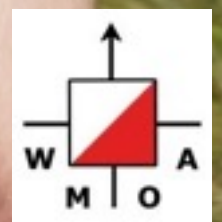


The West Midlander

Autumn 2015

The Newsletter of the
West Midlands Orienteering Association



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WYEVENT	Kyla Da Cunha	
All Committee/Officials		committee@wmoa.org.uk
Website:	http://www.wmoa.org.uk	

Cover Photo: Matthew Elkington at the JWOC Sprint

Photo by Yann Schlegel (Switzerland)

Editorial

The clocks have gone back and the hours of daylight are diminishing so it's time to look back to the Summer and forward to the new orienteering year.

The highlight of the Summer was, undoubtedly, the World Championships and the 6 Day competition in the Highlands of Scotland. The TV coverage of WOC was unprecedented in the UK and BBC Alba did a good job though I'm not sure whether a non-orienteer would have understood much of what was happening! Somewhat bizarrely, the commentator switched from English to Gaelic at the drop of a hat, particularly when one of the GB team appeared on screen. Anyone who ran on the last day at Glen Affric (venue of the Long Championships) and tried to run through the tough, uncompromising terrain will realise just how fit and skilful the WOC competitors are.

Closer to home, the West Midlands Urban League has reached its conclusion for this year and the West Midlands League is fast approaching its finale. OD are streets ahead in the League and are only 113 points short of the maximum score. Attention, therefore, has turned to which club can achieve 2nd place. Currently, WRE are leading the way closely chased by HOC. This one's definitely going to the wire over the last three events.

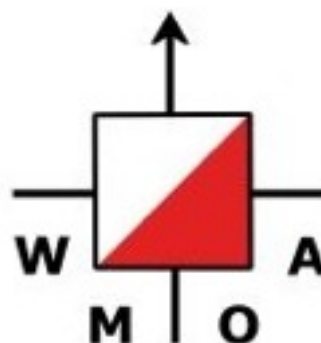
2016 will start with the Laurie Bradley Memorial Trophy held by WRE at Telford Town Park. This was the venue of the first TSB Trophy Score Event (which preceded the LB Trophy) way back in 1984. It should be a great way to start the New Year and shake off that hangover.

Happy Orienteering

Rod

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Copy date for the next issue: 1 January 2016

WMOA Chairman's Report September 2015

Bob Brandon

I hope that you have all had a good Summer. I saw quite a lot from the region at the World Championships. This Scottish, Highland event included the Six Days which proved to be a most enjoyable week of orienteering. We were orienteering on quite technical terrain and I found the challenge most demanding. To lend a hand several members from the West Midlands were helping out in various roles from I.T. set-up; parking ALL the cars; working on the starts; hanging results amongst other roles.

Earlier in July there was a smaller turnout for the Regional Relay Championships put on by Adrian Griffiths and Di Jacks, with Marcus Eassom planning the courses. It was a pleasant event that the Wrekin Club had put on, an opportunity for the regional membership to mix in the sun. I was surprised to find only one team entered from Harlequins.

And in mid-September, Wrekin again, the Long Mynd Long 'O'. It was pleasing to note this event was titled the John Bennison Long 'O'. Unfortunately I had to miss it, having an entry in another Long event which was celebrating it's 61st birthday. Hopefully the Shropshire event will go on as far in time.

Each year as the Juniors of the region gain selection for training and international representation, we are asked to make a financial contribution towards costs. The region is pleased to support these young orienteers who have worked hard to develop their orienteering skills in order to attain the high standard required for such selection. Well done to all.

May I remind you that the British Championships are being held at Brown Clee in early May next year. Many of the region's membership will be helping in one way or other.

Further ahead at Easter in 2018, the region have offered to put on the JK weekend in mid-



Somewhere between Whitehaven & Tynemouth

Photo by Tony Duckett

Wales. Andy Yeates (WCH) is masterminding this invasion and is to liaise with local Welsh Clubs to identify suitable areas.

I am grateful to Andy Johnson (HOC) for offering his services and can welcome Andy as the new WMOA webmaster. Having tidied things up in the first instance, Andy is open to thoughts from the membership as to what they would wish to see as an online presence. Please let Andy know at wmoawm@gmail.com

More immediate is the Junior Inter-Regional Championships to be held at the end of September with an Individual and Relay event on Cannock Chase. Good luck to our Juniors.

Early in October (4th) POTO are celebrating their 40th Anniversary by staging the WMOA Championships at Whitfield Valley.

Then we come to the WMOA AGM on Monday 12 October at the Great Barr Hotel. We are still looking for a Chairman for 2015 / 2016 but do not let this fact put you off from coming along!

Minutes of WMOA meeting on 14 September 2015, Great Barr Hotel

1. **Present:** R. Brandon, R. Collins, B. Elkington, G. Hardy, A. Johnson, D. Kingsbury, B. McGowan, R. Postlethwaite, A. Williams, J. Woodall, A. Yeates.
2. **Apologies:** E. Brown, K. da Cunha (email sent but not available at meeting), M. Elkington, H. Morgan.
3. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
4. **Minutes:** The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record, although it was noted the situation with regard to the JK2018 BOF Major Events Agreement was subject to review.
5. **Matters Arising:**
 The possibility of **Gift Aid** had been queried by K. Da Cunha. The July version of 'Mikes e-news' gives LEI experiences of becoming a Community Amateur Sports Club which enables them to claim gift aid on subscriptions. Clubs who are interested should check this article.

 D. Kingsbury had discussed the **John Bennison Long 'O'** event with WRE, clarifying that it is not seen as a club rotation event.

 An alternative view to the discussion of **volunteer availability vs funding** had been received from A. Bailey (HOC); reporting that he has Level 1 Coaching skills but is rarely called upon to use them and was uncertain how to move forward. The meeting view was that utilising skills as part of a club led project was the best way forward.
6. **Correspondence:**
 - B. McGowan had forwarded a list of publicity suggestions from A. Bailey who had requested that this be discussed. D. Kingsbury had invited A. Bailey to formulate this into a proposal for consideration.
 - From BOF - a request to update the record of WMOA officials following the AGM.
 - Details from The Orienteering Foundation seeking trustees and members of the campaign team, forwarded to R. Postlethwaite and A. Johnson for inclusion in 'West Midlander' and on the website.
 - Request from Mateusz Podsiadły (OD) seeking support to attend the Junior World Orienteering Championships in Norway; and from Harrison McCartney (OD) for support to attend the Junior European Cup in Romania. Contributions had been made/ were agreed.
7. **Chairman's Report:**
 See page 4.
8. **Treasurer's Report:**
 Income had been close to the budgeted level for the year, although higher income through levies and participation would have been welcome. Donations had been made to successful juniors, the recent donation to Harrison McCartney (OD) had fallen into a new financial year for WMOA. The English Orienteering Council fees are significant.

 The Junior Squad entries show about £1000 recently paid out for JIRCS - this includes accommodation for the event. The need for the £1000 annual grant from WMOA to the Squad has been confirmed.

A breakdown of income from levies showed that little came from league and local events. There is a trend for declining entries and for clubs to hold smaller events. For the forthcoming year it was proposed that the event levy would remain at the current level.

Looking forward to 2016, around £3000 income is anticipated for the year with about £1500 anticipated from BOC2016, including the Relays - although not as standard levy.

9. **Fixtures:**

There are several events remaining for the traditional League and one for the Urban League. The 2016 League events will be decided after October's National Scheduling meeting.

JIRCS 2015: The event is in two weeks time on Brereton Spurs and the organisation is on track. A school is being used to accommodate the youngsters.

CSC 2016: POTO have postponed this event, effectively withdrawing it from the CSC. The nearby event at Bickerton Hill has an entry limit, so cannot necessarily take the overflow. A. Williams is in discussion with M. Cope about options given the lack of an event in WMOA area for this competition. Two possibilities are to use a nearby DVO event; or to use a WCH event at Abrahams Valley, although neither of these are scheduled for the right date.

BOC2016: A report from E. Brown was read out. Everything was on track. Briefly, information is being shared between BOC2015 and BOC2017 which is useful. The first part of the mapping is complete and a second phase has been identified. Access to the area now has to be kept to a minimum (pheasant season). Preferred suppliers for marquees, First Aid, Sound systems, catering and toilets have been identified and contracts are in hand.

It appears unlikely that The Trail 'O' Champs will take place on Brown Clee. Whilst A. Bailey had offered to assist with this event, key event officials had not come forward.

A. Williams and E. Brown are in discussion about the possibility of WCH staging a separate but complementary Urban event on the Monday.

B. McGowan assumed that the BOC 2016 finances are all being handled by BOF Head Office. A BOF meeting the following week was expected to clarify this.

R. Brandon confirmed that the Major Events Agreement had been signed last year and it was also confirmed that if there were future changes to this type of agreement it would not affect BOC2016.

JK2018: Mid Wales. A. Yeates and A. Williams had started the process for this event. An 'ideal' plan had emerged. The use of a holiday village, south of Blaenau Ffestiniog, as a base is being investigated. This has adjacent terrain for the Long distance and Relay events. This plan has clear advantages saving parking and assembly area issues. Permissions and other matters relating to the preferred areas is to be discussed with the Welsh Clubs. E. Brown has agreed to take the role of Safety Officer and R. Dredge the Event Treasurer. The outcome of a forthcoming BOF review about Major Events is awaited.

10. **West Midlander:**

R. Postlethwaite reported that he had plenty of articles for the next West Midlander, including one from Harrison McCartney. He asked WCH representatives for an obituary for Bob Strophair, who had passed recently away. Photographs suitable for the front cover would be welcomed. The copy date is dependent upon receipt of the minutes of this meeting.

11. **Webmaster:**

Following the advert for a webmaster A. Johnson (HOC) had volunteered to take on the role. He has the required access codes and is carrying out general housekeeping, bringing

the site up to date and checking that the various links work. There are difficulties with University clubs as they come and go - it is believed that none are active at present. The WYE club is not active, but we do have WYE Events (led by K. da Cunha).

He explained that he is coming from a technical perspective rather than a designer, and aims for the website to be up to date and functional. Recent photographs that could be put on the website would be welcomed. WMOA minutes can be accessed via links to 'West Midlander'. R. Postlethwaite asked for a page for the WMOA Urban League. General feedback about the website would be welcome.

12. **Development:**

Mapping Course: No movement.

Club And Association Conference: Details had been circulated from BOF. This year's theme is 'The Future of the Sport'. A. Williams and R. Brandon to attend and represent WMOA.

Officials Courses:

- Ray Collins was delivering an Event Safety Course at Milford Cricket Club on 30 September. He invited any one interested in attending to contact him.
- Details of the EMOA training day (31 October) and courses available had been provided by C. Phillips (LEI). This had been passed to H. Morgan who held details of those in WMOA who had requested training.
- It emerged from a recent Major Events Conference that self directed learning packages may be produced in the future.

13. **Events & Competitions Committee:**

Summary minutes of the E&CC had been distributed and the following is an extract from it:

'Organisers must do training and Event Safety Workshop; Planners are equally responsible for risk mitigation, A case for it being mandatory. All Officials by 1 January 2017. Event Safety needed for all Levels of events; Lack of qualified Event Officials including Map Advisers. Training Courses needed for Organisers, Planners, Controllers and Event Safety and Welfare Workshops.'

It was confirmed that whilst attending Event Safety training is recommended and set to become a requirements for all event officials, there is currently no stipulated time frame after which refresher training would be required.

B. Elkington reported the following:

- BOF was discussing how best to utilise S. Pygott to support major events. Given that the JK is becoming too large for regions to organise it is felt that she may be able to assist more with this if her other workload was regular meeting. The JK is being pushed internationally and she is focussing on this.
- The E&CC still do not have enough volunteers to fulfil their function effectively. For example there is no named person responsible for Junior orienteering. Elite orienteering is starting to move forward with Graham Gristwood beginning to look at this.
- J. Woodall added that the major decrease in funding is difficult to work with. The Sports Councils had provided £1m for elite athletes and now this was tens of thousands. The Sports Councils focus is now on participation and no additional spending from government sources is anticipated.

14. **Junior Squad:** Report from Mel Elkington.

This Summer saw Julie Emmerson and Matt Elkington represent GB at JWOC and Harrison McCartney represent GB at EYOC. Nathan Lawson attended a GB Talent Squad

training for a few days just before the Scottish 6 Day. This involved lectures, different ways of training sessions and some orienteering. Harrison and Julie attended some JWOC training 2016 in Switzerland.

On the weekend of the 26/27 September 2015 the Junior Inter Regional Championships are taking place in our region. Many parents are coming along to help and Walton Chasers have kindly allowed us use of Brereton Spurs and Oldacre. We are using Weston School for the overnight accommodation - thanks to Doug Craig for sorting that for us and 'O Nosh' for providing the food.

Team places were offered it to all our members and all those that wanted to represent WMOA have a place. The final team at present is as follows:

M18	(Brown)	Stephen Elkington, Matt Hartland, Nathan Lawson, Harrison McCartney.
M16	(Blue)	Alfie Bullus, Sam Leadley, Ewan Lloyd
M14	(Light Green)	Oliver Flippance, Felix Lunn, Oliver Lunn, Alex Mitchell.
W18	(Blue)	Gemma Cairns Smith, Rhiannon Cope, Aimee Morse, Heather Rogers.
W16	(Green)	Ellie Bales, Heather Craig, Holly Hughes.
W14	(Light Green)	Charlotte Cairns Smith, Megan Colclough, Holly Craig.

We are still looking for clubs to offer training sessions for the Squad. Please could committee members ask their clubs to put on a session for the Squad in order to keep it going.

Any offers please send by email to wmjsquad@gmail.com

R. Collins to discuss with the organiser of WCH beginners training sessions whether these events might be suitable and report back to M. Elkington.

15. Club round up:

COBOC - Their weekly training sessions will be starting again.

HOC - the club now has a Facebook page. They anticipate running slightly fewer events.

OD - They had received constructive feedback about their Clubmark re-certification, leading them to clarify their Development Plan and the roles of their volunteers. Wednesday evening events are still running. The clubs 50th anniversary event will be held at Warwick University on 24 October - details are on their website.

A series of monthly Saturday morning events is planned this Winter using Park Run venues.

WCH - The outdoor Summer training was coming to an end and there are efforts to try to open up events that are currently restricted in numbers. They are currently without a Secretary and Chairman. The Army is moving the Royal Signals to Stafford so it is hoped that there will be an influx of orienteers. There is likely to be increased interest in the Military League Central, which aims for one event per month (Wednesdays).

A. Johnson is Secretary of the MLC. He reported that it is difficult to persuade army units to participate in a league and it is predominantly civilians who attend. He is hoping to develop a thriving league but more people are needed to run the events. He will try and tie in with existing WM League fixtures and other events. Details can be found on the BAOC website.

WRE - about 60 people had attended the John Bennison Memorial Long 'O'. The club struggles to attract participants as it is on the fringe of the area.

POTOC and WYE Ventures - no representative.

16. WMOA Committee 2016:

At present a candidate for a Chairman to succeed R. Brandon had not been identified. There were no motions for debate. Individuals are still needed to oversee coaching and the Junior Squad.

D. Kingsbury to circulate the agenda.

17. AOB

R. Collins asked if there should be a time limit upon how long the names of orienteers should remain linked to an event. Whilst controversial, he made the point about the JK and wondered how meaningful the name of this event is to today's orienteers. Discussion centred around the names associated with events having been pioneers in the sport and the desire to remember their contribution.

Next Meetings:

AGM: Monday 12 October.

Regular meeting: Monday 14 December.

WMOA Online Presence

Readers of the recent West Midlander may have noticed that a volunteer came forward to look after the association's website, HOC's Andy Johnson.

The more eagle-eyed and patient observers may have also seen small changes on the website at www.wmoa.org.uk that are bringing the site more up to date or simplifying pages, in some instances, refreshing pages last changed over 6 years ago!

The website will be updated regularly with regional news and this is now supported by the WMOA Twitter account @WestMidsOA, which will signpost when updates or league results available.

The site itself will undergo gradual rather than immediate change and if there is anything you would welcome from the site or other social media, please let Andy know at wmoawm@gmail.com.



Bob Strophair (WCH)

1933-2015

Bob was a regular competitor in the region and further afield for about 40 years. Though never a top star he had many minor triumphs perhaps the best being winning the JK M70 course in 2003. He was also an outdoor person and a member of the Long Distance Walkers Association. At the start of the Scottish 6-day series he persuaded a fellow member to share a little tent for 7 nights and then drive back after finishing the last day. Then for BOC 1996 the camping was extended so a few Munros could be climbed. [see photo]. He is reputed to have once driven back from the Lakes District with a broken arm. In earlier times

he did some organising and planning and for 10 years he used his computing skills to run the Chasers League, inputting everyone's performance at all events.

Norman Hall (WCH)

West Midlands Sprint Championships 2015

The course winners for the Sprint championships were published in the last issue of the newsletter as there was some confusion over the class winners. The winners have since been confirmed as follows:

Men Open	Matthew Elkington	OD	Women Open	Delia Kingsbury	WRE
Men 50+	Ian Gamlen	COBOC	Women 50+	Claire Bushnell	WCH
Men 60+	Ray Collins	WCH	Women 60+	Sheila Carey	OD
Junior Men			Junior Women	Holly Stodgell	WCH

West Midlands Relays 2015

The West Midlands Relays were held by WRE at Nesscliffe Camp North on 12 July 2015. The area, which hadn't been used for about 20 years provided some fast and furious orienteering which was perfect for a relay competition. Sadly, the event wasn't as well attended as hoped with only 34 teams competing over the 14 courses.

Photo by Martin Gibbons (WRE)



A	Mini Relay	M/W 12	OD	Pippa Smart, Florence Lunn, Josie Smart/ Tabitha Lunn
B	Junior Women	W42-	WCH	Amy Mitchell, Charlotte Cairns-Smith, Holly Craig
C	Intermediate Women	W54-	WRE	Jessica Parker, Molly Parker, Rebecca Coupe
D	Open Women		WCH	Claire Bushnell, Amy Thompson, Emily Garside
E	Senior Women	W130+	WRE	Delia Kingsbury, Sharron Richardson, Diane Jacks
F	Veteran Women	W165+	WRE	Jill Leventon, Pam Hardy, Jane Howsam
G	Super Veteran Women	W200+	No Entries	
H	Junior Men	M42-	OD	Oliver Lunn, Oliver Flippance, Felix Lunn
I	Intermediate Men	M54-	WCH	Henry Webb, Gemma Cairns-Smith, Heather Craig
J	Open Men		OD	Alistair Powell, Alistair Gardner, Matthew Elkington
K	Senior Men	M130+	WRE	Adrian Griffiths, Steve Parker, Clive Richardson
L	Veteran Men	M165+	WRE	Andy Clough, John Broadhead, Lawrie Jones
M	Super Veteran Men	M200+	OD	Trevor Simpson, Gerry Spalton, Dave Marr
N	Mixed Ad Hoc		COBOC	Michael Sadler, Yvonne Feasey, Ian Gamlen

Chronology of Potteries Orienteering Club - 1975 to 2015

Austin Farr (POTOC)

I have compiled this chronology from various documents, in particular, Dave Gosling's 1976 article in *'The Orienteer'* national magazine and many editions of our own POTTER newsletter/magazine, supplemented with inputs from Dave Gosling, Tony Smith, Neville Mitchison, John Heaton, Ken Durose and others. In the earlier part, I have included more detail, especially of the enthusiastic people that founded and nurtured the Club as I feel that this will be of the most interest. (This took place when orienteering nationally was expanding rapidly and was the envy of other outdoor organisations such as athletics and fell-running.) For the later years I have confined myself to developments that I feel were significant steps forward, and to some of our most notable achievements.

When we were young: the first 10 years:

1975

8 October: POTOC Inaugural Meeting.

Founder members included: Dave (Chairman) & Diane Gosling, Jim Rand (who shortly after left for a job in Glasgow), Roger (Treasurer) & Marie Smith, Mike (Secretary) & Tony (Vice-Chairman) Smith. The club name and badge (which was designed by Dave Gosling's brother, Alan, and has remained unchanged since) were agreed.

Generous help was given by WCH (Peter Palmer, in particular) - especially the donation of the following areas: Downs Banks, Swynnerton Old Park, Trentham Park and also Maer Hills (but difficulties with permissions prevented use).

A grant of £170 was received from Stoke Council's *'Quality of Life'* project.

Earlier in 1975, to stimulate interest in the Potteries area for a new club, WCH had organised low-key events at Downs Banks (mapped by Tony Smith) on 4 May and at Trentham Park on 5 Oct.

Early membership included people from WCH, Keele University and ICL Kidsgrove.

21 December: First event.

Trentham Park on a 3 colour map by Marie Smith using black, brown and blue, with vegetation indicated by a dot screen.

1976

'The Potter' newsletter and Club League.

Tony Smith started publishing 'The Potter' newsletter and compiled the Club League from recent events to encourage competition.

Downs Banks Permanent Course

Set up by Mike & Tony Smith.

Early Junior Members

Ken Durose (owner of mascot *Quasi Modo*, the cosmic crow), Rob Fleming & Andy Collett joined as independent junior members - all inspired by their teacher, Ron McDougal at Cheadle Grammar School who took a minibus out almost weekly during the season.

1977

Organising an Orienteering Event

Written by Roger Smith: the 'bible' for POTOc event organisers.

1978

'The Potter', new editor - Keith Lander.

13 December: Christmas Social.

At the '*Bleeding Wolf*', Scholar Green: the annual social gathering (now held in New Year).

29 April: National Relay Champs staged.

Organiser: Roger Smith, assisted by John Nuttall; Mapper: Tony Smith; Planner: Eric Johnson.
Area: Swynnerton Old Park.

16 September: Win Sandstone Trail Race.

1st Team home in the 16.5m race: John Godding, Mike Stacey and Dave Gosling. (POTOc won the team prize in at least two subsequent years).

September: Club T Shirts - arranged by Marie Smith.

Club Training Sessions - coordinated by Cath Simpson.

November First Photogrammetric Plot.

A professional photogrammetric plot of Weston Heath was obtained by Neville Mitchison as the basis for a new map.

1980

8 June: First Badge Event - at Swynnerton Old Park.

Organiser: John Nuttall; Planners: Roger & Marie Smith.

2 October: Club Evenings.

Monthly Training & Social evenings started at Kidsgrove Scout Hut, coordinated by Austin Farr.

1981

19 April: JK Relays - held jointly with WRE in Bishops Wood. Organiser: John Nuttall.

17 July: Training Weekend - Lake District, arranged by Richard Johnson.

18 September: Barn Dance

Organisers: Barbara & John Godding at Mow Cop village hall which raised £100 for POTOc funds. Barbara & John organised another Barn Dance on 4 March 1983.

Wooden Spoon:

The earliest mention of this coveted trophy was in the March 1982 issue of 'The Potter' and was awarded to the senior member with least league points from 7 best events - Malcolm Duncan for the 1981 league. This was changed at the October 1982 Committee Meeting to the current format: vote for members nominated for the silliest action.

1982

March: 62 membership units.

18 April Weston Heath Badge Event.

Used Neville Mitchison's excellent map based on the PG plot by *Terrestrial Surveys*. Organiser: Bob Dredge; Mapper/Planner: Neville Mitchison.

1983**11 September: Staffordshire Way**

Organiser: Tony Jenkins. POTO v WRE - we won! The first of a series of annual inter-club relays, later organised by other clubs. The forerunner, was an intra-POTOC relay race for 3 teams in 1981, over the northern parts of the Staffs Way (before the southern part was established).

6 November: Roaches Badge Event.

Organiser: Neville Mitchison; Planners: Austin & Barbara Farr. The map was based on a professional PG plot, surveyed by many members, scribed by Austin. Out-of-bounds areas constrained planning, and proliferated in subsequent years until POTOC eventually abandoned use of the area.

1984**6 December: Ben II Finish Timer.**

A £200 grant from Newcastle Sports Council enabled POTOC to buy this (£700!) printing finish timer - last used on 20 March 2014 at the Staffs Schools Champs in Hanley Forest Park.

1985**28 September: 10th Anniversary - Score Event & Barbecue at Park Hall.****Later Years, Selected Developments and Highlights.****1986****29 April: Permanent Orienteering Courses at Hanley Park & Bathpool Park.**

Hanley Park POC was opened by Sam Plank of Radio Stoke.

17 May Bathpool POC completed with help from the '*Newcastle-Under-Lyme Countryside Project*'. More POCs were installed later in Country Parks at: Biddulph Grange, Apedale, Ladderedge and Brough Park.

1989**14 October: Win the CompassSport Small Clubs Trophy.**

Held at EPOC's Castle Carr. Team Captain: Barbara Farr. A resounding victory with fastest times for small clubs in all classes and the fastest overall on the **Brown** (hardest) by Dave Troman.

1993**14 February: National Event & Computer-drawn Map at Weston Heath.**

Map: Neville Mitchison; Organiser: John Heaton; Planners: Austin & Barbara Farr. Entries exceeded 1900 including colour-coded entry-on-day.

Neville was one of the first amateurs to draw a map by computer - using Adobe Illustrator on his Apple Macintosh computer.

27 April: 3 British Champions at Brown Clee.

Fiona Coventry (W45); Paul Graetz (M45); Graham Piggot (M11).

1994**23 May: OCAD 5 mapping software.**

488 Swiss Francs from '*Hans Steinegger Software*'. First used by: Austin Farr (Bathpool); Nathan Townshend (Leycett) and John Heaton (Hanley Forest Park).

1998**April: £6305 Lottery Grant for Professional Mapping.**

Nathan Townsend applied for the grant in 1997 which was used to map areas, mainly small ones, from 1998 to until the end of 2005.

1999**March: Website**

At the 1998 AGM, Dave Sparks offered to set up the website which came on-line in March 1999.

2006**September: SI Electronic Punching Kit.**

John Pigott obtained a £3476 National Lottery (*Awards for All*) grant for this kit and trained a team in its use. Capabilities were extended later to automate computerised results.

2008**January: Waterproof Maps**

Bought a laser printer and waterproof 'paper' to print our own maps - managed by John Heaton.

08 June: 'Clubmark' accreditation awarded.

Government scheme that confirms that POTO C provides an environment suitable for children.

2009**9 January: Annual Barn Dance & Presentations.**

Meerbrook Village Hall, organised by John Pigott. Held every year since and occasionally rescheduled due to snow.

School League

Based on selected local events. Evolved later into the Summer Park League for adults & children (first event: May 2012 at Tunstall Park) and by 2014 used any POTO C areas.

September: Generator purchased to power computer and printer.**2010****25 January: Urban Event.**

Stone Town organised by Henry Morgan.

Grant from British Orienteering for professional maps of 5 local parks.

Florence & Longton Parks was first to be used, on January 2011.

2011**31 March: North Staffs Schools Championships.**

Re-started by Brenda & Henry Morgan in Hanley Forest Park. In 2014, it became the *Staffordshire Schools Championships*.

2014**6 September: British Sprint Championships.**

Keele University Campus: Organiser: Brenda Morgan; Planner: Henry Morgan.

2015**1 April: Web-based Open Orienteering Maps.**

John Heaton used these for urban training events: the first at Meir Park.

4 October: 40th Anniversary Event held at Whitfield Valley.

West Midlands Championship: Organisers: John Pigott & Jean Rostron; Planner: Jim Cooke.

Article from 'The Orienteer' June 1976 courtesy of Austin Farr (POTOC)

Recipe For A New O-Club

by David Gosling, Potteries OC

- Ingredients:** Four or five keen orienteers;
A population of 50,000 at present not served by a club;
at least two local parks or woods (need not be big);
a nearby well-established club willing to support you, not to compete with you.
- Makes:** Approximately thirty members.
- Time taken:** Preparation — nine months;
Cooking time — six months (at least).
- Utensils:** You will need — a friendly local newspaper and/or radio; if possible a small grant from the Sports Council or your local authority to cover initial publicity costs; and duplicating facilities.

Preparation: A Come-And-Try-It event.

(1) If no orienteering maps exist of any local areas then work in conjunction with your existing club to get permission to use two small, single pieces of park or woodland. Survey, draw, and print enough maps for a come-and-try-it event in both areas and plenty left over for use later on. A grant from the local authority or Sports Council is a useful asset here. We have found them very helpful.

(2) Decide on a date for a beginners' event in one of the areas, and arrange for your existing club to cover all the usual administration. April or May is a good time, so that you can have your follow-up event in the summer months.

(3) Get local newspaper and radio interested enough to print or broadcast some information about what orienteering is (not a form of karate or Eastern mountain climbing!), and to announce the beginners' event.

(4) Print and distribute a large number of posters around local libraries, factories, schools, youth clubs, and adult education centres, to publicise the event.

(5) Write to as many local schools as you can to tell them about the sport and the event.

(6) On the day of the event, make sure there is a prominent place for beginners to report to for instruction. Hand out leaflets about the event procedure and the dates of follow-up activities. Write down the names and addresses of *everyone* who reports to the beginners' tent so that you can start a mailing list.

(7) Try to ensure that the event is reported in the press and on the radio, along with a mention of the next planned activity.

Cooking

You now have a list of names of people who have

tried orienteering once, and you hope that at least some of them have enjoyed themselves. They won't have done if the course was too long, too difficult, or full of brambles. It is far better for the course to be too easy to make them want to have another go than too hard so that they are discouraged. This list is your potential new club, but your ingredients are still raw. They need careful cooking.

(1) The results of the event should be printed and sent out as soon as possible, with a note welcoming the newcomers, inviting them to the next few events, and some useful hints for beginners. You might mention that you are hoping to start a local club soon.

(2) Have a series of small informal follow-up events on Sundays or Saturday mornings or weekday evenings. Keep up the publicity and keep adding to the mailing list. You can use the same area, or even smaller local parks can be used, with postcards pinned to the corners of tennis courts, etc. Keep the second area up your sleeve for the moment. You can try an evening session with film and slides, but you may not attract many people. Orienteering, after all, appeals to those who like to be in the open and on their own, not cooped up in a meeting room with dozens of others.

(3) Further work on schools is useful. It is almost impossible to make direct contact with pupils, so this means working on the staff. The art is to spot the member of staff most likely to be interested — and it may not be the P.E. teacher. Geography or Biology teachers are good bets, or find out who takes them for hill-walking or summer camps. Occasionally you find a school where the head has simply read out your notice at assembly and twenty children turn up to your event. If this happens you're lucky, but keep working at it. Put some of the keener pupils on

your mailing list (they'll be really impressed to get a letter later on) and find out the name of the member of staff who brought them.

(4) Try to find material that the newspapers will print. Results of competitions – "local boy makes good" approach. Drop hints about the impending new club.

If your first beginners' event was in the Spring, and these follow-up activities have taken you through the summer, you must now consider your mailing list. How many of these people might become members if you were to form a club? Your basic ingredient of keen orienteers is the foundation of the club, they've got to do most of the donkey work! Then there may well be some fringe orienteers, who might be more interested if they didn't have to travel so far, and so might be ready to join a local club. This is where the support of your existing club is essential. If they are possessive about their members and resent you 'poaching' then you face a difficult diplomatic problem. Hopefully they will realise the need for more local clubs and give every encouragement they can – as Walton Chasers have to us.

When you think you can muster about fifteen members, this is time for the big push! Time to take the cake out of the oven for its icing. Your club is nearly made.

Final Instructions

(1) Prepare for a second major Come-And-Try-It event using the second area that you have mapped and have permission to use. Once again, keep the beginners' courses very easy.

(2) Arrange for an inaugural club meeting within a week of the event.

(3) Give maximum publicity to the event and the inaugural meeting together. At the event, make sure posters announcing the first meeting of the club are prominently displayed.

(4) Preparation for the inaugural meeting must include: a constitution, of more or less standard form than can be easily ratified; some ideas for a club name; suggestions for a club badge are also useful; an agreement amongst your known orienteers as to who is to take on what job, though

as in any democracy there must be the opportunity for others to stand for election if they wish. Try to sound out some of your beginners to see if any of them would be willing to serve on the committee.

(5) Have an added attraction to liven up your evening – if not belly-dancers then an orienteering film may do! Put lots of maps on the walls, and copies of *The Orienteer* on the tables. BOF Office or the Editor may be able to supply extra copies for you to sell or give away. Duplicated copies of the proposed constitution should be available to everyone. Think beforehand about what sort of fees you think are reasonable so that the business matters can be sorted out quickly. Invite the press to the meeting (they may not come – if so write your own report and send it in – they may not print it – hard luck!) Get some coffee and biscuits ready and wait for them to turn up.

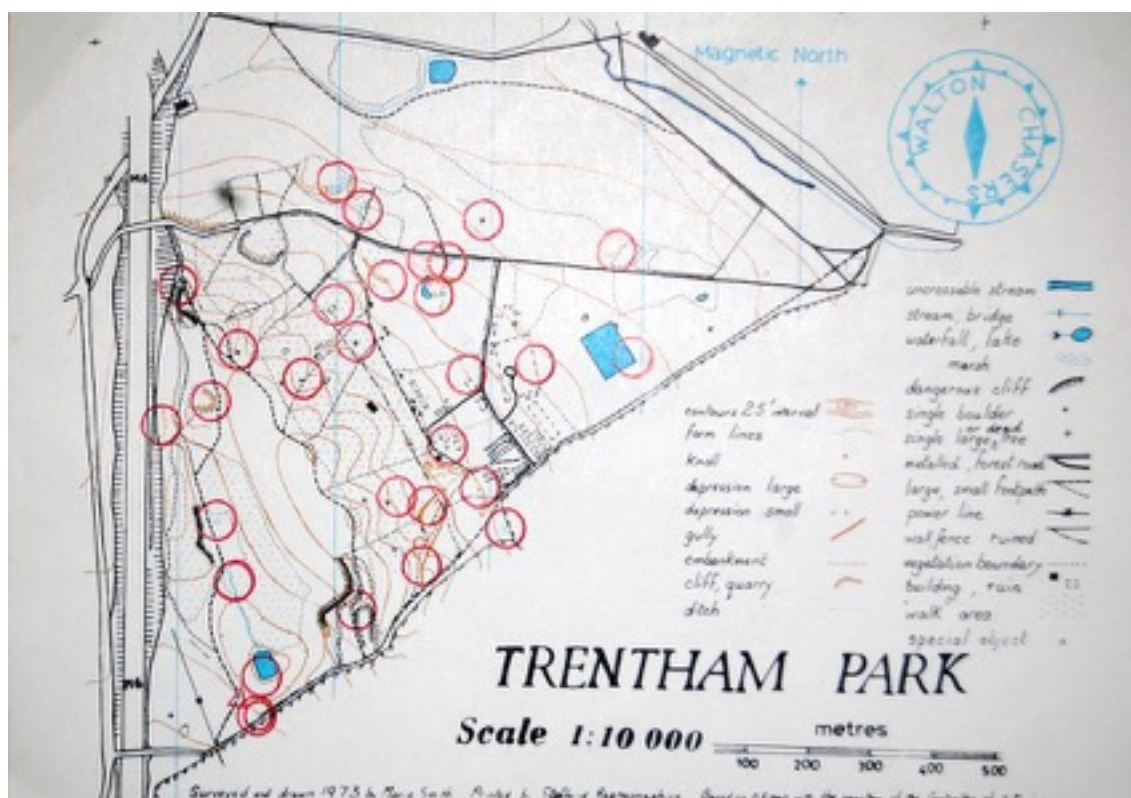
In the Potteries, to our surprise, almost forty people came and we began with over twenty membership units, some of which were families. Since then we have risen to over thirty, though I should add that less than half of these are full BOF members as yet. We have followed the inaugural meeting with a couple of evening meetings, a couple of committee meetings, an appearance on local radio, a club newsletter, our very own event (using the second of the two areas again), and continuing publicity. Our first priority is more mapping of small local areas. Some joint travel is being organised, and we're having club badges made. Some equipment has been purchased and more is being made. We sold some sweets and crisps at the event to make more money, and we have a few compasses for hire.

We have developed from within Walton Chasers, and we had a grant of £170 from the Stoke *Quality of Life* Project. These two factors have been vital in our success so far. Walton Chasers have donated several hundred copies of two good maps, they have given us advice, helped us with local events, and always wished us well. We shall be depending on them for some while to come, for although the new club has been founded it will be some time before we can say that we have established a club with a real future.



*Early POTOC
members at JK76*

L to R: Dave Gosling, Roger Smith, Di Gosling, Tony Smith and Mike Smith



Marie Smith's map of Trentham Park used for the first POTOC event.

Junior Inter-Regional Championships

The Junior Inter-Regional Championships were held in the West Midlands on the weekend of 26-27 September. Walton Chasers ran the Individual day on Brereton Spurs (site of last year's British Middle Distance Championships) and Octavian Droobers ran the Relays on Oldacre.

The best regional result in the Individual was by Harrison McCartney who achieved third place in the very competitive M18 class. The best positions in each class were: Felix Lunn 7th on M14; Alfie Bullus 21st on M16; Holly Craig 21st on W14; Ellie Bales 20th on W16 and Gemma Cairns Smith 18th on W18.

In the Relays the Boys team finished 8th and the Girls team finished 13th.

Overall Team Scores					
1	SOA	499	7	EAOA	248
2	NWOA	407	8	SEOA	208
3	YHOA	354	9	WOA	197
4	SWOA	333	10	SCOA	171
5	EMOA	300	11	NIOA	131
6	WMOA	278	12	NEOA	124

West Midlands Championships

The Championships were held by POTOc on 4 October 2015 at Whitfield Valley in Stoke-on-Trent and ran alongside a WM League event and the club's 40th Anniversary celebrations.

Whitfield Valley is a long narrow area consisting of two separate pieces, the Whitfield Valley Nature Reserve at the Southern end and the Chatterley Whitfield Heritage Park at the North. The latter consists of a large, landscaped spoil heap from the old Chatterley Whitfield mine and sections of landscaped industrial areas which made for a physical challenge for the longer courses.

Also seen at the event were new 40th anniversary 'O' tops from both POTOc and WRE.

Congratulations to all the West Midlands champions.

Winners

M10	Arthur Mitchell	HOC	W10	Holly Barnett	POTOc
M12	Alexander Evans	POTOc	W12	Florence Lunn	OD
M14	Felix Lunn	OD	W14	Holly Craig	WCH
M16	Alfie Bullus	OD	W16	Ellie Bales	POTOc
M18	Not Awarded		W18	Not Awarded	
M20	Not Awarded		W20	Harriet Lawson	OD
M21	Graham Pigott	POTOc	W21	Julia Ferguson	WCH
M35	Alistair Powell	OD	W35	Not Awarded	
M40	Mark Stodgell	WCH	W40	Julia Allinson	WRE
M45	Chris McCartney	OD	W45	Ianka Petrova Evans	POTOc
M50	David Lawson	OD	W50	Liz Phillips	OD
M55	Adrian Pickles	WRE	W55	Carol Dredge	WCH
M60	Ray Collins	WCH	W60	Hazel Waters	WCH
M65	Bob Brandon	OD	W65	Sheila Carey	OD
M70	Peter Carey	OD	W70	Barbara Farr	POTOc
M75	Patrick Pay	WRE	W75	Alison Sloman	HOC

European Youth Orienteering Championships Harrison McCartney (OD)



Harrison at the EYOC Relays

This year's European Youth Orienteering Championships was held in the continental terrain and Urban climes of Cluj-Napoca, the capital of Transylvania in Romania.

Blind optimism that the weather would be significantly better in Romania was frustrated when we were greeted by rain - for three days solid. In this time, we had a short trip out to the Long Model Event the day before the Long - what was clear is that some shoes with good grip would be needed to clamber up some very steep clay banks, reminiscent of terrain in the Forest of Dean.

The next day started early, as I had a 9.17 start (7.17 BST) on the 8.3km course with 300m of climb. I started solidly, navigating well through some technical sections which were definitely not present in the Model Event, and only dropping 30 seconds due to mistakes for the first part of the course. My largest error came on the long leg - after drifting out of the control, hitting what was basically an impassable gorge of mud, I had to go round before losing my line again towards an open section, having to readjust and gain height. 3 minutes gone. Towards the end, my brain started to flag and I made some more small mistakes descending into a large valley. In total, I lost around 5 minutes and finished

in 30th position, which was a considerable improvement from last year (32nd) when I take into account the fact that I am now a 'bottom' year.

The Relay was completely different, as the majority was open land with dense patches of green, with a small area of forest similar to the previous day. I knew that I had lost some fitness after a period of illness prior to EYOC, but on my leg (3rd) I certainly felt it - the sun was beating down as my legs were trudging up the hills. I made a large mistake to #3, so despite gaining 2 places over the first two legs, I lost four just to that control! After navigating cautiously through some very rough green towards the end, I regained two places to retain 10th place.

Unusually, the Sprint discipline came last, and was probably the most disappointing for me. Again, I had an early start (9.01), so I was making the first footfall out on the course. Nothing was really going wrong; I was running and navigating well until 200m from the end, where I made a very basic mistake to the run in control - a complete concentration lapse which cost me 20 seconds and 16 places. Although the gravity of the error wasn't apparent to me initially, as other competitors started to come in it became clear that I had blown a potential top ten finish, so I was rather annoyed with myself (to say the least). However, the result as it stood was not one that I expected in the Sprint discipline, which I would not say is my strongest distance. It was certainly a valuable lesson learned the hard way!

All in all, it was a great experience for racing against some of Europe's best and I would like to thank the coaches present as well as the West Midlands Orienteering Association for their kind grant towards the overall cost of the trip - EYOC has increased my desire to go for JWOC selection next year.

Junior World Orienteering Championships Mateusz Podsiadly (OD)

The 2015 JWOC was held from 4 - 10 July in Rauland, Norway. The competition gathered more than 300 athletes and more than 80 officials to support their teams and especially young athletes in one goal: to become a World Junior Champion.

It was a 2nd JWOC for me (the first one was in 2013 in the Czech Republic). After a series of qualifiers, I was selected to represent the Polish team in JWOC, as well as three more OD team members: Matthew Elkington, Julie Emmerson (Great Britain) and Kin Kwan Kwok (representing Hong-Kong).

For the first day of the competition, we had to travel to Åmot to run our Sprint course. A lot of contours, very precise orienteering and a few route choices on almost each control is what made this competition an unforgettable experience and showed that it is not so easy to become a World Champion without a lot of training and hours spent in the forest or on fast sprint sessions.

The rest of the courses during the following days i.e. Middle, Long and Relay distances were held in pretty similar terrain: hillsides with smooth contours, good runnability with only few paths through the whole forest and also with a lot of marshes everywhere, which gave good visibility of the surrounding areas.

It was the 2nd time in Norway for me and, to be honest, the first time running in such terrain, which is why I was not very comfortable, especially at the beginning of the competition.

In between, we were participating in a 'Get together' meeting. Simply speaking it was an official dinner with medal ceremony for Sprint and Middle distance courses and of course a great opportunity to make new friends from more than 40 different countries participating in JWOC.



In the evening of the last day of our competition, there was a well-known 'JWOC party'- another opportunity to celebrate all the achievements, defeats and once again socialise with other 'O'-teenagers whilst dancing in a dance hall.

The departure day was not, of course, a happy day for all of us, unfortunately we all know, that everything which is great, ends someday.

I am definitely happy, that I could represent my country and take a part in such international orienteering event, which is JWOC. This competition shall bring me good memories in the future.

What is more, I am very grateful for the financial support from the OD committee and also the West Midlands committee. Thank you that one of my biggest 'O' dreams came true this July!!!

HOC's Tessa Hill marries Murray Strain**Kirsten Strain (OD)**

12 September saw the wedding of Tessa Hill and Murray Strain. Tessa lived in the West Midlands during her school and university years. She is still a member of HOC despite moving to Edinburgh to continue her orienteering career and relationship with fellow GB orienteering international Murray four years ago.

Their wedding ceremony was held at a picturesque spot on the Pentland Hills just outside of Edinburgh. Instead of an address, the wedding invitations simply gave a grid reference! The guests included family and friends, orienteers and hill runners and everyone walked or ran to the ceremony. Tessa walked in her wedding dress (and warm jacket) from Castlelaw to the ceremony spot between Capelaw and Allermuir hills. Although the clouds had been hanging onto the hills giving feelings of atmosphere, the sun came out just in time to shine on the couple exchanging their vows. The day

continued in a village hall on the outskirts of Edinburgh with soup and cakes followed later with a ceilidh and hog roast.



WMOA AGM Minutes Great Barr Hotel 13 October 2014

1. **Present:** R. Brandon (Chair), R. Collins (Vice Chair), D. Kingsbury (Secretary), B. McGowan (Treasurer), A. Williams (Fixtures), E. Brown (HOC), R. Dredge (WCH), S. Dredge (WCH), M. Elkington (OD), B. Elkington (OD), G. Hardy (WRE), B. Morgan (POTOC), H. Morgan (POTOC), R. Postlethwaite (WRE), J. Woodall (BOF).
2. **Apologies:** J. Bennison (WRE), R. Vickers (HOC).
3. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
4. **Minutes:** Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by B. Morgan and carried by the meeting.
5. **Matters Arising:**

Re the second point of AOB, it was noted that in light of J. Bennison's illness this point would need to be looked at by somebody else.

6. **Correspondence:** Since the last ordinary WMOA meeting information had been received about the Club/ Association Conference. R. Brandon, R. Dredge, B. Elkington and J. Woodall reported that they would be attending in various capacities.

7. **Chairman's Report:**

Thank you all for coming along tonight. The Committee have met 4 times in the past 12 months, providing a valuable opportunity for discussion between the clubs within the region. Thanks are due to all who have come along and taken part, in particular to Delia Kingsbury, our Secretary. Delia sets up the meetings and acts as scribe producing an accurate and precise account of what has been discussed.

Barry McGowan: our Treasurer. Barry continues to keep the books in order, balancing the incoming event levies to our outgoing, principally to support our juniors and the Junior Squad.

Ray Collins: our Vice-Chairman. Ray makes sure the meetings start on time.

Allan Williams has been looking after the fixtures for some time. He has a hard working group of Club Fixtures Secretaries feeding into a Regional plan. Allan in turn feeds this cunning plan into the National list. It is good to observe how, when any event has to be rearranged for whatever reason, Allan's group are always so helpful in accommodating a solution. Allan's report will highlight the events taken place and those in the future. I will not repeat the list here, but will say that the programme of events could not take place without a lot of work by a lot of people - thank you people.

Mel Elkington has been looking after the WMOA Junior Squad for several years, ensuring that each year the juniors have had experience of terrain far beyond the West Midlands regional boundary. A special thanks to Mel, who is to step down from the role. It is pleasing that former Squad member Sarah Dredge has offered to take over from Mel.

I am sure that each Club in the region will be able to provide Sarah with the support that she and the Squad requires.

Rod Postlethwaite has resurrected the regional Newsletter in an electronic form. His four editions in the year have provided an opportunity to document and circulate information in

a colourful way. This week I enjoyed reading of Ellie Bales' experiences at the Lagganlia training camp; took an interest in the continued successes of our Radio 'O' competitors abroad and I now want to go orienteering in Iceland!

Henry Morgan has not only been looking after our Controller's list, but has recently put on a very successful and well attended Planner's Course.

Others not attending the meetings include Lesley Ross who looks after the League tables and our web-site. There is her mum, Hilary Simpson, who has been dispensing Colour Coded Badges for as long as I can remember.

Also forever, John Bennison has been our Data Protection guru and has master-minded our email technology. Unfortunately John has been forced to retire from these activities due to ill health. Thanks John, I hope that you feel a little better soon and look forward to seeing you at events again.

Coaching Officer: we still have the post vacant - any offers welcome.

I'm sure that I have missed someone out.

Recently our BOC2014 Sprint and Middle Distance officials, together with our BOC2016 Classic Distance and Relay officials, were encouraged to attend the BOF Major Events Conference. From what I hear those that did attend, found the day most useful.

At the end of the month, I will be attending the BOF Association and Clubs Conference at Stratford upon Avon - the topic will centre around Level D events. Clubs are encouraged to send up to 2 representatives each. If anyone would like to come along as my other half, please let me know.

I look forward to another productive 12 months.

8. Treasurer's Report:

The accounts for the year ending August 2014 were presented. It was explained that there a loss of £1500 had been budgeted for and an increase in the WMOA levy had been introduced the previous year.

The discovery that the Major Events Agreements between WCH & POTO and BOF for the British Sprint and Middle Championships stated that regional levy was not expected on these events had caused considerable budget difficulty.

For 2015 a higher income was expected as this would be a SinS year and the budget included a modest profit. The contribution requested by the EOC had also reduced.

There was considerable discussion around the BOF Major Events Agreement in relation to Regional levy, which appeared to be in conflict with the requirement for levy to be applied to all WMOA events. WCH had previously stated that they were willing to make a contribution, POTO stated that once their accounts for the Sprint Event were finalised they would review the situation and consider making a donation to WMOA if their event had made a significant surplus.

R. Dredge clarified that the Major Events Agreement was a risk share arrangement, with BOF underwriting loss (if a loss was incurred BOF would cover 2/3) or taking a share of any gain. The WMOA difficulty had arisen as the agreement would normally be made between BOF and a Region, but in this instance it was between BOF and each of the

organising clubs. It was confirmed that the agreement is being reviewed by S. Pygott to make it clear that regional levies will be a matter for resolution between a given Region and the organising clubs.

B. McGowan confirmed to E. Brown that if SinS ran at a loss, payment of the WMOA levy would still be expected. He also stated his intention to cap the levy for this event at £500 per day, although he reserved the right to amend this. When asked whether this would also apply to the Midland Championships being organised by WCH he stated that he would keep this under review.

9. **Fixtures:**

We have continued to plan a range of events across the West Midlands in 2013/14. We lost 1 League event due to access problems but Walton Chasers will be using Chillington for the first time next month. We are $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through our first Urban League and the events have been reasonably well attended. The League scores are available via the Nopesport website although we need to review the class allocations for next year. I continue to attend the National Scheduling Meetings (although Bob Brandon is taking my place for the next one). There will be a Regional meeting shortly afterwards.

Our next national commitment is BOC in 2016 and HOC and OD are well underway with this event, to be held at Brown Clee. Then, in 2018, we will host the JK. We need clubs to suggest areas for this event. Walton Chasers have made an offer to hold the Relays on the Chase.

There was some discussion around the feasibility of staging the 2018 JK given the lack of suitable terrain. OD didn't have areas, Brown Clee would have been used in 2016 for BOC and WCH has difficulties in gaining access to The Chase. It was suggested that we consider approaching the WOA with a view to exploring the possibility of staging the event in Wales. 2018 would fit between CROESO years.

10. **West Midlands Junior Squad**

The squad website is kept up to date regularly: www.wmjsquad.co.uk if anyone wants to see what we are doing.

Last November both Mel and Iain Embrey attended the Junior Regional Orienteering Squad coordinators meeting at Hathersage. The Summer camps will continue for the foreseeable future, they have their own website: www.jros.org.uk This has information on regarding the JROS Summer Camps.

On the weekend of 22 - 24 November 2013 Mel and Iain took a group of 16s to the annual Junior Regional Orienteering Squads training based at Hawkshead. The children were able to do some technical training. This is open to all 16s. Although there were limited places everyone that wanted to go did.

Tinsel 'O' took place on Sutton Park on the 22 December 2013 just before Christmas. This was great fun. Iain kindly planned and did the coaching.

We travelled to the Gower in February half term for some technical training on three different sand dune areas. The children learnt a lot and many put their training into practice last weekend at the JIRCS Relays.

On 18 July a group of us travelled to the 50th O-Ringen which was a fantastic event to go to. Our thanks go to the 'O' Foundation for their contribution towards our costs.

This year we have had members of the Junior Squad represent Great Britain, England and we had participants on all the Summer camps.

The Junior Inter-Regionals took place at the end of September and we finished 8th. Given our somewhat diminished team this was quite good. The children all tried really hard and all managed to find their way back from the depths of Graythwaite. Harrison was our best result coming first in the individual.

M. Elkington has handed over much of the responsibility for running the Junior Squad to S. Dredge who stated that she was keen to engage with the clubs more and seek assistance in staging training events, perhaps linking them to an existing event. She was hoping to establish a programme starting from. Positive feedback to support this initiative was given by the clubs.

B. Elkington commented that training days prior to National events were no longer available. If such an event was used by all the Junior Squads they could be self financing.

R. Dredge commented that the link between Junior and Senior squads was no longer clear after the loss of Sport England and Sport UK funding. This is being reviewed.

11. Election of Officers

Position	Nomination
Chair	Robert Brandon
Vice Chair	Ray Collins
Secretary	Delia Kingsbury
Treasurer	Barry McGowan
Newsletter Editor	Rod Postlethwaite
Fixtures	Allan Williams

The above were proposed 'en bloc' by B. Morgan, seconded by E. Brown and duly elected.

12. Any Other Business

H. Morgan proposed Kerstin Mitchell as a new Controller. She had planning and organising experience at Level C and D events and had completed the Controller's Course. She was accepted as a WMOA Controller.

R. Collins re-iterated the need to submit Level D results for inclusion on the BOF website.

H. Morgan, in his role of Vice Chair of British Schools Orienteering thanked HOC and WMOA for staging the British Schools Championships.

Following J. Bennison standing down from the committee WMOA would need to consider how to continue Data Protections and email related business. It was acknowledged that this would be a hard act to follow. For the email tree it may be that club email listings would work effectively. It was believed that J. Bennison owned the WMOA domain.

A. Williams volunteered to look into this.

13. Next WMOA Meeting: 8 December 2014

These minutes should have appeared in the Winter edition of this newsletter earlier in the year but somehow 'slipped through the net' when I returned from an extended holiday in December last year. This was noted at this year's AGM so please accept my apologies for their omission. Hopefully this year's AGM minutes will appear in the next edition. Ed

World Masters Games 2017 Auckland New Zealand

The countdown is on for the 2017 World Masters Games in Auckland, New Zealand where Orienteering will be one of 28 sports taking place across 45 competition venues.

With a total number of 25,000 athletes expected to compete in 2017, World Masters Games is the world's largest multi-sport competition for masters-aged athletes.

The World Masters Games 2017 Orienteering competition serves as the 2017 International Orienteering Federation (IOF) World Masters Orienteering Championships.

Delivered in conjunction with Orienteering New Zealand, there are two disciplines on the competition schedule. The Long Distance events will be located at Woodhill Forest. The Sprint Model and Sprint Final events will take place at The University of Auckland Epsom Campus and City Campus respectively. Whilst Auckland's beautiful Waterfront has been selected to host the Qualification event. The minimum age category for both men and women is 35+.

Reflecting on the sheer size and scale of the international event, World Masters Games 2017 Organising Committee Chief Executive Jennah Wootten says:

"Our goal is to deliver on every level a superior Games, for the thousands of competitors who will travel internationally to compete, and for the good of our reputation as a host nation.

"We hope people will get behind the Games effort, and start registering their interest – either as participants, officials or perhaps volunteers. We'll be welcoming athletes from 100 countries to our country for the World Masters Games. We know New Zealanders will welcome these visitors in true kiwi style, and no doubt put up some stiff competition to keep the Games interesting."

Learn more about World Masters Games 2017 at www.worldmastersgames2017.co.nz.

Or [sign up](#) to the World Masters Games 2017 newsletter to receive updates about the event.



Orienteering Social Posts

- The @WMG2017 Orienteering competition serves as the 2017 @IOFOrienteering World Masters Championships <http://bit.ly/WMG2017orienteering>
- Sign up to the @WMG2017 newsletter to receive updates about #WMG2017 & its Orienteering competition <http://bit.ly/WMG2017newsletter>
- The @WMG2017 Orienteering competition is delivered in conjunction with @OrienteeringNZ <http://bit.ly/WMG2017orienteering>
- Compete with Orienteering athletes around the world in the largest multi-sport event at @WMG2017 <http://bit.ly/WMG2017>
- Orienteering is 1 of 28 sports on offer at World Masters Games 2017 @WMG2017 <http://bit.ly/WMG2017orienteering>
- New Zealand's Woodhill Forest @AucklandUni & Auckland Waterfront will host the @WMG2017 Orienteering competition <http://bit.ly/WMG2017orienteering>

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 was completed in October after a great event put on by HOC in the complex Redditch Town Centre. Congratulations to all the class winners.

Although the line-up for the 2016 hasn't been finalised there are already a number of Urban events booked for next year including Tamworth, Whitchurch, Leek and Malvern. It would be good if the competition could be expanded to include more than four events.

Mapping Urban areas is very time consuming, especially the cartography, but

there are a huge number of areas with potential.

Urban orienteering is good fun and presents an opportunity to orienteer in the region during the Summer without having to worry about thrashing through impenetrable undergrowth. A well-planned course can also provide plenty of navigational challenges.

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

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

2015 Winners

Junior Men (M12-)	Joel Taylor	OD	Junior Women (W12-)	Pippa Smart	OD
Junior Men (M16-)	Oliver Lunn	OD	Junior Women (W16-)	Anna Barber	LEI
	Felix Lunn	OD		Holly Hughes	WCH
Open Men	David Chandler	OD	Open Women	Liz Heaton	LEI
Veteran Men (M40+)	Chris McCartney	OD	Veteran Women (W40+)	Diane Jacks	WRE
Super Veteran Men (M55+)	Adrian Pickles	WRE	Super Veteran Women (W55+)	Jean Payne	DEE
Ultra Veteran Men (M65+)	Martin Gibbons	WRE	Ultra Veteran Women (W65+)	Judith Holt	LEI
				Jill Leventon	WRE
				Alison Sloman	HOC

The West Midlands League 2015

1. OD 7387				2. WRE 6597				3. HOC 6397			
A	Peter Markham	M12	500	A	Jamie Grimsdale	M18	366	A	Arthur Mitchell	M10	491
A	Felix Lunn	M14	500	A	Molly Parker	W14	176	A	Alexander Mitchell	M14	483
B	Alistair Powell	M35	498	B	Clive Richardson	M45	487	B	Ian Hopkins	M45	452
B	Chris McCartney	M45	471	B	Tony Callow	M45	475	B	Adrian Bailey	M45	365
C	David Leadley	M50	489	C	Adrian Pickles	M55	500	C	John Leeson	M55	464
C	Barry Elkington	M55	477	C	Richard Pay	M50	482	C	Andrew White	M55	402
D	Lesley Ross	W45	500	D	Sharron Richardson	W40	500	D	Marian White	W55	439
D	Liz Phillips	W50	500	D	Diane Jacks	W45	500	D	Carol Farrington	W55	240
E	Peter Carey	M70	500	E	Roy Lindsell	M70	484	E	Alison Sloman	W75	500
E	Roger Hailey	M75	500	E	Lawrence Jones	M60	465	E	Geoff Trewin	M60	477
F	Sam Leadley	M16	500	F	Derek Turner	M75	456	F	John Pearson	M65	449
F	Sheila Carey	W65	500	F	Brian Morris	M70	446	F	Russ Fauset	M65	411
F	Florence Lunn	W12	496	F	Andrew Clough	M55	439	F	Barry McGowan	M65	411
F	Robert Brandon	M65	479	F	Rod Postlethwaite	M60	416	F	Lesley Brown	W65	408
F	Pippa Smart	W12	477	F	Adrian Griffiths	M45	405	F	Paul Basher	M60	405
4. WCH 6100				5. PTOC 4183				6. COBOC 1645			
A	Holly Craig	W14	450	A	Alexander Evans	M12	258	B	Ian Gamlen	M45	453
A	Holly Stodgell	W12	348	A	Ellie Bales	W16	200	C	Dave Ellis	M55	63
B	Simon Webb	M40	437	B	Graham Pigott	M21	422	D	Yvonne Feasey	W50	238
B	Matthew Mardling	M45	254	B	Martin Pigott	M40	391	E	Ruth Lockley	W60	363
C	Andrew Yeates	M55	423	C	Gerry Riley	M55	204	E	David Arnot	M65	291
C	Mike Musters	M50	400	C	Peter Munn	M55	148	F	Mick Sadler	M65	138
D	Claire Bushnell	W50	459	D	Ianka Petrova-Evans	W45	290	F	Richard Burnett	M60	99
D	Carol Dredge	W55	442	D	Elizabeth Bales	W50	163				
E	Ray Collins	M60	500	E	Marian Denham	W65	456				
E	Hazel Waters	W60	500	E	Paul Graetz	M65	400				
F	Jonathan Howell	M60	453	F	Henry Morgan	M60	331				
F	Christine Collins	W55	405	F	Barbara Farr	W70	300				
F	Chris Boycott	M70	372	F	Rob Moody	M21	183				
F	Cath Williams	W40	335	F	Judy Douglas	W70	190				
F	Mary Adams	W55	322	F	Robert Holdway	M21	183				

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	Oldacre Valley	WCH
Mar 8	Highgate Common	HOC	Nov 1	High Vinnals	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	491	W10	Tilly Flippance	OD	201
M12	Peter Markham	OD	500	W12	Florence Lunn	OD	496
M14	Felix Lunn	OD	500	W14	Holly Craig	WCH	450
M16	Sam Leadley	OD	500	W16	Holly Hughes	WCH	260
M18	Stephen Elkington	OD	459	W18	Heather Rogers Gemma Cairns-Smith	OD WCH	80
M20	Kin Kwan Kok	OD	356	W20	Harriet Lawson	OD	100
M21	Graham Pigott	POTOC	422	W21	Kirsten Strain	OD	241
M35	Alistair Powell	OD	498	W35	Helen Corrin	WRE	401
M40	Simon Webb	WCH	437	W40	Sharron Richardson	WRE	500
M45	Clive Richardson	WRE	487	W45	Diane Jacks Lesley Ross	WRE OD	500
M50	David Leadley	OD	489	W50	Liz Phillips	OD	500
M55	Adrian Pickles	WRE	500	W55	Carol Dredge	WCH	442
M60	Ray Collins	WCH	500	W60	Hazel Waters	WCH	500
M65	Robert Brandon	OD	479	W65	Sheila Carey	OD	500
M70	Peter Carey	OD	500	W70	Sue Bicknall	OD	340
M75	Roger Hailey	OD	500	W75	Alison Sloman	HOC	500
M80	Norman Hall	WCH	200	W80			

Positions after 9 Events.

WMOA Fixtures

November 2015 to February 2016

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

2015**November**

1	WRE Level C	WRE Event & WMOA League 10 High Vinnals	Ludlow	SO473731
8	POTOC Level D	POTOC Leisure and Training Event Ladderedge Country Park	Leek	SJ972551
12	HOC Level D	HOC Night Street League King George V Fields	Worcester	SO863563
14	OD Level D	OD Local Event Abbey Fields	Kenilworth	SP287723
19	HOC Level D	HOC Winter Evening Event (WEE) Uffmoor Wood	Halesowen	SO948811
25	COBOC Level D	COBOC Night Sevens Clifton Road Outdoor Learning Centre	Sutton Coldfield	
26	HOC Level D	HOC Night Street League Frankley	Birmingham	SO991784

December

3	HOC Level D	HOC Winter Evening Event (WEE) Hartlebury Common	Stourport	SO825714
5	HOC Level D	HOC Event Arrow Park	Redditch	SP066672
6	OD Level C	OD Event & WMOA League 11 Brandon Wood	Coventry	SP386762
13	WCH Level C	WCH Event & WMOA League 12 Badgerslade	Stafford	
16	COBOC Level D	COBOC Santa 'O' Sutton Coldfield	Sutton Coldfield	SP161828
19	HOC Level D	HOC Club Championships Callow Hill	Bewdley	SO752741
20	WRE Level D	WRE Club Championships Llanymynech	Llanymynech	
26	WCH Level D	Boxing Day Score Event Rugeley	Rugeley	
28	OD Level D	OD Local Event Christmas Relay Rough Close	Coventry	SP264780

2016**January**

1	WRE Level C	Laurie Bradley Memorial Score Event Telford Town Park	Telford	SJ698078
9	POTOC Level D	POTOC Leisure and Training Event Bathpool Country Park	Kidsgrove	
10	COBOC Level D	COBOC Colour Coded Event Lickey Hills	Birmingham	
14	HOC Level D	HOC Winter Evening Event (WEE) Highgate Common	Wombourne	SO836895
16	OD Level D	OD Local Event Kingsbury Water Park	Tamworth	SP205958
22	OD Level C	OD Event Hartshill Hayes	Nuneaton	SP469735
25	COBOC Level D	COBOC Night Street Event Sutton Coldfield	Sutton Coldfield	
28	HOC Level D	HOC Winter Evening Event (WEE) Worcester Woods	Worcester	SO878542

February

4	HOC Level D	HOC Night Street League Redditch	Redditch	
6	OD Level D	OD Local Event Daventry Country Park	Daventry	SP575641
6	HOC Level D	HOC Western Night League (WNL) Frith Wood	Ledbury	SO715395
7	WCH Level C	WCH Colour-Coded Event Chillington		
11	HOC Level D	HOC Winter Evening Event (WEE) Habberley Valley	Kidderminster	SO802774
13	POTOC Level D	POTOC Leisure and Training Event Apedale Country Park	Newcastle Under Lyme	
14	HOC Level C	HOC Event Longdon	Bewdley	SO755781
21	WRE Level C	WRE Event Lizard Hill	Shifnal	SJ779094
24	COBOC Level D	COBOC Night Sevens Sutton Coldfield	Sutton Coldfield	
25	HOC Level D	HOC Night Street League Stourbridge	Stourbridge	SO905829