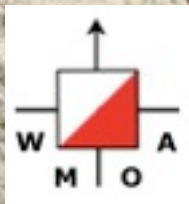


The West Midlander

Spring 2014



The Newsletter of the West Midlands Orienteering Association

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Cover Photo : West Midland Junior Squad Weekend on The Gower 2013 by Melanie Elkington

Editorial

Welcome to the Spring edition of the 'West Midlander' in which I hope you will find plenty of interest.

Thanks to everyone for the positive feedback following my first issue. It struck me, reading the messages, that the concept of the newsletter has evolved somewhat since my previous stint. At the recent West Midlands Committee Meeting I noticed that people had printed the last edition at both A4 and A5 booklet sizes and that there were copies on both tablets and smartphones. Paper and tablets should be OK but I would imagine that smartphones may give a little trouble due to their size. If you use one as your primary viewing medium and are experiencing difficulties please get in touch and I'll see if I can help with the formatting

The idea of an 'electronic' only 'West Midlander' and distribution by e-mail certainly seems to have worked but if you have any suggestions on how to improve it please let me know.

Most of the UK was in the grip of a very wet Winter but the West Midlands seems to have escaped the worst of it though people who live in the towns along the River Severn will probably disagree with me. We were, perhaps, fortunate to lose only a couple of events due to waterlogged car parks - the CompassSport Cup/Trophy at Kinver Edge and the Walton Chasers' event at Chillington Hall. Kinver was replaced by the Droobers' event at Bentley Woods and has been rescheduled for next year. It is to be hoped that Chillington Hall can also be rescheduled especially as it is an area new to orienteering.

Although this year is not a 'SinS' year, there are plenty of events to look forward to - the West Midlands Relays at Park Hall which will be the first using the new Guidelines; the West Midlands Park Championships at Brueton and Malvern Parks and also the inaugural West Midlands Urban League. Details of all these events appear elsewhere in the newsletter.

As if all these events weren't enough to whet your appetite, there is the small matter of the British Sprint/Middle Championships being held in the region on the weekend of 6/7 September when lots of help running the events will be needed. Walton Chasers have held, of course, many major events over the years but it represents a massive undertaking for a small club such as POTO C whose only other major event, the British Relays (when it was a separate event and not part of a weekend), was held way back in the mists of time at Swynnerton Old Park in 1979.

Next year Chasers will be holding the Midland Championship and further in the future, 2016 to be precise, the region is holding the British Championship Weekend on Brown Clee.

It certainly promises to be a busy and exciting time.

Rod



The Editor

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WMOA Chairman's Report April 2014 Bob Brandon

At the recent WMOA Committee meeting Delia Kingsbury reminded us that the region is short of a Coaching Officer.

A timely reminder for Barry Elkington and myself as we were due to embark on a Coaching Weekend in the Lakes, which had been organised by our Club Coach Andy Emmer-son.

Ambleside Youth Hostel was used by most for accommodation and as a social base for all to discuss our experiences. One time British Orienteering Director of Coaching, Derek Allison, was to lead the sessions on Loughrigg Fell by Ambleside, then on Sunday at Great Tower to the South of Bowness. A clever progression from a day rich in contour detail on open fell to day 2 at Great Tower, contours again but this time with trees!

At Loughrigg Derek had set out several exercises for us to choose from throughout the day. We were encouraged not to attempt to do them all but take our time and consider our orienteering techniques for the area in hand. Derek's message was to make use of the compass! My favourites were the control picking exercise and the course whereby each control was a col. I finished off with the 'high' course which had minimum climb as it was mostly downhill with a long leg down and across the marshy valley to our encampment. Derek was fairly relaxed throughout the day and along with his assistant they were always willing to discuss our 'issues' with each of us. Part way through the day Nev Myers and the Yorkshire Junior Squad turned up to run their own sessions using the controls that Derek had put out.

A Q&A session over tea was held back at the hostel, supplemented by cake courtesy of Liz Urquhart. What had we learnt other than compass is King?

I always boast at being good at relocating - as I have to do it so often. Derek implied that if I



*Bob with the legendary Joss Naylor
Photo by Margaret Willdigret Willdig*

get it right, I wouldn't need to relocate. One trick he told us was that on each leg we should talk to the parrot on our shoulder, so that when things do go wrong the parrot will be able to recount what we have seen on that leg to date. We had a tip to use a light-housing technique at the JK, to observe what is to the left and what is to the right to help with keeping in touch with the map on flatter open terrain.

Further exercises the next day at Great Tower where the tree cover meant for concentration. I soon found that to walk was going to be the best way to navigate though this hilly wooded terrain. The session ended with some pairs taking up Derek's challenge. Starting from the base, each of the pair had to choose a feature at which to place a marker then run over to pick up the other's marker before running back to base - the first one back is the winner. I chose a boulder. My partner, Stuart Heaton chose a site about 400m away 'between the boulders'. We set off. He was back long before me. Stuart later told me that my boulder had been popular and he had found several markers there.

Feedback from the coaching is such that a similar weekend is likely to be held in 2015. In the meantime I have my parrot!



CompassSport Cup/Trophy 2014 Qualifying Round

The West Midlands Round of the CompassSport Cup/Trophy was supposed to have taken place on 16 February at Kinver Edge but, unfortunately, the event fell foul of the wet Winter and had to be cancelled due to the car park being unusable.

OD stepped in and offered their event at Bentley Woods South on 9 March (the forest had been scheduled for the 2015 round) and saved the day. On a beautiful Spring morning OD and HOC qualified for the Cup Final while WRE very narrowly missed out in the Trophy.

In the Northern qualifier at Irwell Valley POTOc put up a good performance but finished in 3rd place behind a strong SROC team.

The Final will take place on 8 November at Long Valley near Aldershot hosted by Southern Navigators.

Area	Cup	Trophy
Bentley Woods South	OD 2440 HOC 2376 LEI 2329 WCH 2323	LOG 1290 WRE 1284 COBOC 566
Broxbourne	HH 2429 SLOW 2405 WAOC 2301 NOR 1362	SUFFOC 1252 SOS 1249 SMOC 1244 HAVOC 1209 MV 1110 CHIG 1102 SAX 1026 DFOK 968 LOK 471
Irwell Valley	DEE 2418 DVO2378 MDOC 2358 NOC 2269	SROC 1296 SELOC 1250 POTOc 1242
Haytor	BOK 2460 DEVON 2407	SARUM 1284 SWOC 1246 QO 1227 SBOC 1169 KERNO 1037
Matley Heath	SN 2405 SO 2341 TVOC 2339 SOC 2290 NGOC 2144 BKO 2082	WIM 1291 BADO 1260 NWO 1181 GO 1139 WSX 1137
Guiselcliffe	SYO 2400 LOC 2371 AIRE 2352 CLOK 2295 EBOR 1836	EPOC 1286 NATO 1249 CLARO 1238 PFO 1231 NN 1231 HALO 1189
Achray South	MAROC 2356 GRAMP 1170	FVO 1284 CLYDE 1263 BL 1144 TAY 912 AYROC 6355 ECKO 578 KFO 467 ELO 460

Qualifiers shown in red

Minutes of WMOA meeting on 10 March 2014, Great Barr Hotel

Present: Delia Kingsbury, Robert Brandon, Barry Elkington, John Woodall, Ray Collins, Barry McGowan, Allan Williams, Brenda Morgan, Henry Morgan, Rod Postlethwaite, Graham Hardy, Tracy Craig, Eric Brown

1. **Apologies:** Melanie Elkington
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None
3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

4. **Matters Arising:** None
5. **Correspondence:**

Notification has been received from Helen Errington in December regarding an update to the Rules of Orienteering and Competition rules for 2014 - as circulated to Organisers and Controllers.

Details of SWOA courses had been received and forwarded for inclusion in 'The West Midlander.'

Request from Andy Clough regarding whom he should forward his coaching log to - had advised Hilary Palmer of EMOA. This again highlights the need for somebody to volunteer as WMOA Coaching representative.

6. **Chairman's Report**

2014 started off at a very wet Kingsbury Water Park, venue for the annual New Year's Day Laurie Bradley Score Event.

Since then we have had 3 excellent League events at Brandon, Sandwell Valley and Beaudesert. Rather than the normal Autumn rush, the spread of League events has turned out differently this year with Event 8 currently scheduled prior to the end of July.

Yesterday, on a lovely day, the postponed CompassSport 1st Round took place at Bentley Woods. Congratulations to Harlequins and Octavian Droobers who both go through to the Cup final at Long Valley in November.

Sadly, Wrekin missed a place in the Trophy Final by being just 6 points behind their Lincolnshire rivals LOG. The event was originally planned to take place in February at Kinver Edge but this arrangement fell through when parking fields became unusable due to excessive rain with no feasible alternative available. That venue is likely to be rescheduled for 2015.

The WMOA Junior Squad at February half-term have been on a coaching trip to the Gower in South Wales, developing their orienteering skills among the sand dunes.

Another highlight so far this year has been the re-emergence of the Regional Newsletter, thanks to the tenacity of Rod Postlethwaite. Rod produced a very interesting 'first edition.' The newsletter has been distributed by email, stimulating positive feedback. Rod is now looking to receive items and photographs for the Spring edition.

This year's BOC Sprint & Middle Weekend in September will soon be upon us. The priority at present is to finalise the budget and agree event fees so that entries can open in April.

A BOC 2016 Newsletter has also been distributed by Eric Brown (HOC), who reports a good working relationship for the event between himself as coordinator and British Orienteering.

It looks like we are all in for another busy year. Thanks to all members of the Region who help to put on excellent orienteering for us all.

7. **Treasurer's Report**

WMOA levies were increased on January 1. The loss of the Kinver event had been disappointing, but made up for by the high attendance at the Bentley Wood event. Little has been spent so far this

year, helped by distribution of the 'West Midlander' now being free. WMOA funds currently stand at £2579. The WMJS had received £400 from the Orienteering Foundation.

8. Fixtures

There have been several WML events this year, it was anticipated that the WCH event on 30 March may have to be postponed due to parking problems. This will reduce League events from 11 to 10.

Park Championships - 13/07/14 (OD) and WM Championships - 30/11/14 (WCH) were confirmed.

The postponed Kinver event is likely to be 're-used' for next years Compass Sport Cup.

An informal West Midlands Urban League will be: WRE - Bridgnorth; WCH - Stafford; OD - Kenilworth (evening).

OD had offered to host the Midland Championships in 2017 at Bentley Wood, and this will be combined with an Urban or Sprint event.

JK2018 will be in WMOA!

A National Event scheduling meeting was due to be held the following weekend to finalise 2015 events and looking to events in 2016 and 2017.

British Sprint & Middle Championships 2014

Andy Yeates had very recently taken over from Mark Garside as local Organiser for the Middle Distance event. This late change was causing some short term difficulties for the joint event with POTO in setting budgets re items that could be shared costs. This should be clarified shortly, the end of March being a critical point for pricing/entries opening.

BOF had a policy of requiring a high level of organisation and a recognisable brand, delivered with support from Sally Pygott, so that BOF could obtain sponsorship for events. This would not be feasible if every National Championship was run differently. The need to deliver a certain level of profit on these events and the impact on budgets and entries pricing was also discussed.

B. Morgan has negotiated reasonable camping rates with the Shugborough estate. It was clarified that BOF memorabilia/clothing had a corporate look rather than being event specific.

JIRC2015

T. Craig stated that organisation was done by the Junior Squads and had confirmed that parents of Squad members were not excluded. Currently it wasn't possible to commit to areas because of problems on Cannock Chase but she was confident that suitable areas would be found. Contact details had been passed to Mel Elkington in investigate suitable accommodation.

BOC 2016 Brown Clea

E. Brown reported that no agreement had yet been signed with BOF. The venue and land access is agreed and excellent Planners and Organisers are in place. There will be a site meeting with event officials in May and Sally Pygott will visit a week later to look at the arena area. Several clubs had made offers of assistance, so everything is moving in the right direction. A big milestone is getting 'the map.' Information had been sent out to mappers to quote for a map update.

E. Brown had been looking at finances and noted a trend of increasing prices and falling participation which, he predicted, would in future lead to an unsustainable position. He is currently comfortable with the event budget, although each run would need to deliver a profit of £2.50.

The position regarding Junior Squad cake stalls at Major Events was clarified by J. Woodall. Whilst cake stalls may not be permitted, to remove catering competition, it is built into caterers' contracts that appropriate donations will be made to Junior Squads. Commercial contracts are being set up with caterers to cover types of food, volumes, cost, levels of service, etc.

9. West Midlands Relay Formats

Following the agreed change in age classes at the last WMOA meeting B. Elkington had produced some revised rules. This had been sent to event officials at POTOA for the first event using the updated format. The rules had evolved slightly since the WMOA December meeting. One concern is potential congestion at the first controls on courses if all teams start at the same time.

These rules had been circulated to WMOA committee just before the March meeting.

Action:

R. Postlethwaite to include B. Elkington's rules update in the next edition of the 'West Midlander.'

10. West Midlander

J. Bennison had provided feedback about not being able to put a copy of the magazine that contained personal contact details on the WMOA website. The web copy had thus been updated and replaced. Each individual has to give permission for their details to be used in a document that will be stored on a website, regardless of whether it is already on another website.

Feedback had been received that some recipients were accessing the magazine on their smart phones. There may be some formatting changes to facilitate this.

R. Postlethwaite would welcome information to publicise events and would like to include information about the Park Championships. M. Elkington has provided information about the Junior Squad activities.

R. Postlethwaite volunteered to produce an update of the West Midlands Handbook.

Action:

H. Morgan to forward rules for Park Championships to R. Postlethwaite and details of the 2013 winners.

11. Development

- a) Mapping training - R. Postlethwaite had no progress to report on this, although he was attending an OCAD11 course being run by SWOA and led by Thomas Gloor, the Managing Director of OCAD. He is looking to see how this training is delivered.
- b) Controller Ratification - John Middler of OD had attended the September Controllers Course and submitted supporting information, this included planning events, organising the recent event at Bentley Woods and he had attended an Event Safety Course. He was proposed by R. Brandon, seconded by A. Williams and accepted by the meeting.
- c) Controllers: H. Morgan had compiled a list of active Level B and C Controllers. He asked clubs to check that the contact details and status of the Controllers are correct. It was also noted that there were around 6 Level A Controllers in the Region.
- d) H. Morgan had also received a copy of a letter from Doug Peel explaining why he needed to step down from being a Controller. Those present recognised and appreciated the contribution Doug had made over many years and thanked him for that.
- e) H. Morgan reiterated that wherever possible clubs should find their own Controllers, rather than asking him to supply all Controllers. He should only be contacted for assistance as a last resort.

12. Events and Competitions Committee

Update from B. Elkington.

With M. Cope in charge there is now more structure. The UK League is being actively promoted and from 2016 Regions that are geographically under-represented will be invited to nominate events.

Map scales are being widely debated in relation to an AGM motion. B. Elkington urged orienteers to read the motion and then read the reasons why it was wrong. He believed it was wrong to allow clubs to choose their own scales, this led to areas being over-mapped and cluttered and thus unsuitable for long distance navigation.

Clubs will no longer be asked to bid for major events, but Regions will be invited to stage events. Peter Buckley has been appointed by BOF - his role is to obtain sponsorship for major events.

Trophies for major events are to be retained.

A Yvette Baker Trophy Coordinator has recently been appointed but there are still committee gaps to fill and volunteers are being sought.

The practice of voiding legs where controls were missing was discussed. For major events the IOF Rules state that the course should be voided not just the leg. A. Williams reported that on a recent course a missing control had rapidly been replaced, neither course nor leg had been voided. The problem in relation to this, is differences in ranking points between affected and unaffected runners.

There was clarification of when Junior status ended with respect to JIRC. A second year M18, in the upper sixth form at school, with a September/October birthday would be considered an M20 in the last part of their school year. JIRC has been rescheduled for a weekend when students return to university - this was an issue for Junior squads to discuss with M. Cope.

13. West Midlands Junior Squad

December 2013 to March 2014 report from Mel Elkington.

See Report in 'West Midlander.'

14. WMOA Historical Records

B. Elkington had deposited the old WMOA records with the orienteering archivist at Sheffield.

15. AOB

H. Morgan had received a request for a Planners/Organisers Course from WCH. Club reps were asked to canvas club members for numbers interested and for possible timing. H. Morgan was happy to coordinate this. Assurance was given that there would be funds available to support this.

R. Collins reminded club reps to circulate information about the Peak District Footpath Relay that he is organising on 21 June.

16. Next Meeting

9 June 2014

West Midlands Urban League 2014

With the emergence of Urban orienteering in recent years it has been decided that the WMOA should hold their own League. This year will be an informal series utilising existing events. At the time of going to press (or computer) the Rules and Guidelines have yet to be formalised but are expected to mirror existing Urban competitions such as the Nopesport League, SEOUL, Yorkshire Urban League, etc.

Date	Event venue	Club
21/05/2014	Abbey Fields and Kenilworth Urban	OD
29/06/2014	Bridgnorth	WRE
04/10/2014	Redditch	HOC
12/10/2014		WCH

For Urban aficionados, Brian Ward (HALO) produces an e-mail newsletter called 'UrbanRacing UK E-Newsletter' which gives information on all things happening in the world of 'Urban' and 'Sprint.'

To subscribe please use this link: <http://eepurl.com/LAGLn>

West Midlands Junior Squad

Report December 2013 to March 2014

Tinsel 'O' took place on the 23 December 2013 at Sutton Park. Everyone that attended had a great time. I used the money from the Brandon Woods cake sale to subsidise this. Thanks to both Iain and John for all their hard work in making this possible.

We welcomed some new members that have started competing on Light Green courses - they are Kieran, Alex and James from HOC and Will, Sam and Callum from OD.

During the February half term holiday I took a group for three day's training on the Gower. We stayed at St Madoc's Christian Youth Centre and trained on Oxwich, Broughton and Whiteford Burrows. I took a total of 16 including Heather, Gemma, and Matt from WCH; Peter, Ellie and Ewan from POTOC; Alex from HOC and Jeremy, Aimee, Stephen, Nathan, Harry, Heather, Sam, Callum and Will from OD.

We were joined by eight members of the South Central Junior Squad so there were a total of 24 children taking part. The training was at Green standard and above so a challenge for everyone but they all improved their ability to interpret contours over the three days.

We were really well looked after by the staff at St Madocs and had a really good time. The weather was cold but it remained dry on the whole. Our thanks go to Iain for the coaching and SBOC for, yet again, allowing us to use their areas for training. Thanks to Debbie for driving a minibus full of children there and back.

This was paid for by the athletes, coaches & some cake sale funds.

In February we received notification that the 'O' Foundation had awarded us a grant of £400

towards the trip to Sweden, for which we are really grateful. We will be doing an OD quiz in March to raise funds for the Swedish trip.



WMJS at The Gower February 2014

Looking forward I will ensure the Squad takes part in the following:

Swedish 'O Ringen' 18 July- 26 July 2014

Junior Inter Regionals in the NWOA 27- 28 September 2014,

Hawkshead 21- 23 November 2014 for all the current 16s that want to come.

An Organiser is needed to arrange Tinsel 'O' for the Squad in December 2014.

I will continue to coordinate the squad for the time being, however if anyone would like to do some training for Light Green standard and above I am happy to coordinate the squad getting there.

Alternatively if anyone would like to arrange a cake sale to raise more funds for Sweden then we would be very grateful.

Melanie Elkington
(WMJS Co-ordinator)



The Orienteering Foundation

The 'O' Foundation is an independent Charity established to support Orienteers and Orienteering.

It makes grants at the discretion of the Trustees to encourage

- the enhancement of events
- innovation
- or the alleviation of hardship.

In the recent past it has made grants to support

- National Schools teams to attend The World Schools' Championships
- The Ward Junior Home internationals
- Junior Inter-Regional competition.
- Junior Regional Squad training overseas and in the British Isles.

The Trustees are committed to widening the support they can give to the Orienteering community beyond junior participation.

To sustain the present level of activity and to widen the scope of the Foundation's support requires money.

The Orienteering Foundation fund raising Campaign is gradually accumulating much needed capital to make increasing grants possible.

CAN YOU, WILL YOU HELP US?

For further information contact:

The 'O' Foundation administrator, Viv Macdonald
viv.macdonald@btinternet.com

or visit the British Orienteering Website
www.britishorienteering.org.uk



Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Schools Orienteering Championships Hanley Central Forest Park on 20 March 2014

16 schools and 366 children took part in the Orienteering Championships on a dull and windy day.

Unfortunately, it poured down at 2.10 so the last children, Abbotsholme, got very wet and also the helpers and all the gear (which has taken days to dry out).

I cannot praise highly enough my band of unpaid, willing helpers, who manned registration, start and finish, met the schools on arrival and patrolled the course, with radios, so that the children were safe and helped if necessary. Some also put out and collected in banners.

Luckily, we had a strong police presence in the park that day so no controls were damaged or stolen. We used pin punches not electronic as, despite locking all controls, 5 were badly damaged or stolen last year. Also, some children are virtually total beginners and have only done a little orienteering in school with punches, hopefully.

A printed list of competitors would have helped me to write all the cards, fully, in advance. I did not include the times as traffic congestion could have been a problem. I did change some times in the start area to speed matters up. Regrettably, some children did not read the 'clue' sheet on the back of the map. This gives the letters on the banner and the position, e.g. edge of trees, path junction, fence corner. They relied on where they thought they were on the map, so got 1 wrong, even fast time competitors!

Brenda Morgan (Organiser)

Henry Morgan (Planner)



The Finish at Hanley Forest Park

Standon Bowers OEC Junior Shield (Years 5/6)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Oakridge Stafford | 5 points |
| 2. St. Andrews Stafford | 12 points |
| 3. Christchurch Academy Stone | 15 points |

POTOC High School Shield (yrs9/10+)

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Walton High School Stafford | 7 points |
| 2. Abbotsholme Rocester | 17 points |
| 3. Biddulph Sports College | 18 points |

Morgan Middle School Shield (Years 7/8)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Walton High School Stafford | 6 points |
| 2. Christchurch Academy Stone | 13 points |
| 3. Weston Road Academy Stafford | 20 points |

You must have 4 children or pairs from 3 courses to count for the Shield.

Next year's date - Thursday 26th March 2015

(This article first appeared in the April issue of 'The Potter.' Acknowledgements to the Editor, Jean Rostron)

British ARDF Championships 2014



The [Radio Society of Great Britain](http://www.rsgb.org) are hosting three days of Open ARDF competition in the Spring of 2014. There will be Sprint, 2m and 80m Classic ARDF Courses

In addition the 10th British ARDF Championships will be contested.

The events will be located in the West Midlands close to Birmingham and East Midlands Airports.

We are taking expressions of interest and even entries. Please register your interest now by emailing the Organiser on sardff@gmail.com.

The Competitions

Day 1 Friday (evening) 9 May - Sprint Style ARDF on the 80m band

Fast open heathland with patches of runnable forest. Close to Wombourne.

Day 2 - Saturday (afternoon) 10 May - Classic Style ARDF on the 2m band

Wyre Forest to the west of Bewdley. Hills and valleys and lots of trees. Some brambles (boo!)

Day 3 - Sunday (morning) 11 May - Classic Style ARDF on the 80m band

Sutton Park, Birmingham: Very fast indeed.

Entry Fees

This year we may have to pay to use one or more of the areas (these belong to the government and are free open access but there is a charge for organised activities). Fees will be fixed once we know how much we must pay

For guidance only the entry fees last year were:

Day 1 - £5

Day 2 - £10

Day 3 - £10

and we don't expect the 2014 fees to be much different.

Entry fees will be payable in cash (GBP) and in full upon arrival at Day 1 registration.

There will be a reduced price for Junior competitors - to be confirmed.

To enter please send:

Given Name, Family Name, Callsign, Club/Association, Country, SI Chip Number or 'hire' if you wish to borrow a chip for the event, class entered and days entered. If you wish to borrow receivers - either 2m or 80m please let us know now as we have a limited number of each.

Website: <http://bardfc2014.blogspot.co.uk>

David Williams (HOC)

West Midlands Park Orienteering Championships



2013 Winners at Hanley Forest Park

The West Midlands Park Championships is the 'New Kid on the Block' (to use an Americanism) in terms of West Midlands competitions. It came into existence due to the efforts of Adrian Bailey (HOC) in 2011 who, having seen the number of events using mapped parks in the region, thought that it would be a good idea to utilise them for either a League or a Championship. The Summer months appeared to be the most suitable time as most of the forests were unpleasant, at that time, because of high undergrowth.

The first event was held by COBOC at Aston Hall on 26 June 2011 and consisted of three courses - Long 5.7km, Medium 3.3km and Short 1.2km. It was a very hot day and the park was full of rather bemused looking people watching the runners going back and forth.

The winners were:

Julie Emmerson (OD)
Suzanne Humphries (OD)
Sheila Carey (OD)
Iain Embrey (HOC)
John Embrey (HOC)
John Robinson (WCH)
Mike Hampton (OD)

The competition wasn't held in 2012 but returned in 2013 and was hosted by POTOC on 1 June at Hanley Forest Park. This time the new guidelines (published on page 15) were used and five courses were offered: 5.0km, 4.0km, 3.0km, 2.3km and 1.6km.

The winners were:

M10	Enys Lloyd	(POTOC)
W10	Amy Mayland	(POTOC)
M11-16	Ewan Lloyd	(POTOC)
W11-16	Ellie Bales	(POTOC)
M17-35	Martin Pigott	(POTOC)
W17-35	Natalie Forrester	(POTOC)
W40-55	Lil Bales	(POTOC)
M40-55	Clive Richardson	(WRE)
M60+	Peter Carey	(OD)
W60+	Sheila Carey	(OD)

This year the competition is being hosted by OD at Brueton and Malvern Parks in Solihull on 13 July.

Further details will appear in the Summer issue of the newsletter.

West Midlands Park Orienteering Championships - Guidelines

The event should be held annually in June or July. Any WMOA club can offer to host the event. If more than one club offers, the WMOA committee will choose.

The area should be wholly or mostly parkland, which will usually be at least 50% fast open with few buildings.

There will be 10 Prize Categories:

M/W 10-, 11-16, 17-39, 40-59, 60+

Members of WMOA clubs (and West Midland-based military personnel) are eligible.

Recommended Total Distances:

M17-39	5 km
W17-39, M40-59	4 km
W40-59, M60+	3.3 km
W60+, M/W11-16	2.5 km
M/W 10-	1.7 km

Therefore there should be five courses, but some of these may be combined if necessary.

All the courses will be TD3, except M/W 10-, which will be TD1/2.

Possible Event Formats:

Type 1

Traditional courses (with butterflies, or two maps, if the area is very small)

Type 2

Mass start "farsta" event, a.k.a. one-man relay, see:

http://www.ocin.org/flying_pig/farsta_example.html

Type 3

Two rounds (with the total distance being split between the two rounds).

Round 1: Mass Start (Traditional timed starts are possible but can make the overall event too time-consuming); farsta, butterflies or gaffling can be used.

Round 2: Chasing Start

Courses may include Micro-O and/or a Maze element.

Hosting clubs may suggest a different format, to be put to the WMOA Committee for approval.

Adrian Bailey (HOC)

Mapping Matters

OCAD 11 Workshop

When my good friend, Erik Peckett (DEVON & IOF Map Commission member), told me there was going to be a free OCAD 11 Workshop hosted by the SWOA in Bristol on 15 March it seemed like a great opportunity to learn more about the latest version of the mapping software and also to meet the Managing Director of OCAD, Thomas Gloor. I had hoped to combine the Workshop with a mapping trip to Devon but was unable to go mapping until the following week.

Fortunately the venue, the Avon Riding Centre, was only just off the M5 so the travelling was relatively straightforward.

I was joined at the Workshop by Stephen Hollamby, Henry Morgan and Gareth Lloyd (POTOC) from the West Midlands, the Chairman of the Map Advisory Group, 2 participants from WOA and 17 others from SWOA.

Thomas began with an introduction to OCAD which was originally written By Hans Steinegger in Switzerland 25 years ago, a programme which revolutionised orienteering map making since it was released. Thomas displayed the very first map, Schneitwald Ägeri in Switzerland, that was made using OCAD. Originally the method of input into the computer was by digitising tablet but gradually this was dispensed with when home scanners became more widespread and affordable. Sadly, Hans passed away on 19 June 2004 but a company, OCAD AG was formed in 2005 and it has diversified into the professional cartography market. It has been adapted by many cartographic companies throughout the world including the Institut



*OCAD 11 Workshop Participants
Photo courtesy of Katy Dyer (BOK & SWOA)*

Géographique National (IGN), the National Mapping Agency of France.

Great advances have been made in the software since 1989 and, at the same time advances have been made in data capture. LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) or ALS (Airborne Laser Scanning) as it is sometimes known, is now available in many countries though the UK lags a bit behind our European neighbours. OCAD 11 makes great use of these data and can generate contours, hill shading (used to detect ground features), steep slopes (which may indicate cliffs) and even vegetation height (providing the correct type of data is used).

Other types of data including GIS (Geographical Information System), Desktop Publishing and geo-referenced aerial photographs can also be imported. To make the best use of all these aids to mapmaking it is important to make sure that your 'O' map relates to the real world by geo-referencing it using OS grid coordinates. Further information on how to do this can be found here:

http://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/images/uploaded/downloads/mappers_georeferencing.pdf

OCAD 11 now comes in 6 different versions though the Starter and Standard are probably of most use to the ordinary 'O' mapper and, possibly CS (Course Setting) though there are alternatives for this - CONDES and the free Purple Pen.

Thomas demonstrated many of the new features in OCAD 11 though a number of them were only available in the Professional version which is, on my part, a small criticism.

There are a number of new drawing tools which will prove very useful. 'Reshape' allows the mapper to insert parts of lines or fills whilst maintaining the integrity of a single feature. 'Stairway' drawing mode will be very useful for ISSOM maps as will 'Multiple Point Objects' which allows the mapper to draw equally spaced point objects such as a line of trees. Again, with ISSOM, 'Move Parallel with Distance' makes use of the previous 'Move Parallel' tool with the addition of a distance (great for

2m wide paths for example). 'Interpolate' will also be useful for parallel man-made features.

'Layout' is entirely new in OCAD 11 and it allows the mapper to create a totally separate layer to hold the peripheral detail and can be useful if your club has a 'house style' and if you are drawing a map for a Championship using the British Orienteering 'house style.' For added 'professionalism' in your layout there is now an option to create a colour gradient though it works in a totally different way to a 'Photoshop' type of programme. Also in 'Layout' is the option to create a Map Legend automatically.

The Workshop was extremely interesting for someone such as myself who has used OCAD for a number of years but I suspect was daunting for someone with little experience.

You can download a Trial Version of OCAD 11 to try out these new features at:

<http://www.ocad.com/en/downloads/ocad-11-trial-edition>

Open Orienteering Mapper for Android

If you have a Smartphone which uses the Android Operating System (version 2.3 or higher) then you might like to try this Open Source software. The programme focuses on mobile surveying using live GPS position display and freehand drawing.

At the moment the software is an Alpha release so serious mapping is not recommended at the moment.

Features include:

GPS

- Live GPS display with position marker
- Point object placement
- Temporary markers which can be recorded

Compass (if supported by device)

- North direction display
- Automatic North alignment

Other

- Touch cursor for precise finger input
- Improved freehand image drawing with Undo and Redo
- Freehand line and Area drawing tool
- Auto Save

<http://oorienteering.sourceforge.net>



If anyone uses this software could you please write a report for the newsletter as the Editor doesn't have a smartphone!

West Midlands Relay Championships Guidelines

Held annually, and organised by each West Midlands club in turn, the Relay Championships are both a competition and a social event and should be organised as such.

The Controller for the event must be from a different club.

Classes

Teams of 3 runners from the same West Midlands club compete in classes A to M.

Teams of 3 runners from the same or different West Midlands clubs may compete in class N.

There are West Midlands Relays Championship trophies for the winners of each class, and certificates for the first three teams in each of the Mini, Junior and Intermediate classes (A, B, C, H, I).

The organising club may invite clubs from other regions to take part, but they are not eligible for the trophies.

Pairs may run in the Mini-Relay.

Relay Class	Class Title	BOF Age Classes	Combined Ages	Technical Difficulty	Approximate Course Length
A	Mini-Relay	M/W12-		1	1.0 to 1.5 km
B	Junior Women		W42-	3	2.0 to 2.5 km
C	Intermediate Women		W54-	5	3.0 to 3.5 km
D	Open Women	Any W		5	4.0 to 4.5 km
E	Senior Women		W130+	5	3.5 to 4.0 km
F	Veteran Women		W165+	5	3.0 to 3.5 km
G	Super Veteran Women		W200+	5	2.5 to 3.0 km
H	Junior Men		M42-	5	2.0 to 2.5 km
I	Intermediate Men		M54-	5	3.5 to 4.0 km
J	Open Men	Any		5	5.0 to 5.5 km
K	Senior Men		M130+	5	4.0 to 4.5 km
L	Veteran Men		M165+	5	3.5 to 4.0 km
M	Super Veteran Men		M200+	5	3.0 to 3.5 km
N	Mixed Ad Hoc			3, 5, 5	One lap from each of B, C, D

- For relay classes where the total combined ages of the runners is used then it is the total of the British Orienteering age classes (not the actual ages) of the runners that counts. Added together these must be equal to or less than (classes B, C, H, I), or equal to or more than (classes E, F, G, K, L, M) the number stated for the class.
- For Junior Relay classes B, C, H and I, all competitors must be M/W20 or below.
- For the Senior classes E, F, G, K, L and M, any Junior will be counted as though they were 'running up' as an M/W21.

For class N, Mixed Ad Hoc, the lap lengths will be jumbled up. For this class, the running order will be shown on the Team Declaration Form so that team members will be able to select the lap appropriate to them.

Planning

Classes can use the same course when they are the same length and technical difficulty so only the following are needed:

Technical Difficulty	Approximate Course Length	Relay Classes
1	1.0 to 1.5 km	A
3	2.0 to 2.5 km	B, H, (N)
5	2.5 to 3.0 km	G
5	3.0 to 3.5 km	C, F, M, (N)
5	3.5 to 4.0 km	E, I, L
5	4.0 to 4.5 km	D, K, (N)
5	5.0 to 5.5 km	J

The course lengths are given as Guidelines and will vary according to the physical and technical difficulty of the area. As a guide the fastest times on course J, Open Men, should be around 30 minutes.

The number of variants of a particular course, and how to use 'gaffling', is a decision to be made by the planner. However it must be remembered that whatever method of 'gaffling' is employed, in order for the race to be fair it is essential that by the end of the race each team must have run precisely the same legs. It is not sufficient that they have just visited the same controls.

Organisation

In order to increase the number of people racing together all classes except the mini relay should start at the same time. The mini relay should start five minutes after that.

'Gaffling'

In response to John Heaton's article in the Winter 2013/14 edition of the newsletter, John Bennison (WRE) has given us an insight to the Scandinavian grammar surrounding the word.

Orthographic note:

There is no conflict between the words gaffel and gaffling. The Swedish spelling rule for words ending in -el is that the e is dropped when adding some grammatical suffices. So:

fork: gaffel; forks: gafflar; forking: gaffling.

Similarly, cycle: cykel; cycles: cyklar; cycling: cykling; cyclist: cyklist.

Norwegian has the same rule:

gaffel, gafler, gafling; sykkel, sykler, sykling, syklist; but note the additional rule where the double consonant becomes single.

And just to confuse you, Norwegian has some exceptions to the general rule:

kennel, kenneler; tunnel, tunneler.



POTTERIES ORIENTEERING CLUB

invite you to

West Midlands Relays

on **Sunday 22 June 2014**

at

PARKHALL COUNTRY PARK



- Directions:** Grid Ref: SJ 928447 (Landranger 118)
 From A50 junction with A520 head North signed Leek. After approx 1 mile (A5272 junction = nearest post code ST3 5HE),* turn left onto Parkhall Rd for ¾ mile.
 Turn right onto Hulme road. Continue to the main park entrance.
 * Signposted from A520/A5272 junction .
- Parking** Rough standing + grass at the park - (plus old golf club car park.)
 Please share vehicles. Cost £1. Money will go to Parkhall Country Park.
- Teams:** per West Mids: Mini-Relay M/W12-; W42-; W54-; any W, W130+; W165+; W200+; M42-; M54-; any M, M130+ M165+, M200+. Mixed Ad Hoc.
- Map:** 1:10000 scale
- Terrain:** Hilly parkland with mixed woodlands. Multiple tracks and paths
- Times:** Starts - 10.50 All classes except Mini-Relay. 10.55 Mini-Relay
- Entries:** **Via club captains only** £7 - Adults
 £3 - Juniors & Students.
 Closing date for entries: Sunday May 25th
- Punching:** Sport-Ident (SI) Hire of E-card £1
- Dogs:** Allowed
- Facilities:** Toilets, BBQ facilities nearby
- Safety:** Whistles must be carried.
- Planners:** John Heaton (POTOC) Gordon Witte (POTOC)
- Controller:** Dave Thomas (WCH)
- Organiser:** Marian Denham (POTOC) 01782 615511 marian.ade@ntlworld.com



The West Midlands League 2014

1. Octavian Droobers 3542

A	Stephen Elkington	M18	300
A	Sam Ledley	M14	200
B	Alistair Powell	M35	297
B	Richard Perry	M40	212
C	Barry Elkington	M55	249
C	David Leadley	M50	248
D	Lesley Ross	W45	277
D	Anne Straube	W35	267
E	Gerry Spalton	M65	228
E	Chris Dwyer	M60	211
F	Melanie Elkington	W50	221
F	Lin Page	W55	217
F	Roman Kotecky	M65	210
F	John Middler	M60	204
F	Stuart Heaton	M50	201

4. WRE 3004

A	Jamie Grimsdale	M18	228
A	Molly Parker	W12	166
B	Clive Richardson	M45	188
B	Paul Hill	M45	169
C	Andrew Clough	M55	177
C	Richard Pay	M50	97
D	Delia Kingsbury	W45	299
D	Katie Lewis	W21	260
E	Jane Howsam	W60	230
E	Jill Leventon	W65	224
F	Patrick Pay	M75	216
F	Jeff Haycock	M70	200
F	Sharron Richardson	W40	188
F	Noreen Turner	W70	182
F	Derek Turner	M75	180

2. WCH 3475

A	Holly Craig	W12	289
A	Amy Mitchell	W12	243
B	Allan Williams	M45	294
B	Iain Stamp	M21	200
C	Andrew Yeates	M50	300
C	Ray Collins	M55	279
D	Tracy Craig	W45	263
D	Alison Yeates	W45	234
E	Hazel Waters	W60	200
E	Chris Boycott	M70	181
F	Ian Turner	M50	225
F	Heather Craig	W16	200
F	Cath Williams	W40	200
F	Gemma Cairns-Smith	W16	190
F	Jonathan Howell	M60	177

5. POTO 1442

A	Ben Laxton	M12	80
A	Ewan Darlington	M16	80
B	Andrew Mayland	M45	151
B	Martin Pigott	M35	100
C	Dave Bales	M55	80
C	Peter Munn	M55	59
D	Elizabeth Bales	W50	93
E	Henry Morgan	M60	171
E	Paul Graetz	M65	167
F	Barbara Farr	W70	100
F	Marian Denham	W65	94
F	Judy Douglas	W70	87
F	Graham Pigott	M21	80
F	Richard Pigott	M35	80

3. HOC 3384

A	Sebastian Mitchell	M10	200
A	Kieran Baker	M16	160
B	Allan McKinley	M35	234
B	Ian Hopkins	M45	169
C	John Embrey	M55	197
C	John Leeson	M55	173
D	Barbara Ford	W55	189
D	Jill MacKenzie	W55	156
E	Alison Sloman	W75	300
E	Colin Spears	M75	290
F	Geoff Trewin	M60	287
F	Barry Houghton	M65	280
F	John Pearson	M65	269
F	Charles Nelson	M60	240
F	Stephen Nightingale	M65	417

6. COBOC 730

B	Ian Gamlen	M45	171
B	Andrew Sadler	M21	78
D	Yvonne Feasey	W50	158
E	David Arnot	M65	132
E	Mick Sadler	M65	79
F	Joan Norris	W60	74
F	Toby Norris	M75	38

2014 Events

Jan 12	Brandon Woods	OD	May 11	Mansty Woods	WCH
Jan 19	Sandwell Valley	HOC	Jun 8	Titterstone Clee	HOC
Feb 2	Beaudesert	WCH	Jul 13	Brueton & Malvern Park	OD
Mar 30	Chillington Hall	WCH	Oct 19	Dudmaston	HOC
	(Cancelled)		Nov 23	Nesscliffe Country Park	WRE
Apr 27	Breakneck Bank	HOC	Nov 30	Stafford	WCH

Individual Class Leaders

M10	Sebastian Mitchell	HOC	200	W10	Esther Mardling	WCH	160
M12	Felix Lunn	OD	100	W12	Holly Craig	WCH	289
	Alexander Mitchell	HOC	100	W14	EllaRose McCartney	OD	200
	Adam Mardling	WCH	100	W16	Heather Craig	WCH	200
M14	Sam Leadley	OD	200	W18	Beatrice Falga	OD	200
M16	Kieron Baker	HOC	200	W21	Katie Lewis	WRE	260
M18	Stephen Elkington	OD	300	W35	Anne Straube	OD	267
M20	Daniel Kotecky	OD	180	W40	Cath Williams	WCH	200
M21	Iain Stamp	WCH	200	W45	Delia Kingsbury	WRE	299
M35	Alistair Powell	OD	297	W50	Melanie Elkington	OD	221
M40	Richard Perry	OD	212	W55	Lin Page	OD	217
M45	Allan Williams	WCH	294	W60	Jane Howsam	WRE	230
M50	Andrew Yeates	WCH	300	W65	Jill Leventon	WRE	224
M55	Ray Collins	WCH	279	W70	Noreen Turner	WRE	182
M60	Geoff Trewin	HOC	287	W75	Alison Sloman	HOC	300
M65	Barry Houghton	HOC	280	W80	Beryl Pay	WRE	160
M70	Peter Carey	OD	200				
	Jeff Haycock	WRE	200				
M75	Colin Spears	HOC	290				
M80	Norman Hall	WCH	500				

Interland 2014

Congratulations to Julie Emerson (OD), Nathan Lawson (OD) and Romualdas Stupelis (HOC) who were chosen to represent England at the 2014 Interland competition held at Bruay La Buisserie in the Pas-de-Calais region of France on 30 March.

Julie finished 11th on the W20 course, Nathan finished 14th on M20 and Romualdas finished 6th on M21 helping England to their 10th successive win in the competition

1. England	246	4. France (North Pas-de-Calais)	131
2. Belgium (Flanders)	190	5. Netherlands	70
3. Belgium (Wallonia)	182	6. Germany (Rhine West)	58

WMOA Fixtures

April to June 2014

April

23rd	OD Level D	OD Local Event Memorial Park	Coventry	SO884772
27th	HOC Level D	HOC Regional & WMOA League 5 Breakneck Bank	Bewdley	SO714766
30th	OD Level D	OD Local Event Borough Hill	Daventry	SP583617
30th	COBOC Level D	COBOC Sevens B'ham Outdoor Education Centre	Sutton Coldfield	

May

1st	HOC Level D	HOC Summer Evening Event (SEE) Himley Hall	Dudley	SO889916
	OD Level D	OD Local Event Rough Close	Coventry	SP265785
7th	BAOC Level D	Military League Central Event Swynnerton Training Area	Stone	SJ854326
		www.baoc.info		
8th	HOC Level D	HOC Summer Evening Event (SEE) Worcester Woods	Worcester	SO873546
10th	WCH Level C	WMOA Schools Championships Hednesford Camp	Cannock Chase	SK005153
11th	WCH Level C	WCH Regional & WMOA League 6 Mansty Woods	Penkridge	
14th	OD Level D	OD Local Event Bentley Woods	Atherstone	SP293949
15th	HOC Level D	HOC Summer Evening Event (SEE) Malvern Common	Malvern Wells	SO776443
17th	POTOC Level D	POTOC Summer Park League 1 Hanley Forest Park	Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent,	SJ886487
18th	WRE Level D	Whitchurch Walking Festival - Come and Try Orienteering Jubilee Park	Whitchurch	SJ540413
21st	OD Level D	WM Urban League Abbey Fields and Kenilworth	Kenilworth	SP286724
22nd	HOC Level D	HOC Summer Evening Event (SEE) Baggeridge Country Park	Dudley	SO898931
28th	OD Level D	OD Local Event Kingsbury Water Park	Tamworth	SP204958
28th	COBOC Level D	Sutton Park	Banners Gate, Sutton Coldfield	
29th	HOC Level D	HOC Summer Evening Event (SEE) Worcester Beacon	Malvern	SO768448

June

1st	POTOC Level D	POTOC Summer Park League 2 Tunstall & Burslem Parks	Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent,	SJ865513
4th	OD Level D	OD Local Event Draycote Water	Rugby	SP461691
5th	HOC Level D	HOC Summer Evening Event (SEE) Brockhampton	Bromyard	SO681545
8th	HOC Level C	HOC Regional Event & WMOA League 7 Titterstone Clee Hill	Ludlow	SO593776
11th	OD Level D	OD Local Event Itchington Holt	Long Itchington	SP366558
12th	HOC Level D	HOC Summer Evening Event (SEE) Pitcher Oak Wood	Redditch	SP025671
18th	OD Level D	OD Local Event Coombe Abbey Park	Coventry	SP404794
19th	HOC Level D	HOC Summer Evening Event (SEE) - June Jaunter Clent Hills	Halesowen	SO938807
22nd	POTOC Level C	WMOA Relay Championships Park Hall Country Park	Longton, Stoke on Trent	SJ929447
25th	OD Level D	OD Local Event Sutton Park Gates Run Sutton Park	Sutton Coldfield	SP113964
26th	HOC Level D	HOC Summer Evening Event (SEE) Morton Stanley Park	Redditch	SP030653
29th	WRE Level D	WM Urban League Bridgnorth Town	Bridgnorth	SO711926
July				
2nd	OD Level D	OD Local Event Hillfields Park	Solihull	SP138779
2nd	HOC Level D	HOC Summer Evening Event (SEE) Gheluvelt Park	Worcester	SO844565
5th	POTOC Level D	POTOC Summer Park League 3 Florence & Longton Parks	Longton, Stoke-on-Trent,	SJ910419

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

COBOC <http://www.coboc.org.uk>
HOC <http://www.harlequins.org.uk>
OD <http://www.octavian-droobers.org>

POTOC <http://potoc.dandasparks.org.uk>
WCH <http://www.walton-chasers.co.uk>
WRE <http://www.wrekinorienteers.co.uk>