

# SROC



The Red Rose Orienteering Club



BOF Club of the Year 2008

## Newsletter

May / June 2016

Editor: Dick Collins

### Editorial

One of the things that Mike Hamilton, the BOF CEO, has reported on recently is the so-called “Olympic legacy”. This was the idea that the London Olympics would stimulate sports in this country. In fact, after Sport England has spent £50 million on a variety of sports the number of people participating has hardly changed. This was despite the fact that when London was chosen for the Games the Government (i.e. Labour party) had promised to use the influence of the Games to inspire an extra million people to play some sort of sport three times a week (or more). Were the politicians being over-optimistic? The *British Medical Journal* decided to research all studies which have been made on this subject (over 50 in number). The result of all this is quite interesting (although not for the politicians). Quite simply, there is no evidence whatsoever that big events like the Olympics have any impact on sporting activities (or on health or on all sorts of other socio-economic factors). Ben Goldacre (who wrote the “*Bad Science*” column in the *Guardian* for many years) reports that in Manchester (2002 Commonwealth Games) overall sports participation actually fell after the Games and the gap in participation rates between rich and poor areas widened significantly. Various reasons were suggested for this, one being that all the new sporting facilities which were built for the Games tended to benefit elite athletes rather than the general public. Apparently, the various government targets for improving participation, health etc., related to the Games, have been quietly dropped. Running an Olympic Games (or World Championships or Commonwealth Games) is of course, enormously expensive. Many feel that the cost is not justified and that the money could be better spent. One of the ways that the government tries to justify the expenditure is by claiming an assortment of benefits which never come to fruition. We should remember all this next time the country is bidding for a major sporting happening.



## CompassSport Trophy win in the heat at Timble.

Our defence of the CompassSport Trophy got off to a good start at the delayed heat at Timble near Blubberhouses. A waterlogged parking field had meant that the event had to be postponed earlier in the year.

We only needed to come 2<sup>nd</sup> to qualify for the Final but of course a win would be much more encouraging.

The overall scores were

SROC 1291 EPOC 1264 Claro 1250 NATO 1243  
NN 656

It was not as close as the numbers suggest as the scoring system always produces numerically large and closely-spaced results.

The photo shows Mark, Zoe, Ray and Tony looking suitably ecstatic.

Unlike the old days we benefitted by having strong runners in all the classes. Top performances from the following:

Class 1   Iain Embrey 100   Luigi Lerosse 98  
Class 3   Zoe Harding 100   Heather Roome 99   Sarah Watkins 96  
          Mark Edwards 95  
Class 5   Jane Anthony 99   Mary Ockenden 94  
Class 7   Julian Lailey 100   Sue Roome 97  
Class 8B  Annie Ockenden 100  
Class 9B  Beth Davey 100

Class 2   Mike Johnson 97   Steve Davey 95  
Class 4   Quentin Harding 100   Gavin Smith 98  
          Andy Quickfall 97  
Class 6   Martyn Roome 99   Dave Hargreaves 95  
Class 8A  Laurence Johnson 98  
Class 9A  Finlay Johnson 100

Well done to all of them.

Remember to keep your diary free for the Final which is at Tankersley, near Sheffield on **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October.**

## CompassSport Cup levy

Swapping my Editor's hat for that of the Treasurer, we have a difference of opinion with British Orienteering. I pay the BOF levy for all of our events by going on to the BOF website and filling in the number of runners (in six different categories) for each event. The site then calculates the levy payable and I send a cheque to BOF. Much to my surprise, when I did this for the CompassSport Cup last November, the BOF site said that there was no levy payable. Assuming that this was a mistake I phoned the BOF National Office. The person there told me that if the site said that no levy was payable then no levy was payable. Over the next few months I received a number of e-mails from BOF telling me which events had outstanding levy payments which I should pay. None of these e-mails mentioned the CSC, thus effectively confirming that no levy was payable. Now, after seven months, BOF have decided that a levy of almost £1000 is payable. I received an e-mail from Mike Hamilton, the BOF CEO, saying that he thinks that we should pay the levy. I have asked him to comment on the fact that we were told repeatedly that we didn't have to pay. At the time of writing I am awaiting his reply.

## Odds and Ends

Quentin Harding has made more appearances than anyone else in the Newsletter in the last few years. I decided to try to keep him off our pages if I could. He seemed quite amused by this. So what happened next? His picture on the cover of CompassSport a couple of issues back was voted as the best cover by CS readers. Then the only photo that I was sent from the Scottish Champs was of Quentin finishing (see page 6). As Editor I am sent the Newsletters from the other clubs. I opened up the latest DEE Newsletter and whose face was grinning out at me? You get one guess.

I've just noticed that there are three pictures of Becca Rooke in this Newsletter. Most "new mums" tend to disappear from competition for a while but clearly not in Becca's case.

Many of our members will have known Terry Bolland who has sadly passed away.

There is some evidence that entry fees for British Championships (e.g. £20.50 early entry fee for the Sprint) are resulting in reduced numbers. With BOF taking two thirds of any profits clubs are having to push up fees in order to make a profit. This results in less entries so fees have to go even higher. The north-west is putting on the British Long and Relay Champs in 2017 and the financial prospects are not looking good.

## Battleaxe

Warrior's Battleaxe series has now finished. As usual, events on quality terrain led to a big entry.



Becca Rooke (seen here with the rather unusual trophy) won the Ladies Section and Quentin Harding won the Male Vets Trophy.

The Battleaxe series was started many years ago by Warrior founder Mick McGill. For many years Mick was the only member of Warrior. He claimed that his wife was also a member but nobody ever saw her orienteering. Mick was a remarkable orienteer, coming 4<sup>th</sup> in M21E in the British Champs when aged well into his 40's. Sadly, he succumbed to cancer some years ago.

## JK 2016

A lot of good performances by SROC runners. In the Sprint Quentin Harding was 1<sup>st</sup> in M50 with Jane Anthony 2<sup>nd</sup> in W60.

In the main event (Days 2 and 3) there were overall wins for **Quentin**, in M50L, **Philip Rutter** in M20L and **Martyn Roome** in M60S. There were 2<sup>nd</sup> places for Julian Lailey, Becca Rooke and Sue Roome.

Good performances also from Karen Quickfall, Lucie Todhunter, Miriam Rosen, James Todhunter, Brian Jackson, Mike Johnson and Rebecca Harding.



Our youngest member!

Harriet Rooke (W0) in club colours, with mum Becca.



## NW Night League

Congratulations to Quentin Harding who won M40+ and Heather Roome who won W19/39.

## Scottish Champs

Congratulations to Julian Lailey (M70L), Quentin Harding (M50L) and Miriam Rosen (W65L), winners at the Scottish Champs. Well done also, David Rosen 7<sup>th</sup> in M60L, running with his new knees.



Not content with individual glory, congratulations to Miriam and David Rosen and Quentin Harding (shown finishing in the photo) who are the 20+ Scottish Relay Champions. I queried this, assuming that it was the 120+ class. Apparently I was wrong and they are the 20+, Champions.

What does this mean? To find out you have to go to the SOA Relay Rules and Guidelines page on the web. It turns out that the Scots have some quite interesting rules relating to their Relays. There is a handicap number associated with each age class, the stronger the class the lower the number. M21 is 0 and M75 is 11. Our heroes qualified by totalling over 20 points. A team consisting of an M75, a W60 and an M21 would also have qualified, as would two W50s and a W45. Simple really.

It seems also that runners may run several times (possibly for different clubs), however, they can only qualify as Relay Champions on the basis of their first run. “Neighbouring” clubs may form (competitive) joint teams. What is meant by “neighbouring” isn’t defined but will apparently be interpreted flexibly if runners have travelled a long way to get there. “ ...a long way ....” isn’t defined .....etc., etc.

Actually, all this is quite sensible as it is designed to get as many people as possible competing.

## British Relay Champs

Congratulations to Rebecca Harding, Heather Roome and Becca Rooke who won the Women's Premier event. How Becca did so well whilst carrying Harriet is a mystery !



Congrats also to Deb Murrell, Rowena Browne and Jane Anthony, who came 2<sup>nd</sup> in W50.  
An empty diary for early September ?, try Liverpool.



# Liverpool Big Weekend

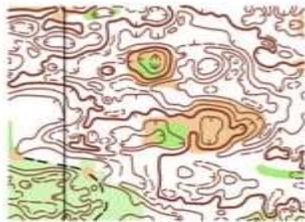


**Saturday 3 September**  
**Ainsdale Dunes Long Distance**

**Sunday 4 September**  
**Liverpool UK Urban League Race**

Top quality technical open & forested dunes  
Only accessible every 4 years, **entry limit: 500**  
Full range of courses: White - Black

Assembly on the iconic Waterfront  
Race through Albert Dock, Ropewalks, Cavern Quarter,  
Chinatown, Baltic Triangle & Georgian Quarter



Do the weekend by train & enjoy all that Liverpool has to offer - from the Beatles to the Tate, [www.visitliverpool.com](http://www.visitliverpool.com)

Event details at [liverpoolbigweekend.wordpress.com](http://liverpoolbigweekend.wordpress.com)

Entries: [www.fabian4.co.uk](http://www.fabian4.co.uk), closing date 21 August

## British Long Distance Champs

These were held at Brown Clee and resulted in some good performances by SROC competitors.

## **Congratulations to Quentin Harding M50 British Champion.**

Well done also, Michael Finch, 1<sup>st</sup> on M12B and Philip Gager, 1<sup>st</sup> on M70S.

Good performances also from Finlay Johnson (2<sup>nd</sup> M14A), David Rosen (2<sup>nd</sup> M60S) and Becca Rooke (3<sup>rd</sup> W21L).

## **Northern Champs**

**Quentin Harding** and **Brian Jackson** are the Northern Champions in M50 and M70 respectively. Congratulations to them.

## **Spring Series**

A whole string of SROC winners: well done the following: William Acklam (M10/14), Beth Davey (W10/14), Deb Murrell (W16/55), Finlay Johnson (M16/55), Dawn Lock (W60+), Chris Roberts (M60+), Daniel and Benedict Wilson (Families) and Christine Acklam (Newcomers).

I'm not sure if any other sports have a 16 to 55 age class!

## Mistakes Keep Coming by Dick Collins

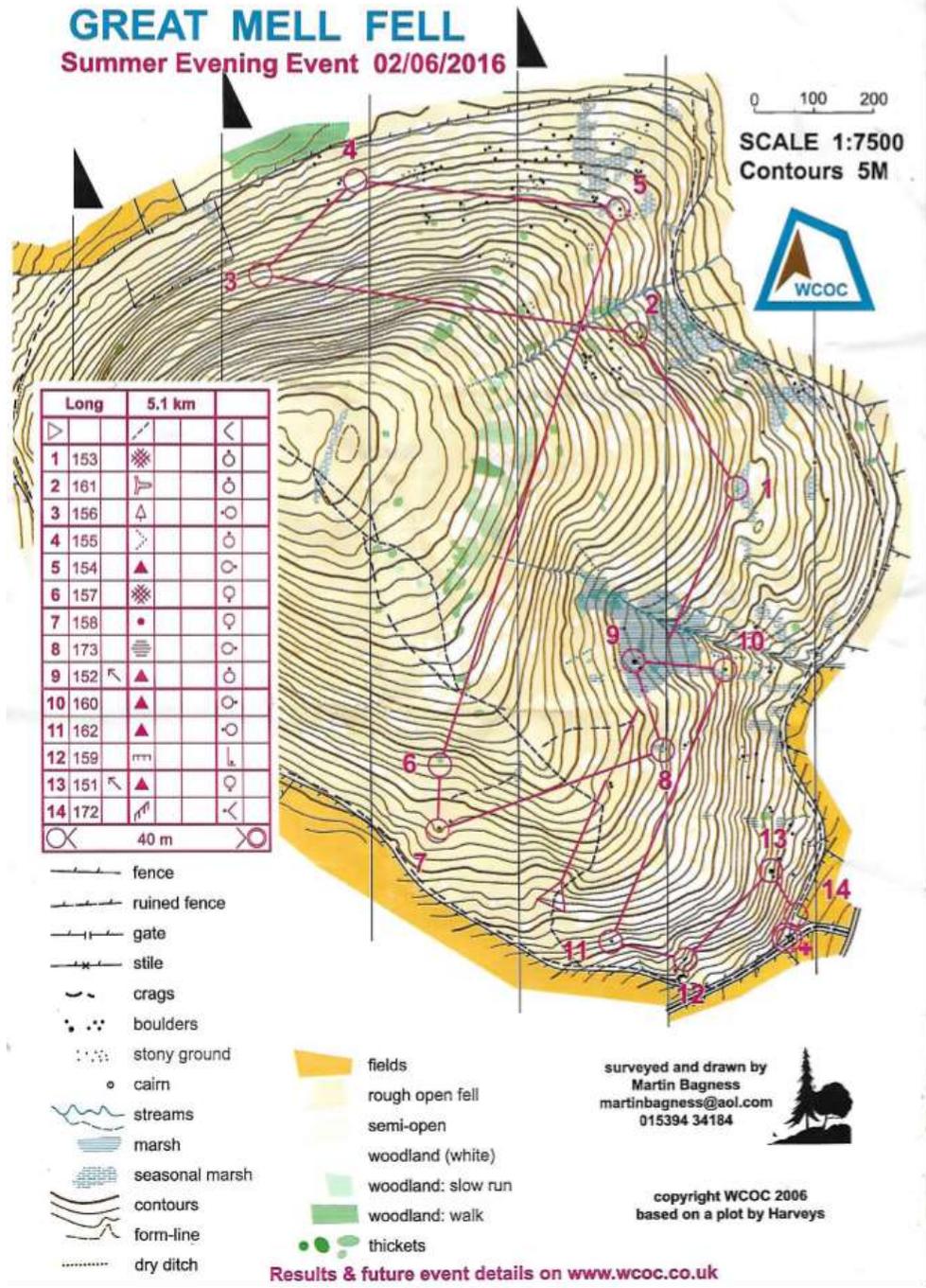
Adding to the (numerous) articles that I have written over the years about mistakes that I have made, herewith the latest batch.

Jane and I went to the LOC Evening event at Graythwaite. It was an Odds/Evens 60 minute score. I didn't read the instructions – that was the first mistake. I set off doing the Odd controls. It was tough going and after two controls I got lost. I found the control after a while but had lost a lot of time and surrounded by Even number controls I decided to switch to them. It went rather better then and I collected a respectable number of Even controls. When the results came out I had been beaten by Jane. I hadn't realised that there was a Changeover control which you had to punch before you switched so I was only credited with three controls as none of my Even-numbered ones counted. Moral - however many events of a particular type you have done, the next event might be slightly different.

Next evening we were in Glenridding and decided to go to the WCOC evening event near Dockray. Five days short of my 72<sup>nd</sup> birthday I now favour short courses on nice flat areas. Was it flat? See map on the left. Having climbed 100m to the "do-it-yourself" Start we arrived to find a young runner (he looked about 14) ready to set off. He asked me which course I was doing. "Short" I replied. He said that he was also doing the Short course and asked me to give him at least a minute's start before I set off. I assumed that he would be able to run a lot faster than me but I waited a minute. He duly dibbed and took a map out of the left-hand poly bag. A minute later I dibbed and also took a map out of the left-hand bag. I had made my next mistake. My map was the one shown on the left and I decided to contour around to number one. It was tough going and I was pretty slow. I made a small error, arriving in the general area a couple of contour lines too low, but I realised and didn't lose much time. I then contoured round to number two. Slow going again and I started to worry about how long it was taking. Also, I had noticed leg 5 to 6. As I approached number two I saw the youngster ahead of me. I had gained half a minute on him but I still felt that it was going to take me an awful long time to complete the course. I decided to pack in but I got numbers 9, 8, 10, 13 and 14 on the way back, just to have got my moneys-worth.

I felt rather fed up. At my age I don't expect to be able to go round the Long courses in a reasonable time but here the Short course had defeated me. Back at the car Jane looked at my map. "This is the Long Course" she said. I had simply picked up the map out of the same bag as the youngster who had said that he was doing the Short course. Moral - don't trust anybody!!

And... just to cheer me up, it turned out that the first control on the Short course was no 8 on the map on the left. I had punched that on my way back and was credited with a time of just over 40 minutes for the 300m leg from Start to control.



Readers will be aware that there is considerable discussion going on about whether our sport is in trouble (everyone is getting old, there aren't enough organisers and controllers, BOF are insisting that the cake sellers are qualified, we are running out of usable terrain etc., etc.). The letter below is one of the more recent contributions to the debate. It comes from Chris James, the Chair of the Events and Competitions Committee. Note that this is largely about "Major Events" which are causing BOF some concern.



## BRITISH ORIENTEERING - EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE (E&CC)

Chris James - Chairman

To Chairmen & Honorary Secretaries of Regional Associations  
To Chairmen & Honorary Secretaries of Home Nations

Dear All

I feel it is appropriate for me to add a little more flavour to the Minutes of our most recent meeting. I am a great believer in effective communication and so would like to add a few thoughts for your Associations to consider.

In the autumn edition of FOCUS there was an article "Events as Something Old & Something New" to which we have had a very small number of replies. Of course this is disappointing but perhaps not surprising. It was intended to seek concerns, ideas and suggestions for taking us all into the future. It was never intended to spell out what we must do.

**"Events as Something Old"**. Members of E&CC are very clear that our remit is to manage the major fixtures structure on the behalf of the Board. Being aware that the Board has been working on a fresh Vision for 2016 – 2020 we have been

considering our element of this Vision and Strategic Plan to support Competitive Orienteering at the UIK level. As Chairman it is very clear to me that to maintain “Something Old” there are potentially significant issues ahead of us:

- Ernie Williams, Chair of Event Officials is really struggling to find sufficient experienced and qualified Major Event Officials. Logically we must turn to you to encourage and support the development of your own Event Officials to be available in the future to act for Level A & Level B events if we are to maintain our present programme
- Chris Phillips, Chair of Programme & Publicity is finding it increasingly difficult to identify good terrain that is not already earmarked for a Major Event and therefore not subject to embargo.
- Mike Cope, Chair of Event Scheduling Group working with your Fixtures Secretaries then does a great job in building our future Major Fixtures with these constraints. One is encouraging Associations to give these issues good attention.

To maintain “Something Old” we must all work more together.

**“Events as Something New”**. In attempting to think strategically one asks how other Sports are faring and trying to see what lessons we might learn. We must all be aware of the large gaps in our membership profile potentially making the maintenance of “Something Old” increasingly difficult. So we ask you all to consider, in your Regions how can we all move forward positively with “Something New”. We seek your suggestions to share please.

We welcome your Associations thoughts and ideas say by mid June well before our next E&CC meeting.

### **Association Roles within British Orienteering.**

Back in the mists of time I have Chaired both historically in the SEOA and slightly more recently in the WMOA as well as serving on the SOA in the very early days. In all cases I have sincerely believed in the Associations playing a proactive role in our total structure but disappointed that it has often been a struggle. Is it not time to be prepared to play a more proactive role in drawing the clubs into effective Associations?

**Chris James** – Chairman of British Orienteering Events & Competitions March 2016

## Next Newsletter

Late July. Contributions from readers would be much appreciated! Please send to [dick.collins@btinternet.com](mailto:dick.collins@btinternet.com) or by post to 8 Sandown Road, Lancaster LA1 4LN. Many thanks.

## Fixtures

See [SROC.org](http://SROC.org) for details

### Sprint Series

Starts 6:30-7:00 for Prologue. Final starts at approx. 7:15 £5/£2

Tue 7 June Williamson's Park, Lancaster

Tue 21 June Worden Park, Leyland

Tue 5 July Lancaster University

Tue 12 July Myerscough College (Prizegiving follows).

### Scout and Guide Champs (open to all)

Tue 14 June Beacon Fell

### Summer Street League Starts 6:30-7:30

Thur 23 June Buckshaw and Euxton