



NORTHERN NAVIGATORS
21st Anniversary event at
Black Banks
Sunday, 15th December 1990



This event was to celebrate the 21st anniversary of the first event organised by Lanchester Orienteers at Black Banks on 18th May 1969. It was a closed event open only to all participants of the 1969 event, former members of Lanchester Orienteers / Northern Navigators and all present members of Northern Navigators.

As a closed event there was no requirement for it to be held under BOF rules and it did not comply with current BOF rules 6,7,8 and 9. In place of these the rules, customs and practice pertaining in 1969 applied. Amongst other things this meant competitors wearing red or white clothing could be disqualified.

The venue was Black Banks Plantation, Wolsingham. A coniferous plantation of varying maturity and runnability with some felled areas. Parking was on a forest road at GR NZ098351.

Registration was from 12.00 to 1.30

Fees were – seniors 50p, juniors 25p.

Start times were from 1.00 to 2.00.

Map – 1:25000, 25ft contours, single colour, re-drawn from the OS map with meridian lines as grid north - a facsimile of the 1969 map.

Courses available were :

1. Senior men (M21/35) - 6.7km
2. Veteran Men (M40+) – 5.2km
Senior Women (W21/35)
Intermediate Men (M17/19)
3. Veteran Women (W40+) – 2.9km
Intermediate Women (W17/19)
Junior Men / Women (M/W15-)

Courses 1 & 2 were planned by Sue Rogers in 1969. Course 3 was planned in 1990 by Andrew Philipson, as no trace of the original course (if indeed there was one) survives. Competitors who are not familiar with the rules and customs of 20 years ago should note that the majority of control features do not appear on the map; only those bearing a definite article in the description list are actually on the map. Modest prizes were awarded to the winners of the 8 classes, to the 21st finisher and to the person judged to be wearing the most authentic 1969 dress. They were presented at the Anniversary dinner held at St Aiden's College, Durham.

Senior Women – 5.2km (course 2)

- | | | |
|------------------|----|-------|
| 1. Tricia Davies | NN | 66.48 |
| 2. Julia Fraser | NN | 81.41 |

Veteran Women – 2.9km (course 3)

- | | | |
|------------------|----|-------|
| 1. Liz Hale | NN | 37.23 |
| 2. Sue Rogers | NN | 43.15 |
| 3. Eileen Morgan | NN | 68.46 |

Junior Men – 2.9km (course 3)

- | | | |
|-----------------|----|-------|
| 1. George Rose | NN | 29.12 |
| 2. Martin Brook | NN | 83.50 |

Non-competitive

- | | | |
|---------------|----|-------|
| Willis family | NN | 83.27 |
|---------------|----|-------|

Intermediate Men – 5.2km (course 2)

- | | | |
|-------------------|----|-------|
| 1. Phil Snowdon | NN | 47.22 |
| 2. Graham Carrick | NN | 50.32 |
| 3. Andrew Grieves | NN | 63.08 |

Senior Men – 6.7km (course 1)

- | | | |
|---------------|----|-------|
| 1. Eric Stamp | NN | 65.08 |
|---------------|----|-------|

Veteran Men – 5.2km (course 2)

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------|-------|
| 1. Alan Morgan | NN | 47.01 |
| 2. Bob Johnson | NN | 51.47 |
| 3. Malcolm McIvor | NN | 56.28 |
| 4. Jim Hudson | Guest | 59.17 |
| 5. David Brook | NN | 60.30 |
| 6. Grahame Rose | NN | 63.56 |
| 7. Ken Fraser | NN | 66.51 |
| 8. Frank Major | NN | 69.50 |
| 9. Maurice Swales | NN | 92.40 |

Disqualified

- | | | |
|------------|----|----------|
| David Hale | NN | 59.55 m2 |
|------------|----|----------|

Organiser / planners comments – Andrew Philipson

Course's 1 & 2 were essentially as planned by Sue Rogers in 1969 but to avoid placing 2 controls in areas of felled / young trees I moved 'H' to the road bend and 'Q' to the crag. This probably shortened the courses by a couple of hundred metres. I also noted from the 1969 results that "control no.4 on course 2 caused some difficulty. A possible slight inaccuracy in the re-drawn map tended to lead some people astray." No doubt this was because a substantial hill, which is neatly centred on the control circle, appeared as a broad re-entrant. It was supposed to be "in a clearing" but as I could find no sign of a clearing I altered the description to "a summit" which made it easy to find.

For course 3 I simply joined up a series of existing controls in the best part of the forest. Although most people probably used the road for the contouring series 3,4,5 and 6 it was actually very easy to run through without touching the road at all.

I was astonished by the good times which were recorded by the leaders of all classes. I had thought that today's orienteers would not be able to cope with a map showing only roads, boundaries, streams and rather dubious contours but I was wrong. For comparison here is a selection of the 1969 results:

Intermediate Men

- | | |
|---------------|--------|
| 1. T.O'Connor | 106.29 |
|---------------|--------|

Senior Men

- | | |
|-------------------|-------|
| 1. Dave Gittus | 67.16 |
| 2. Roger Lott | 70.31 |
| 3. Tony Walker | 73.59 |
| 4. Jim Hudson | 79.53 |
| 5. Dave Brook | 80.29 |
| 9. Alan Morgan | 89.25 |
| 12. Dave Caudwell | 92.39 |

Veteran Men

- | | |
|--------------------|--------|
| 1. Maurice Collett | 101.40 |
|--------------------|--------|
- (technically disqualified – took no.4 out of order)*

Senior Women

- | | |
|--------------------|--------|
| 1. Jill Brook | 111.10 |
| 2. Helen Charlton | 115.19 |
| 3. Clarissa Napier | 123.24 |
| 4. Lorna Collett | 133.25 |

No Veteran Women ran. The Junior Mens's course was won in 41.52 but we do not know where it went or even how long it was.

Finally, can I say how pleased I was to be able to put on this event as a tribute to those pioneers of 21 years ago.

Alan Morgan took the spot prize for 21st finisher and Sue Rogers, wearing a 1969 vintage O-suit complete with original LO cloth badge, was awarded the prize for the most authentic dress.