

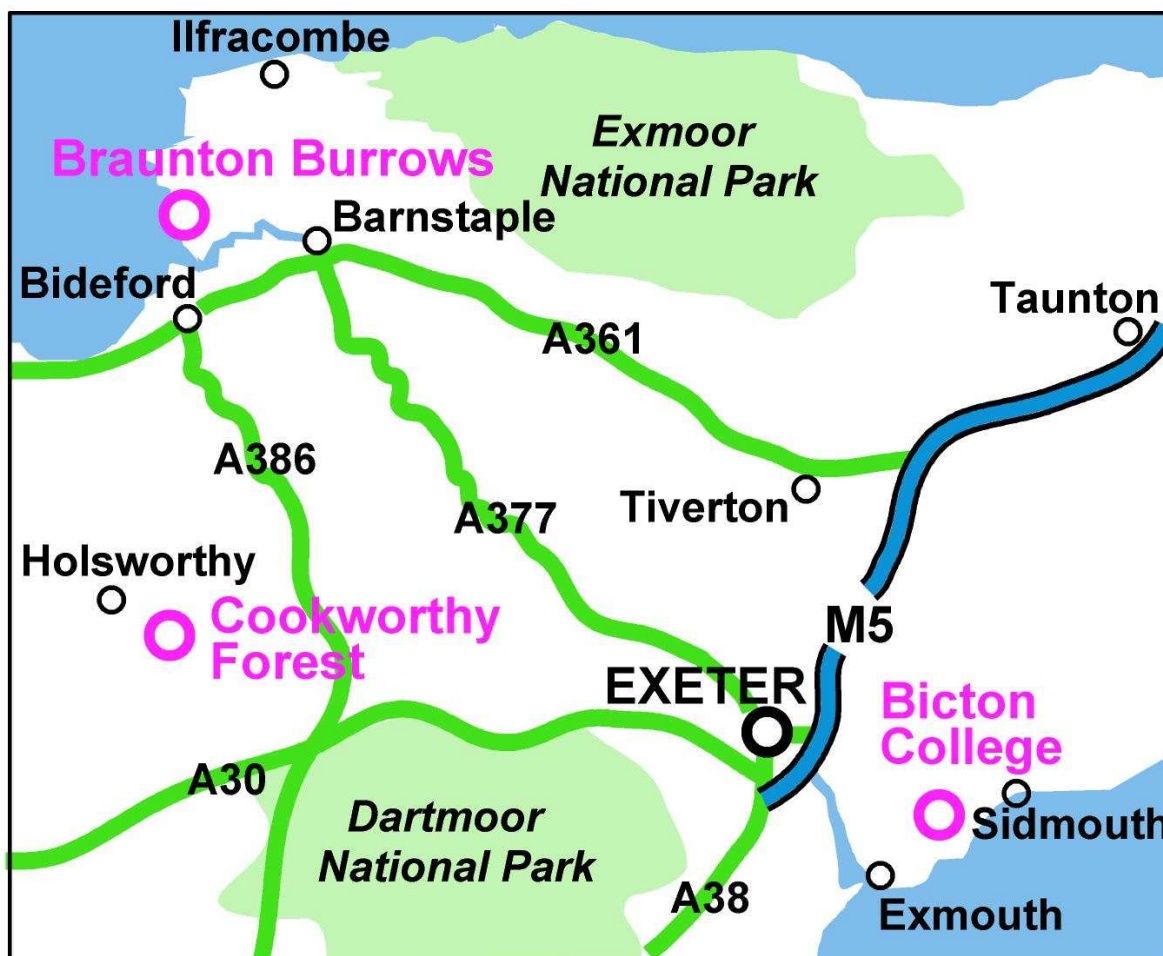
Chairman's Chat Dec 2009

Big Events Next Year, the JK and the Tamar Triple

The Jan Kjellstrom Festival of Orienteering (JK for short) takes place each year. It is a four-day event over the Easter weekend. Next year, 2010, it comes to the south-west, and indeed, all four days will be within the county of Devon.

I strongly recommend the occasion to all Devon OC members, particularly those who have never been to one. We get 100 competitors to a local event if we are lucky. The JK attracts 3000 including a significant number from overseas. It is big. This year, you don't have to travel to the other end of the country. The event is coming to you – at least reasonably close.

Friday 2 nd April	Bicton College	Sprint O
Saturday 3 rd April	Cookworthy	Elite Middle Distance + Classic Races
Sunday 4 th April	Braunton Burrows	Classic Races
Monday 5 th April	Braunton Burrows	Relays



The Sprint Orienteering on Good Friday is a relatively new format, short races at breakneck speed in semi-urban environments. University campuses are popular venues. The classic races on Saturday and Sunday are classic distance, ie normal for your age-class. On Saturday the Elites have a shorter race, though they will make up for it on Sunday with something like 15km. Monday is relay day. So over the weekend there is an interesting mix of event styles. A public address commentary team will ensure we know what is going on all the time. There will be spectator controls on some courses where the route comes close to the finish, and spectators can see the winning runners coming through.

To get an idea of the Festival feel, have a look at the website from last year's JK, which was in Northumberland, www.jk2009.org.uk

The photo below shows the young elite winners on the podium at Newcastle University. after the sprint race (no Devon members).



Please give some thought as to whether you will be able to attend on some or all of the days. Online and paper entries opened on 1st December. Fees are higher than for local events, but there are discounts for entering early.

Of course we shall need helpers, around 100 people each day. Some of the major functions have already been covered. SARUM are doing car parking, BOK are looking after starts, (both big jobs), QO are organising the String course, the South-West junior squad is doing control collection, WIM is providing Trail O, etc. But there will be a lot of other jobs and gaps to fill.

My particular job using Devon members is to organise EOD data entry and download teams (no prior skill needed). This will obviously happen on all four days, but does not need the same people.

Any contributions you can make will be most welcome, and indeed needed. No helper will be deprived from having a run as well. The Race Day Managers are:-

Friday	John Rye	john.rye489@land.mod.uk	01985 223080
Saturday	Carol Pearce	carolgpearce@yahoo.co.uk	01395 443813
Sunday	Peter Brett	pandgbrett@f2s.com	01202 813609
Monday	Peter Brett	pandgbrett@f2s.com	

So, please come forward and support your region and your club. Contact me for an IT job or the appropriate race day manager. If you have already volunteered, that is brilliant. Discounted entry fees for helpers are being considered.

Tamar Triple 2010

This is just a brief note to let you know you that Devon will also be hosting the biennial Tamar Triple, in collaboration with KERNO, on the late May Day bank holiday weekend, 29th – 31st May 2010. All three events will take place some distance from the Tamar on this occasion, in fact on Penhale Sands in Cornwall – more sand dunes, with a high technical challenge. Devon OC, of course, will have to provide some helpers, one job being the start team each day. So please think about that event too. It is the beginning of the half-term week.