



# NEWS

The Newsletter of Humberside & Lincolnshire Orienteers

[www.halo-orienteing.org.uk](http://www.halo-orienteing.org.uk)

## June 2008

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Paddy, Mary & Neil - HALO Westwood

2nd in the EBOR Handicap Relays 16th June

Photo Brian Ward

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Brian looking calm & collected - photo Brian Ward

## LAMM 2008 - Glenfinnan

My obsession with mountain marathons started when I took up running on my 40<sup>th</sup> birthday! One day, after running with my brother in law, Gareth, he suggested we should set ourselves a goal and showed me the Lowe Alpine Mountain Marathon (LAMM) website. I agreed to enter, thinking a camping trip and a bit of navigation in the hills would be fun – little did I know. So 6 months later in June 2004 we found ourselves battling though snow and rain in Glencarron! We missed a checkpoint, got hypothermia and were absolutely wasted at the end – but what an adventure... I was hooked.

So on a Friday afternoon 4 years and 5 mountain marathons later I arrived in Glenfinnan, registered and pitched the tent in glorious sunshine having only found out the location of the event the day before (the organisers only announce the venue 2 days before the event). Gareth arrived a little later and we had a nervous evening checking kit and eating a high carb evening meal from Wilf's, the outside caterers for the event.

We were woken at 6am the next day to the evocative sound of bagpipes echoing round the glen. We had a large breakfast and packed our rucksacks with all we would need for the next 36 hours, including camping gear. We were issued maps and headed to the start 15

minutes walk up the glen for our 08.10 start. The format of the race is the same as a standard orienteering event but on a grand scale, except that the maps are not pre-marked. We were issued with grid references and control descriptions after the start and then followed a frenetic 10 minutes to mark up the map (trying to avoid errors) whilst fighting off the midges – which was the last we saw of them until Sunday morning fortunately – then we were off heading for checkpoint 1, a crag a 2.5Km contour away as the early morning mist burnt away to glorious, hot(!) sunshine.



Punching CP1

Cont'd P 4

Navigation was mostly about route choice, the good visibility making it relatively easy to find each checkpoint. The biggest challenge was caused by the dry conditions which had dried up some of the water features marked on the 1 in 40,000 map (based on the OS 1 in 50,000 series) – global warming has more than just the obvious effects! We seemed to be either climbing steeply, descending sharply or contouring endlessly over rough ground and rarely able to run, but the scenery was superb. We finally arrived at checkpoint 5 and were presented with the trickiest route choice of the day. We thought the fastest route to checkpoint 6 was yet another massive 6Km contour round 2 Munros to a stream bend, but the slower option of up and over the 2 mountains was an alternative with an extra 350m climb. We couldn't resist the temptation of the 2 Munros (and had had enough of contouring!) so chose "up and over". This turned out to be the highlight of the weekend and probably my best ever day in the hills. Once we had climbed to the trig point on Scurr nan Coireachan (956m) we could see a narrow ridge track undulating over the intervening hills all the way to Scurr Thulim (963m) in the distance.

We ran along this, breathtaking views all round with Ben Nevis in front of us and the Isles Skye, Rum and Eigg behind – stunning! With renewed energy, we picked off the last 2 checkpoints in good order and jogged into the mid camp in 8 hours 32 minutes and 71<sup>st</sup> place (out of 130) having climbed 2,350m in the day. For comparison, however, the leaders in our class finished in 5 hours 35 minutes and the Elite class leaders had covered twice our distance (with much more climb) in a staggering 7 hours 21 minutes!



The ridge beyond Scurr nan Coireachan

The overnight campsite was a grassy microlight landing strip next to a river and we spent the evening basking in the sunshine rehydrating and eating as much (mostly dehydrated) food as we had carried – teams have to be fully self sufficient for the 2 days. We went to bed early and slept well even though it rained most of the night.

Cont'd P5

(cont'd from P4)

The sound of bagpipes woke us at 5.30 as Sunday morning dawned to drizzle with low threatening clouds and the potential for a more challenging day of navigation. We packed our gear and punched the start at 6.30 instantly getting wet whilst crossing the river and the bog on its far bank – which I sank up to my waist in, well it wouldn't be the LAMM if you didn't get thoroughly muddy at some point! Finding checkpoint one was a tricky contour on a compass bearing up and over a ridge in the cloud to a spur on the far side. Unexpectedly, after this the clouds began to part, visibility improved and we made steady progress despite more long contouring legs which were hard on the feet and legs.

Checkpoints 3 and 5 were tricky re-entrants and thanks in part to the skills I have gained orienteering with HALO and good altimeter work we found them quickly making up time over some other teams. After checkpoint 5 we skirted a lochan, passed over a coll and were presented with the welcome sight of Glenfinnan with its rail viaduct and Loch Shiel in the background. We could almost smell our post-race Wilf's chilli and ran down the steep descent, passed under the viaduct and crossed the finish line in 6 hours 6 minutes with 1,350m climb. This gave us 59<sup>th</sup> place for the day and 65<sup>th</sup> place overall having covered roughly 50Km during the event – a good result by our standards. We ate out chilli basking in the warm sunshine, watched the prize giving and then headed for home.

The following day both of us could still move and most amazing of all neither of us had any blisters, courtesy of Innov8, compeed and zink oxide tape! Next stop the Chevy chase with the Phoenix Long O and Lake District Mountain Trial to follow.

Phil Gray

## HALO LINCOLNSHIRE POACHER TROPHY 2008

Best 7 of 11 events count towards the overall winners of the Poacher Trophies. Winners of both long and short courses receive 50 points. This decreases to 1 point for 50<sup>th</sup> place.

**Long Course Trophies:** Champion (Lincolnshire Poacher Trophy),  
Masters(M50+), SuperVet(M/W60+), UltraVet(M/W70+).

**Short Course Trophies:** Champion, Lady(W21+), Junior(M/W20-).

A tremendous season draws to a close: this Newsletter will be issued at the last Poacher, so perhaps there are a few surprises left. Congratulations must go to Liam Harrington for a Maximum score on the Long Course, and to Zac Field, only one away on 349 points on the Short. John Fulwood

# Poacher Event Reports

By Pete Kullich

## **1. Wed 16 April Hendale**

Poacher 2008 opened at Hendale a wood used only once before in 2004. Unfortunately the weather was somewhat uninviting making access difficult although the wood itself proved to be quite runnable helped by the recent cool Spring weather. Electronic punching enabled the planner to devise superior courses compared to 2004 in this relatively small area of the Yarborough Estate. The main aim was to keep runners in the wood off the main central ride so the straight line route was nearly always the quickest. Several runners got near to sub 6 min/km. pace on the Long course - a close affair between Log, Halo and Ebor with the younger Lincoln runner Liam Harrington prevailing to take the maximum 50 points. The Beverley duo of Zac and Jake Field dominated the Short course with the former benefiting from his experience last year on the Long course to dip under 20 minutes.

## **2. Wed 23 April Elsham nr. Brigg**

The Lincolnshire Poacher Trophy Series returned to Elsham for the first time in almost 10 years. After protracted discussions with the Estate's Land Agents a compromise fee for access was agreed, albeit at a loss making level for this event. Entry over the motorway bridge brought competitors adjacent to the start/finish area on a perfect Spring evening. Nearly 60 runners enjoyed the challenging courses set by Neil Harvatt. The vegetation in parts was hard going interspersed with several deep ditches that tested people's long jumping or log balancing abilities. However, an excellent touch was the use by Neil of the War Games area, not normally available for events at the weekend, a really runnable part of the wood with plenty of unusual features. It was pleasing to see people trying out orienteering for the first time on the Newcomers course. The Short course surprise winner was Jake Field who prevailed over his elder brother Zac who 4 days previously had finished a great fourth in the British Championships held on the Moray Coast in Northern Scotland. Mother Rosie made it a clean sweep for the Field family with an excellent third. The Long course produced a first win in Poacher for Lincoln's Paul Murgatroyd who has been steadily improving over the last 12 months. Also having good runs on the Long were Ebor's M21 Paul Watson, Grimsby Young Gun Lee Smith and Halo SuperVet Mike Smith up in eighth place ahead of many younger rivals.

### **3. Wed 30 April Mausoleum Woods**

A large entry of dedicated orienteers assembled for their weekly Wednesday Worship at the Temple in Mausoleum Woods. The Temple provided welcome cover for Poacher HQ after an afternoon downpour had saturated the terrain. Planner Vernon Davis set up some fast courses through pleasant spring woodland largely devoid of any obstructing vegetation - straight line navigation paid dividends. After 3 events a pattern is emerging on both Long and Short. Liam Harrington with 2 wins out of 3 is now the one to beat for the Poacher Trophy as is Zac Field also with 2 out of 3 wins in the Short Championship. Juniors filled 4 out of the first 5 places on the Short chased home by East Barkwith's Mel Clark, Grasby's Gary Robinson and Veteran Geoff Holmes the only representative from the Horncastle area in the Series. The Ladies' title holder, Rosie Field, again looks odds on to win again though Log's Kaele Pilcher could come into contention. Early leader in the new Ultra Vets category is South Yorkshire's Pat O'Grady with Mike Smith well clear in the SuperVets group with 8 events to go. Mention must be made of the sterling work on the night done by computer maestro Brian Slater who missed his run in order to successfully overcome some unforeseen problems with registration.

### **4. Wed 7 May Nettleton Woods - Caistor**

A perfect early Summer's evening attracted 60+ entries - a new record for the Poacher Series. Planner Mark Tyszka did an excellent job at Nettleton Woods, thoroughly updating the map, creating searching courses each produced at an appropriate scale, and finding new control sites to give a professional feel to the evening. On the night the holders of the 'Yellow Jersey' on both Long and Short, Liam Harrington and Zac Field cemented their respective leads and will be difficult to displace as we move into the middle races of the series. Pleased with their positions on the night were Tealby's Pete Harris who broke into the Long top ten with his best run so far and Grimsby's Tracey Blackburn who was the leading Lady on the Short course.

### **5. Wed 14 May Swallow Vale nr. Caistor**

The pleasant valley of Swallow Vale was the setting for an excellent evening's orienteering planned by Malcolm Humphrey. Astute planning coupled with electronic punching made maximum use of this small area. It was drier underfoot and had more climb than in any of the previous 4 events of this year's series with an estimated 130 metres on the Long which as usual was a close race with less than a minute separating the first three - Liam again having the edge. Phil Johnston-Davis spearheaded a squadron from RAF Digby to finish well up on an increasingly competitive Long course.

(5 .Swallow Vale cont'd)

Supervet Rod Williams from Hull found the slopes to his liking for a highly respectable finish as did the new svelte like Phil Longstaff from LOG. The outcome of the Short title now looks too close to call with Jake Field taking maximum points giving him 2 wins to elder brother Zac's 3. The unknown quantity of Glenthams Dave Jolly after little orienteering may yet be a factor. Gary Robinson one of several competitors from the small village of Grasby (including Harriet Gilman who is doing really well on the Long course and Junior Tommy Chapman on the Short) recorded an excellent 4th. Thanks go to Malcolm Humphrey for his planning Neil Harvatt and Dorothy Smith who gave their time to handle entries and download Sam Ofler with father Dave who brought in the controls in the fading light.

### **6. Wed 21 May            Primrose Warren, nr. Brigg**

The well used Primrose Warren yet again produced a good evening's orienteering. A rival sporting attraction reduced the entry so superior points were on offer compared to recent weeks. Despite this, competition was just as intense. Fireman Steve Marin made his Poacher debut as a planner producing challenging courses with new control sites and the utilisation of the area west of the road avoiding too much repetition in the main woodland. Unfortunately a late 999 call delayed Steve's intended start for control siting so some competitors were rather bunched. Neil Harvatt nearly caused an upset on the Long course finishing only 9 seconds behind Yellow Jersey holder Liam Harrington - a great run from the current Masters Champion. Zac Field reversed the result from last week on the Short to beat brother Jake with Market Rasen's Jack Robinson a close third. This week's Eurovision Song contest is not the only competition featuring 'Nil Points' as several experienced Orienteers failed to check control numbers on an earthbank and were disqualified.

### **7. Wed 28 May        Willingham Woods, Mkt. Rasen**

After a largely dry May, Willingham was much easier going than in recent water logged years. Planner John Fulwood had spent quite some time updating the map, particularly on Hamilton Hill where several new tracks and structures had developed over the years leading to some frustration for competitors in past Poacher events. John concentrated controls in the runnable areas which are at a premium in late May and found quite a few sites not used before. After seven events Liam Harrington looks to be in an impregnable position for the Lincolnshire Poacher Trophy as he clinched another maximum points haul. DVO's Paul Beresford was up into third spot for his best 2008 Poacher performance just fifteen seconds behind EBOR's Dean Field. Florence Haines became the first Airienteer to take part in the Poacher. The current JK W14 champion made it a successful debut to win the Short course from fellow Yorkshire junior squad member Zac Field.



### **8. Wed 4 June Halliday Hill, Great Limber**

The combined area of Halliday Hill and Brompton Dale gave a big entry an excellent evenings orienteering. Despite the areas' long narrow shape, planner Andy Houlden produced some excellent courses through very runnable terrain for the time of year. The advantages of SI punching was very evident in this small area although the mystery of box 54 remains unsolved. Juniors were well to the fore on the Short course occupying five of the top nine places with Caistor Grammar entrants packing well with three in the first nine spearheaded by the improving Sam Offler. At the opposite end of the age spectrum four super-vets figured in the top fifteen on the Long course with HALO's Mike Smith highest placed in an excellent eighth. Running speed generally was swift and many have noticed how the standard has markedly improved compared to a few years ago (verified by reference the Poacher results archive here on the web site).

### **9. Wed 11 June Brocklesby Park, nr. Humberside Airport**

Spur Chase Woods became the latest new addition to the Poacher fixture list courtesy of mapper and planner Mike Smith. Many in the car park anticipated a straightforward evening's orienteering. How wrong they were! Mike produced courses that precipitated innumerable mistakes in many people's navigation. Leading times, particularly on the Long course, were much longer than expected. However, current Masters Champion Neil Harvatt made fewer mistakes than the rest to record maximum points. Behind there were good runs from Halo Newsletter Editor John Fulwood returning to his standard of former years and Super vet Pete Shew who is clearly benefiting from his rowing training on the Ancholme River. The Kite Retrieval System has generally worked well, manned by regular participants who do not have the onerous task of planning an event on the night. But this time the system malfunctioned and had to rely upon a willing band of last minute 'volunteers' to help Mike and Dorothy collect in the controls. [Many thanks to them]

### **10. Wed 18 June Normanby le Wold, Caistor**

Welcome to the flat county of Lincolnshire! Normanby le Wold is a one off in the Poacher series consisting of entirely rough grassland with plenty of climb. Planner Pete Harris produced two good challenging courses through tough terrain. After the recent dry weather the underfoot rutted ground was a real test for dodgy joints; the vegetation was prolific reaching elephant grass proportions in places - surprising considering the number of cattle about. Early starters had to contend with a downpour that had been forecast all day and tracks began to appear in the soaked vegetation though the pit no.5 on the Long course still caused problems. Juniors dominated the Short course occupying 5 out of the 9 top places with Grasby's Jay Robinson having his best run of the series and Esther Robinson (no relation) doing remarkably well after moving up from the Newcomers course

# HALO LEAGUE

			Driff	S'brugh	Bent	Nrmnby	Wisby
<b>Dean Field</b>	M45	Senior	108	121		104	
<b>Neil Harvatt</b>	M50	Vet	109				128
<b>Zac Field</b>	M14	Junior	116		115	117	
Mike Smith	M60	Vet	107	114	105		116
Brian Ward	M45	Senior	109				
Mark Tyszka	M70	Vet	100		105	81	117
Jake Field	M12	Junior	112		110	93	
Joe Field	M10	Junior	98	96	101	100	
Helena Crutchley	W40	Senior			100	95	
Yasmin Field	W10	Junior	59	96	101	94	
Vernon Davis	M65	Vet	94		94	87	103
Mary Carrick	W55	Vet	88		88	80	97
John Fulwood	M55	Vet	94		93		107
Dorothy Smith	W55	Vet	96	85			110
Rosie Field	W40	Senior	86	98	98		
Pat O'Grady	M70	Vet	84	107	85		
Helen Smith	W21	Senior			95		104
Pete Harris	M45	Senior	75		81	88	92
Fiona Forest	W21	Senior			107	97	
Dinah Tyszka	W65	Vet	83		91		
Ann O'Grady	W70	Vet	78	91			
Ken Hutson	M50	Vet	87		84		90
Charlotte Ward	W16	Junior	102				
Tracey Blackburn	W21	Senior			85	50	
Amber Harris	W16	Junior	82		86	58	
Mike Cope	M55	Vet	95		102		
Geraldine Davis	W55	Vet	0		93	50	85
Andrew Houlden	M35	Senior	50		58		50
Geoff Smith	M50	Vet			73	50	
Brian Slater	M60	Vet	94				
Tom Crowston	M75	Vet			97		92
Isoldt Harris	W45	Senior	66		82		
Paddy Neligan	M55	Vet				89	
Christine Cope	W60	Vet	75		89		
Amanda Ward	W45	Senior					
Fran Humphrey	W55	Vet	60				
Rod Williams	M60	Vet	105				
Pete Kullich	M65	Vet				114	
Mal Humphrey	M55	Vet		89			
Pete Shew	M60	Vet	89	96			
Hannah Siddle	W10	Junior					
John Chaney	M65	Vet					
Sue Chaney	W65	Vet					
Margaret Fulwood	W55	Vet					
Tilly Houlden	W10	Junior	83				
David Ward	M20	Junior					
Jeff Slater	M21	Senior					
Ingrid Slater	W60	Vet	59				

	Whldrck	BshpWd	Brbg	Hvngnm	Sndl Bt	Brmhm	Hghtn Wd	Best Six	Events
<b>Dean Field</b>	101	84		129	110	126		698	8
<b>Neil Harvatt</b>	104	94	106	133	114		93	694	8
<b>Zac Field</b>	112	97		111	105			676	7
Mike Smith	94	84	102	112	107		78	661	10
Brian Ward		96		118	108	130	93	654	6
Mark Tyszka	90		100	107		110		639	8
Jake Field	103	101			107			626	6
Joe Field	100	101		99	93	101		602	9
Helena Crutchley	95	91		110	104		94	598	7
Yasmin Field	91	94		104		93		582	8
Vernon Davis	78	78		100	91		83	569	9
Mary Carrick	69			74		121	88	562	8
John Fulwood	91				96		74	555	6
Dorothy Smith	81	56	90	89	84			554	8
Rosie Field	84	70			87	97	86	552	8
Pat O'Grady	82	84	71	93		99	69	552	9
Helen Smith	81	71	86			92	79	537	7
Pete Harris	83	82						501	6
Fiona Forest	110					129		443	4
Dinah Tyszka	87			83			89	433	5
Ann O'Grady			73			89	81	412	5
Ken Hutson	88	50						399	5
Charlotte Ward		94			108		89	393	4
Tracey Blackburn		50	73		69		54	381	6
Amber Harris	81	70						377	5
Mike Cope		59				115		371	4
Geraldine Davis	76	50						354	6
Andrew Houlden	58	50					50	316	6
Geoff Smith		52	57				62	294	5
Brian Slater			101				82	277	3
Tom Crowston	87							276	3
Isoldt Harris	71	57						276	4
Paddy Neligan						117	64	270	3
Christine Cope						89		253	3
Amanda Ward		69			80	91		240	3
Fran Humphrey			75				69	204	3
Rod Williams							92	197	2
Pete Kullich							81	195	2
Mal Humphrey			52				50	191	3
Pete Shew								185	2
Hannah Siddle	99	85						184	2
John Chaney	84						86	170	2
Sue Chaney	77			84				161	2
Margaret Fulwood	84							84	1
Tilly Houlden								83	1
David Ward				73				73	1
Jeff Slater					65			65	1
Ingrid Slater								59	1

## PERSONAL THOUGHTS ON THE POACHER

Another successful Poacher series is coming to an end. I'm sure we'd all like to thank Pete Kullich for all his hard work in this eleventh year and all the planners and their helpers, the kite collectors, the computer masters and the OCAD advisers/map printers who supported him.

We ought to remember Poacher is done, most of the time, by volunteers, often working under pressure, juggling work and home commitments with putting out controls. A slightly misplaced kite or a later start should not spoil our fun.

The Nettleton event I planned this year was early in the series, but posed some problems in general which I thought ought to be raised, perhaps drawing comments from other planners and participants.

- ⇒ It is difficult to devise new routes and find new control features in areas which are now so familiar to some of us.
- ⇒ I had a job updating the map - brambles are expanding into what used to be runnable woodland.
- ⇒ Are there any tips which could be passed on about putting on Poachers? eg. how to carry armfuls of pointed green stakes, kites and SI boxes. Is there a source of old maps to reuse? etc
- ⇒ Although there has been a Newcomers' course at all the events, I do wonder whether we could be a bit more user friendly towards wives/families and the less fit - which, in turn, would help to expand club membership. One comment by a beginner at the Brocklesby event was: 'Don't some people take it all so seriously?'

It's easy to point these things out, but now I must try to put forward solutions to maybe be taken up – or shot down!

- ⇒ Poly-Poacher: use the best parts of our woods and new smaller woods for 3 – 4 short sections with a walk between them (cf road crossings in some club events)
- ⇒ Line Poacher: walk to a remote, manned start(s) – finish at cars [early starters register on paper, but good strips of runnable terrain could be used]; would an unmanned start work ?
- ⇒ Park Poacher: use selected school grounds, which are already mapped, together with a nearby park or wood;
- ⇒ Old style/Fun Poacher: include one or two weeks where mini-kites and needle punches are used [where SI boxes are in danger]; or mix needle punches with SI controls to give partial printouts at the end.

(cont'd 13)

⇒ To give more planning options in familiar woods, experiment with light-weight, portable point features:

Cane "tripod"	nesting cardboard box "cairn"
ground sheet + pegs "pond"	mini play tent "building"
anti-bird netting + canes "bush"	plastic drum "boulder"
folding chair "feeder"	

**SMILE (Saturday/Sunday Morning Informal Local Event) or CATI (Come And Try It) with a Poacher attached?**



Entry free for those who help.

The motivation for all these suggestions is to make Poachers more fun and more accessible for more people. It may attract new members and encourage and involve existing members who may become more involved and offer help.

Mark Tyszka

*Mark is not the only club member with thoughts of how the club can develop with an alternate strategy leading from the Poacher series* JF

### Where to next?

This "middle distance" race fixation that's caught hold of me recently has actually made me think more widely about what we ( HALO ) could do to promote more "local" orienteering opportunities. If we can get around the middle-aged plus mindset of – "orienteering has to mean long courses" – "if I'm not out in the forest for a good 2 hours I'm not getting my monies-worth" then we might be able to offer our members a more varied ( and enjoyable? ) o-experience. I guess, by default, the Poacher is really a "middle distance" race series – winning times on the "long" of 30-40 minutes, so what about the Sprinters or Park Racers?! We have a rather active – what almost seems like "undercover" - mapping campaign going on, so come on HALO – how about a Winter Park Race Series run along the lines of Poacher? Saturday mornings anyone? Brian Ward

## Middle Races

Ideal for clubs with smaller areas that can't quite "squeeze" a Regional out of a piece of terrain, or, in doing so, really spoil it! We have a couple of areas like that – Scardale and Knapton / Pillar – yes – I've "seen the light". Regional Events need a reasonable standard of technical difficulty and an M21L winning time of around 65 minutes without undue repetition. Many clubs just cannot provide this – so – why not "do an EPOC" and utilise your terrain with a Middle Distance ranking Event? – Brilliant!

This leads me in ( quite nicely ) to something from a recent Compass Sport. There are few areas outside of the Lake District, Scotland or Wales that can fully test our "elite" competitors to the required standards over a race that should last 90 minutes for the leading men. The article suggested, now that we have had a combined British Elite Championships for a couple of years, it should continue.....but – why does it need to be the British Elite Classic race that combines with "our" ( mere mortals ) "classic" race.

They already do it at day one of the JK – most of us have a "classic" distance, while the elites run a "middle" race Does anyone complain? – not that I know of, if it suits the terrain, why not? All well and good to combine both "Classics" if the terrain allows, but why compromise – if the terrain doesn't allow an elite classic – let them run their "middle" British Champs while we run "our" classic at the same time and same venue.

OK – now I'm the first to admit, "classic" races for me now mean an hour or less – so, my "classic" tends to be running Short at National's – I said previously, 75 minutes plus – not fun any more – been there, done that, I need something a little less taxing on the joints. Now then – give me a Blue at a District Event and I'm very happy! Which also lends itself very nicely to a middle-type race scenario.



If you look at all our District Event areas, how many would be very well suited to Middle racing? I think, if you kept the pricing at the District Event level, advertised your event as a Middle "ranking" event, you might just start to see a few more entries – you know what people are like ( well, me actually! ) – flash the chance of chasing some extra ranking points and they're in like a shot!

Brian Ward

Middle races – it's the future you know, mark my words!

## **Event Reports** by Brian Ward

### **20<sup>th</sup> April – HALO District, Houghton Woods**

How much do I despise these woods? – it's too great a number to comprehend. I think the courses were over-long, I won Blue in 65 minutes – at best it should be around 45. Mary knows my feelings, so I'm not writing anything here I haven't said already! At best Houghton is almost tolerable. My thinking, if planning here, would be try to inflict as little pain as possible on the competitors. So keep the courses short – say 8km at the very most for Brown, then scale down accordingly for the other colours. The day itself was cold and fairly miserable. Oh to be in northern Scotland where the sun shone for the British Championships!!! So, Houghton, well, it's flat, it's got loads of waterlogged tracks and it's resplendent with plentiful undergrowth – now then, if that's your bag, you're in luck, if not – do as I do, turn up, expect the worse, and then anything better is a bonus!

### **27<sup>th</sup> April – LEI Regional, Wakerley Woods**

What has happened to all the nice terrain? If you squinted you could almost believe you were back at Houghton, apart from it being a little hillier. OK – slight over exaggeration, but Regional Event standard? Come on Leicester – who are you trying to kid? I suppose they worked on the fact that the area is littered with lovely big depressions all over the place where you can hide, sorry, carefully place, controls ( ! ). Other than that it was like being in typically poor, East Midlands type, standard grot for most of the time. Don't get me wrong, the East Midlands has some excellent technical areas – Shining Cliff - but, they do suffer a similar fate that we seem to possess in HALO-land – large tracts of grotty, undergrowth infested area's of woodland! Well, I suppose we can't all live in the Lake District or Scotland – shame!

### **3<sup>rd</sup> May – EBOR Middle Event, Gilling**

There seems to be a trend developing. I'm not sure if it's to cope with our potential medal winning hopes at future O-champs, both Junior and Senior – European / Worlds etc., etc. but the number of “middle” distance races springing up on the O calendar is rather refreshing I feel! Not sure about the choice of venue though. Gilling is now well past it's best. As you drove in along the farm track you could see what used to be the best bit of the area – a really great, runnable slope with nice contour shapes. No-more I'm afraid! So, we were left with the “best of the rest” – which actually, wasn't that great! It was “ok” but I must be getting very pickie in my old age. It seems to take something quite impressive, terrain-wise, to impress me now, probably been O-ing too long ( 32 years ), so I've seen most places to varying degrees. Anyhow – Gilling, bit green, lots of tracks, a few contours – what else is there to say? – but the Middle Distance race concept !!! See P 14.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> May – EBOR National, Cawthone**

Why did we have such a long walk to the start? – if you can plan both the longest and shortest courses from the “near” start, why does everyone in between have to hike to the other end of the forest for their start?

Other than that Cawthorne's a bit of a mixed bag – I'm REALLY glad I don't do Long courses at Nationals anymore. There's just no fun in it for me hacking about for 75 minutes plus – some people love it – I don't!! So, pot-hunter that I am, Short was perfect. 5.6km / 150 metres climb – without any errors I ran in a time of just shy of 48 minutes – just the ticket, not too long, not too short, so maybe it WAS worth that walk to the start after-all! The best bits of the area, the large spur above the finish, are so “not” North Yorkshire, it's untrue. Fast, runnable, really making you concentrate hard as you came out of the more typically vague and rough underfoot conditions we are more use to in this neck of the woods. National Event standard – yes, planning – good standard – yes, walk to the start – could have been avoided surely?

#### **18<sup>th</sup> May – EPOC District, Deffer**

Deffer is a great little wood – oh, and by the way, EPOC's newest ex.HALO resident – Nick Allan-Smith says “hello”. Deffer is very compact, like a lot of the EPOC District Event areas, but what it lacks in size it usually makes up for in other ways. I think it's the utilisation of the terrain that counts, EPOC use all these types of area really well; Newmillerdam; Haw Park; Storthes Hall, better stop now before I start to get jealous! ( b.t.w. I think the exact opposite of their appalling Regional Event fare – Rishworth Moor or Stoodley Pike anyone?! ) So, Deffer: it's dissected by some large valleys but only really has one big hill – not at it's best at this time of year though as the undergrowth is starting to pop up everywhere! Plenty of available route-choice – which track? – high or low? are some of the common puzzles set by the planner here. I think ( as with the majority of areas ) end of April at the latest gives the best underfoot conditions. Any later and it becomes more of a lottery - but they got Deffer “in” just in time.....this time!

### **HALO Fixtures & Officials to April 2009**

Listed below are HALO events up to Oct 2009, together with the names of those members who have agreed to officiate. If you can help by volunteering to fill any of the other main posts, please contact our Fixture Secretary, Neil Harvatt ([neil@neilharvatt1.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:neil@neilharvatt1.orangehome.co.uk)). This help will be much appreciated and will also allow some of the regular officials to fully take part in our events.

(Cont'd P 17)



(HALO Fixtures & Officials cont'd)

If you can't fill an official role but are able to help on the day for any event, then please contact the organiser for that event. Even if you can't help during an event, you could still contribute by volunteering to collect some of the controls in. (This is a valuable way to improve your orienteering skills, finding controls with no time pressure – you should have to pay for the privilege!! )

Neil Harvatt

DATE	VENUE	CONTROLLER	ORGANISER	PLANNER
Dec 13	NIGHT Venue Primrose Warren	Helen Smith		
Dec 14	DISTRICT Venue Primrose Warren	Helen Smith		
<b>2009</b> Mar 22	REGIONAL Londesborough Park			Paddy Neligan
Apr 26	Lincolnshire Bomber		Joint HALO / LOG / RAFO	
Oct 4th	DISTRICT Beverley W/Wood (tbc)			



Neil, Helena & Brian on the run in at the EBOR Relays

Photo - Brian Ward

## **Editorial - John Fulwood**

Thank you again to all those who have contributed. Remember this is your magazine, so please keep the copy flowing.

The Poacher series has yet again attracted record numbers of participants. 13% up on 2007 at the last count. Articles in this edition suggest that HALO should be doing more and a Winter short Race series seems a great idea. Pete Kullich has done an excellent job in enrolling planners / organisers for Poacher. How do the same people feel about a Winter series particularly if they are involved with a District or Regional Event?

Despite the increased Poacher participation this has yet to be translated into new HALO members. It is after all the members who are involved and responsible for the planning, organising and underwriting of Events. How to get the increased participation into increased HALO membership remains a concern..

Brian sees the future in Middle distance races. Unfortunately my middle aged mindset has a job getting my head round the concept of Middle races as an attraction. Fine, if it is a Ranking Event, but the BOF Ranking scheme needs updating first. My understanding of Middle races are that they are Short versions of Long races. In Regional Events they would be "Short" courses. District Events offer Blue or Green as a short Brown. But it could be argued that a Short Green course is required for those normally running Green.

Is the difficulty though, that by offering variety in an Event, it means many courses with relatively few on each which reduces the competitive element - the basic problem if you run M/W 21 at a Regional Event?

With the increasing fuel costs I think the future lies in numerous local Events with an occasional Regional based good quality Event for competition at a higher, more technical level. Time will tell!

Keep the articles & pictures coming.

A reminder that HALO NEWS is On-line at [www.halo-orienteeing.org.uk](http://www.halo-orienteeing.org.uk)

If you are happy to view, or download / print from the website instead of receiving a hard copy by snail mail, then please let me know by e-mail.

Savings on printing, stationery, postage will all help the club funds!!!!

Copy date for next Newsletter: 10th September

# FIXTURES

## District, Relay, Local and Park Races

These are abbreviated. Please check with the Organiser / Club website for all details.

- June** EM LOG Local Summer Series Event. Twyford Woods, Grantham.  
26th C5 Sean Harrington, 01522 791344. Sean@logonline.org.uk  
www.summerseries.logonline.org.uk
- July** EM NOC Local Event & Summer League. Rufford Country Park, Mansfield.  
6th C5 Tony Donaldson, 0115 8774089. org080706@noc-uk.org. White,  
Yellow, Orange & Technical. www.noc-uk.org
- 10th EM LOG Local Summer Series Event. West Common, Lincoln.  
C5 Sean Harrington, 01522 791344. Sean@logonline.org.uk  
www.summerseries.logonline.org.uk
- 13th YH SYO District Event & YHOA Schools Championships. Graves Park,  
Sheffield.  
C4 Colin Best, 0114 230 2621. colinallanb@yahoo.co.uk White to Green  
only. www.southyorkshireorienteers.org.uk
- 13th EM NOC Local Event & Summer League. Ollerton, Mansfield.  
C5 Janet Evans, 01636 813058. org080713@noc-uk.org White, Yellow,  
Orange & Technical. www.noc-uk.org
- 20th EM NOC Local Event & Summer League. Oxclose Wood, Mansfield.  
C5 Clare Claxton, 0115 9894645. org080720@noc-uk.org £2.00/£1.00.  
www.noc-uk.org
- 24th EM LOG Local Summer Series Event. Ostlers Plantation, Woodhall Spa.  
C5 Sean Harrington, 01522 791344. Sean@logonline.org.uk  
www.summerseries.logonline.org.uk
- Aug** EM LOG Local Summer Series Event. Lincoln South Common, Lincoln.  
7th C5 Sean Harrington, 01522 791344. Sean@logonline.org.uk  
www.summerseries.logonline.org.uk
- 17th EM NOC Local Event & Summer League. Bevercotes, Mansfield.  
C5 Bob Alderson, 0115 845 0771. org080817@noc-uk.org  
www.noc-uk.org
- Sept** YH CLARO District Event & Yvette Baker Trophy Round 1. Dob Park,  
Otley.  
21st C4 Organiser: John Birtwistle, 01765 677099.  
birtwistle490@btinternet.com  
Entries: Tim Moon, 18 Middleton Avenue , Ilkley, HG4 2HH,  
01943602429. tim.moon@btinternet.com [www.claro-orienteeing.org](http://www.claro-orienteeing.org)

## District, Relay and Park Races (cont'd)

- Sept** EM NOC Local Event & Come and Try It. Brierley Forest Park, Mansfield.  
21st C5 Catherine Hughes, 0115 8774089. catherine@midlandsnordicwalking.org White, Yellow, Orange & Technical.
- Oct** EM LOG District Event. Stapleford Woods, Newark.  
5th C4 Steve Bones, 01522 885933. eventinfo@logonline.org.uk  
www.logonline.org.uk

## National & Regional Events: (*where have they all gone? JF*)

- Aug** WOA **Creoso 2008**  
3rd-9th CD: 15/06/08. [www.croesomultiday.org.uk](http://www.croesomultiday.org.uk)
- 23rd- YH **White Rose Weekend**  
25th
- C3 23rd - **Day 1 Regional Event. Barns Cliff & Low North Park**  
S5N 23rd - Local Night Score Event. Barns Cliff & Low North Park  
C3 **24th - Day 2 Regional Event. Barns Cliff & Low North Park**  
R4 25th - Day 3 Team Score Relay. Barns Cliff & Low North Park  
Organiser: Bill Griffiths, 0771 0002961. wr2008org@tiscali.co.uk  
Entries: Entry on-line preferable OR White Rose Entries, 30 Orchard Paddock, Haxby, York, YO32 3DP, 01904 768066. wr2008entries@yahoo.co.uk Entry Fees: Days 1 & 2 - £9.00/£4.50 before 27 July, £10.00/£5.00 after 28 July (these are BO discounted rates). See website for Day 3 team fees. [www.whiteroseweekend.org.uk](http://www.whiteroseweekend.org.uk)
- Sept** YH **AIRE Regional Event. Ilkley Moor, Ilkley.**  
14th C3 Organiser: Martyn Broadest, 0113 2328982 (before 9pm).  
martyn@broadest.org.uk  
Entries: Alan and Margaret Parker, 10, King Alfreds Drive, Leeds, LS6 4PS, 0113 268 5764. meparker@freenet.co.uk [www.aire.org.uk](http://www.aire.org.uk)
- Oct** NE **October Odyssey Weekend**  
4th-5th C3 4th - Day 1 Regional Event. Edges Green, Hexham.  
Boris Spence, 01670 860897. borisspence@aol.com See website for entry details. [www.northern-navigators.org.uk](http://www.northern-navigators.org.uk)  
C3 5th - Day 2 Regional Event. Allen Banks, Hexham.  
Barry Young, 0191 2576246. barryz@btinternet.com. See website for entry details. [www.northern-navigators.org.uk](http://www.northern-navigators.org.uk)
- Nov** EM **DVO Regional Event. Shining Cliff, Belper.**  
16th C3 Organiser: Sal Chaffey, 01773 825418.  
dave.chaffey@zetnet.co.uk  
Postal Entries: Mike Godfree, Highfields, Mapleton Road, Ashbourne, DE6 2AA, 01335-346004.  
Mike.Godfree@btinternet.com CD (postal): 03/11/08, (online): 09/11/08. Entries preferred on-line via website: [www.dvo.org.uk](http://www.dvo.org.uk)