

NEXT
ISSUE...
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A Load of Old Cuocs



DRONGO – The Orienteering Club for Cambridge University Alumni

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Editorial



Your editor enjoying the delights of a sunny Tankersley at the 2013 Varsity Match.

Welcome to the March 2013 edition of the DrongO newsletter. Lots of you have been up to things so I thought there should be some kind of record of all these member news happening...

Nothing happened on the AGM front, partly because no one really seemed to care about the lack of one and British Orienteering were not that bothered either. I had actually typed out a Captain's report for it that never got circulated back in the autumn and you can read this further on in the newsletter.

I intend to step down as Captain for the coming year and hope one of the more recent CUOC graduates will be up for taking the job. Likewise, the newsletter editor's job is going to be passed on... Thank you to Ben Stevens for maintaining the website for DrongO so effectively whilst also being the captain of the student opposition.

With a number of big events coming up, it will be great to see lots of you out and about in the forests of the country, and I hope you can find the time to write the odd few words about your experience or send some pictures of DrongOes to the editor...

Don't forget to send your pictures, event reports, puzzles, musings, gossip and whatever else you can think of to news AT drongo.org.uk

...

JK DrongO social

Come and be sociable at the JK.

The intention is to go out for dinner on the Sunday of the JK weekend (31st March). We'll be going to the White Horse at Hermitage for an early dinner (table booked for 5pm, food available until 5.45pm).

Email blanka AT drongo.org.uk if you're interested...

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The future of DrongO: the CUOC winning beerrace team and the women's trophy winners at Varsity (photos: Ian Buxton)

Varsity Match 2013

The 2013 version of the event was expertly organised by Rachael and Alex Rothman, with courses planned by Mark Bown and controlled by Jim Elder. The event came back to Sheffield after 6 years and Blanka Collis reports on the event (photos by Ian Buxton)...



March 2-3 2013: The 2013 Varsity Match returned back to Sheffield after it was last held in the area in 2007.

After many of the areas that the team wanted to use fell through one by one, we were treated to some exciting courses round Tankersley Woods,

an area used for a British Relay Champs not long ago and much more recently for the 2013 British Night Champs. As an event centre, Hesley Activity Camp was secured, which proved to be a great location. On the day, an early March Saturday, the weather was glorious and a bus load of Cambridge students arrived in the car park just as we got there. With the first experience of split starts at the Varsity Match, I was off at the beginning of the start block, concentrating mostly on my own race and trying to keep up with fellow DrongO Jenny Peel once she caught me up (I managed for a bit). Towards the end of my race, there was a nice loop close to the finish and I started seeing student runners around. After running, there was plenty of time to socialise in the Scout hut, taking in all the cooking smells as Rach's Mum Alison prepared to feed the hungry lot of orienteers.



On the results front, the alumni race was won by Helen Gardner of JOK in the women's race, with Jenny Peel second to her by 4 minutes, whilst Ian Webb (also JOK) won the men's race, beating team mate Ollie O'Brien into close second by

about 20 seconds. In the team trophy JOK won (with 4 men and 1 woman to count) by a margin of just over 30 minutes. In the student races, Oxford were victorious in the men's competition by a narrow gap of 10 minutes whilst the Cambridge women beat their opponents categorically by over an hour. In the individual competition, Peter Hodgkinson (Oxford) regained his title whilst Cambridge fresher Jessica Mason made her mark on Varsity orienteering by winning the women's race.

We didn't stay for the Saturday night's entertainment and the relays (opting to celebrate a first birthday with a certain little person instead), but Ian Buxton, another DrongO, this year running for Oxford University, writes about the weekend as a whole... *"Varsity was fun, Tankersley Woods were lovely and so was the weather. Accommodation good, I got a room to myself - I was also the first one into the bar (lesson planning for about half an hour before anyone else turned up! Who knew a Scout camp had a bar anyway) as the students were all more interested playing truth games in the accommodation! The location for the (urban sprint) relay was brilliant, amphitheatre with view over Sheffield, and a micro-O to start each leg."*



Thank you to Rach, Alex, Mark and all their helper team for an enjoyable

weekend and looking forward to seeing you at the next Varsity Match, a JOK event hopefully to be held somewhere further afield in the 'every three years' tradition.

Members' news

Baby boom continues and **PETR LUKŠAN** writes that on 6th February 2013, his and Rachel's third boy arrived in this world, and is named Joshua.

ALAN ELDER and his wife Alice are the proud parents of baby Sebastian who arrived on 13th January 2013. Congratulations!

Obviously, it's been a year for DrongO arrivals as **DAVID COTTINGHAM** and his wife Elke welcomed baby Benjamin into the world on 27th August 2012.

Meanwhile, during the Olympics (seems such a long time ago, doesn't it?), **EMMA POOLEY** got plenty of coverage, being described as the "thinking person's road cyclist" in one BBC article (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/olympics/18604252>). Maybe one of these days the journalists will pick up on the

fact that once upon a time she used to be an orienteer too...

DOUG MONRO has been to visit the PM at Number 10! (<http://www.adzuna.co.uk/blog/2012/10/01/adzuna-visits-number-10/>).

DARRELL HIGH had an amazing OMM in 2012, finishing in 3rd place with ex-OUOCer Nick Barrable on the elite course! Meanwhile, another DrongO, **IAN JONES**, finished 8th on the Long Score.

NIGEL WHITEOAK is apparently getting to be knowledgeable on style, or at least he's allowing people to share views on style (<http://www.guardian.co.uk/small-business-network/2012/nov/28/starting-up-style-nibble>)...

IAN BUXTON has been seen wearing the OUOC top at orienteering events as he studies for his PGCE with Oxford University. He apologised for not running for

DrongO at Varsity, and showed with his top run in the B race that Oxford possibly ought to have selected him for the A race as he took some scalps from the student team, some of whom weren't even born when he ran his first VM...

Congratulations to **CLARE SUTHERERLAND** on her marriage to Matthew Causier.



© Clare Causier

In the hot off the press news, **ROSEMARY DYER** is now a fully qualified Airbus A320 pilot. Maybe she'll be flying the team to the Varsity Match next year?

Captain's report 2011-12

This captain's report was written in the autumn and somehow never made it out into the public domain. Please accept my apologies and hope you enjoy the riveting read!

Firstly, accept my apologies for the fact that this DrongO captain's report is so long overdue. Family events have taken over and looking after a lively small baby has taken precedence over organising things at the DrongO end, including an AGM that has been, for the past couple of years, mostly an exercise to keep BOF's paperwork requirements satisfied. I promise I haven't forgotten DrongO and it seems like its members have been reasonably active so here is a review of the year from me.

I hope this to be a transition year and am hopeful that newsletter editorship will be passed on to a current last year CUOCer from November 2013. In the absence of an interim editor, despite my long lasting pleas, I will ensure continuity of the newsletter by producing a bumper January 2013 edition instead of a Nov '12 and May '13 number so please continue sending me copy, photos, tidbits of information and gossip and I will use them in the next edition of the magazine. I am always interested in people's news about moves, orienteering wise or not, information and contact details for other members that have so far been missing out on the DrongO mailing.

On the note of moving on, likewise, I would very much like to step down from the captain's role at the end of the 2012-13 season and pass on the reins to the younger generation (it is now 11 years since my Cambridge matriculation, after all).

One of my ongoing tasks has been the next ***batch of DrongO tops*** - again, these haven't been forgotten, so far I only had a request for one or two but am keeping an eye on the list and will make sure there is an order when the list grows sufficiently. I will communicate with CUOC to see if there will be a need for a batch for them soon, with a few of the current students due to graduate soon.

I am also very pleased that we've had a volunteer team to organise the ***Varsity Match in 2013*** and I haven't had to chase someone to volunteer until

the last minute - more details about date and venue will be forthcoming once Rachael Rothman et al have had a chance to agree these with the student captains - you'll be the first to know when I know!

DrongO members have been active in their orienteering and elsewhere, as I always see when I compile a results round-up section in the newsletter. Plenty of successes were seen at the big events like the JK and the various versions of the British Champs this spring. I was especially pleased to see such a great turnout of DrongO at this year's Varsity Match in Burnham's Beeches - with a south eastern location, it presumably was accessible to a lot more of our members and I hope such great support for Varsity continues. Not only that, a week later, on 17th/18th March, CUOC organised their first BUCS (University Championships) competition ever. Due to the lack of interesting venues near Cambridge (as you all recall from your CUOC days, I'm sure!), CUOC organised in the Lake District, with a lot of support from DrongO (and JOK) members - a big thank you to everyone who went up there and helped out!

The elite members of the club are well and kicking, as it were, and in the summer, Rachael Rothman (Downing, 1998) represented Great Britain at the World Orienteering Championships in Switzerland. Not only that, there was also a DrongO presence at the London Olympic Games, with Emma Pooley (Trinity Hall, 2001) riding in the cycling time trial and road race, and with Jules Bleasdale (Pembroke, 2000) racing the 5000m and 10000m races - well done, you guys!

The autumn season of O has begun, I wish you all the very best for it and look forward to seeing you in the forest (or in some city streets), increasingly so at the string course location! :)

Blanka Collis (DrongO 2011-12 captain)
October 2012