

NI Schools Orienteering Association

Volume 2, Issue 1

Spring Term 2012

While orienteering has been part of the GCSE programme in many schools for some time more and more post primary schools are now using orienteering throughout the school often in partnership with other subjects (Geography & Maths). A number of schools also run successful After School Clubs. One of these schools is The Royal School Dungannon

Get going After School in The Royal School Dungannon

Having caught the orienteering 'bug' myself during the summer I returned to school at the start of the year with a keen interest to give our pupils the opportunity to experience orienteering for themselves. I was fortunate enough to receive the full backing of our headmaster. I targeted pupils at KS3 and KS4, firstly by doing a short presentation in assembly and then inviting Greg McCann (NI Coaching Development Officer) along one afternoon to introduce orienteering to the pupils. We had over forty pupils who came along on that first afternoon. While this initial interest was being

established we were getting the school mapped and we now have a permanent orienteering course in the school grounds. I have been running an orienteering club after school one day a week and although some of the initial enthusiasm from the pupils has worn off I still have a dozen or more regular members. The problem is no matter what day is chosen it always clashes with practices for other sports.

The permanent course and school map have not only been used by myself for the orienteering club but also with a group during senior

games and by the geography department for year 8 map reading skills.

We had one very enjoyable trip to the University of Ulster, Coleraine for an orienteering event and would like to see many more opportunities for schools to participate in events suited to beginners and to the more experienced.

Orienteering has given those who may not be involved in the 'main' school sports a chance to get out and get actively involved in something and it has also given the sporty people something new to try.

Gordon Black

Benefits of Membership

- Visits and advice on orienteering within the curriculum for after school from the Development Team
- Coaching opportunities for promising pupils of all ages
- Information about schools' competitions
- Cheaper entry rate to schools' competitions

Outdoor Education Centres

The following centres are recognised by NI Orienteering:

- Gortatole OEC,
- Tollymore Mountain Centre,
- Woodhall OEC
- Belfast Activity Centre,
- Ardnabannon OEC
- Bushmills OEC



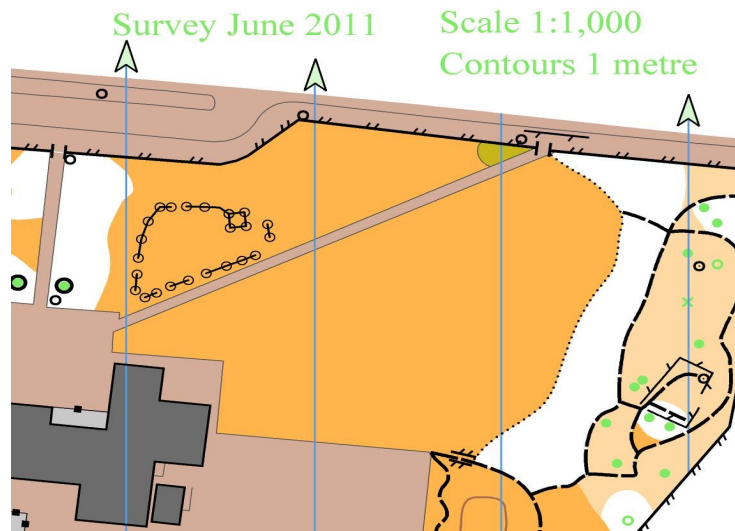
NISOA Prize Draw Winners

Primary Schools

Newtownstewart Primary School was the lucky winner in this section and is now the proud owner of a school orienteering map.

Post Primary Section

Sullivan Upper Grammar School were the winners of a Young Leaders Award course for their GCSE PE class. This course trains 14—19 year olds to set up and assist in the delivery of basic skills sessions in school.



The Post primary competitions are designed for Years 8 & 9 as GCSE level is catered for in more suitable assessment events. Schools will score league points for every participant who takes part in a competition with additional points for the top 20 finishers. Primary competitions will start at 10.30 am and post primary competitions will start between 12 and 1pm. All events will use electronic punching and participants will be awarded a Record of Achievement Certificate

Events are open to all schools but NISOA members will get a reduced entry rate. Further details will be sent out to member schools but if you have any questions please contact Helen Baxter rdonioa@btinternet.com

SCHOOLS LEAGUE AND CHAMPIONSHIPS 2011-2012

POST PRIMARY CHAMPIONSHIPS

29th February **PARKANAUR FOREST (Dungannon)**

POST PRIMARY LEAGUE EVENTS

7th March **COOLNAFRANKEY (Cookstown)**

25th April **OAKFIELD GLEN (Carrickfergus)**

16th May **ST COLUMB'S PARK (Londonderry)**

13th June **GORTIN GLEN (Omagh)**

PRIMARY SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS

14th June **PARKANAUR FOREST (Dungannon)**

PRIMARY SCHOOL LEAGUE

25th April **OAKFIELD GLEN (Carrickfergus)**

16th May **ST COLUMB'S PARK (Londonderry)**

GCSE ASSESSMENT EVENTS 2012

There will be multi school GCSE Assessment Events with electronic punching on the following dates

March 14th Drum Manor Forest Park run by Gortatole Outdoor Education Centre

March 21st Tollymore Forest Park run by Tollymore Mountain Centre

If you are interested in either of these events please contact the Outdoor provider direct.