

British TrailO Newsletter

November 2024



Introduction from the Editor

As the year draws to a close, it is a chance to look back on 2024. With no World Championships, the main event was the European Championships (ETOC) held in Finland in early May. There were no major successes to report but with 9 events in 9 days (including the Pre-ETOC events) it was an intensive immersion in quality TrailO.

On the home front, things have been quieter with, for me, just the single TrailO event at the JK. My focus for the year was arranging the Autumn TrailO weekend in October which incorporated the British TrailO Championships for 2024. I still wonder if I had taken on too much including mapping for one of the events and also planning the PreO Sprint but it certainly gave me additional insights into the sport. Whether it will improve my results, I will only find out next year.

Turning to 2025, there are numerous European weekends now scheduled as World Ranking Events and, for those gaining selection, the World Championships in Hungary/Slovakia in late August. Here in the UK, plans are progressing well for two events linked to the JK weekend at Easter and there is the possibility of some events in Yorkshire later in the year thanks to Peter and Christine Roberts and an event in Northern Ireland in May. There may be others in development although nothing specific so far.

My thanks to all those who have contributed to the 4 issues of the Newsletter during 2024 - new contributors are always welcome, please don't wait to be asked! I close with my best wishes to all readers for the coming holiday season and I look forward to producing further Newsletters next year.

David Jukes (davidjukes@sky.com)



TrailO Development Steering Group Update



The national Steering Group held a meeting on the 18th September and the following is a summary of some of the points raised:

- **BTOC 12-13 October.** **David Jukes** updated the Steering Group on the progress. Maps and courses had been completed and, subject to a final visit, were ready for printing. Control cards are being used in the PreO events and, for the TempO, timing will be manual as ANT requires Android phones which the majority of the helpers do not have. Results will be provided using TOP with data entered manually on submission of the control cards. Although there was some discussion regarding the calculation to combine the PreO and TempO results into a combined overall BTOC champion, further investigation was needed and the decision would be left to the organisers. Guidance was provided as to the composition of the event jury.
- **British TrailO Rules:** There had been some discussion during a recent WRE weekend about the need to progress the adoption of an agreed set of British TrailO rules. **Iain Phillips** and **Ben Kyd** had offered to work at this and to prepare a draft for the Steering Group to consider. The Group felt that the approach should be to follow the IOF rules whenever possible so as to maximise the similarity. A draft might be available before the next Steering Group meeting.


Cover Picture: The British TrailO Championships (TempO) event in October made use of the University of Reading Whiteknights campus. The photo shows **John Kewley** having the kites at Station 4 pointed out by **Glyn Thomas** of Berkshire Orienteers (BKO). BKO staged the event with several club members manning the TempO stations.

Note: *The contents of this Newsletter are the responsibility of the Editor. The reports represent the personal views of the authors and should not be considered to represent the views of British Orienteering or the collective view of the British TrailO community. Attempts have been made to verify the accuracy of the information contained but apologies in advance for any errors that have slipped through.*

David Jukes (Editor)

- *Consideration of a club for UK TrailO*: This matter was considered again. Members of the Steering Group were aware of various positive benefits that might arise from having a 'TrailO Club' which people could join in addition to any other orienteering club they might join (for FootO). The difficulty though is that there would then be additional administrative burdens which would need to be implemented. Were the benefits sufficient to justify the extra burdens? **Iain Phillips** was intending to prepare a paper providing some more details of a proposed club but also indicating the main issues which need to be assessed before reaching a decision as to whether to progress or drop the idea.
- *Communications*: **David Jukes** provided details of the developments linked to the Facebook (FB) page and to the website. He was pleased that there had been continuing good cooperation with staff at British Orienteering - he had been granted access to the main British Orienteering FB page for the duration of ETOC and had been able to provide some postings direct as 'British Orienteering'. The redesigned British Orienteering website had been launched in early June. Some feedback was provided and some minor issues were quickly dealt with by the design team.
- *Event plans for 2025*: **John Kewley** provided an update on the plans for JK2025. It is expected that there will be two TrailO events - on Days 1 and 2. Locations have been agreed but planning is at an early stage. **Peter Roberts** is hoping to stage a TrailO weekend in the Yorkshire area later in 2025. **Wilbert Hollinger** indicated that consideration was being given to including TrailO alongside the FootO events at the Irish Championships (1st-5th May) which are expected to be using the sand dunes at Magilligan in Northern Ireland.
- *Selection for WTOC 2025*: The preliminary statement by the selectors suggested at the previous Steering Group meeting had been published by British Orienteering in late June. Information on this had been provided in the TrailO news web page and an item had been posted on Facebook. A full copy had also been included in the September Newsletter. A final full official policy statement will be required later in the year or early in 2025.
- *IOF matters*: It was noted that the IOF had elected Tom Hollowell (USA) as President for 2024-2028. This was welcomed as Tom knows the sport having competed at several TrailO competitions including at ETOC 2024. John Kewley provided some additional updates including noting that bids for ETOC 2026 were in preparation.
- *TBE*: There was then a discussion about the spread of tick-borne encephalitis (TBE) which orienteers, including TrailO competitors, may be exposed to during events. All competitors, particularly those attending events in Scandinavia and central Europe are encouraged to get fully vaccinated in advance of any planned trips - particularly for those who may be selected for WTOC 2025 in Hungary/Slovakia in August. TBE is also known to be present in the UK.

Tick-borne encephalitis (TBE)



A vaccine for TBE is recommended if you're visiting a country where the infection is common and you're planning to do outdoor activities when you get there. You need at least 2 injections, given at least 2 weeks apart, to be protected for travel. You should have the first injection at least 1 month before travelling.

For more, see: [NHS - Tick-borne encephalitis \(TBE\)](#)


The **Steering Group** is chaired by **Graham Urquhart** who can be contacted at:
trailocommitteechair@britishorienteering.org.uk

International Orienteering Federation (IOF) Updates



International Specification for Sprint Orienteering Maps: ISSprOM 2019-2 Rev 6

Do you know what these symbols mean?



As all Trail Orienteers will know, the specification used for TrailO maps is ISSprOM. This Specification is updated regularly to improve legibility, particularly for sprint orienteering. Revision 6 was approved by the IOF Council in 2022 and was valid from February 2024. However, for IOF events, it only becomes mandatory from **January 2025**.

The two symbols on the left were new in this revision and are the two new symbols which are perhaps most likely to be seen on TrailO maps. The top one is for '*Retaining earth wall seen only from one side*' and the bottom one is for '*Area with obstacles*'.

For full details, see the Specification. Download it from the IOF page:
[Mapping: International Specifications](#)

Event Calendar



The table below lists some of the main TrailO events currently scheduled to be taking place in the future. Included in the table are all currently announced UK TrailO events and all designated World Ranking Events (**WRE**). *At the time of publishing, dates for the 2025 European Cup in TrailO (ECTO) events have not been published.*

- P = PreO; T = TempO; PSp = PreO Sprint

Date	Event	Status	Country
2025			
5-6 April	Hungarian TrailO weekend (P + T)	2 WRE	Hungary
18-19 April	JK International Festival, Sheffield <i>See box below for more details</i>		UK
1-4 May	Bukowa Cup, Puszcza Bukowa (2P + T)	3 WRE	Poland
17-18 May	FinTrailO 2025 (P + T)	2 WRE	Finland
7-8 June	Falco Cup 2025 (T + 2P + PSp)	2 WRE	Lithuania
14-15 June	Trofeo Internacional Madrid Trail-O (2P)	2 WRE	Spain
22-23 June	Idrefjällveckan (2P + T)	3 WRE	Sweden
2-3 August	Lahti TrailO (2P + T)	3 WRE	Finland
26-31 Aug	World TrailO Championships (WTOC)		Hungary / Slovakia
13-14 Sept	TuMe100 (T + P)	2 WRE	Finland
4-5 October	Norwegian TrailO Festival (2P + T)	3 WRE	Norway



JK International Festival, Sheffield

18th and 19th April 2025

- **Friday 18th April:** Crookes Valley & Weston Park - A combination of an AZ Sprint course and some TempO, subject to final confirmation.
- **Saturday 19th April:** Hesley Wood - A TrailO event will be staged using the grounds of Hesley Scout Camp, event format details to be confirmed.

For more details, including entry information, see the main JK website: <https://www.thejk.org.uk/>



For further details, look for links at: [TrailO Fixtures Calendar](#)
For the IOF Eventor listing of World Ranking Events, see: [IOF Eventor - TrailO](#)
For details of the ECTO Events, see: [European Cup in TrailO](#)

As we go to press, the IOF listing of World Ranking points had not been updated to include the most recent weekend, the Dragon Cup weekend in Poland on 9th/10th November. However the current status, as showing on the IOF site is used to provide the listing below. There have been only relatively minor changes since September although **Ben Kyd** has benefitted from his second place in the TempO competition at the Swedish PreO I Vast weekend. He will rise a bit further when his 3rd place in the Dragon Cup TempO is included - according to the TOP website, he should rise to 26th ranking place. It can also be noted that the current leader, Krystian Petersburski (POL), had an excellent result in that Dragon Cup TempO which should push his overall score up to about 6020 - averaging over 1000 in his top 6 scoring events.

Currently the listing includes scores obtained at the events linked to the World Championships held in early July 2023. With the 18 month deadline for scores, by mid-January 2025, these will have been removed from the calculation. This is likely to impact several people - a major impact will be for Ben who, having just been rising up the list, will see a significant drop back down.

All		P Class	Jun. Class	Score	Events counted in score	
25 Nov 2024	16 Sept 2024					
1	1			Krystian Petersburski (POL)	5971	6
8	6		1	Simone Frascaroli (ITA)	5877	6
18	14			John Kewley	5802	6
30	49			Ben Kyd	5717	6
50	61			Tom Dobra	5518	6
68	65			Charles Bromley Gardner	5409	6
85	74	1		Eero Hakanen	5258	6
100	104			David Jukes	5078	6
115	123			Graham Urquhart	4871	6
120	112			Wang Ki Yuan (John) (HKG)	4835	6
127	139			Ian Ditchfield	4741	6
131	124			Iain Phillips	4710	6
169	115			Michael Tsang (HKG)	4113	6
205	219	33		Colin Duckworth (P)	3608	6
207	221			Kieran Marsh	3593	5
212	207			Elizabeth Urquhart	3540	6
224	229	35		Peter Roberts (P)	3311	6
235	240			Christine Roberts	3023	6
240	349		40 (est)	Max Straube Roth (J)	1372	5
395	407			Clive Allen	998	2

For the WR scheme rules, see: [Competition Rules for Trail Orienteering](#)

For the current listing, see: [IOF World Ranking - TrailO](#)

European Cup in TrailO 2024 (ECTO)

12 events from 6 weekends contributed to ECTO in 2024:

30-31 March	Slovenia	PreO x 2
5-6 May	Finland (<i>ETOC Warmup events</i>)	PreO x 2
8-9 June	Norway	PreO x 2
7-8 September	Hungary/Slovakia (<i>PreWTOC 2025 events</i>)	PreO + TempO
21-22 September	Sweden	PreO x 2
9-10 November	Poland	TempO + PreO

A competitor's best 5 events were used to determine the final positions. At each event, the scoring system used is based on a competitor's position in the results and gives the following points:

Place	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Points	60	54	48	43	40	38	36	34	32	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21
Place	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40+
Points	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

The final results have not been published on the IOF ECTO site so the following final table uses the data provided on the Trail Open Project (TOP) site. The table shows the top 3 and those from Britain in the top 100:

	Name	Country	Points	Events (best 5 to)
1	<i>Anders Höije</i>	<i>SWE</i>	258	9
2	<i>Antti Rusanen</i>	<i>FIN</i>	226	6
3	<i>Laura Eliza Lapina</i>	<i>LAT</i>	226	10
18	Ben Kyd	GBR	155	6
21	John Kewley	GBR	150	12
34	Tom Dobra	GBR	90	6
47	Charles Bromley Gardner	GBR	58	8

The clear winner is **Anders Höije (SWE)** who had 3 wins from his 9 events as well as a 5th and a 6th place. In 2023 he came second to the 2023 winner, **Krystian Petersburski (POL)**, who this year finished in 5th place overall. As suggested in the September Newsletter, **Antti Rusanen (FIN)**, who was then in 9th position, gained good scores in the final events and finished in second place - he was 16th in 2023. With two wins at ECTO events, he just finished ahead of **Laura Lapina (LAT)** who had the same total score but who had only a single win. The ECTO rules use this criterion to separate people with the same total score. Laura was 13th in 2023.

At the time of the September Newsletter, **John Kewley** was the leading GBR competitor but it was suggested that the one to watch was **Ben Kyd** who had, then, only competed in two events. Ben attended both the Swedish and Polish weekends giving him 6 scores including a third place in the Polish TempO event. His total score enabled him to edge above John who managed some good scores in Sweden but not quite enough to beat off the challenge from Ben. In 2023, John was the only competitor to attend all 10 ECTO events. Although John attended all 12 this year, several other competitors also achieved this with **Martin Fredholm (SWE)** being the best placed in 19th position - just above John.

*For more details, see the IOF page:
[European Cup in TrailO \(ECTO\)](#)*

British TrailO League 2024 (BritOL)

There were 4 TrailO events here in the UK during 2024 and all of them contributed to the British TrailO League (BritOL). The 4 events were:

- 29th March - PreO at the JK event on Good Friday - Loughborough University
- 12th October - BTOC PreO - Burnham Beeches
- 13th October - BTOC Temp O - Whiteknights Park, University of Reading
- 13th October - PreO Sprint - Whiteknights Park, University of Reading

Scores are allocated based on a competitor's position in the event with the scores being derived from this table:

Place	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11+
Points	100	96	93	91	90	89	88	87	86	85	..etc..

Based on the results in these 4 events, a competitor's best 3 scores were used to determine the final placings. The table gives the top 20 in the final rankings:

	Name		Club	Races	Score	Tie break	1	2	3	4
1	Ben Kyd	M21	MDOC	4	300	0	100	100	100	91
2	John Kewley	M60	MDOC	4	287	0	85.5	96	91	100
3	Anne Straube	W45	OD	4	275	0	89	93	79	93
4	River Edis-Smith	M21	SYO	3	272	0	91		96	85
5	Tom Dobra	M21	TVOC	3	263	0	88		93	82
6	Wang Ki Yuen	M40	MDOC	4	262.5	0	90	84	88.5	83
7	Ian Ditchfield	M65	MV	4	261	0	83	89	84	88
8	Colin Palmer	M40	TVOC	3	260	0		86	87	87
9	Michael Tsang	M21	SLOW	4	259	0	73	77	86	96
10	Iain Phillips	M55	LEI	3	254	0		82	82	90
11	Peter Dobra	M21	SAX	3	253	0		91	85	77
12	Peter Huzan	M60	SLOW	3	252	0		87	90	75
13	Robin Bishop	M55	TVOC	4	249	0	74	85	75	89
14	James Curtis	M16	SO	3	242.5	0		78	88.5	76
15	Graham Urquhart	M70	OD	3	239	0		81	77	81
16	Alan Hickling	M60	SAX	3	235	0	66		83	86
17	Christine Roberts	W75	EBOR	4	231	0	72	83	76	62
17	Peter Hornsby	M70	LEI	3	231	0		75	72	84
17	Nicola Elder	W40	TVOC	3	231	0		73	78	80
20	Max Straube-Roth	M16	OD	4	229	2	65	70	81	78
20	Colin Duckworth (P)	M65	TVOC	4	229	-2	75	67	80	74

With the results from the BTOC Weekend being fed directly into TOP and with **Tom Dobra** (the League Organiser) uploading the results, he was able to announce the final standings in time for a presentation at the end of the Weekend.

Congratulations to the top three:

- 1st **Ben Kyd** (*centre*)
- 2nd **John Kewley** (*left*)
- 3rd **Anne Straube** (*right*)



For more details of the BritOL, see:
[British TrailO League](#)



On-Line TempO Update

The 2024 Hungarian TORUS TempO Trophy series is nearing the end. There have now been 10 of the 12 monthly events and, with a competitor's best 9 scores from all 12 events to count, the leaders are becoming clearer.

In the table in the last Newsletter (based on all 8 events completed at that time), **Ben Kyd** was shown as being in 16th position mainly as he had missed an event. He has however now completed 9 events so has a full set for the new total score. With a second and a ninth place in the last two events, he now sits at the top of the table. Both **Ralph Korner** (in 2nd) and **Simone Frascaroli** (in 3rd) have competed in all 10 events so are already discarding their poorest scoring event. With a more consistent performance, Ben has a good chance of taking the Trophy - something he did in 2022 but not last year (when he was third).

Included in the table are the two Hong Kong nationals currently living here in the UK. **Wangki Yuen** (John) has slipped down the table since the last Newsletter - from 21st to 38th. This however includes one weaker performance which could, if he does well in the remaining events, enable him to bounce back up again.

MDOC continues to head the club table based on a club's top 3 results in each event. There appears to be a good gap between them and the second and third placed clubs. Continued good results from **Ben Kyd**, **Samuel Drinkwater** and **John Kewley** should certainly secure MDOC the top club spot.

Top 10 GBR (based on total scores from best 9 events)			
1	Ben Kyd	MDOC	879.84
2	Ralph Körner	GER	862.63
3	Simone Frascaroli	ITA	860.37
7	Samuel Drinkwater	MDOC	832.63
19	Robert Finch	NGOC	798.55
26	John Kewley	MDOC	779.65
38	Wangki Yuen (John) (HKG)	MDOC	760.25
39	Tom Dobra	TVOC	759.97
78	Michael Chun Chi Tsang (HKG)	SLOW	698.75
87	Colin Duckworth	TVOC	691.67
96	Ricardo Telmo Fernandes	HALO	679.86
121	Ian Ditchfield	MV	648.44
159	Jane Lambert	SO	603.72
178	James Curtis	SO	585.75

Club		Score	
1	MDOC	GBR	2489
2	OLV Landshut	GER	2369
3	Matfyz Praha	CZE	2344
13	Bristol OK	GBR	2024
17	Southdowns Orienteers	GBR	1889

If you haven't yet found the **TORUS** website, take a look at: <http://torus.yq.cz/>

Entry is free but you do need to register first. The next event is Wednesday 27th November. There may also be a **TORUS Christmas Cup** competition staged during December - check for details.



An example problem set during the October event.



Know your fellow TrailO Competitors : Peter and Christine Roberts

Time to get some background information from one or other of the Roberts - but should it be Peter or Christine? Peter has been a member of the GBR P Class team for several years but Christine, as well as supporting Peter, has also been a keen TrailO participant. The solution to this difficult question was to ask them both. Peter took the lead with some detailed responses but Christine has added a few additional personal thoughts. My thanks to both of them.

Peter Roberts

Age/Class? 76

Family circumstances? Married to Christine over 50 years, no dependents.

Hometown / Current location? Born in Acomb, York. Lived in various villages around York.

Employment? Sort of retired.

Clubs? Eborienteers (EBOR)

How did you start orienteering and/or TrailO? I started orienteering in my twenties and TrailO in the Lake District in 2003 where I was the only one to get the first control wrong because I did not understand the control description. My wife then gave me a lesson in what to do. I won the next event at Shugborough Hall, probably in 2010, and the rest is history. In the early stages of TrailO I was walking round and I could use map reading to solve the answers.

Can you comment what makes you 'P Class'? Just let me say that I have been Blue Badge qualified for some time and they are very strict in their assessment - definitely a wheel-chair user.

Best achievement/success? I have had success over the years but my best success was in the relay team at the World Champs when they sent me out on the first leg to stop me worrying. I did not do that well in the PreO although one of the sites I got wrong was voided but, after a lengthy wait to do the TempO, I got one wrong on the first one but did it very fast. This saved my score and we managed to get 6th place. The next year I did better in the relay and I think I was 3rd on the first leg.

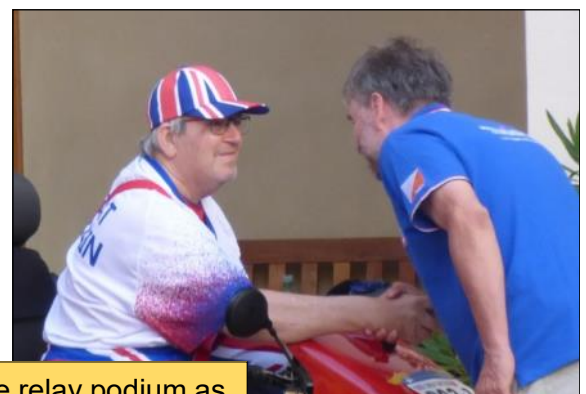
Most enjoyed event? There have been a number that I have enjoyed - particularly those that require accurate map reading.

Worst event/most embarrassing TrailO moment? I am sorry to say that the most recent event at Burnham Beeches was horrible for me. The visibility for me was impossible. I could not see the shape of the land through the greenery. These minor shapes did not register with me. I could not see all the kites. In fact, when I did get one right, it was voided.

Favourite area and/or terrain? Why? In the early days of the sport I really enjoyed Alan Gartside's events in Ireland and Brian Parker's sand dune events in Devon.

International experience/selection? I have competed abroad quite a lot in the GBR P Class team. I have not been to many other events abroad because of the travel difficulties although now I have bought a lightweight electric wheelchair that can be taken on aeroplanes. I have also had experience with this on railways, buses and the Tube!! However, it has limited use on rough tracks.

What have you put back into the sport? I got attracted into the sport because of the map making by my father Vic and brother Steve. I joined the then BOF map group and eventually became Chairman for a cool 9 years. I used to run a mapping conference and was famous for giving a presentation at High Dam saying computers would not catch on. Within a month I had my own system. I learnt a lot from Robin Harvey at that time. I have been making maps for 50 years but now my surveying is limited to where I can get my scooter. I really enjoy surveying and, no matter where I go, I am looking at the contour shapes. I have done an awful lot of planning and mapping - probably too much and, with Christine, we are planning a regional event in December. Luckily I am not doing the map. I am also in the process of arranging a series of TrailO events in Yorkshire, probably for 2025.



What training do you do? The only map training I do is the mapping, both survey and cartography.

Do you compete in the on-line TrailO? No. I have tried it but do not like it.

What is the best thing about TrailO? I am still using maps.

What is the worst thing about TrailO? Being on a wheelchair.

TrailO ambition? To keep going whilst I can.

Other activities/interests? Music, maps

What have you done that no one else is likely to/will have done?

Several things here. I was a Queen Scout on the guard of honour in London. Went rallying and was mostly the navigator with several drivers. One of my early ones was in this souped up mini where we went through a wall into what I thought was a ravine then between us had to get back on the road. Would you believe it, we then got stopped by the police for having a non-roadworthy car. What a cheek. Finally, the trip to Iceland was interesting.

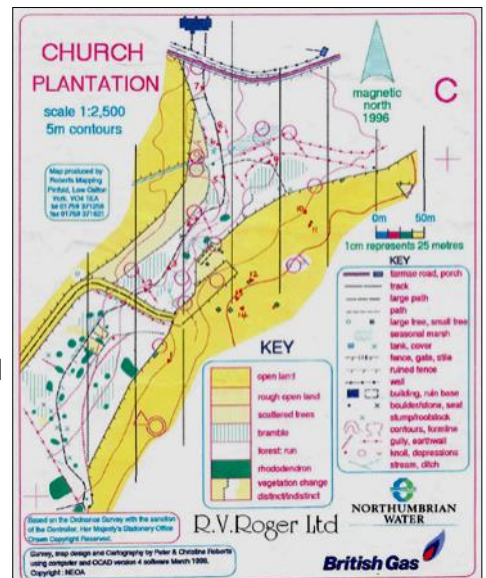
Favourite music/book/film, etc? I really like live video performances of Metallica, Nightwish, Pink Floyd and, in particular, David Gilmour. In my twenties I would go to the Isle of Wight music festival before I met Christine. For books, I am rather hooked on Jeremy Clarkson. Not a cinema goer but follow Tom Cruise, James Bond and Jason Statham on DVD. I am very lucky to have an understanding wife.



Christine Roberts at this year's ETOC event

Christine Roberts (W75, EBOR)

My TrailO Journey: I was drawn into trail orienteering at an early stage by EBOR club members Michel Johnson and Ann Smith. Presumably Anne Braggins had presented her vision to them at some stage. We produced a lot of school/park maps for Michel and he asked us to do a TrailO map so that a demonstration event could be offered at a Major event. The event was at Mulgrave Castle (venue for the 2024 BOC). The map was Church Plantation, a strip of woodland along the uphill side of this year's car park.



Later, Anne B and Ann S organised a conference in YHOA where I did a presentation about the different requirements of a TrailO map. At this time I didn't have any practical experience of an actual competition. One of my first experiences was at a JK weekend at Perran Sands in Spring 1997 when the Hale-Bopp comet shone brightly in the night sky. I did a taster event at the Magilligan BOC in Northern Ireland in 2002 which I felt duty bound to enter to show support and returned to the area in 2008 for the Irish Championships. I tried to compete when TrailO was offered alongside foot events but not otherwise until Peter was involved.

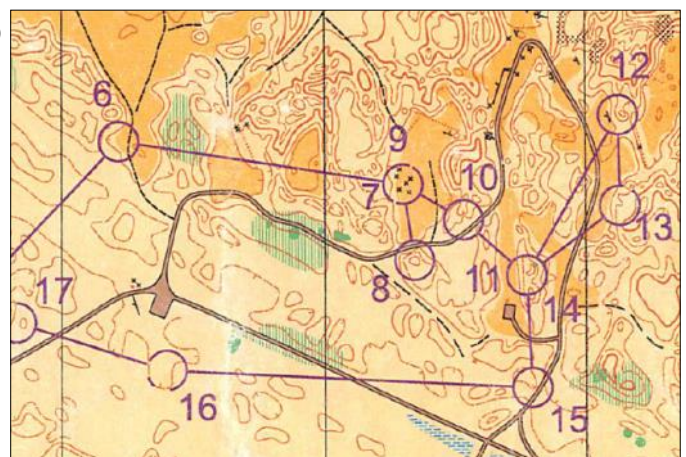
I have done quite a few International events as an 'accompanying person'. I do online TempO but I know I dither over decisions and I do not have a slick system for recording choices.

I enjoy textile crafts, have a spinning wheel and belong to York & District Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers.

Whilst on a camping tour in Iceland I went skinny dipping in the hot springs – nature's jacuzzi.

En garde! I did fencing in 6th form; even went to some competitions.

I mostly enjoy lively classical music or brass bands. I don't like anything discordant. I'm not a film buff.



TrailO maps mentioned by Christine:
Top - Church Plantation in North Yorkshire, as used for an event in about 1996.
Below - Extract from map of Magilligan/Ballymaclary, Londonderry, NI, as used at the Irish TrailO Champs 2008

From the Archives: September 1995

In the Final Details for the British Autumn TrailO Weekend, I (**David Jukes**) stated that there had been no previous TrailO event at Burnham Beeches. I was wrong! During discussions with **Ronan** and **Julie Cleary** as we sheltered from the rain, they commented that they had attended an event there previously - perhaps 20 years ago. Subsequently they were kind enough to search through their orienteering files and found the map, the results and some 'Planner's Notes'. I thought it would be interesting for people to see some details of what must have been one of the first International TrailO competitions - a 'European Union Championship'.

The 'Trail-O Championship Weekend' was staged on the weekend of 2/3 September 1995. On the Saturday there was a PreO event at Windsor Great Park followed, on the Sunday, by one at Burnham Beeches.

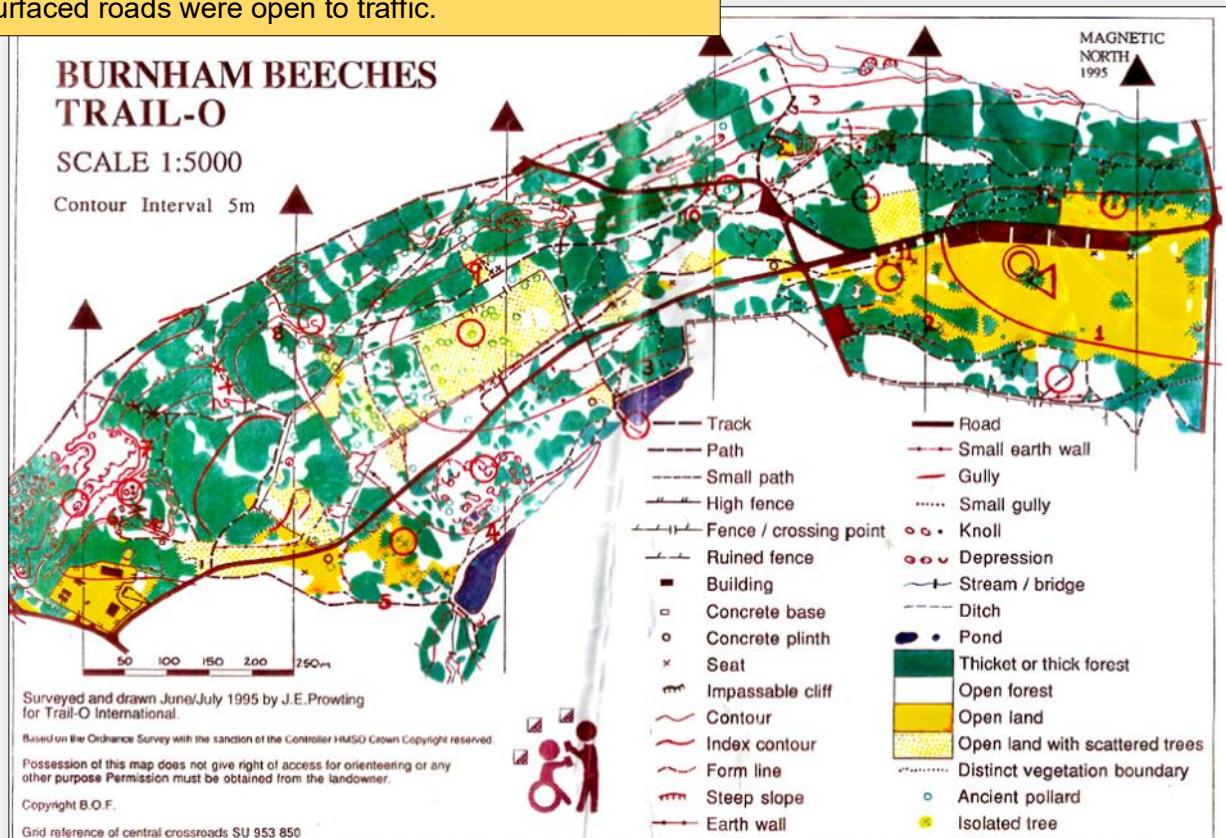
Although it is not usual for people not directly connected with the organisation to write anything in the results I feel very strongly that I volunteered a large number of recruits to ensure that the Festival of Trail O was a success and would like to make a public thank you. There is a lot of work involved and when learning the new techniques at the same time the actual commitment was probably more than anticipated.

I would like to add the thanks of the competitors many of whom expressed their total enjoyment of the weekend. The scenery and views of Windsor Castle will stick in the minds of our Belgian and Swedish visitors as being unique.

Anne Braggins - Chairman IOF Trail O Committee

From the Results Booklet. Many people will not be surprised to see that **Anne Braggins** was involved. I suspect that her comment that she 'volunteered a large number of recruits' will seem familiar to those who knew her.

The 1995 TrailO map of Burnham Beeches. Competitors were provided with a colour photocopy. Much of this map is common with the 2024 map although in 1995 the event was based on the flatter land to the south of the valley rather than in the valley itself. Note also that in 1995, unlike now, the surfaced roads were open to traffic.

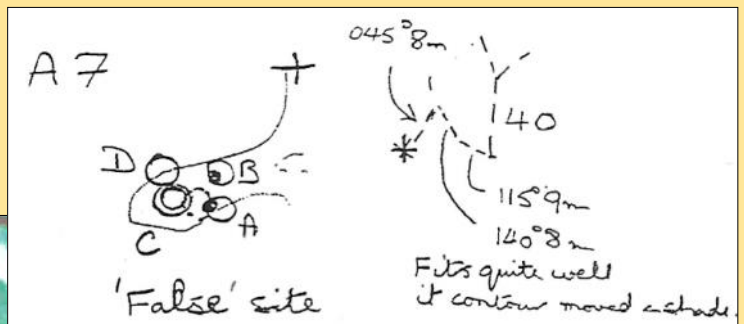
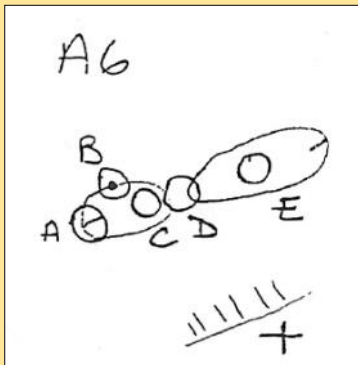


Planner's Comments (taken from the results booklet) by David Thomas

"What does the customer want?" This thought went through my head many times. Was I making that site too hard, too easy? Was I missing a better way? Often I felt that I needed a competitor's view. I'm now convinced that planning for TrailO, certainly for A and B courses, must be done by a real competitor with a helper to do the leg work. I also found out how long it takes to set out the control groups, You may not have realised that I was only just ahead of the earlier C course competitors on Saturday!

"All events have their moments. Ours came at 8am on Sunday morning at the entrance to Burnham Beeches. The Rangers vehicle was full of "illegal" kites, the ones we had so carefully positioned in the gloom on Saturday evening. Land permission confusions resolved, super help from orienteering friends meant that you, the competitor, didn't suffer any delay."

David Jukes adds: This comment about the Rangers had a parallel in this year's event. Planner Tom Dobra started staking out kite sites in June using some bright orange plastic tent pegs. In August, I was contacted by the Chief Ranger concerned that they had found a few of these and collected them. They were surprised that we had placed them out so long ahead of the event. Luckily they had only found and collected about 5 of the 75 that Tom had used! The matter was resolved.



Planner's Notes

In addition to the map and results, the Cleary's had a copy of these notes, apparently since they repeated the event the following weekend as a London OK Club Championship. What was not initially clear from the 1995 map is exactly where competitors were supposed to walk. The 'planner's notes' however have the viewing point marked with a '+' which makes it clearer. And it appears that the position of the number on the map indicates the expected viewing point.

Controller's Comments (also from the results) by Colin Duckworth

"Most of the organising team for this event, including myself, were new to TrailO and had to learn many new skills and concepts in a fairly short period of time. Occasionally this lack of experience showed but I do believe this affected the competition.

"David put in a considerable amount of work in planning challenging an interesting courses and made my job fairly straightforward. Kay's efficient organisation ensured that there were sufficient helpers for all aspects of the event to run smoothly. Jim Prowling produced two maps for the event in a very short period of time, one of them from scratch.

"The only significant decision I had to make during the event was to void Control 8 on the A course at Burnham Beeches. During the day more than one of the flags, including the correct one, were

Based on the results over the two days, the following were the leaders:

British Championship 1995

- 1st Sue Harvey
- 2nd Karen Darke
- 3rd Sue King

European Union Championship

- 1st Jacques Eloy (Belgium)
- 2nd Sue Harvey (Great Britain)
- 3rd Karen Darke (Great Britain)

moved by children on mountain bikes. Although they were quickly replaced, I could not be certain that every competitor had the same view of the control site. Fortunately, the nature of TrailO means that this one control could be disregarded without invalidating the whole course."

*Looking back on this event, **Colin Duckworth** has provided this additional background:*

In 1995 I lived in Saffron Walden in Essex and was a member of WAOC as was Anne Braggins (affectionately known as "Mrs B"). In early 1995, I qualified as a Management Accountant and was offered a new job within the company, but based in Maidenhead. For nearly a year I was travelling to Maidenhead on a Monday morning and returning on Friday evening. When Anne found out she immediately asked if I would control the European Trail O championships in Windsor Great Park and Burnham Beeches.

I don't recall the exact conversation but it went something like:

- **Anne:** As you are now working in Berkshire, would you be willing to control the European Trail O championships?
- **Me:** I don't know anything about Trail O.
- **Anne:** That doesn't matter. You are a Grade 2 controller as is planner David Thomas. You just need to check that the map is accurate at the control sites and that David puts the flags in the right places. And besides, it will give you something to do in the evenings in Maidenhead.
- **Me:** OK then.

And so I was appointed controller.

20 years later in 2015, I took part in my third ever event and my first as a competitor.

I recall very little about the event except that it coincided with my parents' 40th wedding anniversary and I had to make a mad dash from Windsor to Malvern for a celebratory dinner before returning for the event at Burnham Beeches.

It is clear from my performance at Burnham Beeches in BTOC 2024 that my prior knowledge of the area did not give me any advantage!

David Jukes adds: Another similarity with this year's event as one kite was dislodged and fell out of site from competitors. This led to a detailed discussion (*see the report on the event - page 19*) and ultimately the control was voided for both the E and A course.

Next Newsletter

It is expected that the next issue will appear in April 2025. All contributions are welcome!

All material should be submitted by early April but earlier submissions would be appreciated.



British Trail Orienteering Facebook Page

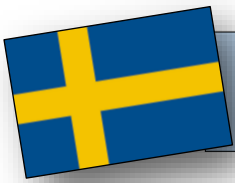
Remember to 'like' or 'follow' the **British Trail Orienteering** Facebook page. It is the best place to be kept informed of news and updates relating to British TrailO activities.

Newsletter Distribution

This Newsletter can be downloaded from the British TrailO website and an announcement is made on the Facebook page and to the international 'Bearing towards the C-Flag' Facebook group.

However, if you sign up to a dedicated distribution list, you can also have a pdf copy delivered direct to your email inbox on publication. To have your name added to the list, you can complete and submit a simple Google Form. The list is only used for distributing pdf copies of the Newsletter on publication. Please use the form so that you are ready for the next issue.

[Google Form Link](#)



PreO i Väst / Nordic Match, Goteborg, Sweden 20 - 22 September 2024

The Nordic match is probably the most prestigious TrailO event outside of the Major Championships. The 4 Nordic nations take it in turn to host the event and are each allowed to pick two 5-person teams to compete for the Nordic Match Team Trophy, additional Nordic teams, those from other nations or mixed teams still get classified but can't win the team trophy. This year the event was in Sweden and comprised three World Ranking Events (the 2 PreO of which were part of ECTO). These events were part of the annual PreO i Väst (PreO in the West) weekend which additionally included a Night PreO Sprint and a daytime PreO Sprint as accompanying events, and an overall competition for the 5 events.

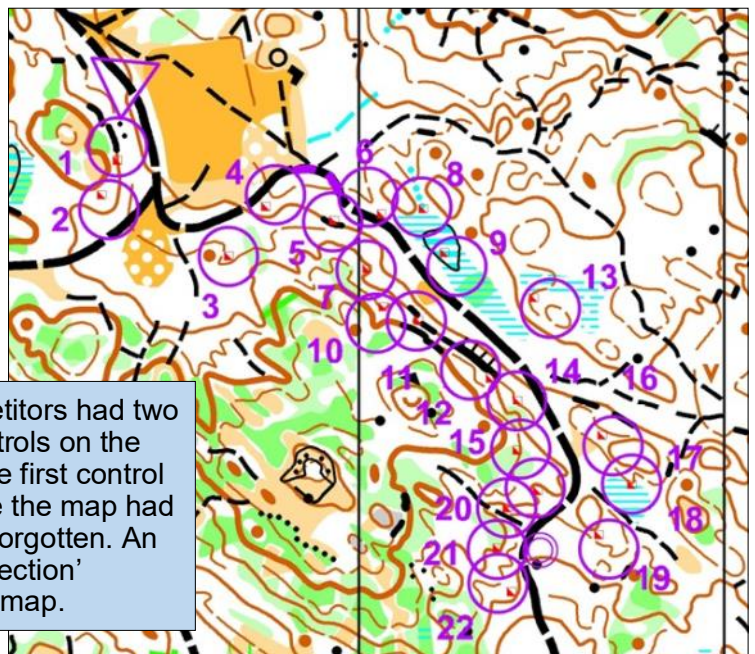
12 athletes travelled from the UK (representing GBR, GER and HKG) and so we split into 3 Nordic Match teams. **John Kewley** (MDOC), **Tom Dobra** (TVOC), **Ben Kyd** (MDOC), **Charles Bromley Gardner** (BAOC) and **David Jukes** (BKO) became GBR A; **Iain Philips** (LEI), **Graham Urquhart** (OD), **Liz Urquhart** (OD) joined **John Wang Ki Juen** (MDOC) and **Michael Tsang** (SLOW) for GBR 1; and **Max Straube-Roth** (OD) joined **Anne Straube** (OD) in team Germany.

Night PreO Sprint – Swedish-style

Liz Urquhart

Before this year's Nordic Cup weekend in Goteburg, my only previous experience of a Night PreO Sprint had ended in ignominious failure, retiring frozen (it was a Finnish May evening) with barely a control to my name. So why did I let myself be persuaded to enter the Night PreO Sprint that was the first event of this year's Nordic Cup? I suppose I thought it was worth another try - given that the weather was warmer- before determining never to do such a thing again... So as night fell, I found myself following the rest of the GB competitors up what seemed like an endless flight of steps leading up to the wooded rocky ridge where the event was taking place.

A Night PreO Sprint is a strange experience. It is in many ways just the same as a daytime PreO Sprint (lots of controls in a short distance and under time pressure) except that it is after dark, so there are some necessary modifications. Control kites have reflective strips attached so that, with luck, a well-aimed hand-torch and/or head-torch can find the kites (and possibly the features they are on). Therefore, the kites tend to be on features within average torch-range - and possibly the problems are slightly "simpler." Competitor equipment disparity is also noticeable - some, particularly regular competitors, invest in head-torches that are more like car headlights. These create an interesting chiaroscuro effect, with dazzling light pools making the surrounding darkness blacker. The art is to position yourself so that you get the benefit of somebody else's light long enough to pick out both kites and features without being blinded! So, although my own torch management was not brilliant, I was enabled to spot all the controls and get some right - and almost within the time limit. And without getting frostbite!



The Night PreO Sprint solutions map. The competitors had two copies of the map on an A4 sheet with some controls on the second copy. This was confusing for some as the first control on the second copy was control 6 - by which time the map had been folded and the presence of a second copy forgotten. An added complication was a very short 'timed out section' between controls 4 and 5 - the purple line on the map.

Results show the winner plus top 5 competitors who had travelled from GB.
For full results, see: <https://preoresultat.se/>

Night PreO Sprint: 22 A/Z controls, 270m, 30 mins / 35 mins P Class

PreO Night Sprint	Name	Pts	Time (m:s)
1	Jo Inge Fjellstad (NOR)	20	20:36
5	Ben Kyd	19	16:33
14	Anne Straube	18	24:44
24	Charles Bromley Gardner	17	27:35
37	Michael Chun Chi Tsang	16	28:09
40	John Kewley	16	28:46

PreO 1

John Kewley

ISOM maps are often used in Sweden for PreO so we were using a 1:7.5k / 5m contours map that had been blown up to 1:4k (except for the course setting symbols). The course was in two sections of 10 and 20 controls preceded by a 3 problem time control.

After knowing I'd made a mess of the time controls (2 out of 3 wrong) I wasn't in the best frame of mind for the first section (which was immediately afterwards so no time to get my brain back in gear) so decided to take extra care early on and ended up taking a lot of extra time over the first section, especially at controls 4, 6, 8 and 10. Since many others got 4 and/or 6 wrong, I was probably wise spending some extra time here even though I still missed both 8 and 10.

Having used 54 mins for the first part I was left with 65 mins for the remaining 2/3 of the course, but I didn't panic and found the first ones fairly straightforward (maybe not over-thinking as I didn't have time to do so) and felt I was now "into the map" and I reached control 30 with 6 mins left. I used most of that time and punched with only 40s to spare, but this control was my only mistake in the second half. I am therefore happy that in retrospect I probably used my time about as efficiently as I could.

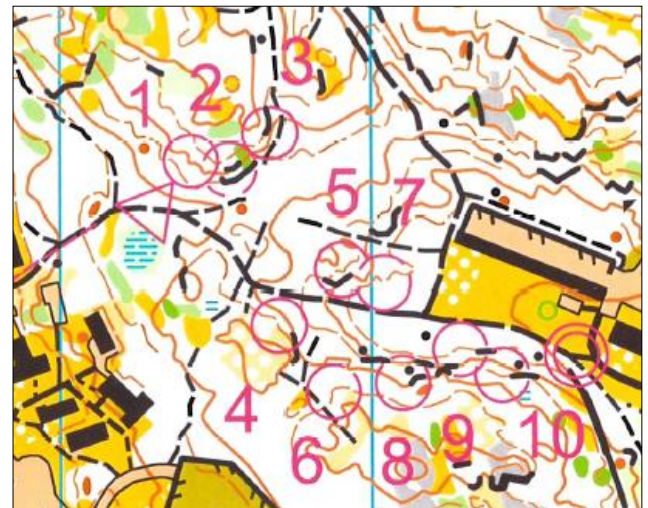
At first glance the final control seemed to be a bit "old school" (where the Planner plays with the rules rather than the modern approach of straightforward map reading): one of the kites was at the foot of the circled crag and one at a fault part way up it and I was torn between the kite that was at the foot (since unless it says "top", all crag kites in TrailO are at the foot) or the one where the crag shape looked a bit more like what was mapped. On reflection, I should have looked more carefully and realised that the lower one was on an unmapped bit of crag and being too close to the (lower, but mapped) crag nearer the viewing point it couldn't be part of the mapped crag and where the kite was didn't really constitute a "corner" unlike the position on the upper part of the crag.

PreO 2

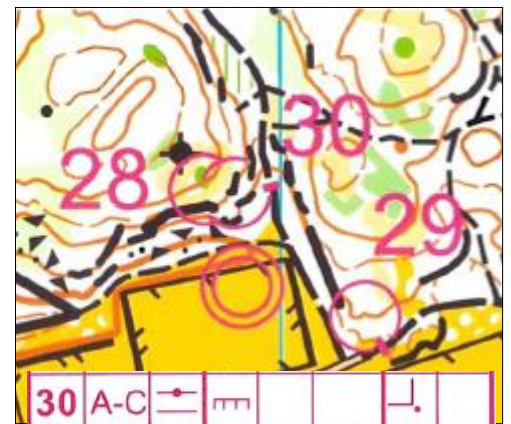
John Kewley

The second day of PreO was in Slottsskogen "Castle Wood", the ISSprOM map was upscaled from 1:4k to 1:3k with a 2.5m contour interval. Unlike the preceding PreO Sprint I hadn't been in this section of the woods before (on a previous trip, I'd had a look round the Zoo).

The course was 27 controls with a single Time Control, this time with 4 problems. I reminded myself that I had to get them all correct this time



PreO 1 - Map extracts



PreO 1 (WRE): 30 controls, 950m, 119 mins, 1 TC with 3 tasks

PreO 1	Name	Pts	Time (sec)
1	Maciej Urbaniak (POL)	30	108
4	Anne Straube	29	117
17	John Kewley	27	144
39	Charles Bromley Gardner	24	20
47	David Jukes	24	158
78	Tom Dobra	20	20

and was pleased with my 25s and top GBR, although a handful were under 20s with all correct.

As is normal at the Nordic Match there was a large field and the recommendations in the WRE rules for fields of larger than 50 were not followed (so no splitting into groups of 30 according to WRL), in fact the competitors from the Nordic Teams were placed at the end of the start draw, with other countries earlier (this doesn't seem to conform to rule 12.6, but then again we've often seen start lists not followed at WREs in recent years). Since it was a very sunny day this meant that light conditions in the forest varied considerably, and the luck of the draw meant that some sections would have been easier or harder for some.

Early controls

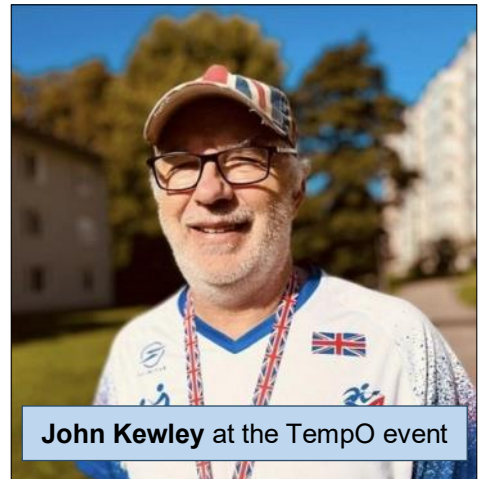
Like many competitors I spent a lot of time at the first cluster of kites. It took me some time to convince myself that the kite for 1 was too low, but although I couldn't see what was going on at 2 - usually a sign that the kite isn't where it should be but ignored the fact that nothing made sense – definitely a learning point.

Control 15 cost people a lot of time and was a coin-toss for many. We were looking approx. SE across a bright sunny field although there was no evidence that looking SE into the sun made much difference than later when the sun was more SW. The usual strategy for long distance controls is that if you can't find a strong reason to Zero it then you accept the kite and I suspect many did this. For me, I struggled to see any evidence of the shape in the circle, but it did seem to be on a bit of a spur; it looked a bit too far to the right to me and I couldn't see evidence of the track junctions below of the rocky bits to the left. I then used an accurate bearing from the end of the long thicket further down the track and it looked a fair bit off so I trusted the compass. Others solved it by going even further down the path to the decision point for 17 where you could see some of those rock features to work out it was in the wrong place, or going back up to the T-junction for the decision points for 9 and 10 and notice that the kite was a lot further away than it should have been.

The final section (23-27, see map) had some tricky problems, especially for those short on time. 23 seemed clear to me so I rushed the answer, but I was the only one in top 30 to get it wrong. As I can only recall 3 kites I'm guessing I failed to see the Alpha kite when solving (and the A-D on the control description).

For 25 (which several GBR missed), I had the advantage of my gut instinct being "it is too close to the col in front"; having the correct gut instinct for a Z makes it a lot easier to prove as your mind-set is not "that kite looks about right, I'll try and make things fit".

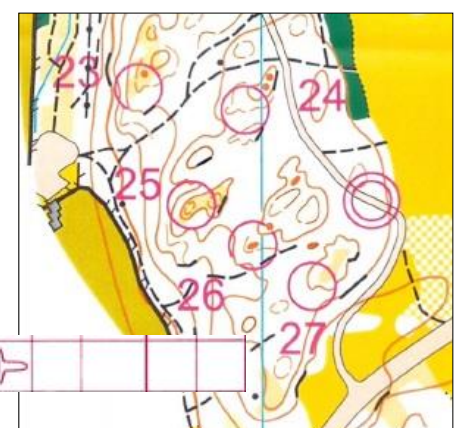
Top 5 made only 1 mistake each and the first 4 had different mistakes (1, 4, 15, 25). This is usually indicative of a good course with difficulty spread around the course.



John Kewley at the TempO event



PreO 2 - Map extracts



PreO 2	Name	Pts	Time (sec)
1	Geir Myhr Øien (NOR)	26	13
14	John Kewley	24	25
26	Tom Dobra	23	30
30	Anne Straube	23	44
39	Ben Kyd	22	79
44	Charles Bromley Gardner	21	26

PreO 2 (WRE): 27 controls, 650m, 100 mins (Elite) / 120 mins (P Class) / 1 TC with 4 tasks

TempO *Ben Kyd*

The course had a good variety of stations, ranging from standard urban-style stations around walls and park-like areas to patches of rocky forest with a fair bit of contour. This meant that varying your answering speed to match the difficulty of the stations was key here, as some of the tasks in the tougher areas needed more thought to solve. Overall it was an enjoyable event, and I was happy to secure second place with only a couple of mistakes, something that I was a long way off doing at the other events that weekend!

TempO (WRE): 7 stations x 5 tasks

Temp O	Name	Time (s)	Pen (s)	Total
1	Laura Eliza Lapina (LAT)	220.5	0	220.5
2	Ben Kyd	174.5	60	234.5
21	Tom Dobra	270.5	90	360.5
23	Charles Bromley Gardner	282	80	372
24	John Kewley	224	150	374
26	Wang Ki Yuen	217.5	180	397.5

An Example from the TempO - Station 5

An apparently straight-forward Station but with several possible errors to catch those being too quick. For the first control, you had to work out which small trees/thickets had kites on them (A, C and D). For the second, there was a kite in the right direction (F) but it was just too close. This was immediately followed by the correct control for F. Then back to the small trees/thickets for Control 4 before finishing with a clever deception. The 'large' green X was in reality quite a small tree stump hidden behind another large tree. If you had noticed it before sitting down, leaving it until Control 5 meant that it had probably been forgotten!



5.1	A-F	↑	⊗			○	C
5.2	A-F		▷			○	Z
5.3	A-F		▷			○	F
5.4	A-F	↑	⊗			○	A
5.5	A-F		⊗			○	Z

Overall Results

John Kewley

There are many ways to combine points overall and the way things were done here was that for the Nordic Match competitions your TempO time was added to a time for your two PreO events with 100s x (number of course mistakes + the ratio of TC performance / max TC). For example day 1 had 4 TC problems so my performance of 3 mistakes and 144s (out of 270s – 90s max time and 3x 60s for all wrong) gave me a score of 100 x (3 + 144/270) = 353.3. For the Nordic Match Team then your team's 5 scores were added.

For the PreO i Väst Overall, the above calculations were augmented with one for the two Sprints with 50s x (number of mistakes + ratio of course time/ max time). Since it was now best 3 from 5 it was time behind the winner in each competition that was used rather than actual. This was all quite complicated and they didn't have final results on the day, but the formula seemed to favour the PreO Sprint events rather than the WREs so those who did well at those did better in this classification – I've been told this will change for next year!

PreO Sprint	Name	Pts	Time (m:s)
1	Geir Myhr Øien (NOR)	20	18:30
8	Tom Dobra	19	20:26
36	John Kewley	17	18:57
46	Wangki Yuen	17	24:07
49	Anne Straube	17	24:36
53	David Jukes	17	25:29

Nordic Match: Individuals		Time behind winner (s)
1	Maciej Urbaniak (POL)	0
13	Anne Straube	371
14	John Kewley	376
31	Charles Bromley Gardner	928
41	Tom Dobra	1118
49	Ben Kyd	1227

Nordic Match: Teams	
1	FIN 1
2	SWE 1
3	FIN 2
6	GBR A (4th Nation)
13	GBR 1

PreO i Väst: Overall (best 3 of 5 events)		Total time (s)
1	Laura Eliza Lapina (POL)	0
14	Ben Kyd	307
17	Anne Straube	371
25	Tom Dobra	498
27	John Kewley	508
28	Charles Bromley Gardner	514



BTOC PreO Event - Burnham Beeches

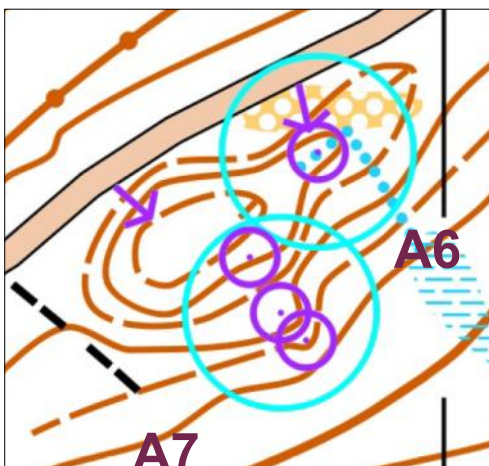
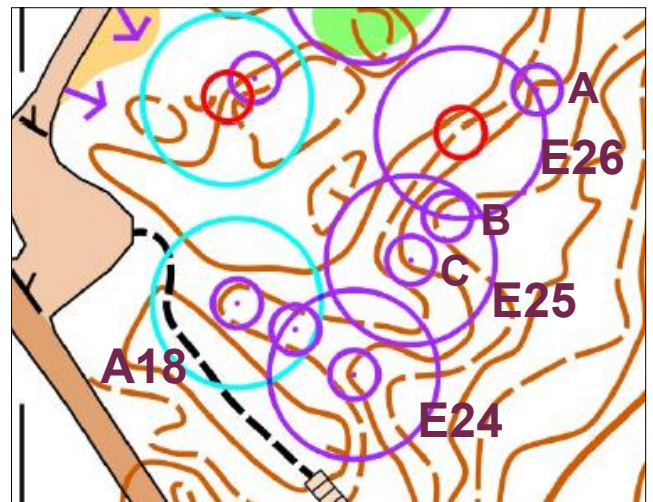
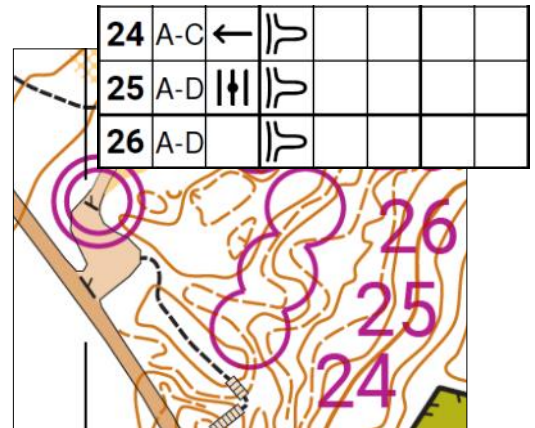
PreO Planner's Musings - Tom Dobra

One of the most unusual things about planning this year's BTOC PreO is that I never saw my courses in low light until competition day. Usually it's the Sun coming out that suddenly makes a few controls much harder than anticipated. Kudos to David for arranging a deluge to coincide with the start window. The net result was that the visibility was not as good as I would have liked for some of the longer-range controls. Nonetheless, the top of the field was dominated by familiar names, so there can't have been too much luck involved.

Control 26 was the most poorly answered control on the elite course, despite being the largest zero and by quite some margin at 12m. I had very generously provided the B flag at the 25-26 cluster to show the top of the large spur among reasonably high underground. Once you've locked in the B kite, the A kite is then too high and too far to the left. Moreover, I find it surprising that B was more popular than the correct C for 25 – it was primarily there to help, not to be a decoy!

As far as I can tell, there are few technical guidelines for the A course. Having run it past David, I opted for a rule that has been used in a few other recent competitions: all controls are either A-Z or one kite is guaranteed to be correct if a multi-kite cluster. I feel this creates a mixture of easier and harder tasks, thereby ensuring the A course is worthwhile and full of map reading (as TrailO should be). All done without overwhelming those who are less pedantic with questions like whether the best kite is at exactly the right position along a re-entrant or spur – see #7 and #18. Easier areas may warrant a different planning guideline. I'd be interested to hear what A class competitors thought of my course. Letters to the editor please.

Returning to the elite, it's no great surprise to me that control 5 was the best answered on the course with 19



A Course, Controls 6 and 7
Control 6 was an A/Z problem. Control 7 was a cluster with 3 controls up a re-entrant; in this case, Zero was not an option. For Control 18, also mentioned by Tom, see the other map (above, right)

Burnham Beeches
scale 1:4000 Victoria Drive
contours 2m

British Orienteering

Time limit: 93 minutes

BTOC PreO 2024		E		0.5 km	
1	A-E	⌈	⌈	⌈	⌈
2	A	⌈	⌈	⌈	⌈
3	A	→	⌈	⌈	⌈
4	A-B	⌈	⌈	⌈	⌈
5	A-C	⌈	⌈	⌈	⌈
6	A-B	⌈	⌈	⌈	⌈
7	A-B	⌈	⌈	⌈	⌈
8	A	⌈	⌈	⌈	⌈
9	A-E	⌈	⌈	⌈	⌈
10	A-E	⌈	⌈	⌈	⌈
11	A	⌈	⌈	⌈	⌈
12	A	⌈	⌈	⌈	⌈
13	A	⌈	⌈	⌈	⌈
14	A-B	⌈	⌈	⌈	⌈
15	A	⌈	⌈	⌈	⌈
16	A-C	⌈	⌈	⌈	⌈
17	A	⌈	⌈	⌈	⌈
18	A-D	⌈	⌈	⌈	⌈
19	A-C	⌈	⌈	⌈	⌈
20	A-D	⌈	⌈	⌈	⌈
21	A	⌈	⌈	⌈	⌈
22	A	⌈	⌈	⌈	⌈
23	A-B	⌈	⌈	⌈	⌈
24	A-C	⌈	⌈	⌈	⌈
25	A-C	⌈	⌈	⌈	⌈
26	A-C	⌈	⌈	⌈	⌈

Planner: Tom Dobra (TVOO)
Organiser/Checker: David Julkes (BKD)
Version: 241006a
Digital printing by BMS
© 2024, David Julkes
Survey and cartography by David Julkes, April-Oct 2024
Based on Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office
Also based on GPS, aerial photos & EA LIDAR
Event Number 24407
Grid ref: SO100011
Possession of this map does not imply right of access for orienteering or any other purpose

12 October 2024
British TrailO Championships (PreO)

and 23 runners up. #5 was for me distance judgement along a line feature, although you could also solve it by reading the local contours. Still, I don't think I gave away any early Christmas presents.

Planning is a lot of work, requiring creativity and critical analysis to decide whether your grand idea is really solvable. It remains to be seen whether it makes me a better competitor, but I'd certainly encourage everyone to have a go themselves.

Event Organiser's Musings - David Jukes

In the lead up to the weekend, my main focus had been trying to ensure sufficient helpers for the Sunday TempO. I knew I was reliant on *ad hoc* help for the PreO and, as it turned out, there were competitors willing to provide support on the day. One issue that I had identified was that there would be about 30 minutes when all competitors would be out on the course and hence no one back at the event centre/car park to provide security. I realised that I would need to provide that cover.

During the week prior to the event, the forecast had been quite good. I didn't have time to check the forecast in the morning and, unfortunately, the day started cloudy and just as the first start time arrived, a slight drizzle started. When I returned to the event centre to allow the final competitors to head to the start, the heavy rain started. I was probably the only person able to shelter under cover - I had not arranged anything out on the course which, with hindsight, would have been sensible. A few people retired due to the conditions but most struggled on despite the queue for the Timed Controls. I have yet to compete in a really wet TrailO event so I can only imagine how much harder things will have been for those who were out on the course. Luckily though the rain did clear away after about 30 minutes.

The Voiding of Control E14/A10

As my first TrailO event as organiser, I had to take responsibility for resolving any issues that arose. There was one significant problem. For Controls E10 and A10 there were two common kites, one (A) on the col between two small hills and one (B) slightly down the slope on the far side - but still just visible from the viewing point (see the map on the right). Unfortunately, during the heavy rain, the B kite toppled over and was no longer visible. Early competitors had the correct problem, later competitors had to consider how to respond with only the one kite still visible. For the A Course, it was clear that, as there was no option for a Zero (Z), the problem was no longer valid and the control should be voided. For the Elite course, the situation was more complicated. The correct answer was Z as the circle was centred further down into the re-entrant on the rear slope. Without the B kite, competitors should have been able to give the correct Z answer since no kite was visible at the correct position. However, for early competitors, having the B kite visible will have altered the nature of the problem - possibly harder - although competitors should still have been able to identify it as Z.

My initial thought was that it should be voided. However, this led to a complaint and the need for a formal decision. With some advising that the control should remain valid (as all competitors could have assessed it as Z) and others suggesting it should be voided, my opinion changed - it should be kept. This then led to a protest and the need to ask the jury to consider the position and they decided they needed to review the control from the viewing point. Ultimately they reported as follows:

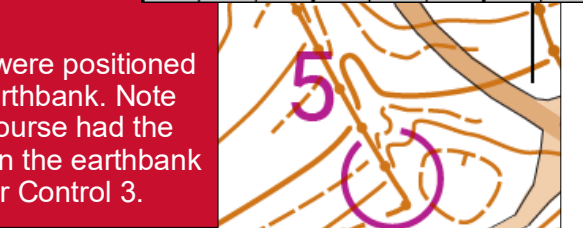
Decision of jury is that, having looked at the problem with and without the kite, the E14 problem changes to remove the need to judge the location of the B Kite which was very close c4m from the correct location. As such it made the solution easier. Void E 14.

Having this extra task was not something that I had fully appreciated would be my function as the event organiser but, ultimately, it was my responsibility to ensure a fair competition staged according to the appropriate rules. I hope that competitors felt that this was achieved.

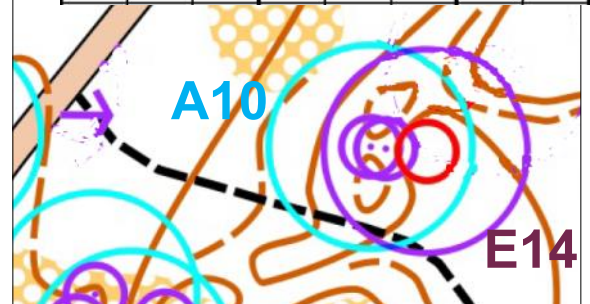
5	A-C	+++				
---	-----	-----	--	--	--	--

Elite Course Control 5

The 3 kites were positioned along the earthbank. Note that the A Course had the easier kite on the earthbank bend as their Control 3.




10	A-B	○ ○	≡	
14	A-B	∩	⊙	



BTOC Tempo Event - Whiteknights Park

Planner **Charles Bromley Gardner** provides some background:

When David proposed using the Whiteknights campus, I remembered running there a couple of times in 2010/11, and it had been used for a short JK PreO event in 2013 (I believe, as I was abroad). It quickly became obvious that the first task would be to update the old map: not only to align it with magnetic north correctly, but also to bring the symbol set up to ISpSOM 2019 standard, including scale. There was, and still is, much new building going on, so that was a test of surveying, but also less evident arboreal felling and planting. Hopefully it is now again a usable urban sprint map, indeed for an accessible event too. There's a lot more TrailO possible as well.

The station view-points were identified at an early stage, providing an easy route loop, and did not change throughout. Of course, that was not the same for flag positions or indeed tasks, which seemed to change on every visit, mostly to simplify the problems. Most viewing areas also narrowed, in particular at Station 6: it was with enormous relief that I had done so when I arrived early on Sunday morning to find that the more ambitious sight lines would have been completely cut off by the marquees erected that week! Unusually for this type of area, I couldn't readily find a parallel area problem.

I did however learn that a wide viewing angle (120° as permitted in Rule 16.12) was too much for Jonathon's limited neck movement. I would certainly take this into account as a priority in future.

It was very re-assuring to have a very competent ex-Level A FootO Controller, Ken Williams, to check my final drafts and ask the pertinent questions when he was not quite clear on what I was achieving. He certainly prevented one dubious control description and was happy with the mapping.

I was surprised that there was only one task (6.2) that was solved correctly by all competitors; it just goes to show what happens under competitive pressure! Another two tasks (2.2 & 5.5) caught out only one competitor each, and a further two (1.2 & 2.3) just two competitors. (Two of these errors I suspect due to skipping a map at Station 2.)

Naturally the main talking points centred on the hardest tasks. There were definitely three tasks (5.4, 7.1 & 8.5) that needed care, and I thought, and still think, that they were well enough sign-posted. In themselves, they potentially only changed one position in the top 6, by one place, with most competitors in the top third getting a different two of them wrong. Station 5 deliberately had no Zero answers, so that may have tempted people into a snap wrong decision (balanced by the first three tasks at Station 6 all being zeros!). Having finally persuaded myself to recognise when map symbols are far larger than the size of the object on the ground, I like exploiting that visual deception: there is no clear line on the map through to 5.4, but it doesn't go through the centre of any symbol.



The unexpected marquee at Station 6. Luckily, all the kites were still visible to the right.



Station 5:
Problem 5.4 used the D kite, just visible through the trees



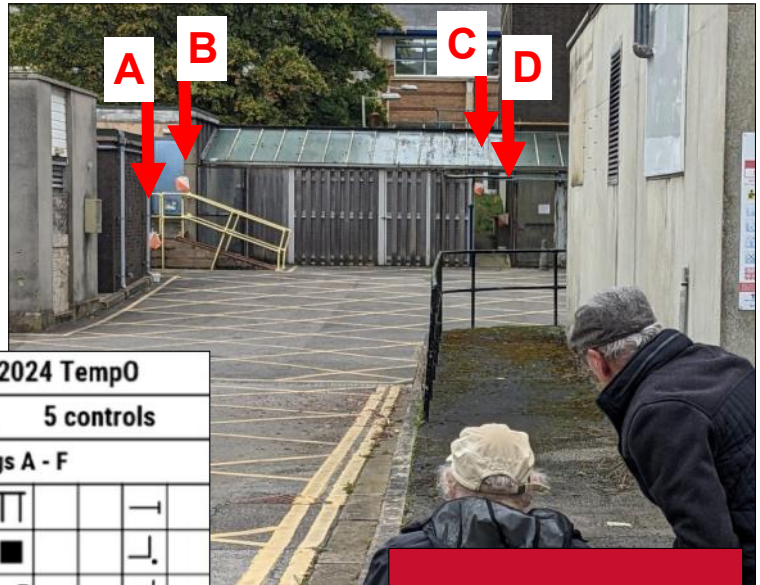
BTOC 2024 Tempo				
Stn 5	5 controls			
Flags A - F				
1		⬆		⊙
2	↖	⬆		⊙
3		⬆		⊙
4	↙	⬆		⊙
5	⊥	◇		⊙



7.1 exploited the correct mapping of inaccessible ‘cages’ under a roof as integral to the building to test depth perception as well as clear map reading of the task. Flag D was a late addition, 5m away from the correct location, which served to increase the difficulty, but there were still competitors plumping for Flag C beyond (the original sole distractor). 8.5 was a deliberately hard final task – Flag F’s alignment to the vegetation 5m beyond was perfect, but it was at the same height as Flags C-E and looked probably further away from the building behind; importantly the map showed that the ground dropped to the edge of the building there, to the extent that a flag in the right place would hardly have been seen.

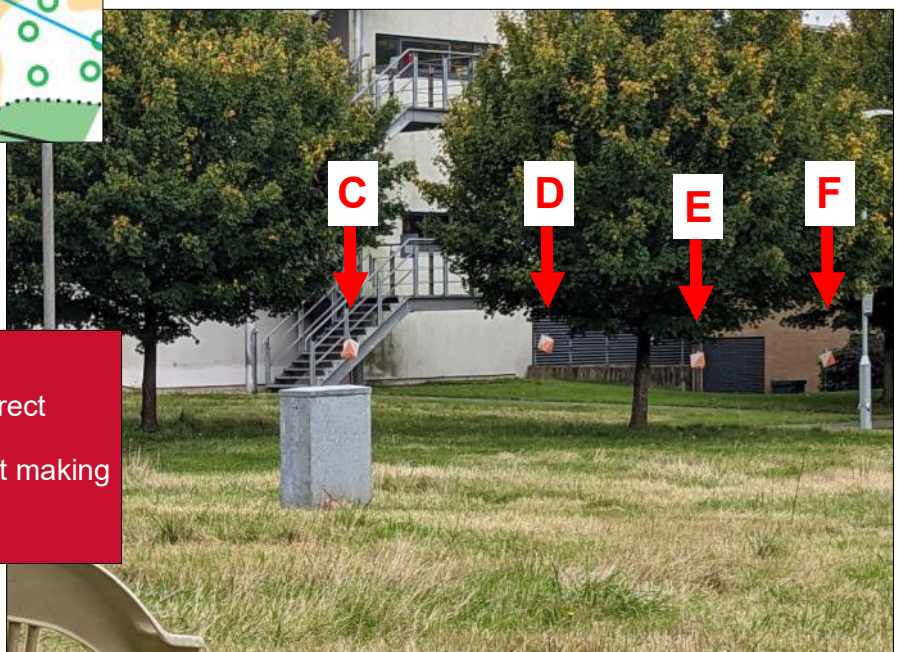
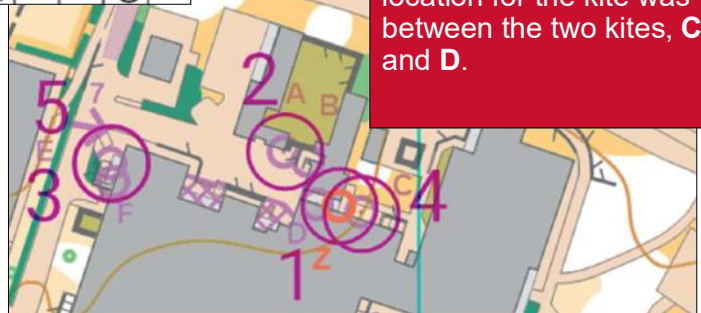
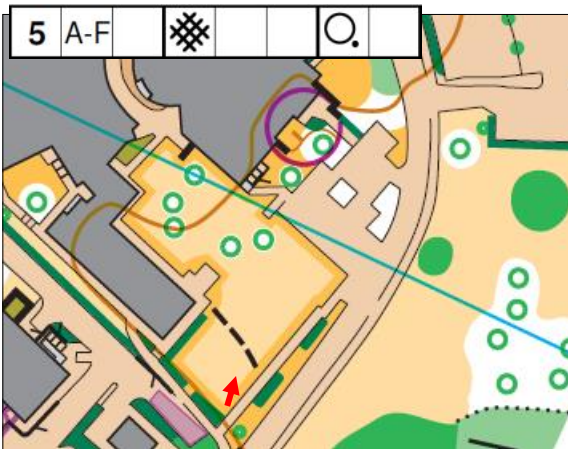
Other tasks proved to be solved better than I had expected, presumably with competitors not rushing their solution. And everyone got at least half of the tasks correct, so well done! That’s better than many PreO competitions.

(The small circles on the solutions map have an outer edge radius of 4m, so were integral to the Zero Tolerance planning. Their line width could be usefully reduced.)



BTOC 2024 Temp0				
Stn 7	5 controls			
Flags A - F				
1		Π		—
2		■		└
3		↗		○ ^l
4	↓	◇		
5		Π		○

Station 7:
Problem 7.1 - the correct location for the kite was between the two kites, C and D.



Station 8:
Problem 8.5 - Although in the correct direction, the ground drops away between the F kite and the thicket making the Zero answer correct.

PreO Sprint - Whiteknights Park

David Jukes (Planner) comments:

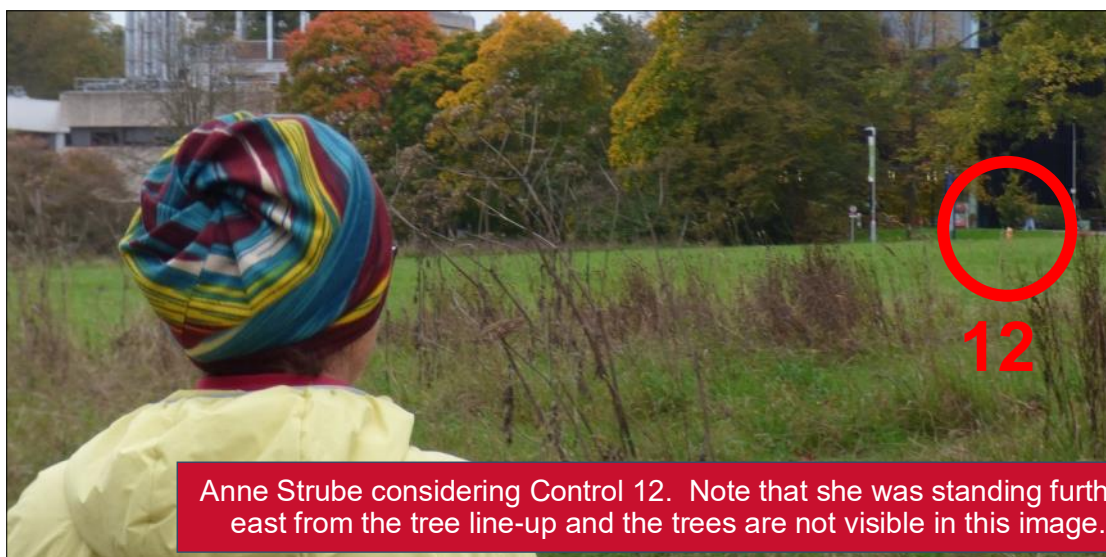
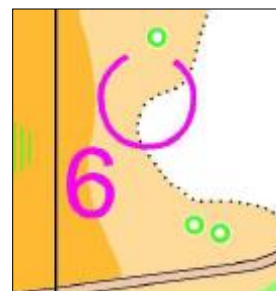
In having the idea for this Autumn Weekend, I had decided to try and copy the arrangements often used at TrailO weekends in Europe - a PreO on one day and a TempO on another. Then, fit alongside one of these, a PreO Sprint. The Sprint would then be an extra bonus to the main attractions. I initially wasn't sure whether there would be one or two sprints nor which day(s) it/they would be on. I had got agreement for planners from Tom (for the PreO) and Charles (for the TempO) and I decided that I would have a go at planning the Sprint. I had never planned a TrailO event but felt that I had gained sufficient experience over the last few years, to produce a suitable course. Unfortunately, the concept of the Sprint being an add-on led to me giving the planning less time than it deserved.

When it became clear that there was nothing particularly suitable at Burnham Beeches - and timings meant that it would have been impractical to fit an extra event in - I looked to find a suitable location at Whiteknights that could be fitted in on the campus once competitors had completed the TempO. With Charles being happy to stick with the main area of University buildings, I looked at the surrounding parkland. I considered an option heading north from Station 8 but the vegetation has grown considerably over the last few years and there were limited potential control sites. Hence the decision to use the track heading east and across the lake. The path over the lake posed a potential problem with posts restricting access and with the path being narrow. I checked with Peter Roberts as to the width of his mobility scooter and he reported that he would fit between the gap - this meant that the course could continue over the lake but, for fairness, I designated it a 'one-way' section.

Charles had provided me with an updated map from which I selected potential sites which might pose varied technical challenges. A visit to the area with some stakes and kites gave me an opportunity to see how these would work. Here my lack of experience meant that I simply focused on whether the kites could be seen from the track. I adjusted some of the positions and left confident that I had an acceptable set of 20 sites. Two problems then arose as a result of this simplification of the TrailO process: I did not check the line-ups and I did not mark the chosen sites.

Not marking the sites led me to have a problem with Control 6. This was on a bend in a vegetation boundary. When putting out the kite in the morning, I walked to what seemed the correct 'bend' on the boundary and planted the stake. Listening to the discussion afterwards, I realised competitors were using the trees either side of the kite to determine its position and many (67%) had decided it was closer to the southern tree - and hence a 'zero'. On the map, the control should be closer to the tree to the north in comparison to the pair of trees to the south. My intention had been that the solution was 'A'. However, when I went to check and paced out the distances, the kite was certainly closer to the southern trees. Probably the shape of the vegetation boundary was not as pointed as the map suggests. The solution had to be changed to 'Z'.

An example of the a possible issue with regard to line-ups is illustrated by Control 12. It is clear from the map that lining up the two trees - one close to the track and the one with Control 11 - should lead directly to the correct site. I had not checked this and it was only in the post-event discussion that I appreciated the importance of checking this as a solution.



Anne Strube considering Control 12. Note that she was standing further east from the tree line-up and the trees are not visible in this image.

Two other controls led to some discussion. Control 14 was viewed whilst crossing the lake. In the morning I positioned the viewing point on the railings next to the path but towards the end of the one-way section. I checked to confirm that the kite was visible and was content. What I hadn't realised was that from the viewing point it was impossible to see the southern-most section of fence. When checking the site before the event, I had been able to see the end post of the southern fence. However, although it was clearly visible from near the start of the one-way section making solving it easy, by the marked viewing point the end post had been hidden by a tree trunk making it very difficult to solve. This could still be considered a valid challenge except those with disabilities might have been disadvantaged as looking at the kite whilst moving across the lake would have been very difficult for some.

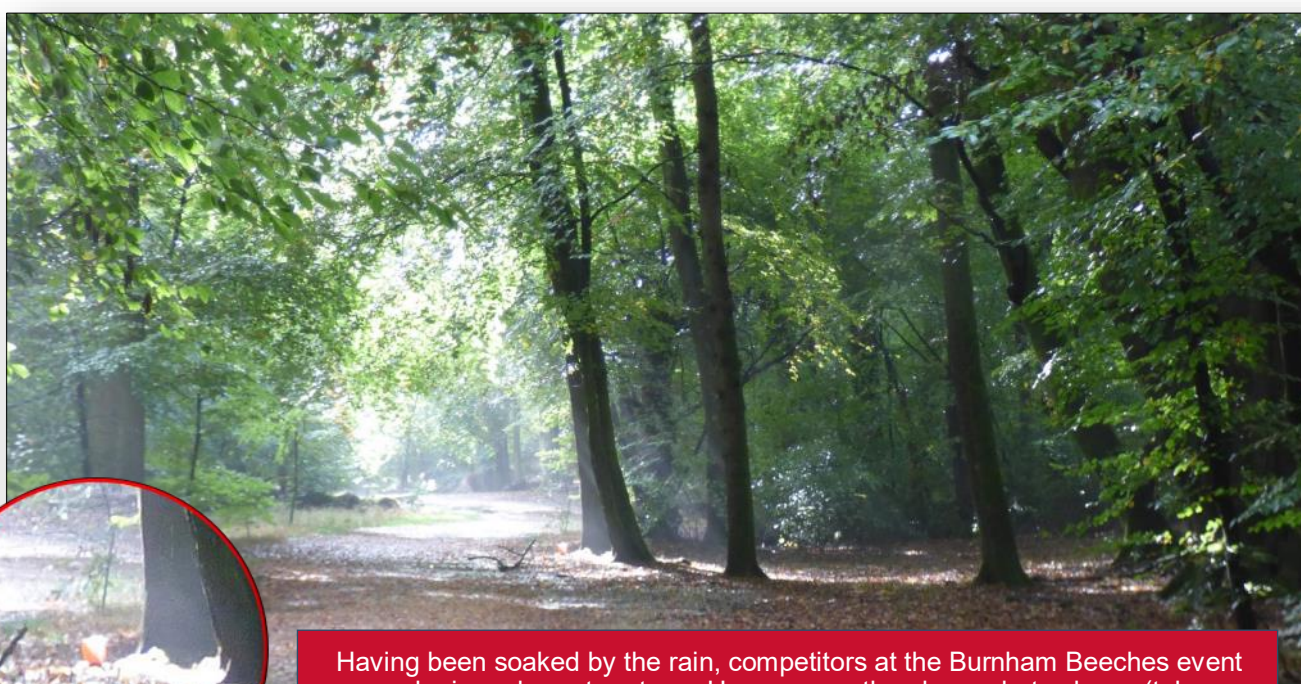
The other issue was Control 20. This was a late addition to my set of controls but what I had not adequately considered was how a competitor would decide if it was correct. I now accept that there was no real way of reaching a definitive answer - it might look in about the right position but it could equally have been positioned more than 4 metres from the path junction. Most people assumed it was correct (81%) but I accept that will have been a lucky judgement rather than based on a good analysis of evidence.

As it was my first attempt at planning a TrailO course, I have learnt a lot - planners can always learn from competitors' comments about their courses. Hearing comments afterwards made me realise (as I should have done in the first place) that, for competitors, this was as equally serious as the other two events requiring as much thought and analysis. I have certainly now appreciated that, for TrailO, the positioning of kites needs significantly more preparation, thought and care.

I also now recognise that acting as the organiser of the weekend with 3 events, checking the PreO course as well as planning a PreO Sprint was taking on too much! However, on the positive side, I hope it gave competitors a varied weekend of TrailO with a high degree of technical challenge.



Extracts from the solutions map. PreO Sprint - Controls 14 and 20



Having been soaked by the rain, competitors at the Burnham Beeches event may be in no hurry to return. However, as the above photo shows (taken towards the end of the event), the area can be delightful! This shows the marker identifying the viewing point for the A Course Control 8.



Results show the top 10 (Elite) / 3 (P Class) / 3 A Course competitors
For full results, see: <https://top.vq.cz/event/btoc-2024>

PreO (BTOC): 26 controls (1 voided), 500m, 93 mins, 2 TCs with 3 tasks

PreO (A Course): 18 controls (1 voided), 800m, 78 mins, 2 TCs with 3 tasks

TempO (BTOC): 8 stations x 5 tasks

TempO (A Course): 6 stations x 5 tasks

PreO Sprint: 20 A/Z controls, 230m, 30 mins

Overall BTOC Champions: 'Time taken at TempO plus 120 seconds per error on the PreO course. In the event of a tie, the time taken at the PreO timed controls (including penalties) was used as a tiebreak.' *Tables shows eligible competitors only.*

PreO (Open)	Name	Pts	Time (sec)
1	Ben Kyd	22	90
2	John Kewley	22	174
3	Robertas Stankevič (LTU)	21	157
4	Andrius Jovaiša (LTU)	20	78
5	Anne Straube	20	81
6	Peter Dobra	20	106
7	Charles Bromley Gardner	20	176
8	Ian Ditchfield	19	124
9	Mike Bennett	17	288
10	Peter Huzan	16	66

PreO (P Class)	Name	Pts	Time (sec)
1	Richard Keighley	14	362
2	Colin Duckworth	10	250
3	Peter Roberts	7	167

PreO (A)	Name	Pts	Time (sec)
1	Coral Curtis	15	328
2	Peter Rose	14	364
3	Ian Curtis	12	183

PreO Sprint	Name	Pts	Time (m:s)
1	John Kewley	19	23:04
2	Michael Chun Chi Tsang	19	25:24
3	Anne Straube	19	26:57
4	Ben Kyd	18	11:27
5	Iain Phillips	18	18:09
6	Robin Bishop	18	26:22
7	Robertas Stankevič	18	29:49
8	Ian Ditchfield	17	16:00
9	Colin Palmer	17	24:08
10	Alan Hickling	17	25:06

Temp O (E)	Name	Time (s)	Pen (s)	Total
1	Ben Kyd	160.5	60	220.5
2	Robertas Stankevič	296	60	356
3	River Edis-Smith	259	150	409
4	Tom Dobra	326.5	120	446.5
5	John Kewley	358.5	90	448.5
6	Peter Huzan	402.5	90	492.5
7=	James Curtis	348.5	150	498.5
7=	Wangki Yuen	318.5	180	498.5
9	Colin Palmer	359	150	509
10	Michael Chun Chi Tsang	341	180	521

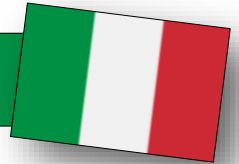
Temp O (A)	Name	Time (s)	Pen (s)	Total
1	Holly Curtis	372	270	642
2	Simon Moore	439.5	270	709.5
3	Ian Curtis	446	360	806

BTOC (Open)	Name	PreO Pts	TempO Pts	Total
1	Ben Kyd	360	221	581
2	John Kewley	360	449	809
3	Peter Dobra	600	549	1149

BTOC (P Class)	Name	PreO Pts	TempO Pts	Total
1	Colin Duckworth	1800	635	2435
2	Richard Keighley	1320	1280	2600
3	Peter Roberts	2160	900	3060

BTOC (Junior)	Name	PreO Pts	TempO Pts	Total
1	James Curtis	1440	499	1939
2	Max Straube Roth	1800	635	2435

Simbruini Trail-O Weekend, Italy 19th / 20th October



The weekend after BTOC saw **Graham** and **Liz Urquhart** head over to Italy for a weekend of TrailO. The location, to the East of Rome, Monti Simbruini, was mountainous but a popular tourist location. The first day saw a TempO competition amongst the buildings and open spaces of the tourist resort. Here **Graham** describes the second day's PreO competition in much more wooded terrain.

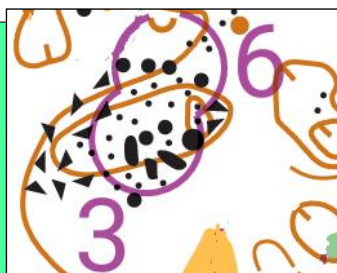
Day 2 - PreO WRE

Day 2 of the Subiaco WRE events took us higher into the mountains to Campo dell'Osso – Subiaco for a 30 control PreO. At about 5000 ft we were prepared for cold, wet and very wintry conditions, but it turned out to be a delightful autumn day. The terrain was rolling, as it is a ski resort, and was covered in beech woodland with a completely clear understory. This allowed the planner an unconventional 1st half, based on a taped area within the wood – the wood was so clear that the wheelchairs had no problem off the path, with 17 controls in 100m. This meant we had 2 maps, with some controls on each.

This section had very dense detail, and so the challenge was to keep track of all the mapped elements and distinguishing all the rock features. As an example, this box considers Controls 3, 4 and 6.

Controls 3, 4 and 6

On the right are extracts from the two competition maps and the equivalent solutions map - all adjusted to remove material linked to other controls. Note that, on the solutions map, the purple + is the viewpoint, the dot is flag and the open circle is zero.



At viewing point 3/4

3	A-C	↙	▲	□	□	○
4	A-C	□	○	□	□	□
6	A		▲	□	□	○



The second section had an interesting mix of close small depressions and contours, and long-distance judgement of hill tops. Here the string of local hills 22,23 and 25 needed to be the right 3 reading off the large depression, but the distant knoll was one of many possible spikes so hard to get sure.

Controls 21-23 and 25



21	A	▲	□	□	□	□
22	A-C	⌒	□	□	□	○
23	A-C	○	□	□	□	□
25	A-B	○	□	□	□	□

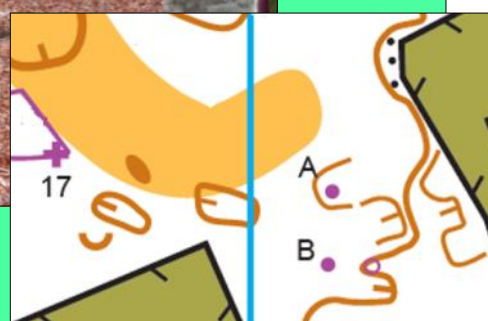
Below are the extracts from the competition map and the equivalent solutions map - both adjusted to remove material linked to other controls.



After control 30 was voided (because the map was inconsistent near it) there were 11 fully correct competitors, but below the elite levels controls 16 or 17 were most often incorrect. At first sight these seem simple, but both required depth judgement and lateral distance estimation. For 17, see below, the ground was less obvious (as it often is) because the small spur continued as a small feature to the B flag, well beyond the contour.

Control 17

At viewing point 17 - only the A kite is visible



PreO	Name	Pts	Time (secs)
1	Marcello Lambertini (ITA)	29	23
24	Graham Urquhart	27	195
42	Elizabeth Urquhart	18	291

Temp O (A)	Name	Time (s)	Pen (s)	Total
1	Krystian Petersburski (POL)	121	30	151
19	Graham Urquhart	285	90	375
47	Elizabeth Urquhart	512	360	872

TempO: 6 stations x 5 tasks

PreO: 30 controls (1 voided), 400m, Elite 102 mins / P
Class 120 mins, 2 TCs with 3 tasks

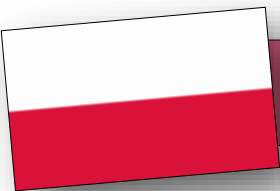
Supporting TrailO Leaflets

Have you wondered what is involved in putting on a TrailO event? Does the idea seem too difficult? With limited events, it can be difficult to work out what to do – but without people trying in the first place, the number of events remains limited. One way to solve this conundrum is to provide better advice and guidance.

And this is why there are some new '**Supporting TrailO**' leaflets now available on the TrailO section of the British Orienteering website. Experienced TrailO competitor, **Clive Allen**, has redrafted some former guidance and fully updated it. There are now 4 leaflets providing many suggestions and they are illustrated with photos and images. These are designed primarily to support organisers and planners of foot orienteering events or training activities who may like to also offer some TrailO.



See - [Staging small TrailO events](#)



Dragon Cup

Jaworzno, Poland: 9 - 10 November 2024

Two enthusiastic GBR TrailO team members headed off to Poland for the last European World Ranking Event (WRE) weekend of 2024. It also provided the conclusion to the 2024 European Cup in TrailO (ECTO). However, rather than just the standard two WRE/ECTO events, the organisers also provided a PreO Sprint and a Night PreO and, as an added attraction, a campfire with sausages!

Here **John Kewley** briefly describes the arrangements for the Night PreO:

As if Night TrailO isn't esoteric enough, the format implemented at the Dragon Cup this year had further deviations from the norm which I thought may be of interest. First of all it was an A/Z PreO course. but without a discriminating factor (so no Sprint course time, timed section or time control). It was based on 2 separate loops with continuous timing and a mass start (and a separate, earlier mass start for Pclass and Juniors) – this meant everyone was not at control one first; you were assigned which loop to start on, but not which direction to go round it and you had to finish part 1 before part 2. So far, nothing radically different, but the final twist was that we only had to answer 12 of the 15 problems in each loop. This meant you had the luxury of being able to decide not to do one if it looked too hard but you could only do that 3 times on each loop.



Ben Kyd, came 3rd in the TempO WRE

Night PreO
Geosfera | Blue Leg

Course setters: Adam Stalka, Hanna Kapołka, Marta Kapołka
Map graphic design: Hanna Kapołka, Marta Kapołka

Time limit:
O - 90 min
P - 100 min
Blue Leg: 12 of 15
Green Leg: 12 of 15
Total controls: 24 of 30

Scale: 1:3 000
Contours: 2m

8-10th NOVEMBER 2024
JAWORZNO, POLAND

Night PreO
Geosfera | Green Leg

Course setters: Adam Stalka, Hanna Kapołka, Marta Kapołka
Map graphic design: Hanna Kapołka, Marta Kapołka

Time limit:
O - 90 min
P - 100 min
Blue Leg: 12 of 15
Green Leg: 12 of 15
Total controls: 24 of 30

Scale: 1:3 000
Contours: 2m

8-10th NOVEMBER 2024
JAWORZNO, POLAND

The two maps used for the Night PreO. On the left, the northern 'Blue Leg' and, on the right, the southern 'Green Leg'.

TempO: 8 stations x 5 tasks
PreO: 37 controls (1 voided), 1100m, Elite 144 mins / P Class 150 mins, 2 TCs with 3 tasks

PreO	Name	Pts	Time (secs)
1	Arno Grønhojd (NOR)	34	30
13	Ben Kyd	32	38
33	John Kewley	29	167

Temp O	Name	Time (s)	Pen (s)	Total
1	Krystian Petersburski (POL)	175	30	205
3	Ben Kyd	215	120	335
39	John Kewley	359	210	569



John Kewley, also seen on at the PreO event.