

S R O C



The Red Rose Orienteering Club
BOF Club of the Year 2008



Newsletter

March/April 2016

Editor: Dick Collins

Editorial

Some of you will be aware that, wearing my Treasurer's hat, I have been querying the role of BOF for some years. We pay BOF big money in the form of event levies but it isn't clear what we get in return. One thing that we do get is insurance but we could arrange that much more cheaply ourselves. A few years ago a local Council demanded that we had our own insurance for an event in one of their areas. The premium for one million pounds of cover was ten pounds. What else we get from BOF isn't clear.

Changing hats, to Secretary of the NWOA, we had a lot of differences of opinion with BOF over running the 2015 JK. In simple terms BOF regarded this as *their* event even though it was organised and run by members of north-west clubs. They wanted almost total control (e.g. the junior squad would not be able to run their cake stall) and they wanted two thirds of the profits. It was sorted out in the end but there is increasing concern (not just in the north-west) about whether it is worthwhile bidding for the JK or the British Champs.

In the latest *Orienteering Focus* Selwyn Wright of LOC raises a number of these points and asks particularly why BOF (which is running at a loss) employs so many people. The question arises as to what all of these people actually do and he makes the point that for some years his club has had no contact with the BOF Participation Officers or with their predecessors, the Development Officers. BOF makes much of its Explorer programme but Selwyn points out that LOC have yet to see a single Explorer participant attending a LOC event.

Mike Hamilton, the BOF CEO, has published a response which makes much of the dedication, enthusiasm and passion of his staff (which is not in doubt) but doesn't really answer the questions that Selwyn has raised. Some of the staff are subsidised with Government funding but that is unlikely to last far into the future.

An associated topic is that of increased bureaucracy and regulations relating to organising and planning. Controllers, organisers, planners, mappers, advisors, coaches and teachers now all require some sort of accreditation. To his credit, Mike has listed some of the objections to the present system. These are: a) the whole system is too bureaucratic and prolonged, b) there is insufficient attention and credence placed on experience and prior learning and knowledge, c) training often isn't relevant to what volunteers actually want to do and d) it is too expensive in cost and time.

I went on one of these courses. The course tutor was excellent and very knowledgeable. However, although I don't know how old he is, it is quite possible that I was involved in event organisation before he was born. I didn't really learn anything on the course, but I do now have a certificate to say that I am qualified to do something that I have been doing since the 1970s.

All of this may change, of course, for the simple reason that BOF cannot continue running a six-figure deficit and will have to make some serious decisions in the near future. It has reserves of over £400,000 but they have to plan for the long term and reserves can disappear very quickly.

The Club Committee have considered all this and later in the Newsletter there is more information and a request for you to use your influence in bringing about a reasonable conclusion.



Odds and Ends

Further to my previous report, I now have confirmation that there is no levy to pay for the CompassSport Cup. BOF reacted as if they had never heard of the CompassSport Cup, even though it is a level A event registered with them.

Tom Barkas probably has a new respect for water features at Low Park Wood. The approach to the area is along the small road by the river. Recent heavy rains meant that the water was covering parts of the road. Tom drove into a "puddle" (his word). It was three and a half feet deep and he had to escape from the car. He got his dog out, which started swimming out into the river instead of to the bank, but all was well in the end. Actually, it wasn't all well with the car, which went completely under and was a write-off. I asked Tom if the onlookers helped. Apparently they took photos.

Sad to hear that DEE have lost their oldest member. Marian Roscoe passed away on the 17th of January, aged 102, after a short illness. Some of our members may also have known Pat Spoonley, also DEE, who passed away on the 12th of October, after suffering a heart attack. Pat was a strong orienteer, coming 5th in W65 at the World Masters Championships in Australia in 2002.

Whilst on the subject of DEE, I notice that their Club officials include a Galoppenmeister.

World Orienteering Day 2016 is Wednesday May 11th. In connection with this, IOF want to beat the world record for the number of people competing on that day. The present record was set in 2003 in Switzerland when 207,979 runners competed in 1381 events. So, get out there. You could make all the difference !

BOF office seem to have started sending out e-mails to tell you how you are doing. They started this sort of thing a few years back but then discontinued doing so. It may be that they had negative feedback. I received an e-mail congratulating me as I had now completed three events at TD5 level. Since I have completed approximately 1000 events at TD5 level I wasn't particularly excited about their missive. Maybe others sent in their views on this.

If you check the cover of the latest *Orienteering Focus* you will see a group of about 80 runners at the start of a relay. If you look closely you should be able to spot a number of South Ribble faces.

David Johnstone has appeared in the Lancaster Guardian with a number of his fell-walking buddies.



UK Urban League

It's looking good for SROC in the UK Urban League.

Miriam Rosen is leading the Women's Ultravets, Jane Anthony leads the Women's Vets and Quentin Harding leads the Men's Vets.

Other good performances this year; Rebecca Harding, 4th in the Women's Open and Ian Embrey, 8th in the Men's Open.

Lorna Collett (1922 - 2006)

Following my article on Tommy Taylor, a few issues ago, there follows the story of another South Ribble legend, Lorna Collett. I have been aided in this by Lorna, who wrote "*Her Story in Her Own Words*".



Lorna was born on September 22nd 1922 in Port Sunlight. She was the granddaughter of a sheep dealer and a joiner and the daughter of an employee of Lever Brothers. It was a difficult time, with the country going into depression. In 1933 she was admitted to Wirral County School for Girls where her parents had to pay half the cost of her school books. Lorna says that she didn't work very hard at school but that she was in the school teams for rounders, netball, lacrosse and rather interestingly, cricket. She continued with the latter two sports when she left school, playing for the local ladies teams and she played lacrosse (for Cheshire) at county level. In 1938 the family fell on hard times as Lorna's father had an accident at work when an apprentice hit his knee with a hammer. Her father was off work for over 13 weeks and was put on half pay. Unable to stay on at school (which cost money) Lorna got a job. Initially she counted the returned coupons from Stork margarine packets but when they discovered that she could touch-type she was

promoted to typing addresses on envelopes. She then moved to Lever Brothers (using very early computing devices) until she joined the Land Army in 1942.

Her early recollections of going on holiday (to Llandudno) illustrate how different things were in the 20s and 30s. They would stay for a week at a boarding house but they had to provide their own meat, fish, eggs etc for their meals. The landlady cooked the food and supplied the vegetables. Fizzy lemonade was a treat and on one holiday her father bought her her first camera. It was a Kodak Brownie and cost 9/6d.

In 1941 Lorna discovered the YHA and with two other girls cycled to the Fox Howl YH in Delamere Forest. A few weeks later she went back there with a girl from work and in the evening gave a poor cyclist (called Maurice) some supper. He hadn't read the handbook which explained that you had to take your own food. She met him again three weekends later at Maeshafn YH and that was the start of many cycling trips together around North Wales, Derbyshire and the Yorkshire Dales. Lorna and Maurice were married in August 1944.

Lorna stayed in the Land Army for two years, initially at an agricultural college and then in a nursery garden at Neston, on the Wirral. She was paid 38/- (£1-90) for a 40-hour week.

After getting married, Lorna and Maurice moved initially to Blackpool and then to Natland in Westmorland where Maurice had got a job as a teacher. In 1947 they moved to a furnished cottage in the village of Brigsteer on the west side of Scout Scar. Again, the contrast with today is apparent. The cottage was wired for electricity but not actually connected to the grid. They used oil lamps and an oil cooker and had a coal fire. There was no piped water and drinking water was brought from the village. However, Lorna says that they were very happy there. An excursion to Kendal at the weekend was quite an event, involving a three and a half mile walk each way. Two months before they left for a new cottage in Sizergh, the electricity was connected. Now with two children, Susan and Paul, Lorna still found time to join the W.I. In 1951 they bought a big house (previously an inn) at Sandside. Needing to augment their finances they took in lodgers, ran a B and B operation and sold food and cigarettes to holidaymakers. Maurice was now teaching at Castle St in Kendal and was entering marathons. He would run to and from school as part of his training and this was sufficiently unusual in those days that the Daily Mirror published an article about him.

Early in 1954 Maurice successfully applied for a job in the Bahamas. They sold their house, put the furniture in a Pickfords store and sailed to Nassau. Maurice had a three-year contract and whilst there they had holidays in Canada and the United States. They enjoyed many of the aspects of life in the Caribbean but there were problems. Apart from going back to a life with no electricity

there were problems with the educational system, both for Maurice and his teaching and for the education of Susan and Paul. Maurice was asked to stay for a further three years but they realised that their children needed a better education than was available in the Bahamas and they returned to the UK in June 1957. Maurice got a temporary teaching job at Milnthorpe School but then a permanent post teaching maths at the Old Boys School in Kendal. They moved to Oakbank House (where Maurice still lives) in Skelsmergh and began cycling around the countryside once again. In February 1959 their third child, Sally, was born. This restricted the cycling but Maurice started taking school trips abroad accompanied by Lorna. The children stayed with Grandma in Blackpool. Around this time they bought their first car, a Morris Oxford Traveller.

Susan went off to study Graphic Design at Aston in Birmingham (and changed her name from Susan to Jurdy). Paul went to Reading University to study Meteorology but soon changed to Physics.

At this stage of the proceedings we get to the important part.....in 1964 Maurice discovered orienteering !

He started going to events, taking Paul with him in 1965. Lorna went to her first event in 1966, something which would lead to travelling all over the continent, Scandanavia and the USA.

During 1973 Maurice became ill with vertigo (*editorial note : despite anything that Alfred Hitchcock may have told you, vertigo has nothing to do with a fear of heights (akrophobia)*). Maurice developed very high blood pressure, was off work for several months and was told to give up competitive running. This was devastating news as he had been a runner for most of his life. Fortunately the specialist changed his mind and Maurice was allowed to run again.

Lorna's account of her life is very modest and makes very little of her considerable orienteering achievements. Her successes were too numerous for me to list here but she had great success in many events. In 1986 she appeared in the Guinness Book of Records, having competed in all 20 British Championships.

Towards the end of her days Lorna suffered from problems of old age. In 1979 she broke her right arm whilst in the garden at home and then in 1982 broke her fibula whilst competing in Ireland. In 1986 she fell down stairs, damaging her iliac joint. At the end of her life she had to give up competing but still came to events to support Maurice and the other club members.

Lorna was a kind and friendly person and I always enjoyed talking to her. I was very sad when she passed away (in May 2006) and I know that many other club members miss her.

Jane Anthony stars in CompassSport

Jane Anthony was featured in CompassSport's "Know Your Class Leader" section.

As mentioned above, she is leading her class in the UK Urban League.

So, we now know that Jane is particularly keen on urban orienteering and multi-day events but is concerned that dogs are banned at many of these events. She listens to Radio 4 and Classic FM and is keen on lycra. Also, Jane prefers a baseplate compass which incorporates a magnifier especially for use in urban events. Magnifiers are made to fit on thumb compasses, of course, and observing the orienteering community as a whole it is clear that thumb compasses are probably more popular than baseplates. I will ask Rick which he sells the most of at CompassPoint and report back.

Looking at the picture of Jane on the right, I notice that her compass, dibber and description sheet are all held by, or attached to, her right hand. She will be able to use her left hand to wave to her CompassSport-reading fans on the next run-in.

I have reason to be thankful to Jane. I injured myself at Ulpha a few years back. I fell whilst crossing a wall and put out my hand to stop myself falling. My middle finger hit a rock and took the whole of my body-weight, pushing the front two sections of the finger back into the third part. The front two sections were then at about a 30 degree angle to where they should have been. It didn't particularly hurt but when I looked at my hand it caused a degree of shock and I was rather dazed. Jane was just behind me and "rescued" me by escorting me to the Finish. My dibber was on the injured finger so I gave it to Jane. We were two controls from the Finish and passed them on the way back. Jane dibbed with both her dibber and mine as we passed. When the Results came out I found that I had won my course. I guess that that is one "victory" that doesn't really count.



Jane in deep concentration at the Start at Helsington



Karen Quickfall shows off her dipper collection



Becca Rooke and sister Sophie Roberts

Club Champions and Trophy Winners

Here is a list of all the club trophies awarded at the recent Annual Social & Prizegiving at Levens Institute, which followed the Club Handicap, won by Iain Embrey:

Overall Female Champion Zoe Harding. Overall male Champion Iain Embrey

W12 Beth Davey M12 Michael Finch W14 Anna Harrison M14 Finlay Johnson M16 Andrew Rutter W18 Helen Ockenden M18 Laurence Johnson

W20 Kira Browne M18 Ben Wilson W21 Zoe Harding M21 Iain Embrey W35 Lucie Todhunter M35 Luigi Lerose

W40 Sarah Watkins M40 Steve Davey W45 Deb Murrell M45 Roy McGregor W50 Sue Harding M50 Quentin Harding

W55 Jane Anthony M55 Mike Johnson W60 Sue Roome M60 Martyn Roome W65 Miriam Rosen M65 Julian Lailey

W70 Dawn Lock M70 Bill Hyslop

Best Newcomers award went to the Cottam Family and Most Improved Orienteer was awarded to Sophie Roberts. The National & Provincial Shield for outstanding services to the club went to Brian Jackson in recognition of his very successful organisation of the Compass Sport Cup & Trophy Final in October.



With a huge pile of 50th anniversary cup-cakes to choose from Quentin prefers a jumbo profiterole

North-west Club delegate meeting

The Club delegate meeting (at which all members of NW clubs are welcome - you don't have to be a "delegate") was held at Caton on Saturday March 12th. The Selwyn Wright letter (see Editorial and below) was a matter of concern, particularly with regard to finance, membership fees and the levy. The North-west is putting on the British Long Distance Champs and Relays in 2017 and areas and most officials have been arranged. South Ribble members are likely to be asked if they can help. The Lakes 5-Days the following year is much less advanced in the planning with no definite areas decided upon. It is very unlikely that SROC will provide an area. Areas which may be used are Caw, Askham Fell, Angle Tarn Pikes, Harrop Tarn, Graythwaite East, Loughrigg or High Pike. NW finances are in good order. This is important as we have arranged a "super-levy" with BOF for BOC 2017. This means that we pay a higher than normal levy but we keep all the profits. However, it also means that we "bank-roll" the event and take the risk.

This is a message from the SROC Committee

THE FUTURE OF OUR SPORT- IS IT IN SAFE HANDS? – PLEASE READ

Hopefully, you will have read the open letter from Selwyn Wright (LOC) and the response from Mike Hamilton in the latest edition of Focus. SROC submitted a response to an article by Chris James (Chair of Events and Competitions Committee) in the previous edition of Focus, and we are told that LOC made a club response in similar vein to Selwyn's.

Chris James had been floating the ideas of increasing event fees significantly (to mirror triathlon and mountain biking) and reducing age class competition and colour coded courses. The objectives were to simplify organisation, bring more money into the sport and increase participation. Like LOC, SROC thought these ideas were counter-productive.

In a second move, but linked to BOF staff's strategy, BOF wish to raise £90,000 from members in order to maintain, as far as possible, current staffing and functions. To do this it is proposed at the BOF AGM to treble adult membership fees from £5 to £15 and raise Junior fees from £2 to £5. Membership fees were radically reduced in 2012, to encourage growth in membership.

At our latest Committee meeting, the SROC Committee discussed this proposal. Broadly, we support the views outlined in Selwyn Wright's letter, and as a result the Committee does not support the BOF proposal. The reasons are:

- It will seriously damage our moves to increase club membership, when we are beginning to see a growth after we reduced our club membership at our last AGM.
- We are extremely disappointed that, despite BOF staff knowing that there was to be a reduction in Sport England Funding, these proposals come out without proper time for discussion, barely three weeks before the BOF AGM
- Communication directly with clubs and even with Regions from BOF staff is almost non-existent. Consequently we feel that they are out of touch with grass roots orienteers.
- We do not feel that we are currently getting value for money from BOF staff and are therefore unable to support further funding until such time as this changes.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

You DO need to consider the issues raised in the current Focus letters and the BOF AGM proposal. Decide your views and act accordingly! Doing nothing could result in changes to the sport that you do not like!

The best way to vote on Proposal 3 is to attend the AGM which will be held on **Friday 25th March 2016 at Leeds University Union, Lifton Place, Leeds, West Yorkshire LS2 9JZ**, starting at **5.00pm in meeting room 6**. This is during the JK weekend and will be held after the Sprint event.

Alternatively, you can complete a proxy voting form, see the AGM Agenda link

https://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/images/uploaded/downloads/governance_agm_booklet2016.pdf indicating your wish on Proposal 3 and giving your proxy vote to the Chairman of the meeting. It needs to be sent by email to info@britishorienteering.org.uk by **Wednesday 23rd March**.

It is possible that only votes taken by show of hands will be counted (see notes below) but it is to be hoped that on such a contentious issue proxy votes will be counted too. At any rate, you have nothing to lose by completing the proxy voting form attached to this link and following the instructions.

THE COMMITTEE URGE YOU TO CONSIDER THESE ISSUES AND ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR VIEWS!



The Gerry Charnley Round Memorial Challenge

In March 1962 a tragedy on Saddle Fell led to the establishment of South Ribble Fell Search and Rescue Team with HQ in Penwortham. The men involved in this went on to become founder members of SROC. One of those was Gerry Charnley. In 1964 he became secretary of the newly formed Lake District Mountain Trial Association, which had only a few years earlier stopped publicising the route in advance. Gerry discovered orienteering when he went to the 1951 Helsinki Olympics. He realised that it was starting to be introduced in Scotland and wanted to do the same in England. In 1963 he bought a map, marked on some control sites and with friends went out to navigate using direct bearings. In 1963 they organised the first orienteering event in England near Whitewell in Lancashire. Gerry, with Mike Parsons, went on to conceive of the KIMM/OMM to test orienteering skills in extreme conditions in 1968. Sadly Gerry died on Helvellyn in December 1982. SROC held a memorial service and placed a plaque on a cairn on a small crag below Esk Pike. They then set up the Gerry Charnley Way in his memory and a special Harvey map was produced. In 1985 a relay event was held for teams of six pairs. Each team ran half of one of the three loops. Each loop visited the memorial cairn and one of the three youth hostels in the valleys. The cairn site was chosen for the KIMM event he organised in 1981.

As part of our 50th birthday celebrations Harveys will produce a new version of the map. The club is also setting up an anytime challenge. This will only have three teams of pairs to avoid waiting for a change over at the cairn. With some car sharing each team should be able to start at one of the Youth Hostels. There is of course nothing to stop individuals running this in its entirety. It makes a great day out. Contact **Karen Nash** for more information.

Coaching Courses

Two courses that may be of interest to NWOA members are

- 1. At Tower Wood in the Lake District on the 22-24 of April (tutored by Derek Allison)
- 2. At Plas y Brenin in North Wales on the 17-19 June (tutored by Helena Burrows)

These courses are suitable for those wishing to coach unsupervised in private "safe" areas such as school or outdoor centre grounds, local areas and small woods (using the supplied resources (coaching cards), for the sessions).

Alternatively, the qualification is also relevant for those who wish to assist other (more qualified coaches) in more challenging areas.

Full details are available on the British Orienteering training courses web site (link below)

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

Funding

Anyone from a NWOA club interested in either course should be encouraged to apply to their club for a grant.

If the club approves the application, as most will, they should pay the attendee or the provider, as convenient, and the club can apply to Stephen Round at the NWOA for funding. This will be to reimburse the club rather than the individual.

I think that most clubs are already aware of this protocol but Stephen Round has asked me to stress that **grant applications from clubs to NWOA must be in advance of the course.**

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any more information.

Kind Regards
Dan Riley

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Fixtures

See web-site for details - www.sroc.org

Spring Series

Orange/technical Starts 12.30-1.30 £5/£2

Sat 23 April Worden Park

Sprint Series

6.30 - 7 for Prologue £5/£2

Tue 24 May Cottam, Preston

Tue 7 June Williamsons Park, Lancaster

Tue 21 June Worden Park, Chorley

Tue 5 July Lancaster University

Tue 12 July Myerscough College

Club picnic

Sat 14 May Traitors Gill