



Blood, Sweat and Gears

Newsletter of the National Governing Body for Mountain Bike Orienteering.

February 2009

Membership Renewals for 2009

We have had over 400 membership renewals for 2009 since January. Please remember that all TCA members, Full and Associate have an online account. To renew membership, login to your account and select the membership you require for 2009. Postal members have an account too, so if you are now online contact us for your login and password. Passwords can be obtained from the login page by giving your registered email address.

any questions contact: membership@trailquest.co.uk

Forthcoming Events Roundup, 6 weeks, 11 events, what excuse to you need.

14/2 NYMBO Winter Series <http://www.nymbo.org.uk/>

15/2 D+W Matlock postponed from 8/2 due to snow:
http://www.darkandwhite.co.uk/challenge-events-outdoor-activities.asp?race_id=208

22/2 Endurance Life South Devon
<http://www.endurancelife.com/event.asp?series=11>

28/2 CLOK Winter Stockton-Sedgefield
http://www.trailquest.co.uk/plugins/tcaresults_menu/events.php download flyer

1/03 D+W Winter League
http://www.darkandwhite.co.uk/challenge-events-outdoor-activities.asp?race_id=209

7/03 WCH Series Cannock Chase South (Best Map of Cannock Chase ever, beautiful!)
<http://www.walton-chasers.co.uk/events/2009/MTBO/2009MTBO.html>

15/03 Endurance Life Pembrokeshire
<http://www.endurancelife.com/event.asp?series=11>

21/03 WCH Long MTBO Second of National Series
<http://www.walton-chasers.co.uk/events/2009/MTBO/2009MTBO.html>

21/03 NYMBO Pocklington 1st of Summer Series
<http://www.nymbo.org.uk/nymboleague2009.htm>

22/03 D+W Winter Series (8 of 8)
http://www.darkandwhite.co.uk/challenge-events-outdoor-activities.asp?race_id=210

23/03 Manx Winter Series
<http://www.manxtimingsolutions.com>

National Weekend 2009

Sat 16th May - Gilling Woods - MTBO

Sun 17th May - Duncombe - 3 hours

National TQ League 2009

Sun 22nd Feb - South Devon Endurance life 5 hours

Sat 7th March - South Cannock Walton Chasers 3 hours

Sun 22nd March - Peak district Dark and White 3 hours

Sun 26th April - Furness S. Lakes XCC 3 hours

Sat 9th May - Glenn Tress Peebles Cycling Club 3 hours

Sun 31st May - Wark forest NEMBOS 4 hours

Sat 20th June - Swaledale NYMBO 5 hours

Sun 28th June - Laxey, Isle of Man Manx MBC 5 hours

Sun 19th July - Heversham XCC 5 hours

Sat 29th August - Malham Moors Malham Show 4 hours

Sun 6th September - Blanchford NEMBOS 3 hours

Sat 17th October - Masham Moors NYMBO 4 hours

If an event is cancelled it will become best 6 of 11

If 2 events are cancelled reserve event will be XCC N Lakes 11th October

This makes National series best 6 of 12 to count 12 events

Ties being decided by mean of best of head to head scores.

Along side the usual class structure we will run the Bryan Singleton handicap scores for comparing classes.

MTBO League 2009

The MTBO league is in a constant state of flux. You are advised to compete in as many as possible. New events may be added and the number of events counting may rise or fall. However 50%, rounded to the nearest odd number is the basic formula for counting events. So for these published dates 5 count.

- 1 Sat 20th December 2008, Military Challenge, BAOC
- 2 Sat 21st March, Cannock, WCH, Organiser Mark Stodgel
- 3 16th May 2009, Gilling Woods, Organiser Andrew Windrum
- 4 14th June Sarum. Down South
- 5 15th June 2009, Dorset, Organiser Trevor Bridle, Wimborne, Middle
- 6 Wed 5th August 2009, Scotland, Organiser Janine Inman, FVO
- 7 26th September HOC Colin Palmer TBC
- 8 December 2009, Military Challenge, BAOC.

Karen Blackburns Round Up Of 2008

I've been reminiscing. So here, in no particular order, are my awards for 2008 based on my recollections of some of the events I went to last year - just don't take some of it too seriously.....

Most Improved Map - has to be Cannock Chase.

I swore I'd never go there again after a traumatic early TQ using an OS map. But I've had good results there at foot O, so with promises of a new improved map I went to the event in June. I arrived in plenty of time and got in the way until the organiser produced some blank maps. The first map at 1:15000 was no problem - just like a foot O map. The second map at 1:30000 was different from a foot O map but not quite an OS. We get used to map formats and anything which is new seems strange. I spent ages studying it, and asked lots of irritating questions before I ventured out. In fact, this alien looking map was very user-friendly and I thoroughly enjoyed the event. The detail for a 1:30000 was stunning making this fabulous area incredible fun and very fast. Survey/cartography by Walton Chaser Team Mark Stodgel and friends.

Best New Organiser - Steve Watson for Wark in September

Steve put a lot of work into his first TQ as organiser. Nice new area that I had never ridden in before, tricky controls in the far North to test the best, but plenty of less technical stuff elsewhere to keep the rest of us happy. Some fun controls eg a jetty in the lake, and cracking views.

Muddiest Track - Langdale in August.

The track from the start up into the forest has to be the worst of the year. Took me about 30 mins (of a 2 hour event!). Once you are in the forest, it's not so bad. Steve has promised that next time we use Langdale we'll start at the other side of the forest, which is a lot nicer!

Daftest Route choice - Ravonstonedale in July

Why, oh why, did I head off west over those slow bridleways when I should have just put my head down, hammered straight up the steep tarmac road and got quickly onto the nicer bit of the area?

Best Route Choice - Keswick May 18th

Keeping out of Whinlatter and going for a nice ride along Derwentwater instead!

Best cartography - Jens Strain

I love Jens maps, based on OS with added detail and information, these are the standard to beat for OS based events. Beautiful to look at (the maps that is!), good info from the planners, and a joy to use.

Biggest Surprise - Nidderdale in October

We all thought we were going up onto Masham Moors, but Dave and Ros had other plans.....

Quickest Route Choice - Rydale in July

Don't you just love it when you get your map at the start, and a perfect route just pops out at you? Then all you have to do is get round it!

Best Series - NYMBO

OK, so I'm biased! Consistent format due to having one organiser for the whole series (thanks, Steve Willis). Different planners for each event keep the variety interesting with a mix of 2 hour forest events and longer forays out onto the bridleways of Yorkshire.

TCA AGM & SOCIAL WEEKEND DECEMBER 2008

Karen Blackburn reports:

Well that's another AGM done and dusted.

Not as well attended as it could have been, but some important topics discussed.

The venue for the AGM was at Austwick near Settle, so the early arrivals went for a Saturday afternoon ride in the area, and found the trails rather icy. Others had decided to enter the NYMBO TQ from Thornton Watlass on the Saturday and therefore arrived with very clean bikes and very wet kit. My boots are nice and waterproof except for the hole in the top, and that's where the water got in. I knew was going to have a problem when the water was so deep that I couldn't see the white line down the middle of the road.....

Heating on, the huts soon became snug as we sat around chatting while masterchefs John and Peter prepared dinner. We were soon provided with an abundance of rice and chilli, with an excellent veggie version for the awkward squad. Followed by scrummy blackberry and apple crumble with custard.

Assorted Cumbrians arrived before the AGM started, but we were a very northern biased group - mostly from Cumbria and Yorkshire, plus Sarah from Wales and me from Co Durham.

And so to the AGM business:

(These are not the official minutes - just snippets from my memory)

Geoff Moorhouse presented the accounts and answered a few questions, but all seems to be in order there. For 2009, John Dixon will be treasurer, with Geoff looking after risk assessments, insurance, levies etc. Bernard Moore is to look after the SI kit and bookings etc.

The problems with the on-line membership system are steadily being sorted out by John Houlihan. John H also explained that the problems with the website are largely due to the way it is currently set up, and there was protracted discussion about what we want to see on a revitalised site. Bear with us - John is working hard on the improvements. In the meanwhile, and once it is up and running, John Tiffany will continue to collect news, event reports etc to be posted on the website. Karen Blackburn will try to collect material for a newsletter, which will be sent to most members by e-mail, and by post to the few members who have paid for that service.

The TCA 2009 Trail Quest National League is taking shape and will consist of about 11 events, with Mike Haywood co-ordinating dates for the league (and the calendar in general?)

The MTBO 2009 National League is also developing, with Nigel Benham co-ordinating.

We reviewed the things we are good at - supporting organisers with SI equipment, insurance etc; co-ordinating national leagues; providing a website for information and event reports.

And discussed the areas where we need to do more - communicating with members by newsletter, sending out event calendars etc; finding and encouraging new organisers; getting an updated website and possibly an updated image.

You may notice in 2009 a change of branding from Trailquests and MTBOs to a more generic term "mountain bike orienteering", and a change from Trail Cyclists Association to British Mountain Bike Orienteering. Watch this space....

Next Newsletter...

OK this one is out, we have more to talk about but that can wait until next month. We want your articles, event reviews, anything you want to write that will be of interest to others.

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