

"Orienteering is a challenging outdoor adventure sport enjoyed by people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds."



**British Orienteering**



# *Annual Report* **2011**

More People, More Places, More Podiums (MP3)



# Chair's Report

By Lyn West, Chair

**The Board, staff and senior volunteers have all had a busy year and when I look at reports about initiatives throughout the country, our clubs and members have been equally hard working. Thank you all for this commitment to the success of British Orienteering.**

The Board commenced work in 2008 and after 3 years, it was time to review the effectiveness of the Board. We did this partly by self evaluation but also by consulting staff and members of committees and groups. A summary of the results have been published but the main message was that we carried out our role effectively although there was room for improvement. As a result of the process, we have revised the way Board meetings are conducted and throughout 2012 will continue to implement better ways of working.

A natural progression from the introduction of the Board was a review of the committees and groups that support the Board. This was started in 2011 with a review of Event Committee and its work groups. The formation of a new committee, Event and Competitions Committee was agreed. Mike Forrest was appointed as Chair and the process of appointment of members commenced.

The former Events Committee met for the last time in November but some groups have continued to work to ensure a smooth transition to the new structure. All the group members have been thanked personally but I would like to publicly record thanks to all of them for the fantastic amount of work carried out on behalf of British Orienteering, in some cases over very many years. The remaining committee structure will be reviewed during 2012.

Keith Marsden retired as Chair of Coaching Committee. Keith has been involved with coaching for a long time and he became Chair as work commenced on introducing the UKCC awards. The success of the award scheme is a reflection of Keith's hard work and commitment. For that, I thank him.

In any review of effectiveness, communication is always raised as an issue and is an area that can always be improved. In 2012, the staff and Board will concentrate on improving ways that we communicate with our members.

2011 also saw the reintroduction of the club/association conference. It was a positive experience with much constructive discussion on a number of issues for which I thank all those who attended. This is planned as an annual event and will allow for more interaction between the Board and members. The agenda this year was led by the Board but I would like members to see it as a forum for raising key issues with us.

There is no doubt that for me the highlight of the year was attending the World Orienteering Championships in Chambéry, France. After all the hard work of putting together the bid for hosting WOC 2015, the pressure of the evaluation visit and the knowledge that we were up against an extremely strong bid from Sweden, meant a tense wait on the afternoon of the announcement. Of course, as you know, we were successful. I would like to thank Dave Peel, Martin Ward and Colin Matheson for all their hard work putting the bid together and our partners, EventScotland, SOA and the Scottish 6 day Company for their support. Work is now underway to turn the bid into a reality.

But we do not have to wait until 2015 to experience a World Championship. The World Trail O Championship is being held in Scotland in June 2012. I would like to thank Anne Braggins and her team for the work that they are doing to stage this event.

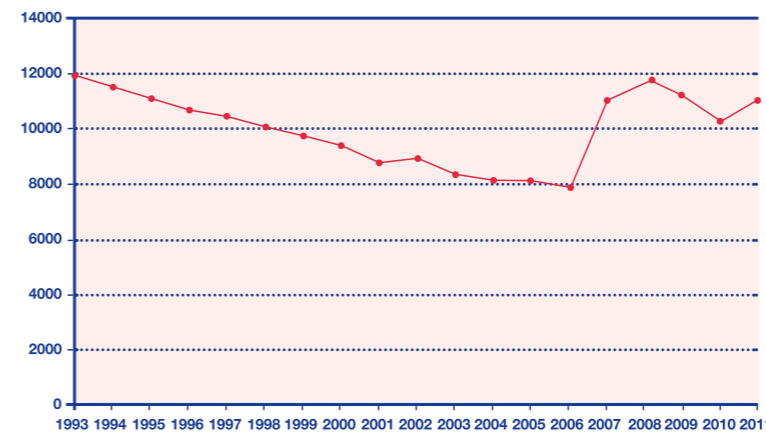
The final accolade that British Orienteering received this year was to be given green status by Sport England for our Self Assurance assessment. This is an important paper trail exercise that involves a huge amount of work by the staff to enable us to document that we meet the standards in governance and finance expected of us as recipients of public money.

This is an example of the work that is carried out by the staff unseen by most members. We are fortunate to have an enthusiastic and committed team working on our behalf. I thank them all and particularly Mike Hamilton for his leadership.

# Membership & Participation

By Caroline Povey, Marketing Manager

**During 2011 we welcomed 1,796 new members to British Orienteering. Unfortunately some of our existing members did not renew their membership in 2011, so our overall membership grew by 2% from 10,761 members in 2010 to 11,005 members in 2011. However when compared to other membership organisations this small growth is of major significance and shows that our drive to increase the number of people involved in orienteering is achieving results.**



Total Membership 1993 - 2011

A major success during 2011 has been the substantial increase in participants at our events and activities. Participation has increased by 22% from 208,567 participants in 2010 to 254,204 participants in 2011. The increase has been achieved in all areas from the community activities and local events to our Level C, B and National events. Even when allowing for the impact of the Scottish 6 Day event there remains a very healthy increase, particularly when compared to 2009 the previous 6 Day event.

The increase in participation is considerable and shows that our Whole Sport Plan projects such as Community O, as well as the great work accomplished by our clubs is increasing participation and getting more people involved with orienteering.

Event Participation	2009	2010	2011
Senior Member	112,343	96,881	126,923
Senior Non-Member	7,532	8,801	9,266
Junior Member	45,688	43,059	47,142
Junior Non-Member	7,950	8,630	14,803
<b>Total Event Participants</b>	<b>173,513</b>	<b>157,321</b>	<b>198,134</b>
Number of Events	1,617	1,755	2,034
Average per Event	107	90	97

Activity Participation	2009	2010	2011
Senior Member	6,108	12,334	15,830
Senior Non-Member	12,136	4,517	7,822
Junior Member	4,058	6,995	10,195
Junior Non-Member	10,681	27,409	22,224
<b>Total Activity Participants</b>	<b>32,983</b>	<b>51,255</b>	<b>56,071</b>
Number of Activities	1,361	2,417	2,422
Average per Activity	24	21	23

	2009	2010	2011
<b>Total Number of Participants</b>	<b>206,496</b>	<b>208,576</b>	<b>254,205</b>

It is evident from our participation numbers that there are a lot of non-members taking part in orienteering and we need to find a way of converting these participants into members. The Board has been reviewing the membership structure and subsequent benefits during 2011, with a new structure being proposed at the 2012 AGM. We hope that by simplifying our membership structure, reducing the costs of membership fees and making the benefits of membership more attractive, we will increase our membership significantly in the coming years.





# Chief Executive's Report

By Mike Hamilton

The trip to Northern Ireland for the JK was one of the highlights of 2011. The organisation and administration of the JK and the British Orienteering Annual General Meeting went well and the friendliness and hard work of the NIOA organisers and volunteers made it an Easter to remember.

2011 was a year in which objectives were achieved:

- British Orienteering managed to organise a Performance Programme for our top orienteers. This was challenging on the back of a 50% reduction in funding from UK Sport and was only achieved by making significant cuts in support to these athletes and by asking athletes to contribute to programme costs.
- The staffing structure was considerably changed from 2010 in order to reduce British Orienteering costs and focus on our contractual targets. New staff settled in well and there is evidence that the tighter focus has started to produce results. There are a number of areas of work where there remains a need for improved performance and these are being addressed. Sadly our Performance Director Gareth Candy has returned to Australia and the National Talent Manager Sarah Hague will now be looking after the programme, at least until the funding situation from April 2013 is known.
- As 2011 progressed, a number of projects required considerable resource, usually in staff or volunteer time. Much of this project work is outlined below and includes the review of the Articles of Association, the Membership & Levy review, the WOC 2015 bid and the review of the committee structure. The importance of these projects often put day-to-day work under considerable pressure.
- Board effectiveness was reviewed and the valuable feedback from people and parties that interface with the Board enabled the Board to identify a series of recommendations to improve Board performance.
- An Association & Club Conference was staged in October and provided an excellent environment for the discussion of some key issues. The Conference informed many of the decisions the Board took later in the year and was, in the Board's eyes, a considerable success. A Conference will be held in 2012 where it is hoped that more issues for discussion will be promoted by associations and clubs.

The Board continued to consolidate its working practices and Directors were called on to meet via conference calls throughout the year. Board practice changed as a consequence of the review of Board Effectiveness and Lyn West, Chair of the Board, demonstrated a keenness to drive these changes through. As Chief Executive I work closely with Lyn and would like to thank her for her support and hard work. We have a regime of monthly face to face meetings and weekly phone calls and I am conscious of the huge amount of time Lyn dedicates to British Orienteering. A number of other directors also commit considerable time to meeting their responsibilities as directors and I would also like to thank them for this work.

In both the 2009 and 2010 Annual Reports I highlighted how the current financial situation is impacting on membership and participation. We know from sports council meetings that this situation has impacted on many sports. It is a tribute to clubs and organisers of events that orienteering has managed to change to a more cost effective delivery of orienteering events, namely through local delivery of orienteering and this is probably one of the key factors in maintaining the levels of participation through this difficult period. Overall membership stayed fairly static in 2011 compared to 2010 although the turnover of lapsed and new members did increase.

At a time when we have started to review the strategic plan for orienteering across the UK it is perhaps appropriate that we focus on meeting the needs of our members, participants and potential participants and not on meeting what we think their needs are or should be!

## 2011 Major Achievements

Area	2011 Achievements
<b>Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community O is now well established as a Programme.</li> <li>The number of activity centres almost doubled to 45; some clubs now have multiple centres; evidence of the success of these centres is now available.</li> <li>Resources continue to be developed with 'Year in a Box' being an excellent example.</li> <li>Many coaches were qualified through training courses often supported by the Development Programme; the number of 'work placements' for coaches within the Community O programme is growing.</li> <li>Natalie Shaw and Caroline Gay joined the staff team delivering the Programme.</li> <li>Roll out of Club accreditation schemes continues; 40 clubs have now achieved British Orienteering's Clubmark with another 5 known to have achieved accreditation against similar standards.</li> <li>The new Navigation and Racing Challenge incentive scheme was prepared for roll out in January 2012.</li> </ul>
<b>Volunteers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UKCC Levels 1 and 2 are now being delivered.</li> <li>UKCC Level 3 was endorsed and piloted.</li> <li>The continuous personal development programme (cpd) commenced.</li> <li>Event Safety Workshops were delivered to over 550 people by accredited tutors.</li> <li>Controllers and organisers were audited and registered in an online database.</li> </ul>

Area	2011 Achievements
<b>Events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JK/BOC staged successfully and the branding of these events was improved.</li> <li>Competition Review recommendations (except for competition in schools) were adopted and are gradually to be implemented.</li> <li>Partnership Agreement for major events continues to be implemented.</li> <li>WOC 2015 bid was adopted by the IOF and is commencing delivery; a significant strength of the bid was partnership working.</li> <li>Major Event and Mapping Conferences were staged successfully; evaluation feedback was very positive.</li> <li>UK Masters Cup was piloted in 2011, feedback to the competition was positive.</li> <li>A new event registration system on the website was successfully implemented.</li> </ul>
<b>Performance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performance standards were adopted across the programmes with the Orienteer Development Pathway (Skills Grid) utilised within the Performance Programme and an athlete assessment tool used extensively.</li> <li>5 Clubs added to the Club Talent Squad Programme bringing the total to 9.</li> <li>The Talent Pathway was developed with the help and guidance of external partners; the pathway is now almost complete; orienteering is now close to having a nationally managed and directed talent pathway.</li> <li>There were new faces in both the senior and junior squads; most of which settled in well and this bodes well for the future.</li> <li>The lack of funding from Sport England towards 'Coach Development' remains an issue for the Programme; it has proven challenging to identify coaches able to meet the needs of the Programme.</li> <li>Significant resource was used to plan thoroughly for 2012, particularly in light of the reduced performance funding from UK Sport and the departure of Gareth Candy as Performance Director.</li> </ul>
<b>Governance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Board reviewed its effectiveness and adopted changes to the way in which it operates.</li> <li>An Association &amp; Club Conference was well attended and made recommendations to the Board on a variety of matters.</li> <li>The Board away day focused on reviewing the strategic plan for orienteering.</li> <li>A cost cutting budget was agreed for 2012 after a challenging review process.</li> <li>A major review of the Membership &amp; Levy scheme continued and a proposal for change will be voted on at the 2012 AGM.</li> <li>British Orienteering maintains the 'Green' status in an external review of governance and financial procedures albeit that the need for some changes was identified.</li> <li>Review of Events &amp; Competitions Committee continues and will commence operation in early 2012.</li> <li>Review of Memorandum &amp; Articles of Association continues with the intention of presenting changes to the 2012 AGM.</li> </ul>
<b>Membership &amp; National Office Support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Office support team was restructured in 2011 and has settled well.</li> <li>Finance provided all the required functions and reports required, often in quite trying circumstances.</li> <li>A content management system has been installed onto the website and an overhaul of content is progressing.</li> <li>Communications with members, clubs and associations have been reviewed and modifications made to increase effective communication.</li> </ul>

## 2012 Milestones

Area	2012 Milestones
<b>Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to implement the Community O strategy to increase and sustain participation and membership.</li> <li>Recruit, train and support coaches in delivering Community O.</li> <li>Develop a Leadership award to provide training to those people wishing to assist delivery of Community O sessions.</li> <li>Increase the number of new participants moving from Community O into local events.</li> <li>Review the school orienteering programme and develop a format that can be delivered in schools by non-orienteers.</li> <li>Develop the orienteering 'products' that can be used to increase and retain participation.</li> <li>Develop a programme to promote these 'products'.</li> </ul>
<b>Volunteers: Including coaches, event officials, club officials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalise the plan to increase the number and quality of volunteers.</li> <li>Deliver a programme of flexible learning to train and support volunteers.</li> <li>Continue to implement continuous personal development across all volunteer groups.</li> <li>Deliver the course programme published on the website.</li> <li>Register of all remaining Event Officials to be established including mappers and planners.</li> </ul>
<b>Events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of the JK to continue, including the employment of a part time coordinator.</li> <li>Commence implementation of the Competition Review recommendations and particularly prepare for the implementation of the National Orienteering Series from January 2013.</li> <li>Work with the other programmes to develop orienteering products that can be promoted and meet the needs of participants.</li> <li>Continue to prepare to stage the WOC 2015.</li> <li>Stage WOC 2012 in Scotland.</li> </ul>
<b>Performance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Talent Squads to be rolled out in a further group of clubs.</li> <li>Promote the talent pathway and associated resources to the membership and participants.</li> <li>Continue to introduce new competitors into international orienteering.</li> <li>Develop a plan to produce medals at WOC 2015.</li> <li>Engage with all athletes in the programme to ensure performance reviews are timely, effective and result in each athlete having a personal development plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Governance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update the strategic plan for orienteering and from it develop funding submissions for UK Sport, Sport England and the other sports councils if requested by the relevant national association.</li> <li>A modified Membership &amp; Levy scheme to be proposed to the 2012 AGM.</li> <li>Updated Articles of Association to be prepared for consideration at the AGM 2012.</li> <li>Continue work to increase the effectiveness of the Board.</li> <li>Continue to review and update the committee structure to improve effectiveness.</li> <li>Maintain the 'green' rating of the independent self-assurance audit.</li> </ul>
<b>Membership &amp; National Office Support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve administrative support to members, participants, volunteers.</li> <li>Implement the IRIS Exchequer accounting and reporting system.</li> <li>Implement the recommendations to improve communications.</li> </ul>



# Finance & Funding

By Mike Forrest, Treasurer

## Summary

At the time of writing this report, the 2011 Annual Accounts have yet to be finalised by the auditors. However, they should be available to members on the website by the time this report is received by members (as agreed at the 2003 EGM). This report should therefore be read in the context of these figures being 'in house' working figures and not finalised.

British Orienteering has continued to improve its financial position in 2011 through the generation of a surplus of £33,229 for 2011. £4927 of this surplus relates to the Development Fund, thus increasing the amount held. Although this may seem to be a significant surplus, after adjusting for the fund increase, it amounts to only 2.25% of income.

In September 2010 the Board approved a budget for 2011 which would have delivered a surplus of about £6,500. Careful management of costs has enabled this better financial performance to be delivered. In particular we have achieved:

- Membership communications, plus various actual staffing to budget, savings of £13,500
- OS copyright fees lower than expected by £2,600

Last year, I reported that significant progress had been made to ensure that grant funding received by the Federation was properly applied to the delivery of the outcomes required by providers of such funding. This work has continued to such an extent that the only grants now being carried forward into 2012 are as a consequence of Sports Council funding years being April to March.

I also reported increasing uncertainty surrounding the availability of grant funding from government and BIG (the Big Lottery). As a result of the cut in funding from UK Sport the International Programme was delivered at lower cost than had originally been planned, and this will continue to be necessary in 2012. Other funding has so far survived the current rounds of cuts in government spending, and we are now working hard to secure funding from 2013 – 2017, but it is still unclear what the overall government funding of sport is likely to look like after the end of the current funding period (and after the London 2012 Olympics).

## Reserves

British Orienteering operates a policy which dictates the level of reserves it should carry in order to protect its financial future. In summary, the Board seeks to maintain sufficient reserves to enable it to cover three months of total expenditure and a further three months of its core (i.e. non-funded) activity. At the end of 2011 (based on the expenditure budgeted for 2011) this policy indicates a requirement for British Orienteering to hold reserves of £336,000. Excluding fixed assets, and funds designated for specified purposes, the reserves stood at £442,000 at 31 December 2011.

This security is likely to become increasingly important over the next few years as future government and lottery funding remains uncertain.

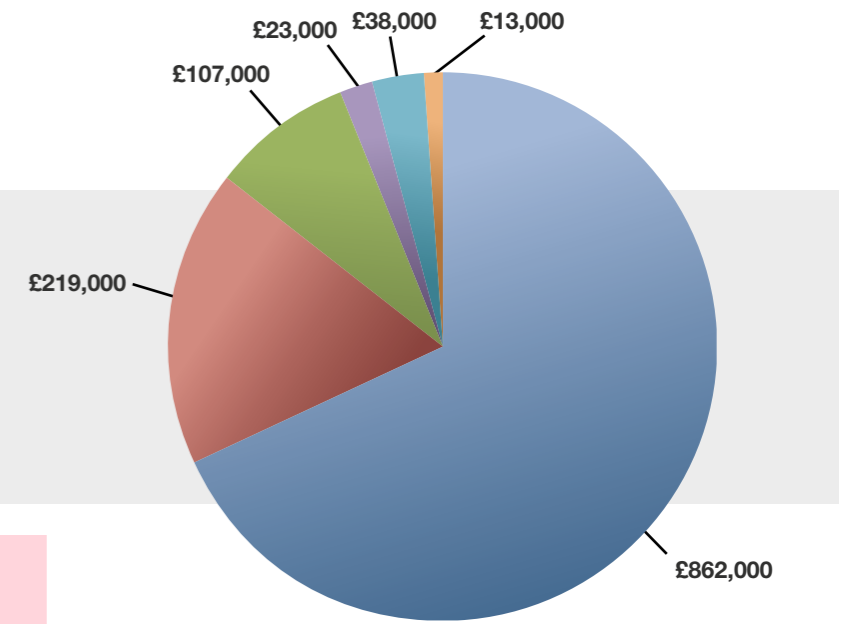


## Income

Total income during 2011 was £1,262,000.

Figure 1: Income during 2011

- Grants
- Event Income
- Membership
- Contributions
- Sales and Other Income
- Interest



- Grants utilised totalled £862,000 (2010 - £972,000). This comprised £259,000 brought forward from 2010, £851,000 received during the year and £247,000 which is being carried forward to 2012 (most of which will have been spent before 31 March 2012). Funding from such sources has fallen slightly to 68% of the total income (2010 – 72%).

- Income from membership fees decreased by 4% to £107,000 (2010 - £112,000).

- Income from events comprises participation levy income and the surplus generated by the staging of the JK, the various British Championships (Long, Middle, Sprint, Relays and Night Championships) and the CompassSport Cup Final. These major events (which do not generate participation levy income) generated a surplus to British Orienteering of £27,000 (2010 - £33,000). The participation levy increased to £138,000 (2010 - £95,000), of which £28,500 (2010 - £8,000) was generated from the summer multi-day events. The participation levy from these events is designated for development grants to clubs and associations (and other stakeholders) to support the future of orienteering.

- Contributions from athletes and those attending conferences fell to £23,000 (2010 - £36,000), primarily as a result of the reduced international programme necessitated by the cut in UK Sport funding. These contributions reduce the cost to British Orienteering of athletes and volunteers attending training camps, overseas competitions and conferences.

- Sales and other income amounted to £38,000. The most significant source of other income is from the sale of coaching training and resources (£31,500) although it should be noted that expenditure against this income was £15,000.

- Interest income has increased slightly to £13,000 (2010 - £11,000) as a consequence of a small increase in long-term rates, resulting in our placing some monies at 3.25%, a higher rate than has been achievable for the past few years.

## Expenditure

From our income of £1,262,000, expenditure was £1,229,000.

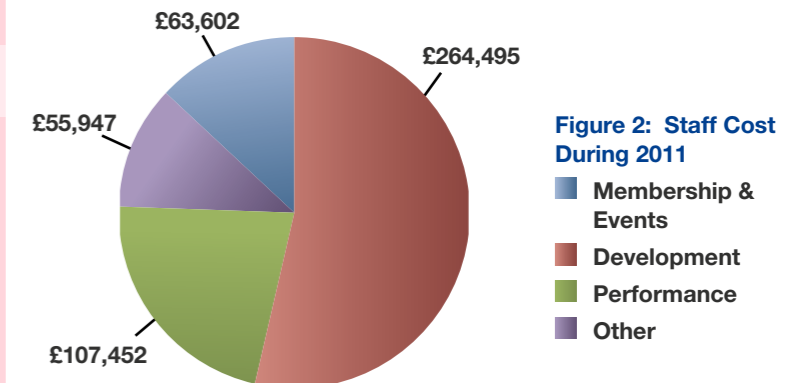


Figure 2: Staff Cost During 2011

- Membership & Events
- Development
- Performance
- Other

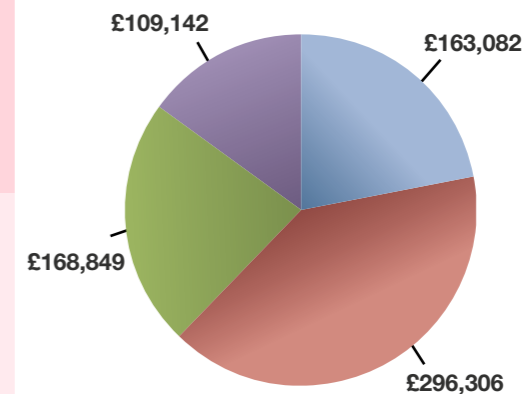


Figure 3: Programme Expenditure Excluding Staff Costs During 2011

- Membership & Events
- Development
- Performance
- Other

## How was money spent?

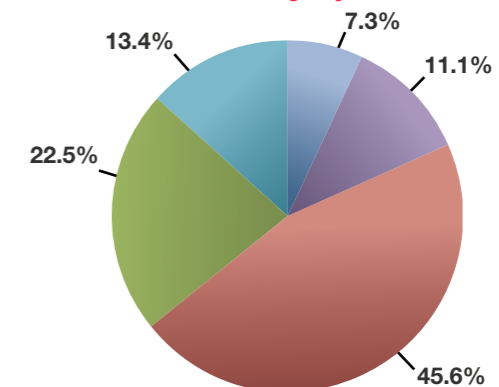


Figure 4: Investment of ALL Income in 2011

- Membership
- Events
- Development
- Performance
- Governance



# Development and Increasing Participation

By Edward Nicholas, Development Manager

## Development Programme

This year the Development Programme has strived to deliver more orienteering opportunities throughout the country to increase the number of new people taking part in orienteering as well as to support current orienteers.

The year has seen a number of staff changes with the conclusion of the part time Regional Development Officer programme in England and the employment of two new full time Participation Managers. The Regional Development Officers played a significant role in evolving development practices within clubs and should be rightly credited for their work. Natalie Shaw (Participation Manager East) and Caroline Gay (Participation Manager West) joined us in April of this year and both have already made significant impacts in their work areas. Steve Vernon (National Participation Manager and Participation Manager North) and Richard Barrett (Participation Manager South) continue to work in their respective areas.

## Increasing Participation and Community Orienteering

It is pleasing to see that Community Orienteering continues to grow. Community Orienteering is now delivered in 45 different locations throughout England with projects also in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. The North of England and the East Midlands are areas of strength with 22 Community Orienteering sessions in the North and 9 Community Orienteering sessions in the East Midlands. East Anglia continues to grow positively and a number of new projects are being set up in 2012 in the South and West. A number of the club nights that have been in existence for a while have now become independently sustainable following on from the initial funding support from British Orienteering.

Community Orienteering continues to support new participants as they progress from come and try it events and schools orienteering into mainstream orienteering events. By creating a welcoming environment for these participants and a social atmosphere, we are enabling new orienteers to have a better understanding before they venture into the forest and open countryside.

2011 also saw considerable advances in our resource development and our marketing capabilities. The biggest resource development has been the creation of the 'Year in a Box' which has given coaches a years' worth of activity and resources to allow them to deliver fun and interesting sessions. All of the resources are conveniently packed into a very portable box. Our ranges of marketing and promotional items have also increased and the Print Portal continues to be a successful mechanism for clubs to access printed materials that can be used to promote orienteering activities. Orienteering continues to be publicised in a number of places and has in the past year appeared on national radio and television.

**"It's great fun and a good opportunity to keep fit. The club night also helps me work on my orienteering skills whilst catching up with friends."**  
*Hannah, aged 14*

**"By designing marketing plans and doing local advertising for Community O, NOC has been able to raise its profile which benefits orienteering in general and not just the weekly club night."**  
*Catherine Hughes, NOC Coach.*

### Currently 34 open clubs in England are involved in the Community Orienteering programme and the following clubs have started Community Orienteering projects in 2011:

- Berkshire Orienteers
- City of Birmingham Orienteering Club
- Claro Orienteering Club
- Clydeside Orienteers
- Dartford Orienteering Klubb
- Deeside Orienteers
- Devon Orienteering Club
- East Pennine Orienteering Club

- Eborienteers
- Edinburgh Southern Orienteering Club
- Lakeland Orienteering Club
- Lincoln Orienteering Group
- Mole Valley Orienteering Club
- Newcastle and Tyneside
- Walton Chasers



The development of orienteering in Universities played a big part of the 2011 work programme. British Orienteering recognises that this is an area of great potential with a large number of individuals experiencing orienteering at school. In 2011 British Orienteering worked with students at Bristol, Teesside, York, Derby (Buxton), Imperial, Roehampton and Leeds Universities. British Orienteering's intention is to continue working with these groups of students to create sustainable University Orienteering clubs.

This year also saw an increase in our partnership working with welcome links with, amongst others, County Sports Partnerships; Youth Sport Trust; British Universities & Colleges Sport and Sports Coach UK. These partners offer a significant amount of support to British Orienteering and we would encourage clubs and members to make use of the opportunities they provide.



## Quality Clubs

The Clubmark programme continues to be delivered by British Orienteering and we remain one of the highest performing sports in terms of our percentage coverage of clubs accredited.

By the end of the year, forty English clubs had achieved the Clubmark standard which recognises the clubs' management of the coaching and competition programmes. One new club was awarded the Clubmark accreditation during 2011. A number of clubs in Scotland and Northern Ireland have also achieved similar club accreditation with five in Scotland and one in Northern Ireland having achieved an award.



### Newly accredited Clubmark clubs:

- Dartford OK

### Reaccredited Clubmark Clubs

- Wimborne Orienteers
- Bristol Orienteering Klub
- Lakeland Orienteering Club

## Club of the Year Awards

The annual British Orienteering Club of the Year competition takes place in January based on activities during the previous 12 months. The standard of entry was consistently high giving the judging panel a significant challenge in determining a winner.



Hearty congratulations to Leicestershire OC who were the winners and progressed to the National Sport and Recreation Alliance Club of the Year award. The committee made a joint runners up award to South London; South Yorkshire and Moravian all of whom delivered excellent submissions.

Edinburgh University were the top performing University orienteering club. Edinburgh University were also successful in 2011 winning the prestigious British Universities and Colleges Sport University Club of the Year.

## Developing Coaches

Coach development continues to move forward as coaches are educated and developed to deliver increasing participation and higher levels of performance. The key item for 2011 was the creation and piloting of the UKCC Level 3 course. British Orienteering will be looking to offer this course in 2012.

Across the two existing awards we continued to have a number of candidates taking the courses in 2011. The UKCC Level 1 award had 122 attend and 109 complete the course and the UKCC Level 2 award had 30 people attend over a two year period and 23 people have now completed the course.

In 2012 British Orienteering has developed a calendar of coaching courses with each association having one UKCC L1 course and each region (North, South, East and West) having one UKCC L2 course. British Orienteering continues to support the development of coach education staff including tutors, assessors and internal verifiers to ensure the standard of quality remains across the courses.

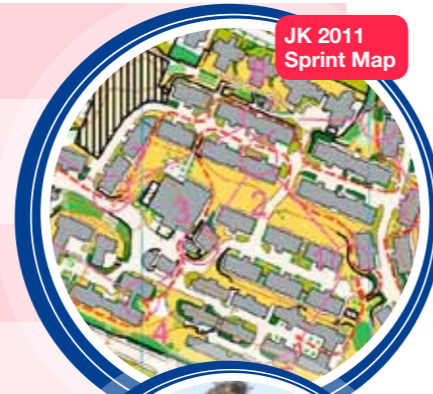


# 2011 Major Events

By Helen Errington and Dave Peel, Event Managers

Associations, clubs and numerous volunteers were involved in organising the major orienteering events that took place during 2011. British Orienteering would like to thank all those involved in making them a success:

- **British Night Championships:** Octavian Droobers staged a very successful event at Bentley Woods, Warwickshire. The event attracted 300 competitors, the highest attendance for some time.
- **British Sprint Championships:** Sussex and Brighton University campuses provided the perfect setting for the first staging of this combined sprint championships. Numbers were high (750) indicating support for the new format. South Downs Orienteers staged the event.
- **British Middle Distance Championships:** This Championships was also staged by South Downs Orienteers at Worth Forest, Crawley. The forest provided very fast running with vague vegetation details providing the technical challenge.
- **Jan Kjellstrom Festival of Orienteering:** Staging the JK in Northern Ireland was a leap of faith for many. Could NIOA rise to the challenge and would anybody come? Of those that did, and there were 2100, few would doubt that it was a huge success, with a truly international feel. Great orienteering, with areas in Belfast and Co Down, and a professional approach to the organisation made for a very successful weekend on all fronts.
- **British Orienteering Championships:** Wharncliffe and Greno Woods have been used for major events before but never together and the combination gave a variety of terrain types for the championships. The complex former workings in Tankersley gave a technically challenging venue for the relays, rounding off a great weekend in Sheffield. The events were staged by South Yorkshire Orienteers and East Pennine Orienteering Club.
- **Compass Sport Cup & Trophy:** Derwent Valley Orienteers staged the event on Longshaw Estate, Derbyshire, with support from the National Trust. Great planning made the most of the area with all courses being extremely competitive. Once again the event attracted approximately 900 participants from 20 clubs.
- **British Schools Orienteering Championships:** TINTO staged the event at Beecraigs Country Park, West Lothian. The event attracted school teams from across the country.



JK 2011 Sprint Map



Hollie Orr won the British Sprint Championships. Credit: Rob Lines

## JK Delivery

The Board of British Orienteering endorsed plans to develop the delivery of the JK. This will take effect from 2014 with a professional coordinator being appointed to oversee the JK event moving forward. Their main role will be to bring leadership to the organisation of each event, reduce the burden on volunteers and bring continuity to the development of the event.



## World Orienteering Championships 2015

British Orienteering's bid to hold the World Orienteering Championships 2015 was successful and preparations are now under way to stage the event. The event will be run in parallel with the bi-annual Scottish 6 Days and will be based around Inverness, Scotland. One of the strengths of the bid was the strong partnership that was formed between orienteering organisations, government agencies and the local community. It will be this partnership which helps to deliver a successful event.

## Event Officials Training

The development and training of event officials continued in 2011, with the successful introduction of Event Safety workshops. To date over 600 people have attended a workshop.

The annual Major Event Conference also saw a high number of delegates. The conference had a range of speakers presenting on the successes and good practice from 2011 events. In addition there were sessions on the Scottish 6 Day organisation model, sprint event controlling issues and planning middle distance courses.

## Competition Review

The competition review has nearly run its course with a number of recommendations emerging. One of the main objectives was to generate a competition structure which meets the needs of participants from local to national level. One of the most notable recommendations is the introduction of a National Orienteering Series which is based upon and replaces the UK Cup, Master Cup and FCC competitions. The review also highlighted the support for the events currently being staged by clubs and associations at local and regional level.

# International Performance Programme

Thanks to UK Sport and Sport England for funding the Performance Programme

## Competition Highlights

Graham Gristwood continued his form from 2010 despite his early season being affected by injuries. He was awarded the Mike Wells-Cole trophy for Best Performance at the World Orienteering Championships.

As a result of producing one of the outstanding performances of the year by finishing with a career best 4th place at the World Cup Final, Tessa Hill was awarded the Senior Best Improver trophy.

Mairead Rocke was awarded the Junior Orienteer of the Year for her 15th place in the Long race and her 20th place in the Sprint race at the Junior World Orienteering Championships.

Julia Blomquist was awarded the Junior Best Improver trophy for her string of outstanding results at the Junior World Orienteering Championships, 14th in the Long, 19th in the Middle and 16th in the Sprint.

The highlight of the European Youth Orienteering Championships was Florence Haines's 4th place in the W18 Long race.

## Programme Highlights

We are now approaching the end of the third year of our four year funding cycle. After spending much of the last three years focused on making changes to the structure of our Programmes to bring them in to line with best practice in long term athlete development, we are now entering a new phase focused on delivery.

Making changes to the Programme has not been easy but they have been necessary. We now have a Talent Pathway which supports athletes all the way from the point when they are first identified as talented, and enter the Programme, up to delivering World Class success. The new Talent Pathway allows for the right type of support and knowledge to be delivered to athletes at the right stage in their development. The pathway is flexible to cater for early or late developers as well as those who enter orienteering through traditional family pathways or those that get involved at a later stage.

The Performance Programme is at an exciting stage in its development. Undoubtedly there will be significant challenges ahead but we are well placed to meet these and to make the most of whatever resource is available. Many exciting opportunities will arise as a result of the World Orienteering Championships being awarded to British Orienteering in 2015. We are doing everything possible to ensure that we make the most of the opportunity to compete at a home World Championships and improve on the GBR's 'Team' results at the World Orienteering and Junior World Orienteering Championships.

Graham Gristwood was 4th at the World Championships. Credit: Nick Campbell

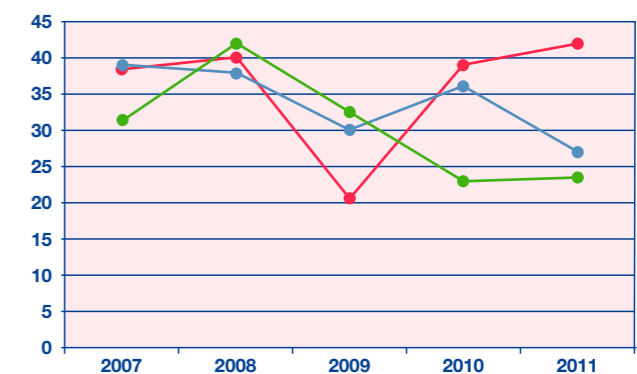


Tessa Hill had a breakthrough Year. Credit: Soren Andersson

WOC Median Finish Position



JWOC Median Finish Position



— Long — Middle — Sprint

Sarah Hague

National Talent Manager

# Roll Of Honour

Award	Winners
Club of the Year	Leicestershire Orienteering Club
University Club of the Year	Edinburgh University Orienteering Club
Silva Award for Services to Orienteering	Colin Dickson (British Army OC)
Senior Orienteer of the Year (Mike Wells – Cole Trophy)	Graham Gristwood
Junior Orienteer of the Year (Silva Statuette Trophy)	Mairead Rocke
Senior Best Improved Orienteer of the Year	Tessa Hill
Junior Best Improved Orienteer of the Year	Julia Blomquist

Position	Athlete	Championship	Discipline
4th	Graham Gristwood	World Orienteering Championships	Sprint
4th	Scott Fraser	World Cup 2	Sprint
4th	Tessa Hill	World Cup Final	Sprint
4th	Florence Haines	European Youth Championships	Long W18
7th	Scott Fraser	World Cup Final	Sprint
8th	Scott Fraser	World Cup 1	Sprint
9th	Scott Fraser	World Orienteering Championships	Sprint

Position	Athlete	Championship	Discipline
Gold	Karen Poole	World Masters	Sprint W35
Gold	Val Challacombe	World Masters	Sprint W60
Silver	Tim Tett	World Masters	Sprint M50
Bronze	Nick Barrable	World Masters	Sprint M35
Bronze	Eileen Bedwell	World Masters	Long W80
Gold	Charlotte Somers-Cocks	World MTBO Masters	Sprint W50
Gold	Charlotte Somers-Cocks	World MTBO Masters	Middle W50
Silver	Charlotte Somers-Cocks	World MTBO Masters	Long W50
Bronze	Killian Lomas	World MTBO Masters	Long M40

British Championships	Long	Middle	Sprint	Night	Relay
Senior Men	Doug Tullie	Graham Gristwood	Murray Strain	Matthew Crane	Shuoc
Senior Women	Tessa Hill	Claire Ward	Hollie Orr	Tessa Hill	WCOC
Junior Men	Alan Cherry	Peter Hodkinson	Peter Hodkinson	Stuart Thomson	SROC
Junior Women	Julia Blomquist	Mairead Rocke	Julia Blomquist	N/A	HH

<b>British Trail O Champions</b>	Alan Gartside (Open), John Crosby (Paralympic)
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<b>JK Men's Individual Champion</b>	Hector Haines	<b>JK Men's Relay Champions</b>	Interlopers
<b>JK Women's Individual Champion</b>	Tessa Hill	<b>JK Women's Relay Champions</b>	British Army OC

<b>Home Internationals</b>	Junior – England	Senior – Scotland	Veterans – England
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<b>FCC</b>	W20 Charlotte Ward	W18 Florence Haines	M20 Robert Gardner	M18 Peter Bray
<b>UK Cup</b>	Claire Ward	Matt Crane	<b>UK Relay</b>	SYO
<b>CompassSport Cup</b>	South Yorkshire Orienteers		<b>CompassSport Trophy</b>	Forth Valley Orienteers
<b>Yvette Baker Trophy</b>	LOC		<b>Jamie Stevenson Trophy</b>	MAROC
<b>Junior Inter Regional</b>	NWOA		<b>Peter Palmer Junior Relay</b>	LOC

BSOC Winning Schools	Primary	Middle/Prep	Small Secondary	Large Secondary	Tertiary/6th Form
	Kingswood School	Barnardiston Hall Prep School	None	Banchory Academy	None

<b>MTBO British Champions</b>	Sprint: Killian Lomas, Andy Conn (joint 1st) & Emily Benham Middle: Bryan Singleton & Emily Benham Long: Andrew Simpson & Emily Nenham
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Mapping Awards	Winner
Silva Trophy for Professional Cartography	Colin Spears
Bonnington Trophy for Services to Mapping	Ian Cooper
Walsh Best City/Sprint Map	Paul Taylor