

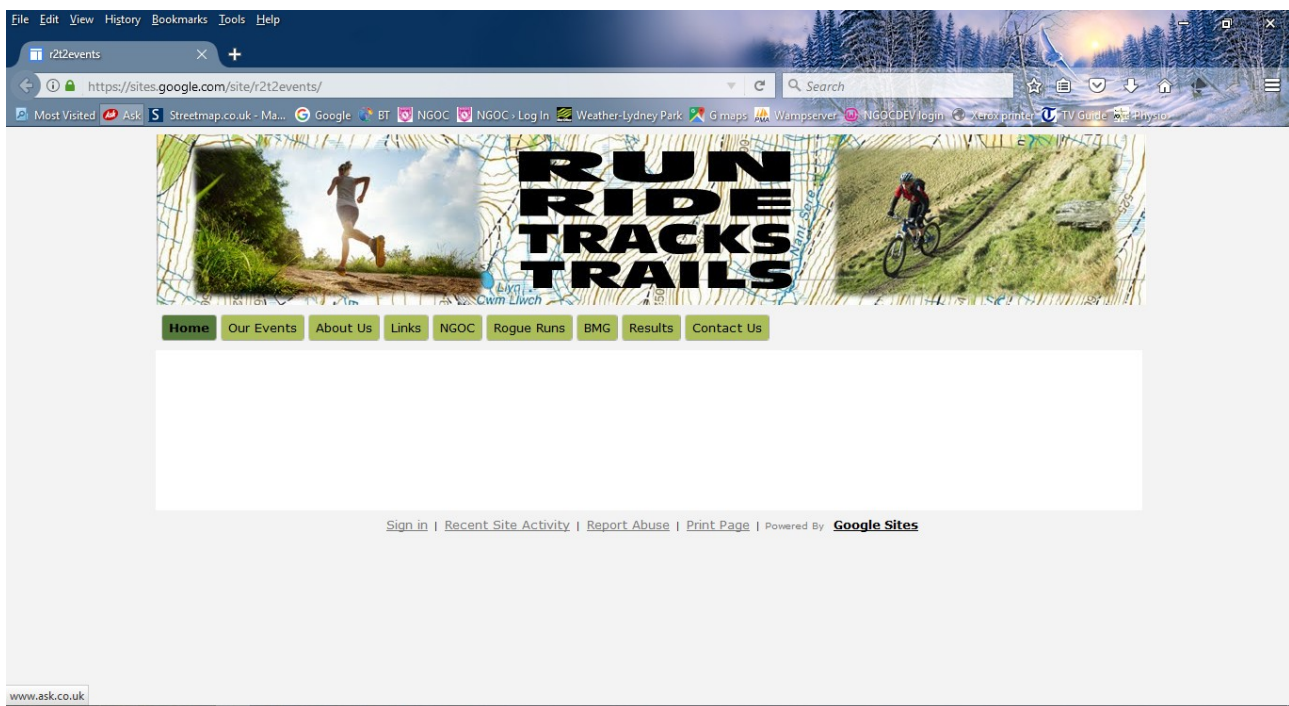
R2T2 - Run, Ride, Tracks and Trails

Further to my notes to the last meeting on a suggested 'duo' event, things have moved on somewhat. This report address the action in item 17.c of the December meeting minutes.

Early in January Gill Stott and I got together with Andy Creber and Paul Dodd (Rogue Runs) and Simon James (Black Mountains Guiding – organiser of the BM MBO series) to throw around a few ideas. Following the meeting I wrote a few notes, which the others have generally endorsed. These are reproduced as follows:

1. Both Rogue Runs and Black Mountain MBO have commercial interests in the general domain we discussed - running/riding/orienteering/adventure - which we need to take into account in whatever we do. From NGOC's point of view, our objectives are:
 - a. To find new ways to attract people who might take up orienteering. We need to keep looking for new members in order to maintain the viability and vitality of the club.
 - b. To use the expertise of anyone we can persuade to help, recognising that this means taking commercial interests into account, both practically and financially.
2. There are 2 principal constraints in planning where we go from here:
 - a. Orienteering/Navigation are problem terms. We need to avoid them
 - b. The event schedule is very busy, and all 3 organisations have ongoing programmes which constrain, to some extent, both dates and formats.
3. The key factors in getting some form of activity off the ground are:
 - a. Running rather than orienteering event format - mass start, minimal navigation, social format with mementoes, trophies/prizes, food etc
 - b. Weekday evening - Summer kick off
 - c. Strong publicity essential - new 'branding' and channels (web/FB etc)
 - d. Early focus on running, with riding to fit in as practical
 - e. Blend with other events (eg BMBO Score) where practical, both using existing events, and providing BMBO platform
4. What next?
 - a. Provisional first date - Tues 11 July, Chepstow Park wood, subject to Devauden Hall availability (AC to check). To include running and riding if possible.
 - b. NGOC (PM) to coordinate - suggest a get together when I get back from Scotland - mid Feb.
 - c. New website/landing place for publicity - PD to set up, once name/brand is agreed
 - d. New name needed - all to consider
 - e. Test run if possible. SJ offered existing BMBO event - Dingestow/Govilon. In my view I don't think either fits well with a forest running style tester, having looked at the areas, so propose that we do something separate, with a small invited band of running and riding critics. We should aim for a date in April/May, I guess.
5. Event format requirements:
 - a. Publicity drive aimed at athletics clubs, park run etc
 - b. 10k run, v simple navigation, SI timed
 - c. 1 hour score format ride, SI timed
 - d. OS, not O- map
 - e. Social centre
 - f. Food
 - g. Mementoes and spot prizes

Subsequent to the meeting, we came up with a name – R2T2 – Run, Ride, Tracks and Trails – and Paul has created an embryo website – see draft welcome page below



Our planned start date has changed – the Devauden Hall was not available on 11 July, so we have now booked it for 18 July.

Apart from all this, we haven't made a great deal more progress. I have had a ride around Chepstow Park Wood. It will be hard to plan what we want, but Gill and I will work on that, and an appropriate map format, as a priority.

Requirements on NGOC Committee

1. Agreement to partner with Rogue Runs and BMG
2. Agreement to some suggested options for handling the financial/commercial aspects of this 'partnership'
3. Agreement to bring this initiative into the overall NGOC programme, and support it as such.

Problem Areas

1. The schedule. It will be difficult to schedule the extra events, but we should aim to make use of our existing events as far as we can.
2. Resources. Obviously volunteer resources are a challenge, particularly as we need, for this series, to increase the range of facilities we offer – better cafe for example, spot prizes, etc – as well as probably increasing the event planning and logistics effort.
3. Commercial interests. If we are partnering with people who aim to make a personal profit, we need to agree a method for managing and handling revenue and returns. I suggest that we could offer an approach something like this:
 - a) We make equipment freely available to the organising partner for any event in the R2T2 series
 - b) We agree to purchase materials and services which may be required, subject to an

equitable split or arrangement with the other partners to contribute a share

- c) We agree a profit share that recognises the organising partner, but provides a return to each partner – maybe 50% to the organiser, 25% to the other two, or something like that.

Next Steps

1. Get the first event planned and organised
2. Develop publicity material and build the website
3. Develop an event schedule so that we can offer continuity. Review which of our events we might be able to adapt to this series.