



Website: www.wimborne-orienteers.org

WAFFLE

January 2008

Chairman's Column

First of all, if I haven't already seen you, may I wish you all a Happy New Year.

Lots of things have happened on the orienteering front since the last edition of Waffle, even more during the last calendar year and it makes me giddy just to think of it all.

During 2007, WIM have helped at the very successful JK, gained the Clubmark award, qualified for the final of the CompassSport Trophy and run in the final, and planned and organised a sizeable part of the British Schools Championships weekend. To that we can add our usual tally of Regional and Gallopen events together with two MTBO events, a couple of night events and several smaller events, culminating in the annual Boxing Day Canter.

It's an impressive list and I'm very proud to be Chairman of such an active club. Not that there isn't room for improvement in some ways.

Firstly, we need more active juniors. Secondly, we need to attract more younger, active adults. This is a national problem, not just one affecting WIM, and there are no easy answers. We have received some money as a grant from British Orienteering to help us develop junior and schools orienteering and one of the things they want us to do is to offer free membership of BOF to promising orienteers from the schools league.

This may appear to solve the junior membership problem at a stroke - but of course the problem will be retaining their membership after their initial year is over. And to do that, we will have to engage not only these young people, but also their parents, in the sport, and keep them active. An interesting problem.

Another development we must be aware of is the change in the BOF event insurance scheme. Any full member of British Orienteering is automatically covered by the Federation's Civil Liability insurance policy. But non-members competing in events from January 1st won't be unless we charge them 50p/person/event and make a note of their names and addresses. A little more admin for the event organiser perhaps, but not really any more than has been our practice for the last couple of years, since we adopted electronic punching and took the name and address of those hiring dibbers.

2.

To return to the club's major event of the year, the British Schools Orienteering Championships. This event entailed a huge amount of work. The remapping of three forests, two of our areas and one of WSX's, providing overnight accommodation for a couple of hundred children, providing a training event for 400 on the Saturday, plus a separate selection race for 160 children in the M/W 14 & 16 age groups, plus the individual championships on the Sunday. Of course we didn't do this all on our own. We shared the main responsibilities with SARUM whilst our friends from WSX organised the training event at Coldharbour. WIM teams organised the Selection race and planned the Championships, whilst SARUM provided the planners for both of Saturday's events and were the main organisers of the Championships on the Sunday although virtually every available member of both clubs helped on the day.

Sadly, the weather on the Sunday was as unpleasant for orienteering as it was possible to be. Continuous heavy rain, high winds and low temperatures (Cris Tween's rain gauge recorded five inches of rain over the week, most of it falling on the Sunday & Monday). Despite all this, although we had to scale down or cancel much of what was scheduled to happen, the main championships went ahead successfully, in no small part due to the professionalism of all the volunteer officials.

Chris Branford, as co-ordinator, put in a huge amount of work, before, during and indeed, after the event to make it the success it undoubtedly was and I thank him, on behalf of the club, for all his efforts.

Hopefully 2008 should not be quite as eventful but it will undoubtedly be busy, starting with the Regional event at Avon Water.

We have again had to organise the bussing of competitors, this time from Brockenhurst College to the forest. But the attractions of hard standing car parking, together with the prospect of hot showers when you get back from your run, should make up for the inconvenience of the bus. We've also gone for online entry for the event, using the Fabian4 system. Although there is the option of traditional entry by post, they tell us that well over 90% of entries now come on-line. As I write, entries are coming in steadily.

Let us hope that in 2008, we may all run in sunlit forests.

Dick Keighley

WE SURVIVED BSOC07

A huge **thank you** to everyone who helped make this weekend happen.

It turned out to be a weekend of two halves – Saturday – fine and dry and Sunday – well! '... the weather can't get any worse' – well actually it did.

Monday saw a thunderstorm which took out power for several hours and a hailstorm which covered the ground with icy golf balls.

On Sunday somehow we managed to get 700 competitors safely around their courses.

The majority were happy and finished with a smile on their faces.

The whole weekend took a huge amount of organising and commitment from members of all of the three clubs involved (plus a little help from some of our neighbours – SOC and QO) and – yes – everyone survived – just!

It took us at least a week to dry everything out and I am sure you must have been the same.

Once again thank you to every one who turned out.

The Branford Family

'Wet, Wet, Wet' The British Schools Champs 2007

Anyone who was a competitor or helper at Bovington on Sunday November 17th deserves a medal!!! Storm force winds, continuous heavy rain (2.5ins recoded locally) and freezing temperatures made survival the first objective followed by a sense of achievement and it was an achievement! Nearly 800 schoolchildren from all over the country successfully completed their courses and from what has been said since almost all 'enjoyed' their weekend in Dorset.

It was almost 2 years ago that the idea of hosting BSOC was first raised and this led to SARUM, WIM, and WSX joining forces to take on the event. An organising committee was formed and promptly appointed Chris Branford as Event Co-ordinator, possibly because he had recently retired. In reality they recruited the whole Branford family who 'lived' the event with untold hours of work as the time gradually shortened towards the event date! The magnitude of the task of preparing and putting on an event of this type is easy to underestimate. Three areas of land needed, overnight accommodation for large numbers of children, planning three events to a very rigorous technical level, getting together enough 'dibbers' for the event, publicity, goody bags, results processing etc, etc. After a considerable search Bovington was chosen for the championship event with Coldharbour and Gore Heath being used on the previous day for a 'Training' event and the World Schools Selection Race respectively. Events of this type are expensive to put on and the committee spent much time and effort in seeking sponsorship with only very modest success. In the final run up to the events the organisers phone ran red hot! Why do people always have the need to alter entries at the last minute, and have strong views on what should or should not be done?!

Saturday Nov. 17th dawned fine, sunny and calm and stayed that way. All the action was centred on Coldharbour near Wareham which was the day event centre. As time progressed a steady stream of children enjoyed the SARUM/WSX 'Training' event getting to grips with both O techniques and the character of Dorset Heathland. From Coldharbour competitors in the World Schools Selection race were bussed to Gore Heath. This was a very serious competition with many elite competitors running demanding Green and Light Green courses planned by Ben Chesters. John and Di Tilsley, past masters at dealing with schools led a team of WIMs who manned the start, finish and patrolled the forest. Download was back at Coldharbour presided over by Dick Keighley and everyone was pleased to see the last competitors back by mid afternoon.



Finishers at the Selection Race in Gore Heath

4.

Meanwhile, at Bovington the championship event was being set up. The planners, Kirsty Staunton and Lynn Branford were fully occupied putting out controls in order that they could be checked by the event Controllers, Caroline and Ian Moran of SOC. Chris was busy setting up the assembly on the playing fields of Bovington School before spending Saturday night supervising a large number of children who had 'floor' accommodation at Lytchett School.

What about Sunday? Well as Chris says the weather started badly and just got worse! Helpers and competitors were greeted by flooded roads, as wind and rain swept the assembly area to test the most intrepid 'would be erector' of club tents. SARUM were the key organisers of the day with WIM assisting but Lynn, Kirsty and Chris had twisted most arms in WIM which meant a large turnout of hopefully waterproofed members. The south start used the WIM tent until it blew away leaving them to manage several hundred competitors from the boot of a car. The north start fared better. It only flooded but both had to deal with a stream of very wet children some of whom were not very suitably dressed and had to be given encouragement before setting off on their courses. Once in the forest a team of WIMs acted as marshalls patrolling the forest area to assist the more challenged competitors. Back at the finish the carefully planned spectator 'run-in' with its model tank was all but deserted with finishers passing rapidly through download where computing was superbly managed by Michael Napier. After the offer of drinks and a goody bag the really chilled competitors were diverted into the First Aid tent and from there into an impromptu 'Sauna' created by the SARUM team by using a minibus with its engine and heaters running!



The Finish BSOC -.Lots of relieved and happy faces

Despite the inevitable alarms and excursions caused by 800 children running courses in such adverse conditions everyone was back by about 1.15pm and headed straight for their coaches and cars. The real disappointment of the day was that all the other activities arranged to make a memorable day were cancelled. Dick Keighley and Keith Henderson had set up a 'Trail O' course but having put out the controls, done a 'risk assessment' and experienced the weather they collected the controls back in again. The prize giving was cancelled to allow everyone to set off for home as soon as possible. Helen Bridle had come all the way from Sweden to take part in the prize-giving but was hardly seen by anyone! The control collectors were somewhat surprised to find streams where none had existed but by 4pm all was tidied up and there was the chance to heave a huge sigh of relief and to reflect on the achievement of holding a successful event in conditions that kept most of the population firmly indoors. The whole event had been handled in a truly professional manner by volunteers!



Helen Bridle with Finishers in the dry!

Drying out took almost a week but the stories of BSOC2007 will live long in the annals of Schools orienteering whenever anyone about to go out orienteering says 'It looks a bit like rain!'

Photos: Courtesy of Simon Branford and David Olivant

John Warren

Level 3 Coaching Course

In early December, Lynn Branford and I attended a Level 3 coaching course; it was a week end course at Longmoor Army camp and covered the 'paper part' of the assessment.

Longmoor camp has been mapped for orienteering and is a good area with mixed vegetation and some areas of detailed contours, it is also, like many army areas, covered in tank tracks and man made hills and bunkers so a great place for training exercises.

We were a select group, Lynn and I were joined by Jeff Butt from Sarum, a 'wing co' from Norfolk, an Irish man from Edinburgh and a young man from Oxford uni – so a very mixed bunch. We started with the usual 'tell the group about yourself' session, (I managed to resist the temptation to confess to previous misdemeanors) and moved straight into planning practical exercises to introduce navigation on long legs using rough compass bearings – a skill needed to complete light green courses successfully. We then went outside to try each others courses, which was interesting if rather wet – yet again it was wild, windy and pouring with rain!! The afternoon was similar but this time we looked at the use of simple contour shapes in navigating to control sites, we took it in turns to be 'instructor' or the 'pupil' and spent an hour and a half running up, down and around a giant sandpit.

In the evening we were shown how the new OCAD system can be used in training activities, the most exciting idea was to use the map in combination with a power point presentation and then plot a runner's route onto the map for all to see and discuss – an IT version of what we do at the end of our runs, but this time in a warm class room!! (The army are hoping to run an OCAD course early next year which will be open to all.)

At the camp we were based in Building 25, which is a large hut designated to orienteering, it has 2 large classrooms, a computer room, a small kitchen for making tea and coffee, a large storeroom for stakes, flags etc and plenty of hot radiators to dry off wet clothes. Food was provided as part of the course and we ate in the army canteen, the food was good and there was lots of it although we did have to provide our own knives and forks... We had also been asked to bring a sleeping bag and Lynn and I were a little concerned about where we were going to sleep – as it happened we were in an enormous dormitory of 20 beds, just the 2 of us, it looked like the accommodation in all the TV 'boot camp' programmes, however we were warm and comfortable and both slept well.

Sunday was much less damp and the structure of the day was similar to Saturday, this time we used 'brown only' maps to plan sessions on using complex contours and in the afternoon we planned 'long legs'. This was followed by discussion on how to organise the practical assessments needed to achieve the Level 3 Coaching Certificate.

Lynn and I enjoyed the course and found the planning activities interesting but as with all of these courses the most valuable part is sharing ideas and opinions with other coaches.

Thanks to the SW region for agreeing to pay for Lynn and I to attend this course, we are both looking forward to putting all of our ideas to the test – does anyone want to be a guinea pig?!

Kirsty Staunton

6.

CompassSport Trophy 2008

By the time you read this the club will have tested its ability to compete against our neighbours WSX, SARUM, GO, and BADO in the CompassSport Trophy and we should recognise and thank Noel Smith, our acting 'Team Captain' for his prolonged efforts in achieving such a magnificent turnout of club members at Yateley.

Unlike many sports, in Orienteering you are usually on your own, and it's not often that many people in WIM have the chance to get together. I suppose in the modern jargon the event could be called a 'Team Building' exercise, but really it's an opportunity for a good day out and a chance to meet people!

Club Dinner – Canford

Once again the club is fortunate to be able to hold the club dinner on Friday February 22nd in the spectacular setting of John O'Gaunts Kitchen at Canford School. The enclosed Flier/Booking form gives you details of Menu, Cost and timing and we look forward to another memorable evening during which the club awards will be presented.

Please make sure that you have completed the booking form and returned it by the closing date of **Monday February 11th**.

Farewell – but not goodbye

Tim Britton moved to Bristol some time ago and after continuing his membership of WIM for 2007 decided that it would be sensible to change his membership from WIM to BOK. He intends to continue as organiser of the Coast Path relay and will keep in touch with his friends in WIM at SW events. We thank Tim for his enthusiastic involvement in WIM affairs and wish him well for the future.

The Founder's Trophy

The Founder's Trophy is awarded according to a formula worked on the results of the November Classic. The winner of the trophy for 2007 is Keith Henderson who despite some injuries has had an outstandingly successful year of competition.

The trophy will be presented to Keith at the club dinner in February. He takes over from the inaugural winner Sue Hands who was unable to defend her title as a result of a badly broken ankle due to falling into a pit whilst competing in an Army League event. We are delighted to hear that Sue is making good progress and hopes to be back competing in the spring.

A change in the League

Enclosed with this Waffle is a list of the final positions in the 2007 Club League. Keith Henderson and Terence Furlong head the league with identical scores, with Nikki Crawford and Kirsty Staunton as the top ladies. Simon Branford has done a great job compiling the league for several years, but as a result of major work commitments wishes to hand over compiling the league to a 'willing' volunteer.

The 'willing volunteers' are Mike Kite and Mary Buckland, thank you to them and a big thank you to Simon. We look forward to the new 'management' team taking over this spring.

A new Club member?

Congratulations to Karen and Andy French on the birth of Grace Elizabeth in November. Judging by the lively interest that she was taking at the Boxing Day Canter it won't be long before we see her competing at 'Elite' level!

Southern Champs. 2007 – West Woods – Marlborough

The Southern Champs. were late last year, hosted by NWO in mid November. A goodly group of WIM's took part and our Champions for the year were:

Terence Furlong M18

Jo. Pickering W20

Hilary Pickering W50S

Nikki Crawford W65L

Barbara Warren W70S

Just to keep you on your toes the 2008 Southern Champs is to be held on February 3rd at the Guildford Badge event so keep up the training!



Worthy Southern Champions – Jo. Pickering and Terence Furlong

Boxing Day Canter 2007

The 'Canter' always seems to be popular and this year we hit the jackpot with superb calm, sunny weather which brought out Orienteers of all ages and abilities as well as a really large number of family groups. About 270 maps were issued but the family groups meant that well over 300 people enjoyed Boxing Day morning in the sun. A big thank you to everyone who helped in particular Jo. Pickering who acted as the 'Fairy' and 'Father Christmas' who in the guise of Noel Smith's father came all the way from the Isle of Mull!

Forthcoming Events

All events use electronic punching unless stated: *S/I or EMIT*

January

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|--------|------------------|--|-------------|
| Sunday | 13 th | CompassSport Cup/Trophy Round 1 – Yateley and Minley, Camberley
GR: SU 235 583. Signed from M3 junction 4A.
Details have been sent to everyone involved. Any late queries to
Noel Smith 01202 – 821053. | <i>EMIT</i> |
| Sunday | 27 th | BKO 'Concorde Chase' Regional Badge event – Burghfield near
Mortimer GR: SU 640665. Pre entry by 20/01 post and on line.
Contact: Lynne Moore 01628 – 623338 | <i>EMIT</i> |

February

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|----------|-----------------|--|-------------|
| Saturday | 2 nd | SARUM Informal/Dorset School League – Vernditch Chase
Salisbury GR: SU046215.(White to Green courses) | <i>EMIT</i> |
| Sunday | 3 rd | GO Regional Badge event & Southern Championships | |

8.

Woolbeding Common, Midhurst. Pre-entry by post or on line by 26/01
See Guildford website for more details S/I

Also DEVON Galoppen – District Colour Coded event – Harcombe Forest
Near Exeter Racecourse GR: SX 897834
Contact: Bryan Smith 01626 – 879305 S/I

Sunday 10th TVOC Chiltern Challenge – Regional Badge event – Downley and
Bradenham – High Wycombe GR: SU 854965 Pre-entry Post or
On line by 25/01. Contact: Fred Ashford 01494 – 534972 *EMIT*

Sunday 17th WIM Winter Warmer Regional Badge event – Avon Water –
New Forest. Parking at Brockenhurst College (£1 per vehicle)
GR: SU 250000. Bussing to and from start. See notes elsewhere in
Waffle. S/I

Saturday 23rd BOK British Night Champs. – New Beechenhurst – Coleford –
Forest of Dean. GR: SO 613118 Pre-entry by 08/02
Contact: Mark Blackstone 01179 – 623288 S/I

Sunday 24th LOK Regional Badge event – Holmbury – Guildford GR: TQ 094432
Pre entry On line and postal by 10/02
Contact: Neil Brooks 01494 – 872578 S/I
Also NGOC Galoppen District Colour Coded event – Knockalls Enclosure
Coleford – Forest of Dean GR: SO 561119
Contact; Roger Coe 01594 – 510444 S/I

March

Saturday 1st WIM Night Owl Night event – Godshill Inclosure –Fordingbridge
GR: SU 176160 S/I

Sunday 2nd WIM Dorset Schools League/Informal event – Godshill Inclosure
GR: SU 176160 Contact: Dick Keighley 01258 – 860935 S/I

Sunday 9th SARUM National Event – Great Ridge – Hindon – Salisbury
GR: ST 930360 Pre-entry On Line and postal by 24/02
Contact: John Parfitt 01985 – 216371 *EMIT*

Sunday 16th SOC District Colour Coded event – Acres Down – Lyndhurst
GR: SU268078 Details to be confirmed. *EMIT*
Also QO Galoppen – District Colour Coded event – Blackborough –
Cullompton GR: ST100084
Contact: Richard Sansbury 01823 – 288405 *JOE LEE*

Good Friday – Easter Monday 21st - 24th JK 2008

Good Friday 21st Day 1 Sprint Races - Guildford University

Saturday 22nd Day 2 Individual - Leith Hill

Sunday 23rd Day 3 Individual - Ashdown Forest

Monday 24th Day 4 Relays - Eridge – Tunbridge Wells

For entry see details S/I

Sunday 30th WSX Galoppen District Colour Coded event
Watch for details S/I