

From: Lieutenant Colonel AMHR Reynolds MBE RA



**Bowman Training Advisory Group (North)
Command & Control Development Centre
Duchess of Kent Barracks, Catterick Garrison,
North Yorkshire, DL9 3DF**



Telephone: Military: 94731 3194 Civil: 01748 873194
Fax: 94731 3608 01748 873608
E-Mail: LWDG-C2DC-BOWTAG(N)-SO1
Internet: LWDG-C2DC-BOWTAGN-SO1@mod.uk

SO1/DO

12 July 2011

Dear Commanding Officer, Second in Command and/or Orienteering Officer

ORIENTEERING IN THE NORTH

I am writing to you to seek your support in sustaining and strengthening military orienteering within the Northern area over the forthcoming 2011/2012 season. I am acutely aware of the pressures on unit programmes but, equally, I wanted to make you aware of the opportunities available generally and in particular within the region.

Orienteering in the Army is classed as normal military training, a distinct form of navigation training, and can be used as a component of MATT5 – Land Navigation¹. Participation in Divisional Orienteering League Events and Championships is classified as official military training. The Authority for Army Orienteering is “2011DIN07-098” which provides more detail and information.

The Military Orienteering Mid-Week League North (known as MLN) runs through the period September – May. Events take place mainly in the north east of England and southern Scotland, centred principally on Catterick, Teeside, Newcastle and Edinburgh, venturing further a field on occasions. At each event, there is a selection of courses (3 sometimes 4) to cater for all standards, using pre-marked maps and supported by electronic timing. The majority of the planning and organisational burden is undertaken by experienced orienteers, supported by their own units or units local to the event area. The MLN is also open to members of local civilian clubs, who in the past have helped to organise some events during the season – as the military are thinly spread over a large geographic area in the North, we continue to encourage and maintain linkages with civilian clubs in order to add more “mass” to our events.

On current plans, the season is due to start with a “Training” event on Wednesday 7th September in/around the Catterick area and the first full MLN event will be held at Stonyhurst College on Wednesday 14th September. In addition to the MLN events, a separate Divisional Championships is run towards the end of the season (tentatively planned currently for Wednesday 28th March 2012) as well as a Night Championships and a Harris (Team) Event. Events are scheduled on a (roughly) 2-weekly basis– alternating with and de-conflicted with the 2nd Division Cross Country schedule; in this way, broadly speaking, there is an event of some sort (Orienteering or Cross Country) every week.

1. For example, Orienteering training and competitions will reinforce under testing conditions key elements of Navigation such as orientating a map, taking bearings and navigating across country as well as contribute very effectively to generic Map Reading skills.

Full details of all military events are shown on the Internet at <http://www.baoc.org.uk>. This website also shows details of the ASPT sponsored courses (Orienteering Skills and Planning), which are available, based out of Longmoor; these courses provide an excellent training and developmental opportunity for those interested in progressing their orienteering.

The MLN has been established for several years and the aim now is to seek increased participation at these events. For the military, as well as providing the framework for unit and individual competition, it provides an excellent and regular opportunity to progress map reading skills, fitness, self-reliance and self-confidence amongst soldiers and officers alike. As I said above, whilst the MLN does rely on support from units, much of the routine planning and organisation is taken care of centrally, so events can be used as a vehicle to train unit teams and individuals and to develop young soldiers for minimal effort and expense.

Furthermore, units are openly encouraged to “piggy back” their own unit or sub unit competitions onto MLN events; rear parties too are encouraged to participate too where they can. Overall, increased participation will not only help to sustain and strengthen the MLN but also be in support of the Army Sport Policy.

I hope this letter has made you aware of the opportunities and events which will be routinely available across the Northern area through the 2011/2012 season. Could I ask that you make your units aware of the MLN and Championships events and encourage participation and support wherever possible within the constraints of your busy programmes.

Further information can be obtained as required from the following:

Lt Col Reynolds (Catterick)	94731 3194	01748 873194
Lt Col Huthwaite (Edinburgh)	94748 5400	0131 3105400
Maj Boris Spence (Cramlington)		01670 732323

Yours

Andrew Reynolds

Enclosures:

1. Orienteering in the North Advertisement.
2. Provisional Forecast as at 12th July 2011.

Distribution (via 2nd Division in the first instance):

Headquarters 2nd Division
Headquarters 15 Brigade
Headquarters 42 Brigade
Headquarters 51 Brigade
Headquarters Catterick Garrison
All Units in 2nd Division Area (UK North and Scotland) – RN/RM, Army and RAF.

Copy to:

Brigadier Bell, Assistant, Commander, 2nd Division
Colonel Lane, President Army Orienteering Association
Lieutenant Colonel Huthwaite, CO 105 Regt RA(V)
Lieutenant Colonel Walker, APC Glasgow
Major Spence, CEO NACF
Mr Phill Batts, CLOK
Civilian Clubs (BL, CLARO, CLOK, ESOC, EUOC, RR, NATO, NN, UDOC and UNOC)