

The West Midlander

Spring 2015



The Newsletter of the
West Midlands Orienteering Association



Association Officials

Chairman	Bob Brandon (OD)
Vice-Chairman	Ray Collins (WCH)
Secretary	Delia Kingsbury (WRE)
Treasurer	Barry McGowan (HOC)
Fixtures Secretary/Rep.	Allan Williams (WCH)
Newsletter Editor	Rod Postlethwaite (WRE)
Coaching Rep.	<Vacant>
Colour Badge Awards	Hilary Simpson (OD)
Controllers' Co-ordinator	Henry Morgan (POTOC)
Data Privacy Officer	<Vacant>
E-mail Tree Co-ordinator	<Vacant>
Handbook Editor	Rod Postlethwaite (WRE)
Junior Squad Co-ordinator	Melanie Elkington (OD)
League Results Co-ordinator	Lesley Ross (OD)
Webmaster	Lesley Ross (OD)

Club Representatives

British Orienteering	John Woodall
COBOC	Barry McGowan
HOC	Barry McGowan
OD	Barry Elkington
POTOC	Brenda Morgan
WCH	Ray Collins
WRE	Graham Hardy

All Committee/Officials

Website: <http://www.wmoa.org.uk>

Editorial

Welcome to the Spring edition of the 'West Midlander' which is published a little later than I anticipated.

Firstly, I must make an apology. In my last editorial I mentioned the 40th anniversaries of POTO and WRE this year and neglected to mention that it was the 50th anniversary of the founding of OD who are holding their celebrations at Shuckburgh Hall on 7 June (see page 21).

We have the Springtime in Shropshire weekend at the end of May to look forward to, promising some challenging orienteering in the hills of Shropshire, Worcestershire and Wales.

Later in the Summer is the Scottish 6 Days at Inverness which, this time, is being run in parallel to the World Orienteering Championships. It is the third time that WOC has been held in Scotland - the other years being 1976 and 1999. In fact, the whole idea of the 6 Day event grew from the legacy of maps produced for the 1976 championships. If you want to know more about the history of the event it is worth reading the book 'A Few Surplus Maps' written by the late John Colls. The region has some talented youngsters coming through - maybe they will be representing GB in future WOCs.

Octavian Droobers are leading the West Midlands League by a huge margin after only 5 events showing the great strength in depth of the club. It looks like a one-horse race so the interesting question is who will finish second?

Finally, the West Midlands Relays are being held at Nesscliff Camp by WRE promising fast and furious racing on an area not used for a number of years.

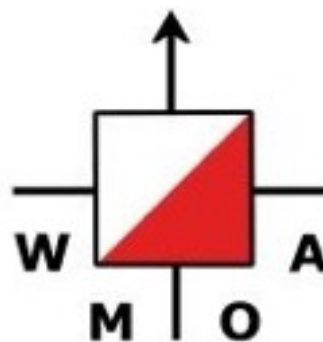
Happy Orienteering

Rod

Copy date for the next issue: 22 June 2015

Inside this Issue

- 2** Association Officials
- 3** Editorial
- 4** Chairman's Report
- 5** Meeting Minutes
- 8** EMIT cards/Brikkes
- 9** CompassSport Cup/ Trophy
- 10** Colour Awards
- 12** Orienteering at King Henry VIII School
- 13** Origins of Wrekin Orienteers
- 14** Origins of the WMOA
- 15** John Bennison's Fanfare Horn
- 15** British Championships
- 16** Midland Championships
- 17** British Night Championships/ JK
- 18** National Squad Selections
- 18** Mapping Awards
- 18** Yvette Baker Trophy
- 19** West Midlands League
- 21** OD 50th Anniversary Event
- 22** Fixtures



WMOA Chairman's Report March 2015

Bob Brandon

Walton Chasers are to be congratulated for putting on such an excellent Midlands Championships at Cannock Chase in February. We were well tested by the route choice Ray Collins' courses provided on his loong legs. Pat Murray's attention to detail, meant he organised the parking, start and finish to be close together, with the assembly and spectacular run-in, quite similar to the British Middle Championships organised by the Club only 5 months earlier. In the meantime Chasers had also provided us with the regional championships!

We were talking last time about finding a suitable event to make as a lasting tribute to the late John Bennison. Mike Callow reports that the Wrekin Committee have offered their annual Long 'O' on the Long Mynd to be so named. This seems an ideal solution, especially as John was a member of Wrekin as his last Club.

We have a new club in the region - Wye Ventures (WYEVENT). Check out their website: www.wyeventures.com for details of their innovative approach to the promotion of orienteering, in particular for the benefit of children and families. We invited Kyla da Cunha from the Club, to the March WMOA Committee meeting. Kyla told us about the indoor training sessions, with outdoor challenge sessions taking place in parks and woods. The system seems quite successful, and would benefit from offers of support for the new young recruits to orienteering, as they venture from the Hereford base, to take part at events listed in our established calendar of fixtures.

It is a year of anniversaries. The Wrekin event signifying 40 years of the Wrekin Club. A strange day with the car-park in mist, unable to see the hill above. Once started we encountered sheet ice, snow and glorious sunshine on the ridge. There was cake as you downloaded, where Jill Leventon kindly handed me a large slice complete with walnut. Yum.



Photo by Margaret Willdig (OD)

I need to remind you that Wrekin are holding the WMOA Sprint Championships at Lilleshall on 11 April.

Later in the year Potteries are also celebrating 40 years. Their special event is to be on 4 October at Whitfield Valley, which will also be this year's WMOA Championships. In the meantime Potteries are also staging the WMOA Schools Championships at Park Hall on 16 May.

The Droobers are 50 this year, celebrating at their League event on 7 June at Shuckburgh Hall, a new area between Southam and Daventry. OD are to hold an anniversary dinner on 24 October and are tracking down former members to invite along, for an evening of nostalgia.

It seems that the WMOA may also be 50 this year. We are trying to find details of exactly when the Association was founded. If we find it was 1965, then we party! (*It has since been discovered that it was 1963 Ed*).

Finally, in October I will come to the end of my term in office as your Chairman. So I am looking for a successor ! Give it some thought, then either volunteer - or tell me who you would like me to approach.

Minutes of WMOA meeting on 9 March 2015, Great Barr Hotel

Present: R. Brandon, D. Kingsbury, R. Collins, B. Elkington, G. Hardy, B. McGowan, H. Morgan, R. Postlethwaite, A. Williams, J. Woodall, K. da Cunha (part).

1. **Apologies:** E. Brown, S. Dredge, B. Morgan.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None
3. **The Minutes of previous meeting** were accepted as a true record, having corrected the spelling of A. Yeates surname.
4. **Matters Arising:** none.
5. **Correspondence:**

Matt Hartland had applied for support relating to his participation at the World Schools Championships Orienteering Championships in Turkey. All present wished him a successful trip.

Barbara Ford (HOC) had sent details of a NGOC Controller's Course being held in March - this had been forwarded to clubs.

Lucy Bayliss, community fundraiser at The Mary Stevens Hospice had sent details about their 'Fitness February' promotion - this had been forwarded to clubs.

From BOF (Clubs cc'd), information about the update to UKCC Course organisation and delivery procedures.

From BOF (Clubs cc'd), a link to the November Events and Competition Committee Minutes. From this D. Kingsbury had identified that Association Secretaries had been nominated to feed back details of the participants of officials courses run in the regions to the Events Organisation Group and National Office. H. Morgan agreed to pass details of participants of the last course run to D. Kingsbury for forwarding, in addition to written feedback that had been passed to him.

From Chris James, Chair of the above committee, a note promoting the desire for improved communications between BOF and the Regional Associations.

6. Chairman's Report:

See page 4.

7. Treasurers Report:

We are about half way through the year and levies have raised £1153. A payment of £500 had been made to the West Midlands Junior Squad. In the Year To Date there was a profit of about £35.

The bank total was £1827 with £600 of Junior Squad funding.

It was hoped that the SinS levy would total £1400, although the event would need an entry of 600 adults to achieve this. A levy income of £3000 is required this year to break even.

It was confirmed that at BOF level, the new Major Events Agreement could only be drawn up with the Regions in the future, rather than individual clubs.

8. Fixtures

West Midlands Urban League:

The programme of events for 2015 is: Warwick University (OD), Lichfield (WCH), Ludlow (WRE) and Redditch (HOC). It had been agreed that the Sutton College Sprint would not be included.

It was noted that the Redditch event was on the same day as a UK Urban League event at Loughborough. Such a clash could seriously affect attendance. HOC may want to consider this.

Re 2014 class winner certificates, H. Morgan to send R. Postlethwaite the standard WMOA certificate template to be adapted for the Urban League.

WM League 2015:

Four league events had already passed. A total of 12 events were now nominated for the league and L. Ross had confirmed that her system can deal with data from 12 events. The best 5 scores from 12 events will count.

The WCH Yvette Baker Trophy event on 26 April had been moved from Mansty Wood to Shoal Hill. The event later in the year scheduled for Shoal Hill will be relocated.

JIRC 2015: preparation is progressing.

BOC 2016 Brown Clee:

E. Brown had forwarded an update. There had been a site meeting on 20 February for the Controllers to assess suitability of the terrain. This had considered issues such as the area being large enough to accommodate the longer courses, whether the map was adequate and suitability of the parking arrangements. All issues raised are in hand.

JK2018:

WOA appear to be engaged. A co-ordinator is sought and areas need to be identified. It was felt that we should await guidance from WOA regarding appropriate areas where we are likely to be granted access. We also need to factor in likely financial agreements with WOA.

Peter Palmer Relays:

The clash with The British Schools Orienteering event in Summer 2016 has been resolved. COBOC will organise the training event for the British Schools on the Saturday. The World Schools Selection event will also be run in Sutton Park by OD on the Saturday. COBOC will be the organisers of the Peter Palmer Relays another year.

9. John Bennison Memorial Event

Wrekin had offered to name their annual 'Long O' event in memory of John. Whilst this is a relatively small event it reflected John's passion for endurance events and was appropriate as Wrekin was his last club. This was agreed by those present and it will be for Wrekin and Carol Sparke to discuss the finer detail of linking this event to John into the future.

10. West Midlander

R. Postlethwaite was desirous of acquiring an image of the WMOA Junior Squad 'O' suit 'in action' as he was seeking some good photos for the front cover of West Midlander. He was also keen to receive articles for the magazine - as always. The next edition is due to be issued in early April.

B. Elkington agreed to follow up finding images of the WMOA Junior Squad 'O' suit.

11. Development

Mapping training - there was no progress to report, but R. Postlethwaite would appreciate some assistance in organising a venue. This location would need to accommodate Power Point presentations and have accessible adjacent terrain. The John O'Leary Centre was a possibility.

Event Safety Course - the course was fully booked with 14 due to attend. This is being run by C. Phillips of EMOA.

Local Event Officials Courses - the East Midlands format, which appears to be successful, was discussed. Several different courses are run over the same weekend. J. Woodall confirmed that this reduces the overall costs of delivering the training. These are run most years and the last one was open to WMOA and EAOA too. The idea of a joint EMOA/WMOA course was also suggested with the costs being shared by the two regions.

There are no WMOA courses in the pipeline. Nothing further had been heard following enquiries about an Organisers Course from WRE.

J. Woodall to seek an example of a programme for EMOA weekend format for training courses.

12. Events and Competitions Committee

There was no update as there had been no meeting, the next meeting was scheduled for 21 March.

13. West Midlands Junior Squad

There had been no report or update from Sarah Dredge. Venues/events that Sarah could use for training had been offered, as she had requested.

14. Wye Ventures

Kyla da Cunha spoke about the club that she runs, which offers ParkourO. Parkour is derived from military training with obstacles and the club combines these activities with navigation. The activities are presented as challenges with different levels of difficulty. There is a risk benefit approach looking to teach youngsters a strong sense of responsibility. Risk assessments are carried out for each activity.

Wye Ventures is currently run as a not for profit Community Interest Group with a voluntary commitment of about 50 hours per week to run the club. It is successful in attracting youngsters (ages range from 7 to 17) and some of the parents are starting to join in. The club is at a stage where it is seeking support for developing resources and help is needed to take forward the skills development for the over 12s. Kyla was keen to work with WMOA and had had discussions with central offices of both Parkour and BOF seeking support.

From a WMOA perspective, unfortunately, we do not have a Regional Coaching rep nor enough volunteer availability to meet the requests of schools for mapping and training.

As discussion progressed the possibility of orienteers at events offering to take the youngsters round courses to help their development appeared to be a feasible way to offer assistance. This is likely to be something that might be co-ordinated at WRE, HOC and NGOC events. It was suggested that organisers and potential mentors be contacted 2 -3 weeks in advance to determine availability.

The contact details for the club are: info@wyeventures.com. Kyla was asked for an article for 'West Midlander' and her details would also be added to the West Midlander mailing list.

15. Email tree

B. McGowan provided the following update: J. Bennison had been the link to M. Farrington for web related matters. L. Ross was the main person to make changes to the WMOA website, but this is mostly confined to updates to WM League stats. The domain wmoa.org.uk is registered to M. Farrington and paid for by WMOA. In the past he has updated the email re-directs with information supplied to him by J. Bennison - he is happy for us to send any future changes needed directly to him.

A webmaster would be beneficial and a new section on the website about the Urban League would also be useful.

R. Postlethwaite to seek a webmaster via a request in the 'West Midlander'.

16. AOB

J. Woodall was thanked for providing the clarification about Data Protection Issues from BOF.

H. Morgan asked whether anything might be done to celebrate the 50th birthday of WMOA. The first step was to confirm the anniversary was correct before making plans. The possibility of doing something in conjunction with the WM Relays event was suggested.

17. Next meeting: 8 June 2015.

Further meeting dates for 2015 are: 14 September, 14 December and the AGM on 12 October.

Wanted - Webmaster

The WMOA website has, for the last few years, been maintained by Lesley Ross (OD) but her duties are confined to updating the West Midland League pages and adding the odd link on the front page.

If there is anyone out there who would be willing to take on revamping the site and making it a little more dynamic then please contact Bob Brandon (Chair) or Delia Kingsbury (Secretary).

EMIT Cards/ Brikkes and Batteries

Trevor Simpson (OD)



A number of EMIT cards are reaching the end of their battery life and getting ready to expire.

If a display shows signs of fading after being in a freezer for 10 - 15 minutes, then it is probably well on it's way.

Don't throw them out - OD will have them if you don't want them, or Trevor Simpson (OD) will replace the battery if possible (over 97%+ success so far) for £10 - which will be donated to West Midlands Junior Squad, or OD Juniors.



CompassSport Cup/Trophy 2015 Qualifying Round

The West Midlands Round of the CompassSport Cup/Trophy took place on 15 February on the Malvern Hills South. OD qualified for the Cup Final at the expense of hosts, HOC in the tough terrain.

WCH, POTO and WRE were all drawn in the East Midlands Round at Sherwood Pines in Nottinghamshire but none of the teams could compete on the fast terrain.

The Final will take place on 18 October at Helsington Barrows near Kendal hosted by South Ribble Orienteering Club. Good luck to Droobers.

Area	Cup		Trophy		
Balnagowan (SOA)	FVO 2456 GRAMP	ESOC 2381	MAROC 1271	INT 1258	CLYDE 1240
Malvern Hills South (WMOA)	OD 2452 NGOC 2375	HOC 2385	SBOC 1288	SWOC 1287	COBOC 481
Fonthill Woods (SWOA)	BOK 2456 BKO 2261	SOC 2297 DEVON 2257	WIM 1285 WSX 1234	QO 1252 NWO 1149	SARUM 1251 KERNO 646
Great Wood (SEOA)	SN 2379 SO 2341 HH 2251	SLOW 2359 TVOC 2284	GO 1260 MV 1193 HAVOC 1049 LOK 365	SOS 1255 BADO 1152 SAX 930	SMOC 1242 CHIG 1130 DFOK 919
Hamsterley Common (NEOA)	AIRE 2427 EBOR 2193	CLOK 2388	NATO 1285	CLARO 1279	NN 969
High and Low Rigg (NWOA)	LOC 2446	WCOC 2445	SROC 1286 SOLWAY 1246	BL 1274	PFO 1254
Sherwood Pines (EMOA)	SYO 2400 DEE 2245 LEI 2183 NOC 2107 NOR 531	DVO 2307 WCH 2194 MDOC 2163 WAOC 1712	EPOC 1284 POTO 1219 WRE 1189	SELOC 1239 SUFFOC 1215	LOG 1233 HALO 1211

Qualifying teams in red.

Colour Awards 2014

Hilary Simpson (OD)



Matthew Elkington M18 OD
Nathan Lawson M18 OD



Stephen Elkington M18 OD



Gemma Cairns Smith W16 WCH
Heather Craig W16 WCH
Jamie Grimsdale M18 WRE
Heather Rogers W16 OD



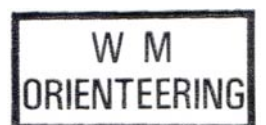
Ewan Darlington M16 SS
William Heaton M14 OD
Sam Leadley M14 OD
Ewan Lloyd M14 POTO
Adam Mardling M12 WCH
Jessica Parker W14 WRE
Callum Pearman M14 OD



Catherine Bailey W10 HOC
Felix Lunn M12 OD
Oliver Lunn M12 OD
Jessica Parker W14 WRE
Molly Parker W12 WRE
Holly Stodgell W12 WCH



Alexander Evans M10 POTO
Enys Lloyd M10 POTO
Florence Lunn W10 OD
Oliver Lunn M12 OD
Arthur Mitchell M10 HOC
Sebastian Mitchell M10 HOC



Max Roth Straube M10 OD

There has been a big gap in the publication of WMOA Colour Awards due to the non-appearance of the 'West Midlander' but, thanks to Rod, we can now resume normal service. The above are just those who achieved Badges in 2014 but another thirty four were awarded between Feb 2012 and January 2014.

So far in 2015 we have another nine badges awarded:

GREEN	Sam Leadley	M16	OD
LIGHT GREEN	Megan Colclough	W14	WCH
	Felix Lunn	M14	OD
	Oliver Lunn	M14	OD
	Alex Mitchell	M14	HOC
ORANGE	Florence Lunn	W12	OD
	Peter Markham	M12	OD
	Pippa Smart	W12	OD
WHITE	Chris Markham	M10	OD

Anyone who feels they have achieved their badge and isn't included on the list please contact Hilary Simpson.

Usually to be found at West Midland events in a red Renault Espace.

A Colour-Coded Award is achieved by reaching the Colour standard in three different events.

The colour standard is either 1.5 x the winners time or half the number of competitors (including disqualifications and retirements) whichever includes the greater number of runners.

White badges must be claimed quoting the relevant results where the standard was achieved.

A White standard is achieved for completing the course.

West Midlands Junior Squad

Melanie Elkington (OD)

Since November 2014 there has not been a great deal happening. The East Midlands Junior Squad have offered their training days to all the West Midlands Juniors. Only Harry took advantage of this offer and attended a good weekend of training in the Lake District in preparation for the JK selection races.

Orienteering at King Henry VIII School - the Foundation and its Continuing Success.

Ted Norrish, (Classics master, MA OXON)

The Beginnings of Octavian Droobers

In September 1965, Ted Norrish, Classics Master at our school from 1959, and head of department from 1972 to 1987, competed in one of the first orienteering events to be held in Britain, on the South Downs. He finished seventh out of about one hundred runners, ahead of Olympic athletes, such as Gordon Pirie and Bruce Tulloh; and enjoyed the event so much that he decided to form a Henry's Orienteering club. He then invited those who might be interested, and the following week took a small group to our first training introductory event in Sutton Park. Among them were four Henry's pupils who went on to achieve distinction:

Robin Harvey, who was awarded the OBE for making the maps of the first World Orienteering Championships held in Britain, at Aviemore in 1976.

Richard Haw, who was elected Treasurer of the newly formed British Orienteering Federation after he left our school.

John Walker, who later left for Australia, introduced there the sport of Orienteering – founding the Red Rhos, to be a brother club to the Octavian Droobers.

Bob Brandon, who has held the OD together from 1965 to this day - as competitor, equipment officer, event organiser, map drawer, vetter, coach and chairman; the great successes of our pupils today at home and at international level would not have been possible without his commitment through all these years.

The Henry's Orienteering club was one of the first clubs to be formed in Britain, and probably the second schools' club. In November 1965 our boys were entered in the Midland Championships in Mortimer Forest,

near Ludlow and for this event Ted Norrish and Hugh Allan (an English master, who later introduced the sport of orienteering in Washington DC) decided on the club's name - Octavian Droobers (OD). At these Championships the club achieved its first successes - John Walker and Greg Thompson, competing as a pair, won the Junior event and also the club won the Team event - a very successful start for our school club.

Geoff Courtois (PE and English Master) helped with transport and decided to compete as well, soon achieving some success. In Spring 1966 Ted and Geoff organised our club's first small event in Wappenbury Wood, where competitors from Coventry and Warwickshire Schools were invited to take part and gradually the word was spread. In the Summer of 1966 Bob, Peter and Sheila Carey, the Olympic athlete, were invited to an event on Cannock Chase to be our first outside members. The same year Robin Harvey and John Walker (as Juniors), and Ted Norrish were selected to represent GB at Ronneby in Sweden. In 1968 Ted competed and represented GB over the severe course of the 24km mountain 'Fjell-lunken' in North Norway.

In the early 1970s our school club had two English Schools' Champions - Gerald Van Hee and Mark Holliday. In the World Championships of 1976 a Henry's orienteer and fell-runner, Peter Haines, was selected to represent GB Juniors and he ran extremely well, too.

Our club has long been acknowledged to be one of the leading clubs in Britain, with a reputation for staging well organised, first-class Midland and National orienteering events and also we are all proud that Henry's pupils have achieved recently international successes.

A Brief History of the Origins of Wrekin Orienteers Di Jacks (WRE)



Orienteering was introduced to Shropshire in the mid 1960s and played host to the West Midlands Championships in Clun Forest as early as 1965.

HOC were formed on 1 April 1968 and did provide a little coverage for Shropshire.

Shropshire Orienteering Club was officially formed in 1971 but its origins go back to 1968 when a group of people from a Shrewsbury factory started holding what could loosely be termed orienteering events for their own enjoyment on occasional Sunday afternoons. Between 1971 and 1973 the club flourished with an average of 7 events a year. These were pairs' points scoring events using photocopied Ordnance Survey 6" maps and each pair in turn was expected to organise an event. Events had only a gentle competitiveness with an element of luck thrown in.

In 1974 some members started competing in BOF events and Shropshire Orienteering Club joined BOF.

Four members of the club surveyed The Wrekin and Dave Drury drew the 1:10000 black and white map.

At this time there was little success in recruiting active new members and several of the original key members had left the area, and with the departure of Dave Drury in 1975 a committee could not be formed at the AGM and the club ceased to exist.

In July 1975 Shropshire Orienteering Club donated their equipment to the fledgling Wrekin Club and also a trophy The Wrekin Shield.

Just before Xmas 1974, Tim Goffe moved to Telford and met Dave Gittus at an event on Cannock Chase. The idea of a new club emerged and together with Ken Broad, Frank North and Peter Stephenson, Dave and Tim formed Wrekin Orienteers.

The first event was held at Madeley Court on 2 February 1975 and attracted 37 competitors. (*Strictly speaking this was a HOC event - the club was formed after the event - Ed*)

Dave Gittus took the chair at the first meeting on 18th February. One of the committee's first decisions was to adopt the club colours of brown with a tangerine flash.

A social evening the following evening saw an attendance of 50 people who watched the film 'Thomas the Orienteer'.

The first club badge was designed by Ken Broad in 1975. Our current badge was adopted in 1979 after a competition to design a logo. This was won by Nick Walker.

A training day held on The Ercall in 1975 had entry fees of 20p for adults and 10p juniors.

The club's first coloured map which was of Sowdley Wood was made in 1975.

In 1976 Wrekin's first badge event at Bishops Wood attracted 530 competitors.

Wrekin won the West Midlands Galoppen, the for-runner to the West Midlands League in 1981.

(Acknowledgements to the book 'That Was Then...This is Now A History of Wrekin Orienteers 1975-1996 by Rod Postlethwaite).



The Origins of the West Midlands Orienteering Association

Whilst reading the History page of the OD website I noticed that there were references to the formation of the WMOA at about the time Droobers were formed in 1965. This meant that the region could also be celebrating its 50th anniversary.

Trying to find out the definitive date proved to be no easy task until I read the Spring issue of 'Focus'. There was an article about the BOF Archive which is now held at Sheffield University following the death of the BOF Honorary Records Officer, Terry Dooris, a few years ago. Way back in 1996, Terry had been extremely helpful whilst I was researching the History of Wrekin Orienteers for their 21st Anniversary.

With this in mind I contacted Clive Allen who, I believe, is writing the history of BOF in readiness for the Federation's 50th Anniversary. He was extremely helpful and sent me copies of the first few meeting minutes as well as the initial English Orienteering Association.

It appears that we have actually missed the 50th Anniversary as the inaugural meeting was held at the Martineau Teachers' Centre, Bristol Road, Birmingham on 21 November 1963. We are, therefore, 51 years and 6 months old!

Things were very different in those days and the attendees all appear to be part of the Local Education Authorities. There are references to a training course at Bilberry Hill (Lickey Hills) in February 1963 and a practice event at Ribbesford Wood in July of the same year. Could these be the first orienteering events in the region?

The minutes themselves were very formal, as befitted the times, and attendees were referred to as Mr. Miss or Mrs. They were also quite sparse in comparison to the amount of work that the present committee does.

The first committee that was elected was as follows:

Mr. A. Batstone (Chairman)
Miss D.A. Whyte (Secretary)
Mr. R. Swannell (Treasurer)
Mr. D. Esp (Shropshire LEA)
Miss P. Hannay (Birmingham)
Miss H. Rogers (City of Birmingham TC)
Mr. R.H. Simcock (Worcestershire LEA)
Mr. G. Swift (Smethwick LEA)
Mr. J. Thorne (Warwickshire LEA)

In the inaugural minutes there is a reference to a Newsletter, the forerunner of this publication which appears to have been published before the formation of the Association.

A Constitution was agreed in January 1964 and membership fees were set at:

Individuals: 5/- per annum (25p)

Individual Units (Clubs/ Schools/ Colleges)
10/- per annum (50p).

English Orienteering Association

Before BOF was formed Scotland had already formed its Association as had several other regions - North, North West, South and South West as well as the West Midlands. It was, therefore, decided to form an English Orienteering Association, which still exists though in a different format.

The initial meeting was held at the Castle Hotel, Bishop's Castle in Shropshire with A.H. Batstone and Chris Schaanning (who was very influential in the early days of HOC).

Of the attendees, one is still orienteering - Mike Murray of SLOW whose identical twin brother, Pat, still orienteers for Chasers and was Organiser of the recent Midland Championships on Cannock Chase.

It was quite fascinating to discover the origins of the Association and maybe, one day, I may go to the Archive to find out some more.

John Bennison's Fanfare Horn



Photo by Carole Sparke (HOC)

Whilst sorting through the late John Bennison's possessions Carole Sparke (HOC) came across this horn and wondered whether anyone knew the story behind it. The horn is the type used for fanfares and is about 1 metre long. Does anyone know if there are any connections with orienteering or was it just one of John's souvenirs?

Andy White (HOC) thought it might have been used to start a New Year's Day Score Event but not sure if it was a specific one or even the HOC Club Championships which is a score event.

If you know anything about the instrument please contact the Editor or Carole herself.

British Championships 2015

The British Long Championships were held at New Beechenhurst in the Forest of Dean on 18 May.

The region had one champion, Andy Hemsted of HOC who won the M65 class by almost 12 minutes - a remarkable performance in one of the most tightly contested classes.

The Relays were held on the following day at Cannop Ponds but there were no regional successes.

Midland Championships 2015 Cannock Chase

The 2015 Midland Championships were held at Haywood Warren on Cannock Chase on 15 February.

Although most of us have run on the Chase many times before, Ray Collins managed to set some challenging courses with (on the longer courses) a couple of long legs in the Classic style. Most of the orienteering we do these days is more Middle Distance in style, perhaps due to the fact many of our maps are much larger scales now - the recent JK in The Lakes being an example. It was, therefore, refreshing to be offered this style of orienteering. Thanks to Walton Chasers for such a good event.

Midland Champions 2015

M10	Harrington Leake	LEI	W10	Hannah Mather	LOG
M12	Alex Wetherill	WAOC	W12	Rachel Duckworth	DVO
M14	Ethan Tebbut	LEI	W14	Sarah Duckworth	DVO
M16	Finn Lydon	LEI	W16	Imogen Wilson	LEI
M18	Harrison McCartney	OD	W18	Ella Gilbert	NOR
M20	Matthew Elkington	OD	W20	Harriet Lawson	OD
M21	William Gardner	OD	W21	Emily Garside	WCH
M35	Iain Stamp	WCH	W35	Helen Chiswell	DVO
M40	Martin Pigott	POTOC	W40	Morlich Barnett	POTOC
M45	John Duckworth	DVO	W45	Lesley Ross	OD
M50	Dil Wetherill	WAOC	W50	Sal Chaffey	DVO
M55	Nicholas Evans	NOC	W55	Carol Dredge	WCH
M60	Bob Dredge	WCH	W60	Ruth Lockley	COBOC
M65	Brian Hughes	HOC	W65	Sheila Carey	OD
M70	Glynn Smith	LEI	W70	Judy Douglas	POTOC
M75	Roger Hailey	OD	W75	Alison Sloman	HOC
M80	David Parkin	DVO	W80	Ursula Oxburgh	WAOC

British Night Championships 2015

A number of enthusiastic night orienteers made the journey up to Middleton Woods in Leeds for the British Championships.

Traditionally the WMOA has always had a strong contingent of 'night owls' and, at one time, there was a West Midlands Night League and a Midlands Night Championships. Over the years the numbers have dwindled and the League was abandoned as, it appears, has the Championships. However, the diehards still continue to attend the British Championships and the region now has four champions.

There were also successes on two of the Short courses - Andy White (M55S) and Penny Hemsted (W70S).

British Night Champions 2015

M18L	Harrison McCartney	OD	W40L	Anne Straube	OD
M75L	Derek Turner	WRE	W75	Alison Sloman	HOC

JK 2015

The JK this year was hosted by the NWOA. The Sprint event was held in the grounds of Lancaster University and provided fast and furious competition. The individual days and relays, in contrast, were held in the intricate, tough and uncompromising Lake District terrain of Ulpha Park, Bigland and Graythwaite respectively. The region had some individual successes but none in the relays.

Mark Stodgell was also successful in winning the M40S course.

Congratulations to all the winners.

JK Sprint Champions 2015

M40	Andy Simpson	OD
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JK Individual Champions 2015

M18E	Harrison McCartney	OD	W20E	Julie Emmerson	OD
M40L	Andy Simpson	OD	W40L	Anne Straube	OD
			W75	Alison Sloman	HOC

National Squad Selections

Harrison McCartney (OD) has been selected to represent Great Britain in the European Youth Orienteering Championships to be held in Cluj Napoca, Romania on 24-28 June 2015.

Julie Emmerson (OD) and Matthew Elkington (OD/SHUOC) have been selected to represent Great Britain in the Junior World Orienteering Championships to be held in Rauland, Norway on 2-11 July 2015. Julie will run in the Middle, Long and Relay 'A' team while Matthew will run in the Sprint, Middle and Relay 'B' team.

Congratulations to all the athletes selected and good luck in the competitions

Mapping Awards 2015

The region has had a reputation of producing good maps for a number of years and has won a number of awards for mapping.

This year two of the region's mappers won awards for best maps produced and first used in 2014:

Chichester Trophy:

Rod Postlethwaite (WRE) for the maps of Keele University.

Walsh Sprint Map Trophy:

Bruce Bryant (OD) for the map of Cawston Village.

Yvette Baker Trophy 2015

The West Midlands qualifying round of the Yvette Baker Trophy was held by WCH at Shoal Hill on 26 April.

The round was won by WCH who qualify for the final ahead of OD who also qualified. The final will be held by NOC at Nottingham University on 5 July.

		Boys				Girls			
		Green	Light Green	Orange	Yellow	Green	Light Green	Orange	Yellow
WCH	895	0	0	199	199	0	99	199	199
OD	888	199	297	195	97	0	100	0	0
HOC	95	0	0	0	0	0	0	95	0

The West Midlands League 2015

1. OD 6029			2. WRE 5095			3. HOC 4904		
A	Sam Leadley	M16 494	A	Jamie Grimsdale	M18 366	A	Arthur Mitchell	M10 356
A	Pippa Smart	W12 450	A	Molly Parker	W14 131	A	Sebastian Mitchell	M12 327
B	Chris McCartney	M45 430	B	Tony Callow	M45 373	B	Ian Hopkins	M45 432
B	Kin Kwan Kok	M20 356	B	Clive Richardson	M45 296	B	Adrian Bailey	M45 211
C	David Leadley	M50 467	C	Richard Pay	M50 371	C	John Leeson	M55 372
C	Mike Snell	M55 391	C	Andrew Clough	M55 347	C	Andrew White	M55 312
D	Lesley Ross	W45 400	D	Diane Jacks	W45 400	D	Marian White	W55 414
D	Liz Phillips	W50 300	D	Helen Corrin	W35 359	D	Julie Evans	W45 215
E	Robert Brandon	M65 454	E	Lawrence Jones	M60 456	E	Alison Sloman	W75 372
E	Janet Richardson	W65 381	E	Derek Turner	M75 412	E	Barry McGowan	M65 358
F	Peter Markham	M12 400	F	Roy Lindsell	M70 365	F	John Pearson	M65 349
F	Florence Lunn	W12 385	F	Rod Postlethwaite	M60 338	F	Eric Brown	M65 314
F	Barry Elkington	M55 381	F	Sharron Richardson	W40 300	F	Lesley Brown	W65 308
F	Peter Carey	M70 375	F	Adrian Pickles	M55 298	F	Alexander Mitchell	M14 294
F	Thomas Chapple	M10 365	F	Lesley Norton	W70 283	F	Peter Merrill	M50 270
4. WCH 4097			5. POTO 2191			6. COBOC 1313		
A	Henry Webb	M14 228	A	Ellie Bales	W16 100	B	Ian Gamlen	M45 452
A	Adam Mardling	M14 206	A	Ewan Lloyd	M14 96	D	Yvonne Feasey	W50 160
B	Simon Webb	M40 343	B	Graham Pigott	M21 258	E	David Arnot	M65 291
B	Allan Williams	M45 193	B	Martin Pigott	M40 192	E	Ruth Lockley	W60 272
C	Andrew Yeates	M50 345	C	Peter Munn	M55 68	F	Mick Sadler	M65 138
C	Ian Hughes	M50 197	C	Gerry Riley	M55 68			
D	Claire Bushnell	W50 359	D	Elizabeth Bales	W50 83			
D	Carol Dredge	W55 321	E	Paul Graetz	M65 400			
E	Ray Collins	M60 500	E	Marian Denham	W65 200			
E	Jonathan Howell	M60 267	F	Barbara Farr	W70 200			
F	Cath Williams	W40 253	F	Robert Holdway	M21 183			
F	Alison Yeates	W45 248	F	Henry Morgan	M60 160			
F	Christine Collins	W55 237	F	Judy Douglas	W70 94			
F	Norman Hall	M80 200	F	Enys Lloyd	M10 88			
F	Megan Colclough	W14 200						

Positions after 5 Events.

2015 Events

Jan 11	Hartshill Hayes	OD	Jun 21	Brockhampton	HOC
Feb 7	Longdon Wood	HOC	Oct 4	Chatterley Whitfield	POTOC
Feb 8	The Wrekin	WRE	Oct 25	Shoal Hill	WCH
Mar 8	Highgate Common	HOC	Nov 1	To be arranged	WRE
Mar 29	Shugborough	WCH	Dec 6	Brandon Woods	OD
Jun 7	Shuckburgh Hall	OD	Dec 13	Badgerslade	WCH

Individual Class Leaders

M10	Thomas Chapple	OD	365	W10	Esther Mardling	WCH	180
M12	Peter Markham	OD	400	W12	Pippa Smart	OD	450
M14	Felix Lunn	OD	356	W14	Megan Colclough	WCH	200
M16	Sam Leadley	OD	494	W16	Holly Hughes	WCH	166
M18	Jamie Grimsdale	WRE	366	W18	Gemma Cairns-Smith	WCH	80
M20	Kin Kwan Kok	OD	356	W20			
M21	Graham Pigott	POTOC	258	W21	Emily Garside	WCH	100
M35	Alistair Powell	OD	200	W35	Helen Corrin	WRE	359
M40	Simon Webb	WCH	343	W40	Sharron Richardson	WRE	300
M45	Ian Gamlen	COBOC	452	W45	Diane Jacks Lesley Ross	WRE OD	400
M50	David Leanly	OD	467	W50	Claire Bushnell	WCH	359
M55	Mike Snell	OD	391	W55	Marian White	HOC	414
M60	Ray Collins	WCH	500	W60	Ruth Lockley	COBOC	272
M65	Robert Brandon	OD	454	W65	Janet Richardson	OD	381
M70	Peter Carey	OD	375	W70	Lesley Norton	WRE	283
M75	Derek Turner	WRE	412	W75	Alison Sloman	HOC	372
M80	Norman Hall	WCH	200	W80			

OCTAVIAN DROOBERS

The Orienteering Club for Warwickshire, Coventry & Solihull



West Midlands League Event and Club 50th Anniversary BBQ Shuckburgh Park, near Daventry, Warwickshire Sunday 7 June 2015

Venue: Shuckburgh Park is a brand new venue situated on the A425 between Southam and Daventry. Map Ref SP497618, Postcode NN11 6DT. The entrance to the park is one mile east of Lower Shuckburgh and will be signed off the A425.

Parking: In the park and adjacent to assembly, start and finish. There will be a parking charge of £1 per car.

Entries: All entries will be on the day only. This is a change from the notice in the Droober Magazine.

Cost: Seniors £8; Juniors, full time students and seniors running White to Orange courses £3. Emit hire £1.

Terrain: Parkland and runnable woodland including three distinct hills with good contour features.

Emit Punching: We will be using the Emit system.

Start times: Starts will be from 10.30am until 12.30pm. Courses close at 2.30pm. We are expecting a good turnout for this event so please stagger your arrival and start time.

Courses: Brown, Blue, Green, Short Green, Light Green, Orange, Yellow and White.

Map: This new area has been mapped by Phil Kirk at a scale of 1:7500 with 5m contours. Map size is A4 on waterproof paper.

Safety: Competitors take part at their own risk. We advise runners to carry a whistle.

Toilets: In assembly area.

Dogs: Are welcome but must be kept on a lead at all times.

Running Attire: Please wear your running strip from the 80's, 70's or even 60's if still decent !

Prizes for the best dressed runners.

BBQ: We will be holding a BBQ after the event to celebrate 50 years of orienteering at Octavian Droobers. We would be pleased to welcome not only our own club members but also all our friends from neighbouring clubs and further afield.

Please order your food before the event by email to philkirk2929@gmail.com or text to 07785 777075. Please give your name, club and numbers attending (adult and child) plus any vegetarian requirements. The organiser would prefer to receive your food order by Sunday 31 May please.

Price: Adult £5 Child £3 (For the purpose of this exercise a child is someone under 12 years of age). Pay on the day. Please bring your own drinks. OD Juniors will be raising funds by selling celebration cakes.

Acknowledgements: We are grateful to Sir James Shuckburgh for permission to use the estate and to Tom Page, gamekeeper, for his assistance in staging this event.

Organiser: Phil Kirk (OD) Tel 01926 632189 mobile 07785 777075 (before 9pm)

email: philkirk2929@gmail.com

Planner: Sue Hallett

Controller: Kerstin Mitchell (Harlequins Orienteering Club)

WMOA Fixtures

May to July 2015

Please note all Fixtures are correct at the time of publishing. Please check club websites for further details.

May

12	WRE Level D	WRE Summer Series 2 Brown Moss	Whitchurch	SJ563395
13	OD Level D	OD Local Event Abbey Fields/ Kenilworth Urban	Kenilworth	SO878542
14	HOC Level D	HOC Summer Evening Event (SEE) Baggeridge Country Park	Wombourne	SO898931
16	POTOC Level C	WMOA Schools Championship Park Hall Country Park	Longton Stoke-on-Trent	SJ926445
17	WCH Level C	WCH Urban Event & WMOA Urban League Lichfield	Lichfield	
19	WRE Level D	WRE Summer Series 3 Twemlows Wood	Whitchurch	SJ565350
20	COBOC Level D	COBOC Sevens Clifton Road Outdoor Learning Centre	Sutton Coldfield	
20	OD Level D	OD Local Event Draycote Water	Rugby	SP469692
21	HOC Level D	HOC Summer Evening Event (SEE) Himley Hall	Wombourne	SO889916
23	HOC Level B	Springtime in Shropshire Brampton Bryan	Ludlow	SO365721
24	WRE Level B	Springtime in Shropshire Stapeley and Rorrington		SO311981
25	WRE Level B	Springtime in Shropshire Corndon		SO311981
27	OD Level D	OD Local Event Kingsbury Water Park	Tamworth	SP205958

June

2	WRE Level D	WRE Summer Series 4 Bishops Wood	Market Drayton	SJ743308
3	OD Level D	OD Local Event Coombe Abbey	Coventry	SP404790
4	HOC Level D	HOC Summer Evening Event (SEE) Cannon Hill Park	Birmingham	SP068837

6	POTOC Level D	POTOC Summer Park Series 1 Tunstall & Burslem Parks	Tunstall Stoke-on-Trent	
7	OD Level C	OD Colour-Coded & WMOA League 6 Shuckburgh Park	Daventry	SP497618
9	WRE Level D	WRE Summer Series 5 Attingham Park	Shrewsbury	SJ548100
10	OD Level D	OD Local Event Itchington Holt	Harbury	SP374588
11	HOC Level D	HOC June Jaunter Clent Hills	Halesowen	SO939805
16	WRE Level D	WRE Summer Series 6 Shawbury Heath	Shrewsbury	SJ544197
17	OD Level D	OD Local Event Hillfields Park	Solihull	SP138780
18	HOC Level D	HOC Summer Evening Event (SEE) Gheuvelt Park	Worcester	SO844565
20	POTOC Level D	POTOC Summer Park Series 2 Florence and Longton Parks	Longton Stoke-on-Trent	SJ910419
21	HOC Level C	HOC Colour-Coded & WMOA League 7 Brockhampton	Bromyard	SO681545
23	WRE Level D	WRE Summer Series 7 The Ercall	Telford	SJ638092
24	COBOC Level D	COBOC Sevens Clifton Road Outdoor Learning Centre	Sutton Coldfield	
24	OD Level D	OD Local Event Sutton Park Gates Race	Sutton Coldfield	SP115963
25	HOC Level D	HOC Summer Evening Event (SEE) Habberley Valley	Kidderminster	SO802774
28	WRE Level C	WRE Urban Event & WMOA Urban League Ludlow	Ludlow	

July

1	OD Level D	OD Local Event Brueton and Malvern Park	Solihull	SP162790
2	HOC Level D	HOC Summer Evening Event (SEE) New Hall Valley Valley	Sutton Coldfield	SP162790
4	POTOC Level D	POTOC Summer Park Series 3 Brough Park	Leek	SJ986568
7	WRE Level D	WRE Summer Series 8 Nesscliffe Country Park	Shrewsbury	SJ385199
8	OD Level D	OD Local Event Pooley Country Park	Atherstone	SK259033
9	HOC Level D	HOC Summer Evening Event (SEE) Birmingham City Centre	Birmingham	

12	WRE Level C	West Midlands Relays Nesscliff Camp	Shrewsbury	SJ374182
14	WRE Level D	WRE Summer Series 9 Lyth Hill Country Park	Shrewsbury	SJ472067
15	OD Level D	OD Local Event Tudor Grange Park	Solihull	SP144794
16	HOC Level D	HOC Summer Evening Event (SEE) Saltwells	Dudley	SO931871
18	POTOC Level D	POTOC Summer Park Series 4 Festival Park	Hanley Stoke-on-Trent	SJ871481
21	WRE Level D	WRE Summer Series 10 Stanmore Country Park	Bridgnorth	SO740928
22	OD Level D	OD Local Event Ryton Pools Country Park	Coventry	SP370724
28	WRE Level D	WRE Summer Series 11 Severn Valley Country Park	Bridgnorth	SO753840
29	COBOC Level D	COBOC Sevens and HOC SEE Clifton Road Outdoor Learning Centre	Sutton Coldfield	
29	OD Level D	OD Local Event University of Warwick	Coventry	SP298766

West Midlands Urban League



2015 Events

Date	Event Venue	Club
28 March	University of Warwick	OD
17 May	Lichfield	WCH
28 June	Ludlow	WRE
3 October	Redditch	HOC