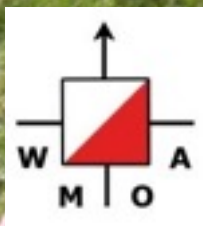
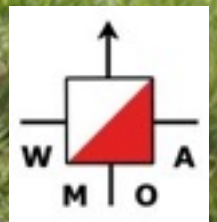


The West Midlander

Spring 2016



The Newsletter of the
West Midlands Orienteering Association



Association Officials

Chairman	Ray Collins (WCH)
Vice-Chairman	Richard Lewis (WRE)
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>
Junior Squad Co-ordinator	
League Results Co-ordinator	Lesley Ross (OD)
Webmaster	Andrew Johnson (HOC)

Club Representatives

British Orienteering	John Woodall
COBOC	Barry McGowan
HOC	Barry McGowan
OD	Barry Elkington
POTOC	Brenda Morgan
WCH (rotating)	Ray Collins
WRE	Graham Hardy
WYEVENT	Kyla Da Cunha
All Committee/Officials	

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

Cover Photo: Andy Hemsted finishing BOC 2016 at Brown Clee where he retained his M65 title.

Photo by Rob Lines (SO)

Editorial

Firstly, I must apologise for the late arrival of this newsletter. I have been heavily involved with mapping projects on Brown Clee and Whitchurch which have taken a little more time than expected and, obviously, had to take priority. I have also had to write a considerable amount of the text so it would be a help to receive some more articles please!

The British Orienteering Championship Weekend is now over and I would like to thank everyone involved in the organisation for two great events.

The region is due to hold the JK in 2018 and the idea of staging it in North Wales has been investigated but has proved to be too much of a challenge, especially on the permissions front and also finding a suitable area for the Sprint event. It has, therefore, been decided to hold it in the Stafford/Cannock area (see the minutes of the last WMOA meeting on page 5 for further information). 2018 may seem a long way off but it will come round very quickly.

The main championship season is now over but there are many events to look forward to in the Summer. For those not going to exotic events abroad, POTO are holding their Summer Park series, OD and WRE are holding weekly Summer Evening Events and HOC are holding some Saturday events. There is also Croeso in South Wales and the old favourite in North Yorkshire, the White Rose. Plenty to look forward to.

Unfortunately, this year's West Midlands Relays have had to be postponed due to waterlogged car parking fields. It is hoped that they will now be held in the Autumn. Watch the Chasers website for further details.

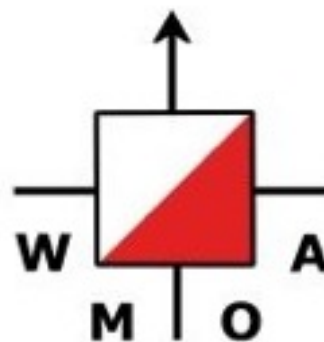
Happy Orienteering

Rod

Copy date for the next issue: 4 July 2016

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WMOA Chairman's Corner 26 April 2016

Ray Collins



Chairman Ray

The season of **BIG** orienteering events moves forward relentlessly with the British Championships being held on the coming weekend (as I write this). HOC are putting on the Individual day and OD the Relays on Sunday allowing the rest of us West Midlanders to turn up and enjoy the event in the glorious warm and sunny weather that has not been predicted but I know will arrive on Saturday morning bang on cue. A big thank you to these two clubs for doing all the hard work this weekend. One of the individual planners, Clive Caffall, has a very serious eye problem at the moment and is/was unable to

attend the event in person. I/we wish him a speedy recovery and thanks for your expertise in planning your courses.

The JK was much better than I was expecting it to be. I found Wass a strange and challenging area to navigate round while Kilnsey was fast and very runnable. Just before my run at Kilnsey I was in the Chasers tent and rain was pouring down. I delayed my departure to the start for as long as possible and luckily the rain slowed and stopped as I set off. Once or twice while I was competing it rained a little but as soon I was back in the tent the heavens opened and the hail stones fell turning the ground white. A few late runners came back into the tent in various states of disarray stating how awful it had been. I was not surprised that a good many late runners retired and came back to the arena. There were stories about hail shredded maps and 'bullets' hitting heads. A good day to have an early run!

Talking of the JK it is the West Midlands' turn in 2018. After looking at running the event in North Wales it has been decided to have it at home instead. Currently, with most permissions and car parks sorted, it will be a very localised event in and around Stafford and Rugeley. Put the date in your diary as your help will be needed at Easter 2018.

Don't forget that the postponed event at Mansty Wood has been rescheduled for Sunday 8 May.

The West Midland Relays are at Shoal Hill on Sunday 22 May.

See you in a forest somewhere,

Ray Collins

Minutes of WMOA meeting on 14 March 2016, Great Barr Hotel

1. **Present:** R. Collins, K. Da Cunha, B. Elkington, G. Hardy, D. Kingsbury, H. Morgan, R. Lewis, R. Postlethwaite, M. White, J. Woodall, A. Yeates.
2. **Apologies:** M. Elkington, A. Johnson, B. McGowan, B. Morgan, K. Strain, A. Williams.
3. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
4. **Minutes:** There were several minor amendments and the minutes were accepted as a true record.
5. **Matters Arising:** Nothing that is not covered elsewhere on the agenda.
6. **Correspondence:** All relates to matters on the agenda.

7. Chairman's Report:

The Laurie Bradley Score event had been staged in Telford Town Park by WRE on New Years Day.

Congratulations to OD for winning this team event again. Can anyone beat them? A comment in jest suggested OD vs the best of the rest of WMOA would be an interesting contest!

The first round of the CSC had been hosted by WCH the previous weekend; OD had won the CSC heat and POTO had triumphed in the CST. Wrekin had competed at the DEE event and finished second in a heat where just two points separated the three clubs competing for the CST.

Updates relating to the large events to be staged in the region, BOC2016 and JK2018, will be covered later in the meeting.

8. Treasurer's Report:

In the absence of B. McGowan D. Kingsbury read out a written report. "Note: levies are running below budget with the latest estimate for this year at £1100. The budget approved last year assumes a pseudo WMOA levy on the BOC/BRC of £1500, which is required to keep the WMOA solvent. The first closing date for BOC is still a fortnight away so we do not know how entries will come out. The BOC co-ordinator has not included any discount for helpers in the event budget. The final share-out of the one third share of the event profit/loss could be contentious. The co-ordinator has decided the events will be run in their entirety by HOC and OD respectively without the need for help from the other clubs. I feel a decision is best left until June meeting when final figures will be available."

BOC2016 finance was discussed. It was established that WRE, POTO and WCH were not expecting to take any share of profits/losses. Should assistance be requested by HOC or OD, those clubs would resolve profit distribution from their share - this had been discussed with E. Brown. Thus, after the BOF share, a three way split of the profits/losses is expected. It was noted that B. McGowan had budgeted for £1500 from this event. M. White stated this would be an issue if the surplus was low, leaving the organising clubs with nothing. HOC and OD were happy with the proposal from B. McGowan to discuss this in June when a provisional balance sheet would be available.

9. Fixtures Report:

D. Kingsbury read out comments provided by A. Williams:

WMOA fixtures are in hand and there is a meeting with club fixtures secretaries on 22 March. He had attended an Events Scheduling Group meeting on 12 March and there had been a request for feedback from the clubs about a proposal to permanently change the Saturday of the JK from a Long Race to Middle Distance for all competitors. A response is needed by May. Those present showed their preferences with 3 in favour, 3 against and 3 having no view!

ACTION: Clubs to discuss this proposal and feedback their views via A. Williams by the end of April.

BOC 2016 Update:

An update provided from E. Brown was read out to the meeting. All the preparations were on track and the entry profile to date was in line with that for BOC 2015.

JK2018:

A. Yeates reported on a recent meeting with himself, R. Collins, S. Pygott and R. Dredge. In addition there had been discussions with M. Hamilton about enabling a 2018 JK in WMOA. There were two main points for WMOA to consider: BOF Partnership Agreements and Permissions.

Partnership:

The current Major Events agreement would not be offered from 2017. This follows feedback from BOF auditors. The two options are:

- a) Super levy. WMOA bears all the responsibility for the event with 3 times the standard levy per competitor going to BOF. All of S. Pygott's time would be chargeable at £130 per day excluding travel and subsistence.
- b) A Partnership option was described whereby BOF would take some of the risk. It was believed that this would still be better than the super levy option. Note: BOF needs to generate an income of £3.38 per participant run that will generate an income of approximately £26,000 (the super levy option would generate £31,000 based on same numbers). 10 days of S. Pygott's time would be included with additional time chargeable at £130 per day excluding travel and subsistence. S. Pygott commences maternity leave in April 2016.

The Region and its clubs need to see the alternative proposals/agreements in detail for consideration.

In correspondence prior to this WMOA meeting B. McGowan had expressed serious concern about the region taking on all, or part, of the financial liability for JK2108. Expenditure for JK2015 was £122,000 and cash flow will be a problem. J. Woodall advised WMOA to ensure this was properly anticipated and for financial plans to be in place in advance. In other regions the clubs had made money available. G. Hardy pointed out that this model effectively requires the clubs to finance the risks. Also, no assumptions could be made about the sum that each club might make available. In this scenario the profit share agreements would need to reflect the level of risk that clubs exposed themselves to. Event cancellation is a concern and the cost of Event Insurance to cover this needs to be investigated.

It was agreed by those present that WMOA would need to accept a £10,000 interest free loan that has been offered by BOF to ease cash flow for the event, regardless of which event agreement with BOF was selected.

ACTION: R. Dredge to be asked for a breakdown of potential losses for event cancellation scenarios 12, 6 and 3 months out, and at entries closing date, to provide an expenditure risk profile.

ACTION: A. Yeates, R. Collins B. McGowan: To draft a position paper to circulate to the clubs by 30 April, outlining the types of agreement in detail and proposed financing models, illustrated with cash flow and levels of risk. This is for detailed discussion at the June WMOA meeting.

Permissions:

Despite a lot of effort by S. Pygott there are still no firm permissions in place and no Sprint area had been identified. The local clubs had been unable to assist as the areas had not been used for some time. It is believed that the event needs to come back to WMOA and a proposal was put forward to use MOD Stafford for the Sprint, Brereton Spurs for the Middle Distance and the Long and Relay at Beaudesert. Permission has been given for Beaudesert which would make a good hub with parking, facilities for the AGM and Event Centre with toilets etc. already in place. Those present concurred that given the problems that distance was already providing, it was now more appropriate to pursue the local option.

Increasing the number of WM League events:

G. Hardy reported that WRE would like to see the number of scoring events for individuals in the WML increased and for there to be more league events to support this, 15 or so was suggested. Discussions considered whether an increase was needed, what the increase might be, whether enough events could be organised and whether too many events would devalue the League. Also, the software that calculates the league points is difficult to use and amend, this needs to be considered before making any radical changes. B. Elkington reported that OD had been moving some of their Level D events to Sundays to increase availability of weekend events. Others were not keen on any events less than Level C being used for the League.

ACTION: This proposal to be taken up by the WMOA fixtures committee for detailed review and discussion with the club fixtures reps.

Regional Trophies:

It could not be demonstrated that the Relay trophies were in need of repair. Sue Williams to be asked to check their condition when they are returned for this year's Relays.

WYE:

K. da Cunha reported that WYE Ventures had not been able to use WYE areas despite the latter club collapsing several years ago. WYE still exists but there do not appear to be any active members. Their assets are believed to be held in trust, with C. James, T. Foxton and R. Archer being the trustees.

WYE Ventures is running White to Orange courses and need suitable areas a couple of years to develop further. K. da Cunha asked how WYE Ventures might stage a Level C event and was advised to seek a mentor to oversee organisation and event safety. A Controller would also be required. The club would appreciate advice and direction to help them develop.

ACTIONS: R. Collins to approach C. James to determine the current status of WYE and enquire as to whether WYE Ventures could move into the area and take the club name.

10. West Midlander:

Articles for the next edition were requested by 14 April.

Information that might form a Handbook was thought to be generally available elsewhere, therefore spending time compiling a new Handbook was unnecessary. We need to consider the website structure and give A. Johnson a steer so that information is stored in a more logical place on the site.

11. WMOA Website: [The update below was not available for the meeting and is included for interest]

Activity on the site remains fairly constant with 750-800 hits per month.

Minor changes have been made to the tags and page titles and initial work has commenced on Rules.

Handbook data has been received and will be incorporated in due course.

WMOA Twitter: (@westmidsOA) The account now has 26 followers up 11 from the last report.

The account provides regular updates on forthcoming League events and Regional updates.

12. Development:

In January 17 people had attended a **Level C Organiser's Course** and 14 were at the **Event Safety Course** that followed. Attendance records and evaluation certificates had been forwarded to BOF.

Part 1 (surveying) of a 2 part **Mapping Course** had been delivered by R. Postlethwaite for WRE. He had been approached by HOC/COBOC and WYE Ventures to run further courses. After June he is willing to run courses for other clubs, provided they organise the venue. Part 2 is cartography, for which Open Orienteering Mapper is to be taught as it is free, whereas OCAD requires licences to be purchased.

H. Morgan reported that **The British Schools Championships** has yet to be held. Events are at Sutton Park and Leicester this year so there should be a good attendance.

K. da Cunha fed-back about the **Junior Development** meeting, also attended by H. Morgan. Discussions had related to how to engage parents and teachers and focussed on what has/has not worked in the past rather than looking forward, whilst acknowledging that volunteer availability was key. K. da Cunha felt that attendees/organisers had not been receptive to the alternative approach to training being use by WYE Ventures, despite the club's methods being based on scientific research. She was advised to write an article for 'CompassSport' and the 'West Midlander' describing WYE Ventures approach and activities. No changes, nationally, are anticipated following this development meeting and the group will meet again in 12 months.

There seemed to be a lack of liaison between BOF about the Xplorer events and when and where they were being run. Some clubs seemed to find out about them accidentally.

It seems that now is a good time to engage with teachers as there seems to be funding available to support school clubs.

Applying for and Accessing funding: There is nothing to report as yet. R. Lewis stated that his daughter is happy to pursue this on our behalf. This was left with R. Lewis to follow up.

Events and Competitions Committee:

C. James is very keen to receive feedback on his paper 'Something old, something new'. B. Elkington reported that OD were generally happy with event formats so had no feedback. Most orienteers are looking for events and are not too concerned about other club activities that may be less visible. Generally the issues for the sport are:

- Non-orienteers have little knowledge of the sport so there is a need for public education. To find new members, the best idea is to tap into large local events and aim at families with young children, but there is a need to show them what they will get from orienteering.
- Recent improvements are: map quality, 'e' and contactless punching, use of waterproof paper.
- The sport is reliant on a dwindling core. It is difficult to balance keeping current members happy with events vs using precious time for recruitment activities. M. White felt it was too much to expect parents with young children to train as officials.

13. West Midlands Junior Squad: December 2015 to March 2016 Mel Elkington & Kirsten Strain.

Several training sessions have taken place in the past few months. In January 13 members of the Squad trained with the Welsh Junior Squad on Brereton Spurs for the day. The day was planned by Mark Saunders and the controls were put out by Kirsten. The parents supported the training and helped with the coaching. Then on the 30 January 2016 12 of the squad took the opportunity to train on Crich Chase with the East Midlands Squad, again a good session with parents supporting Kirsten.

A week later saw 15 of the Squad head to the Forest Of Dean to do some training with OD. The weather was atrocious but they all had a good time and competed at the BOK Trot on the Sunday, hopefully honing the skills they had learnt on the Saturday.

Kirsten is taking her UK Level 2 Coaching Course in March to help her with her coaching of the Squad.

Fundraising is going well and is being organised by Tracy Craig.

WMJS are inviting neighbouring squads to participate in training sessions and vice versa.

A request had been received from K. Strain to support her attendance at the Level 2 Coaching Course organised by SOA. She has a grant of £200 from Sport Scotland. Her club, OD, are supporting some travelling costs and WMOA agreed to fund further travelling costs. It was proposed that the clubs be asked to consider making a £30 donation to cover the remainder as increased coaching ability could benefit youngsters in all the clubs.

ACTION: D. Kingsbury to circulate this request to clubs.

14. AOB:

J. Woodhall reported that this was his last meeting as his term on the board of Directors will end at the AGM. He was thanked for his continued attendance and input at WMOA meetings.

K. da Cunha reported on WYE Ventures joining the Woodland Trust's Tree Charter to promote orienteering. The idea is for users of woodlands to say (and document) why trees and woods are important to them, to help the Woodland Trust in funding bids. There is a mutual interest here. She will send an article for the next 'West Midlander'.

15. Next meeting: 13 June.

Building a New, Competitive 'O' club: WYE Ventures OC (WYEevent)

Kyla Da Cunha



In 2000, an all-girls' multi-sports club was founded in Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, firstly to provide out-of-school sporting opportunities for state school children and secondly to give girls a training programme pre-thirteen, that would enable them to reach their full potential in the sport of their choice after that age. Some boys, siblings, observed our child-centred approach and also joined.

Now women, founder members of this club, continue to play sport at Local, Club, County, Regional, National and International levels, including Morgan Baynham-Williams, Oxford cox of the women's boat race in 2016. Morgan's courage steered Oxford to an exciting victory on Easter day. In a recent radio interview she said that if it hadn't been for the opportunities within the multi-sports club in Ross when she was younger, she wouldn't be where she is today.

The multi-sport club has evolved over the past fifteen years and is developing into an exceptional child-centred, base-line sport that all young children can benefit from. Unintentionally, it evolved into an orienteering training programme. Research and science steered us that way and also towards 'something old' to create 'something new' to meet the needs of the modern family.

Phase 1 Aim:

Recruitment of members. We known 'how' to recruit both boys and girls into a Parcourso training programme for under thirteen year-olds. This highly popular programme has been influenced by Georges Hebert's 'Methode Traditionelle', emulating the forest or urban run. Without this training, children will not reach their maximum potential on reaching the 'competing to win' stage in adulthood.

We also found relative research from the Swedish Winter Sports Research Centre and the Department of Health Sciences, Mid Sweden University:

Hebert-Loisier (2014) Jumping and Hopping in Elite and Amateur Orienteering Athletes.

Hebert-Loisier (2015) Elite and Amateur Orienteers - Running Biomechanics - 3 Surfaces 3 Speeds.

Photographs from the recent JK clearly demonstrate areas where obstacle course training is of benefit to competition.

Phase 2 Aim:

Building a community of 120 family members: Weekly training in local woodland for pre-thirteen year-olds, parents and siblings. From a young age, learning to: navigate out in the field; build up skills for organising an event and respect the need to protect our playing arenas for future generations.

Major J.R. Chapman described the British Army methods of teaching orienteering in the 1960s as to 'completely baffle the average man and thus makes him terrified of map reading' and 'the monotony of this type of unimaginative exercise does nothing but kill any enthusiasm the student has for the subject'. (Orienteering: An Aid to Training 1968).

He advocated the far superior map reading skills of the average Swedish officer who were:

1. 'Under the assumption that as map reading is an outdoor subject it should only be instructed in the field'; 2. '... Map reading is a personal subject which can only be perfected with practice, so orienteering competitions comprise the greater part of their training syllabus' and 3. '... Every man buys his own Silva compass, for their belief is that someone will master equipment he owns himself'.

We agree that weekly training out in the field is more purposeful, as some clubs already do. We will be applying for funding to map unmapped areas in Herefordshire to achieve this.

Phase 3 Aim:

Development of the Club Squad. The development of a training programme to prepare for competing in the national league on reaching fourteen (or thereabouts!). The Club will be looking to employ an experienced and person-centred coach to help deliver this and take the children and other family members through the levels, with regular training camps and weekend competition throughout the year.

'Them' and 'us'. One person's words 'that's not orienteering' at the Junior Development Meeting, does not challenge us. We don't buy into the fact that there are 'orienteers' and 'orienteers'. We're all the same with varying levels of experience and expertise in club development, mapping, organising, controlling, training, competing or volunteering. With girls, women and the 5+ age group playing a large part in the recently released Strategy for Sport, we know we are in a good position to move forward with a strong pilot.

Just as cox Morgan had to make a courageous decision to steer a different course for Oxford in the boat race on Easter Sunday, we choose to do something different, using our experience in our specific area of expertise, training the under thirteen age groups, in particular girls, to successfully reach our goal: To achieve a thriving family

and community orienteering club in Herefordshire.

We still need help. It is our aim to be on an equal competitive level as other orienteering clubs within the next three years. We believe we are building up the expertise we need to achieve this, but help would be appreciated, such as from:

- About six male and female young adult and inspiring orienteers, who we can link up with from time to time, either at competitions or at our holiday/weekend training camps.
- All orienteers who can contribute 'a memory or short story' to our book of 'O' stories which will be put together to inspire our parents, children and families who are new to this sport. We feel this will be really helpful for new parents. If anyone has spare time to put this book together, we would also be very grateful. Please email us at the address below with your story.

N.B. The use of photographs or video footage of junior members will not be used without following the BOF guidance and parental permissions.

If you are able to contribute or help in any way please contact Kyla.

Website: www.wyeventures.com

The gap between what some people think we do and what we actually do is wide. We are really happy to answer any questions about our orienteering activities and child-centred approach to training. Please request a demonstration if you or your club are looking for something different.



*(This article first appeared in CompassSport
Vol 37 Issue 2 April 2016).*

Jennifer 'Jenny' Anne Chambers (SYO)

Many will know Jenny as Jenny Pearson or older orienteers might know her as Jenny Honnick (her maiden name). She was British Open Women's Champion 1978 at Tentsmuir and 1983 at Pippingford Park, East Sussex., British Open Relay Champion 1981, 1985, 1989 and ran in the World Championships in 78, 79 and 81, where she was 42nd, 36th, 41st respectively in the one and only individual distance, at that time, the Classic. She never ran in the Relays. She ran for SYO after previously being with Manchester University Orienteers and WRE, moving from the Telford region in 1979. She continued to win British and JK titles in veteran age classes until the 90s before retiring from the sport to concentrate on road running.

Although Jenny left the region many years ago she contributed a lot to orienteering in her time with WRE along with her then husband Rob. She was even Editor of the 'West Midlander' during 1978 and 1979

Jenny battled with pancreatic cancer for 16 months before passing away in St Lukes Hospice, Sheffield. She was very clear she didn't want eulogies, so her service included music and readings including lessons from Mark Remy's 'The Runners Rule Book' read out by two members of the Smiley Paces (who turned up in force in kit), and words from 'The Song of the Ungirt Runner'. She had a woodland burial in the Loxley valley.

A tribute fund has been set up for her at: www.stlukestrIBUTE.org.uk/jenniferchambers/

(Reproduced by kind permission of CompassSport magazine).

John Disley by Ted Norrish (OD)

I first met John Disley and Chris Brasher to enjoy the sport of orienteering together in 1965. John, a Welshman and an excellent mountaineer, was born in 1928. At the Helsinki Olympic Games in 1952 he won the Bronze medal in the 3000m Steeplechase with a time of 8 min 51.08 sec; he was the first British athlete to run the event in under 9 minutes. At the same games his wife, Sylvia Cheeseman, won the 200m Gold medal in a time of 24.9. Chris Brasher was injured a little in qualifying and he finished 11th. The same year at Helsinki Emil Zatopek won the 5,000 m, 10,000m and the Marathon.

At the Melbourne Olympic Games of 1956 Chris Brasher won the Gold medal, with a time of 8 min 41.2 sec. - an Olympic and British record. John Disley was placed 6th, with a time of 8 min.44.6. In 1981 Chris and John founded the London Marathon - the same year in which I founded the Coventry Marathon which later became a Half Marathon.

Chris was the Chairman, and John the Treasurer of the British Orienteering Federation, and I remember that in the first edition of 'The Orienteer' it was recorded that in the National Championships Gordon Pirie was 1st and I was 5th.

John Disley set, every year, orienteering events based near Capel Curig in steep mountain country in North Wales and, on one occasion, he wrote in the results 'the Octavian Droobers are a club to be reckoned with' and he congratulated all the OD members.

I ran against John and Chris in the Vaux Mountain Trials six times, and the Karrimor Mountain Marathons. In the Vaux Trials, about 17 miles, they usually defeated me, but in the Karrimor Mountain Marathons (I ran 10 of them) I remember always finishing ahead of them. I think that I had, at the time, better stamina over 50 miles and they were also seven years older than I was.

John Disley wrote the first book in the English language (before that all were in Scandinavian) on the sport of orienteering, with good advice and many diagrams and pictures. Two of the photos he had chosen in his book are of myself and Howard Smith in second place in the Karrimor on Shap Fell, and of Peter Haines (*still orienteering with AIRE - Ed.*), an ex Henry's pupil, with the British team for the 1976 World Championships based at Aviemore.

John gave much to millions as a great Olympian and by establishing orienteering as a British sport. He and Chris both had a great sense of humour and I am honoured to have drunk a pint or two with them!



CompassSport Cup/Trophy 2016 Qualifying Round

The West Midlands Round of the CompassSport Cup/Trophy took place on 13 March at Abraham's Valley on Cannock Chase. OD qualified for the Cup Final at the expense of WCH and HOC. POTOc qualified for the Trophy for the first time since 1989.

WRE were drawn in the North West Round at Bickerton Hill in Cheshire and were narrowly denied a place in the final by SELOC in a tight fought round where only two points separated the three teams.

The Final will take place on 18 October at Tankersley near Barnsley hosted by South Yorkshire Orienteers. Good luck to Droobers and POTOc.

Area	Cup		Trophy	
Cannop	BOK	2458	SBOC	1285
Ponds	NGOC	2388	SWOC	1274
(SWOA)	DEVON	1947	QO	1271
Timble Ings (YHOA)	Postponed: To be held on 4 June.			
Bickerton	DEE	2427	SELOC	1278
Hill	LOC	2419	WRE	1277
(NWOA)	MDOC	2364	PFO	1276
Hatfield	HH	2459	SOS	1278
Forest	WAOC	2344	SUFFOC	1256
(EAOA)	NOR	2199	DFOK	1241
	SAX	1619	CHIG	1227
Dumyat (SOA)	FVO	No scores available	CLYDE	No scores available
	ESOC		RR	
			INT	
			ECKO	
Parkhill	SO	2298	TVOC	2265
Inclosure	SLOW	2293	SOC	2212
(SCOA)	WIM	2283	BKO	2178
	SN	2274	SARUM	1280
			GO	1269
			WSX	1246
			MV	1206
Abrahams	OD	2427	LEI	2160
Valley	DVO	2376	HOC	2152
(WMOA)	WCH	2298	POTOc	1281
	NOC	2238	SMOC	1273
			LOG	1267
			COBOC	661
			BADO	1231
			NWO	1184
			KERNO	1069

Qualifying teams in red.

British Orienteering Championships 2016

Brown Clec

This year the British Long Distance Championships and Relays returned to the West Midlands and were held on Brown Clec in Shropshire on 30 April and 1 May respectively.

The area has probably the best technical terrain in the West Midlands due to coal and iron mining activities which ceased in the 19th century. The area has hosted many major championships over the years and was previously used for BOC in 1993.

I was very pleased to have been involved in the event as mapper and seeing the success of the event made all the hard work worthwhile. It was originally supposed to have been a joint enterprise with Colin Spears (HOC) but, unfortunately, he suffered a debilitating stroke over Christmas 2014 and was unable to participate further. I wish him and Suzette well.

Eric Brown (HOC) did a splendid job of co-ordinating the weekend which was organised by HOC (Individual) and OD (Relays). Lester Evans (HOC) and Phil Kirk (OD) did fine jobs as Organisers. Iain Embrey and Clive Caffall (Individual) and Sue Hallett (Relays) were the Planners.

Although the weekend was a success a shadow was cast somewhat over the proceedings on the Individual day with the alleged crossing of fences. These were clearly marked with a purple line indicating that they were not to be crossed at the request of the Landowner (I know because I marked them on the map at the request of the Planners). This behaviour is not only irresponsible but could result in the loss of the area for future events which would be tragic. Perhaps more Draconian measures need to be taken to prevent this sort of 'cheating' in future.

Perhaps it is a sign that the age profile of orienteering keeps getting higher but an interesting statistic shows that there were more competitors in the M80 (15) than the combined total of M21L (4) and M21S (10). It is also noteworthy that W21E was won by a W40 (Kim Baxter of SYO) with another W40 (Sarah Rollins of SN) in second place.

In the Individual event the region had a number of successes:

M65 Andy Hemsted (HOC)

W20E Julie Emmerson (OD)

W70 Sheila Carey (OD)

W80 Alison Sloman (HOC)

In the Relays there were wins for:

M14 OD (Oliver Lunn, Oliver Flippance and Felix Lunn).

M/W70 OD (Mike Hampton, Peter Carey and Sheila Carey).

Women's Short HOC (Katherine Atkins, Heather Kieniewicz and Lindsay McMillan).



Event Co-ordinator Eric Brown (HOC).

"Orienteering is the 'go to' outdoor sport for people wanting to test themselves physically and mentally"



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12th May 2016

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Dear Bob,

I am writing to you in your role as Chair of the West Midlands Orienteering Association to thank you and all your volunteers for putting on the very successful British Orienteering Long Distance and Relay Championships 2016 weekend. Please ensure the thanks of the Board of British Orienteering are passed on to all the volunteers involved. Speaking to Eric Brown the Organiser over the weekend made me aware that both he and the planners had to manage a number of last minute difficulties running up to the event and all your officials are to be congratulated on successfully managing these.

I appreciate that every volunteer gives up valuable time to make an event such as the British Championship weekend successful. Speaking to a number of volunteers at the event it was clear that there was satisfaction at being part of an effective team. However I have no doubt that there were times when all sorts of frustrations were discretely dealt with. I do hope all your volunteers understand how much their efforts are recognised and appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Judith Holt
Chair British Orienteering Board of Directors



Hon. President, Sir Chris Bonington CBE
Registered in England & Wales No: 1006472

Sent to ex WMOA Chairman (Bob Brandon)

West Midlands Schools Championships 2016



On Saturday 6 May COBOC hosted the West Midlands Schools Championships at Kingfisher Country Park in Birmingham.

Team Results

	Primary	Middle	Secondary
	(best 4 results to count)	(best 4 results to count)	(best 3 from at least 3 classes)
1	Oakridge Primary School	Christchurch Academy	Walton High School
2	Bablake Junior School		King Henry VIII
3	Winterfold House School		Kenilworth School

Individual Results

	Boys		Girls	
Year 11 +	Harrison McCartney	King Henry VIII	Holly Hughes	Walton High School
Year 5	Lewis Oxtoby	King Henry VIII	Connie Paterson and Sophia Watson	Bablake Junior
Year 6	Eoin Hankinson	St Augustine	Tabitha Lunn	All Saints Leek Wootton
Year 7+8	Henry Webb	Walton High School	Holly Stodgell	Walton High School
Year 9 + 10	Oliver Lunn	Kenilworth School	Ellie Bales	Biddulph High School

Mapping Matters

It's been a little while since I wrote about mapping but there have been a few developments recently so I thought I'd redress the situation. The British Orienteering Mapping Advisory Group have produced a syllabus for Mapping Courses and it was originally my intention to hold a course for the West Midlands but I never got round to arranging venues. I was then approached by my own club (WRE) to hold a course for them and they had a really good venue lined up. I held the two day course and decided it might be best to hold courses for individual clubs rather than trying to organise a regional one due to the demand there appears to be. I will be holding one for WCH in July and have also been approached by members of COBOC and WYEvent about future courses.

Whilst arranging the course for WRE it struck me that there could be a problem with the Cartography day of the course - the software. OCAD was initially developed as a hobby in the late 1980s by a Swiss orienteer, Hans Steinegger, who also happened to be a software engineer. At the time all maps were produced by either pen and ink drawing or scribing and computers were not as ubiquitous as today. It was initially a MS-DOS programme which fitted on a 1.44mb floppy disc - remember those? By version 5 it had become a Windows programme and was readily adopted by mappers. Sadly, Hans died of a heart attack in 2004 at the early age of 56. A group of Swiss orienteers took over the project and formed a commercial company and gradually the programme developed. The downside was that the programme moved away from its simple roots and the price rose accordingly such that it has now reached CHF 626 (approximately £440). The licence also restricts the programme to one user so it has become prohibitively expensive for clubs to keep up to date and legal.



The situation was recognised by German programmer Thomas Shöps in 2012 and he began the Open Orienteering project with the aim of creating an Open Source software programme that would be a free alternative to OCAD. With the help of Kai Pastor, Peter Curtis and few other volunteers they gradually developed Open Orienteering Mapper as a cross platform programme

which works with the Windows, Linux and MacOSX operating systems and will also work on tablets and mobile phones running the Android operating system. The latest version, 0.6.1 is a very capable programme and, though lacking some of the capabilities of OCAD actually performs some tasks better.

It is because the programme is capable and free that I decided it would be the best policy to teach the use of Open Orienteering Mapper on the course. It is not recommended for really serious projects at the moment but is more than capable of producing a small mapping project. Another advantage is that the programme can open and save OCAD files as well as its own file format. There can be problems with the translation of some of the symbols but these are always explained in a dialogue box when opening the OCAD file and can be dealt with without too many problems.

As part of WMOA development I am offering to hold Beginner's Mapping Courses for individual with the proviso that the club organises the venue and facilities. As there is no money in the British Orienteering budget for National Mapping Conferences there could be room for a Regional Mapping Conference where best practices could be shared along with more advanced mapping techniques can be demonstrated. It is vital for the future of the sport that new mappers are trained and the course also gives a good insight into which features should actually appear on 'O' maps.



Doug Peel of Walton Chasers was awarded the Bonington Trophy for Services to Mapping at the annual British Orienteering Mapping Awards 2016. This award recognises Doug's involvement in mapping over the last 40 years or so. Congratulations to Doug who also celebrated his 80th birthday at the recent Walton Chasers' event at Mansty Woods on 8 May.

New Mapping Specifications

The International Orienteering Federation Map Commission has been working on a revision of the International Specification for Orienteering Maps (ISOM) for the last few years (the last ISOM was produced in 2000). The revision has proved a lengthy affair but is edging ever closer to the final solution. Feedback has been received from many National Federations around the world and has been compiled in a document that can be found here:

http://orienteering.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/ISOM-Feedback-for-publication_2016-1.pdf

Credits

If you have used either Ordnance Survey or Environment Agency data (LiDAR) on your map then there is a legal requirement to credit these organisations. For Ordnance Survey material the credit must read:

© Crown Copyright 2016 OS 100015287

For Environment Agency data the credit must read:

© Environment Agency copyright 2017. All rights reserved.

These credits should use the Open Source typeface Source Sans Pro and to help with this Bruce Bryant has produced some OCAD files which are available on the BOF website here:

<https://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/mappers>

West Midlands Urban League



2016 Events

Date	Event Venue	Club
2 May	Tamworth	WCH
15 May	Whitchurch	WRE
3 July	Leek	POTOC
9 October	Warwick	OD
22 October	Great Malvern	HOC

The 2016 season began on the May Day Bank Holiday Monday at Tamworth following the British Championship Weekend. Many orienteers from all over the country who had travelled for BOC had stayed the extra day and boosted the number of participants. Starting and finishing by the castle, the area provided an interesting challenge with courses zigzagging over the rivers and busy roads.

The next event is on 15 May at Whitchurch in North Shropshire on a brand new map and promises some interesting Urban challenges. On 3 July POTOC are holding their first Urban League event at Leek. Again it's a brand new area and a brand new map.

In the Autumn the series concludes with return visits to Warwick and Great Malvern, the latter event also counting as part of the UK Urban League.



The Finish at Tamworth.

The West Midlands League 2016 Positions after 6 Events

1. OD 6121				2. WRE 5679				3. WCH 5106			
A	Florence Lunn	W12	495	A	Grace Allinson	W10	100	A	Holly Hughes	W18	471
A	Tabitha Lunn	W12	431	A	Jessica Parker	W16	100	A	Joseph Holland	M14	284
B	David Dunn	M35	404	B	Adrian Griffiths	M45	384	B	Matthew Mardling	M45	386
B	Liam Chapple	M45	328	B	Steve Parker	M45	324	B	Allan Williams	M45	373
C	David Leadley	M50	384	C	Richard Pay	M50	471	C	Mark Garside	M55	329
C	Richard Steel	M50	372	C	Clive Richardson	M50	448	C	Neil Adams	M55	288
D	Liz Phillips	W50	300	D	Diane Jacks	W45	500	D	Sally Hughes	W45	366
D	Lesley Ross	W50	275	D	Katie Lewis	W21	380	D	Mary Adams	W55	364
E	Barry Elkington	M60	500	E	John Riley	M80	484	E	Ray Collins	M60	400
E	Peter Carey	M70	500	E	Roy Lindsell	M70	457	E	Hazel Waters	W65	400
F	Sheila Carey	W70	500	F	Rod Postlethwaite	M60	418	F	John Robinson	M65	352
F	Stan Alexander	M60	423	F	John Broadhead	M60	417	F	Jonathan Howell	M60	344
F	Finlay Flippance	M12	411	F	Jeff Haycock	M70	400	F	Christine Collins	W55	253
F	Mike Snell	M60	400	F	Brian Morris	M75	400	F	Simon Webb	M40	248
F	Oliver Lunn	M14	398	F	Peter Howsam	M65	396	F	Rebecca Hind	W12	248
4. HOC 4942				5. POTO 3031				6. COBOC 1337			
A	Sebastian Mitchell	M12	300	A	Ellie Bales	W16	200	B	Benjamin Rauffet	M21	283
A	Catherine Bailey	W12	293	A	Enys Lloyd	M14	100	B	Emils Vainovskis	M20	270
B	David Aldridge	M35	178	B	Robert Holdway	M21	300	C	Ian Gamlen	M50	320
B	Tim Kieniewicz	M21	165	B	Graham Pigott	M35	180	D	Yvonne Feasey	W50	80
C	Alex Morgan	M50	499	C	Gerry Riley	M55	220	E	Mick Sadler	M65	305
C	Paul Hammond	M50	245	C	Jim Cooke	M50	127	E	Ruth Lockley	W60	79
D	Marian White	W55	320	D	Ianka Petrova-Evans	W45	92				
D	Katherine Atkins	W35	200	D	Elizabeth Bales	W50	70				
E	Alison Sloman	W80	500	E	Marian Denham	W70	430				
E	Geoff Trewin	M60	452	E	Paul Graetz	M65	300				
F	Robert Scott	M65	381	F	Jean Rostron	W70	255				
F	Barry McGowan	M65	371	F	Henry Morgan	M60	251				
F	John Pearson	M65	359	F	Peter Yoxall	M70	178				
F	Russ Fauset	M65	348	F	Judy Douglas	W70	178				
F	Andrew White	M60	331	F	Dave Bales	M60	150				

2016 Events

Jan 10	Lickey Hills	COBOC	May 8	Mansty Woods	WCH
Jan 24	Hartshill Hayes	HOC	Oct 2	Shoal Hill	WCH
Feb 7	Chasewater	WCH	Oct 23	Castlemorton	HOC
Feb 14	Longdon	HOC	Oct 30	Gentleshaw	WCH
Feb 21	Lizard Hill	WRE	Nov 6	The Ercall	WRE
Apr 10	Shuckburgh Hall Cancelled	OD	Dec 4	Dymock	HOC

Individual Class Leaders after 6 Events

M10	Max Straube-Roth	OD	303	W10	Tilly Flippance	OD	280
M12	Finley Flippance	OD	411	W12	Florence Lunn	OD	495
M14	Oliver Lunn	OD	398	W14	Pippa Smart	WCH	257
M16	Sam Leadley	OD	274	W16	Ellie Bales	POTOC	200
M18	Harrison McCartney	OD	100	W18	Holly Hughes	WCH	471
M20	Emils Vainovskis	COBOC	270	W20			
M21	Robert Morris	OD	310	W21	Katie Lewis	WRE	380
M35	David Dunn	OD	404	W35	Helen Corrin	WRE	287
M40	Nick Maynard	WRE	268	W40	Sharron Richardson	WRE	281
M45	Matthew Mardling	WCH	386	W45	Diane Jacks	WRE	500
M50	Alex Morgan	HOC	499	W50	Delia Kingsbury	WRE	377
M55	Mark Garside	WCH	329	W55	Mary Adams	WCH	364
M60	Barry Elkington	OD	500	W60	Lin Page	OD	347
M65	Geoff Trewin	HOC	452	W65	Hazel Waters	WCH	400
M70	Peter Carey	OD	500	W70	Sheila Carey	OD	500
M75	Brian Morris	WRE	400	W75	Elizabeth Riley	WRE	320
M80	John Riley	WRE	484	W80	Alison Sloman	HOC	500

Erratum

In the Individual Table Robert Brandon (OD) was incorrectly accredited with winning the M65 class with 479 pts. The winner should have been Paul Graetz (POTOC) who scored 500 pts. Apologies for the error.

WMOA Fixtures**May to July 2016**

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

2016**May**

14	POTOC Level D	POTOC Summer Park League 2 Florence and Queens Park	Longton, Stoke-on-Trent	SJ910418
15	WRE Level C	WRE WM Urban League 2 Whitchurch	Whitchurch	SJ539415
17	WRE Level D	WRE Summer Series 3 Twemlows	Whitchurch	SJ568359
18	OD Level D	OD Local Event Kingsbury Water Park	Tamworth	SP205958
21	POTOC Level D	POTOC Summer Park League 3 Festival Park	Stoke-on-Trent	SJ870482
24	WRE Level D	WRE Summer Series 4 Brown Moss	Whitchurch	SJ562395
25	OD Level D	OD Local Event Hartshill Hayes Country Park	Nuneaton	SP469735
25	COBOC Level D	COBOC Sevens Clifton Road, Sutton Coldfield	Sutton Coldfield	
31	WRE Level D	WRE Summer Series 5 Bridgnorth Town Centre	Bridgnorth	SO717935

June

1	OD Level D	OD Local Event Itchington Holt	Bishop's Itchington	SP369557
4	POTOC Level D	POTOC Summer Park League 4 Tunstall and Burslem	Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent	
5	OD Level D	OD Yvette Baker Trophy (Round 1) Pooley Country Park	Polesworth, Tamworth	SK257024
7	WRE Level D	WRE Summer Series 6 Stanmore Country Park	Bridgnorth	SO740298
8	OD Level D	OD Local Event University of Warwick	Coventry	SP298766

11	HOC Level D	HOC Summer Saturday Series Arrow Valley	Redditch	SP062676
14	WRE Level D	WRE Summer Series 7 Severn Valley Country Park	Alveley	SO753839
15	OD Level D	OD Local Event Elmdon Park	Solihull	SP161828
16	HOC Level D	HOC June Jaunter Clent Hills Country Park	Halesowen	SO938807
19	HOC Level C	HOC Event Sandwell Valley	Sandwell	
21	WRE Level D	WRE Summer Series 8 Telford Town Park	Telford	SJ698078
22	OD Level D	OD Local Event Ryton Pools Country Park	Coventry	SP370724
25	HOC Level D	HOC Summer Saturday Series Hawkbatch	Bewdley	SO761777
28	WRE Level D	WRE Summer Series 9 Wrockwardine Wood	Telford	SJ699112
31	OD Level D	OD Local Event - Sutton Park Gates Run Sutton Park	Sutton Coldfield	SP115963

July

2	HOC Level D	HOC Summer Saturday Series Baggeridge Country Park	Wombourne	SO898931
3	POTOC Level D	POTOC WM Urban League 3 Leek	Leek	SJ993566
5	WRE Level D	WRE Summer Series 10 Shrewsbury Town Centre	Shrewsbury	SJ493121
6	OD Level D	OD Local Event Brueton Park	Solihull	SP162790
12	WRE Level D	WRE Summer Series 11 Lyth Hill Country Park	Shrewsbury	SJ472068
13	OD Level D	OD Local Event Memorial Park	Coventry	SP322772
17	COBOC Level D	West Midlands Park Championships Perry Hall Playing Fields	Birmingham	
19	WRE Level D	WRE Summer Series 12 Attingham Park	Shrewsbury	SJ547100
20	OD Level D	OD Local Event Tudor Grange Park	Solihull	SP144794
23	HOC Level D	HOC Summer Saturday Series Red House Park	Great Barr	SP042945