

NEXT
ISSUE...
NOV 2011

A Load of Old Quoc's



DRONGO – The Orienteering Club for Cambridge University Alumni

Year 2011 No. 1 A.E. Oxford (sorry!), Tuesday, 17th May

www.drongo.org.uk

Varsity Match 2011

Cambridge and Oxford battle it out in sandstone terrains of Czechia...

Once upon a time, there was a DrongO newsletter. Once upon a time, the DrongO newsletter suggested that Petr Lukšan would be organising the 2011 VM in the Czech Republic... Petr, having not orienteered for many years, seemed a little surprised when CUOC and OUOC captains started e-mailing him to find out what the progress was. Petr called in lots of favours and got DrongO in touch with a friend of a friend who also happens to be the Czech national team manager and runs a company that put on O camps. As a result, a professionally organised VM was what we got in 2011.

After a few days of training in relevant terrain and a talk on orienteering in sandstone terrain, we knew that route choice would be key in the Varsity race - key decisions would have to be made about whether to go the long way round or take the straight line option which might be much hillier and more physically challenging. There was glorious sunshine as the alumni and guest runners set off into the forest, ready to be back to follow the main race.

In the women's race, Vicky Stevens (Cambridge) was the first woman to finish, taking the lead in 59 minutes, just under the estimated winning time. Anne Edwards (Oxford), last year's winner, didn't quite manage to improve on this and finished 37 seconds down on Vicky. After Anne's finish, the spectators keenly awaited the last starter Mairead Roche (Cambridge), who'd set off 6 minutes after her and who eventually won in a fantastic time of 55:46. Vicky and Mairead's performance helped Cambridge win the women's team trophy, with the third counting Cambridge runner being local girl Andy Straková in 72:03 (Cambridge 186:59, Oxford 236:55). As with the women, there were several contenders for the men's title, with Matt Halliday (last year's winner), Peter Hodkinson, Alan Cherry and Ben Stevens (last year still at Cambridge, this year racing for Oxford) all vying for top spot. On the day, it was fresher Peter Hodkinson (Oxford) who dominated with a 3 minute lead over second placed Matt Halliday (Cambridge), with Alan Cherry and Ben Stevens (both Oxford) following about 1 and 1:30

minutes behind Matt. With 3 strong runs, the men's team trophy seemed safe in Oxford's hands, or was it? With time ticking, the Oxford men were expectantly waiting for one of James Wilkinson or Václav Potěšil to turn up and provide the fourth time as most other people had finished – Václav eventually obliged and Oxford took the men's team title (Oxford 307:18, Cambridge 330:28). In the alumni race, with a rather meagre turnout from DrongO (where were YOU?), it was a team of 2 men and 1 woman to count and JOK emerged victorious (JOK 259:56, DrongO 294:29), with the individual alumni trophies awarded in their inaugural year to Ed Catmur (JOK) and Blanka Collis (DrongO).



Full results and maps on <http://repreob.hyperlink.cz/varsity/>.

Varsity Match highlights

For those with a short attention span...

Editorial

Welcome to the May edition of the DrongO newsletter, in particular to those of you who've joined the mailing list since the 40th anniversary celebration.

You will notice that the newsletter is now coming from a different source, your temporary editor. Potential future editors have been approached and I hope to be able to announce who'll take over on a more permanent basis soon.

Herewith, I would like to say a massive thank you to Eric Roller, who did a fantastic job with the newsletter production for the last three years, he's certainly made it a hard act to follow.

In this issue, you can find a review of this year's Varsity Match and other spring events, a preview of the British Universities Champs in 2012, an AGM notice, an update on orienteering in South Africa and much much more.

Next issue will be in November, send your news to news@drongo.org.uk.



VARSITY INSPIRATION: Petr Lukšan, who first suggested that Varsity be held in the Czech Republic.

BEST RUN-IN: Peter Hodgkinson in 18 seconds and Anne Edwards in 23 seconds.

MOST AWAITED RUNNER: Václav Potěšil, the fourth scorer for the Oxford men's team.

BIGGEST DOPEY: Matt Halliday for turning up at the airport only to be told at check-in that he's booked for a flight a day later.

MOST IMPROVED: Harriett Burdett who only started orienteering in the autumn but finished fourth Cambridge woman despite not being selected for the team.

MOST LIGHTWEIGHT DRINKER: Harriett Burdett, who appears to get giggly after half a beer.

MUMMY CUOC: Andy Straková who always made sure everyone was on the bus.

BEST LANGUAGE SKILLS: Ben Windsor for his attempts to teach the entire CUOC team Czech. "Pozor, medvěd!"

MOST "VEGETARIAN" MEAL: the chicken-containing pasta salad...

TOUR PET: the hotel cat, which had a knack of opening the door to the dining room just as everyone was sitting down to dinner.

FASHION AWARD: CUOC for their control flag-shaped Varsity O kit.

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HOW DO I SUBSCRIBE?

Simple, keep your email address up-to-date on the **DrongO members' list**:

www.drongo.org.uk

(click on mailing list "information page").

Varsity reflections by a DrongO

Ian Buxton, a recently rediscovered DrongO, reflects on his first Varsity abroad...

Varsity match in Czech Republic? Sounds good, will make a change from Lancashire, Wales and (after a gap of 20+ years) Cornwall. Also, since Blanka has the organization in hand, all I have to do is buy some plane tickets and turn up.

Arrive at Prague airport with Mark C to be greeted by Blanka, and a large coach. (the type with wheels, not the type that tells you how to orienteer. He turns up later). Collect students from some random rail station in the city suburbs. As 'grown-ups' we have the front seats. Predictably the 'children' sit right at the back. News of Matt H having turned up at the airport 24 hrs too early for the ticket he'd actually bought.

Accommodation in Doksy - ensuite with TV and balcony overlooking swimming pool. I suspect the students' rooms are rather less grand. Restaurant with log-burning stove in the middle, small bar with pool table and o-maps on the wall.

First evening training run - not long because the sun is disappearing fast. Our first taste of the maps - green (rather pleasantly) turns out to be English-white. First sight of sandstone.

First breakfast - sweepstake goes rather awry when the students defy all expectations and arrive on the dot at 8am. Clearly the attraction of food is greater than that of a bed. Or perhaps the student rooms have no beds - as I say, I don't know...

Second training run - steep! Getting more used to the terrain now. Video reports of the boys crevasse-jumping - health and safety turns a blind eye. Harriet B in shocking pink, shouting 'there's too many christmas trees!' from halfway up a cliff.

Model event - luckily some student & post-grad engineers are on hand to build a box-girder bridge across the hugely swollen stream on the way to the start (I exaggerate a little here). Controls placed halfway up/down inaccessible

crevasses, try to get down/up without scraping all the skin off my limbs. Without much success.

Evening meal out - very impressive location, a castle-like restaurant perched on top of a sandstone monolith.

Consternation in the kitchens following request for jugs of tap water - would they have enough glasses? Lovely food, although the potato/dumpling things (can't remember the name [*knedlíky* - *ed.*]) are incredibly filling.

Boat race. After last year I am surprised to see so many taking part - including some bemused locals. Realize it would probably have been a good idea to warn the accommodation manager in advance - his beer stocks are wiped out in about 2 minutes flat.

The match day itself. The grand unveiling of the CUOC control flags - sorry, Varsity kit. very ORANGE. Rather un-nerved to have route-choice to get to the *start* - would I even find it? Great event follows - map very clear despite the many contours and rocks making it look rather like black pepper on spaghetti. I just can't run for toffee so drift further and further behind. My final error is the massively optimistic route choice round the wrong side of the pond from the final control. If people only knew how close I get to falling in...

Relays. Ah yes. 1:4k maps with the same amount of detail as a 1:10k map, and with 5m contours. I just can't get the hang of the scale and keep overshooting by miles. Luckily my partner doesn't mind!

A great week, well organized. would I go again? Definitely.



Relay mass start by Ian Buxton

British University Champs 2012

CUOC are organising and are looking for some help...

Some of you may have heard that CUOC will be organising BUCS 2012 in the Lake District on 17th/18th March. I'm not sure if this is for the first time ever, or just for the first time in a long time, but either way we're doing it and we're going to make it a success! I am BUCS Coordinator for the weekend, and we'll be relying largely on people living in or near the Lake District to plan and organise. So far LOC have offered to plan and mostly organise the individual on Saturday for us, since they have a Galloper on the Sunday and suggested we could use the same area and almost the same courses for BUCS one day before. Progress with Sunday has been slow so far, and I am still looking for an organiser and planner.

The social and accommodation have been moving forwards. It looks like we will be staying on the floor in Ulverston Victoria High School,

with caterers brought in to provide the evening meal, and a self-service breakfast organised by ourselves. We have heard of a possible social venue in Ulverston but there is still nothing definite.

SMALL ADS SECTION...SMALL ADS

...if you're looking for a picturesque 18th century Grade II listed weaver's cottage in beautiful West Yorkshire, 5 mins run from an excellent O area, then please drop Viv B. a line!

If anybody is available to help in the Lake District on either day, or to organise/plan Sunday, or to help with providing breakfast on Sunday, please let me know on bjw44@cam.ac.uk. I expect a small number of people will also ask us to provide them with transport to the event from a local station. Any help with this from people with cars would also be appreciated.

!!! AGM 2011 !!!

To satisfy British Orienteering's requirement and continue existing as a recognised club, DrongO must have an AGM. As last year, this will be an e-AGM, to take place throughout AUGUST 2011. You can send nominations, motions, comments, votes, etc. to agm@drongo.org.uk and throughout the AGM period the Chair or Secretary will group contributions and forward them to the main mailing list. The final agenda will follow closer to the time.

Dates for your diary

- **22nd October 2011** - the second Cambridge City Race, not to be missed and part of the UK Masters Cup. Hopefully to be followed by some form of dinner/get-together so watch the mailing list.
- **17th/18th March 2012** - BUCS in the Lake District, organised by CUOC, hopefully with some DrongO input. Please come and support the students if you can!

Varsity Match map archive

Thanks to those who have sent in their scanned maps, there is now a map archive amongst the DrongO photo gallery. If you can supply any of the missing ones, send them to news@drongo.org.uk.

O tops

Only two O tops left (see page 1 photo), one older Trimtex S sized one (£20), and one long-sleeved Noname M sized one (£35.90), contact blanka@drongo.org.uk to get it.

Members' news

Congratulations to **RACHAEL ELDER** and **ALEX ROTHMAN** who have got engaged and are getting married in the summer.

JENNY PEEL seems to be winning everything in sight, having been top W40 at British Sprint Champs, British Middle Champs, JK Sprint, and overall JK results, well done!

ALISTAIR, IAN, BARBARA, EUAN, ETHAN, BLANKA, MARK, DARRELL, ALI and **HEATHER** were seen enjoying a nice meal at the pub in Dundrum after their JK runs.

ALISTAIR HINDLE is back to training lots and aiming to challenge for top places in the elite classes in the near future, watch out for his comeback.

CATH WILSON does not seem to have lost speed at all since baby Anna was born, finishing 7th in the W21L class at the JK and looking very speedy as she zoomed past me in the sanddunes.

SIMON THOMAS is spending his spare time gallivanting round Australia, having done a long road trip over Easter, taking in the highest point of Victoria and the highest point of Australia whilst at it. In the process, he would "probably tick over 2000km in six days". "*Perception of*

distance certainly changes in this country!" says Simon.

WAYNE PATRICK may be making an appearance in Europe in 2012 (it will be North America this year). Maybe we should be watching out for him in the OMM start list?

PETR LUKŠAN has moved from London to Bishop's Stortford and was seen orienteering for the first time in many years at the Varsity Match. Petr was also flashed by a speed camera when leaving the 40th dinner.

ADAM BENNETT, VICKY STEVENS, CLARE SUTHERLAND, IAIN TEBBUTT and **ALISON HARDING** have been seen to recently join the DrongO mailing list, the place to catch all the gossip - welcome to them!

BLANKA COLLIS continues to remind JOK that no, she can't fathom the possibility of ever joining JOK despite their efforts. And,

anyway, their constitution is less inclusive and does not allow non-matriculated OUOC members to join...

COLIN DUCKWORTH's speech at the 40th dinner had a motivational effect on CUOC – they have re-started club lunches which haven't been going for some time!

NEIL and **SUE CRICKMORE** were part of the family organising/planning team that ably put on the British Sprint Champs at Sussex. Neil says his graduate students were surprised to see him in work at weekends when he was mapping the campus!

ANN, MIIA, JAMIE and **ERIC ROLLER** will be heading to the Scottish 6 days this summer. They'll be camping and would love to meet up with any other DrongOs that are going. At their end of the world, in Sweden, the Spring O season has had a cold start and now as it is getting warmer, the season



DrongO and CUOC celebrate the 40th anniversary ... How many can you name?

is about to finish; or at least in the Stockholm area. One can then travel further north where Spring arrives even later...

NIGEL WHITEAOK sadly missed the anniversary dinner, but less sadly went to Patagonia instead and did some trekking, but no O. He has started working for Expedia and is still living in Richmond. "Off to do the Surrey Hills Trail Challenge with **CHRIS MARSH** tomorrow [8 May] and will hopefully make it along to some of the other SLOW Trail Challenge events

in the summer. Going to be at Coombe hill in a week's time too, and even managed to convince my sister to come (who lives in Wendover, where the event's being held). Must be 20 years since she last went orienteering!" Nigel rounds up his O activities. "We'll no doubt be at the OMM in October, and I might even go to the 6-day perhaps. Will have to see!"

VIV BARRACLOUGH is busy setting up a weekly training session on behalf of EPOC, initially in a newly regenerated urban park in

Huddersfield. Viv says: "Was delighted to receive a grant from BO Development Fund to purchase a training set of SI kit, which will have been used at the EPOC organised British Relays by the time you read this. Just in case anyone is looking for a Try Orienteering event on 1st June, look no further than Greenhead Park, Huddersfield between 1 and 3pm. Ok, unlikely that any of you will come, but free publicity is always worth a shot!"

DrongO at the British Sprint & Middle Champs

Early April saw the first of the high profile races of the British O season with the Sprint and Middle distance championships staged in the South East.

The weekend was ably organised by DrongO Neil Crickmore, with wife Sue (also a DrongO) co-planning the Sprint Champs on the grounds of the Universities of Sussex and Brighton. The DrongO roll of honour includes:

- Matt Mahr BRONZE on M35
- Quentin Harding BRONZE on M45
- Colin Smith 7th on M45
- Kevin Harding GOLD on M50
- Charles Daniel 10th on M55
- Rachael Elder 6th on W Elite
- Mairead Rocke (CUOC) 9th on W elite
- Jenny Peel GOLD on W40
- Jane Halliday SILVER on W50
- Alison Harding 6th on W50

The Middle race was in a nice little area called Worth Lodge, just outside Crawley, with a good spattering of DrongOs attending. Some noteworthy results include:

- Matt Halliday 4th on M20
- Ben Stevens 13th On M21
- Quentin Harding BRONZE on M45
- Colin Smith 7th on M45
- Kevin Harding BRONZE on M50
- Mairead Rocke (CUOC) GOLD on W20
- Rachael Elder 4th on W21
- Jenny Peel GOLD W40
- Alison Harding 4th on W50
- Jane Halliday 6th on W50

Full results are on <http://www.sportident.co.uk/results/2011/BritishSprintMiddle/>.



Ian Buxton in action at the Sprint Champs (by Rob Lines)

DrongO at the JK

It was nice to see a large number of DrongO members at the JK, which took place in Northern Ireland from 22nd-25th April. We had some sunny weather and some great areas - the open sand dunes used for the elite middle/mortals' classic and relay races were particularly good fun. A subset of DrongOs met up at the Buck's Head in Dundrum for the second annual "DrongO at the JK" meal, which made for a nice evening...



DrongO social at the JK (Alistair behind the camera)

There were some good results too! Here are those in the top 15 (full results on <http://www.jk2011.org.uk/>):

Sprint day:

- Matt Halliday (CUOC) BRONZE on M20E
- Ian Elder 12th on M Open
- Mark Collis 13th on M Open
- Quentin Harding WON M45
- Neil Crickmore 9th on M45
- Mairead Rocke (CUOC) GOLD on W20E
- Rachael Elder BRONZE on W21E
- Nicola Robertson 4th on W Open
- Jenny Peel GOLD on W40
- Sue Crickmore 14th on W45
- Alison Harding 10th on W50



Rach Elder at the Sprint (by Blanka Collis)

Overall results:

- Matt Halliday (CUOC) GOLD on M20E
- Alistair Hindle 14th on M21L
- Ian Elder 6th on M21S
- Darrell High 12th on M40L
- Quentin Harding 6th on M45L
- Colin Smith 10th on M45L
- Kevin Harding 9th on M50L
- Dave Kingham 6th on M55L
- Dave Hanstock 10th on M55S
- Mairead Rocke (CUOC) GOLD on W20E
- Rachael Elder 4th on W21E
- Cath Wilson 7th on W21L
- Nicola Robertson SILVER on W21S
- Jenny Peel GOLD on W40L
- Alison Harding 5th on W50L
- Mary Ockenden 14th on W50L



Darrell High on Slieve Croob (by B. Collis)

Orienteering in South Africa

Ian Bratt, our South African correspondent, reports on the states of the O game in the south...

The Gauteng (Johannesburg/Pretoria) Sprint event series has just passed the halfway mark. The fifth event (out of eight) was held on 17th Apr at the University of Johannesburg, Auckland Park campus. This was the first time that Orienteering had been held there and it proved to be a great success with over 100 people braving the unseasonably cool and overcast weather. There are three more events to be held over the next five weeks. The series will culminate with the final to be held at Pretoria Boys High School on 21st May. The "real" orienteering begins with the first colour coded event of the year on 5th June which will also be held in Pretoria at the historic Voortrekker monument.

The first Championships of the year were held on 9/10th April in the Cape. The second SA Sprint Championships were held at the Waterfront in Cape Town on the Saturday morning. The action moved to Grabouw, some 70km east of Cape Town, in the afternoon for the Western Cape middle distance Champs. The same venue was used the following day for the Western Cape long distance Champs. The second Championships of the year will be held in Gauteng on 18/19th June in the Magaliesburg mountains NW of Johannesburg.

The South Africa Championships will be held on the traditional heritage day weekend at the end of September (23rd-25th). As was the case two years ago, the 2011 SA Champs will incorporate two World Ranking Events. The events will be held in the Lydenburg area, approximately 3 hours east of Johannesburg. Mapper/Planner (and top SA Orienteer) Nicholas Mulder has promised "the best orienteering terrain in South Africa". The IOF Event Advisor will be Drongo member, Ian Bratt. For more information visit www.saochamps.co.za

Ian will also be the planner for the annual Rogaines which will once again be held in the fantastic Berlin Plantation at Kaaspschehoop in

Mpumalanga, approximately four hours east of Johannesburg. The event, which will once again be organised by the Rand Orienteering Club, will have the usual format - 8 and 4 hour foot events on Sat 22nd Oct; 5 and 2.5 hour mountain bike events on Sun 23rd Oct. www.roc.org.za

The four Orienteering clubs in Gauteng will combine forces to stage the first biannual Big5 O week which will be held from 4th to 8th January 2012. The series of five events will take place in Mpumalanga between 3 and 5 hours east of Johannesburg. The week will feature five events (one sprint, one urban, one middle and two long) two of which will also be World Ranking Events. The Big5 O week has been planned for January in order to try to attract foreign orienteers who will hopefully want to get away from the European winter to find some sunshine, get some excellent orienteering and go on a wild life safari. Note that the event does take place in the 'high season' in South Africa when accommodation and flights are likely to be at a premium so early booking is advised for interested Orienteers. www.big5-O.co.za

I hope this has given you an idea of Orienteering activity in South Africa. Whilst the sport is nowhere as big or as popular as in the UK there is regular activity with approximately 50-60 events taking part each year. For further information about any of the above events or Orienteering in SA in general, you can contact Ian Bratt ianbratt@global.co.za

British Orienteering Championships

A number of DrongOs running at the premier event at Wharncliffe Woods, with some having run at the venue most recently during the 2007 Varsity Match...



Ben (by Blanka Collis), Alistair, Mark and Blanka (by Ian Buxton) proudly sporting their DrongO kit on the individual day run-in

Being bang in the middle of the country (in Wharncliffe Woods in Sheffield, the scene of the 2007 Varsity Match as some of you may remember), the British Champs on the 14th/15th May had a good turnout. A great weekend, well organised by SYO and EPOC, it was attended by a number of DrongOs. Here are some of the top DrongO results (full results can be found on <http://boc2011.org.uk/>) :

- Daniel Marston 5th on M21E (of 50)
- Mark Bown 17th on M21E
- Matthias Mahr 4th on M35L (of 28)
- Alistair Hindle 11th on M35L
- Quentin Harding BRONZE on M45L (of 82)
- Kevin Harding 10th on M50L (of 73)

- Rachael Elder SILVER on W21E (of 26)
- Vicky Stevens 10th on W21E
- Anya Crocker 4th on W21L (of 17)
- Viv Barraclough 5th on W35L (of 15)
- Jenny Peel SILVER on W40L (of 29)
- Ann Roller 12th on W40L
- Lucy Wiegand 14th on W40L
- Alison Harding BRONZE on W50L (of 48)
- Allyson Foord 14th on W55L (of 42)



DrongO electronic Annual General Meeting (e-AGM) – 1st-31st August 2011

The DrongO e-AGM will take place between 1st and 31st August 2011. You can send nominations, motions, comments, votes, etc. to agm@drongo.org.uk and throughout the AGM period the Chair or Secretary will group contributions and forward them to the main mailing list.

Agenda

1. Acceptance of 2010 minutes as a true record of the meeting
2. Acceptance of 2010-11 accounts (see below)
3. Election of committee (Captain, Secretary, Treasurer)
4. Proposals received/AOB

Accounts for DrongO between 1st July 2010 and 30th June 2011

(as compiled by Mark Bown, DrongO treasurer for 2010-11)

Balance from previous bank account (now closed): **£74.22**

Expenditure

Varsity Match £4723.94

Broken down as:

Accommodation	£2078.65
Event	£1078.41
Food	£361.27
Transport	£1180.81
Prize Fund	£24.80

Varsity Match Alumni Trophies: £83.15

Total Expenditure: **£4807.09**

Income

Varsity Match £4723.95

Broken down as:

DrongO members	£584.39
JOK members	£909.19
CUOC members	£1968.14
OUOC members	£1262.23

Donation from member: £8.92

Total Income: **£4732.87**

Balance of DRONGO funds at end of year: **£0.00**