is shame not to use it. I have not done as much on volunteering as I feel I could have done, and in my self-assessment of my efforts and success at increasing volunteering, I award myself a B-; could do better.

By far the greatest part of my work as Chairman has been related to participation, and to keep this Chairman's report brief I have covered this separately in a Development Report.

So what about the coming year? The Forestry issue will re-emerge when the Government's review panel reports in April. We will have to see what happens. Within orienteering, the recent British Orienteering Club and Association Conference has reported, and whilst it will take time to assimilate everything it discussed, it looks as if the thing that will affect us most directly is a proposed change to the membership and levy schemes, making membership cheaper and easier but increasing participation costs (levies). At the club level, we have some imminent changes in the pipeline - a new website and a new club top - which will I hope refresh and re-invigorate the club, and we will of course persevere with our efforts to develop the club. I hope that more of you will not only come to more events, but will step around the table and join the volunteers.

Pat MacLeod

Chairman

Secretary's Report 2010-2011

The committee has met five times this year at the Oxstalls campus, and some additional smaller meetings have been held on specific topics.

I have dealt with various items of correspondence, mostly emails, primarily from British Orienteering, SWOA and neighbouring clubs.

I have been in correspondence with a number of orienteering clothing companies, to ask what they could offer NGOC as new club kit. After comparing what was on offer from different companies and supplementing their designs with some of my own, I presented some options to members at the Chairman's Challenge. People filled in a survey to give their views on the style and designs, whether they thought we needed a new club top and how much they'd be prepared to pay. The conclusion was that most people thought we needed a new top and the majority would be willing to pay after NGOC had subsidised the tops by a small amount.

Caroline Craig, October 2011

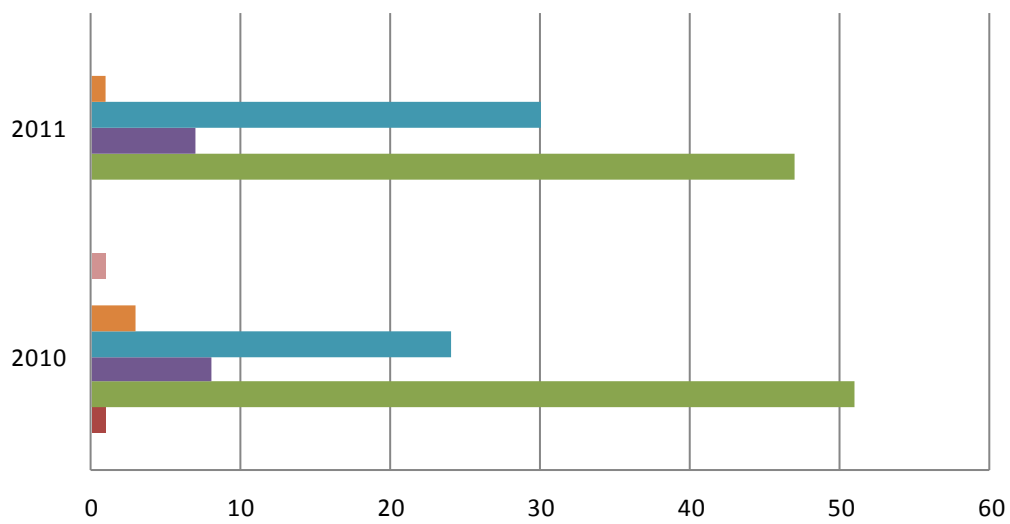
Membership Secretary Report

In 2011 NGOC membership has decreased by 4 membership units when compared with 2010 however the loss of individual senior members has been offset by the increase in family units with children as demonstrated in the club demographic reports below.

NGOC membership units:

	Junior	Senior	Family	Group	Total
2011	0	54	30	0	84
2010	1	59	27	1	88

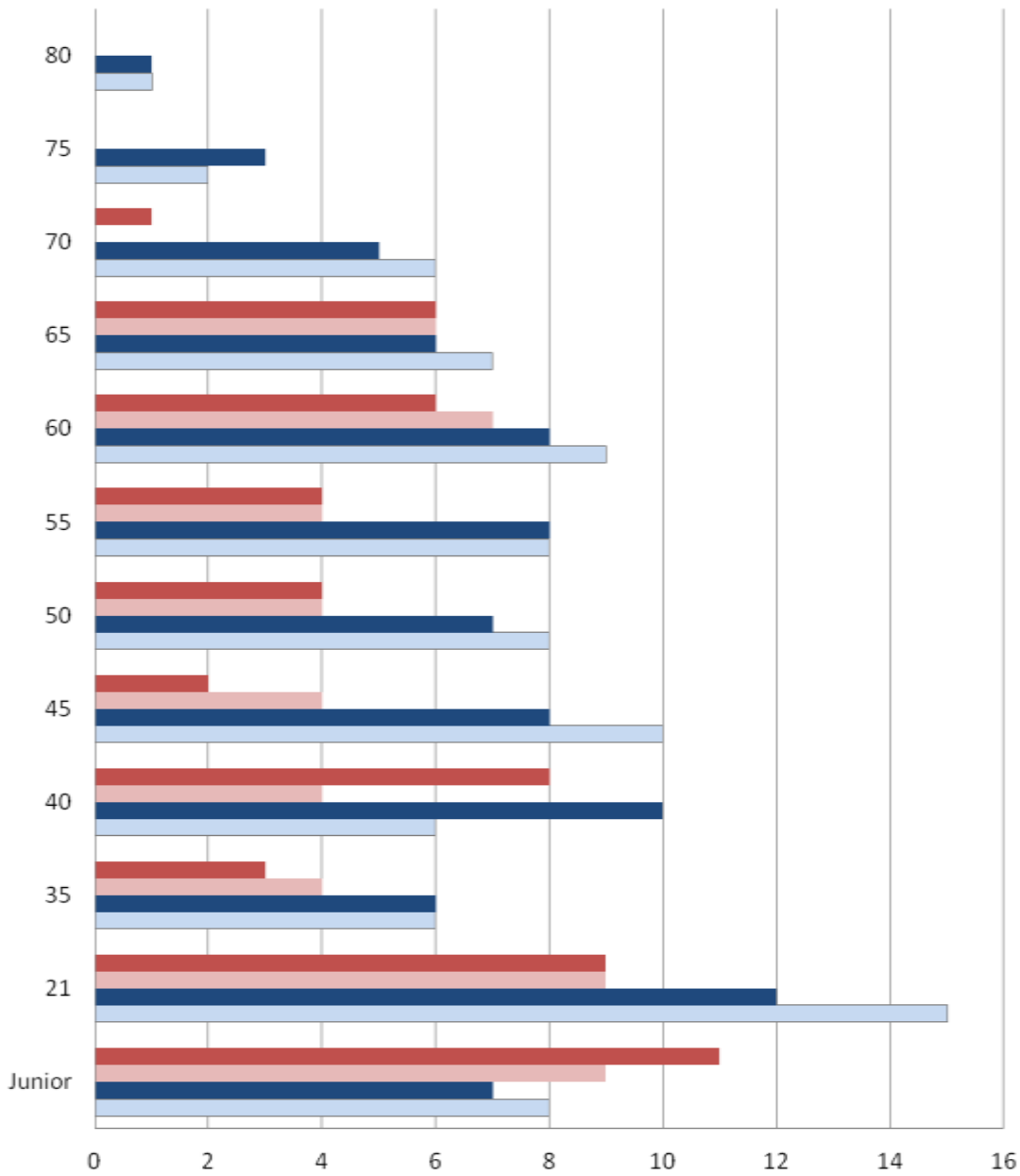
Membership units by British Orienteering (BO) and Club only categories:



	2010	2011
Club Group	1	0
BO Group	0	0
Club Family	3	1
BO Family	24	30
Club Senior	8	7
BO Senior	51	47
Club Junior	1	0
BO Junior	0	0

NGOC Membership Units

NGOC membership by age classification and gender 2010 -2011



	Junior	21	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80
■ W 2011	11	9	3	8	2	4	4	6	6	1	0	0
■ W 2010	9	9	4	4	4	4	4	7	6	0	0	0
■ M 2011	7	12	6	10	8	7	8	8	6	5	3	1
■ M 2010	8	15	6	6	10	8	8	9	7	6	2	1

Ellen Starling NGOC Membership Secretary 2010-2011

NGOC FIXTURES SECRETARY REPORT –SEASON 2010 – 2011

During the main Orienteering season the club provided eighteen events comprising:-

Six League events
Four Informal/Training events
Three Western Night League events
The Chairman's Challenge
The New Year's Day event
The End of Season event
One Galoppen
One Regional

We 'borrowed' two MADDO, (courtesy of HOC), events to complete our League programme and we reciprocated when MADDO used two of our events. The League events are our bedrock with solid support attracting not only our own club members but also runners from neighbouring clubs who travel many miles to compete. Our organisers and planners work hard to present great events in some very good Orienteering areas. Our first scheduled night event of the season, due the week before Christmas, had to be postponed owing to recent snowfall and icy conditions. This event was then annexed to our March informal event which enabled the volunteers for both fixtures to help each other re planning and organising. (This arrangement may have to be considered in the future). The Chairman's Challenge and New Year's Day events were again well supported as were the excellent Regional at Knockalls and also the May Galoppen at Danby Lodge where bluebells covered the forest floor. The End of Season event was a particular pleasure using the maze of paths and tracks in the Brockweir and Hudnalls area near St Briavels.

A number of hard-working members provided an abundance of spring weekend and summer evening events thus providing a very full calendar of events during the season.

Once again the club is indebted to all those willing volunteers who gave so generously of their time to organise and plan very enjoyable events. Without your efforts and enthusiasm the club wouldn't exist. Thank you once again. Volunteers, old and new, are always welcome.

Dave Hartley - Fixtures

Map Printing

A year ago the printer clock reading was almost 39,000 prints, now almost 44,000. This total of 5,000 pages includes not just maps, but also for some events control descriptions, instructions, entry forms and flyers. Last year the total was around 9,000 pages but because of pressures on my time I have stopped printing for BOK and other clubs on a regular basis, hence the big reduction. ***The downside is we have lost a significant income.***

Total of about 40 "events" printed, approximate breakdown: NGOC 35 (including quite a few maps for the summer starter and street event series), and the rest for BOK army, SWOC and some company outdoor groups for adventure race training.

The printer is running OK but consumables are still expensive. Internet best price for a set of four Minolta high capacity (nominal 12,000 pages) colour cartridges is now circa £950 slightly more than last year at £938. Because of the high colour density and short print runs we get very much less than the rated number of prints – around 6,000?

Notes to Event Planners

Most planners are now giving me electronic event planning files in "Purple Pen" format. Note

that the software has been updated and improved, so best to download the latest version if you intend to plan an event.

If you are not computer literate please don't be put off volunteering to plan - I can still provide blank maps for the planner to mark up with his courses and I will then create the electronic versions for printing.

Please give me back any unused waterproof maps that are in good condition, as I can re-use the back to save paper costs (circa 9p a sheet).

New Areas Mapped

Flaxley Woods - Bob has completed a new map for the league event on 3rd December.

Gloucester Docks - Bob Teed has completed the map a year ago but we are still awaiting the go-ahead from Mark Boyce to use the area, because of redevelopment work..

Hartpur College - Bob has drawn an OCAD map based on an old version and Neil & Pat Cameron are surveying updates, but as far as I know not yet complete, so not in this season's programme?

Street Maps – Some street maps were converted to OCAD this summer but that was a bit of a waste as we can now print “open” street maps (non-copyright) of any area from the internet. They may need a few footpaths and alleyways added but appear adequate for low-key events.

Map Updates

Updating of maps has been ongoing throughout the year, generally by Planners passing me maps marked up with corrections. I have done a lot of updates for Parkend for the Galoppen next March.

My Replacement?

I have had this role for two years and will probably last a third, but I would like to be replaced for the 2012/2013 season. Any volunteers?

Paul Taunton, Mapping

NGOC Equipment Report 2010-2011

There is relatively little to report equipment-wise.

The caravan was finally disposed of free of charge.

We have purchased a generator for use at larger events, to save the cost and effort of hiring one, and a new club laptop for use at league and larger events.

We have not replaced the club tents, but have given them a new lease of life by adding guys to increase stability and put less strain on the joints in the poles.

Last year I reported that we might need to buy equipment to support new development programmes and types of events, but so far we have managed with the kit we have.

We have lost 2 SI units – one stolen and one vandalised beyond repair – but still have enough equipment to be wholly self-sufficient in SI for all but the largest events.

I am not aware that we need anything significant, equipment wise, and would expect our equipment costs to remain generally low for the coming year.

Pat Macleod

Equipment Officer

Captain's Annual Report 2011

This year, I am happy that the club managed to send teams to all of the 4 main senior team events (JK relays, British Relays, Harvester Relay and Compass Sport Trophy). Unfortunately, we still do not have enough active juniors to be able to send a team to any of the junior team events. Although this has been mentioned in previous years, it should remain a target for the club to encourage more juniors to allow this. Once again, I took a team from my daughters' primary school to compete at the Hereford & Worcester Schools Champs. The children love being able to compete against other kids in a real competition, so it would be great to see NGOC juniors able to do something similar.

At Easter, the JK was held "overseas" in Northern Ireland, which resulted in fewer NGOC relay teams than usual. We had 3 teams competing, but sadly 2 of these were disqualified! The captain was not present, so thanks to Paul Taunton for deputising.

The British Relays were held in May near Sheffield. Again, we managed just 3 teams. The best performance was 19th in the M60 class by Paul Taunton, Neil Cameron and Chris James. Again, the captain was conspicuous by his absence, so thanks to Neil Cameron for standing in on the day.

The next team event was the Harvester Relay in July near Sheffield. As the captain enjoys this one, he made sure to be there! I was pleased that we managed 2 teams this year – the first time for a quite a few years. In the A class we had a team of 5 men and 2 women, but sadly we were disqualified for a mis-punch. In the handicap category of the B class, our team of 5 men romped home 17th of 27. Not much success on the scoreboard but a very enjoyable and well-organised event, none the less.

There is no question about the highlight this year for our club, and that is the Compass Sport Trophy, the inter-club competition for smaller clubs. The regional qualifying round was held in January at Sutton Park near Birmingham. With an excellent turn-out of 38 people representing the club, we sailed through coming 1st of the 4 clubs taking part. This meant qualification for the final of the Trophy competition for the first time in our club's history. The final was held last month at Longshaw Estate in the Peak District, and again we managed a great turn-out (also with 38). For both the qualifying round and the final, the club chartered a coach, and I think it added to the occasion to be able to travel together. Obviously the opposition was much stronger in the final than the first round, but we still managed to come 6th out of the 11 teams from all over Britain. This was a great result for NGOC, and one we should be proud of. Thanks to all who took part and well done!

Although it is not a team competition, it was good to see so many NGOC members at the Scottish 6 Days in August. With 29 club members making their way to Oban for the week, there was always plenty of company in the club tent. The best performer was Neil Cameron, 4th on M65L – well done Neil. It was my first time at this most enjoyable week, but it certainly won't be my last.

Next year, Compass Sport Trophy qualification will be held on 19th February, at a venue not yet decided. At Easter, the JK will be in Scotland and the British Champs will be held in May in the Lake District. Harvester- don't know yet. Plenty to look forward to.

Greg Best.

Legend Editor

There were six editions of Legend again this year and there was plenty of material to fill the newsletter - but mainly from the usual small number of members. A good new source of articles is the NGOC representative in Australia, Maggie Jones, who has been sending articles on training techniques that she has been writing for her Australian club, Uringa.

Articles from new contributors would be very welcome – they do not have to be about orienteering, just something that you think members would be interested in. Lin Callard's "The Marmalade Walk" in January is a very good example. I think I have only ever turned down one article and the writer was not from NGOC!

Forest Challenge. Since it was first offered for sale about a year ago nearly 200 copies of this orienteering board game have been sold, including to schools and for prizes at a beetle drive at the Scottish 6 Days. The first profits were sent to help flood victims in Pakistan; further profits will go to the Woodland Trust. We hope to sell more copies this Christmas and "go international" when the new club website is fully established and a PayPal account is set up. If you don't have a copy of the game yet they are on sale tonight!

Alan Brown

NGOC – Welfare Officer's Report - AGM – 7th November 2011

As far as the Club is concerned I have no incidents or concerns to report. However, I am pleased that Gary Wakerley has taken the various courses required to become a Welfare Officer and I would like to propose that he becomes Joint Welfare Officer if the membership is in favour of that.

On a wider basis over the past years there has been a suggestion that there would be a meeting of all Welfare Officers led by Mike Hamilton and Laura Martin our BOF Lead Welfare Officers. This has now been arranged for 2nd November at BOF Office in Darley Dale and I will be attending. The Steering Group has Director Judith Holt as Chairman and she intends having one central meeting a year and others contact electronically, so we should now receive information more regularly.

During the year I have also undertaken to ensure that CRB clearances are renewed as necessary for club officials and I will be reminding those concerned when their renewal is due.

Gill James

NGOC Development Report 2010-2011

We have had a busy year development wise.

The highlights:

- ^ Greg Best organised a Spring Series of beginner events in Cheltenham and Gloucester
- ^ Kyla da Cunha and I organised a series of Tuesday afternoon events in and around Ross and Hereford
- ^ Caroline Gay was appointed British Orienteering Development Officer for the South West. Caroline has been very active in supporting our efforts, and pushing the BO development plans in the South West
- ^ With Caroline's help Kyla has now established a sub-club in Hereford, which meets on Monday evenings and will act as a feeder club for ourselves, MADO and HOC.
- ^ We have started to see new members joining the club as a result of these programmes.

- ^ On top of all these activities we have:
 - ^ supplied maps to a variety of schools and other bodies, to support their orienteering activities;
 - ^ actively supported orienteering activities arrange by other bodies – the Herefordshire Youth games, Holme Lacy College outdoor activities course, St Peter's School visit to Westonbirt, for example;
 - ^ recently joined the BBC Things To Do programme, under the Countryfile banner, to advertise our events;
 - ^ finally started to engage positively with Hartpury College and the University of Gloucester, with the objective of developing active orienteering programmes with them.

The Lowlights:

- ^ The number of people coming to the starter events was sometimes disappointing; despite a great deal of marketing effort on Greg Best's part it was a shame to see so few turn up to some events.
- ^ We have not made the progress I had hoped we would make in some of the supporting activities – such as refreshing the website - that we need to do to help encourage people to come to our events and to join the club.
- ^ We continue to rely on the same small core of people who are willing to turn out regularly to run the development programmes.

2011-2012 plans:

- ^ Build relationships with Hartpury College and the University of Gloucestershire;
- ^ Continue the programme of Spring Saturday events
- ^ Review and develop marketing activities such as use of the BBC Things to Do website, design and publication of general information leaflet, stronger poster campaign in outlets such as leisure centres, and so on
- ^ Persevere!

Pat Macleod

Chairman and temporary Development Officer