

SROC



The Red Rose Orienteering Club



Newsletter

September 2018

Editor: Dick Collins



Maurice Dean

Sadly, I have to report that another of our founder members has passed away.

Maurice died on August 1st after a battle with Multiple Sclerosis.

Brian Jackson has written about Maurice later in the Newsletter.



Maurice Collett 1923 – 2018

Maurice was a founder member of England's first orienteering club, SROC. His orienteering successes were numerous, including many wins in the British Championships, the JK and Internationally.

However, quite apart from orienteering he had a remarkably varied and interesting life. His father was in the RAF and Maurice was born at RAF Halton. When Maurice was 5 his father was posted to the then Indian Empire. His father was a Flight Sergeant which meant that his family would have to travel third class to India. This would have been an arduous journey but in 1930 his father was promoted to Sergeant Major, so the family could travel first class. When Maurice was 8 a three-mile race was organised for the troops. Despite his disability (he had caught polio, affecting his right arm, at the age of 2) Maurice decided to try the same course and discovered that he could run! In 1932 the family moved back to Aldershot and then to Uxbridge. At school Maurice took up running, winning the school 800 yards. Moving back to Aldershot he began running cross-country, winning the regional championship in 1939 and 1940. By 1940 the war had put a stop to the racing.

In 1941, whilst on a cycling holiday, he met Lorna Macpherson at the Delamere Forest Youth Hostel, the start of almost 65 years as girl-friend and wife.

Moving to Blackpool Maurice became a maths teacher, despite being only 19 and in August 1944 Lorna and Maurice were married.

After moving to Brigsteer he joined Lancaster Harriers and in 1949 he founded Kendal AC, attending its 50th anniversary in 1999.

In 1947, teaching in a village school, Maurice and Lorna lived in a rented cottage but had no electricity, water supply or toilet. No matter, daughter Jurdy and son Paul duly arrived and in 1951 Maurice transferred to a school in Kendal. He was running again and in 1951 the first Lake District Mountain Trial was held (restricted to YHA members). Maurice came second. The same year he ran his first marathon, coming 10th.

At the end of 1953 Maurice became Head Teacher for the island schools in the Bahamas. Coming back after 3 years he worked in Milnthorpe and then in Kendal and went back to cycling and walking. He got back into athletics, mostly organising his school teams and he became co-founder and secretary of the Westmorland Schools Athletic Association. He introduced the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme into the Kendal Boys Modern School and Sir John Hunt visited to present the awards.

Maurice initiated the Windermere to Kendal road race and competed in it for 25 years. It was the fore-runner of the Windermere marathon. He also completed the Bob Graham round.

In 1953 his third child, Sally, was born.



Maurice with daughter Jurdy.

In 1964 a friend invited Maurice to try orienteering. This was new to England although it was happening in Scotland. Maurice took up the sport with Paul joining in in 1965 and Lorna in 1966. Sally started as a 10-year-old. Maurice won the Men's Veterans title in 1973 and the family went orienteering overseas for the first time to the Swiss 5-Days. At this stage Maurice could not have guessed at the successes that lay ahead for himself and Lorna or even that that *The Orienteer* would feature Sally on its front cover a few years later.

Maurice proved to be inspirational and motivational to the hundreds of youngsters who came through his school and for this and his many other achievements in introducing running and orienteering to the South Lakes, he was quite rightly recommended to carry the Olympic Torch in 2012. This he did at Aysgarth.

Maurice was friendly and approachable and gave advice very willingly. He was also a very modest man. We have annual age-class awards and awards for the best overall performances. Maurice won his age class year after year and regularly picked up the best overall performance trophy. He became embarrassed about this and asked me, as Club Statistician, if I could change the rules so that someone else could win. I did so but his performances were so good that I struggled to stop him winning.

Maurice had another passion, collecting playing cards. In 1968 he started Kendal Playing Card Sales and from this the International Playing Card Society was founded.

Maurice brought knowledge, motivation and enthusiasm to so many people. He was one of the legendary characters in the world of orienteering and we will miss him.



Holding the Olympic Torch

CompassSport Trophy Final

We are in the Final on Cannock Chase (Abraham's Valley) on Sun 21st October. Your Club needs you !! Please let Miriam Rosen (miriamrosen@btinternet.com) know if you can take part. She will need your name, age, BOF no. and dibber number by 5pm on Weds 19 September. FREE ENTRY !!

Maurice Dean

I joined SROC in 1979 and Maurice was very active in the club at this time and I got to know him well the following year when he planned an event on Great Hill and I was his assistant. This was the first time that I acted as an event official and not only did I learn a lot from Maurice but he made me realise that getting involved in this side of the sport could be good fun. He set me on my way and here I am, still a member of SROC, still orienteering and still helping at events, having planned, controlled and organised at many.

People like Maurice and his fellow Maurice (Collett) were always great examples to anyone starting orienteering. Their enthusiasm for orienteering and life in general was obvious to for all to see and they still maintained their competitive spirit as they got older. I found this very inspirational because it demonstrated how you could keep competing in orienteering way beyond an age when one would have retired from other sports.

Amongst his many sports and interests I remember that Maurice was also a keen tennis player, and the day before the Great Hill event we sat in Maurice's car parked at the White Coppice Cricket Club, having put out the controls. It was 5 July and the day of the Men's Final at Wimbledon. Maurice was anxious to know how the tennis was going so he switched on the radio. It was Borg v McEnroe and we sat there completely transfixed for an hour or so through the tie breaker and the final set which Borg won. I will always remember where I was and who I was with when Borg won his last Wimbledon title.

The last time I saw Maurice was just after I had organised the Compass Sport Cup final nearly 3 years ago and I thought he might appreciate one of the towel mementos. We had a wonderful time. Maurice was on classic form regaling me with all the old yarns, some of his "epics" dating back to the earliest days of orienteering and well before, when he was running at the 1952 Preston Guild and the very early Mountain Trials and the Three Peaks Race which he always claimed to have been started by Preston Harriers.

Brian Jackson



Lyme Disease

There have been a lot of articles in the press recently about Lyme disease. Possibly the long spell of hot weather got more people out into the countryside, resulting in more cases of this disease.

I can talk about this fairly authoritatively as I contracted Lyme disease a few years ago.

Lyme disease is caused by being bitten by an infected tick. About 6% of ticks carry the disease. The symptoms can vary considerably. There is generally a spectacular rash, often bright red, around the area of the bite. What other symptoms you suffer seems to vary from person to person. They include tiredness, aches and pains, sweating, fever and neck stiffness, strange skin sensations and a feeling of weakness and lack of energy. I was fairly lucky as I only suffered from tiredness and weakness for a short period but another orienteer told me that he was still having problems after 4 years !

Articles suggesting how you can avoid tick bites say things like “stick to the paths” and “don’t go into the long grass”. Not terribly helpful for an orienteer.

If you do contract the disease you may have another problem. Your GP may not recognise what is wrong with you, especially as the symptoms mimic various other diseases. The first GP that I saw didn’t recognise what the problem was and in one of the articles in the press a sufferer had to see three doctors before getting the correct diagnosis. Even then there may be a problem. My GP put me on “general purpose” antibiotics, which didn’t work. You need specific ones, which I was prescribed eventually.

Further advice is provided by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and can be found at nice.org.uk



French Five Days - Alsace 8-14 July 2018

This summer the regular 6 strong party from SROC (Martyn and Sue Roome, and Brian Jackson) and EBOR (Richard and Karen Clark, and Jill Smith) went in search of multi-day orienteering on the continent. Following forays to the Italian Dolomites WOC, Millau France, Norway JWOC and Estonia WOC, it was time to return to France, in the form of the French 5 Days in the Vosges Mountains some 100km west of Strasbourg.

My only previous visit to Alsace had been brief, when hitch-hiking to North Africa in 1968. The Northern Vosges are similar in height to the Pennines with similarly large rounded hills, largely of sandstone. The big difference is that they are largely forested right up to the summit ridges. All 5 days were held in these managed forests with their wide tracks following the contours of ridges and valleys, although we did have one sprint event in the event centre village as a prologue to the 5 Days. All of the events were within a few km of the event centre and had attractive assembly areas, close to a village, and some had a lake for the swimmers. There were 1500 competitors, $\frac{2}{3}$ of whom were French, with only about 40 from UK.

With lots of line features and tracks it was the least technical continental multiday event I have ever been to but the whole package of orienteering, landscape, fine weather as back home, good company in a comfortable large house and plenty of tourist sites made for an excellent trip. It felt much like a holiday compared to the treadmill of the Lakes 5 Days with its events spread over a large area, long walks to start and a couple of days of miserable weather.

How did we do? Well, all of us except Martyn were doing the same course so this injected competition into the orienteering as well as the conversation. After 5 Days (and all counted) we finished up with Martyn 4th in M65 and Brian Johnson from Wimborne the winner. Star performer was Sue in W65, second! I was 4th in M70, but Richard mispunched one day so was not classified. In W60 Karen and Jill encountered an old adversary with long EBOR connections, my old Karrimor partner Stella Lewsley, and Stella swept the board whilst they finished 4th and 15th respectively. In the bragging stakes I finished top of our quintet doing the same course, but as usual, I was well beaten by Stella. She was 17 mins ahead on aggregate time.



Although we did not overdo the tourist attractions (we had some serious TV watching to do as it was World Cup and Wimbledon) we enjoyed some interesting places like hilltop castles, pleasant old towns like Saverne and Colmar. One fascinating place was the amazing inclined plane boat lift at St. Louis Arzwiller which is the key link across the Vosges between the Marne and Rhine. Built in 1968 and replacing 17 locks it can carry several boats the size of English narrow boats such as Dave and Yvonne Hargreaves's Barolo at a time, and using hardly any electricity or water.

I have not done the World Masters event for many years because I have never liked the format and never done well in it. I much prefer a top class 5 or 6 Day event with very little urban orienteering, finding these much more enjoyable. Some of the best ones tend to be open events based on WOC or JWOC.

This year the French 5 Days was not a great technical challenge but it made for an excellent orienteering holiday.

Next year? The 5 Days based on JWOC in Denmark.

Brian Jackson



Joss Naylor Lakeland Challenge

Congratulations to Chris Roberts who successfully overcame 48 miles and 17000 feet of ascent to raise funds for the British Heart Foundation.

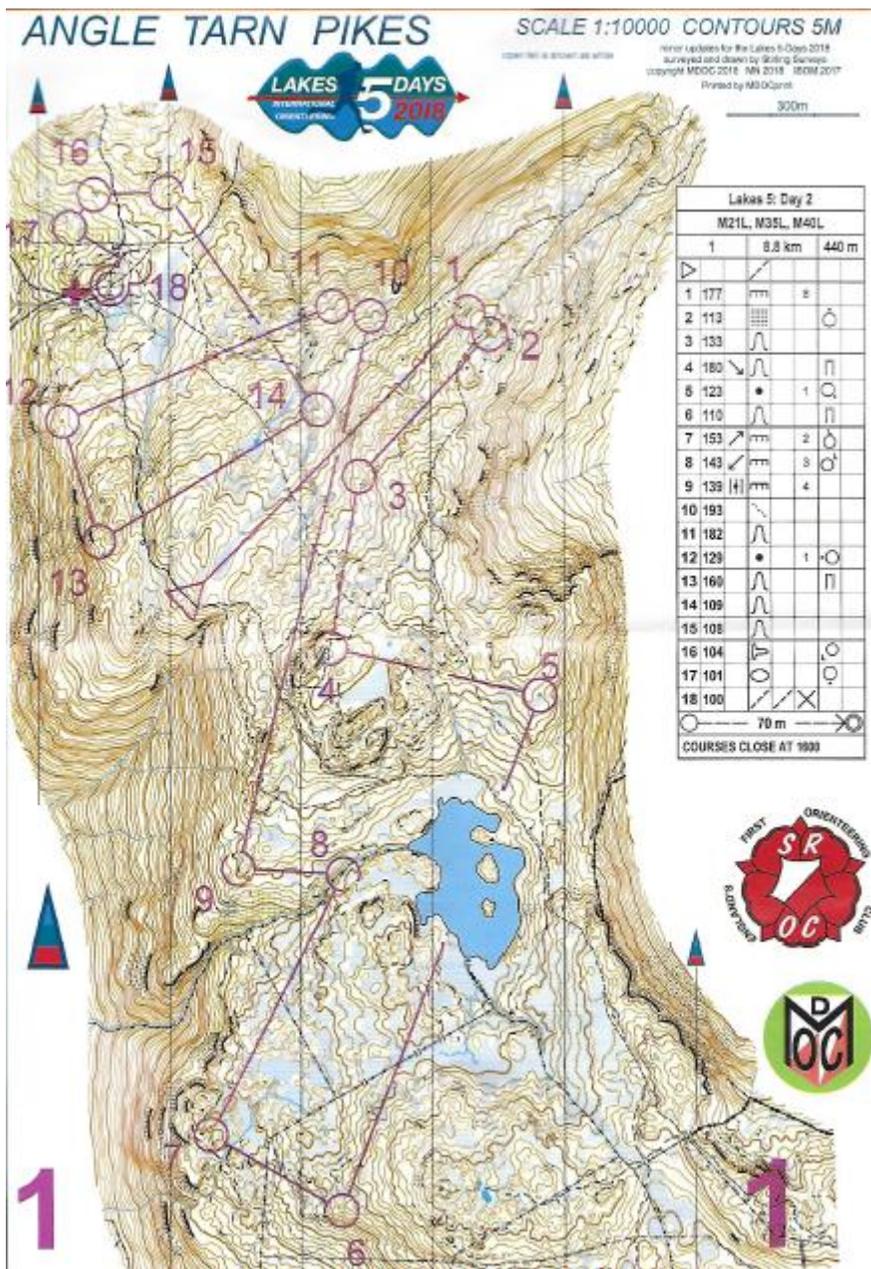


The photos show Brian at the Sprint Prologue and Sue in 2nd place at the Prizegiving.

January 1997

The picture below was taken at the Social in January 1997. How many people can you recognise?





Lakes 5 days

This is the main regular event for the NW Orienteering Association, happening every 4 years. It provides most of NWOA's income.

This year seemed to go pretty well, if you discount some pretty bad weather early in the week.

“Our Day” was Day 2 at Angle Tarn Pikes. This isn't one of our areas, it belongs to MDOC, but as they were doing the IT on all 5 days they didn't feel that they could organise one of the days as well. We took it over with Tony Marlow doing an excellent job as Organiser and Gavin Smith doing an equally excellent job as Planner.

Actually, it was pretty difficult for Gavin, who said that he had never planned on such a difficult area. The very steep areas on either side if the map were not usable so it all had to happen “in the middle”. The way that he overcame this problem for the longest course is shown on the left.

There had been a panic the previous evening when heavy rain meant that half the parking area was flooded and the event might have to be cancelled. Fortunately it all went ahead as planned.

Matt and Jill Cochrane were doing the parking but being on the second shift Matt described it as “unparking”. Apparently he spent much of his time acting as a local tourist information centre, pointing non-orienteering walkers in the right direction.

Lost Property

Matt and Jill Cochrane found a pair of Ron Hill Tracksters but didn't know where they had come from. However, they had Brian Jackson's name in them.

Brian says that they went AWOL at the JK Relays at Cannock. Brian had returned to the club tent after a below par run in rough forest and had waded through some of the deepest liquid mud that he had ever seen (*see photo in last Newsletter – Ed.*) only to find that the tent had been abandoned by everyone except Jon Carberry and Sarah Watkins. His Ron Hills tracksters had also abandoned the tent.

Brian remembered being in the village hall at Dunnerdale Fell Race a few years ago when his Ron Hills were swept into John and Jo Taylor's bags. Brian got them back nicely washed, dried and folded.

"Brian's moral" is – always put your name in your sports kit (as, apparently, his mother did in his younger days).



Congratulations to :-

David and Heather Roome on the birth of Rafferty Albert on July 10th

Also to Matthew and Rebecca Rooke on the birth Cecily Beatrice on July 19th.

Well done also : White Rose winners Ben Todhunter (M10A), Lucy Todhunter (W35A) and David Roome (M35), not forgetting Ellie Todhunter (2nd on W10A).

Summer sprint

Congratulations to the Class winners :

Luigi Lerosse - Men Open

Annie Ockenden - Women Open

Alex Matthew - Junior Men

Cate Matthew - Junior Women

Graham Capper (LOC) (Paul Ferguson 2nd) - Vet. Men

Jane Anthony - Vet. Women

Stepping Stones Group - Groups

Fixtures

See www.SROC.org for details

CompassSport Trophy Final

Sun 21 October on Cannock Chase.

If you can run please let Miriam Rosen (miriamrosen@btinternet.com) have your details by Wed 19th September. The Club will pay the entry fees.

Autumn Series

Starts 12 – 1.30 £5/£2 + family rate

Sat 22 Sept Lancaster University (in conjunction with NW Sprint Champs)

Sat 20 Oct Williamson's Park, Lancaster

Sat 10 Nov Williamson's Park, Lancaster

Sat 22nd and Sun 23rd September.

NW Sprint Champs and Lancaster Urban Event.

Thurs 11 Oct SROC AGM Garstang Fire Station

Night Street League

60/75 min score events Starts 6.30 – 7.30 £3/£1

Wed 24 Oct Lancaster West

Wed 7 Nov St Annes

Wed 21 Nov Helmshore

Wed 5 Dec Carnforth

Wed 19 Dec Ormskirk

Night Event

Sat 24 Nov Low Park Wood

New Year Cracker

Jan 1st 2019 Sizergh Castle

Next Newsletter: mid November. All contributions very welcome. Send to dick.collins@btinternet.com

Photos particularly welcome. Many thanks