



Website: www.wimborne-orienteers.org

WAFFLE

September 2007

Chairman's Column

It doesn't seem like the best part of a year since I had my arm twisted to do a second stint as Chairman of the club. Yet here I am thinking about what I'm going to say at the AGM and what we have achieved since last year. This is a bumper edition of Waffle so I won't take up too much of the Editor's space this issue.

Despite the absence of much proper summer weather since the previous edition of Waffle, lots of club members have ventured far and wide on orienteering holidays and three of our members have been in Ukraine for the World Championships in Kiev. There are accounts of much of this activity elsewhere.

A hard core of members have taken part in most the summer mid-week league which culminated with the Canford event and BBQ. Meanwhile, preparations are in hand for our Galoppen at the end of this month and the British Schools Championships in November.

In early October we hold our AGM, again at Canford, and the following weekend, we hope that a substantial part of the club membership will make the journey to Mansfield and the Compass Sport Trophy final. The club is proposing to assist with entry fees and possibly travel and you can read all about this in the next few pages.

Dick Keighley

Mid Week Evening League

Over the summer (or what passed for it this year) we have run a fortnightly evening league using a variety of terrain, from street-o round St Ives to semi rural-o at Sturminster Newton, and forest at Godshill and Moors Valley. There were nine events in all and a runner's best five performances counted. Over fifty people ran at some time or other. The full league table can be found on the Message Board of the WIM website. The overall winner was Steven Horsler, followed by Chris Branford and Richard Brightman, whilst Jo Stanley was the first lady, in seventh position overall, closely followed by Lynn Branford. Jo and Steven received small mementoes at the Canford BBQ event, the chairman having brought back some examples of Ukrainian craftwork from his trip to Kiev.

2.

Orienteering in Hungary (& elsewhere)

In my Chairman's column, I've referred to the poor summer this year. I shouldn't really moan too much because I've managed to avoid much of it by being away on international duty. In July I spent five days in SW France at the European Trail-O Championships held in conjunction with the French 5-days and won by that well known trail orienteer, Thierry Georgiou, who later won the Middle Distance and the Sprint events at this year's World Champs in Kiev.

I was also in Kiev for the World Trail-O Champs, but as I shall be speaking about that event after the AGM I shall say nothing more here than life in the Ukrainian capital can be very 'different' from here.

Some of you may know that I have been appointed as the IOF Advisor for the World Trail-O Championships in Hungary in 2009. So this summer I had to make my first visit to the city of Miskolc in NE Hungary which is the centre for WOC/WTOC 2009, to meet key officials and look at the areas they propose to use for the Trail-O competitions. It made sense to combine this visit with a trip to this year's Hungarian 5-days and their Trail-O Championships, held this year in early August and so clashing with the Scottish 6-days.

As in the UK, orienteering is a popular minor sport in Hungary, with the 5 day Hungaria Kupa this year attracting an entry of about 1400. The event was largely based in the Mecsek hills just north of Pecs in S of Hungary. I flew to Budapest and was then taken to my hotel in the beautiful city of Pecs by one of the planners for WTOC 2009. From there, I was taken to the various days of the event by John & Hilary Pearson, veteran British orienteers now living in France but maintaining a base in Hungary where Hilary had worked for some years.

The Mecsek hills, like the Bukk hills to be used in WOC 2009, is karstic terrain, runnable beech woodland, with some areas of low visibility, on rolling hills with many deep erosion gullies and many 'dolinas'. These are huge sink holes (as in Puddletown Forest but much bigger) - many of them deep enough to need 4 or 5 contour lines (5m) to depict them. Spectacular, complex and beautiful terrain which had attracted a fair sprinkling of foreign entrants including a number of Brits. On the first morning I was addressed in Hungarian by a competitor. When I replied "I'm sorry, I don't speak Hungarian, I'm English", he replied "so am I, which way is the Start?"

Many Hungarian O-clubs are sections of larger sports clubs and entries to events are made by club secretaries: individual entries are almost impossible to make. Many O-clubs were formerly associated with and subsidised by state organisations (my entries were made via the Postas club, affiliated to the Hungarian Post Office) but since the collapse of communism in 1991, this system is changing and Postas has just been informed that the Post Office will no longer support its sports club after this year, so the club faces either closure or re-organisation with no subsidy for their activities. Unlike many Hungarian clubs, Postas does not have a thriving junior section and this was given as one of the reasons why their support was being withdrawn.

There was no M60S course, so I was running the full M60 course. On the first couple of days I made my own short course by omitting the middle section, but I managed to complete the full course, albeit slowly, on the last three days. In contrast to the other four days, Day 3 was a Sprint race around the central spa in the city of Harkany, fast and furious racing on flat terrain on a very detailed 1:4 000 map. At least I wasn't last. After the sprint race, I took

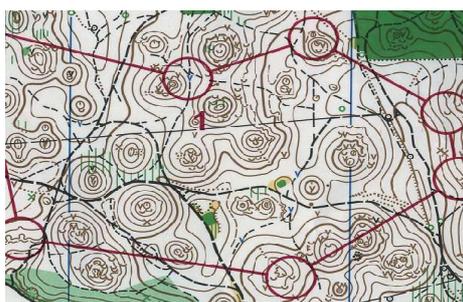
part in the Hungarian Trail-O Championships, held around the spa on a 1:2 000 map. From an international viewpoint there was much to criticize here and I was too busy making notes to concentrate enough on my own performance. At least that was my excuse for a very moderate run on a course on which I should have done much better.

The temperatures throughout the event were high, starting at 24C by 9.00 and rising to 35C by mid afternoon. To combat this, the events began early, with starts from 9.00 onwards. Each day we were faced with a walk of about 2.5k to the starts, often with climbs of over 100m as well. It was essential in these conditions to keep hydrated. To ensure this, water was always provided from bowzers at the pre-start, as well as from numerous water points around the forest. Also at the pre-start were the control descriptions and rolls of sticky tape - control descriptions do not appear on the maps.

The forests were often busy - lots of juniors competing, with plenty of taped routes to guide them through the technical areas where no handrails were available. The SI boxes were always mounted on the side of the stake, much as we have decided to do with our newer kit, with only a number on the box itself. Almost inevitably, these were set so you approached it from the wrong side and couldn't see the number from a distance. It's also standard practice to ask for help when lost (see the Branford's report on the O-ringen) and I spent quite a lot of time helping lost children and adults in a mixture of English, German & pointing. There is also at least one club somewhere with almost identical O-suits to ours - I saw their suits in both Hungary and later in Kiev.

In the Assembly area at the Hungaria Kupa there were always stalls selling delicious hot food and, praise be, a beer tent to aid rehydration at about 70p/half-litre, together with plenty of chairs and tables nearby.

After the Kupa, I travelled to Miskolc via Budapest to do my official duties, before returning to Budapest for a couple of days of sight-seeing which was combined with controlling a Trail-O event which was held in conjunction with the Hungarian Sprint-O Champs in early September.



Overall it was an entertaining trip. Hungary is an attractive place to orienteer, as well as to be a tourist. They claim it rarely rains much in August other than the odd evening thunderstorm. There are some lovely old cities (although sadly, Miskolc isn't really one of them) and the roads are good, although I wouldn't recommend driving in Budapest; much easier to use the trams or metro. Hotel prices have risen so now they are on a par with the UK, but eating out and public transport is much cheaper. If you are looking for somewhere different for an orienteering holiday, then the 2009 Hungaria Kupa, which will be held concurrently with the World Champs in the spectacular (if steep) Bukk National Park, should be a very worthwhile experience and I hope some of you may be tempted to make the trip.

Dick Keighley

4.

Dorset Coastal Path Relay – July 2007

Despite several weeks of rain that had made the going under foot on the coast path “heavy” in places, on Saturday 7th July the day was warm and sunny and the conditions were declared “moderate to good”.

This year WIM had decided to abandon its use of a minibus to ferry runners around, but instead followed the rest of the field and used cars only. The resulting logistics were complicated and took Tim and I about 8 hours to put in place. With a low turn out from the club this year, 50% of the eventually WIM relay team were guest runners for the day.

Tim had decided to get in touch with his inner self and camped the Friday night near the start on the cliff top above Lyme Regis. We met him on the Saturday morning at 7.30am cooking egg, sausage and beans and drying out his tent, muttering about “lots of condensation in the night”.

Six teams started the event at 8am on the dot. Unfortunately Axe Valley Runners and the Army were not able to get teams together; hopefully they will be competing next year. By the time the teams streamed down the hill into Charmouth in the next valley over from Lyme Regis, WSX had taken a commanding lead over Kerno and the Junior Squad. SOC brought a full team this year and were going well, followed up by BOK and WIM. This was the line up after 20 minutes and it stayed like that for the rest of the day.



The early part of the race went as planned; lots of cars buzzing around dropping runners off, picking them up and the occupants piling out every so often to do “relays”. There was the usual banter between the teams waiting in line “for a relay” up various hills. There were also the usual small navigational errors – BOK didn’t see the way into the woods at the bottom of Hardy’s monument, but their runner somehow found his way up the hill and re-joined his team and on they ran. We had a problem there too when our baton arrived at the Monument, but Steve Horsler was waiting elsewhere for the handover. This resulted in John Walmsley running an extra 5.5km leg and then being out of place for his next leg; as was Steve. With some rapid re-planning, several other people's legs were re-assigned and on we ran.

However we came a little unstuck later after Lulworth when we realised that having hastily asked Steve Horsler to do the leg from Holworth House to Durdle Door, there wasn't enough time to get him to his last official leg at Gad Cliff. Tim drove round to plug the gap only to find Rhys had already got there and was contemplating a game of 'Pooh sticks' in the seawith our maroon and gold baton!

After that we kept the baton moving freely and ended up with four runners – Steve West, Chris B, Richard and one of our Czech guests Ann bringing us home to the Poole Chain Ferry. John Warren had been manning the finishing point for us during the afternoon and was I'm sure glad to see us bringing up the rear and concluding the event for 2007. The finishing runners were glad of the applause from the Junior Squad having a BBQ on the beach at the finish, with not a nudist in sight!

However we had one or rather two last things to do before we finished. The first was to find Lenka Straka and three Czech girls in a car last seen in Swanage and secondly have a well earned nosh at the Banks Arms in Studland. We eventually found the Czech contingent and had a nice relaxing meal socialising with everyone after a hard day's effort by all.

I'd like to thank our team this year for its efforts. The team members were:

WIM: Chris & Lynn Branford, Keith Henderson, Tim Britton, Jose Stanley, Richard Brightman, John Walmsley, Steve Horsler, Sue Spillar & Jo Pickering.

Guests: Steve West, Rhys Manning, Graham Wright, Justyn Davies, Dennis Paynter, Alan Blanchflower and the Straka girls of Andi, Susan, Lucy and Ann.

I would particularly like to acknowledge the non WIM members of the team and the car drivers of John & Barbara Warren, Karen French & Lenka Straka (mother of the Czech girls), without whom WIM wouldn't have been able to participate in this event.

To see what you've been missing, come and try it next year. Some think we're mad, but you never know, you might get hooked like us!

Noel Smith

Back numbers

Mike and Cris Tween have a number of past issues of Waffle, Sins, 'The Orienteer' and CompassSport that they wish to dispose of. If you are interested in the history of orienteering both locally and nationally going back to its early days then please contact Mike or Cris on 01258 861804.

Army Mid-Week League

As many of you know the Army run a regular mid week series of orienteering events throughout the year, usually within an hour travelling distance of our area. Over the years an increasing number of WIM's have become regulars and entered a League competition.

If you are free on a Wednesday and want a good way to practice your orienteering why not join the group. The events are always very friendly, relative informal and you can have the satisfaction of aiming to beat not only your contemporaries, but also fit young army people who may not have as much skill as you!

Details of events can be found on the BAOC website: www.baoc.org.uk

If you want any more information give me a ring on 01425 – 474861

John Warren

6.

Wimborne Orienteers Minutes of 38th AGM

Held at Canford School on Friday October 13th 2006

Present: Rowan Brockhurst, Tim Britton, Sophie Lawrence, Trevor Bridle, Lynn & Chris Branford, Grace & Peter Fale, Judith & David Bland, Tamsin Horsler, Hilary & Kevin Pickering, Sue Spillar, Jo Stanley, John Shucksmith, Keith Henderson, Joan Crompton, Kirsty Staunton, Di. & John Tilsley, Cris & Mike Tween, Barbara & John Warren, Dick Keighley, Ian Keith. Gill & Peter Brett arrived during the meeting.

Apologies: Jane & Noel Smith, Richard Brightman, Nikki Crawford, Jo. Pickering, Simon Branford, Roger Holehouse, Steve Horsler

Minutes of Last Meeting: Had been circulated with Sept. 'Waffle' and were approved by the meeting.

Chairman's Report: (In the absence of Peter Brett at a family funeral, the Secretary read his report to the meeting)

Treasurer's Report: Trevor Bridle circulated a detailed financial analysis of the past year and at the end of the financial year the club had an account credit of £4822.90.

Election of Officers

Chairman: Peter Brett had completed 3 years in Office and the meeting passed a vote of thanks for all his work over that

Dick Keighley was nominated as Club Chairman for 2007

Proposed : Chris Branford, Seconded: Barbara Warren

Having been duly elected Dick made it clear that he wished to stay in post for only 1 year.

Secretary: John Warren was prepared to stay in this post and was nominated by John Shucksmith,
Seconded : Sophie Lawrence.

Treasurer: The Secretary thanked Trevor not only for his continued efficient management of club finances, but also for the many other things that he does for the club.

Trevor was prepared to continue as Treasurer and was Nominated by Cris Tween, Seconded: Lynn Branford.

period.

Election of Committee

Peter Brett, Sue Spillar and Tim Britton wished to stand down from the Committee and were thanked for their service to the club.

The following committee members were prepared to stand for re-election: Lynn Branford, Kirsty Staunton, John Shucksmith and Noel Smith. John Tilsley proposed that these committee members were re-elected as a group and this was approved by the meeting. Jo Pickering was proposed by Tim Britton and seconded by Sue Spillar. Tamsin Horsler was proposed by Chris Branford and seconded by Peter Fale. Both were then elected to the committee.

Amendment to Constitution

Peter Brett pointed out that the existing constitution was out of date in that it identified 19 years as the age at which a member is termed 'Senior'

The amendment proposed bringing WIM into line with BOF in that a 'Senior' is termed any member aged 21 or over on December 31st, 'Junior' is a member aged under 21 on December 31st.

'Family membership' defines 'children' as under 25 years on December 31st.

The amendment was proposed by Peter Brett and seconded by Trevor Bridle and adopted by the meeting.

Membership

The Secretary outlined the implications of the new BOF membership scheme which had been explained in 'Waffle' It is proposed that all WIM members will become 'Full National members', with a club administered 'Waffle subscription' available to people who do not wish to be formal members of the club. BOF has indicated that '2nd club' members ie BAOC, or University clubs will be encouraged to continue.

Membership fees for 2007 are to be as follows:

	BOF	SWOA	Club	Total
Senior	£15	£4	£5	£24
Family	£20	£6	£5	£31
Junior	£3.50	£2	£1	£6.50

The proposer for fees was Peter Brett, seconded by Dick Keighley and the motion was accepted by a show of hands.

The proposal that as from January 1st 2007 all WIM members become 'National BOF members' was proposed by Trevor Bridle, seconded by Peter Brett and adopted by the meeting.

A.O.B.

The following issues were raised for discussion:

Lottery Grant 2006 – John Tilsley reported that the club had been awarded a grant of more than £5000 to purchase S/I equipment for use in Dorset schools. Also Volunteers are required to act a mentors to groups of teachers in schools who will be teaching orienteering.

Junior Coaching – Keith Henderson reported that following a meeting with representative coaches from SARUM, SOC and WSX a regular programme of junior training is being established starting in December.

Founder's Trophy – Trevor Bridle reported that it was proposed to establish an annual competition in memory of Ron Wilton based on the November Classic using a formula developed by WSX.

Club O suits – Tim Britton reported on progress in obtaining new design O tops. Delays in supplies continue to frustrate this project.

'Family entry fees' for Regional events. Raised by Cris Tween who had encountered complaints from some large family groups at the level of fees for the Caddihoe Chase. The position to be reviewed by the new committee.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm and was followed by refreshments prior to an illustrated presentation by Rowan Brockhurst on 'The National Parks of England and Wales'.

8.

International News

The club had three members competing at the World Championships in Kiev, Ukraine in late August, with Helen Bridle and Mats Haldin running in the Foot-O and Dick Keighley a member of the GB Trail-O team.

Dick came 7th in the Paralympic competition in Kiev (he was also 7th in the European Trail-O champs in France in July and picked up a Bronze medal in the team competition there) but had a poor second day in blistering heat, dropping from 11th to 24th in the Open competition. The British team finished 5th in the team competition.

After her heroics in Denmark last year, Helen had a disappointing time in Kiev, narrowly failing to qualify for the final of the Long course, and having, for her, a poor run on the last leg of the relay before finishing 36th in the Sprint.

Mats fared best of the three, coming a heroic 4th in the Long race (18.2k +550m climb in in temperatures of 35C) and picking up a Bronze medal with the Finnish relay team. He also ran in the Short and Middle races, finishing in midfield in both.

Wimborne Orienteers Founders Trophy

Ron Wilton founded Wimborne Orienteers in 1969, and the Founders Trophy is awarded annually in his memory. The Trophy is awarded to the fastest (age adjusted) performance at the November Classic, using the BOF speed ratios for the age adjustments. The competition is open to all club members junior or senior, but competitors must run on their eligible course. Short courses are not eligible. Sue Hands was awarded the Trophy for her performance at the 2006 November Classic. A full list of results for the 2006 competition is on the web site.

The 2007 competition will be held with the November Classic on 04 November 2007. Eligible course details are shown below. The speed of each competitor will be adjusted according to their age using the speed ratios. Competitors are entitled to 'run up' but not to 'run down'. For example M45 can run the M40 course and retain a speed ratio of 0.84, but M40 cannot run M45.

M10	0.74	JM2	W10	0.73	JW2
M12	0.70	JM3	W12	0.62	JW3
M14	0.80	JM4	W14	0.65	JW4
M16	0.84	JM5M	W16	0.67	JW5S
M18	0.88	JM5L	W18	0.70	JW5L
M20	0.93	JM5L	W20	0.71	JW5L
M21	1.00	M21L	W21	0.80	W21L
M35	0.93	M35L	W35	0.71	W35L
M40	0.89	M40L	W40	0.67	W40L
M45	0.84	M45L	W45	0.62	W45L
M50	0.79	M50L	W50	0.57	W50L
M55	0.74	M55L	W55	0.53	W55L
M60	0.65	M60L	W60	0.48	W60L
M65	0.60	M65L	W65	0.44	W65L
M70	0.53	M70L	W70	0.39	W70L
M75+	0.46	M75L	W75+	0.35	W75L

John Shucksmith

The Branfords do Oringen 2007.

“It’s an event you must visit at least once in your orienteering career” is something we heard from several people. Well this being the first year Chris was not teaching we decided to give it a go.

It seemed a relatively simple proposition to get to Mjolby, drive to Newcastle, catch the ferry to Goteborg, collect Simon from the airport, drive on to Mjolby taking our family camping gear with us.

WRONG. The Newcastle to Goteborg ferry now sails to Bergen!

We had several further attempts at travel arrangements before finally settling on cheap BA flights(yes there are such things) taking two lightweight tents and hiring a car at Stockholm, Arlanda airport.



Chez Branford



Lucy modelling the hire bikes

The whole event had been arranged with all events, the town centre and the event centre within walking distance, though many had taken their bikes or there were some available for hire. The bike park on days 4 and 5 was bigger than the car park!



10.

The scale of the event was overwhelming with 14,000 competitors. There were two assembly areas; 1 for days 1 – 3 and the other for days 4 & 5. Each day there were hot showers al fresco, loos 'Scandinavian' style, washing sinks for shoes and the other usual cateres etc. All this on days 1 – 3 behind a residential area and the other 2 days at a school.

There were 8 different sponsors and each course was allocated to a particular sponsor. The walks to the starts, the finish lanes and the reults were all signed with your sponsors logo.



We had been told about the bridges before we went. Apparently the Swedes are master bridge builders. We were not disappointed – the one in the photo was a spectacular point on day 4 and part of the run in on day 5. The bridge is shown in fine weather. Early and late competitors finished day 5 in pouring rain with the surface being very slippery from the mud.

It is apparently quite normal to ask for help when orienteering in Sweden or actually not ask but still to be helped. If you were lost you just stood by a control until someone punched it, they would then point out on the map where you were. Also the children just thrust their maps at you and say 'Help' (or the equivalent in Swedish). So on day 4 I was trying to help a distraught young female competitor. She did not understand me and vice versa. I was not sure what to do next when along the path to the rescue came a male competitors in a clown costume! He spoke to her and then to me to say OK. I carried on with my course – Later when relating the incident I was told 'he was probably trying to catch the troll!'

At this point I thought that I was beginning to lose my grip on reality!

The actual orienteering was interesting and very different. Their mapping is quite different for some things – large rock areas would often be shown as just contour lines and only if the rock face was vertical would it be marked as crag. It was very difficult to know when it was a brown dot or a black dot and many large chunks of rock would often be unmapped (there was so much of it). Controls ran in number sequence – so if you wanted 92 and found 91 you knew that yours would be nearby. Despite all this it was a fantastic learning curve and thoroughly enjoyable. The speeds for the senior men's courses were incredible and the winning times at M60 were about 6 min/Km. no matter what the terrain.



The photos only tell part of the story. Much of the week was very wet – in fact 'the Brits' were being blamed for taking our recent floods with us. As a result the camp sites became very wet in some places and on some fields vehicles were not allowed back onto the site.

The Swedes had a plan – bring on the cavalry – to tow vehicles and caravans off at the end of the week.

The provision of several large piles of bark chippings plus tractor hire must have wiped out most of the profits from the event!

We have now completely dried out and are able to reflect on the experience – yes – it certainly is an event you must visit at least once in your Orienteering career.

Chris, Lynn and Simon Branford

12.

Congratulations & Thanks

If you read the comments about the Scottish 6 day you will see how much people enjoyed the social scene, well our own home grown contribution is the Furrow Hoppers Relays. This year the event enjoyed unexpectedly fabulous weather in the stunning setting of Somerley Park. The event is always a great mix of socialising and intense competition and this year we certainly got both with only 4 seconds separating the first and second teams. This stopped all the social chat outside club tents and had everyone shouting encouragement to the final leg runners as they raced for the line. Thanks go to Noel for his work in planning and to John and Jane for providing the ever reliable handicap system.

Congratulations to the winners of the 'Summer Sprint O' series, Jo Stanley and Steven Horsler, who were both in leading positions even before the final event. Thanks also to Dick Keighley for masterminding the series, to all the planners for their interesting events and to everyone who supported them on Wednesday evenings throughout the summer. Even the weather co-operated, at times only just!

Congratulations to Jo Stanley again, this time on becoming a grandmother during the Scottish 6 day event. Forget the usual cards, flowers and champagne: Jo's celebrations consisted of staggering up mountains, fighting through bracken and hopping across bogs!

Congratulations to Tom and Sophie Lawrence who will celebrate their silver wedding later this month. Very best wishes to them for the future.

And finally thanks to Trevor for the last of the Summer Sprint O series, followed by yet another excellent club barbecue at Canford.

CompassSport Cup Final – Sunday October 14th

As you are all aware we qualified for the final of the CompassSport Cup by virtue of finishing 2nd to SARUM in the first round at Harewood. The final is due to take place on Sunday 14th October at Blidworth, near Mansfield GR: SK583522. We are looking for a good turnout at the final and I know that several club members have already booked accommodation in the area which is just off the M1 north of Nottingham.

The committee will be considering some financial assistance for those who run for the Club and we will as usual pay the entry fees. Details of this assistance will be made known after our next committee meeting to be held on September 12th. Please let me know in due course if you are able to run for WIM at the event. Obviously if we can share transport this would help and anyone who has spare seats or wishes to have a lift than please let me know.

Trevor Bridle
trevorbridle@btinternet.com
01258 454811

The Scottish 6 day event – 'Spey 2007'

At the club barbecue at Canford I (Barbara) asked whether anyone who had been to the Scottish 6 days could give me just one sentence of their most vivid memory. Here are a few of your comments, followed by Kirsty's lively account of the week which arrived the following day.

Jo and Hilary were enthusiastic over the sociable atmosphere of the week, particularly the visits with almost all the WIMs to tea at the Warrens fantastic holiday home and to Richard's birthday party barbecue. Jo was particularly happy that the marquee and beer tent on the camp site gave everyone an opportunity to meet in the evenings and to make new friends from all over the country.

Keith thought the 6 days of exciting terrain were some of the best areas to be found anywhere and was impressed that despite being 600 miles from home more than 20 WIM members were able to get together to appreciate the quality of the areas. Chris mentioned the fast, fantastic area of Culbin, forested sand dunes, due to be used for the British Champs next year. Kate's worst memory was of the rain dripping from the trees onto the camper van roof 'Like Ringo Starr practising drums in the middle of the night'

For John Walmsley, the highlight of his stay in Scotland came after the events when he climbed 4 'Munros' in two days with a challenging navigation on Cairngorm in very low visibility and heavy rain!

Jo Stanley mentioned the water supply at the 'bothy' where she stayed (with 7 other WIMs!). Water came directly from the peaty hillside so that even if your feet weren't muddy, you sat in a bath of brown water.

A highlight for Barbara and John was the company of almost all the WIM's who came to our 'cottage' on the way back from day 4 on the Moray Coast. Although we couldn't give you a sight of the owl at dusk on the TV aerial or the red squirrel on the patio one morning, it was great to show you the lovely renovated building with its huge views of the Cairngorms, and for you to picture the superb scenes of the sun on the mountain tops at breakfast with mist rising from the valley below. Early starts were needed on several days but the scenery made the effort well worthwhile.

Barbara found the week tough but enjoyable with her courses being excellent on the whole, but won't forget the toughest of all, day 5, where there was a drop down a steep rough hillside, clinging onto strategic trees, and later discovered it to be the same leg as the M21E's.

Richard writes: The highlight for me of a wonderful week in Scotland was the WIM gathering for my birthday on the final Friday evening. I'm very grateful to the rest of my fellow inmates of Pityoulish (Chris, Lynn, Simon, Nikki, Clarissa, Kirsty and Granny Jo) for all their hard work preparing for the barbecue and to all the guests who came to share the evening with us. Memories of the rude balloons, the birthday cake, the champagne, the evening sunshine and the beautiful views over Loch Pityoulish and the surrounding areas will stay with me for a long time. Many thanks to everyone for a great evening.

14.



Scenes from Spey 2007

The Scottish 6 day – a newcomers perspective

This was my first visit to Scotland to orienteer and I was really looking forward to the 6 days of orienteering. We stayed in a croft cottage above a small loch and were able to watch osprey flying circling over the hills opposite. The weather was dull and grey for the first few days but on Wednesday the weather changed and we had sunshine and blue skies, which showed off the beautiful scenery and stunning views.

Instead of giving you a blow by blow account of my map work I thought I would list the high and low points of the week.

The high points of the week:

Challenging orienteering – some areas were very complex and required a lot of concentration.

Coming across a beautiful root stock, the roots formed a lattice pattern which stood over 2 meters high.

Running up the finish lane being cheered by fellow WIM members.

Coming 18th on day 1

Taking part in such a large event – 3700 entrants, from many different countries, Sweden, Norway, France, Switzerland, USA, Canada

Meeting and talking to orienteers from different clubs, especially a 'very nice man' from HOC

Eating locally grown raspberries which were delicious.

The low points of the week:

Challenging orienteering – some areas were very complex and if you lost touch with the map you had to adopt 'headless chicken' tactics – which I did – several times!!

Coming across a beautiful root stock, unfortunately it was in the middle of a large area of spikey, juniper bushes, which for some reason I chose to cross!

Coming 60th on day 3 (the day of the juniper bushes!)

Taking part in such a large event – more W50s who orienteered better than me.

Meeting and talking to orienteers from different clubs, especially a 'very nice man' from HOC who saved me from a very embarrassing episode on the A9 when I couldn't release the automatic handbrake on my hire car.

Running up the finish lane being cheered by fellow WIM members including Richard B, who was doing the same course and had started behind me

Eating locally grown raspberries and having to share them!

In reality there were very few low points and I had a fantastic week, Scotland was great, the orienteering was fun, the meals we shared at the croft were gourmet level but what made the week truly great was the company of the other WIM members – thanks for everything.

(can I come with you next time – please!)

Kirsty Staunton

16.

Forthcoming Events

All events use electronic punching

September

Saturday	15 th	WIM MTBO and Schools Informal event – Moors Valley Country Park near Ringwood. Starts: 10am to 12noon. Contact: Trevor Bridle 01258 454811	S/I
Sunday	16 th	SOC District Colour Coded event – Queen Elizabeth Country Park Petersfield. GR:SU 718186 Contact: Jes Dickin 02392 – 410164	EMIT
Saturday	22 nd	Caddihoe Chase Day 1 – Regional Badge event - Cookworthy Forest Okehampton – Devon. GR: SS 415013	
Sunday	23 rd	Caddihoe Chase Day 2 – Chasing Start event – Venue as above. Pre – entry by Sept 10 th No EOD. Contact: John Dyson 01395 – 512416	S/I
Sunday	30 th	WIM Galoppen District Colour Coded event – Bovington North Bere Regis GR:SY 843906 Contact: Mike Kite 01308 – 422455	S/I

October

Saturday	6 th	Devon Dartmoor Long O – Princetown GR: SX 591734 Pre-entry by 25/09 Contact: Roger Green 01392 – 278512	S/I
Sunday	7 th	QO Long O – Simonsbath, Exford GR:SS723405. Pre-entry to Andy Rimes 01823 – 451942	Joe Lee
Sunday	7 th	SO Regional Badge event – Houghton – Arundel GR: TQ001108 Pre-entry by 22/09 Contact: Jacqui Drake 01273 – 400603	S/I
Sunday	14 th	CompassSport Cup Final – Blidworth – Mansfield – GR:SK583522 See article in Waffle. Your club needs YOU!	S/I
Sunday	21 st	WSX Regional Badge event – Shillingstone – Blandford GR: ST813093 Pre-entry by 12/10. Contact: Kay Sayer 01202 – 484523	S/I
Sunday	28 th	BADO District Colour Coded event – Blackwood – Micheldever GR: SU532433. Contact: MikeBroderick 01256 – 351624	EMIT

November

Saturday	3 rd	SOC – ‘The original November Classic’ (1968) Millyford – Lyndhurst GR: SU268078. 4 courses EOD only. Black and white map.	
Sunday	4 th	SOC ‘November Classic’ Regional Badge event – Highland Water N GR: SU244086. Pre-entry by 14/10 post and on line. Contact: Di Smith 02380 – 845787	EMIT
Saturday	10 th	SARUM Southern Night Championships – Sidbury Hill – Tidworth GR: SU230502. Pre-entry by 27/10 Contact: Stephen Robinson 01264 – 396655	EMIT
Also Sunday	11 th	Oxford City Sprint O event (See cityrace.org.uk for details) North Wilts Regional Badge event ‘The Southern Championships’ West Woods – Marlborough. GR: SU 162652 Pre-entry by 21/10 Contact: Louise Phelps 01793 – 430010	EMIT
Saturday	17 th	British Schools Championships Day 1 Selection race and Training event	
Sunday	18 th	British Schools Champs. Day 2 Championship event – Bovington S. Your help will be needed at this event.	

