

The West Midlander

Newsletter of the West Midlands Orienteering Association

No. 3

July 2006

Editorial

It's 30°C today and England are playing Portugal as I write this – I do not envy their task (nor that of the Wimbledon players a few miles from where I am hiding in a shady - but still very hot - room). I hope that if you are running in this heat that you are well hydrated! Is this global warming once again?

There was an interesting editorial from Mrs H in the Harlequins OC newsletter Ad Hoc in June. For those who have not seen this item yet (I suspect it may appear in CompassSport in due course....), Lynden Hartmann begged the question how green our sport actually is. With all the travelling that we do to get to events, both in this country and abroad, her prediction for the future survival of orienteering included having a wealth of local events; a maximum of 2 district and 1 regional events per club per year and a monthly National and/or multi-day event somewhere in the country as a real focal point.

This might just become the reality if the region doesn't drum up some more event controllers! Only a handful of people took up Ray Collins Grade 3 controller course in mid-June. Also, John Bennison has been keeping track of events/controller numbers over the years and he predicts a shortfall in 2007. With a 25% increase in the number of events next year, more controllers are going to be needed. So can YOU help???

Copy via email or post (contact details on the inside front cover) would be appreciated.

A data privacy compliant version of the magazine will be available as a PDF file on

the WMOA web site. You will need Acrobat Reader to view this file. To receive a (greener?) E-version of this magazine instead of paper, please send me your full name, club and email address. Thanks.

Carole Sparke (HOC)

**Last date for copy in the next issue is:
24th Sept 2006
Publication should be on:
8th October at POTOC's C4 and WML
event at the Leek Training Area**

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West Midlands Orienteering Association Officials

Chairman and BOF Council Rep: Henry Morgan (POTOC)

Vice Chairman: Ray Collins (WCH)

Secretary: Chris Morris (OD)

Treasurer: Barry McGowan (HOC)

Fixtures Secretary: Ian Hopkins (HOC)

West Midlander and Handbook Editor: Carole Sparke (HOC)

Other contacts:

BOF Coaching rep: Ruth Lockley (HOC)

BOF Mapping rep: Colin Spears (HOC)

BOF Rules rep: Barry Elkington (OD)

Colour Badge Awards: Hilary Simpson (OD)

Controllers George Chambers (HOC)

Co-ordinator:

Data Privacy Officer: John Bennison

Junior Squad Elizabeth Furness (OD)

Co-ordinator:

Webmaster: David Williams (HOC)

Regional Development Officer: Kyla da Cunha
WM League: Marian and Andy White (HOC)

Night League Co-ordinator, Officials Courses Co-ordinator and Schools Liaison:
Positions vacant

NB: In accordance with WMOA's data privacy policy, contact details are not published with the downloadable version of this newsletter. Contact details are in the handbook supplied to members each year. A current up to date version is also available to members by email.

National and West Midlands O club web sites

British Orienteering Federation page:	West Midlands OA page:
http://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/	http://www.wmoa.org.uk/
http://www.coboc.org.uk/	http://www.octavian-droobers.org/
http://www.harlequins.org.uk/	http://www.sisyphus.demon.co.uk/POTOC/
http://www.walton-chasers.co.uk/	http://www.wrekinorienteers.co.uk/
http://students.bugs.bham.ac.uk/buoc/	http://www.uwoc.co.uk/

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT – Henry Morgan (POTOC)

In the last Chairman's Chat, I mentioned a number of important competitions, but failed to mention the West Midland's Relays at Baggeridge Country Park. I do apologise to HOC for this oversight. The date had been in my diary for quite a few months. I thoroughly enjoyed the day, although my club did not have a truly competitive experience. My wife had a mishap with a steep bank and some trees, resulting in George Chambers (HOC) breaking open the 1st Aid Kit - thank you George for your efforts. I suspect she was not the only one to have some problems, but perhaps the most unfortunate.

I have been more aware over the past couple of months, when I have been called upon to present medals, trophies etc. that only a few people tend to stay and watch. Out of these, only a small number can actually hear everything that is announced. This is not a criticism of the announcers as we normally do the ceremonies outside and they have to battle against the elements and other people talking. I am going to suggest at the next committee meeting that the Association buys a small PA system to run off either a car cigarette lighter and/or generator. One of my concerns is that orienteering is currently a non-intrusive sport and an over-loud PA system in the wrong hands could annoy some of the land owners and local residents whose good will we rely on. Have a word with your club representatives if you have any strong feelings on this matter.

Please don't forget to put the Annual General Meeting in your diaries (16th October). It would be great to have a few more people attend instead of just the present committee. Maybe the elected officers from each club could be persuaded to attend as part of their duties.

I hope you all have a good summer competing at whichever events you choose, single or multi day, home or abroad. And if you have a good tale to tell after your summer travels, do please consider sharing your experiences via the WMOA newsletter.

West Midlands Handbook – Carole Sparke (HOC)

Well, the Committee referred to this great resource half a dozen times during the course of the June WMOA Committee meeting and finally your Newsletter Editor cracked (since there have been no other volunteers so far....). Although it is unlikely to be quite as expansive as that which John Bennison managed to produce, the essential contact information for clubs and regions will be maintained – *provided that clubs help by furnishing the information!* Other information such as WMOA competition rules will be retained and as much of the information for other regions and useful resources will be checked and updated as possible.

YOU can also help by sending in details of any useful resources that you find/use and that are not already included OR which have changed their URL. ***It's YOUR Handbook so please do help make it especially useful ...***

As your editor is not currently an active orienteer (my fingers have to do my running these days), your emails are most welcome to help keep me in touch with your activities and make your Handbook and Newsletter interesting. Thanks to all those who do send in articles – whether as a regular contributor or as an occasional writer. Thanks also to those who give me feedback on what has or has not been enjoyed/is or is not wanted in the Newsletter.

Major Event Officials Course / Grade 1 Controllers Course 2006

This will be held at the Slimbridge Youth Hostel, Gloucester, starting on Friday evening 1st September and finishing mid-afternoon on Sunday 3rd September

The weekend has two main aims:

- to allow Grade 2 controllers to fulfill the course attendance requirement necessary to qualify as a Grade 1 controller;
- to allow the principal officials of future major events to meet with the equivalent officials and other experts from this year, giving those future officials the chance to benefit from their experience, to pick their brains and to hear at first hand of any lessons learnt and pitfalls to avoid.

The weekend will comprise practical work and talks for planners, organisers, and controllers separately, all geared towards the work involved in a major event, together with sessions of feedback from some of the officials from this year's major events. The emphasis will be on discussion rather than formal lecture; the feedback sessions will occupy a significant proportion of the programme. Major Event Controllers will be able to pick the planning and organising sessions which most interest them, as well as attending the feedback sessions. The Grade 1 Controllers Course will run in parallel with the Major Events Course, but will include the feedback sessions.

Who should attend:

- the main officials (planners, organisers, co-coordinators and controllers) for the British Championships, the JK, and other level 1 events scheduled for 2006 and 2007, for whom the feedback sessions are specifically intended; as well as the main officials of future National Events.
- Grade 2 controllers seeking appointment to Grade 1.

Feedback from previous courses has been very positive, and attendees have found the information extremely useful in helping them prepare for their own events.

Course and Accommodation Fees:

In view of the importance placed by the British Orienteering Federation on the processes described above, the cost of attendance at this Conference will be kept to a minimum (yet to be determined). Unfortunately the budget is fixed and does place some limits on the quality of the accommodation available and does not make any provision for travel expenses. (However there may be some scope for covering expenses above a certain ceiling).

For event officials, attendance and travel costs should be charged to your event as part of your expenses. Controllers attending the controllers course should approach their Associations for a grant towards those costs.

As a response to demands for suitable quality control, Event Operations Committee is committed to enabling full attendance from those providing future BOF Events so, even if you have attended this Conference in the past, please complete the attached form and return it to BOF Office marked for the attention of the Executive Officer (Operations) by 4th August 2006. Course members will receive further details in August.

If you have any queries please contact:

Mike Richardson see WMOA Handbook

Name BOF no.
 Address Club
 Assn.

 Tel. No.
 email address

Meals: do you have particular dietary requirements (eg vegetarian)? Please specify.

Please specify when you will require meals:

	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Breakfast	Not applicable		
Lunch	Not applicable		
Evening meal			Not applicable

Accommodation: please indicate which nights you will require accommodation
 (Please also include arrival and departure times)

.....
 Which part of the course do you wish to attend? (please tick as appropriate)

Major event (organising) _____
 Major event (planning) _____
 Major event (controlling: the "mix and match" option) _____
 Controller (Grade 1 qualification) _____

If you are applying because you will be officiating at a coming event, please say which event and what your role will be:

Please summarise your significant organising / planning / controlling experience of the last few years:

Are there any particular issues which you would like us to include in the weekend?

BOF has moved and changed its logo too...

The new address for BOF Office is:

8a Stancliffe House, Whitworth Road, Darley Dale, MATLOCK,
 DE4 2HJ
 Phone: 01629 734 042 (answerphone 5pm to 9am), Fax: 01629 733 769
 Email: bof@britishorienteering.org.uk



West Midland 2006 Relay Championships - results

Hosted by HOC at Baggeridge Country Park, the 2006 WM Relay Championships produced some interesting team names and a very close (8 second difference) race in the Super Vet Men race. Commiserations to the OD Lightning team who were just beaten into second place by the WRE Wrinklies. Congratulations to all the winners.

Class	Description	Winning team	Team members
A	Mini-relay	OD Sharks	Guy Ross, Alastair Gardner, Matthew Elkington
B	Junior Women	OD Gazelles	Sophie Kirk, Emma Kettley, Helen Elkington
C	Junior Men	OD Hurricanes	Matt Morris, Ben Ross, William Gardner
D	Intermediate Women	HOC Babes	Heather Hartmann, Rosemary Hartmann, Elizabeth White
E	Intermediate Men	HOC Knaves	Christopher Embrey, Robert Farrington, Daniel Hartmann
F	Open Women	OD Antelopes	Caroline Northall, Liz Phillips, Lesley Ross
G	Open Men	WCH Team 5	Iain Stamp, David Brown, Gareth Little
H	Senior Women	HOC Damsels	Judith Evans, Marian White, Lynden Hartmann
I	Senior Men	HOC Knights	Alex Morgan, John Embrey, David Williams
J	Veteran Women	OD Leopards	Carolyn Marr, Sue Bicknell, Gillian Cross
K	Veteran Men	HOC Kings	Andrew White, Mike Baggott, Geoff Trewin
L	Super Vet Women	Not awarded	
M	Super Vet Men	WRE Wrinklies	Brian Morris, Derek Turner, Mike Callow
N	Ad hoc	COBOC Team 2	Martin Lea, Peter Sunley, Alex Hudson

Orienteering Techniques by Gareth Bryan-Jones

At last, the long-awaited 3rd edition of this extremely popular booklet has been produced. This edition has been fully updated and is full of excellent colour diagrams and maps – a must for orienteers of all standards from beginner to elite.

Copies are available from the National Orienteering Centre, c/o Glenmore Lodge, Aviemore, Inverness-shire, PH22 1QU or Ultrasport or Compass Point.

The book costs £3.00 plus 50p post & packing. Cheques should be made payable to 'Scottish Orienteering Association'.

ISF World School Sport Meeting in Orienteering (Slovakia 2006) - Catherine Bushnell (WCH)

After my performances in the Selection races, 4th in the selection race and 2nd in the BSOC championships Leeds, I was left wondering if I had done enough to be picked for the British Schools team. I knew it would be very close and so when I received my letter congratulating me on selection I was delighted. I knew that the trip was going to be an amazing experience and I wanted to do the best I could. As the 22nd of April grew closer I got more and more excited.

We arrived at Sandhurst Royal Military Academy at midday on Saturday, after a two and a half hour journey (nothing compared to the Ulverston Victoria schools teams' 6 hours traveling on the coach). An afternoon of training on the ranges near Sandhurst gave us a chance to get to know the people who we would be spending the next 8 days with, including our team managers. In the evening we studied some Slovakian maps, which looked interesting, if not a little hilly, and had time to relax a little before an early night, knowing we had to get up at 5am the next morning.

Our coach left for Heathrow bright and early at 6.30am on Sunday morning, but everyone seemed too excited to complain. We checked in, and despite having been told not to bring our whole wardrobes, my suitcase was some way over the British Airways weight limit. The 3 hour flight went quickly and we soon arrived in sunny Vienna. The first thing we noticed as we stepped outside was the heat, and we noticed it even more when we discovered our coach had no air-conditioning. Fortunately the journey to our accommodation was not a long one, and we soon arrived at our home for the week, which was a modern university block just outside Pezinok.

We settled in quickly and got chatting to some of the other competitors from teams all over the world. In fact there would be 80 teams from 19 countries taking part. The noise levels showed the excitement of all the athletes as everyone arrived in their coach loads. Our first taste of Slovakian cuisine came when we sat down for the evening meal. Plenty of bread rolls, cabbage, meat, and strange tasting fizzy water would best sum up what was on the menu, and this didn't really change for the rest of the week or so it seemed. At least there was plenty of it so we weren't going to starve.

By now it was Monday 24th and this meant it was time to experience Slovakian forest for the first time in the model event. We were bussed 20 minutes to a beautiful valley with a mix of vineyards and runnable forest. We soon discovered the contours on the ground were not as steep as they had appeared on the map, and that Slovaks liked to map every dent in the ground as a depression and every slight rise in the ground as a hill. The forest was extremely runnable and had good visibility, perfect for my style of orienteering. I couldn't wait for the races to start the next day now that I had been shown a taste of the terrain.

On Monday afternoon we had the opening ceremony in Pezinok, which was spectacular. It was almost like a mini-Olympics opening ceremony, with all the teams in their kit parading with their flags. The reception we received from locals in Pezinok was fantastic, everyone was friendly and even schoolchildren were taken out of lessons to come and watch us (we must have been pretty entertaining with our never ending marathon Mexican Waves!). We listened to the speeches, which inspired me to do well, and watched performances from Slovakian dancers and singers. The ISF World Schools Orienteering meeting was declared officially open.

I woke early on Tuesday morning trying not to disturb my team mates, as I had chosen an early start time. I had to catch an 8am bus to the event centre where the England team had been allocated a race preparation area. Warming up and having my pre-race massage, made me feel focused and ready to have a good run, however the nerves were kicking in on the 2.8km walk through vineyards to the start. It was a hot day and I was relieved to see a drinks station as I arrived in the warm up area, but I soon discovered that it was the lovely fizzy water that by now was becoming unbearable. With half an hour before my start time, I decided to jog round the warm-up controls and get used to the terrain before finding my team manager. Her job was to ensure I did not get lost in the mass of foreigners who all seemed to be confused by the bizarre start procedure. As I was called up to the start box, I tried to control my nerves, knowing that I was ready to give this race my best shot. The count down "3...2...1...GO" sent adrenaline rushing, as I was off into the forest to find the 9 controls on a 3.7km course. I floated through the forest, feeling loose from my massage and without having to worry about my speed; I could concentrate on attacking each control with as much accuracy as possible.

Towards the end of the course it was encouraging to hear the loudspeakers of the finish, from up above in the vineyards as I sprinted through them, trying to pick the best route choice without having to crawl through a spiky hedge, it was frustrating knowing the finish was only a short downhill sprint away, yet getting there seemed to take so long.

With a 6 minute mistake at number 3, and a few other minor errors, I came in not knowing how well I had done. I waited for the rest of my team to finish, cheering them in as they came, before looking at the results. I couldn't believe I'd made it into the top ten, let alone got a place in the top 6 prize positions. I looked forward to the prize giving, where we celebrated the whole team's success, no-one had had a disastrous run, everyone seemed happy and enjoyed the ceremony which took place in Pezinok town square.

Wednesday was rest day, well, in theory anyway. We still had to wake up at 7am and catch 8am busses to Bratislava for our culture tour. The city was very interesting, and although the walking around "sightseeing" in midday heat was not quite as appealing for us kids as it seemed to be for the coaches, lunch in McDonalds seemed to cheer everyone up a bit. We were given 2 hours free time to explore the beautiful city, go shopping and relax by the water fountains before being taken back to Pezinok for the Cultural Evening. The Cultural Evening was something I will never forget. We had the chance to display to everyone what England was all about, and we did so in style, with mashed potato and black pudding! Yes, the 80 potatoes we had flown in were all washed, peeled and mashed ready to be presented to people on paper plates, alongside the black pudding, which was surprisingly popular among many of the foreigners, (could have been due to the fact some of my cunning team mates were calling it "chocolate cake"!). There were plenty of sweets available for people to sample including traditional English favourites such as Everton Mints, Liquorice Allsorts, Humbugs and Kendal Mint Cake, which the Ulverston lot brought tons of! The evening would not have been complete without dancing. And somehow I managed to be dragged into the Ulverston schools special performance, without a single rehearsal I had to copy the other people and hope no-one would notice. Our Square dancing proved a little too popular as when we invited some members of the audience to join in, the stage suddenly filled with people from all different nations wanting to be part of it. We had a lot of fun!

Next morning was Thursday and this meant it was time to get back to the serious stuff. It was the Middle race, and yet again I had an early start so left to catch the bus at 8am. This time I didn't have time for a pre-race massage, but still managed to warm up and get focused for the race ahead of me. The course was only 2.3km and 65m climb, so I knew it would be

fast. However I was ready to run a little too fast, rushing off at the start making a 5 minute mistake at number 1. I didn't make up enough time during the rest of the course, and by trying to do this only continued to make more silly mistakes. Towards the end of my course, I felt the same chest pains that I have become used to more recently during races when I put myself under pressure. This was a bad sign and I knew that my breathing would soon be affected. I struggled to run the last legs, and collapsed over the finish line. Someone found me an inhaler, and I recovered from my attack half an hour after I had finished. Communication with the first aid team at the event was a struggle as they spoke no English. But I was back on my feet again and although still disappointed with my run, I felt better in a few hours.

Looking at the results, I was frustrated, knowing I had a chance of coming in the top 6 again, and finishing 10th on what should have been a good runner's course, was disappointing. My team mate Julia had had a great run finishing in 1st place by over 3 minutes and many others in the team had good runs so I soon forgot about my own disappointment and enjoyed the afternoon prize giving.

Friday was our last day in Slovakia, and although the thought of leaving was not a great one, we pushed it to the back of our minds with the excitement of the friendship relay. This was a great experience for me that I will never forget. I was put in a team with two lads, a Belgian and a Latvian, they both spoke good English which was a relief as I was team captain and we had to discuss our plan of action. We were given a map of Pezinok town, with 40 controls on it. It was a bit like a score event, but with a few confusing differences. The three team members had to split up and then find all of the controls between them, in any order, as well as 3 extra controls, A B and C, which all had to be punched by each team member at the same time. We quickly worked out a plan, that we would go straight to controls A and B as a team, then split up and collect the other controls on the course, before waiting for each other to arrive at control C and run into the finish holding hands. I offered to collect the furthest controls away from the start, towards the North end of the town, and gave the Belgian lad 5 controls in the middle park area, leaving the remainder of the controls at the south end for the Latvian who seemed to be the best map reader. The atmosphere at the start was great, everyone was keen to get out there, and the number of spectators surrounding the town square was incredible. However, the start itself proved to be more of a dilemma than expected. Many of the older English boys who seemed to be taking the relay quite seriously, were at the front of the start line, ready to sprint off to control A. I was just behind them with my team. When the gun went off... crash! Everyone had fallen to the floor, and the 400 competitors behind us were trampling on top of us. I lost my shoe in all the confusion and had to find it quickly sprinting off with it in my hand. The rest of the relay was a success, and I found it very enjoyable, the cheering we received from the hundreds of spectators was great, and we didn't finish too far down the results. Afterwards we had fun in swapping our tops with different countries - I got an interesting orange Israeli o-top which I was very pleased with.

Friday evening meant it was time for the closing ceremony followed by the disco (the highlight of the week for many of us!). Everyone had fun and we didn't want to leave by the end of the night. We said farewell to all our new friends, exchanged email addresses and then boarded the coach back to our hotel. The state of my and Julia's room reminded us that we had a lot of packing to do, and it was already the early hours of the morning! We proved the coaches wrong however, and to everyone's surprise we were not the last down with our cases at 6am on Saturday morning.

The whole trip was a wonderful experience for me, one that I will never forget. I made some good friends, saw part of a beautiful country that I would have never otherwise visited, ran in some great forests and experienced a competition like no other I have ever experienced! I would like to thank everyone who has encouraged and supported me and I hope to see many other juniors getting the chance to have such fantastic experiences through orienteering in the future.

BOF Level 3 and 4 Coaching Courses

There will be Level 3 and Level 4 Coach courses at the Shackleton Lodge, (Brathay, Ambleside, Cumbria) over the weekend of 13 - 15 October 2006. Following the format of the previous years' courses, we have co-ordinated another two such courses to enable travel to be combined and an opportunity for coaches and aspirant coaches from different regions to train together. The limited social time will also be enhanced by this combination.

The weekend will comprise practical and theory sessions. Assembly will be after dinner on the Friday evening, although snacks will be available. The course will run from 09.00 - 21.00 on Saturday and from 09.00 - 15.00 on Sunday. There will be no assessment during the weekend although candidates will be given details of potential assessors. The course will not cover any of the First Aid requirements of the awards and a further two-day course covering those aspects will need to be attended prior to assessment.

The course is being heavily subsidised by BOF's coaching budget. The all-inclusive fee of full board after Friday's evening meal to lunch on Sunday and all tutoring/materials costs etc is £75. We will be self catering and everyone will be expected to assist with that. Travel expenses are not however available. Day visitors will be allowed subject to availability at a cost of £50. Clubs and Regional Associations usually pay the candidate's costs.

Numbers are limited and attendance will be strictly on a first come first served basis. The closing date for applications is 1st October and final details will be sent on 9th October. Please send application forms to: The Coaching Manager, British Orienteering Federation, 8a Stancliffe House, Darley Dale, Matlock, DE4 2HJ

Application for BOF Level 3 Coach and Level 4 Coach Courses 13th - 15th October 2006
Shackleton Lodge, Brathay, Ambleside, Cumbria

Tick the required course: Level 3 Coach Course Level 4 Coach Course

NAME BOF NUMBER:

EMAIL ADDRESS

I enclose a deposit of £10 payable to BOF

Vegetarians catered for; please tick if required

SIGNED DATE

Potteries Orienteering Club

Local Events (C5)



Sun. 20th August POTOC Local Event. **Biddulph Grange Country Park.**

OS Map 118. Grid Ref: SJ 892 593

From A527 Tunstall to Congleton road - 2 km North of Biddulph town centre, turn into Grange Road (LEFT from North, RIGHT from South) following Country Park signpost. Drive past the National Trust Gardens entrance and turn RIGHT into the Country Park Car Park after 350 metres. Registration 10.00 - 11.30. Adults £2.50. Juniors/students £1.

Sat. 16th September POTOC Local Event. **Chatterley Whitfield.**

OS Map 118. Grid Ref: SJ 888 509

Turn LEFT off A53 Newcastle-under-Lyme to Leek road at Holden Viaduct (B5049), and follow local signs for Smallthorne. After 0.8 km, turn RIGHT off first mini-roundabout and follow B5051 towards Norton (brown tourist signs to Ford Green Hall). Car park is on the LEFT after passing the Hall. DO NOT park in the Hall car park please. Registration 10.00 - 11.30. Adults £2.50. Juniors/students £1.

Sun. 8th October POTOC District Event. **Leek Training Area, near Upper Hulme, Leek.**

OS Map 119. Grid Ref: SK 047 622

Geoff Hollins (contact details in WMOA Handbook). Adults £6. Juniors/students £2.
Parking £1. No dogs, please.

NEW AREA

Sat. 11th November POTOC Local Event. **Apedale Country Park.**

OS Map 118. Grid Ref: SJ 823 484

At the Dimsdale roundabout at the junction of the A34 / B5369, 2.5km north of Newcastle-under-Lyme, turn west along Wolstanton Road following signs for Apedale Country Park. At the next roundabout, take the 3rd exit into Loomer Road and follow it into the Country Park. Park in the first car park on the left after a sharp right hand bend. Registration 10.00 - 11.30. Adults £2.50. Juniors/students £1.

For more information please check the POTOC web site <http://www.sisyphus.demon.co.uk/POTOC>

Junior Inter-Regional Championships – 23rd/24th June 2006

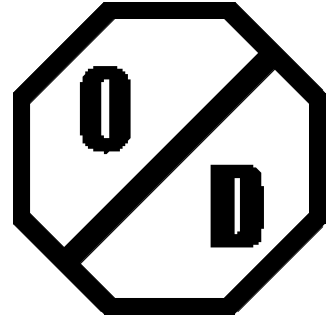
On a scorching hot afternoon and with the courses slightly too long, the West Midlands Juniors selected to represent the region had some good results in the individual event. Harriet Batten was 2nd in W14, Catherine Bushnell 5th in W16, Matthew Halliday 3rd in M16 and Mikey Hopkins 5th in M18. The relays were on the same area (Bordon Heath) although not much overlap with Day 1 and again it was very warm. The girls team of Catherine Bushnell, Harriet Batten and Jo Halliday came 4th. All in all a very successful weekend with a relatively inexperienced team who did us proud. Thanks to all the juniors for making our job easy - Liz Furness (and Paul Furness, minibus driving, and Mel Elkington, driving and First Aid).

OCTAVIAN DROOBERS

<http://www.Octavian-Droobers.org>

The Orienteering Club for Warwickshire and Coventry

Affiliated to the British Orienteering Federation



Wednesday evening events

August & September 2006

Details: The Octavian Droobers Wednesday evening events offer courses suitable for everyone from the absolute beginner to the experienced orienteer. This summer's events will also include a Sprint Race series in addition to the normal courses. Start times are from 6.30pm to 7.30pm. Just turn up on the night.
Cost: Seniors: £2.00; Juniors: £1.00.

For further information on any of the events just telephone the Organiser.

**Wednesday
2nd August** **Elmdon Park, Solihull. Map ref SP 162 827 on OS sheet 139.**
From the M42 Junction 6 take the A45 towards Birmingham. After 2 miles turn left (south) at traffic lights into Damson Parkway. At the roundabout come back on yourself and turn left into the lane leading to parking by church.
Organisers: Jane and Tony Feltbower (see WMOA Handbook).

**Wednesday
9th August** **Draycote Water, Rugby. Map ref SP 469 692 on OS sheet 151.**
Access from the A426 south of Dunchurch. Pay and Display car park.
Organiser: Greta Shields (see WMOA Handbook).

**Wednesday
16th
August** **Stratford Street Event and Barbeque.**
Map ref SP 203 545 on OS sheet 151.
For the street event, entrance to the Pay & Display car park is at the south end of Clopton Bridge. Opposite side of the River Avon to the Royal Shakespeare theatre. BARBEQUE after the street event at 181 Loxley Road, Stratford.
All welcome - bring something to cook, a salad, and something to drink.
Organisers: Trevor and Hilary Simpson (see WMOA Handbook).

**Wednesday
23rd
August** **Borough Hill, Daventry. Map ref SP 585 622 on OS sheet 152.**
Borough Hill is signposted from the A425 Ring Road on the east side of Daventry. From the south west take the A45 ring road round the south of Daventry then the A425. From the east and south leave the M1 at junction 16 and take the A45 to Daventry then the A425 Ring Road. From the north leave the M1 at junction 18 and take the A428 towards Rugby, first left, then first left again onto the A5. At Kilsby take the A361 to Daventry, then onto the eastern Ring Road. If in doubt head for the radio mast on top of Borough Hill, visible from miles around.
Organiser: John Ward.

ORIENTEERING FIXTURES

From mid-July to October 2006

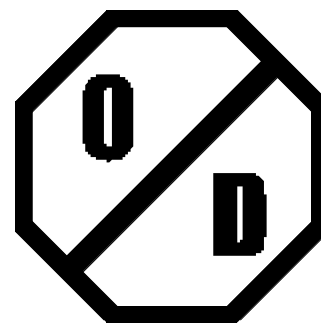
NB: The following pages are blank. As this fixture list becomes out of date very quickly, it is excluded from the downloadable version of the newsletter. A current fixture list is always available via the link on the WMOA website.

OCTAVIAN DROOBERS

<http://www.Octavian-Droobers.org>

The Orienteering Club for Warwickshire and Coventry

Affiliated to the British Orienteering Federation



District and Yvette Baker Trophy Event

at

Pooley Fields, near Polesworth

on

Sunday 1st October 2006

Travel: Polesworth is three miles east of Tamworth.

From the centre of Polesworth travel west on the B5000. Over the canal bridge then turn right (north) up Pooley Lane, signed to the Heritage Centre.

From the M42 junction 10, take the A5 exit towards Tamworth then almost immediately follow the slip road and two small roundabouts signed B5080 for Stoneypelph. After about one mile on the B5080 turn right at the roundabout, signed B5000 to Polesworth. Follow this road for one mile, over the motorway, then after 600 yards turn left up Pooley Lane, signed to the Heritage Centre.

Car Park: The entrance to the Heritage Centre is on OS Map 140 at grid reference SK 257 024. You will need £1 in coins for the car park barrier.

Times: Registration from 10.00 to 12.00. Start times from 10.30 to 12.30.

Entries: On the day only. Seniors: £5.00 (BOF members: £4.00); Juniors: £2.00

e-Punching The EMIT electronic punching system will be used. EMIT cards will be available for hire on the day if you don't have your own. (Seniors - £1.00; Juniors - free).

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

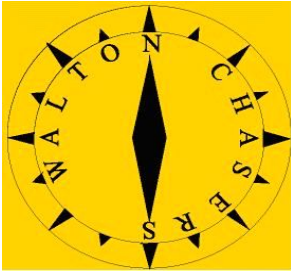
Terrain: The area is the site of the former North Warwickshire Colliery and consists of a large semi-wooded spoil hill with some contour features, and flatter areas of field and rough open. The whole area is fast and runnable with very few brambles.

Map: 1:7,500 five colour map. Cartography by Mike Hampton.

Organiser: Bob Brandon (see WMOA Handbook).

Planner: Elizabeth Furness.

Controller: Peter Leverington (NOR).



Walton Chasers Orienteering
Club invites you to come



On Cannock Chase's
Sycamores Hill and Oldacre
A District and West Midland League Event

On Sunday 17th September 2006

- Travel: Signposted from: A34 South of Stafford after Brocton crossroads.
North of Cannock on A34 junction with B5012 from Penkridge.
- Parking: Free, at Grid Ref: SJ 973 183 OS Map ???
Please share transport if at all possible.
- Courses: White, Yellow, Orange, Lt Green, Green, Blue, Brown
- Entry Fees: All entries on the day. Seniors: M/W21 and above: £5.00,
Juniors: M/W under 21: £2.00
- Timing: SportIdent (SI) electronic punching will be used.
SI Card Hire: Seniors: M / W 21 and above: £1; Juniors M / W under 21: £0.50
- Terrain: Mainly open heathland with small areas of mixed woodland.
Good runnability with areas of contour detail
- Maps: 1:10 000 All courses overprinted. Maps **not** bagged.
- Registration: 10.00 – 12.00 Start times: 10.30 – 12.30. Courses close at 2pm.
& facilities: Toilets available No dogs on courses.
- Organiser: Claire Bushnell (WCH)
- Planner: Sophie Thomas (WCH)
Controller: Garry Langston (WCH)
- Safety: This area is undermined and liable to subsidence. Areas marked out of
bounds must be strictly avoided. Care must be taken as new fissures could
suddenly occur away from these areas.
Competitors take part at their own risk. **Whistles must be carried.**

For details of Walton Chasers, events, and results - see the website at:

<http://www.walton-chasers.co.uk>

Minutes of the WMOA Committee - 12th June 2006

Present: Henry Morgan (Chairman - POTOC), George Chambers, Ian Hopkins, Ruth Lockley, Barry McGowan, Carole Sparke, Robert Vickers (HOC), Peter Christopher, Ray Collins (WCH), Delia Kingsbury (WRE), Barry Elkington, Chris Morris (OD), Brenda Morgan (POTOC), Peter Bylett and Kyla da Cunha (Regional Development Officers).

1 Apologies: None

2 Declaration of interests: None.

3 Introductions

4 Development presentations:

A. Peter Bylett

- The federation is now to be known as British Orienteering. The acronym BOF is still legitimate to use in written communication.
- The new Development Team fact sheet for West Midland's schools was circulated to the committee.
- Alex Ross has now retired and Peter Bylett finishes in September. It is currently not known whether these positions will be replaced.
- Funding is an issue; money from outside the sport is likely to reduce.
- We are currently two RDOs short – East Anglia and the South East – and these won't be filled.
- The National Orienteering School Sprint series has been established, details on the BOF website. Peter Bylett thanked Peter Christopher for his involvement.
- Development is focusing on:
 - Clubs working on Clubmark.
 - Schools Sport Partnerships linked to Clubmark clubs.
 - BSOA membership. 200+ new schools recently become members; 48% of schools are now orienteering.
- Project work is heavily targeted on schools development but now also focusing on clubs and their work with schools.
- Event publicity – all the new British Orienteering (BO) posters should be up on the website in the near future.
- COBOC is running an OCAD course. Interested clubs should talk to Chris Nicholls.
- Families are key to the sport; primary schools are particularly welcome.

B. Kyla da Cunha

- Kyla explained that she would talk about some thing that had already happened and others that will bring the sport together.
- There will be a single annual programme of development involving the County Sports Partnerships.
- Incentives include training kit which could be funded by BO.
- There was some discussion around the provision of sub-club development officers. Funding would be supplied by external bodies, but where do we get the people from to do the work?

- Premier Soccer coaches are now being trained in Orienteering so that they can coach in more than one sport. Is this another way forward?
- Kyla also presented a document relating to Windows of Opportunity; this compares the development of various aspects of the sport with chronological age.

HM thanked Peter and Kyla for their presentations; they then left the meeting.

5 Minutes of the previous meeting:

A small change to the wording of the last paragraph of point 10 was requested by PC.

Action CM

6 Matters arising

- The situation regarding the WMOA website and the webmaster is now resolved. Mike Farrington (HOC) will host the site and David Williams (HOC) will act as webmaster. We still need to resolve the provision of email addresses.
- We still need to sort out the issue of the handbook and database updates on an annual basis. CS is prepared to help John Bennison with some caveats (!). There are some items that are more suited to a national handbook. CS will talk to JB re her involvement.

Action CS

7 Correspondence

- Catherine Bushnell had requested sponsorship for a future event. This was agreed and £25 will be forwarded to her. **Action BM**
- We had been invited to an open day at the Aisha Mosque in Walsall. Unfortunately no one was able to attend. CM to write to them with thanks but declining the invitation. **Action CM**
- An email was received from John Wheatcroft of the EOC, regarding funding and the provision of an EOC rep from all regions. This is not currently part of the Chairman's "job spec" but will be raised for further discussion at the AGM.
- Jane Christopher had received a letter from an aggrieved orienteer. He was angry about what he perceived as a high entry fee so declined to pay for an entry and instead went for a run on the Chase using a map from an event last year. This raises many concerns and a comment will be made on this in the West Midlander for publicity. **Action CS**

8 West Midlands League Scoring system

- RV presented a paper from HOC that highlighted the anomalies of the current scoring system, especially when competitors are running up. There was some discussion around the issues and the possible approaches to scoring. It was not possible to resolve the issue either way at this meeting and clubs were asked to consider before more discussion at the next committee meeting. HOC to provide further information. **Action All Clubs**

9 Chairman's report

- HM reported that he had received a letter from BOF entitled "The Future of British Orienteering". In it the new Chief Executive reflected on the council meeting of 6th May and the need to "re-energise meetings and reflect what the membership wants". The internal communications review will provide useful information on the way to take British Orienteering forward.

- It was suggested that attendance at Council be left on the Chairman's job spec but if he can't attend he can delegate to another committee member.
- The issue regarding the BOF membership levy was passed, with effect from 01/01/07.
- At the same meeting Peter Bylett had presented CLOK with the Club of the Year trophy; HOC was second and OD third.
- Marlene Palmer (WCH) and Brenda Morgan (POTOC) were presented with a trophy for Outstanding Contribution to schools orienteering.
- BOF potentially had money available from the fact that Alex Ross and Peter Bylett are leaving (1.3 FTE). There is the possibility of putting in place expert volunteers to replace the knowledge of these individuals.
- The new British Orienteering logo will be used more regularly, especially in internal communications.
- There is a governance project proposed for BOF, and there is a need to get more people involved. If anyone is interested they should contact BOF directly or contact the WMOA Chairman.
- Brian Porteous (SOA) has been nominated to represent BOF on the IOF.
- A Welfare Officer for WMOA is required by Sport England. The vice-chairman was suggested.
- Mike Hamilton (the new Chief Executive) is interested in attending a WMOA meeting. CM to forward dates of meeting to him **Action CM**

10 Treasurer's report

- WM Junior Squad money has been split out of the accounts for clarity.
- The income from levy will be reduced this year, as there has not been a SINS event and there have only been 2 or 3 badge events, which were not well attended.

11 Fixtures

- The full planning sheets were presented. There was some debate about the 2007 Harvester and clubs were asked to discuss at their committee meetings. To be debated again next meeting. **Action All Clubs**
- There are two HOC events in November. This needs clarification. **ACTION RV**

12 Coaching

- There is a Coaching Committee meeting on 17th June. The agenda includes a funding update, UK coaching qualification and the Conference in February 2007.
- The BOF database is not accurate and the coaching dates look to be out of line.
- Sports Coach UK is running a project looking at coach development. This will follow the progress of 70 coaches from 30 sports over 4 years to see how their aspirations are met.
- There will be a coaching clinic on the BOF website, run by Duncan Archer, including training tips etc. Any relevant material should be sent to BOF office.
- Level 3 and 4 coaching courses will be publicised in the West Midlander.

13 Reports from BOF Committees

Rules Group

- BOF website will be update with new material. There will also be an update of all documentation relating to the new membership proposal.
-

Event Operations Committee

- The group will be identifying what needs to be done by BOF and what by volunteers.
- Minutes of all the committees are on the BOF website.

14 Junior Squad

- The West Midlands Junior Squad is open to any junior in a WM club who has attained Light Green and would like to be involved in coaching sessions aimed at developing skills further and competing at regional and national level. For further details, please contact Elizabeth (see WMOA Handbook)

Report (Nov 05- June 06) from Elizabeth Furness (Junior Squad Manager).

- In November 2005, 7 of the M/W16s plus 3 M/W14s went to the training weekend organised by BOF at **Lakeside** near Newby Bridge. Peter Guillaume, helped by Tess Hill, made effective use of the controls put out by BOF Coaching staff and members of the GB squad. There were exercises on High Dam on Saturday morning followed by an innovative sprint 'score' devised by Peter on the small but technically challenging area around Lakeside. Instead of controls, there were chocolate coins placed on some of the many dot knolls in the area. Extra coins could be collected by seeking out and catching an adult who had more coins. Clearly it was easy enough to catch me (Liz Furness) but Tess was another matter! On Sunday we were on Simpson Ground. On Saturday evening there was an entertaining presentation from Matt Crane and Matt Palmer who have taken different routes in orienteering – one to World Champs medal and the other to elite coaching. For this weekend, the juniors pay for accommodation and food and some of the transport costs with maps, access charges and transport subsidised by WMOA.
- January to May is a busy time in the orienteering calendar with selection races for the BOF training camps, Future Champions Cup and preparation for the Junior Inter Regional Championships. We have been able to fit in 4 coaching days for the squad.
- In **Sutton Park**, it was great to see so many new faces. Some of the 'old hands' who are used to the sort of activities, were excellent role models and guided the newcomers. The focus was on compass work and more than one junior learnt how to really use a compass.
- Peter Guillaume held a compass and pacing 'master class' in **Abbey Fields**, Kenilworth that was well attended by the younger/newer squad members.
- We have been able to join up with the Yorkshire junior squad twice recently. The first time was at **Burton Dassett** when they stopped off on their way down to the British Night Champs etc. The contour only map and a series of exercises using the small technical area tested the visualisation skills of the more experienced whilst giving the less experienced a chance to 'see' and interpret the brown lines that so often confuse!
- A few weeks ago we had another day with the Yorkshire squad at **Birches Valley** where Peter had worked hard to produce an excellent practice event for the JIRC (Junior Inter-Regional Champs) relays – complete with overprinted maps, gaffled legs and EMIT punching (which will be used at JIRC). Yorkshire are current JIRC champions and although there was friendly rivalry, it is true to say that there are several good friendships across the two squads and this was a day of the sport at its best.

The JIRC is at the end of June and the juniors selected to represent the West Midlands are:

M14

Matt Morris (OD)
Alex Roberts (HOC)
Tom MacKenzie (HOC)
Ben Ross (OD)
Res. William Gardner (OD)

M16

Matt Halliday (OD)
Robert Gardner (OD)
Duncan Leeson (HOC)

M18

Mikey Hopkins (WCH)
Dan Hartmann (HOC)
Chris Embrey (HOC)
Robert Farrington (HOC)

W14

Harriet Batten (OD)
Helen Elkington (OD)
Rosie Hartmann (HOC)
Sophie Kirk (OD)
Res. Emma Kettley (OD)

W16

Sophie Thomas (WCH)
Heather Hartmann (HOC)
Catherine Bushnell (WCH)

W18

Jo Halliday (OD)
Amy Thompson (WCH)
Lizzie White (HOC)

- We are aiming to retain our top 3 position in some of the categories over the weekend (scores and prizes are awarded for Individual day Girls and Boys and Individual day overall; relays girls and boys and overall and then 'overall overall'). We travel down to Borden Heaths in Hampshire for the weekend of 25th/26th June 2006. This weekend is heavily subsidised by WMOA with juniors contributing to food and accommodation costs and WMOA covering entry fees and transport.
- And so to the summer when several of our juniors will be at BOF training camps: Harriet Batten at Lagganlia, Matt Halliday and Catherine Bushnell at Glenmore, Mikey Hopkins at Uppsalla. We also wish the best of luck to Tess Hill who is off to the Junior World Championships having been in WMJS for several years, and moved up to the GB Junior squad this year.
- After that, there are 21 juniors and 7 adults going to Mariestad in Sweden. This will be the third visit and has proved a very popular and successful week with the local orienteers making us very welcome. Look out for a report from the juniors once we're back.
- Finally, thanks to Peter Guillaume for the coaching input; to Tess Hill who has supported the juniors on most coaching days; to Paul Furness, minibus driver, control hanger and general supporter; to John Bowman for permissions (3 Droober areas) and to Jane Christopher for WCH access.
- Liz to be contacted to discuss the awarding of Regional "colours" for those juniors selected to run for WMJS. **Action CM**

15 Event Officials

- John Bennison has identified an issue with the number of controllers required for 2007 and the lack of available people. CM to circulate details to the committee for discussion in clubs. **Action CM**

16 West Midlander

- The date for copy is 1st July 2006, to be issued at the OD event at Burton Dasset on 16th July 2006.

17 AOB

- The WM Relay Championships will also be controlled by HOC as there is no one available from another club.
- POTOA has been awarded £3476 for e-punching kit and the mapping of Ladderedge Country Park, from "Awards for all".

18 Next meetings

- 11th September, 16th October (AGM), 4th December.
- Agenda item – WMOA PA system.

2006 National Mapping Conference – Rod Postlethwaite (WRE)

The National Mapping Conference will be held at Longmoor Camp in Hampshire on the weekend of 20th – 22nd October 2006. The Conference will cover a wide range of mapping related topics including surveying and OCAD sessions and is open to anyone with an interest in mapping. For further details please contact BOF office (the new address is on page 5 of this newsletter).

BOF School Mapping Specifications

A joint initiative between the BOF Map Group and BOF Development Team has resulted in a new specification for school maps. This is an attempt to standardise school maps and is based on ISOM 2000 (International Specification for Orienteering Mapping) and ISSOM (International Specification for Sprint Orienteering Mapping). The specification is available for download as a PDF file from the Mapping section of the BOF web site.

<http://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/asp/makepage.asp?PID=MAPPING>

Various OCAD school symbol sets are also available for download from the site. All mappers making school maps should read the specifications and use the symbol sets.

Map Awards for 2005 – Rod Postlethwaite (WRE)

Congratulations to all the mappers/cartographers but especially to the five from this region.

Chichester Trophy.

Bruce Bryant (WMOA/OD) for the maps of Hopwas and Sutton Park

Certificates of cartographic excellence to:

Pat Flanagan (SOA)	Loch Doon East and West
Colin Hicks (SCOA)	The Reptile Centre
Erik Peckett (SWOA)	Penhale Sands (1:15000 version)
Colin Spears (WMOA/HOC)	Brown Clee
Tony Thornley (YHOA)	Simons Seat

Silva Professional Trophy

Stirling Surveys for the World Cup/ Surrey Five-O set of maps

Certificate as highly commended to:

Deeside Maps for their Scottish 6-day maps

Bonington Trophy

Tony Thornley (YHOA)

For a series of excellent maps used for major events and for mentoring fledgling mappers.

Certificates for Maps of Small Areas

Mike Hampton (WMOA/OD)

Bancroft Gardens and St Nicholas Park (Sprint maps)

Rod Postlethwaite (WMOA/WRE)

Shugborough Trail O map, Rorrington and Stapeley and Telford Town Park.

Certificates for First Maps

Tony Callow (WMOA/WRE)

Shawbury Heath

Ian Maynard (EAOA)

Hadleigh Castle

Colour Coded Awards – Hilary Simpson (OD)

Awards gained since April 2006 are listed below:

YELLOW

H McCartney M10 OD

P Oliver W10 OD

GREEN

H Elkington W14 OD

B Ross M14 OD

LIGHT GREEN

P Earp M14 OD

M Elkington M12 OD

D Evans M16 HOC

E Kettley W14 OD

S Kirk W14 OD

G Ross M12 OD

Anyone who feels they have achieved their badge and is not included on the list, please contact Hilary Simpson. She is usually to be found at West Midlands events in a red Renault Space (registration R650 PAC) or phone or send an email (see WMOA Handbook)

A colour coded award is achieved by reaching the colour standard in three different events. The colour standard is either 1.5 times the winner's time or half the number of competitors (including disqualifications and retirals); whichever includes the greater number of competitors. The White colour standard is achieved by completing the course.

SROC Whitbarrow National Event

This event was cancelled in March 2006 because of snow. It has been rescheduled for 11th March 2007. Further information and refund details are available on the club website at <http://www.sroc.org>

What is RouteGadget? - Paul Frost (ECKO)

RouteGadget is described by its developer, Jarkko Ryyppo, as a "web utility for drawing and comparing orienteering routes". Jarkko is a Finnish orienteer, and is developing the Gadget as a hobby and offers it for free for non-commercial use.

The sequence of events is:

1. The club Webmaster installs RouteGadget onto the club's website server.
2. After the event the data is loaded into RouteGadget. Three files are required:
 - A JPG or GIF of the map (export from OCAD or a scan).
 - XML file containing the course data (export from Condes/OCAD).
 - Splits result file (7 different formats accepted).
3. Competitors visit the website and plot their route on the map using their mouse.
4. Anyone can then visit the site and view the routes taken by others. You can compare up to 10 on screen at any one time. You can also choose a selection of competitors on one course and view a replay of the race with coloured squares moving across the map, simulating a mass start in time with the actual splits.

It really adds another dimension to post-race analysis. Analysing other people's route choice is also a good training aid. After SOL 4 the planner (Ross Lilley) said that it provided valuable feedback on how legs that he had visualised in his head, actually materialised. Out of 450 starters at SOL4, 135 people added their route.

Available on the EckO website: <http://www.ecko.orgvflk/route.html>

- Read a detailed guide to using RouteGadget.
- Download my revised and updated version of the installation manual (PDF).
- View the 135 routes plotted by competitors at SOL4, Creag Mhic.

Visit the developers website to download the software and see how other clubs around the world are using it: <http://www.routegadget.net>

This article was first published in SCORE (the magazine of the Scottish Orienteering Association). Thanks are extended to the SOA for permission to reprint the article.

To enter or not to enter an event?

An incident at a recent WCH event was brought to the attention of the WMOA Committee and BOF. The response from the club to the individual concerned has been reprinted below to remind all orienteers of the importance of respecting the conditions under which clubs are given permission to hold events. We are guests on other people's property and access is often hard won against competing demands. If you feel the costs are too high at a particular event, you are free to take your custom to another event. You are not free to jeopardise the future use of the area for everyone else.

To paraphrase the road signs "WMOA welcomes considerate runners!"

Dear

Thank you for your comments in your emails to our Club Captain regarding what you describe as extortionate costs for our regional event on Cannock Chase on 12th March 2006. As Fixtures Secretary of Walton Chasers I have been asked to reply to you.

The fees for Walton Chasers events are worked out carefully some time in advance taking into account the main costs for the event which include the levy to be paid, the land access charges, the production of maps, the hire of toilets and the cost of keeping SI systems up to date. On that basis we believe the fees of £9 and £5 for seniors were fair and reasonable and, of course every competitor has the choice of whether they should enter or not. Many competitors decided that they would enter and £5 is the usual fee for all our District Events for which we have had entries in excess of 350 competitors.

However, we were very much more concerned that you said, and I quote, 'I have just attended the Cannock Chase event but I did not run a course as I was not prepared to pay £9 to enter. I did, however, have a run around with last year's map'.

Walton Chasers considers such actions to be those which could jeopardize the sport. The summary of the BOF Rules for Competitors states very clearly that 'having an orienteering map does not give you the right to enter an area or to orienteer on it' and 'only competitors on their courses are allowed in the competition area'. Both those rules were broken by you. In addition, a person who does not enter but just runs around is not officially part of the event safety procedures which might have to be put into action in the case of an accident, is not covered by BOF Public Liability Insurance, does not know where the current out of bounds areas are (these could well have changed from the previous year) or any particular crossing points, and is expecting other competitors to pay for the access and facilities of the event.

You may not be aware that Cannock Chase is an AONB and hence a very sensitive area in terms of the balance between conservation and recreation. Walton Chasers has worked very hard over many years to be responsive and responsible in terms of the use of the Chase for orienteering. We are very fortunate that we are able to obtain permissions to use such a lovely area for orienteering because of the good relations which have been built up. The permission givers know that competitors will have courses planned which keep them away from any out of bounds areas, they know exactly which part of the Chase will be used, and they know that we will follow up any complaint.

It is not the cost of entering orienteering events that are, as you say, 'ruining the sport' but the potential difficulty of obtaining permission to use areas such as Cannock Chase for orienteering. Just over 10 years ago Walton Chasers, with the help of the British Orienteering Federation Environment Officer, had to fight very hard to keep any orienteering on the Chase as the proposal from the Council was to ban it completely. We do not want that to happen again as the result of irresponsible actions by orienteers.

We hope that in future you will have regard to the BOF Rules for Competitors and pay what are modest fees compared with many other outdoor activities if you wish to run on Walton Chasers areas.

Yours sincerely

Jane Christopher (WCH Fixtures Secretary)

West Midlands League 2006

The results for event 6, Borough Hill, have now been processed and Octavian Droobers have used their "home advantage" to narrow Harlequin's lead to less than 100 points, with Walton Chasers in third place. Congratulations to Sheila Carey (OD), Alison Sloman (HOC) and Richard Dearden (HOC) for being joint first to score maximum 500 points.

The League's remaining 4 events all happen after the summer break, and with two of these hosted by Walton Chasers (and the first clashing with the Caddihoe Chase which will test loyalties!) it should be an exciting finish again this year. This summer lull provides an opportunity for club members to train harder or smarter (depending on their philosophy!) before the final events starting in September.

Event	Date	Club	Venue
7	17 th September	WCH	Oldacre Valley & Ansons Bank
8	8 th October	POTOC	Leek Training Area, Leek
9	5 th November	WCH	Birches Valley
10	12 th November	WRE	Haughmond Hill

Club scores after 6 events are:

HOC	6399	WCH	4339	POTOC	1917
OD	6326	WRE	3645	COBOC	1646

The WMOA web site (<http://www.wmoa.org.uk>) has the latest details of the competition with any late changes to venues and result updates.

Advance notice of the WMOA 2006 Annual General Meeting 16th October 2006, 7.30pm

Great Barr Hotel, Pear Tree Drive, Birmingham
OS Map 139, SP 029 939
(J7 of the M6 or J1 of the M5 are the closest motorway junctions).

AGENDA (to include)

- 1) Apologies for absence.
- 2) Declaration of interests.
- 3) Minutes of the previous AGM (in the Jan 2006 magazine)
- 4) Matters arising from the minutes of the previous AGM.
- 5) Chairman's report.
- 6) Treasurer's report.
- 7) Fixtures report.
- 8) Other reports.
- 9) Election of Officers.
- 10) Any Other Business.





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V-J FALCON STUD #	£67.95	MOSCOW 2C \$	£27.95	TRIMTEX BRAMBLE BASHERS	£7.95	CODED CLIPPERS – 10	£19.95
V-J INTEGRATOR	£59.95	MOSCOW 2T \$	£29.95	AS-ILVES COOLMAX TOPS	£29.95	CONTROL FLAG	£3.25
V-J INTEGRATOR STUD #	£69.95	MOSCOW 3C \$	£30.95	AS-ILVES TROUSERS	£16.95	TRAINING MARKER	£2.50
V-J TWISTER STUD #	£69.95	MOSCOW 3T \$	£32.95	ARIES DELUXE TROUSERS	£14.95	WESTERSTRAND CLOCK	£295.00
ADIDAS SWOOP * NEW	£59.95	MOSCOW MAGNIFYING LENS	£12.95	V-J STANDARD GAITERS	£15.95	NAVMAN R300	£99.95
PB TRAINER	£54.95	SILVA 7NL	£ 9.95	V-J PROTECH GAITERS	£17.95	TIMEX 30-MEM WATCH	£34.95
INOV-8 MUDROC * special	£49.95	SILVA 3NL	£14.95	ARIES DELUXE GAITERS	£12.95	TIMEX 50 LAP MEM WATCH	£39.95
INOV-8 FLYROC	£64.95	SILVA 2NL	£18.95	ARIES PRO GAITERS * NEW	£16.95	ANKLE TAPE	£3.50 & £5.95
INOV-8 MUDCLAW * NEW	£64.95	SILVA 5 JET \$	£54.95	RON HILL TRACKSTERS	£13.95	MUELLER ANKLE BRACE	£26.95
S'CONY JAZZ S (£59.95)	£39.95	SILVA 6 SPECTRA \$	£54.95	RON HILL TREK	£19.95	SPORTident e-CARD	£22.00
S'CONY GRID AURA (£54.95)	£39.95	SILVA 1S JET	£59.50	RON HILL V ILOFT THERMAL	£14.95	E-CARD DESC. HOLDER	£3.00
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# Metal Studs		* Children's sizes approx 15% cheaper		‡ Fast Needle		\$ Superfast Needle	

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Ultrasport Ltd, Nova House, Audley Avenue Enterprise Park, Newport, Shropshire TF10 7DW
 Tel: 01952 813 918 Fax: 01952 825 320 E-Mail: simon@ultrasport.freeserve.co.uk

Thank you Simon

After several years of sharing wet, muddy fields with us but not even going for a run as some relief, Simon has seen the light! He has passed the Ultrasport business to his colleague Ian Kevan who has been working on the Ultrasport stand for many years and so will be a familiar face. Simon took over the front of house operation in the mud when Ken and Barbara Broad decided the lure of a better climate in Spain was just a tad more attractive. We are all very grateful for the immense contribution that the Broad family has made to orienteering and we wish Simon every success with his other business ventures and every success also to Ian.

... and thank you also, Alex Ross

Alex Ross has left BOF after 6 years of sterling service. His absence is already being felt! Thanks are extended to Alex from the West Midlands for his many contributions over the years. He can now enjoy a Sunday run without collecting a folder of work in the process!