



West Anglian  
Orienteering  
Club



# JABBERWAOC

Vol.33 No. 1

February 2005



*And, as in uffish thought he stood,  
The Jabberwock, with eyes of flame,  
Came whiffling through the tulgey wood,  
And burred as it came!*

## **Editorial**

I hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year break and you are now raring to go orienteering again. There have been quite a lot of events already this year with Badge Events such as the Thetford Thrash and some EAGAL events just passed. Our next event is the Short Races at Chicksands which I'm planning. These have been a lot of fun in the past so I hope to see you there.

You may have heard in the press of the tragic death of a Cambridge businessman, Steve Thomas, in Antarctica recently. In fact he was a member of WAOC and was known by several current members. Thanks to Chris Brown for the article about Steve and thanks to Steve's wife Catherine for helping Chris with some of the details. On behalf of WAOC may I send our condolences to Steve's family at this very difficult and sad time.

Our AGM is on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February so do come along for some fun games, food and prizes.

The SMILE season will soon be upon us so please help Maurice Hemmingway by offering to put on one of these events and do come along and support them.

Thanks to all the other contributors. Please keep the articles coming.

Julia Wotton

### ***Next Copy Date***

25<sup>th</sup> March 2005

## **WAOC Membership Information**

### **NEW CLUB MEMBERS**

Welcome to:

Tom Adams M17	from Comberton, Cambs
David Carter and Diane Williamson and family (Emily Williamson W12, Erica Williamson W10, Evelyn Carter W10, Trent Williamson M8, Helen Carter W7 and Devon Williamson M5)	from Widdington, nr Saffron Walden
Chris and Rebecca Flood	from Cambridge
Jasper Kay	from Colttenham

We also welcome Andy and Sue Owen from Stotfold, Hitchin, who have rejoined the club after several years away.

We hope that you will all enjoy orienteering with us.

Anne Duncumb (membership secretary)

## **WAOC MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2005**

More than half of you have already renewed your membership for 2005. Thank you.....this suggests that half of you have yet to pay!

If you haven't yet sent off your sub (to me for Club only members, to BOF for BOF members), please do it as soon as possible.

Anne Duncumb

## **WAOC O TOPS**

Do you want to reserve a WAOC O-top?  
Stocks of winter club O-tops are very low and there is just one summer one left. I plan to place an order with UltraSport by the end of this month, in order to beat a deadline for price rises. Please let me know if you want to reserve a top. Although some of the tops are for specific requests, a range of sizes will be ordered over and above this. The winter tops will cost £16.50 for sizes 3 - 7. Summer (mesh) tops will cost £20.00. In each case, p&p is 50p extra.



Sizes work out like this:-

size 3 is for 35" chest; size 4 is for 37" chest and so on up to size 7 which is for 43" chest. The actual measurements are about 4" larger than this - but the garments do vary quite a bit!

Please let me have your requests, email or telephone - send no money now.

I will notify you as soon as the tops are delivered.

Anne Duncumb (tel. 01223-843064, email <duncumb@compuserve.com>)

## **Committee News**

Roger Horton was our Events Convenor until work and home commitments meant he did not have the time to give to the job. At this point Anne, Ursula and Caroline between them temporarily took over the task jointly until we hoped Roger would return. However, Roger has decided that he cannot return to the committee in the near future and Ursula has kindly agreed to take over the job. Thanks to Roger for his efforts while he was on the committee and a big thank you to Ursula for taking on this role. It is not an easy job so please help Ursula by offering to plan or organise, even if you only want to take on a role as an assistant organiser or planner. Without planners, organisers and controllers there would be no events.

# WAOC AGM

**19<sup>th</sup> February 2005  
from 6:00pm**

**St. Matthews' Church Hall  
St. Matthews' Street  
Cambridge**

St. Matthews' Street is off East Road near the Grafton Centre. Parking is available in St Matthews' Street and the neighbouring streets as well as in the Grafton Centre car park.

The evening will consist of some games as well as the business of the club and food and drink. Please bring a contribution to the food.

## Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes from the previous 2004 AGM
3. Chairman's report
4. Acceptance of Accounts
5. Awards and Presentations
6. Election of Officers
7. Any other business

## Captains Corner

If you haven't run in a relay before then why not make this year a first. To be honest they are much like any other event, possibly a bit shorter and therefore a bit faster, but with rather more team spirit. There are lots of classes, so there's something to suit everyone. Teams and entries are organised by the club captain, so you have to get in contact with me, and mention any preferences such as "I prefer to run middle leg". My email is [rolf@rolf.me.uk](mailto:rolf@rolf.me.uk) and my evening phone number is **01223 569443**. As you'll be competing for the club, half the entry fee is paid out of club funds.

## ***JK RELAYS***

This year's JK relay is at Hopwas Woods near Tamworth, following the two individual days on Brown Clee then Cannock Chase. The relays are on Easter Monday which is **March 28** this year. Hopwas Woods is a broad ridge with contour features and mature forest with no undergrowth.

The JK Relays club deadline for entries is **February 21**.

## **BRITISH CHAMPS RELAYS**

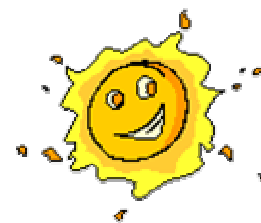
The BOC relays (British Relay Championships to be precise) are on **Sunday 17 April** at Penhale Sands, as is the individual competition the day before. Penhale Sands is of legendary status, and rightly so, as it is what orienteering dreams are made of. The contour sculptured sand dunes positively invite orienteers to swoosh round the knolls and depressions, over soft grass in the sunny sea breeze.

The BOC Relays club deadline for entries is **24 March**.

Rolf Crook

## **WAOC SMILE 2005**

WAOC's SMILE calendar is under construction for 2005. These are **SuMmer Introductory Low-key Events** and they will be held on either Saturday or Sunday mornings starting in April and finishing on Saturday 9 July. SMILE events will offer White, Yellow and Orange courses, and each one will be planned and organised by a different WAOC family.



SMILE events are aimed particularly at developing orienteers. However, there will also be a timed score event to keep the more experienced orienteers, who will come along to lend a hand busy.

The calendar below shows the proposed dates for the events. Please would you take a share in the planning and volunteer to arrange one of the events filling in the blanks that currently exist. Locations from which you might like to choose are :

*Coldham's Common; Ferry Meadows; Fairlands Valley; Milton Country Park; Rowney Warren; Cherry Hinton*, but it can be at other locations of your choice, provided that we can get permission, etc.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Organiser / Planner</b>
Sun 10 April	Coe Fen	?
Sat 7 May	?	?
Sun 12 June	Hinchingbrooke	Hemingways
Sat 18 June	?	?
Sat 9 July	Therfield Heath	Wetherills

We will hold the prize giving at the event that takes place on the Saturday 9 July 2005 and it will be the intention to hold a club barbecue afterwards (but the Smile organiser does not need to worry about arranging this).

If you will take up the challenge to run an event, will you please let me know which location you would like to use for your event and when. The calendar will soon go onto the WAOC website and will be republished in future Jabberwaoc editions.

For those that have never organised and planned an event, do not be daunted. There is a club guide that has been constructed telling you all you need to know. I will forward that to

you if you request it. There will be a set of SMILE equipment, including the club tent, which will be handed on from one event to the next.

If you are a first or second time planner, there is lots of help available, as experienced WAOC members are happy to talk things over with you, advise on your courses and 'control' your event, so you will not be on your own.

Please let me have your location and dates and I'll get them onto the calendar.

Maurice Hemingway  
5 Rectory Leys  
Offord Darcy  
Cambs PE19 5SQ

## Training

The next training session will be at High Ash, Mundford on 20th March (after the WAOC district event). We will be offering the following sessions:

- i) starting off on the White
- ii) moving on to Yellow
- iii) learning Orange skills
- iv) Light Green and above

Please contact Dil Wetherill (dwetherill@mtl-inst.com, 01462-712735) by Tuesday 15th March if you'd like to take part in the training and what level of training you'd like to do. On the day, don't forget to have something to eat and to drink before you actually come to the start of the session.

Julia Wotton

## Colour Coded awards

Congratulations to Jonathan Cronk who has now got his Orange level badge.  
Well done!

## Did you know...

*Thanks to Tony Bishop for this interesting snippet of information....*

I suspect that lots of WAOC members have run at Shuttleworth (Warden Warren), and noticed the beautiful, but derelict folly on top of the hill in the woods. It's called 'Queen Anne's Summerhouse', probably built in the 1710s, and the great news is that the Landmark Trust is planning to restore it.

See more at

[http://www.landmarktrust.org.uk/future\\_landmarks/queenanne.htm](http://www.landmarktrust.org.uk/future_landmarks/queenanne.htm). Quite a place to stay for events in coming years!

## A Special Christmas

Christmas 2004 was rather special for me. Rolf and I both have sisters who live in the Lake District. So far in my life I have always spent Christmas with my parents but this time it was to be different. As Rolf had spent Christmas Day 2003 with my family, we decided to spend Christmas 2004 with Rolf's sister Alice who lives in Keswick and then visit my sister in Whitehaven from Boxing Day. Of course being in the Lake District is always lovely but this was to be even more special. As we drove up on Christmas Eve there were a few snow flurries and as we got into the Lake District we could see the hill tops covered with a layer of white. It snowed some more in the night and we woke to see the roof tops also covered with a layer of snow, but the sun was shining so it looked very beautiful.



*View of Skiddaw from south west of Keswick on Boxing Day*

Alice and her boyfriend Neil are into mountain biking, so Rolf had decided to challenge them to a “man v. bike” race up Skiddaw on Christmas Day. Now I have done some hill running but I have never run continuously upwards for 5 miles and had no idea how long it would take. I set off 20 minutes ahead of Rolf – we predicted based on our relative running speeds that he would catch me up towards the summit which he did. I managed to run virtually all the 1<sup>st</sup> half but then it got steeper and in places the snow got deeper so I had to walk for quite a lot of the latter part. I wore a thermal top, lycra leggings, Walsh PB fell running shoes, a hat, gloves and a pertex jacket. The bikers had panniers so were bringing a layer of extra clothing and some rations. It was very windy at the top and icy cold so we had to keep moving. I was surprised by how many people were walking up Skiddaw that day and there were even a few other runners. We passed by a Father Christmas and

two elves who looked very warm in their thick jackets. Looking back down, we could see no sign of the bikes. We made it to the top and scratched our names into the ice on the triangulation point at the top to prove we'd made it. I was about to turn back to start the decent before I got too cold when Rolf said he had something to ask me. His question was "Will you marry me?" Wow what a place for a question like that! We couldn't hang round long as we were getting very cold so we turned back for the decent. It was a lot easier going down. When there is snow on the ground you can run and almost get out of control because the snow is soft to land on if you fall and you can always run into some deep stuff to slow yourself down. We had come about ¼ of the way down before we met Alice and Neil struggling on the steep uphill section. After a quick chat we carried on down, eventually making it back to Alice's house in a total time of 2.5 hours. Alice and Neil eventually turned up having taken 3.5 hours. I think the snow made it particularly hard for the bikes so it seems we'll be having a re-match in the summer. I was glad to get inside with a warm cup of tea but was pleased I'd made it to the top having run as much as I did.

And what was my answer to Rolf's question.....  
"Yes!" of course!

Julia Wotton

## **Stephen Thomas**

Steve Thomas, a WAOC member since 1979 died last month whilst in Antarctica. He had just completed a long time ambition, to sail his boat Magic Dragon, as far north as it is possible to sail (80 degrees north) and then to the most southerly navigable latitude, 65 degrees south. With his crew he was taking photographs on the ice cap when the ground gave way and he fell into a crevasse; though the crew recovered him, Steve died from his injuries.

I met Steve when I joined WAOC in 1979, but he had been orienteering since his school days, including (he told me) at events using OS 1:25,000 maps. We were of a similar standard, vying with each other in the club league and at local and national events through the 80s. Steve served with me on the committee for a while and helped the club with mapping projects, whilst his wife (Catherine) and mine (Olivia) jointly edited Jabberwaoc for a year or two. Steve's business career, starting with Cambridge Interactive Systems, was taking off at the same time and on many Sundays after returning from an event he would have a quick cup of tea and a shower and then return to work. No wonder that over the next 20 years Steve became one of Cambridge's most successful businessmen, building and developing several IT based companies.

Steve had run four mountain marathons but our joint endeavours in such competitions peaked (if that is the word) with an attempt on the Karrimor score class in 1985. Unfortunately during the first day I picked up a knee injury and found it hard to go down hill; Steve suffered badly from cramp and found the uphill sections difficult! Though we did complete the event, it goes without saying that we did not make much impact on the leader board!

Steve's ambitions for adventure were greater than a weekend running round the Lake District, and he went on to run the London and New York marathons, climb the Matterhorn and Kilimanjaro and to attempt the Andean peak Aconcagua, where altitude problems defeated his party not far from the summit. Ten years ago, with Catherine and their son James (then 3 years old) he took time out to sail Magic Dragon around the world.

Throughout these adventures and his business successes, Steve remained an extremely likeable and personable man, a great host, always with a sense of humour, and desire to do things exceptionally well. He will be sadly missed by friends in Cambridge and around the world.

Local newspapers reported the tragedy and of course focussed on Steve's glittering business career, but it was nice to see a reference in one of the nationals to "British explorer....Stephen Thomas". I



think he would have like that, though with typical modesty, he would not have used the word himself.

Chris Brown

## EAGAL 2004 Winners

Congratulations to the following WAOC members who are winners in their EAGAL age categories:

M10	Thomas Louth	W12	Katrin Sengerova
M12	James Firth	W18	Helen Gardner
M16	Simon Gardner	W21	Blanka Sengerova
M21	Rolf Crook	W35	Julia Wotton
M75	Maurice Capper	W40	Pam Hemmingway
		W50	Lindsey Freeman

## Club Performances

Congratulations to all WAOC members who have had good runs at the events so far this year. Although the lists below will indicate the men are dominating the best performances, there were some good performances from the women, but not always quite good enough to fulfil my criteria of coming in the top 35%. Some of these can be due to the small numbers of competitors in certain classes.

Early in January there was a National Event at **Ash Ranges** to which quite a few WAOC members travelled. The best performances from the club at this event were:

M12A	Thomas Louth	4 <sup>th</sup>
M16A	Edward Louth	7 <sup>th</sup>
M40L	Dil Wetherill	13 <sup>th</sup>
M45L	Mike Capper	26 <sup>th</sup>

There was a Regional Event at **Bucknell Woods** later in January at which the following people had good runs:

JM1	Thomas Hemmingway	1 <sup>st</sup>	W55L	Maureen Weldon	3 <sup>rd</sup>
JM2	William Louth	1 <sup>st</sup>			
JM5M	Edward Louth	1 <sup>st</sup>			
M21S	John Sutcliffe	2 <sup>nd</sup>			
M40S	Graham Louth	1 <sup>st</sup>			
M40L	Mike Capper	4 <sup>th</sup>			
M45L	Neil Humphries	2 <sup>nd</sup>			
M65L	Chris Morley	1 <sup>st</sup>			

We then had the **Thetford Thrash** at the end of January. The following people had good performances:

		<b>Day1</b>	<b>Day2</b>
JM2	William Louth	1 <sup>st</sup>	-
JM2	Thomas Hemmingway	-	1 <sup>st</sup>
JM3	Jonathan Cronk	-	1 <sup>st</sup>

JM5L	Simon Gardner	-	1 <sup>st</sup>
M21S	Chris Flood	-	1 <sup>st</sup>
M21L	Rolf Crook	-	3 <sup>rd</sup>
M35S	Justin Caulkett	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>
M40S	Graham Louth	1 <sup>st</sup>	-
M40L	Dil Wetherill	-	1 <sup>st</sup>
M40L	Mike Capper	-	4 <sup>th</sup>
M45L	Neil Humphries	2 <sup>nd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>
M45L	Peter Haynes	3 <sup>rd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>
M50L	Tim Mulchay	-	6 <sup>th</sup>
M55L	Mike Bickle	3 <sup>rd</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>
M60L	John Wickersham	3 <sup>rd</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
M65L	Chris Morley	2 <sup>nd</sup>	-
JW4	Sophie Louth	1 <sup>st</sup>	-
W50L	Lindsey Freeman	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>
W50L	Janis Ryall	2 <sup>nd</sup>	-

Julia Wotton