

West Anglian
Orienteering
Club



JABBERWAOC

Vol.34 No. 4

August 2006



*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

The summer is a quiet time for orienteering although the midweek summer galoppens have been happening and 35 WAOC members attended the Lakes 5 Days recently.

There are 2 Try-Os coming up, the 1st at Wimpole on 16th September and the 2nd at Ampthill on 1st October. Then we shall be back into the orienteering season.

Hally has promised us a series entitled "WAOC Maps - The History". Thank you to Hally for the first article of this series, to Jean Sinclair for her article on "the Heb" and to Blanka for the Junior report.

Julia Crook

Next Copy Date

31st August 2006

WAOC Membership Information

NEW CLUB MEMBERS

NEW CLUB MEMBERS

Welcome to:

Nick and Moira Hassett and family (Eleanor W6 and Jessica W4) from Cambridge

Russell and Penny McDonnell and family (Oliver M14, Henry M13 and Peter M6) from Cambridge

Paul and Julie Reilly and family (Catherine W12 and Emily W10) from Cambridge

Caroline Ward from Dunstable

We hope that you will enjoy orienteering with us.

Anne Duncumb (membership secretary)

Message From SOS

SOS would like to inform us that children and adults from WAOC are welcome to participate in the SOS coaching activities at various events over the coming season and to make some friends in another club. This year SOS hope to have the activities before people go for their run enabling them to practice the skills learned. Please see the SOS website nearer the events for details.

Stephen Cartwright (SOS)

WAOC Maps - The History

Part1 The Very First WAOC Map

Brampton Wood

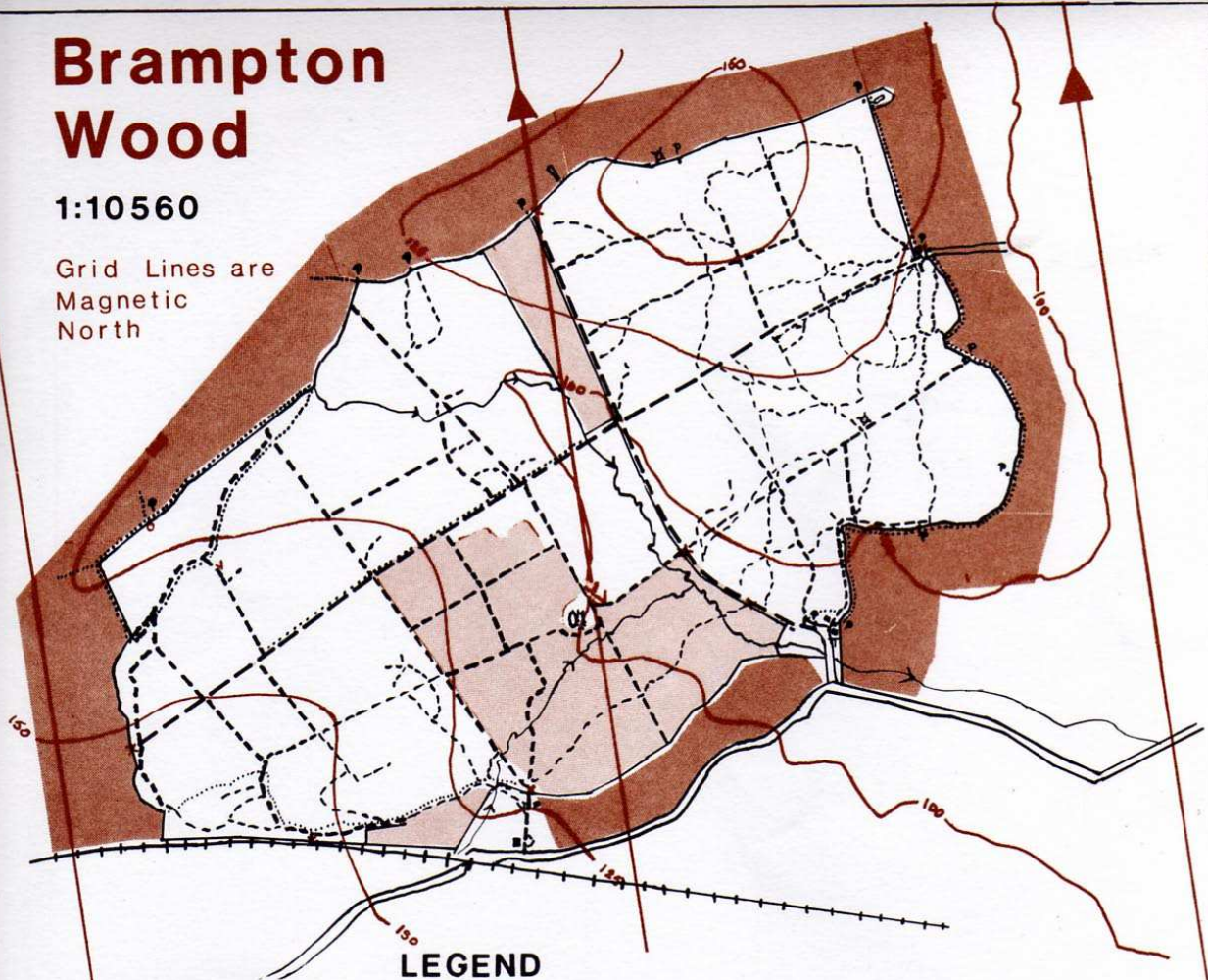
In retrospect this was not the most ideal of woods to use for orienteering. Many young trees and some vicious undergrowth (some of it not so 'under') left a few of the more adventurous returning covered in blood and scratches. As an introduction to the sport again it was far from ideal. But it was close to my home. And it was controlled by RAF Brampton (me being a navigator in the RAF at the time) with administration by the Forestry Commission (it is deemed part of Rockingham Forest along with Wakerley, Fineshade and Morkery). So the starting point for permission to use the area was relatively easy. From that point the acquisition of a 1:10,560 (6" to the mile) map was also fairly easy – military sources again. The fact that the most recent information on the map was 1927 mattered not too much as the boundaries and main paths hadn't changed significantly. I was also engaged in flying survey photography (et al) from RAF Wyton at this time, so I got me some aerial photos of the wood at the scale I wanted. These easily verified the main parameters of the wood. The rest was legwork during the closing months of 1972. The map was produced with hours of hand drawing the detail with fine nibbed scribing pens of varying recommended sizes on special film, and applying sticky Letraset screen for the shades of brown required. This is obviously very crude by today's standards, but it did the job. A printer was located in Dogsthorpe, Peterborough, who could cope with the printing required, and hey presto! Bear in mind there was NO PHOTOCOPYING available in the early 70's to us mere mortals. Does anyone remember the meths. type of copiers or the Roneo using ghastly sticky coloured inks and waxed paper and a manually driven hand-cranked machine?

Would you believe this? The map served its purpose very well, despite its looks. And it was designed and intended to last at least 5 years. Now don't you feel pampered with the multi-coloured maps as they are produced today for every event? Something like 113 people attended this first WAOC event, on Sunday 14th January 1973. It was on a lovely sunny day, the sun soon melting the light dusting of snow on the ground. Peter Leverington, presently NOR, then of LEI (and briefly also WAOC), was the controller, and my encouragement to map and use the area. This was my first (and only) event of several dozen I have masterminded at which I had a competitor have a serious accident, and which needed me to drag him off to the old Huntingdon Hospital. He had slipped crossing a wet log and had broken his collar bone.

Brampton Wood

1:10560

Grid Lines are
Magnetic
North



LEGEND

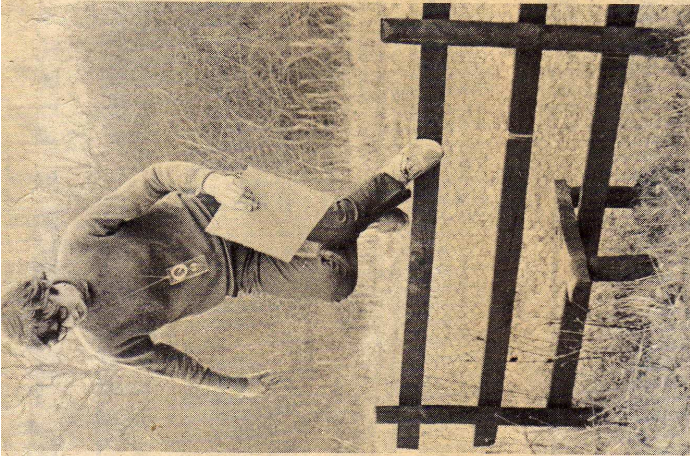
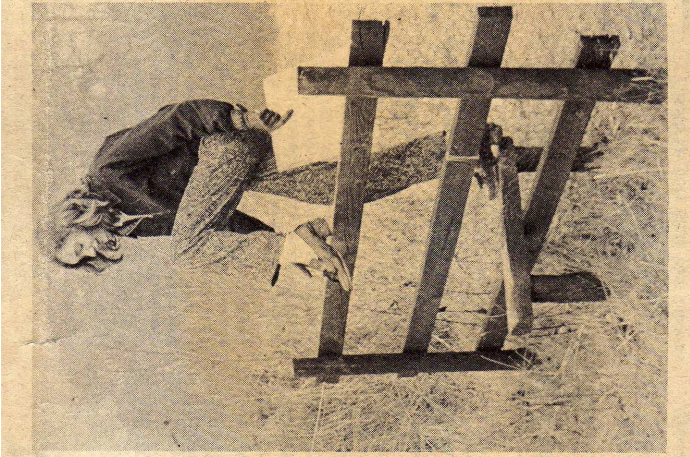
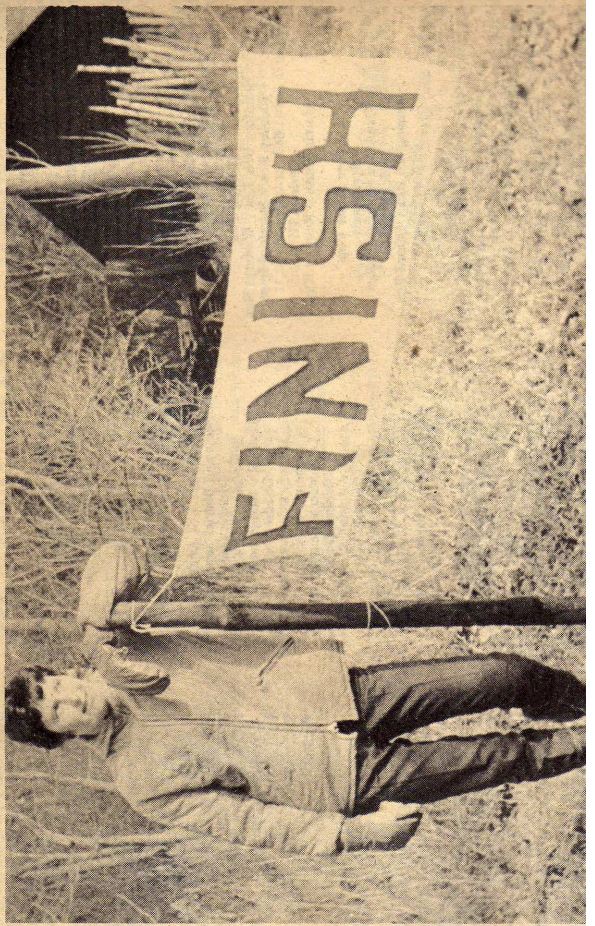
Forest	Depression	Fence
Open Fields	Knoll	Ditch - not all
Young Firs	Warning Post	Disused Railway
Out of Bounds (except paths)	Cart	Stream
Major Track	Pond	Stile
Minor Track	Building	Contour 25 feet
Path - some obstructed	Tank	Road

Based on the Ordnance Survey with the sanction of the Controller of HMSO Crown Copyright

DEC 72 - WAOC

Hot tomato soup, as well as the traditional orange squash, was available to competitors at the finish. This was courtesy of the RAF facilities I had access to.

I had managed to get a Hunts Post photographer along to the event and some of his pictures you can see. Three of these feature an existing Club member, can you spot/name him?



The wood was used maybe a dozen times for events, some of which were very small scale evening events.

What of Brampton Wood now? Well it's still there. The major change is in the maturity of the wood. But the more mature trees of 1973 were cut down leaving the eastern side to become even more rampant with thick growth. It had been the better side of the wood. The wood was bought by the Beds and Cambs Wildlife Trust from the RAF, and can be used by walkers and Trust members. My attempts to get permission to use the wood for orienteering again were met with a wall of silence from the Trust, that was for our 25th anniversary, since when I haven't bothered. The area really doesn't merit too much effort. But it is there, and if any other Club member feels they can impress the Beds & Cambs., I will be happy to map it again.

The next area mapped for WAOC was Maulden Wood. But that's another story.

Hally Hardie 2006

Marshalling At The Hebridean Challenge

[Jean Sinclair has been busy over the summer writing various reports for Adventure Race web sites. Adventure Races are team events which take place usually over more than one day and involve a variety of sports including cycling, swimming, canoeing, running and orienteering. I took part in a one day event a few years back. Although many orienteers do not regularly take part a few do, and these events certainly provide an interesting alternative challenge to O if you are up for the endurance. The 1st of Jean's articles was about health risks to those taking part overseas. The 2nd was about her experiences of marshalling at the Hebridean Challenge. I'm afraid there is not space to reproduce the articles in full here. Both articles can be found on the Planet Fear web site <http://www.planetfear.com/articles.asp> . However here is a taster to let you know what "The Heb" is all about. Ed.]

The Access Sport Hebridean Challenge - popularly known as the "Heb" - is by far the most complicated, civilised and cooperative adventure race I have been involved with as a marshal. For me, it was also the realisation of a long held ambition to visit these wonderful islands.

It's a complicated event because each person in a team of five, four or two plays a role in progressing along the chain of islands for five days. (This year there was a prologue too.) Teams collect points and avoid time penalties by sending one or more team members, on foot, mountain bike, road bike, kayak, swimming or any other means of non-motorised transport - including scooters. Sometimes taking the time penalty is the best strategy. Meanwhile, a member drives the team vehicle to facilitate exchanges of personnel and kit at various places each day. There is no support driver - all members must participate in stages, although there are usually specialists in each discipline.

It's a civilised event as everyone has their evening meal at community halls along the way. Food, and plenty of it, is provided locally and raises funds for local communities. I noticed there was an element of friendly competition between the halls, each with high reputations to maintain! Most competitors and marshals camped near the halls, although some chose B&Bs, and others slept on friends' floors. The Police team and Fire pair stayed at local stations!

It's a cooperative event because, after initial wariness, competitors of similar speeds from different teams find themselves travelling together. Kayakers paddle alongside swimmers in batches according to speed, not necessarily with their own swimmers. Repair kit and skills are often shared - as are bikes too, though not always intentionally... A member of Team 15 Trotter Wreckage ran from off the hill, jumped on a pre-delivered bike, then, 15 minutes down the road realised it wasn't theirs, so cycled back to swap for the right bike, before the owner realised!

Much money is raised for charities, including this year's title sponsor Access Sport, which supports sport clubs aiming to increase participation by young people (see www.accesssport.co.uk). Also, the tanned and happy faces of off-island competitors and marshals are great adverts for encouraging tourism to the Outer Hebrides.

As this was the first week of the Scottish school holidays, several island teachers were recruited as marshals. Their local knowledge really helped the event, and added to my enjoyment as they pointed out features, such as standing stones etc, as we drove past. Bill and Neil, both teachers in Stornoway and new to AR, were not put off by their marshalling experience and would do it again. Marshalling is often a family affair. Carrick "Pyro" Amer of Team 17 Eat Cake brought his dad, Geoff, newly retired from Cumbria, for his first AR marshalling experience. Event organiser Stephanie Sargent (Stef) recruited her daughter Melissa, and chief marshal / route planner Janet Smith brought husband Bob McNaughton, and daughters Hannah and Harriet - with safety pins to make the large yellow waistcoat fit. Breda, accompanying the Irish women's pair 35, also marshalled at times.

This year's race faced some extra challenges - notably a change of Race Director just weeks before the start, with John Laughlin being replaced by John Armstrong. Incorrectly printed team bibs, corrected by pen, were difficult to read from any distance, but most competitors responded well by stating their numbers and letters, some using the phonetic alphabet, which really helped marshals in windy conditions.

Above all, it was a fantastic week, with excellent competition and hospitality. Even the weather was good!

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Jean Sinclair

The Lakes 5 Days

This year the Lakes 5 Days was based around Kendal with events on open fell further north near Shap and Ullswater, in woodland further west near Hawkshead and in mixed terrain further south near Grange. There was no event campsite this year so Rolf and I



stayed mostly with relatives and missed the middle day so we could do some walking instead. We did manage to see some of the other 33 WAOC members also attending. It was good to orienteer in Graythwaite again having done the training weekend on an adjacent area earlier this year, although the planner for that day was optimistic about how fast we could get through the terrain. Winning times on that day were generally around 80 minutes for the younger to middle age adult courses with some people taking 3 hours!

The weather was kind to us and we actually returned to miserable rainy weather in Cambridge – somewhat of a weather inversion to the usual.

Many of us had fairly average runs but Thomas Hemmingway should be congratulated for his overall 3rd place on M10A, coming 1st on the last day. Also Mike Bickle seems to have had fairly good runs coming well in the top 25% overall on M55L. Robert Armitage came 1st on Novice 1 course – well done, you'll have to run a harder course next time!

Julia Crook

Summer Mid-week Galoppen 2006

As I write there are 2 more Galoppen's to go, although by the time you read this the Port Holme event will be over. The last Galoppen of the year is on 30th August at Cherry Hinton Hall. I hope to publish the results of this league in the next edition.

Julia Crook

WAOCjuniors August 2006 update...



Although the summer is fairly quiet in terms of orienteering, June saw the East Anglian Schools Championships in Hylands Park, as well as the Junior Inter-regional Championships taking place in the South Central region, where the East Anglian team included a large number of WAOC's juniors, which was great to see.

The East Anglian Schools' Championships took place in Hylands Park on 11th June. Kings College School turned up in force to challenge their biggest regional rival, Barnardiston Prep School, and they did a pretty good job of taking some of the trophies back to Cambridge even if the overall school team winner was Barnardiston. Well done especially to the following:

- **Tim Brown 1st, William Louth 2nd and Joshua Hope 3rd** in the Primary Boys class, meaning that the **Primary Boys prize went to KCS**
- **Jonathan Cronk 1st** in the Year 7&8 Boys Class

As for other WAOC runners at the event, well done to **Simon Gardner** (from Hills Road Sixth Form College) who finished **2nd** to James Lyne in the Year 11 and older Boys class.

Over the weekend of 24th/25th June, the British Army O.C. and Southampton O.C. hosted the Junior Inter-Regional Championships, which is a competition for M/W14-18's, and consists of an individual day and a relay day. The runners are selected by their regional squad managers to compete against the other British orienteering regions. This year our region, East Anglia, finished

9th/12 in the combined competition (including both individual and relay), and there were some great individual runs from WAOC juniors. Congratulations to:

- **Edward Louth** who finished **9th** on M16 (out of 35 finishers)
- **Simon Gardner** who finished **11th** on M18 (out of 31 finishers)
- **Edward Louth** for bringing back his relay team in 5th place, finishing with the 5th-best time on his leg
- **Thomas Louth** for catching up 6 places for his relay team, and **Simon Gardner** for catching up another 9 places for that team
- **Sophie Louth** for catching up 10 places for her relay, bring the team in in 16th place after setting off in 26th

and everyone else who competed for East Anglia in the competition.

In the mean-time, preparations are going well for the Peter Palmer relays in September, which is a night/day relay especially for juniors (M/W12-18). The event will be on the weekend of the 9th and 10th of September in Birmingham. WAOC are taking two teams to the event, so watch this space for more results!

Blanka Sengerová
(WAOC Juniors newsletter editor)