**Leeds University Orienteering Club**

**When it started?**

The club formed in September 2011 just before the influx of new students. The University of Leeds has a rich history of orienteering, however because of the triennial turnover of students; LUOC had previously dissolved over time. The location of the campus and surrounding area is textbook orienteering terrain and with a well-established community club nearby, the Airienteers, the foundations were there. The club was founded with a vision to provide access to orienteering.

**What it has done?**

In its first year, the club attracted 13 paid members and saw up to 35 students try out orienteering over the two semesters. We competed at BUCS and came 8th out of 16 which awarded our University 1 BUCS point.

At the end of semester 1 in year two, we now have 32 paid members and have already had 45 students and 1 non-student join our training sessions and events. At the beginning of year two, 5 objectives were set to be achieved by the end of the academic year.

**Objectives for Year 2?**

1. To have 25 paying members
2. To have 15 regular members
3. To attract 2 or more members from outside of the University
4. To increase inter-society relations, more specifically commit to joint memberships and/or joint weekend trips
5. To maintain regular training and good practice to increase the orienteering performance of the club’s members to improve achievement in BUCS

**Figure 1.** Attendance to the weekly sessions for semester 1 over two years.

Objectives 1, 2 and 5 have already been attained. As previously stated we have 32 paid members currently. Figure 1 compares the attendance to sessions on a weekly basis for years 1 and 2 (2011 & 2012). The attendance has been above 15 members regularly (dashed line) for year 2 (semester 1).

Finally, we have been undertaking weekly sessions to aid our members in improving their orienteering skills. The club is taking 18 members (fully paid) to the Edinburgh Big Weekend in January 2013. We also have 14 members (fully paid) signed up to attend BUCS in February 2013. Therefore, the potential to improve our BUCS standing is feasible; objective 5 is an on-going objective.

Objectives 2 and 3 are yet to be fulfilled. We already have 1 non-student member but we are still looking to increase this. Also, our inter-society relations are growing; however no substantial progress has been made. These two objectives will be the main focus of next semester.

**What next?**

The risk of the club dissolving after this year is as high as it is in any year and steps need to be taken to prevent dissolution. The clubs committee will create a standard template for running the club on a yearly basis. For example, we know that the club will be attending Airienteer events next year; therefore we will include these into next year’s plan. We also know that BUCS will be occurring so we can input when that will be and when to start asking members to sign up. If planning for next year is done this year, then the task of taking on the club will seem less daunting for prospective committee members.

We intend to hold our own orienteering event for other universities to attend. This was scheduled for Jan 2013, however due to the Edinburgh Big Weekend; this will be postponed until next year.

Ashley Stratton-Powell

President

LUUOC