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WAFFLE

November 2011

Mike Tween



Mike Tween 1927 - 2011

It is with great sadness that we have to record the death of Mike Tween at the age of 84, a pioneer of Orienteering in the South.

Mike and Cris first became involved in the sport being members of Dorset Orienteering Association in the late 1960's from which WIM emerged in 1970.

He made a major contribution to the sport in many different fields, being a meticulous mapper with his name appearing on the map of Canford Heath used for the first Boxing Day Canter. Several of our current maps are based on Mike's original surveys.

He put in an immense amount of time and effort in event administration, quietly working behind the scenes in all aspects of event organisation. Mike served as SWOA Secretary and was Editor of SINS. A particular achievement was as organiser of the JK Relays at Bramble Brook in 1979.

Always a competent and enthusiastic competitor Mike was a skilled and thoughtful planner and supportive Controller, Day 2 of JK 1989 being a notable example of his planning skills.

Mike was a naturally gifted engineer with a strong artistic sense and those who have seen the 'Dolphin' trophy which he designed and made will appreciate his practical skills.

Mike and Cris' house was always a hive of orienteering activity, where you could be assured of a warm welcome and sound advice on every aspect of Orienteering. His practical and adventurous outlook led to them embarking on a house self build project when they moved from Broadstone to rural Fiddleford.

In his later years Mike had the misfortune to contract Lymes Disease, which was quickly followed by the progressive onset of Parkinsons Disease. His increasing physical handicaps never altered his quiet and good humoured personality, continuing to work as a team with Cris. Everyone who knew him admired his fortitude and positive acceptance of his circumstances.

Mike will be very much missed and our thoughts are with Cris, Nick, and Malcolm.

John Warren with assistance from Trevor Bridle, John Shucksmith and Erik Peckett

Coast Path Relay Sept 3rd

After a break of a year more than a dozen WIMs formed a team to take on the challenge of running from the Devon Border at Lyme Regis to the Studland Ferry at Sandbanks. The distance and climb is challenging as are the logistics, masterminded by Chris Branford and John Whittingham, of getting runners to and from the right place at the right time.

The weather was warm and sunny. The team ranging from Juniors to some very Senior members had a thoroughly enjoyable 'team building' experience, completing the run in 8 hrs 46mins with a mass run along the beach from Studland before the now traditional pub meal in a sunny pub garden overlooking the bay.



4.

A brief summary of the 2011 AGM

The 43rd AGM of the club was held at Canford School on Friday 7th October with 26 members present.

Dick Keighley presented his chairman's report, giving a comprehensive review of various club activities and events throughout the year and paying tribute to many individual successes. Dick had completed a further year as chairman and did not wish to stand again. He was warmly thanked for his major contribution to the club.

Trevor Bridle gave his usual detailed analysis of club finances and the audited accounts were unanimously approved. Trevor also wishes to stand down, and he was thanked for his many years as a meticulous treasurer not only to WIM but also to SWOA.

Club fees for 2013 will remain as £8 for family and senior and £1 for juniors. Helpers at events will pay £3 entry fee.

The Chairman and Secretary had approached several members to stand as chairman, but all had declined. It was agreed that there would be no formal chairman in 2012, and that committee members would chair meetings in rotation. Karen French was elected as treasurer and John Warren would remain as club secretary for one more year. John Whittingham was retiring from the committee while he starts a new career after leaving the army. The new committee will be Hilary Pickering, Mike Kite, Martin Cross, Chris Branford, Trevor Bridle, Dick Keighley, Karen French, John Warren with John Shucksmith as a co-opted member.

There were two AOB proposals:

Martin Cross proposed that in future 'Waffle' would only be available electronically, unless a paper copy was specifically requested.

Chris Branford proposed the setting up of a sub committee to consult members regarding a possible merger with Wessex OC

Both of these proposals will be followed up.

Barbara Warren was pleased to announce that Mike and Mary Kite had volunteered to take over as editors of Waffle.

Di Tilsley asked that the club should recognise the untiring work of all of the club coaches. This was enthusiastically supported by the meeting.

The competition for a caption for the photograph of Martin Cross on day 3 of the Scottish week was won by Di Tilsley with the words: 'Where on earth am I? This just makes me CROSS'

Refreshments were served and were followed by an outstanding and entertaining presentation by Andy French on the family trip to the Finnish 'Jukola' midsummer relay event. Video film of seriously crowded control 1 of the women's event was one of the highlights – 'women wrestling on the ground' - was an accurate and unexpected description!

Croeso 2012

Next summer the Welsh multi-day event will be based in Aberystwyth. Kirsty has already booked student accommodation at the university, and Nikki has booked the adjacent flat from July 21st to 27th. In each flat there are 8 single rooms, all en suite, with a communal kitchen and lounge. The whole flat is £692. If filled, the individual cost is £89, otherwise pro rata. There are 5 vacancies which Nikki would like to fill. If you are interested phone Nikki Crawford on 01725 – 512213.

Poundbury – 2nd October 2011

Poundbury is a thriving new urban development on the outskirts of Dorchester, West Dorset. It was designed by the Prince of Wales who outlined his pioneering ideas in his 1989 book, 'A Vision of Britain'.

Work began in the mid 1990's with the aim of completing development in 2025. This will add approximately 5,000 to the population of Dorchester with 2,000 jobs in the factories, offices and general facilities across the site.

Poundbury is made up of Town Houses, Cottages, Shops and Light Industry. Its innovative design allows the combination of Traditional Architecture and Modern Town Planning and boasts a thriving community in which people can work and live in close proximity.

So we have HRH Prince of Wales to thank as it was his design which made the day possible (probably orienteering was not at the forefront of his mind in his vision but nonetheless gratefully received by the competitors and officials alike).

From a planner's perspective the intricacies of the afternoon area (the original part of Poundbury) lent themselves far more to a complex orienteering problem for the competitors to put both body and brain to the ultimate test (getting lost and relocating). The main road running east to west on the map ideally split the area into two allowing the use of two different areas for the morning and afternoon. On-going building was a bit of a problem for the mapping as every time visits were made something else had happened. Winning times were very much what I expected except that the M60/65 men ran too fast and could really have done with another 2/3 minutes running (however I am not sure how the older ages running with them would have viewed that!).

On the day the Indian Summer was very much in evidence and I had packed my sunhat and suncream (instead of my waterproofs and thermals which is what I would have normally expected in October).

The 6th Form block that we used for Assembly was a brilliant facility and we have been offered the use of it again and have in mind to run an urban event similar to the London event in the next 12 months or so.

The area is ever expanding and there is plenty of scope for new areas to be used for similar events in the future.

Di and John Tilsley – as always – had everything organised right down to the last detail. A big thank you to them.

Chris Branford

And a big 'Thank you' to Chris, Lynn and Simon for planning the excellent courses. Ed.



WIM revisits its past

The Schools /Informal event held at Avon Heath on Saturday September 24th was new to many people but not to the old hands. First mapped some 30years ago, this small area of Dorset Heathland has been out of use for 25years as a result of 'environmental issues'. However about a year ago a chance meeting with one of the Rangers who had visited Moors Valley resulted in the club being invited to re-map the area with the long term view of a Permanent Course being established! This complete change of heart has come to fruition. The 'trial' event' was a great success enjoyed by everyone who came and impressed the Avon Heath managers so we are now on track to have another Permanent O course which is a complete contrast to Moors Valley, but still having the ultimate security of having a fence round its outside! It also has the facilities of good parking, a Visitor Centre,Loos and a Cafe plus an adventure playground for children.

If you weren't there then the photo will give you a flavour of the area or why not call in and have a look. Avon Heath is signed from the A31 at the roundabout by the St Leonards Hotel. We hope to have the course up and running in Spring 2012.



The Godshill Galloper on October 23rd was a break through in that using this area has always been a challenge because there is no suitable parking and assembly. In the past we have used roadside parking and on two occasions Sandy Balls Leisure Park with a major hike to and from the start/finish. Thanks to Debs Mays we gained access to 'Toms Field' which had everything! Easy vehicle access, 'bomb proof' parking on a gravel base. (Those who went to the Caddihoe Chase will appreciate this!), plumbed in loos and hot showers, and a sizeable barn with a mains power supply used by both computers and the catering trailer. It was still a moderate walk to and from the Start and Finish but it allowed us to use a totally new area for many courses planned by John Shucksmith which seemed to produce a lot of happy customers.

8.

What a difference a week makes!

Saturday 10th September 2011 – the City of London orienteering race. Saturday 17th September 2011 – the Western Australian State Championships. There was a good contingent of WIM members in London, unfortunately, only one in Australia!

I hope the WIMs in London enjoyed their runs as much as I did and, for those who have never done the London race, I can highly recommend it as a fabulous day out. This year we were based in the Barbican, an area similar to that used two years ago. The assembly point was at the City of London School for Girls, right in the heart of the complex alongside St Giles Church. In my previous attempt two years ago I had been very disappointed with my run, having been totally baffled by the complexities of the Barbican with its different levels. The map is brilliant but it's still very difficult to interpret the highs and lows of the buildings.

This year I wanted to do better – but I also had a very tight schedule as I wanted at least 5 days in Australia before the W.A. Championships. I had booked a flight leaving Heathrow at 6pm on Saturday 10th so it meant an early start for the race and then a dash to Heathrow for the 3pm check-in. However, by a remarkable stroke of fortune, a neighbour of my sister in deepest Dorset just happens to have a flat in the Barbican and not only was she happy for me to stay there on the Friday night, but also she even volunteered to drive me to Heathrow after my race. And it all worked perfectly! I went on the coach from Ringwood to Hammersmith on Friday afternoon, then took the tube direct to Barbican station, then a five minute walk to Jillian's flat in the northern part of the complex.

The next morning I had a ten-minute walk to the assembly area in the school gym and then it was along and up to the start, feeling very nervous (Don't get lost Richard, you've got a plane to catch!) It was a beautiful day as I set off on my 'Ultra-Vets M60+' course and I was very pleased that the first control was pretty straightforward (compared with the Women's 'Ultr-Vets' course which had a very tricky first control). After that everything went well – east to Finsbury Circus, then south near the Bank of England, then west to control 9 right next to St. Paul's, then a circular route back to the Barbican via Smithfields. Up a level to controls 14 & 15(ooh,there's Jillians flat!), a circular route to the north and then back into the Barbican for the last 5 controls. Possibly the wrong route to 21 but at least no dead-ends and then round to the finish by St. Giles Church. Fantastic! 5.2k in 70 mins. – not too bad. What a wonderful day! I gathered my belongings, met quite a few WIMs, some of whom had finished, some waiting to start, and then back to the flat for a shower and a quick lunch. There was a great bird's-eye view from the third-floor flat of lots of orienteers dashing round below me – including Kirsty, Kevin and Gillian Cross. Gathered up my luggage(including my sweaty O gear) and off we went to Heathrow.

Approximately 21 hours later I landed in Perth late on Sunday night to be met by my cousin, who was a £10 'Pom' way back in 1967. It's a 25 mile drive up into the hills east of Perth to their place and a welcome hot shower and plenty of sleep. It was great to be back in Oz for, I think, my twelfth visit!

The following Saturday I had a 30 mile drive to the event, which was the W.A. Middle Distance Championships. They were using a completely new venue, which was a splendid area of steep forested hillsides with outcrops of huge granite boulders, deep valleys, very runnable open grassland and areas of opencast quartzite mining sites. My course (M65+) was only 3km but, with 190m of climb, felt pretty tough, but I thoroughly enjoyed it. It was very good to meet up again with Aussie orienteers I've got to know over the years – they are always very welcoming. The weather changed completely on the Saturday night and I rather reluctantly set off for Sunday's Long Distance Championships in heavy rain and strong winds. It was held in the same area and my course was 5km with 225m of climb. Overnight the creeks and gullies had become torrents and the going was a lot tougher than the day before, but I really enjoyed my course. Back to the car for dry clothes and then some very nice home-made cakes provided by club members. It had been a very good weekend's orienteering on a superb area with excellent maps. Such a contrast from the City of London but absolutely great!

Western Australia is huge, covering 2.5million sq. kms., large enough to swallow the whole of Europe, but with a population of only 2.3million – of whom 1.3million live in the Perth metropolitan area. There are four orienteering clubs around Perth, but very little elsewhere in the State; there were only about 100 competitors altogether for the Championships (compared with 1,100 for the London race!), but they are very keen and put on a variety of events during the year. I still had a further three weeks of my holiday to go, so plenty of time to enjoy the wonders of Oz. It's an amazing place.

Richard Brightman

On the occasion of John and Barbara's retirement from the editorship of Waffle, after many years of brilliant work, may I thank them for all their efforts and also wish Mike and Mary Kite good luck as the new editors.

Richard

What next?

Responses to the query you were sent regarding Waffle have been arriving steadily. Almost everyone has chosen the electronic system, although several people did so rather reluctantly.

Not only is it likely that this is your last paper version, but it is also my last as editor. For years Waffle has been issued in alternate months and it is surprising how short the gap can seem between completing one edition and starting to prepare the next! My special thanks to John for putting up with my constant demands to enlarge or shrink photographs, and who types much faster than I do. I'm grateful to everyone who has written articles and shared photographs, especially Chris Branford whose pictures enliven this Waffle as usual. I'm delighted that Mike and Mary Kite have agreed to take over as editors. I wish them luck with the changes they would like to make.

Barbara Warren

10.

WIM members on TV!

October 8th saw SOC host the British Schools Score Championships at Beaulieu with WIM providing the Controller (John Warren assisted by Barbara) and Club Coaches(Lynn and Chris Branford, and Dick Keighley) to help supervise over 300 children from as far away as the Channel Islands and Nottinghamshire.

The day was greatly enhanced by the presence of Alexis Green, the BBC South 'Weather Girl' plus a cameraman. Alexis is an ex student of Clayesmore School and used to Orienteer regularly with Colin Evans school CCF group proving to be an outstanding competitor representing England in an International Schools O event in Latvia in 1998.

A superb, sunny assembly saw detailed filming of the start with Lynn and two of the Hyde school year 5 children figuring in the short film shown on BBC South Today.

The other coaches spent the day patrolling and marshalling in the woods, whilst Dick Keighley found a near permanent job in charge of the finish.

It was enlightening to see the contrasting skill of the competitors who ranged from 9 to 18years old. The younger ones went in pairs with a 45minute limit whilst the older students were allowed 60mins. Standing in the forest you could observe high speed runners, some reading the map, others trailing the map out behind them, some having animated discussions about where they were and what to do, others charging off more in hope than with plan. All were enthusiastic but some were seriously challenged and the range of skill was well illustrated by the fact that 'our' Hyde School' team who had been carefully coached by Kirsty, Hilary and Debs flew round their course in 17 mins whilst Lynn was asked by a small boy in the start lanes ' Can we take a map out with us!! Contrast this with Jack Benham and Lucy Butt who both won their classes visiting all controls well within the time limit.

As many Orienteers know, a Score event is quite a challenge. You have to choose which way to go, there are no lines joining your course together so 1,2,3,4.... is not there to help you. This meant that some children went round in circles before being straightened out by patrolling marshalls. Also a Score event has a time limit so you have to know your technical and physical ability to cover the ground and get back within the time limit. Some competitors seriously underestimated this challenge although our own Fraser Smith managed to finish with 5 seconds to spare after a very visible sprint across a huge field.

Having stayed all day Alexis duly presented the prizes at a memorable ceremony with loud applause for the Hyde School team and Becky Whittingham.

A brilliant day with great enthusiasm and team spirit from all the schools teams, which shows the value of good coaching

Well done coaches, your efforts were richly rewarded, and SOC were very grateful for help from WIM.

John Warren





Forthcoming Events (Full details of events can be accessed through the British Orienteering website – 'Events')

November

- Saturday 5th SW Junior Squad (SARUM) Sprint O – Sandy Balls – Fordingbridge
Pre-entry via www.fabian4.co.uk Senior £8, Junior £4
- Sunday 6th SOC November Classic Level B regional event – Busketts Lawn Ashhurst Pre-entry closed. Two 'Orange' courses available for EOD 2.9k and 5.0k Fees: Senior £5, Junior £2-50
- Monday 7th WIM/WSX joint evening – Shaftesbury Upper School from 6.30pm
Using new Shaftesbury Urban map. Also Night League 1 event.
- Saturday 12th WIM Dorset Schools League/Informal – Hyde Common -
Nr. Fordingbridge GR;SU166127 From 1pm with Night League 2 after dusk.
- Sunday 13th SN Regional level B event – Wisley – Woking GR: TQ067584
Pre-entry via www.fabian4.co.uk Closing date Nov 10th.
Also DEVON Galoppen level C Colour Coded event – Holne Moor
Ashburton GR: SX694703 EOD only
- Sunday 20th BADO Level C Colour Coded event – Pamber Forest – Basingstoke
GR: SU625613 Entry www.fabian4.co.uk up to Nov 10th. Limited
EOD whilst map stocks last
- Weds. 23rd BOAC – Military League event – Mytchett.
- Saturday 26th SARUM – Dorset Schools League/Informal – Collingbourne Wood
Ludgershall GR: SU271527. Afternoon event. Night League 3 event after dusk.
- Sunday 27th BOK Gallopen Level C Colour Coded event – Wavering Down -
Mendips GR: ST410560 EOD plus Car Park charge.
Also SLOW OK Nuts Level C event- Hankley Common – Milford
Pre-entry via www.fabian4.co.uk by November 20

December

- Saturday 3rd WSX Urban event Bournemouth University. Afternoon event
Also BOAC S. Night Champs – Bordon Heath GR: SU796364
Entry by www.fabian4.co.uk up to 26/11 then limited EOD
- Monday 5th WIM/WSX activities evening – Parkstone Grammar School – Poole
from 6.30pm Also Night League 5 race.
- Saturday 10th WIM – 'Three in one' event – Hurn Forest – off St. Leonards Hospital
roundabout on A31 SU106022. Morning MTBO, Afternoon Foot O ,
from Dusk Night League 6 event.
- Sunday 11th SOC – level C – Colour Coded event – Hincheslea – Brockenhurst
GR: SU270013 EOD.
- Monday 26th WIM Boxing Day Canter – Moors Valley Country Park -Ringwood
Access from Horton Road at Ashley Heath GR: SU115046
- Weds. 28th BOAC Military Challenge – Long Valley N and S

