



West Anglian  
Orienteering  
Club



# JABBERWAOC

Vol.34 No. 6

December 2006



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



January 1st – even WAOC ones, I'm afraid.

Club membership cards will be sent out as usual – both to BOF members, and to those of you who have decided to remain Club-only members.

Existing BOF members

Remember that you need to get your sub to BOF by December 15th, in order to receive your 2007 card by January 1st.

BOF seems to want to be called 'British Orienteering' these days. Unfortunately, it doesn't abbreviate in a very pleasing way, so I shall stick to BOF rather than type out the whole thing every time!

Anne Duncumb (membership secretary)

## **BOXING DAY EVENT 2006 - COE FEN**

This is a fun event of as yet unknown composition and complexity to be divulged only seconds before launch. There will be a separate mini event for the Juniors, and anyone not competent to do the main course.

Parking is in Lammas Land car park which is accessed from the corner of Newnham Road and Barton Road (TL446574).

Registration:	10:30 to 10:55
Mass Start:	1100 hrs for main course 11:15 for junior course
Fees:	!!! FREE !!!
Prizegiving:	PRIZES will be awarded following the event in the Anchor Inn - on the NE corner of the Coe Fen map at c1300 - 1330 hrs. Some of us expect to be light-lunching here, but feel free just to imbibe. The Anchor normally has mulled wine (amongst many others) at this time of year.
Terrain:	Parkland
Organiser/Planner:	Hallie Hardie 01480 465331 or <a href="mailto:Hally40@btinternet.com">Hally40@btinternet.com</a>

Please bring a pen and compass.

A few years ago the Boxing Day event almost had to be cancelled due to flooding on the Fen. Instead most of us opted to get wet instead. The area is dryer than usual for this time of year at the moment so there probably shouldn't be any problems. If you feel that there is any likelihood of cancellation because of flooding please call me for an update, but after 0830 hrs on day of event will be too late.

Hally

## **Congratulations**

Neil Humphries wins Elite Planner of the Year!!

Congratulations to Neil Humphries (WAOC) who has been voted Elite Planner of the Year by the British Elite! Neil planned the WAOC Middle Race at Rowney Warren that was part of the UKCup series and a World Ranking Event.

Neil commented 'this is a very big and pleasant surprise! I'm really glad that those who came to Rowney enjoyed the experience.'

It is fantastic to have national recognition of the great event we all put on. There have been many positive comments about the weekend and this is the icing on the cake. Well done Neil.

## **WAOC Maps - The History**

In the early days of the Club we didn't have the resources to rush around mapping hither and thither. Indeed, going to events (one a month within 60/70 miles if you were lucky) it was rare to see a new car in the car park. And by 'new' I mean something less than 5 years old. So with this lack of personal disposable income amongst members we had to resort to what was already mapped. This, in fact, meant manipulating town street maps to suit our purposes. Mapping any nearby woods and forests or commons was a longer term dream – although in the early days the same bastardisation of existing mapping was adopted to get us out competing. So we finished up using a Cambridge street map, snowpaked to remove those bits we didn't want. And then redrawing the basics onto the skins we ran through Roneo machines, y'know those fiendish hand-driven monsters with that evil black ink that got everywhere – and then stayed there..... Photocopying in the mid 70's was in its infancy, and very expensive. Some people actually tried those meths copiers, the ones that produced very inferior purple prints of whatever. But we discovered too many orienteers (Cambridge studes??) sitting on street corners licking their maps – so we had to stop that. And that is how we managed a number of events black on white on the Cambridge streets and some commons. For those of you who only recognise an OCAD produced map.....you've never lived!!!

Right from the start WAOC had this very useful symbiotic relationship with CUOC, who preceded us by a few years. We joined forces with most of the Cambridge street events, and then with the annual Icenians as from 1975. At the WAOC formative meeting at my house in Needingworth (Aug '72) a Cambridge undergraduate, David Cundall??, pedalled all the way from his Cambridge digs. But his knowledge of the local geography was so poor that instead of coming up the 12 miles or so of the A604, Via Devana, (as was – now A14), he came all the way through the villages, Willingham and Earith etc, maybe getting on for 25 miles. Perhaps this is why he didn't stay orienteering for long.....

Other streets and towns used were; St Neots, sometimes at night, which would include Priory Park (now much better mapped by Maurice Hemingway (his first?)), and the common down by the River Ouse; Bedford streets including the Bedford Park area, now also properly mapped; and another bit of Bedford/Kempston alongside the Ouse not too

far away from the current leisure complex; Huntingdon and Godmanchester were used many times together with Portholme. And again we had the crazy Cambridge undergrads who were prepared to pedal all the way over for an evening run around before pedalling back – except for the poor guy who broke his chain coming over. We took compassion on him and ferried him and his bike back in one of our cars.

Other East Anglian clubs also adopted this same procedure as a fast track way of gaining local interest in orienteering, before they, also, were able to properly map woods and commons outside of the towns. I think we all had the advantage back then that the roads were much less busy than now, but there was still some traffic to contend with.

So now you newer orienteers, don't you feel terribly pampered by all those lovely maps of all those lovely, if small (and terribly inferior to Scotland!) areas which you visit every few weeks?

All of these maps were in monochrome, usually black on white paper. But there was a very early CUOC map, in fact three areas on one very strangely shaped piece of paper, which was dark brown on cream. It looked not unlike parchment, though I'm not quite sure if this was intentional. A bit of Wimpole, Wandlebury (including its marvellous beech trees that were blown over in '87, and I think the 3<sup>rd</sup> area was a very early map of Coe Fen. Perhaps a CUOC research fellow can put me right on this? Is Peter Haines a WAOC member again now?

And that, dear Ffolks, was your Club in the mid 1970's.

Hally Hardie 2006

### **WAOCjuniors December 2006 update...**



The winter season has started and the WAOC juniors have been pretty busy with their orienteering. Whilst competing at events, many of the juniors are also busy training, whether it is with the regional junior squad or at the club training sessions.

At the beginning of October, the regional Yvette Baker Trophy competition qualifier took place at a NOR colour coded in Hockham (Thetford Forest). With a massive turnout from the club juniors, and lots of teeming red colour all over the assembly area, it is fair to say that WAOC stormed the results. With 5 class winners and the rest second placed runners, we scored a total of 896 out of the possible 899 points, winning comfortably over rivals Essex Stragglers (SOS, 792 points, without a full team) and another regional club Norfolk O.C. (NOR, 750 points). This means the club are through to the National final on Cold Ash on 10<sup>th</sup> December – by the time you read this, this will have happened, but watch this space to see how the juniors do compared to last year's final.

The highlight of November was the British School Orienteering Championship for many of the club's juniors. This took place on the 19<sup>th</sup> November in the West Midlands Hawkbatch Forest near Bewdley, with a large contingent of juniors travelling to the event from WAOC-land. In terms of the school results, congratulations to **King's College School Cambridge** who finished **2<sup>nd</sup>** in the **middle preparatory schools** category, beaten only by local rivals Barnardiston Hall. As for the individual results, there were plenty of commendable results from some more and some less experienced orienteers to congratulate. Well done to:

- **William Louth** (King's College School) who won the Year 5 boys class (out of 66 competitors), with school-mates **Sam Woods**, **Charlie Plane** and **William Woods** finishing 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> respectively
- **Grace Vaudin and Ellie Farrow** (Bourn School) who finished 12<sup>th</sup> (out of 49) in the Year 5 girls class
- **Robert Armitage** (Bourn School) who was 8<sup>th</sup> (of 55) in the Year 6 boys'
- **Helen Judd** (King's College School) who was 14<sup>th</sup> (of 56) in the Year 6 girls'
- **Tim Brown** and **Felix Barker**, both King's College School, who were 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> respectively (of 76) in Year 7 Boys
- **Catherine Reilly** (Perse Girls School) 21<sup>st</sup> and **Emily Plane** (King's College School) 23<sup>rd</sup> of 50 in Year 7 Girls
- **Thomas Louth** (King's College School) who won the silver medal, only 16 seconds away from gold, in Year 8 Boys (out of 78 runners)
- **Jonathan Cronk** who was 8<sup>th</sup> and **Ben Armitage** who was 20<sup>th</sup> (out of 54) in Year 9 Boys (both of Comberton Village College)
- **Sophie Louth**, **Susha Chandraker** and **Jacqueline Heybrock** (all Perse Girls School) who were 10<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> respectively, of 39, on the Year 10 Girls course
- **Simon Gardner** (Hills Road Sixth Form) who came 6<sup>th</sup> of 29 in the Year 13 Boys'

You may well have noticed the cake stall we had at the Rowney Warren District/Colour Coded event – whilst helping to raise funds for things such as the junior O tops, these cake-and-soup stalls provide a nice focal point at an event, so I'd encourage you to come along and try the produce at stalls in the future and maybe get chatting to some club members you haven't met before. The juniors will also be doing some more fund-raising at the Thetford Thrash after Christmas by selling quizzes, so do have a go!

*Blanka Sengerová*  
(WAOC Juniors newsletter editor)

## Orienteering and Climate Change

Early this year we took part in the Capricorn long-distance orienteering competition, which was in Dentdale, during the end of the July heat wave. Two thirds of the way round the course I began to flag, as if someone had suddenly sucked out all my remaining energy. A control later I'd slowed down to a walking pace, and a control after that I had to stop and sit down. The reason was the intense heat. I finished my two litres of water, but that made no difference. Having abandoned any hope of finishing the course I spent the last two gruelling hours walking, very slowly, back to the camp site. That evening I heard surprising similar stories recounted by other competitors who had also been forced to retire. Julia was also stuck down by the heat, and only made it back over the mountains with the encouragement of a most generous competitor. Clouds arrived overnight and the following day was much cooler to my and many others relief.

A few days later we were competing in the WAOC midweek galoppen on Therfield Heath – a 50 minute snooker score event organised by Ian Lawson. We arrived in torrential rain. Julia set off in a relative lull, while I stayed behind in the organiser's car waiting for the rain to ease off even more to my advantage. Other competitors started finishing and handing in scraps of sodden maps. Realising that it was going to get dark before the rain stopped, I set off. After half an hour the rain turned into a thunder, lightning, and hail storm. The paths turned into fast flowing muddy streams and the golf greens turned into shallow lakes. At this point my attentions turned from snooker to getting back to the car park without electrocution! After ten minutes sheltering under a small tree in a gully at the edge of the forest, which I understand is a good place to be in a thunder storm, I sprinted back to the car park ignoring several snooker points on my way. Back in the car, Julia told me tales of hailstones the size of golf balls covered in ice spikes hitting her on the head.

The British weather is notoriously chaotic. That's because we live at the confluence of five different air masses, so perhaps these events were just freaky weather rather than anything due to climate change. However, climatologists predict that such events will become much more frequent as climate change takes hold over the next fifty years. Perhaps events will be cancelled as more storms strike our country, and perhaps unpredictable weather will make events more dangerous. Are there any other consequences of climate change for orienteering? Over to Julia, our resident climatologist....

Climate change is predicted to bring drier summers and milder, wetter winters to the UK. Although the total annual precipitation may not change greatly, when it does rain it is likely to rain heavily causing flooding. Last weekend Rolf and I went to the wetland nature reserve at Welney. Many of the walkways were flooded and an area that is normally two rivers had become one enormous lake. The road nearby was also closed due to flooding. Cambridge has also suffered from flooding in recent years and, although there has always been a flood plain in some places near the river, the council has in recent years put flood defences in place for houses on Riverside. During the twentieth century, the sea level rose by 10-20cm mainly due to thermal expansion and most of the glaciers in the world have been retreating. Depending on just how much the temperature of the oceans increase and the extent to which the Greenland ice shelf and the Antarctic ice shelves melt, sea levels are predicted to rise by around 60cm by the end of this century. If the Greenland ice shelf or the West Antarctic ice shelf completely melts a 7m sea level rise is expected. This level

of rise would mean that Norwich would become “by-the-sea” and many of East Anglia’s rivers would be flooded. Of course, this extreme sea level rise is unlikely to happen in our lifetimes but we could certainly find some orienteering areas wetter under foot in the winter. One of the first areas to flood is likely to be around the Wash so any orienteering areas near there would be under threat.

We have already begun to notice that undergrowth such as brambles, bracken and stinging nettles are not dying down as much in winter due to our winters being milder. The deer population seem to be thriving at the moment and are increasing in number which is likely to limit the extent of undergrowth. But be warned, deer have a taste for the brambles rather than the nettles or bracken! In September 2005, the status of the event in Rowney Warren was downgraded because it was decided it was not fair to put on courses with controls hidden in such high bracken. Could this become a more common occurrence? Rowney seems to be cursed, as in October 2002, an event there was cancelled after severe winds brought down several trees in the area on the morning of the event. It was rescheduled and took part a month later at the expense of the Maulden Wood event.

Recent climate change has been scientifically attributed to the escalating emissions of greenhouse gases, principally carbon dioxide, which has gone up from 280ppm to 380ppm since the industrial revolution. Carbon dioxide levels are likely to reach 500ppm by 2050 and, if we take the “business as usual” approach, they are likely to be more than 700ppm by 2100. Our current carbon dioxide concentration is high compared to levels in the last 20-50 million years, so levels of 500-700ppm are absolutely unprecedented! Of course, the release of such gases from orienteering events is quite small compared to other activities but it’s by each of us making changes in all aspects of our lives that we can affect these growing emissions. Travelling to and from orienteering events is surely the most gaseous aspect of the day’s activities. In our own homes we can turn off energy consuming gadgets and lights when not in use. As orienteers, we should consider alternatives to driving to events in our own cars. Although it may be possible to reach most events using a combination of public transport and bicycles, it is by no means convenient and one would probably have to leave several hours earlier. However, often there is room in other competitor’s cars or space in your own car for another competitor. Surely with a little more advanced planning we could share lifts a little more.

With this in mind, Rolf and I are looking into how we might set up a car sharing scheme for orienteers. Most existing car sharing web sites appear to be set up for people making the same journey on a regular basis unlike our orienteering driving habits. However, if we set up a WAOC electronic message board, this could be used by people to advertise space in their cars for a particular journey and people could see who was going to be making the same journey. We wouldn’t propose anyone advertising their address on this message board but if they are WAOC members then their address and phone number are in the membership list so they can be found by other members.

We would love to know your thoughts on this matter. Would you be keen to reduce your personal carbon emissions and share transport more? Is a message board the best way to do it or do you have some better ideas?

Rolf and Julia Crook  
(numbers taken from the IPCC Third Assessment Report 2001)



# Thetford Thrash 2007

A double regional event in Thetford Forest

Santon Downham and  
Santon Warren  
Saturday 3rd February 2007  
The Icenian. EAGAL



new area Croxton Heath and  
The Devil's Punchbowl  
Sunday 4th February 2007  
Includes the EA Champs



one/both  
Senior BOF member £7.50/£13  
Senior non-BOF member £9.50/£17  
First junior in family £3/£5.50  
Further juniors in same family free  
**Postal closing date 21/01/07**  
**Online closing date 28/01/07**

**Late entries and EOD**  
Senior BOF £9  
Senior non-BOF £11  
Junior £3.50  
(no 2-day or junior discount)

**Colour-coded White to L Green**  
Senior BOF £4  
Senior non-BOF £6  
Junior £1.50



Online entries from [www.waoc.org.uk](http://www.waoc.org.uk)

<b>British Orienteering Federation</b>		<b>THETFORD THRASH 2007 ENTRY FORM</b> <b>3/4 February 2007</b> Please complete this form using BLOCK CAPITALS					
Name:							
Address:							
Tel no:		Email:					
BOF Number	SI Card No or 'hire'	Class	Full Name	Club	Sat 3 Feb E/M/L	Sun 4 Feb E/M/L	Fee
123456	123456	M21L					
If printed details/results are required please include a sae for each. Details/start time/s/results will be on the web at <a href="http://www.waoc.org.uk">www.waoc.org.uk</a> .				Printed details @ £1.00 each			
Special requests (e.g. split starts)				SI card replacement £20			
				Printed results @ £1.00 each			
				SI card hire @ 50p each per day			
				Total Fee			
				Cheques made payable to WAOC			
<small>Competitors take part at their own risk and are responsible for their own safety.          DATA PROTECTION ACT: Details may be stored on computer. It may not be possible to process an entry for anyone who objects to having their details so recorded.</small>							

Postal entries to: Caroline Louth, 20 Long Road, Cambridge, CB2 2PS