

S R O C



The Red Rose Orienteering Club
BOF Club of the Year 2008



Newsletter

May/June 2015

Editor : Dick Collins

Winners !

Congratulations to the following :- **Quentin Harding M50 British Sprint Champion, Helen Ockenden W18 British Middle Distance Champion, Helen (again) W18E British Long Distance Champion, Miriam Rosen W65 Scottish Champion, Quentin (again) M50 Scottish Champion.**
Helen has been selected for the World Junior Championships in Norway in July.



Club History volume 2

Jane and I are writing volume 2 of the Club History, covering the years 1994 -2014. Amongst other things we are including a "Roll of Honour", listing club members who have won World or British Championship titles. If you have done so but suspect that we either don't know or have forgotten, please could you let the Editor know. The list will include winners of Long, Middle, Sprint, Night and Trail-O events (although we are not aware of any Trail-O successes by Club members).



Mistakes

After so many years orienteering I tend to assume that I have made all the mistakes that are there to be made. Not so, there are always new ones that you hadn't thought of. A new one (for me) occurred at the British Relays .. or more precisely, didn't occur because of a rather late realisation that something was wrong. I was running second leg in an M60+ team with Brian Jackson on the first leg. I had no idea how long he would take so I picked up my map and went into the waiting pen quite early. It was rather cold so I had taken my cag, which I would hand to Brian at the changeover. Expecting a long wait I put my map in my pocket and then put my hands in my pockets as well, to keep them warm. As it happened, Brian had a good run and I didn't have to wait too long. The run-in to the changeover was uphill and when I saw Brian I had about 25 seconds to take off my cag and fold it up ready to hand it over. Brian was about 25 yards away when I had a sudden feeling that something was wrong. With Brian 15 yards away I realised what it was ... I wasn't holding a map ... it was in the cag pocket. I just managed to get it out of the pocket as he arrived. Had I not done so I would no doubt have had to give chase and would have been the first "starter" through the Finish.



And now for something completely differentspecifically, an article relating to the O.J.Simpson trial 21 years ago (younger readers will have no idea what that was about, but bear with me). The article below appeared in our July 1994 Newsletter.

US Mapping Standards - Peter Gagarin (via Dick Collins)

I should mention at this stage that although the heading says "via Dick Collins" I have absolutely no recollection of this and I don't know who Peter Gagarin is (or was). Presumably he is an American. If anyone remembers him could they let me know - Ed.)

It is now clear what the connection is between orienteering and the main event going on right now (no, not the World Cup in football, not the Tour de France, but the O.J.Simpson case). All three were on the tube today, but of course it was the OJ affair that took centre stage and front and centre were three maps of OJ's residence - one presented by the prosecution, one by the defense (yes ... *I am sticking with the American spelling - Ed.*) and one by the TV network CNN.

Even without an on-site visit, it was clear that at least 2 of the 3 maps had serious problems. For example, the prosecution map had the two adjacent streets (OJ has a corner plot) meeting at a 90 degree angle, the defense map had the streets at a 45 degree angle, and the CNN map had them forming two adjacent 45 degree angles. The shapes of the paths were different, various parts of the house/garage/guest quarters were on one map and not another, and the driveway was curved in one and rectilinear in another. Most interesting of all, no one seemed to notice.

Questions/Conclusions:

1. Does this tie in with the public's reluctance to embrace orienteering in this country (no one can map, and if given a map, no one can read it)?
2. Is there a PR opportunity here? Can we get Pat Dunlavey on Court TV analysing the discrepancies during a break in the court action?
3. Can anyone from the Los Angeles OC make an on-site visit to find out what is really going on?
4. Using an orienteer's well-known ability to judge the quality of a map without having seen the terrain, I'd score them as follows:

Prosecution map: Quite generalised; no names of rooms/buildings to clutter up the map; did have north marked, though probably not magnetic north. Left off the east part of the lot with the pool, guest quarters, and tennis court, so the detective was off the map in describing his route and the prosecution had to have him refer to the defense map.

Overall rating: Bad (very bad?) for court, OK for orienteering, especially string 'O'.

Defense map: Much more detailed, apparently accurate (?), lots of names (makes it too easy for orienteering you might argue?), cute squiggles for trees and bushes. No indication of north.

Overall rating: Good for court, good for orienteering, good cartography, quality of field work unknown.

CNN map: In colour! Nicely simplified. Very inaccurate, if the defense map is to be believed.

Overall rating: Terrible. But in colour! As the starting point for a new video game "follow the evidence", may offer the best PR possibilities for orienteering.



Caption Competition

In the last issue I included the photo (right) and asked for caption suggestions. There were several on the general theme of Quentin saying something like "Good heavens! After all these years, at last I've managed to win something!". However, the winner is **Peter Marett** who wins free entry for his next two SROC events with "It's quite simple Mark, the toggle moves my eyes and the trigger moves my mouth".



I am intending to (re)start a series on Club members. This will probably involve me interviewing them, going away and ignoring everything that they have said and then writing my own version. To start with however, I am beginning with an SROC legend, sadly no longer with us.

Tommy Taylor 1905 - 1997



I first met Tommy on an SROC coach trip to Burnt Wood in the Midlands in February 1978. He was 73 years old and I hadn't realised that people of that age orienteered. The oldest BOF age classes at that stage were M/W56. I asked him how he had started orienteering and he said that he had been introduced to it by his daughter (Irene Munro) and she was sitting a few rows ahead of us. I looked down the coach expecting to see a youngster, then realised that she would be in her 50s. "How old were you when you started orienteering?" I asked Tommy. "65" was the reply. "Did you do anything sporting before that?". "Yes, I played football". "Up to what age?". "18". So, a 47 year non-sporting gap and suddenly he was running through the forests. I remember this conversation

quite clearly as, at that stage, I was very impressed that someone in their 70s should be orienteering. (*Times have changed. As I write this I am conscious that I am only a couple of weeks off my 71st birthday and that nowadays that statistic is hardly likely to impress anybody - Ed.*)

I can also remember my last conversation with Tommy, a short while before he passed away in 1997. We were at Muncaster Castle and they were planting rhododendrons in part of the area through which we ran. There were pathways through the rhododendrons which would exist but would not be obvious once the plants had grown up. Tommy advised me to memorise where the paths were as I would then be able to choose the quickest routes in years to come.

Tommy's footballing career ended as a result of a broken arm which prevented him working for nearly a year.

Later in life Tommy played bowls and Maurice Collett recalled an anecdote about this. One day one of Tommy's bowling pals asked why orienteering made it into the local paper but never anything about bowls. "Nay lads" said Tommy. "Bowls is an old man's sport. Nobody wants to read about that".

In the January 91 Newsletter Maurice Collett recalled the details of Tommy's life. Tommy was born at Shap, in Westmorland in 1905. He was the second of seven children of a railwayman, the first of six boys. The family moved, firstly to Carnforth, then to Tebay, where Tommy went to school. Leaving school after the First World War, jobs were hard to find, with ex-servicemen arriving back. Tommy started in the building trade. Tommy moved to Kendal around 1925 and became a Master Builder, a keen naturalist and a fellsmen. There are few farms in that district which do not contain examples of Tommy's handiwork. At the age of 65 Tommy started driving his grandson (Richard Munro, who became British M15 Champion in 1970) to orienteering events. Keen to try this new sport Tommy entered the Wayfarers course at Kellas. After that he orienteered regularly. Three years later he had achieved the Gold badge standard. This was no mean feat nearing the age of 70 as the oldest BOF age class was M50 so he was regularly giving away a lot of years advantage to the opposition. New age classes eventually came in and Tommy duly won the Northern M65 title.

Tommy died on March 28th 1997 aged 91 having been a widower for more than 20 years.

A number of Club members recorded their memories of Tommy in the Newsletter. Maurice Dean who co-ordinated the club junior training programme, at a Club event had had to placate his up-and-coming junior elite squad, who had been overtaken, going uphill, by an OLD TIMER! That was Tommy, in his late 60s. Maurice remembered Tommy for his friendliness, helpfulness and cheerful disposition. No task or job was too big or too small. In particular, Tommy was famous (this is no exaggeration) for his car parking

skills. Maurice comments "To see Tom in action car parking was an education! Cars were parked neat and tidy, almost like slates on a house roof, every one in its place". Getting them parked was only part of it. Your Editor remembers seeing Tommy, after his run and in his 80s, helping to push cars out of a muddy field.

Tommy was also a very modest person. Brian Jackson wrote "Tommy played an important role in SROC and orienteering generally although I am not sure how conscious he was of this. I was amused that when he agreed to be Club President he was a bit reluctant and would only do it if it didn't involve ceremonial duties. I enjoyed seeing Tommy at orienteering events and having a good chat. One always thought the world a better place after one of these encounters. I last saw him at the Caw Badge Event. I overtook him on the forest road as I was heading towards the start. We exchanged the usual greeting but only briefly. I was late and had to hurry on. My last sight of him was of him striding purposefully up the hill. A good way to remember him".

Mike Ormerod's most vivid memory of Tommy was of Tommy keeping him company on gate duty at an event. Tommy suddenly shot off down the road, chasing and cornering a sheep that had escaped from the field. Mind you, Tommy would only have been 81 then.

Tommy was famous throughout the orienteering community. In 1991 Ken Broad of UltraSport presented him with a smart new SROC O-suit as a present for his 85th birthday.

Tommy was a remarkable man, friendly, helpful and cheerful. He inspired more than one generation of orienteers and is fondly remembered by all who had the good fortune to know him.



SCOTTISH SIX DAY Bed and Breakfast (B&B) Accommodation near Drumnadrochit, Loch Ness. Excellent location for all of the 6 day events.

Reduced rates for orienteers - £95 per night for room and breakfast and facilities



The B&B accommodation is in a separate building next to the main house comprising a large room with kingsize bed, spacious en-suite shower room, dressing room, decked patio and spectacular views across the lawns to the mountains beyond. Use of the hot tub and fitness studio is included in the price. Service wash available if needed (small charge). Drying room facilities for outdoor gear. Breakfast will be a continental basket.

Available for the period of the Scottish 6 day and days before and after if needed.
Minimum of 4 x night stay.

www.lochnessfitness.com for pictures and more information of the facilities

Please ring Joy Cameron on 01456 450769 – mob 07745365834
Email joy.cameron@btinternet.com

Fixtures

See web-site for details

Summer Sprint Series

6.30 - 7.00 for Prologue (followed by Final) £6/£3

Tue 16 June Williamsons Park, Lancaster

Mon 29 June Salt Ayre, Lancaster

Tue 7 July Lancaster University

Club picnic

Sat 11 July Myerscough College nr Preston

Scout and Guide Champs

Wed 1 July Beacon Fell

Youth Games

Tue 30 June Stanley Park, Blackpool