

# A Permanent Partnership

A lot has been written about the DVO satellite club at Buxton over the last 12 months partially due to its success as a satellite club but also due to its continual growth as a community base for orienteering activities. Buxton and District Orienteering Club continues to provide a 'model example' of a satellite orienteering club and credit must go to the various partners that have been involved to make the project a success. The project started in 2008 thanks to a successful funding bid by Pauline Olivant (East Midlands Regional Development Officer) to Sport England's Community Investment Fund and has grown from there due to the successful partnerships involved.

The latest development in Buxton is the new Permanent Orienteering Course (POC) at the Pavilion Gardens. The Pavilion Gardens has been used for a variety of activities by the club due to its location only 800m away from the club base at Buxton Community School. Both the High Peak Borough Council and High Peak School Sports Partnership were willing to support DVO with the development of a POC at the site.

The High Peak Borough Council and High Peak School Sports have been instrumental to the success of the project and were keen to develop the POC so that the local community and schools could use the site for orienteering but also as another activity for tourists visiting Buxton.

Once permission was granted by the local council parks department for the course to be installed, the funding for the posts was provided equally by DVO, the council and the school sports partnership. DVO were able to access Derbyshire's Grass Roots fund for a grant that covered this amount.



Three courses (easy, medium and hard) were planned by Dan Riley of Buxton and District Orienteer's and a POC leaflet aimed specifically at beginners was designed by Caroline Povey at British Orienteering as a template that other clubs could use. On traditional POC leaflets all three courses are usually printed on one map which can appear very confusing. It was therefore decided that a leaflet for each individual course would be produced to simplify the map and ensure that beginners got a good first experience of orienteering without finding it complicated. The leaflet also included instructions on how to complete the course, a photo of the control post and information on the Buxton Satellite Club, DVO and British Orienteering. The maps will be sold at the Pavilion Gardens shop and information centre for 50p each or in a pack along with a



pencil and rubber for £2.00. Each leaflet cost 10p to print so the leaflets have the potential to generate an income for the Pavilion Gardens. If you would like a sample of the leaflet please email [caroline@britishorienteering.org.uk](mailto:caroline@britishorienteering.org.uk).

Chris Nightingale (Sports Development Officer at the High Peak Borough Council) hopes to develop more POC's in the area. He currently employs two part time community sports coaches that have recently completed their UKCC Level 1 Orienteering Coaching Award and they regularly deliver orienteering sessions and activities

in the local community to family groups. Chris says, 'orienteering is a sport that can involve the whole family and is therefore a focus of ours in the High Peak; we hope to provide further opportunities to families and support the Orienteering Club at Buxton Community School as it continues to grow and develop'.

Celia Watkinson (South West RDO) is currently developing a POC good practice guide on how clubs can develop a POC in their area. This will be available soon in the 'Increasing Participation' section of the British Orienteering website.

