

HALO NEWS

The Newsletter of Humberside & Lincolnshire Orienteers

www.halo-orienteeing.org.uk

November 2008



Congratulations



Orienteer of the Year



Pete Shew



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HALO Committee 2008 - 2009

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Chairman, Secretary & Treasurer were elected at the AGM. The designated posts above were agreed at the Committee meeting on 23rd October. Ken Hutson being co-opted onto the Committee as Immediate Past Chairman.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

held on Saturday 11th October 2008 at Normanby Park

Present:

J Fulwood, D&M Smith, B&I Slater, M Tyszka, N Harvatt, K Hutson, M Carrick, P Shew M&F Humphrey, P Harris, P&A O'Grady, S Chaney, J Butler

Apologies: F Forrest, A&I Harris, J Chaney, B Ward, D Siddle, H Smith, M Smith, E Humphrey, J Slater, M & E Fulwood

1 **Minutes:** of the AGM of 16.12.2007 were approved

Proposed P Shew Seconded – M Carrick

2 **Matters Arising** - none

3 **The Chairman then gave his Report** (see attachment)

of the Club's activities during the past 12 months.

He presented the Orienteer of the Year Award to Pete Shew

He thanked the Committee for their work during the year.

4 **HALO League**

Trophies were presented to those winners who were present!

Overall Champion – Dean Field

Veteran	1 st Neil Harvatt		1 st Mary Carrick
Senior	1 st Brian Ward		1 st Helena Crutchley
Junior Boy	1 st Zac Field	2 nd Jake Field	3 rd Joe Field
Junior Girl	1 st Yasmin Field	2 nd Charlotte Ward	3 rd Amber Harris

5 **Treasurer's Report**

John Butler presented the Audited accounts copies of which were circulated.

Mike Smith proposed that these be accepted and John Fulwood seconded

The current Balance in the HALO Accounts is approx. £1910.00[there are some outstanding accounts to be settled]

This year there has been a small increase in the general fund of £302.0

£350.00 was received as our share of profits from JK2007 – this is in the Development Fund.

(Cont'd from p 3) Mark instigated discussion regarding the profit/loss of events. The members were reminded that the Committee has agreed to accept the auditor's advice that in future all income and expenses be recorded on a form to be available on the web-site and that all income should be paid to the Treasurer and payments for expenses to be made by the Treasurer.

The Chairman thanked Brian Ward for his work as Treasurer and John Butler for auditing the Accounts.

6 Election of Officers

Chairman –

John Butler was Nominated by M Carrick Seconded by J Fulwood
John indicated that he was willing to take on this task and was unanimously elected.

Dorothy Smith was prepared to continue as Secretary but hopes that someone will volunteer to take over in the near future.

Brian Ward was happy to continue as Treasurer but is unable to attend weekday Committee meetings due to work commitments.

Brian Slater volunteered to join the committee and the rest of the committee were prepared to continue.

It was pointed out that there would be two members additional to the constituted number [10]. This might however mean that there was a higher attendance at Committee Meetings as some members had not managed to attend many meetings.

It was decided that we should abide by the rules we have agreed so Mike Smith and Ken Hutson resigned.

Committee members;

John Butler, Mary Carrick, Fiona Forrest, John Fulwood, Neil Harvatt, Pete Shew
Dorothy Smith, Brian Slater, Ingrid Slater, B Ward

Members can attend committee meetings at all times as observers.

John Butler proposed a vote of thanks to Ken who, despite his protestations, has with much behind the scenes work led the Club forward during the last three years. His contribution has been much appreciated.

Meeting ended at 2.55pm

Chairman's AGM Report - by Ken Hutson

I would like to welcome everyone to the AGM, though it is somewhat less than a year since our last one.

Looking back over the orienteering 'year', it seems to have been a fairly quiet one, compared to previous years, and in my case almost silent! I certainly haven't been able to devote the time and energy to orienteering and our club that would be commensurate with the role of Chair. A persistent lower back problem has significantly reduced my attendance at events and a horrific road traffic accident early in June, involving my eldest son Sam's partner, resulted in regular commutes to York hospital throughout June and July.

We have put on two District events, Normanby Park in December and Houghton in April. This was significantly fewer than the norm of previous years, and was a consequence of the ongoing problems we face in attracting officials to organise events, helpers to facilitate them and competitors to make the whole thing worthwhile. Despite our 'staffing problems', Dorothy and Mike 'marshalled the troops' to double up the Normanby event with the Yvette Baker Trophy Final, which was a great success and a tribute to the expertise of the organisers. The Regional event at Pillar in February lacked competitor support, despite the reputation of the area. My thanks go to everyone who worked so hard to maintain our high standards of event planning and organisation and to everyone for their very professional help on the day.

In contrast Poacher continues to thrive and attracts ever increasing numbers, if not new HALO members. So much so that under the new British Orienteering rules, some events attracted a BO levy. Peter Kullick once again put together an excellent series with the help of a band of organisers and Brian Slater regularly contributing his SI expertise. A big 'thank you' to all of them. Those of you who have been reading the HALO Committee meeting minutes will have noticed some discussion within the committee about the financial status of the 2008 Poacher series and whilst we agree with Peter Kullick that, as local events, the entry fee should be as low as possible, the series as a whole should aim, where possible, to break-even. The Committee have adopted the recommendations of the Auditor and instigated new rules relating to the financial management of all HALO events from September of this year. These will enable the Treasurer to monitor and control the financial side of our events and enable us to show that we are consistently following good accountancy practice.

Despite some poor weather, the New Year's Day event at the Humber Bridge Country Park was judged successful by those who took part and I'm sure we are all looking forward to the next one, though I'm not sure who actually agreed to organise it, except it will be on the South Bank, possibly?

The HALO Christmas dinner was held at Elsham with over 20 guests attending. A good time was had by all and our thanks go to Ingrid for organising it.

Our annual trek to a Compass Sport Trophy venue took us to Cannock Chase in January for the preliminary round. With a somewhat depleted team, we managed third place and hopes of further glory in my final year as Chair, were dashed.

(Cont'd from p 5) We look forward to 2009 with hopefully a stronger team!

We all continued to follow the progress of Charlotte Ward in the YHOA Junior Squad and delighted in her success in JW5S in the Northern Championships and Shipley Glen Summer relays. Notable individual performances included, Mark Tyszka in the Welsh 6 Days and Mary Carrick, Neil Harvatt and Paddy Nelligan on home territory (Beverley Westwood) in the EBOR Relays.

Mike and Dorothy Smith have continued to organise events to move the club forward in terms of coaching and development as well as trying to attract new people into the sport through the Autumn series of events, the second of which took place earlier today. It is regrettable that their hard work and persistence has not always generated the level of interest we would have hoped, but the three families who have taken part recently have been very appreciative of the opportunity and it has given our coaches some valuable experience. With a North Bank series of races being organised by Brian Ward for the new year and the possibility of a Spring series in the Cleethorpes, it is encouraging to see the Club experimenting with a variety of local events effectively 'taking orienteering to the people' which may be the way forward. Providing a progressive pathway for beginners is important and events like these will give them the opportunity to learn about orienteering and get to know HALO in a friendly and informal environment.

I would like to mention one person who has quietly and effectively had a significant impact on the club over the past year. Pete Shew, has worked wonders with the website, continuing to develop it in response to the needs of the membership. He has always been willing to help at events and was particularly involved in the inaugural Brigg event. The poisoned chalice of the HALO League is now also under his wing. It is easy to take people for granted, even in a small club like ours, particularly those who quietly get on with it! In awarding Pete the HALO Orienteer of the Year, I hope he will feel that we do recognise and are grateful for his contribution, long may it continue.

The Newsletter continues to attract a wide variety of copy and John Fulwood is to be congratulated on his editorship. As someone who spends a considerable amount of my working life in front of monitor screen, I must confess I still prefer to have my copy delivered through the post, rather than viewing it online.

I was particularly interested in Dorothy's note in the December Newsletter about her chance meeting with Frank and Fran Green. I worked with Frank at Cottingham High School and whilst we didn't always agree on professional matters, he actually introduced me to orienteering for which I am very grateful. Not sure how he would feel about me as Chairman though. However, that will not be for much longer and, as I come to the end my third and final report, I can reflect on what seems to be a very swift, mainly enjoyable, 3 years. For anyone wishing to step into my shoes, it wasn't that onerous a task, though that maybe because I didn't do it very well. Others will make a judgement on that. As I retire from the post, I wish my successor and HALO the very best wishes for the future and I will continue to offer my services in what ever capacity the club wishes. My thanks to everyone, especially my fellow Committee members, for their tolerance, kindness and support.

Ken Hutson

AGM –Snooker ‘O’

Having spotted this idea in Compass Sport [thanks to Helen’s copy as we no longer subscribe, though it seems to be a better publication nowadays] I have been looking for an opportunity to try it out.

A few guinea pigs tried it after the first Training event at Primrose and it seemed to work so I planned it at Normanby Park again largely using the Training controls but moved a few to increase TD!

Only a very select few took up the challenge and only 2 survived to the end.

It was generally agreed that Malcolm had probably won as he was observed to take his game at a steady pace. His control card is all correct and very neat! Congratulations and I owe you a Mars bar!

Neil appeared to have potted all the balls and in the right order in a faster time than Malcolm but I think I heard him owning up to making a mistake somewhere. It was undetectable by my unsophisticated checking system and he did have some prior knowledge of control sites though knew nothing about them when they became snooker balls.

Mark successfully potted 11 balls after an early error which was corrected.....some confusion between brown and black at the end. Quite forgivable as he had been run a little ragged by an 8 year old he was trying to help earlier who thought it was quite fun to leapfrog over rootstocks and roll in the leaves on the way to each control.

Pete Harris would have completed the course in a good time and without error but for mistaking the abbreviations on the map for Blue [BL] and Black [BK] Ken also had some colour confusion with Green and Black and the last Red was one ball too far.

As anticipated Mary was trying for the maximum break [time allowed] to pot everything but appears to have visited one Red twice which is an instant disqualification.

Fran successfully found 8 balls in the right order though got lost in the middle of the table and couldn’t find Green. By 10 she was completely snookered.

Mike snookered himself early on by potting the Green out of order. Owing to there being no referee to deduct points at the time and set him back on course he subsequently retired.

Thanks to those who took part – I think they enjoyed it! Dorothy Smith

(I was baffled by this article until I found the relevant piece in Compass Sport: There are controls designated as Reds (7), and the colours of Snooker balls - Yellow through to Black-. Controls are visited in the order Red / colour / Red etc. The controls can only be visited once, so a good memory is required - *Dorothy may wish to give a more extensive version of the rules in future!*) JF

The winners

YHOA Champions

EPOC Event Rishworth Moor 26th Oct



Mary Carrick - W55 Long,

Charlotte Ward - JW5 Short

Brian Ward - M45 Short.

National Schools Score Championships

Sherwood Pines:

Zac Field	Gold Yr 9
Jake Field	Bronze Yr 7
Yasmin Field	Bronze Yr 5

HALO League 2007/2008

Overall Champion – Dean Field

Veteran	1 st Neil Harvatt	1 st Mary Carrick	
Senior	1 st Brian Ward	1 st Helena Crutchley	
Junior Boy	1 st Zac Field	2 nd Jake Field	3 rd Joe Field
Junior Girl	1 st Yasmin Field	2 nd Charlotte Ward	3 rd Amber Harris

HALO, Humberside and Lincolnshire Orienteers invite you to the:-
Primrose Warren Night (Saturday 13th Dec)
(Round 3 of the YHOA Night league)
& District Event (Sunday 14th December 2008)

- TRAVEL** This could not be easier!
100 metres North from Junction 4 of the M180 (SE 956065), then follow forest road to assembly area. Parking £1
- REGISTRATION** Night: 5pm to 6:00pm Day:-10am to 12 noon.
- STARTS** Starts and finishes will be within 500m of the parking area.
Night: 5:30pm to 6:30pm Courses close at 8:30pm
Day:10:30am to 12:30am Courses close at 2:30pm
- ENTRY FEES** Seniors £4.50 Juniors Students £2.00
£2 extra for adult non-BOF members
e-punch hire £1.00 (Juniors 50p)
- COURSES** Night: 4 courses: Introductory, Short, Medium and Long
Day: White to Brown and String course
- OFFICIALS** Organiser Neil Harvatt (01302-772911(h) 07800-784255(mob))
Planner: Brian Ward
Controller: Helen Smith, HALO
- TERRAIN** The area consists of mixed woodland with a good ride & path network.
Much of the woodland is very runnable.
- MAP** 1:10,000 scale. 5m contours. Recently updated.
Maps will be pre-marked and bagged.
- SAFETY** Competitors take part at their own risk and are responsible for their own safety.
- NEWCOMERS** Newcomers are always welcome at HALO events. Bring a compass and ask at registration for assistance.



“A fresh pair of eyes”

**Grade 3 Controller's course (entry level)
Sheffield – 13th December**

Are you interested in helping your club ensure that your orienteering events are fair and suitable for all ages and abilities? The role of the Controller is to work with the planner and organiser of events to check that every aspect is correct and fair. You bring a fresh pair of eyes to the process. It's a rewarding role and a good way to keep up to speed with changes in the sport.

YHOA is inviting you to a training course to accredit you as a Grade 3 controller – by the end of the day you will have the skills to check all aspects of an orienteering event and help your club attract competitors to interesting and achievable orienteering. You will need to have done some planning and organised an event in order to benefit from the course.

Venue: The Arches Sports Centre,
Wisewood, Sheffield S6 (near Hillsborough)
We will be using Loxley Common for the practical exercises. (SK319909)

Date: Saturday 13th December – 8:30 to 15:00
(leaving time for Christmas shopping at Meadowhall on the way home)

Tutor: Katy Stubbs (BKO and Grade 1 controller)

Organiser: Melinda Riley (SYO) – 07881 628606
melinda.riley@dwp.gsl.gov.uk

Please contact Melinda to register for the course or if you have any queries

Cost: Free – kindly funded by YHOA

Closing date: 6th December



You are invited to the

New Year Treasure Hunt 'O'

Thursday 1st January 2009

COME TO BEAUTIFUL

BRIGG

for fine festive fun

-  **Terrain: pavements, ginnels, snickets & shrubberies**
-  **Start: Smokers' Hut in the rear car park of the Black Bull in Wrawby Road (pedestrian precinct)**
-  **Street Map 1:5000 full colour abundant detail**
-  **Registration: c.10.30am Start: about 11.00 am**
-  **Teams formed on the day, bring a pencil**
-  **Drinks in the Black Bull 12.00 noon - 3.00pm**
-  **No pub meals served, we will provide some cold food, but feel free to bring food to share.**

Travel from Grimsby - right at roundabout in Brigg, left at traffic lights; past the Pay & Display car park

Parking is on LHS at the back of the Black Bull (O kite)

Travel from Scunthorpe - right at roundabout beyond the Ancholme bridge; right at 2nd traffic lights; past the car park parking as above **P&D**

It would help to know by 29th December if you intend to come
Mark Tyszka tel. 01469 560678 e- mark.tyszka@tiscali.co.uk

East Yorkshire Sprint and Chase Series 2009

Promoted by Humberside And Lincolnshire Orienteers (HALO)

A series of 4 (Level 3) events incorporating a Sprint Prologue followed by a Chasing Start based in East Yorkshire, provisional venues and dates –

- Saturday 24th January – Beverley Westwood North
- Saturday 14th February – Bishop Burton, Beverley
- Saturday 14th March – Beverley Westwood South
- Saturday 4th April – Londesborough Park, Market Weighton

Planner / Controller for each venue / race tbc. All races run under BOF rules.

- One course of around 3km (winning time approx. 15 minutes) for the Prologue, the same for the Chasing Sprint.
- Map Scales 1:5,000, Sportident electronic punching
- Starts 10:30 – 11.30 (pre-allocated) with Chase Base Time from 12.00
- Each individual race scores, with overall category winners based on best 6 scores overall.
- Provisional Categories - Men Open, Women Open, Men Vets (M50+), Women Vets (W50+), Men Junior (M18-), Women Junior (W18-).

Unfortunately, we have been restricted on entry for the final event to 60 participants – therefore each race will be limited the same.

Entries are expected to open beginning December with on-line entries via www.fabian4.co.uk

Per event - Seniors £5, Juniors £2

Whole series (4 events) - Seniors £15, Juniors £6

THINGS ARE A'CHANGING - by John Butler

A seminar for Regional Squads Coordinators was held by British Orienteering (BO) in September which was attended by representatives from most of the English Regions, Scotland, N Ireland and Wales. The seminar was chaired by Derek Alison (BO Performance Director), assisted by Mike Hamilton (BO Chief Executive) and Gareth Candy (Start & Junior Potential Manager). What is very evident is that British Orienteering is entering a new phase in its development, in order to refocus.

Because of the reduction in funding to BO, the squad sizes have been drastically reduced in number. BO takes the view that in future clubs will coach and bring youngsters to a required standard. Regional Squads will then develop these youngsters further and some will progress to the Start, Junior, and Senior Squads, and one or two to World Class status.

BO will be moving away from being too restrictive with age groups, the 14 and 15 (and possibly upwards) age groups will begin to merge into a Talent Identification Group (i.e. Regional/Start Squads) with an emphasis on inspiring athletes, educating them on what elite orienteering is all about and teaching them the fundamental skills - technical, tactical, physical, mental and lifestyle - that they need in order to succeed.

From 16 upwards the emphasis will be on Talent Development (i.e. Junior Squads), BO will expect that these athletes understand what it means to be an elite athlete and have made the decision that it is a path that they want to follow. BO expects that Talent Development athletes will have a grounding in the fundamentals of being an elite athlete and build on these, along with exposing them to international competition to help them develop. The Talent Development athletes are likely to be given some specialist support in the areas of Sport Science, Nutrition, Injury Prevention, Strength and Conditioning and Psychology to assist in their development.

BO is developing a Talent Identification Pathway to be used at all levels. It is still worth noting that Regional Squads will act as a safety net, catching athletes who have moved away from the "World Class" pathway and giving them personal development opportunities to help them get back - if desired by the athlete

BO recognizes and rewards athletes for making the most of personal development opportunities, picking athletes based on potential and not just keeping the same athletes in the squad - this will allow athletes to move in and out of the squads. So starting this year, BO is looking at the "whole club athlete" who has world class potential in five to ten years time - rather than for e.g. who will win next year's JK/British.

BO's Sport England Whole Sport Plan (which includes Wales and Ireland) aims to increase membership in the 14-25 age group over the next six years through direct involvement with clubs. This is planned to begin in April 2009.

Other topics discussed at the seminar included Coaching Award changes, Duty of Care and Child Protection, CRB likely changes as well as an interactive brain storming session on training activities, etc.

FROM THE CHAIR

First of all, let me say that I do consider it to be a privilege to have been elected Chairman of HALO and will do my best to maintain the high standards set by my distinguished predecessors.

In particular, I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank Ken Hutson, the immediate past chairman, for all his hard work over the last three years – it has been very much appreciated. I am delighted that Ken has agreed to be co-opted on to the committee for the next 12 months so that we will continue to benefit from his experience.

Whilst in thanking mode, it would be remiss of me if I did not say a special word of thanks to Mike Smith who stood down from the committee at the AGM last month. I understand that Mike was on the committee for 25 years in various capacities, much of it behind the scenes, which is a fantastic record of achievement. The committee meetings will not be the same without him but, knowing Mike as I do, I am sure that he will continue to do whatever he can for the Club.

And I must not forget to thank that relatively small group of members, most of whom are on the committee, who are always the first to volunteer, whatever the occasion, whatever the job. Without them the Club could not survive. So next time you are asked to help out, say YES or better still offer your services without being asked.

Dorothy, Mike and Neil have spent a lot of time and effort in putting on a series of introductory events in the Scunthorpe area which hopefully will culminate with the participants competing in their first “proper” event at Primrose on 14 December. It is a pity that there were not a few more takers but those who have turned up do seem to be quite keen and hopefully will become as enthusiastic as the rest of us.

Brian Ward is putting together a series of four sprint races on the North Bank in the spring for the more experienced competitors which promise to be very exciting and should attract a lot of interest.

As you will see from elsewhere in the magazine, British Orienteering are implementing a new competition structure in January. Personally I am sorry that regional events will no longer be based on age classes because I have always enjoyed competing against my contemporaries, many of whom have become firm friends as we have grown older together. However, even I have to admit that with dwindling numbers some of the age groups are no longer competitive at the regional level.

This has meant that the HALO League has had to be revised to reflect the new competition structure and Pete Shew, who maintains it, has spent a lot of time in tidying up the rules and putting it on a more rational basis. Full details are on the website together with a list of the first six qualifying events.

I am still recovering from a knee operation in August but am planning to be back in action in the New Year. In the meantime, enjoy your orienteering!

On the social side, Ingrid has organised the Club Christmas Dinner at the end of this month at a new venue, the Ramada Jarvis Hotel in Willerby - which is my cue for wishing you all a very

Merry Christmas and a happy and successful New Year.

John Butler

FROM THE COMMITTEE MEETING

Discussion revealed that once again we have lost control of some equipment.

There will be an Equipment Amnesty at the Primrose Event-December 14th when you are asked to bring ALL equipment that you may have in your garage/garden shed so that **we can 'stocktake' and arrange for it to** be located more practically.

If you cannot be at the event please arrange for someone to bring equipment which you may have.

Dorothy Smith

NEWS FROM BRITISH ORIENTEERING by John Butler

British Orienteering has approximately £10k in a development fund to award to club or association projects each year. Details have been circulated through Focus but the take up has been low so far. Applications are considered twice a year by the Development Committee (January and August). The committee is looking forward to receiving more applications before the end of January. Projects should have aims such as -

- . increasing participation and club membership
- . increasing the numbers of trained/qualified officials and coaches so as to provide more satisfaction for their membership.

Contact Hilary Palmer at British Orienteering for more information.

The Development Committee is looking at -

- setting up an U25 Development Squad to support those athletes currently just below the GB squad levels.
- establishing a Service to Orienteering award for volunteers. There will be several awards each year thus enabling more people to be recognized than is the case with the Silva Award

The closing date for the annual Club of the Year Award is the end of January. Application forms will be available in December.

Karrimor Mountain Marathon 1976 by Pat O'Grady

Reading Phil Gray's piece about mountain marathons brought back memories of my first Karrimor. It took place in Galloway, south-west Scotland in the hills around Glen Trool. Merrick was the highest point at 843 metres.

My partner was Roly Hibbard, a neighbour I played football with in a local team. We had fell walking experience, and I had done some fell running with Dark Peak, the Sheffield Club, but neither of us had done anything as involved as a mountain marathon.

We travelled up to the Event through Friday night and arrived at Registration at about 7-30am. We had entered the "B" class race.

It had been raining for some time and when we set off it was coming down like stair-rods. Our map was a section of the current 1:50,000 O.S. Map of the area. We were given a map reference of a point in the surrounding forest where we would get the Control descriptions for the first day.

The first control was a crag foot about 3km to the North, climbing most of the way. When Roly and I reached the crag there was no control there. Other teams were milling around. We agreed the control had been misplaced and so we went on towards the second control.

The distance between controls increased as the day progressed. I don't recall being close to other teams as we moved on. There were no paths shown on the map, and we crossed a number of fast flowing streams. We were progressing slowly but found the controls reasonably well. The results show that we reached the fourth control after 6hrs & 31mins.

Roly & I set off for the overnight camp-site, a peninsula on Loch Dee about 4kms away. The map showed we had to cross the outlet stream to reach the finish. We joined other teams looking for a crossing point, but saw no alternative to wading waist deep across the stream holding our rucksacks above our heads. As we neared the camp-site we saw other teams coming along a rough track not shown on the map, having crossed the stream over a bridge. We finished in a time of 8hrs 2mins 8secs

We pitched the tent on a "quaking heathery bog jutting out into Loch Dee", dark clouds looming overhead. Unpacking our food I set up the stove but was unable to light it; the matches were a glutinous soft mass. Roly & I changed into dry clothes, ate what food we could, uncooked, drank water, got into our sleeping bags and stayed there until morning. As the light outside faded, lightning lit up the sky and hail pelted down. The long day closed.

When Roly & I awoke the sun was shining in a blue sky, the air scrubbed clean by the previous day's downpour, and you could see for miles. We ate what food we could get down; I remember porridge oats swigged down with water. We packed up, put on our wet footwear and went to the start. We had eight controls to find, but we were in heart, the weather was set fair and the finish only a few hours away.

The first leg was the day's longest, over 6km to the South, up a river to its source, then up out of the valley, skirting a summit, then down the other side to the control "Between cairns". A short leg then to control two, then the second longest leg, over 5km to a walled enclosure by a stream.

On the higher ground the conditions underfoot were good, the sheep-grazed grass was reasonably short, and although there were no paths the excellent visibility allowed us to see the line we had to take.

We were moving steadily and the final five legs were relatively short, the longest just over 2km. To remind Roly, and I not to get too excited, however, a strap on Roly's rucksack snapped as we neared Glen Trool. We finished in a time of 6hrs 21mis 9ses.

A scout group was serving refreshments in a wooden hut, and we sat inside drinking cup after cup of hot, sweet tea and eating cake. We then moved on to hot sweet coffee.

I can't remember anything of the long journey back to Yorkshire. On reflection, our satisfaction at completing the Event, given the horrible conditions on the first day, must have sustained the two of us.

Summary of numbers in the four classes starkly outlines the severity of the challenge offered.

Élite	45 teams started	4 teams finished
A Class	155 teams started	39 teams finished
B Class	183 teams started	82 teams finished
Expedition Class	105 teams started	32 teams finished

Roly & I finished 39th in the B Class in a time of 14hrs 23mins 9secs

33 years on and the Karrimor (KIMM), now the OMM is as tough. Even makes the BBC Headlines!!!!

Lost and Unaccounted for at The OMM by Neil Harvatt

It started off as just another week-end away. Paul (Beresford, DVO) and I arrived in Borrowdale around 9pm, it was dark, windy and muddy, but what do you expect in The Lakes at the end of October. We parked easily enough despite the field already looking more brown than green. We registered, and then visited the Up and Running marquee where I did do something unusual – I spent some money! Gloves, T-shirt, fleece and a sleeping bag. My current sleeping bag was warm but too big and heavy. This move back-fired, because when I packed my rucksack on Saturday morning, I now had room to spare, lots in fact, so I had to take my share of the tent and stove instead of letting Paul carry it all!

Other than the spending distraction, the rest of the evening was normal, across to Wilf's for tea and food, we even ignored the bar! The night was very noisy, wind buffeting all around, even underneath the tent – still, I had a pretty good night's sleep.

A few tents looked a bit worse for wear in the morning and one guy lost his outer tent completely when he was packing it away, it got rescued two fields away after careering over the top of half the cars.

We breakfasted, packed the rucksacks and set off for the start, arriving exactly on time, it was a spectacular setting, looking up the valley, the winds were gusting, thankfully dry but the skies were full of menace.

The first control was straightforward, a steady climb up to a stream source, (although a couple of hours later it would bare no resemblance to a stream!) The next leg was quite pleasant, the wind was at our backs and we were running in a runnable and sheltered part of the fells, but we lost that shelter when we came over the next top and it was about this time that the rains started, gently at first but soon becoming incessant. Climbing the next hill was almost comical, people suddenly and involuntarily running up the hills with a huge gust behind them, we passed by a small pond that looked more like the sea as waves crashed against the edge.

Then began the nightmare, due to the shortened course, we now had to retrace our steps back to the top of Honister Pass and rain and a gale-force wind in your face seems strangely different to one at your back. Every step was an effort, sometimes they were impossible, standing still was seen as progress. Looking up was dangerous as your face was stabbed with the rain, I was following Paul at this time, every few moments I would look up to make sure I was going in the right direction. Often I couldn't see him, then I'd spot him at the periphery of my vision, sometimes to the left and then to the right. I thought "what's he doing?", until I realised that it was me, not going straight, I was zig-zagging along in an effort to tack against the wind. I also noticed that I had started chanting to myself to keep me going "Never again, never again, never again, never again, never again"

This leg just went on forever. On the way we made a decision to continue to the road at Honister Pass and then climb back up the fell, rather than going over the top at Dale Head. (A decision vindicated when talking to others: people having to lay on the grass to read the map, otherwise it would blow away (one pair did lose both maps); teams linking arms together to cross ridges, although it did take about 20 minutes longer).

The sights down Honister Pass were amazing, all the babbling brooks had turned into torrential waterfalls, the sides of the fells were practically white, the river in the pass couldn't cope, but the road did a good job of managing the overflow. The winds here, unbelievably, were worse, much worse than on the fells, the pass was funnelling the winds down towards Buttermere. The water on the road was coming down in waves, with breakers, people were hiding behind boulders for any modicum of shelter, the largest gusts did take you off your feet and thrust you further down the valley and with cars also on the road this was somewhat worrying.

When we left the road and took to the fells again the winds continued unabated. I've known bad weather before but never for such a sustained period of time, there was no let up. After being blown off my feet on the fell I broached the subject of retiring. Cunningly Paul said, "I can't hear you – let's get round the next bend and discuss the route". We got a small amount of shelter there and realised that we were not far from the penultimate control and the final one was adjacent to the overnight camp so thoughts of retiring were dismissed and we completed the shortened course in 4 ¼ hours. Quite a good feeling but not good enough to remove the chant from my head "Never again, never again, never again, . . . "

The Portaloos at the overnight camp looked the worse for wear when we got there, a third of them had blown over, a third were under water and the remainder (¼ ?) were on the other side of a swollen stream, which on closer inspection turned out to be a farm track, not a stream after all. The camping field was on a hill side so didn't look susceptible to flooding, so after downloading we selected the least wet patch of grass and put up the tent. What a relief, wet clothes off, dry clothes on, feelings beginning to return to fingers, a nice lie down, this is the life.

Then around 1pm, we heard the announcement that it was all off, the event was cancelled and we had to return to the event centre, back over the nightmare Honister Pass. We made the decision not to go just yet and continued to nap and stay warm and dry. The only worry was the tent, at regular intervals the top of the tent would flatten against the groundsheet with each gust of wind, it always regained its original position, but would it keep going for another 18 hours until the morning?

Around 4pm we decided to walk back over the Pass, so donning wet water-proofs, we took the tent down, getting it absolutely soaked. Our packs were now twice as heavy due to the wet gear inside, this was going to be fun – heavy rucksacks, head wind into the storm and climbing up the Pass, it had been a nightmare coming down it.

But it wasn't to be – when we got to the barn at the bottom of the camping field, we were surprised to find it full of competitors, the Pass had been closed, apparently by the Mountain Rescue, and people who had got half way up were now coming down to join us in the barn. We were told to expect to stay here in the barn until the morning. This was one really big barn, luckily, and I think close on 200 people spent the night there. The floor was wet, muddy and uncomfortable, but it is amazing what you can do with space blankets and bubble-wrap (that's a lie, I felt every stone in the floor every time I turned over). We'd met Liam, Jon and Dave from LOG, so we'd got a bit of a camp set up. They were a little concerned about Paul Murgatroyd and his partner as they hadn't been seen at the overnight camp, but this worry didn't seem to stop them getting a good night's sleep!

We had a good meal and around 8pm we got sleeping bags out, my brand new bag in the mud. Now I wish I had been listening when the guy who sold me the bag was explaining how to wash them – all I was thinking was "Why's he telling me this, do I look like the type of person who might want to wash his sleeping bag?" Surprisingly I slept reasonably well; I tried to turn over as little as often.

When I couldn't sleep I passed the time by timing the intervals between the gusts of wind, but I gave that up when I never got beyond 35 seconds. In the morning it was disappointing to still hear the sound of rain rattling against the barn roof, but then it dawned on us that the noise was not coming from the rain after all but the from the rustling of the hundreds of space blankets on the floor. The weather was actually pleasant, breezy but mostly dry.

After a good breakfast we joined a stream of competitors walking back over the Pass back to Seathwaite. The streams and rivers were still spectacularly in spate, but not as dramatic as Saturday. Back at HQ, Wilf's were providing meals, a few hours earlier than they were expecting and the Scouts were serving tea and soup. It seemed that the event had made TV and radio headlines, seemingly 1700 fell runners (presumably wearing vest and shorts) had been lost on the fells during the some of the worst storms ever experienced in the lakes.

The only problem now seemed to be getting out of the car parking field. Grass was piled up against the car tyres, evidence of the flood waters having passed this way the previous day; we were in a very boggy area. First attempt failed despite 3 or 4 pushers, we then spent about 15 minutes helping others, then the tractor came. It hadn't come to help us but it had created a rut from its tracks which created a good driving track. Our second attempt was successful, aided by at least half a dozen pushers, Paul had to wind down his back windows to give enough places to push for all the helpers, but we managed to get to the tractor track and everything was then fine.

Some people had tried to be clever and not park in the field, they had parked on the verge of the Seathwaite-Seatoller lane, this was the lane where people had been videoed wading up to their thighs. (See the end of this video:- http://www.sleepmonsters.co.uk/racereport.php?page_action=rep&race_id=6846&article_id=5447) Most of the cars had water in the headlights, people were bailing out from the back of the cars and a breakdown truck was loading up one car.

We stopped at a convenient car park before Keswick to change out of our mud-splattered clothes, we had just arrived in a mobile phone zone and Paul had a few messages, I had none! Nobody cared about me. Then I remembered I had turned my phone off, then I was inundated with messages, I received more messages than than I normally get in a month! It seems the event had made the news headlines and we had all been lost on the fells.

The reality of it all was that no-one was lost. Many competitors were technically "unaccounted for", 1700 apparently: this was because when the event was cancelled, the competitors who had finished, became unaccounted for as they then started to make their way back to Event HQ. There were a number of competitors who did stay out the night in some sheltered part of the mountains, but that's all part of the process.

There was a helicopter rescue after one person got washed away crossing a swollen stream, suffering hip damage, tents were erected, the Mountain Rescue didn't feel it safe to carry the casualty back across the stream so the chopper was called for.

(Full story can be found in the Forum section of The OMM web-site (www.theomm.com) under the General discussion / “Real Casualty” and “Just how many people were rescued” threads. The forum is fantastic, I have not been an avid forum reader until now, but many great stories about the OMM have emerged from the Forum. Well worth a read.

The OMM web-site also has links to many videos taken by competitors as well as RouteGadget for anyone wanting to look at the courses.

To see all the routes RouteGadget has been set up via the OMM web-site.

The Sleepmonster site (www.sleepmonsters.com) also has excellent reports and photographs

Neil Harvatt

HALO Fixtures & Officials to October 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). This help will be much appreciated and will also allow some of the regular officials to fully take part in our events.

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	Neil Harvatt	Brian Ward
Dec 14	DISTRICT Venue Primrose Warren	Helen Smith	Neil Harvatt	Brian Ward
2009 Mar 22	REGIONAL Londesborough Park	EBOR (tbc)	Ken Hutson	Neil, Mary, Mike
Apr 26	Lincolnshire Bomber Pillar Woods		Joint HALO / LOG / RAFO	
Oct 4th	DISTRICT Beverley W/Wood			

Editorial - John Fulwood

Thank you again to all those who have contributed. Keep the articles & pictures coming.

Discussions that took place at the AGM, informal meetings afterwards and the Committee meeting in October have displayed some diverse opinions about accountability of finances of Events, HALO league rules, nature of first/second claim club membership etc. Some of the points have been argued with passion which shows the keen desire to enhance the sport. Welcome John B to the post of chair. It looks to be an interesting term of office.

I would like to add my thanks to Ken for steering us through the last three years as the man on the bridge.

There is insufficient space to summarise the October Committee meeting minutes. I hope to have this in the next edition. The minutes can be found in the members section on the HALO website.

Who would have thought that a Mountain Marathon would have made the first item on BBC News 24. Not necessarily for the right reason, but any publicity is good publicity. Thanks therefore to Neil for his record of the Event. It is a rather longer article than I would normally want to use, but I found the account fascinating. I hope you do too.

A good selection of Events in the near future with District, New Year's Day & Spring series, as well as the Training Events. With the Regional at Londesborough in March, it is pretty well the full set. Please turn out and offer help in the running of these as well as taking part.

Thanks again for all the copy. Apologies if some has been missed out. It should be in the next edition!

A reminder that HALO NEWS is On-line at 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: 15th January 2009

It remains for me to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. (I know it's only November, but this will be the last edition this year)

(Commiserations to those like me who age five years in 2009)

HALO League Rules and Scoring:

The following are the key points. The full set of rules can be found on the HALO website.

- There shall be at least twelve Competition Days designated HALO League events, of which the highest six will count
- All HALO competitive Local Events should be included. Other events should be YHOA Local Events but in addition, there could be some competition days when there is an alternative event in another region which would enable those living in the more southerly parts of our region to participate in the HALO League with less travelling. These competition days are known as 'alternates' (previously 'doubleheaders'). When calculating points only the higher of a pair of alternates will qualify.
- Planner/Controller of HALO events to be awarded the average of their scores for the event(s) where they officiate
- Calculations to be based on speed/km (adjusted for climb) for a particular colour course.. Running 'up' or 'down' one or more colours increases or decreases points by an adjustment of a fixed 10% to the par speed used in the calculation.
- There will be a minimum points award of 50 to anyone completing a course but scoring less than that in any HALO League event.

Class	Course	Class	Course
M10	Yellow	W10	Yellow
M12	Orange	W12	Orange
M14	Lt Green	W14	Lt Green
M16	Blue	W16	Green
M18	Blue	W18	Blue
M20	Blue	W20	Blue
M21	Brown	W21	Blue
M35	Brown	W35	Blue
M40	Brown	W40	Blue
M45	Blue	W45	Green
M50	Blue	W50	Green
M55	Blue	W55	Green
M60	Blue	W60	Green
M65	Green	W65	Lt Green
M70	Green	W70	Lt Green
M75	Lt Green	W75	Lt Green

The following are designated League Events for 2008/9

09/11/2008	Skipwith	EBOR
23/11/2008	Eccleshall	SYO
14/12/2008	Primrose Warren	HALO
04/01/2009	Adel & Meanwood	AIRE
18/01/2009	Gilling	EBOR

Fixtures

Local / Informal = C5 : District = C4 : Regional = C3

C = Cross Country: S = Score: O = Other : N = Night

Organiser

Nov 23rd	C4	SYO District Event. Ecclesall Woods, Sheffield.	Pete Tryner, 01142 668626.
29th	C4N	CLARO Night Event. Swinsy and Beecroft, Harrogate.	David Day, 01765 600941.
29th	C5	LOG Local Winter Series Event. Lincoln University, Lincoln.	Sean Harrington, 01522 791344.
30th	C4	CLARO District Event. Swinsy and Beecroft, Harrogate.	David Day, 01765 600941.
Dec 13th	C5	LOG Local Winter Series Event. North Kesteven School, Lincoln.	Sean Harrington, 01522 791344.
13th	C4N	HALO Night Event & YHOA Night League.	See Page 9
14th	C4	HALO District Event. Primrose Warren,	See Page 9
21st	C4	EPOC District Event. Honley Wood, Huddersfield.	Robert Page, 01484 316170.
28th	C4	EBOR District Event. Strensall Common, York.	Amanda Cooper, 01904 766159.
Jan 3rd	C5	LOG Local Winter Series Event. Lincoln South Common	Sean Harrington, 01522 791344.
4th	C4	AIRE District Event. Adel & Meanwood, Leeds.	Ric & Lucy Fox, 01943 601204.
10th	C4N	SYO District Night Event. Tankersley Park, Sheffield.	Lucy Wiegand, 01142 680541.
11th	C4	SYO District Event. Tankersley Park, Sheffield.	Lucy Wiegand,
17th	C3N	EBOR Night Regional Event & Northern Night Championships. Gilling Woods, Helmsley.	Steve Corrigan, 01904 766695.
17th	C5N	NOC Local Night Event. Shirebrook, Mansfield.	Tony Horsewill, 0115 928 9760.
17th	C5	LOG Local Winter Series Event. Hartsholme Country Park, Lincoln.	Sean Harrington, 01522 791344.
18th	C4	EBOR District Event. Gilling Woods, Helmsley.	Kate & John Gibson, 01904 466382.
25th	C3	EPOC Regional & Ivor Noot Memorial Event. Ogden, Halifax.	Rebecca Lloyd, 01422 882889.
25th	O4S	LOG Lincoln "City Race". The Lawn, Lincoln.	Sean Harrington, 01522 791344.
Feb 1st	C3	NOC Regional Event. Clumber Park, Mansfield.	Catherine Hughes, 0115 8774089.
5th	S5N	LOG Local Night Event. Riseholme Park, Lincoln.	Paul Murgatroyd
8th	C4	EBOR District Event. Cold Keld Slack, Pickering.	Yasha Chechik, 01904 438256.
15th	C4	SYO District Event. Ramsley Moor, Sheffield.	Stephen Martin, 01142 747437.
22nd	C3	AIRE Regional Event. Haworth Moor, Haworth.	Organiser: TBC.