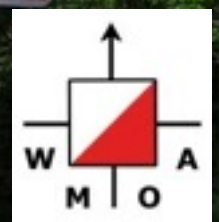


# *The West Midlander*

Summer 2015



**The Newsletter of the  
West Midlands Orienteering Association**



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Cover Photo: *Springtime in Shropshire sail banner*

Photo by Ruth Lockley (COBOC)

## Editorial

Welcome to the Summer edition of the newsletter.

Once again Harlequins and Wrekin put on a successful Springtime in Shropshire weekend. The sun shone at Brampton Bryan on the Saturday to encourage a holiday atmosphere. Glorious views of the Herefordshire/Shropshire countryside compensated for the somewhat steep walk to the start. Glorious views were to be the theme for the weekend with Stapeley and Corndon offering vistas of Shropshire and Powys (Corndon actually being in Wales).

The main championship season is now over but that doesn't mean that there's no orienteering to be had. There are plenty of evening events being held by HOC, OD and WRE and, of course, the 'big one' the World Championships/ Scottish 6 Days.

In this year of anniversaries, Droobers celebrated their 50th anniversary at Shuckburgh, a new area near Daventry. The sun shone and the celebrations continued with an after event barbeque We also have POTO's 40th anniversary event at Whitfield Valley in October which also incorporates the West Midland Championships and West Midlands League Event number 8.

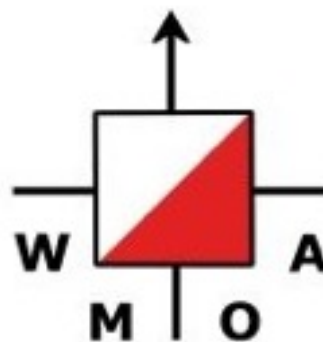
Last but not least Wrekin are holding the West Midlands Relays at Nesscliff Camp (North), an army training camp not used for about 20 years. I have done some research into the competition and have listed all the venues on page 15. This will be the second year using the new format of a mass start for all courses.

Happy Orienteering

Rod

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Copy date for the next issue: 1 October 2015

## WMOA Chairman's Report June 2015

Bob Brandon

In April WRE staged the WMOA Sprint Championships at Lilleshall. (The event had been labelled WMOA Park Championships in 2014). This year's event was very popular, with a prologue and final format providing two runs that day for all who took part.

Later, in May POTO C staged the WMOA Schools Championships at Park Hall, with a turn-out of 180 students from across the region. I was invited by Gareth Lloyd (Organiser) to present the trophies, and felt guilty as I had to excuse myself. Luckily, Henry Morgan was willing to congratulate the winners on behalf of the region. The picture gallery on results page show the young orienteers having fun, those I spoke to the following week really enjoyed the challenge.

I did get to an event later in the month and really enjoyed the two days I was able to attend Springtime in Shropshire. It is always a pleasure to spend time at Brampton Bryan. Following the climb to the start, I found the woodland particularly enchanting as I threaded my way through the lush green. However, despite the May growth, this did not impede running through the terrain. Next day at Stapeley, the views were really outstanding. After finishing I made a slight detour to the stone circle (Mitchell's Fold) where I heard a visiting member of SARUM Orienteers bid a "hello from Stonehenge". Alas, I was to go cycling in Derbyshire on the Monday, so had to miss out the run over Corndon Hill. A big thank you to HOC and WRE for continuing to put on this excellent three day orienteering weekend.

With WRE having marked their 40th birthday on The Wrekin in February, it was the turn of OD in June to put on a birthday (50th) event at Shuckburgh Hall, a new area. Later on (4 October) it will be the turn of POTO C to celebrate their 40th birthday whilst staging the WMOA Championships at Whitfield Valley.

We had been wondering when the WMOA was started. Records have been checked and it now seems that the WMOA was formed in 1963, making it only 8 years until our Diamond Jubilee!



*Photo by Margaret Willdig (OD)*

In September WMOA are hosting the two day Junior Inter-Regional Championships – Individual and Relay. So look out for requests to help stage the weekend or help with the WMOA Junior Team.

In early May 2016, the BOC weekend is to held in the WMOA on Brown Clee Hill lead by Eric Brown. Key WMOA officials for next year were to be seen deep in conversation with their counter-part officials, at this year's BOC in the Forest of Dean. And, looking further ahead, to JK2018 it is great news that Andy Yeates (WCH) has volunteered to be the event coordinator.

Most of the current WMOA Officers have agreed to continue in their roles for 2015-2016, though all posts are available for nomination. I am to step down as Chairman, and am currently actively looking for a new Chair for the region - please let me know if you have someone in mind. It seems that we are looking for someone to look after the Junior Squad - please note comment by Mel Elkington, item 13 of the committee minutes.

Many WMOA members will be in Scotland in early August, helping on at least one day of the joint World Orienteering Championships and 6 Days event. I'm sure that the event will be a great success. Don't forget to make use of any publicity in the press, radio, television, internet, including social media to encourage more people in the West Midlands to have a go at orienteering and take up the sport. If you are going to be there, enjoy!

## Minutes of WMOA meeting on 8 June 2015, Great Barr Hotel

1. **Present:** R. Brandon, J. Woodall, R. Collins, H. Morgan, K. da Cunha, A. Williams, B. Elkington, B. McGowan, D. Kingsbury.
2. **Apologies:** R. Postlethwaite.
3. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
4. **Minutes:** The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record.
5. **Matters Arising:** None.
6. **Correspondence:** There had been very little apart from BOF correspondence which is widely circulated. A letter of thanks had been received from Matt Hartland for the WMOA support to attend the World Schools Championships in Turkey.
7. **Chairman's Report:**

WRE had held the WMOA Sprint Championships at Lilleshall which had been a different type of event to the Park Championships held the previous year. The different formats for this type of event add interest although age classes and guidelines are evolving. POTOc hosted the WMOA Schools Championships at Park Hall. The students had enjoyed the day and awards were presented by Henry Morgan. Thanks to WRE and HOC for a good three days of orienteering at SinS, which was also blessed with good weather.

Droobers had held their 50th Birthday celebration event at Shuckborough Park, Wrekin has marked 40 years and POTOc also mark their 40th year in 2015. Records had been checked and it now seems that WMOA was formed in 1963, so the 50th anniversary has been missed.

We have had another informative edition of West Midlander produced by Rod Postlethwaite.

### 8. **Treasurer's Report:**

Projected income for the year to August was about £3200. Further income was anticipated from SinS (estimated £1300) and the Shuckborough event. Payment to EOC is still to be made. It is expected that finances will just about break even this year. Donations had been made for three trips abroad. The Junior Squad has had about three quarters of its allocation so far.

K. da Cunha has obtained agreement to showcase orienteering as part of the Hereford Festival of Sport later this year with a view to full inclusion next year. She queried whether WMOA could accept gift aid of any monies received. WMOA is not a registered charity and so cannot, but The Orienteering Foundation and The Elsie Ward Fund are. Enquiries should be directed to them.

### 9. **Fixtures:**

- There had been a National Scheduling meeting followed by a WMOA fixtures meeting.
- Events are already being proposed from the clubs for the 2016 League.
- Two Urban events had been held with two to go. The results are available through the Nopesport website. R. Postlethwaite had produced certificate templates.
- The 2016 West Midlands Competitions are covered.

**Compass Sport Cup 2016:** H. Morgan reported that there was a conflict as POTOc were planning to use Weston Heath (with complicated permissions) whilst DEE have the NWOA event at Bickerton Hill just 20 miles away; the SWOA event will be in the Forest of Dean. Thus WMOA clubs might well choose other events leaving a low turnout for the POTOc event.

A. Williams will raise this with the NWOA and P. Guillaume. It was proposed that perhaps the POTOc event could be deferred to 2017 with WMOA clubs choosing one of the other events for the 2016 Compass Sport Cup. This would leave POTOc without a level C event for 2016. A. Williams invited the club to find a date in the calendar and make a proposal.

**John Bennison Memorial Event:** WRE had raised some queries about any long term implications of having their 'Long O' event named after John and whether it should be rotated around. D. Kingsbury to discuss this further with Wrekin.

H. Morgan suggested that a laminated sheet of information be available at events named after individuals e.g. Laurie Bradley, Peter Palmer and John Bennison, explaining why their names are commemorated. This could be displayed at enquiries.

J. Howell a keen urban orienteer has suggested putting on an event on in Birmingham. HOC and COBOC overlap this area. Is there a possibility that the clubs could combine forces to get a good Urban event off the ground? (A. White is running a HOC evening event in the Jewellery Quarter).

K. da Cunha sought guidance in bringing an Urban event to the Hereford Festival of Sport. This would need to be fully registered BOF event and she was recommended to contact HOC and NGOC the organisers of the recent Gloucester and Ross on Wye events. Advice was given re the need for fully signed off risk assessments, the need for council permissions and permission for siting any control flags on sites that are not council owned. Event Safety Course attendance was advised and one has recently been run. Gill Clerici in HOC has run them in the past, but some time ago. B. Ford (HOC Secretary) would be able to provide contact details.

A. Yeates had volunteered to co-ordinate JK2018 in Wales for WMOA. Planners, Controllers and manpower will come from the clubs. This event would still be under the current BOF Major Events Agreement with support from S. Pygott. Areas are to be discussed with WOA, including a back-up area, and it is hoped that they will be identified by Easter 2016.

10. **West Midlander:** R. Postlethwaite had provided the following feedback:

*B. Elkington had sent a photo of the WMJS 'O' suit but the front page of the last edition had already been done. It may appear on the front of the next issue.*

*An advert for webmaster had been put in the newsletter.*

*Apologies for the newsletter being late as I was very involved with Brown Clee mapping. Articles welcome as ever.*

11. **Development:**

**Mapping course:** No movement as R. Postlethwaite is busy with the Brown Clee map update. He had put forward the Frank Chapman Centre in the Wyre Forest which has terrain next door as a possible venue. If the focus of the intended course is clarified e.g. OCAD or Fieldwork, then an appropriate venue can be identified with a view to subsequently setting a date.

John Woodall had e-mailed details of the East Midlands course format to D. Kingsbury at the end of March but this had not arrived. He had details available of last years programme and this years proposed format. Clearly EMOA participants have priority but there are usually spaces and neighbouring regions are invited to join. He will check with EMOA that they are happy for us to advertise this training day. If so, we can include details in the next West Midlander.

12. **Events & Competitions Committee:**

The details circulated about the Shuckborough event had stated whistles were advisable rather than mandatory. The Organiser had not been able to find written details confirming the requirement for whistles to be carried. He felt that if this was the case the policy should be available for reference on the website.

There had been discussion about the difference between rules and guidelines and if it is good practice to do 'something', then it should be done. The need to carry whistles should be considered as part of the risk assessment. Then if there is a stipulated requirement for any

equipment to be carried at an event this must be checked by the organisers. This is contrary to the WMOA position that a whistle must be carried at all events. The need for any equipment should be linked through rules and guidelines to insurance needs. If whistles are needed the Organiser needs to say why. Words of an advisory nature are not helpful.

In the same vein, for Urban events, the definition of quiet roads and the need for road crossings are open to interpretation and this needs clarity.

There had been a meeting the past weekend. Fixture setting is managed by M. Cope and is effective. Decision making has been devolved from BOF. Otherwise, there is a lack of manpower to fill roles and committee positions, such that some functions are not being carried out. The process for updating rules is difficult. There is currently nobody overseeing mapping, and event officials consists of one person. There is nobody to oversee delivery of major events outside the British Championships. S. Pygott is experienced at event management but obviously does not have the background to deal with the technical side of these events. So this is a difficult situation.

The importance of Event Safety issues for all events is highlighted; there should be a risk assessment for every event and if requested to do so, clubs are expected to be able to produce copies in a day or two. It is essential that they are signed off by a person who has attended the Event Safety Course, although within the next couple of years all event officials will need to have attended such a course. If they have not, and something goes wrong, then those individuals will be personally liable.

K. da Cunha asked about insurance cover for newcomers at a 'come and try it' event, as the policy reads as if it covers members and guests. Technically newcomers are covered for 3 events, but checking across events at different clubs is practically impossible. The collective view was that a flyer or electronic advertisement was an invitation to attend, thus any newcomers is a guest responding to such an invitation.

Recent problems with 'non-contact' punching were mentioned and the root cause lies with lack of familiarity with the equipment rather than with the technology itself. At the British Sprints some people didn't hold EMIT cards down for long enough. The Swedish WRE event related to the use of 'Eco mode' whereby SI units switched off, which was not good for a Sprint event and led to the whole event being voided. There are also difficulties for touch-less technology when placing controls one side of a barrier, as the technology may show the control has been visited.

### 13. **Junior Squad:** Report from Mel Elkington.

As you know I am no longer doing training for the Squad and Sarah has vanished off the scene. Despite this, if each club could possibly put on and lead a session each of training at Light Green/Green standard or above then I am happy to e-mail the Squad members, send out permission forms and collate their names. I am sure that the parents of the children would be prepared to bring them along and help out. But they will need guidance on this if they are not coaches.

Please note that equally I will no longer look for children to invite to join the Squad. However, if any child thinks that they qualify then please ask them to look on the West Midlands Junior Squad website ([www.wmjs.co.uk](http://www.wmjs.co.uk)) to check that they meet the criteria and then e-mail me.

Harrison McCartney has been selected for EYOC, a pre-JWOC training session in Switzerland and a JROS Summer tour to Sweden. Julie Emmerson and Matt Elkington have both been selected for JWOC. Julie has also been selected for a World Cup race in July. Nathan Lawson has been selected for the GB Talent Squad training week.

Further down the squad no one has been selected for Lagganlia or Deeside this year as there were no athletes with any Championship standards. Matt Hartland represented England at the World Schools Championships - his team were up against some very tough Swedish and French opposition and they did well considering.

Debbie Morse has kindly offered to drive a minibus for the JIRCS weekend. She has had previous experience of JIRCS so knows what is involved and is happy to deal with the WMJS team. As I am organising the JIRCS Relay day I will attend the Squad managers meeting on the Saturday evening before heading home to pack the car for the following day. It would be good to have someone with a younger child in the Squad shadow me so that they know what is expected the following year. I have hired Weston Academy so that we have accommodation, and Dougie Craig is helping with that. 'O Nosh' are providing the evening meal and breakfast.

A Co-ordinator is sought for the Junior Squad. This could be a shared role as it has been before with M. Elkington and L. Furness. Anyone who is interested in supporting the Junior Squad should contact M. Elkington. In the meantime clubs were asked whether they could incorporate a WMJS training session alongside other events, even level D.

#### 14. Club round up

All clubs are running Summer evening events at present Most are using SI for these.

**HOC:** also have occasional training days run by A. Hemsted.

**COBOC:** also have a 7's event on the last Wednesday of every month. The club are seeking Clubmark accreditation.

**WRE:** WM Relays next month. Entry details were being sought by other clubs.

**WCH:** most of their events are club members only because of forestry restrictions on numbers attending. Events on non-forestry land may be opened up to others.

**POTOC:** Park series had started the previous weekend. During the Spring they had run 3 evening Urban Score events attracting around a dozen to each and are planning to do more in August. Into the future they are looking at Leek as a location for Urban orienteering.

**Wye Ventures:** Looking at a training series in the Summer holiday with some mixed sessions and some girls only. They have a recruitment drive and plan a series of events around Herefordshire. They have maps for some areas but were advised to liaise with clubs about use of orienteering areas, particularly prime areas where permissions are difficult.

**OD:** had had 100 people at a Summer evening event! Coaching sessions run by A. Emmerson for Juniors are popular. The club are pursuing re-accreditation for Clubmark.

15. **WMOA Committee 2016:** Most were happy to continue if no other volunteers came forward. R. Brandon has completed his three year term as Chair and a volunteer will be needed to fill this position.

#### 16. AOB

- H. Morgan asked what the current position was for BOF Development activity in WMOA. Regional Development Officers no longer exist and BOF can no longer fund this role. Craig Anthony is the current BOF Development Officer but is not linked to any areas. Some areas have Volunteer Development Officers who serve on their Regional committees e.g. EMOA.
- K. da Cunha asked if anyone had explored alternative funding opportunities, especially for activities where women and girls are targeted as this may be an option to support an increase in participation. Funds could be used for recruiting, training sessions, coaching and to employ someone to take this forwards. J. Woodall stated that BOF itself is unable to capitalise on this. B. Elkington stated that the issue is the lack of skilled people to deliver such training. Money is not so much of a problem. However, if an individual wanted to be a Sports Coach they would take advantage of sports where there was a fixed venue as it was a much easier way to earn money.

**Next Meetings:** Monday 14 September.

AGM: Monday 12 October.



## West Midlands Sprint Championships 2015

The 4th West Midlands Park Championships were held under a different name, the West Midlands Sprint Championships, by Wrekin Orienteers at Lilleshall Hall on 11 April.

When Adrian Bailey (HOC) first came up with the idea of a park championships, the format was to be flexible to make the best use of the area. Lilleshall Hall, in the past, has hosted many British Orienteering Coaching Conferences and the Sprint format had been used on a number of occasions at those conferences using the 1:4000 ISSOM map of the grounds around the buildings for which it was very suitable. There was also an extended map at 1:5000 which covered the less complex areas of the centre. This had been recently updated for a revised Permanent Course so WRE decided to use both maps for the competition.

The format followed the convention of a prologue race followed by a final and was enjoyed by those who took part. There was some confusion over which age groups should run which course and many opted for the longer course 1 so it has been difficult to determine the age class winners. Therefore, the course winners only are published here. *(If someone has a definite list of the winners then I will publish them in the next issue. Ed)*

### Course Winners

#### Prologue

<b>1</b>	Matthew Elkington	OD
<b>2</b>	Ian Gamlen	COBOC
<b>3</b>	Ray Collins	WCH
<b>Short</b>	Holly Stodgell	WCH

#### Final

<b>1</b>	Matthew Elkington	OD
<b>2</b>	Ian Gamlen	COBOC
<b>3</b>	John Robinson	WCH
<b>Short</b>	Holly Stodgell	WCH

### WMOA Webmaster

Following the advert in the Spring issue of the newsletter, Andrew Johnson (HOC) has stepped forward to assume the position of webmaster. Andrew has returned to the Midlands from running in the Military League South and is very keen to support orienteering in the region.

He has plenty of professional expertise in IT and was webmaster and designer for the British Shooting Sports Council ([bssc.org.uk](http://bssc.org.uk)) for over 5 years. We wish him well in his venture and look forward to seeing the results of his work.

## West Midlands Junior Squad



*Ellie Bales (POTOC) wearing WMJS colours. Photo by Wendy Carlyle (AIRE)*

Congratulations to M18 Nathan Lawson (OD) who has been selected to attend the Summer Talent weekend at Badaguish on 28-31 July.

Congratulations also to Harrison McCartney (OD) who has been selected for the Junior Regional Squads (M/W17s) Camp Stockholm being held from 11-23 August 2015.

It is great to see the Region and, in particular, OD producing talented young athletes who are moving towards international careers. It may not be too long before they are representing Great Britain at the World Championships. Here's hoping.....

## West Midlands Schools Championships 2015



The West Midlands Schools Championships were held by POTO C at Park Hall Country Park on 16 May 2015 with 159 children taking part.

### Individual Results

	Boys		Girls	
<b>Year 5</b>	Reuben Chendesharan-Flude	Oakridge Primary, Stafford	Florence Lunn	All Saints, Leek Wootton
<b>Year 6</b>	Peter Markham	Bournebrook Primary	Caroline Codling-Loidi	Oakridge Primary, Stafford
<b>Year 7+8</b>	Alexander Mitchell	Heathfield	Megan Colclough	Walton High
<b>Year 9 + 10</b>	Alfie Bullus	Warriner Secondary	Ellie Bales	Biddulph High
<b>Year 11 +</b>	Harrison McCartney	King Henry VIII	Aimee Morse	King Henry VIII

### British Trail 'O' Championships 2016

**Eric Brown (HOC)**

Sally Pygott (British Orienteering Major Events Manager) has raised the possibility that the British Trail 'O' Championships could be incorporated in the BOC 2016 weekend arrangements at Brown Clee.

Eric Brown (BOC 2016 co-ordinator) has had discussions with Dick Keighley (British Trail 'O' Chair) and Anne Straube (OD) who were helpful in clarifying the requirements needed to run such an event but were unable to identify key officials. There is a possible area around the Northern mast which both Anne and Dick agree is ideal for a Trail 'O' but the biggest drawback would be the provision of a 1:4000 map to ISSOM specifications. Rod Postlethwaite has worked hard to get the Brown Clee map into a useable state for the main events but he has no time to revisit and upgrade to the more detailed scale.

To enable the event to take place are there any orienteers who might like to offer themselves in one or more of the roles that would enable the Trail 'O' Championships to go ahead? If so please contact Eric.

## British Sprint and Middle Championships

After last year's successful competitions in the West Midlands it was the turn of SCOA to host the Sprint/ Middle weekend on 9/10 May.

One of the more interesting aspects of the weekend was the first use, for many competitors, of the new EMIT Touch-Free system. An earlier system had been used at the JK Sprint in 2007 at the University of West England, Bristol and also at the Kingussie Sprint at the Scottish 6 Days in the same year. I'm sure there were other uses in that year but these were the two events that I attended. That system used conventional Brikkes but this time a new 'tag' was used. Shaped a little like a watch complete with strap the tag only had to be within the vicinity of the control unit to register. A visual check that the unit had registered was a light on the unit that flashed for 15 seconds. This system is ideally suited for Sprint orienteering where speed is of the essence, but a relatively large number of disqualifications meant that a lot of competitors hadn't checked that their tags had registered. It is questionable whether the system should be used at a major event for, effectively, the first time but with the dearth of major Sprint events it had to be used somewhere for the first time!

The Sprint provided a unique opportunity to run at the Aldershot Garrison which made good use of the Army Sports Hall as the event centre. Slightly intimidating were the armed soldiers who were guarding the area. At least there were no stolen controls!!!

On the following day the Middle Distance Championships were held at Park Wood, Bradenham & Naphill in the Chilterns. The terrain was typical of the area with smooth steepish hills, many paths and large amounts of holy bushes. There was some debate on Nopesport after the event as to whether the event was just a 'control picking' exercise or a true Middle Distance event. The jury is still out.

The West Midlands only had one winner in the Sprint, Alison Sloman (HOC) who completed the 'double' the following day. Andy Hemsted (HOC) retained his M65 in the Middle. Congratulations to all the winners who are shown below.

Next years weekend is to be held in the South East and presents a wonderful opportunity to orienteer at the Olympic Park in the Sprint with the Middle being held at Leith Hill.

### WMOA British Sprint Championship Winners

<b>W75</b>	Alison Sloman	HOC
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### WMOA British Middle Championship Winners

<b>M20</b>	Matthew Elkington	OD/ SHUOC	<b>W40</b>	Anne Straube	OD
<b>M65</b>	Andy Hemsted	HOC	<b>W65</b>	Sheila Carey	OD
			<b>W75</b>	Alison Sloman	HOC

## The Orienteering Foundation Needs You

**The Orienteering Foundation is a registered charity, independent of British Orienteering.** It was set up from a bequest and is now raising money and giving grants which fulfil the following objectives:

- ❑ provide facilities, access and opportunities within the community to encourage and promote orienteering;
- ❑ provide capital and revenue support to increase and sustain participation in orienteering;
- ❑ strengthen the links between orienteering and the community and harness the potential of orienteering as a force for the good in the community and society as a whole.

### The Foundation is looking for the following:

- ❑ **Trustees for the Board** which manages the affairs of the Foundation and decides on grant applications made to the Foundation. We aim to get geographical representation across the country. It would provide good personal development for anyone who would like experience as a Company Director or Trustee. This is the opportunity to give something back to the sport and to enjoy seeing the benefits gained by recipients of the grant aid. Most of the business is conducted electronically.
- ❑ **Members of the Campaign Team**, who are prepared to approach orienteers and others to raise funds for the Foundation through donations, bequests etc.

**If you are interested in either of these roles**, please contact Neil Cameron on [nm.cameron@btinternet.com](mailto:nm.cameron@btinternet.com) or 01684 294 791.



*"It's here somewhere!"*

*Trevor Simpson (OD) 'Lost in France'*

*Photo by Nick Campbell (DEE)*

## West Midlands Urban League

### 2015 Events



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

The second West Midlands Urban League began at the University of Warwick, a varied campus which hosted the British Sprint Championships in 2008. Chasers followed up with a new area, the historic town of Lichfield to provide a more conventional Urban event. Both these events were reasonably well attended (135 and 127 competitors respectively). The third event held by Wrekin at Ludlow was very poorly attended with only 37 taking part. Maybe this was down to clashes with the Harvester Trophy and the UK Urban League event at Milton Keynes, or just the distance away from the centres of population, but it was very disappointing for the club.

The final event will be held at Redditch. Last year the New Town provided a good challenge with little alleyways amongst the housing estates and some good route choice legs.

Full results and tables can be found on the UK Urban League website at:

<http://www.oxfordfusion.com/ukul/index.cfm?&Org=8>

### Leading Positions (After 2 Events)

<b>Junior Men (M12-)</b>	Chris Markham	OD	<b>Junior Women (W12-)</b>	Pippa Smart	OD
				Olivia Stamp	WCH
<b>Junior Men (M16-)</b>	Felix Lunn	OD	<b>Junior Women (W16-)</b>	Anna Barber	POTOC
	Alexander Mitchell	HOC		Holly Hughes	WCH
<b>Open Men</b>	Tom O'Boyle	WCH	<b>Open Women</b>	Liz Heaton	LEI
<b>Veteran Men (M40+)</b>	Chris McCartney	OD	<b>Veteran Women (W40+)</b>	Liz Phillips	OD
<b>Super Veteran Men (M55+)</b>	Andrew Yeates	WCH	<b>Super Veteran Women (W55+)</b>	Frances King	OD
<b>Ultra Veteran Men (M65+)</b>	Peter Carey	OD	<b>Ultra Veteran Women (W65+)</b>	Judith Holt	DVO

## West Midlands Relays

With the West Midlands Relays imminent I thought it was an opportune moment to delve into the past and find out a little more about the competition.

Researching orienteering's history can be very much a 'hit and miss' affair because not everything is documented in a single place. The Orienteer and CompassSport are obvious places to start but didn't prove to be of much worth as they were concerned more with national competitions particularly with regards to old fixture lists.

The 'West Midlander' itself was my time source of information though over the years it has been somewhat erratic in its publication. Information also relies on what the editor chose to include though the newsletter has always been a good source of committee minutes.

The earliest mention I could find, and I would be happy if someone knows otherwise, was of an Inter-Club Relay at Sutton Park in 1983 (coincidentally the year that I started orienteering). The competition has been held virtually every year since then with a few exceptions, namely, the Foot and Mouth epidemic in 2001 and one or two other years when no club was able to organise the event. I hope you find the list of venues interesting. A list of winning teams would be an altogether more difficult task!

### Venues

1983	Sutton Park	OD	2000	Park Hall	POTOC
1984	Not Held		2001	Not Held - Foot and Mouth	
1985	Lickey Hills	HOC	2002	Not Held	
1986	Lizard Hill & The Gallops	WRE	2003	Lizard Hill & The Gallops	WRE
1987	Kinver Edge	HOC	2004	Shoal Hill	WCH
1988	Swynnerton Old Park	POTOC	2005	Kingsbury Water Park	OD
1989	Hay Wood	OD	2006	Baggeridge Country Park	HOC
1990	Hednesford Hills	WCH	2007	Not Held	
1991	Lickey Hills	HOC	2008	Rawnsley Hills	WCH
1992	Long Mynd	WRE	2009	Long Mynd	WRE
1993	Park Hall	POTOC	2010	Hartlebury Common	HOC
1994	Hay Wood	OD	2011	Hednesford Hills	WCH
1995	Nesscliff Camp (South)	WRE	2012	Pooley Country Park	OD
1996	Coneygree Wood	WYE	2013	Dudmaston	HOC
1997	Highgate Common	HOC	2014	Park Hall Country Park	POTOC
1998	Shoal Hill	WCH	2015	Nesscliff Camp (North)	WRE
1999	Wyrley and Brownhills	OD			

## The West Midlands League 2015

1. OD 7077			2. WRE 6256			3. HOC 5857		
A	Peter Markham	M12 500	A	Jamie Grimsdale	M18 366	A	Arthur Mitchell	M10 456
A	Sam Leadley	M16 500	A	Molly Parker	W14 131	A	Sebastian Mitchell	M12 395
B	Chris McCartney	M45 446	B	Clive Richardson	M45 476	B	Ian Hopkins	M45 452
B	Alistair Powell	M35 398	B	Tony Callow	M45 464	B	Adrian Bailey	M45 291
C	David Leadley	M50 482	C	Adrian Pickles	M55 498	C	Andrew White	M55 392
C	Barry Elkington	M55 465	C	Richard Pay	M50 462	C	John Leeson	M55 372
D	Lesley Ross	W45 500	D	Sharron Richardson	W40 500	D	Marian White	W55 429
D	Liz Phillips	W50 400	D	Diane Jacks	W45 500	D	Carol Farrington	W55 240
E	Roger Hailey	M75 500	E	Roy Lindsell	M70 484	E	Alison Sloman	W75 472
E	Sheila Carey	W65 495	E	Lawrence Jones	M60 456	E	John Pearson	M65 449
F	Florence Lunn	W12 485	F	Rod Postlethwaite	M60 416	F	Russ Fauset	M65 401
F	Felix Lunn	M14 482	F	Derek Turner	M75 412	F	Alexander Mitchell	M14 394
F	Pippa Smart	W12 476	F	Adrian Griffiths	M45 375	F	Barry McGowan	M65 392
F	Peter Carey	M70 475	F	Helen Corrin	W35 359	F	Geoff Trewin	M60 377
F	Janet Richardson	W65 473	F	Helen Corrin	W50 357	F	Barry Houghton	M65 345
4. WCH 4591			5. POTO 2487			6. COBOC 1589		
A	Holly Craig	W14 279	A	Ellie Bales	W16 100	B	Ian Gamlen	M45 453
A	Henry Webb	M14 228	A	Ewan Lloyd	M14 96	C	Dave Ellis	M55 63
B	Simon Webb	M40 343	B	Graham Pigott	M21 322	D	Yvonne Feasey	W50 238
B	Allan Williams	M45 193	B	Martin Pigott	M40 192	E	Ruth Lockley	W60 363
C	Andrew Yeates	M50 423	C	Peter Munn	M55 68	E	David Arnot	M65 291
C	Mike Musters	M50 240	C	Gerry Riley	M55 68	F	Mick Sadler	M65 138
D	Claire Bushnell	W50 359	D	Ianka Petrova-Evans	W45 90	F	Richard Burnett	M60 43
D	Carol Dredge	W55 321	D	Elizabeth Bales	W50 83			
E	Ray Collins	M60 500	E	Paul Graetz	M65 400			
E	Jonathan Howell	M60 367	E	Marian Denham	W65 267			
F	Alison Yeates	W45 316	F	Henry Morgan	M60 235			
F	Hazel Waters	W60 300	F	Barbara Farr	W70 200			
F	Cath Williams	W40 253	F	Robert Holdway	M21 183			
F	Christine Collins	W55 237	F	Judy Douglas	W70 94			
F	Mary Adams	W55 232	F	Enys Lloyd	M10 89			



## 2015 Events

Jan 11	Hartshill Hayes	OD	Jun 21	Brockhampton	HOC
Feb 7	Longdon Wood	HOC	Oct 4	Whitfield Valley	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	Arthur Mitchell	HOC	456	W10	Esther Mardling	WCH	180
M12	Peter Markham	OD	500	W12	Florence Lunn	OD	485
M14	Felix Lunn	OD	482	W14	Holly Craig	WCH	279
M16	Sam Leadley	OD	500	W16	Holly Hughes	WCH	166
M18	Stephen Elkington	OD	459	W18	Heather Rogers Gemma Cairns-Smith	OD WCH	80
M20	Kin Kwan Kok	OD	356	W20			
M21	Graham Pigott	POTOC	322	W21	Kirsten Strain	OD	141
M35	Alistair Powell	OD	398	W35	Helen Corrin	WRE	359
M40	Simon Webb	WCH	343	W40	Sharron Richardson	WRE	500
M45	Clive Richardson	WRE	476	W45	Diane Jacks Lesley Ross	WRE OD	500
M50	David Leadley	OD	482	W50	Liz Phillips	OD	400
M55	Adrian Pickles	WRE	498	W55	Marian White	HOC	429
M60	Ray Collins	WCH	500	W60	Ruth Lockley	COBOC	363
M65	Robert Brandon	OD	465	W65	Sheila Carey	OD	495
M70	Roy Lindsell	WRE	484	W70	Lesley Norton	WRE	283
M75	Roger Hailey	OD	500	W75	Alison Sloman	HOC	472
M80	Norman Hall	WCH	200	W80			

Positions after 7 events.

# POTTERIES ORIENTEERING CLUB

40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event

West Midlands Championships and League Event

## WHITFIELD VALLEY

Sunday 4th October 2015

- Location:** Car Park: Grid Ref: SJ888508 (OS Sheet 119), Postcode ST6 1NG  
3km North of Hanley & 2km North East of Burslem, Stoke on Trent.
- Directions:** From South leave M6 at Junction 15 on to A500. After approx 9.5km (at SJ857492) turn onto A5271 (signposted Burslem, Tunstall). After 500m at roundabout turn right onto B5051 (signposted Burslem). Follow this and brown Ford Green Hall signs to car park.  
From North leave M6 at Junction 16 onto A500 towards Stoke. After approx. 8.5km turn onto A5271 then as above.  
From West via Junction 15 or 16 on M6 then as above.  
From East on A53 at SJ885496 turn North onto A5272 and follow brown Ford Green Hall signs.
- Car Park:** Hardstanding. No fee.
- Courses:** White, Yellow, Orange, Light Green, Short Green, Green, Blue, Brown.
- Map:** A4 on waterproof paper  
1:7500 (most courses) 1:10000 (Blue and Brown)
- Punching:** Sport Ident. SI Card hire £1. Lost hire cards must be paid for (£30).
- Times:** Entry on Day only. Registration from 10:00. Starts 10:30 - 12:30.
- Fees:** Seniors: £8 (+£2 for senior non-BOF members) Juniors/Students: £3
- Assembly:** Enquiries, Registration, Download, Toilets, First Aid  
Short walk from parking across busy road. Please use crossing point.
- Start:** Adjacent to Assembly. **Finish:** Short walk from Assembly.
- Dogs:** Under close supervision, please.
- Facilities:** **Light** Refreshments will be available at the Nature Centre (10.00 - 3.00) and:  
at Ford Green Hall Café (1.00 - 4.00) which are both adjacent to assembly.  
Ford Green Hall (17<sup>th</sup> C timber framed farmhouse) will be open .  
(Adult £3, Concession/Child £2, Family £6.50).
- Safety:** Competitors take part at their own risk. Whistles must be carried.
- Organisers:** John Pigott (POTOC) and Jean Rostron (POTOC).
- Planner:** Jim Cooke (POTOC)
- Controller:** Derek Turner (WRE)
- Website:** [www.potoc.dandasparks.org.uk](http://www.potoc.dandasparks.org.uk)

## WMOA Fixtures

### June to September 2015

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

#### July

7	WRE Level D	<b>WRE Summer Series 8 Nesscliffe Country Park</b>	Shrewsbury	<a href="#">SJ385199</a>
8	OD Level D	<b>OD Local Event Pooley Country Park</b>	Atherstone	<a href="#">SK259033</a>
9	HOC Level D	<b>HOC Summer Evening Event (SEE) Birmingham City Centre</b>	Birmingham	
12	WRE Level C	<b>West Midlands Relays Nesscliff Camp</b>	Shrewsbury	<a href="#">SJ374182</a>
14	WRE Level D	<b>WRE Summer Series 9 Lyth Hill Country Park</b>	Shrewsbury	<a href="#">SJ472067</a>
15	OD Level D	<b>OD Local Event Tudor Grange Park</b>	Solihull	<a href="#">SP144794</a>
16	HOC Level D	<b>HOC Summer Evening Event (SEE) Saltwells</b>	Dudley	<a href="#">SO931871</a>
18	POTOC Level D	<b>POTOC Summer Park Series 4 Festival Park</b>	Hanley Stoke-on-Trent	<a href="#">SJ871481</a>
21	WRE Level D	<b>WRE Summer Series 10 Stanmore Country Park</b>	Bridgnorth	<a href="#">SO740928</a>
22	OD Level D	<b>OD Local Event Ryton Pools Country Park</b>	Coventry	<a href="#">SP370724</a>
28	WRE Level D	<b>WRE Summer Series 11 Severn Valley Country Park</b>	Bridgnorth	<a href="#">SO753840</a>
29	COBOC Level D	<b>COBOC Sevens and HOC SEE Clifton Road Outdoor Learning Centre</b>	Sutton Coldfield	
29	OD Level D	<b>OD Local Event University of Warwick</b>	Coventry	<a href="#">SP298766</a>

#### August

11	WRE Level D	<b>WRE Summer Series 12 Cardingmill Valley</b>	Church Stretton	<a href="#">SO442945</a>
12	OD Level D	<b>OD Local Event Coundon Hall Park</b>	Coventry	<a href="#">SP316827</a>
13	HOC Level D	<b>HOC Summer Evening Event (SEE) Castlemorton Common</b>	Malvern	<a href="#">SO766382</a>
16	POTOC Level D	<b>POTOC Summer Score Event Park Hall Country Park</b>	Longton Stoke-on-Trent	<a href="#">SJ926445</a>

18	WRE Level D	<b>WRE Summer Series 13 Plush Hill</b>	Church Stretton	<a href="#">SO451963</a>
19	OD Level D	<b>OD Local Event Cawston Park</b>	Rugby	
25	WRE Level D	<b>WRE Summer Series 14 Rope Walk Dingle, Bridgnorth</b>	Bridgnorth	<a href="#">SO717936</a>
26	OD Level D	<b>OD Local Event Burton Dassett Country Park</b>	Southam	<a href="#">SP396519</a>
<b>September</b>				
5	OD Level D	<b>OD Local Event Ryton Pools Country Park</b>	Coventry	<a href="#">SP370725</a>
12	POTOC Level D	<b>POTOC Leisure and Training Event Downs Bank</b>	Stone	<a href="#">SJ900365</a>
13	WRE Level D	<b>John Bennison Memorial Long 'O' Long Mynd</b>	Church Stretton	<a href="#">SO421945</a>
20	OD Level C	<b>OD Tony Haw Score Championships Sutton Park</b>	Sutton Coldfield	<a href="#">SP088979</a>
26	Level B	<b>Junior Inter-Regional Individual</b>	?	
27	Level B	<b>Junior Home International Relay</b>	?	
<b>October</b>				
3	WRE Level D	<b>WRE Local Event Fordhall Farm</b>	Market Drayton	<a href="#">SJ647329</a>
3	HOC Level C	<b>HOC West Midlands Urban League Redditch</b>	Redditch	
4	POTOC Level C	<b>POTOC 40th Anniversary (WMOA Champs and League 8) Whitfield Valley</b>	Burslem Stoke-on-Trent	<a href="#">SJ888508</a>
11	COBOC Level D	<b>COBOC Colour Coded</b>	Sutton Coldfield	
24	OD Level D	<b>OD Local Score Event University of Warwick</b>	Coventry	<a href="#">SP298766</a>
25	WCH Level C	<b>WCH Colour Coded Event &amp; WMOA League 9 Shoal Hill</b>	Stafford	
31	OD Level D	<b>OD Local Event Bructon Park (to be confirmed)</b>	Solihull	