



Website: www.wimborne-orienteers.org.uk

WAFFLE

January 2011



Boxing Day in Moors Valley – minus 8 degrees

COMPASSSPORT CUP **YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU!!!**

As I am sure you all aware we have been drawn to run in the Qualifying round on **Sunday 16th January at Longleat** and now being a 'Large Club' we are competing against Devon, SOC,BKO and BOK. I have almost 50 members who have indicated that they are available to run for the club. The club will pay all entry fees and EMIT card hire and with the venue being so close it would be good to get as many club members as possible to turn out and I would love to see at least 50 WIM's taking part! Who knows we may even qualify for the final again but this time as a 'Large club'. You don't have to have a brilliant run to score and bolster the total points for WIM.

DO NOT BE SHY - WE NEED YOU!

Trevor Bridle 01258 - 454811

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From the Chairman

First of all may I begin by wishing you all a Happy New Year for 2011.

Since I wrote my column for the last Waffle much has happened. As a club we've been very busy. I had to miss what by all accounts was a highly successful Galoppen in N Ringwood because I was away in Scotland inspecting possible forests for the 2012 World TrailO Championships which BOF has been asked to put on after Switzerland decided to host only the World FootO Championships in 2012 but not the TrailO and MTBO Championships which usually go with it.

In Scotland we woke on the Saturday morning to find snow covering the hills around Perth. The first snow of the winter: we didn't realise at the time just how much snow we were going to see during the rest of the year!

At the end of November, masterminded by Chris Branford and Martin Cross, WIM put on the Southern Night Championships in Washers Pit on Saturday November 27th, followed by a Dorset Schools and informal event the following day. Night events are never particularly heavily attended, and with the army deciding to hold their own night championships on the same date up north this year rather than with the Southern Nights as has been usual, our entries were disappointing. Numbers were reduced further when the South was covered with few inches of snow in the days before the event. By Saturday, some but by no means all of the snow had gone from the approach roads, but the forest was still wintery in appearance

On a bitterly cold night the 50 competitors who braved the snow enjoyed their courses, and we had about 120 more runners on the Sunday morning for an equally successful event. At least the cold meant that the paths and tracks, which are normally pretty muddy in winter, were nicely firm, which aided the parking and meant that running times were pretty quick as well.

The joint WIM/WSX monthly club nights are becoming increasingly popular and the Branford's extravaganza at Bryanston in mid December attracted 30 or so despite the freezing fog. The attractions on offer included "The 12 Days of Christmas" loops, a Christmas Tree shaped maze and for the hardy, another round of the Night League. Very recently we held our 40th Boxing Day Canter in Moors Valley. Yet again there was snow on the ground and as I set off from home on the morning of the event it was -13C although the sun was just beginning to shine. It proved to be a brilliant sunny morning and despite the weather the attendance held up well so that including all the family groups we probably had close to our usual 240-250 runners out in the forest.

You may remember that in my last column I expressed the club's disquiet about the proposed massive hike in fees being demanded by the Forestry Commission for orienteering in its English forests. We felt that the the proposed new charges would lead to the death of the sport as we knew it in England.

The latest news is much more encouraging. The outrage around the country from the clubs, reflected in protest to the Forestry Commission's head offices, or to their local forest offices, many of which were themselves expressing their misgivings about the scheme, led to the Commission withdrawing their proposed new charges, which their top management clearly regarded as a public relations blunder.

Mike Hamilton, the Chief Executive of British Orienteering, who had refused to sign the previous agreement, and who's leadership on this matter has been outstanding, was able to restart negotiations with the FC and after compromises on both sides, signed a new interim agreement for 2011 during the week before Christmas. Whilst this will inevitably lead to some higher access fees (and thus slightly increased entry fees to events), the proposed charges are realistic and we can face the new year with some confidence.

Dick Keighley

WIMBORNE CLUB LEAGUE 2011

The Club League table is compiled from competitors' best 6 scores in cross-country events. They are:

- a) SWOA Level A or B events
- b) All SWOA Galoppens
- c) Other WIM, WSX and SARUM Level C events with full traditional colour range including Blue and Brown courses
- d) SOC New Forest events with full traditional colour range including Blue and Brown courses
- e) SOC and BADO Level A or B events including the November Classic

Other events, Night events, Urban events, Sprint events, Score events and Chasing Start events are not included.

Points scored are the course winner's time divided by the competitor's time multiplied by 100.

The colours laid down by British Orienteering for long courses are the basis for calculation. BO colours are:

Black	M21
Brown	M35, M40
Short Brown	M20, M18, M45, M50, W21
Blue	M16, M55, M60, W18, W20, W35, W40
Short Blue	M65, W45, W50
Green	M70, W16, W55, W60
Short Green	M75+, W65+
Light Green	M14, W14
Orange	M12, W12
Yellow	M10, W10

Where a colour is not offered, a competitor may run the next available colour down without penalty. For example, a W50 finding no Short Blue can run Green for full points. Otherwise, competitors running down one course score 90% of calculated points; 80% if running down two courses. No score is given for running down three or more colours.

This system is geared to Seniors running standard long courses. The percentage reductions will affect Seniors opting for shorter courses. Juniors should note that Club League colours are generally one above Dorset Schools League colours. This won't cause conflict except when a DSL event is incorporated in a Galoppen. Juniors then have to choose between the harder colour if they're chasing Club League points, or the easier colour if after DSL points.

Good luck everyone!
Mike Kite

Many thanks to Mike for his work updating the league throughout the year, It is always available on the WIM website, and a printed version of the final league for 2010 is enclosed with this Waffle.

OMM 2010 – Dartmoor

“We are best to sleep top to toe but try to arrange your body around the lumps and hollows if you can”

John Walmsley and I have selected our spot to pitch his minimalistic tent on grassy tussocks at the overnight camp. It is only 4 in the afternoon but with a hot drink inside us we are surprisingly chipper and glad to have arrived so early and well before dark. How did we arrive at this point? It could be said that it followed months of intense training and preparation, but not so. We each have a history of body fabric decay and just about managed to get to the starting line today. Dartmoor of course is as local as it gets in terms of mountain marathons and the hills are comparatively minimal. On the northern edge of the moor, Okehampton Military Camp is the event centre and a short walk to the start. We elected for the “medium score” course where you select a route with a view to visiting as many controls as possible within six hours on day one and five hours on day two. At the ‘get go’ John places his magical piece of string on the map. Knots on the string represent an anticipated one hour of travel over the ground. Although these have got closer together over the years knowing the 1:40,000 scale of the Harvey’s Map we can work out an anticipated optimum route from start to finish. On the straight line the overnight camp is only 10 Kilometres away. We are allowing 21K and assuming 3 plus K per hour can allow the string to snake around a bit on the map and pick out suitable controls to achieve an optimum points score. Although we think we can manage one of the 40 pointers we will leave the distant 50’s to the supermen and women. Towards the finish there are some 10 and 20 pointers so we will leave them as options and decide nearer the time. Our ability to stay the course is unknown and so better not to be too optimistic. First control, a trig point on ‘Yes Tor’, is designated CK (where C is the speed of light and K is my initial!). I generated little speed but enough heat to remove my Patagonia jacket before arriving at the said trig point. The next control selected is 3K away and involves a descent of 270 metres followed by an ascent of 180 to control 2, one of the many Tors for which this moor is famous. Is this DF? Let’s hope it’s not DNF. 40 points is encouraging so we will continue. Oh no! Control 3 also involves at some point a huge descent followed by the inevitable ascent to yet another Tor. A brief discussion (on the move of course) concludes that we will make the descent early and turn to follow the marsh in the valley bottom. After all, those toy farmyard animals down there are only up to their hocks in water. The difference is they are standing still and we are obliged to negotiate numerous tussocks to make progress over a marshy kilometre to then climb to our third Tor.

The next control appears a gratuitous 40 points but the planner knew what he was doing and we rather slowly battle through the energy sapping mire. Control 5, well our fifth, a marshy re-entrant is designated DV and strangely god was willing! Never mind we are on the home stretch with two hours to go and maybe some time to spare. How about AQ John it’s almost on the way it’s called “Lynch” Tor? If I had prevailed John would undoubtedly have hung me without a trial. Suffice it to say we make the cluster of 10 and 20 pointers and arrived at the finish with 30 minutes to spare and were not too shattered, which is as well in view of what was to come.

With 700 odd tents pitched at the overnight camp Wimborne members were distributed widely but none-the-less managed to meet up albeit briefly in view of the worsening conditions. Eamon and Kirsty, also on the medium score event, found that a 40 pointer was just a Tor too far and confirmed what we have always thought that Kirsty has a nicely turned ankle and limped into the safety of the camp. Wim members on the short score were Nikki and Sue, Karen and friend Clare, Patrick and Jo, and although we did not locate him Colin Mc.Murtry. Neither did we see or know of the presence of Mark Bentley and Jamie Ransom who were camouflaged by running as “military” in the B Class: as it happened very effectively too for they ended each day in 17th position.



The luxury of a 'Therm a Rest' was well worth the effort of carrying. Well, actually John just took more than his share of the weight, for which I am grateful. We had a relatively good nights rest despite the rain driven by gusts beating constantly against the tent fabric. Who can forget the six o'clock wake up klaxon of a mountain marathon? This surpassed only by the melodious lone piper at Scottish events. I never get up before daybreak so snuggle down for another hour and await my man who has added a new meaning to continental breakfast menus with 'Italian vegetable in rice'.

By 9.30 the intensity of downpour has subsided but the sodden ground does not misrepresent what is to come. After a brief respite in the early stages of our course, in which I foolishly remove my waterproof trousers, the rain resumes and the wind is no less. Streams are not significantly wider, unlike the Lake District OMM of two years ago, but they are very forceful so crossing requires judicious assessment and care in the execution. A benign looking ditch encourages my Taurean nature and despite John's warning I end up waist deep in very cold water. The result is a seriously dampened ardour and the rest of the journey becomes something of a progressive slog. Encouraged by John's stamina and great determination we press on and do not pass BY, yet another Tor, collecting 30 points in the process. The ubiquitous cluster of 10 pointers near to the finish includes DT, a reservoir, but it is doubtful if we will make it without incurring penalty points and anyway I am cream-cracked and would indeed have suffered delirium if not of the tremens variety. The run in to the finish at Mountain marathons ought always to be down hill so I registered my protest at this oversight by walking most of it.

There is nothing like the exhaustion of mountain marathons to give one an appetite. I think it important therefore to go into great detail about the food provided so I thought I would let you know that at the finish we were offered various summer fruits, followed by hot soup. Then on downloading a meal ticket was provided which lead on to pasta and or Nan-bread and a choice of three vegetarian toppings. Military cuts meant that this was served to over 2,000 participants by one "chef". So now you know why we do it.

If you have stayed with me and read to this point, all I can now say is that I trust I have succeeded in putting you off entering the next mountain marathon and in the hope that this will leave space for me and for John.

Keith Henderson

Paid Coaching opportunity

Applications are invited from orienteers willing to organise and run a weekly WSX/WIM Club Night based at Parkstone Grammar School ,Poole.

Funding is currently available from British Orienteering to provide support for a 40 week delivery year (Coinciding with school terms) for the lead coach. He/she is asked to provide weekly sessions of 90mins. for the 40 weeks of the school year.

The coach will be expected to plan and lead the weekly sessions with assistance from a team of volunteer coaches.

A CRB is essential but can be arranged.

Ideally, the coach will hold a minimum UKCC level 1 qualification but funds are available for the chosen candidate to be trained to this level if necessary.

If you are interested, please contact Gavin Clegg – Parkstone Grammar School – Sopers Lane – Poole BH17 7EP Tel: 01202 -605605

E mail: gavin.clegg@parkstone.poole.sch.uk

for further discussion and/or an application form.

Closing date for applications is Friday January 21st.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Kirsty Staunton who has been selected as a member of the English team in the 2011 Interland competition. The event takes place in NW Germany on March 6th and England competes against two Belgian teams, one from France and another from NW Germany. We hope that Kirsty has a great run and helps to secure another win for England!

Enclosures

You'll find two enclosures with this Waffle:

The first is the final club league for 2010

The second is a questionnaire aimed at helping our coaches plan a future programme which reflects what members feel that they would like to take place in training and club evening activities. Replies to Chris Branford please.

Thanks

On February 19th the Schools event will be using a new area, never previously used for orienteering, at Moreton, SW of Bere Regis. In these days when access and land charges are becoming more and more difficult the club is particularly grateful to Richard Frampton Hobbs of Moreton Estate and also his Gamekeeper, Dave Barnes for allowing us free access to the estate and its facilities. Come along and have a run on a new map on a new area. Hard standing parking is guaranteed.

'O' holidays in 2011

The New Year brings a whole host of Orienteering opportunities both near and far!

Here are a few:

Easter weekend – JK 2011 – N. Ireland centred on Belfast

May British Champs weekend – Sheffield/Peak District

Late May - Springtime in Shropshire – Three days centred on Ludlow

Summer - Oban 2011 – Scottish 6 Days event

There are numerous other choices both at home and abroad including the World Champs in the French Alps. Lots of information on the Internet. Have a great year.

Boxing Day in the snow

After weeks of low temperatures we knew what to expect, but with figures locally ranging from minus 8.5 to minus 13degs the brilliantly sunny morning certainly took your breath away.

A blanket of snow had given Moors Valley a completely new face as well as the planner using the more easterly part of the map and fortunately the car parking used a forest road that had been sheltered from the worst of the snow.

The registration and computer tent was, amazingly, pitched in the sun and as we had got well over half the entry on line the usual queues were less and there was a more relaxed social atmosphere as people assembled and walked down to the start .

The mass start was not quite so 'explosive' as in previous years with many more people standing and reading their maps before setting off into the forest. Noel Smith's controls included one on the top of the high level walk and the usual bonuses were there, Father Christmas (Trevor), the Christmas Fairy this year with an assistant (Grace and Jo) and the decorated Christmas tree. With well over 200 competitors the range of talent was impressive. Family groups and occasional orienteers rubbed shoulders with Elite members of the British Squad coming from far and wide including Italy and France!

To the considerable satisfaction of the computer team there were few queues, particularly at download, and the organising team led by Karen and Andy French were pleased that all competitors made it back to the finish in good time, thus allowing control collection and general tidying up to be completed in time for everyone to enjoy Boxing Day afternoon.

Here are a few photos taken by Simon Branford. You can see his full collection on the WIM website with a link from the results

John Warren



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Forthcoming Events (Full Details of events can be found on club websites)

January

Sunday 9th SOC District Colour Coded event – Highland Water – New Forest
GR: SU242097

Also QO Gallopen – Colour Coded event – Triscombe – Bridgwater
GR: ST164359

Sunday 16th CompassSport Cup Round 1 – SARUM event at Longleat -
GR: 835433 . Any queries contact Trevor.

Saturday 22nd WIM Dorset Schools & Informal – Hurn Forest with informal
MTBO in morning. MTBO from 09.30, Foot O from 12.30

Saturday 29th BKO Regional Badge event – Barossa – Camberley
GR: SU825625. Pre entry by Fabian4.

Also NWO Limited Colour Coded event (Yellow to Blue only)
West Woods- Marlborough GR: SU166666

February

Saturday 5th WSX Informal – Hethfelton – nr Wareham GR:SY860883

Sunday 6th WIM Regional Badge event – Brownhill Inclosure – New Forest
Parking at Holmsley Camp site GR:SZ251997

Monday 14th WIM/WSX Training evening – Archbishop Wake School, Blandford

Saturday 12th SARUM Dorset Schools/Informal – Vernditch, Sixpenny Handley
GR:ST880425

Sunday 13th NWO Gallopen Colour Coded event – Savernake Forest –
Marlborough GR: SU230655

Saturday 19th WIM Dorset Schools & Informal – Moreton Estate – Bere Regis
GR:SY800893

March

Saturday 5th WSX Inaugural event – Brownsea Island – Poole

Sunday 13th TVOC Chiltern Challenge/Southern Champs – National event
Hambleton – Nr. Henley . Pre-entry only via Fabian4

Sunday 20th SARUM 'Saunter' – Regional Badge event – Big Wood – Salisbury
GR: ST930360

Sunday 27th WSX Gallopen District Colour Coded event – Wareham Forest
GR: SY996843

April

Saturday 2nd BOK SWOA Middle Distance Champs – Stock Hill - ST545523

Sunday 3rd BOK Trot Regional Badge event – Stourhead – nr. Mere
Pre-entry by Fabian4 ST ST783341

