

POST-GRANT REPORT FOR SPORTMORAY

JAMIE STEVENSON TROPHY – THE SCOTTISH INTER-CLUB JUNIOR ORIENTEERING COMPETITION SUNDAY 19TH JUNE 2011

sportMoray recently awarded Moravian Orienteering Club a grant of £380 towards the costs of staging a trip to the above event. The day was a great success and was the first time that our club has been able to enter a junior team in the event, something that would have been financially impractical without outside assistance. Twenty four junior members of the club entered the event, and although 2 had to pull out through injury and sickness, 22 travelled on the day, accompanied by 9 adult helpers. One of the missing runners was the club's Scottish international, Andrew Barr.



The Moravian Team prior to the start. Two members are missing from the picture.

Costs. The costs of entering the event was £550 for the coach, and £187 in entry fees, a total of £737. Each participant contributed £5 with the club making up the difference. Most of the spare seats on the coach were taken up by our neighbouring club, Inverness Orienteers who each contributed £5 towards the costs.

Venue. The event took place at Tentsmuir Forest near Tayport in Fife.



Participation. Nine of the open Scottish orienteering clubs entered teams, with over 150 juniors taking part.

Competition Format. There were 8 competitive classes with boys and girls categories for novice juniors, intermediate, advanced and experts (mainly age 16+). Moravian were represented in 5 different classes across the novice, intermediate and advanced categories. With 100 points for a win, 99 for 2nd etc, it was the best 6 counting runners from at least 2 classes that made up the team score (with no more than 4 counting runners in any particular class).

Results. The club finished 6th in an incredibly tight contest where only 6 points separated 2nd and 6th. The counting runners were as follows:

- 1st Girls Novice – Tegan Gregory (Forres) 100pts
 - 2nd Girls Novice – Aubrina MacPherson-Stewart (Forres) 99 pts
 - 4th Boys Novice – Duncan Hornsby (Findhorn) – 97 pts
 - 5th Boys Advanced – Johnstone MacPherson-Stewart – 96 pts
 - 6th Girls Novice – Mairi Weir (Aberlour) – 95 pts
 - 9th Girls Intermediate – Kathryn Barr (Dyke) – 92 pts
- TOTAL 579 pts**



Led by Team Captain Johnstone MacPherson-Stewart, the Moravian team lead competing teams through the tent village during the opening ceremony





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Team Results

1 st Mar Orienteering Club	595
2 nd Inverness OC	586
3 rd Forth Valley OC	585
4 th Grampian OC	582
5 th Edinburgh Interlopers	580
6 th Moravian	579
7 th Edinburgh Southern OC	576
8 th Lock Eck (Oban) OC	572
9 th Tayside OC	531

Had Andrew Barr not been injured, the club could realistically have managed 4th place.

Team Leader's Remarks. This was a milestone in the club's development. It was the first time that the club had been able to enter this competition, and the subsidised costs helped encourage many of the club's newer members to take part. Thanks to the competition's inclusive format, where novices can run as pairs, children as young as 7 were able to experience a major junior competition, and rub shoulders with the best junior orienteers in the country. Our three youngest runners (aged 7 and 8) were paired with older children who were able to share the navigation with them while running together. Moravian are still an inexperienced club, but the wonderful experience gained by taking part in this event has helped build the confidence of many of our novice runners who have been inspired to try to progress in the sport. For our developing orienteers, who now include two or three with real potential in their number, it was a chance to test themselves against the very best in the country.

Besides the competitive side, the event gave our team the chance to socialise with other juniors from right across the country. The chance to relax after the races and mingle with other clubs was invaluable, and the bonding between team members, both of our own club and Inverness OC, on the coach journey has helped to really gel the club together, and cement our good relations with our neighbours.

Orienteering is often seen as a purely individual sport, where people can take part without being a member of a club. It is so valuable to be able to compete in events like this, and demonstrate that orienteering can be very much a team sport, hence promoting the benefits of club membership. sportMoray's backing for this landmark event will hopefully help Moravian Orienteers in our ambitions to evolve in to a real force in Scottish Orienteering.

The aim of the club in the next two years is to continue to promote the growth in orienteering participation in Moray, with the major highlight of Moray 2013, the bi-annual Scottish 6 Day Festival becoming the focus. With 4,000 competitors set to take





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part, this represents a rare opportunity for people of all ages in Moray to take part in this huge event with its carnival atmosphere and competitors from across the world. By introducing local children to the excitement of major competition, this will help spread the gospel about just what orienteering is all about, and hopefully make for a big local participation in Moray 2013. We are grateful to sportMoray for helping us on the road to achieving this.



Kenneth Maciver who attends St Sylvester's School in Elgin, hits the finish on completing the intermediate Boys' Race

Mike Rodgers
Junior Development Officer
Moravian Orienteering Club

20th June 2011



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