

West Anglian  
Orienteering  
Club



# JABBERWAOC

Vol.35 No. 3

June 2007



*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**

This is my last Jabberwaoc. Rolf has already started his job in Leeds and is living in rented accommodation there until we move. I will remain in Cambridge until the house sale goes through probably in the first week in July. We are looking forward to orienteering with some contours. If anyone who knows us is in the Leeds area in future, they will be welcome to drop in. We will still be members of WAOC until the end of the year. We hope to keep in touch and see you at the big events next year.

We've done very little orienteering recently, partly because orienteering has now quietened down but also because we decided to miss some events such as the British Champs as we were spending too much time driving up and down to Leeds house hunting.

Many thanks to Hally for his article about WAOC maps and to Blanka for her regular Junior news.

Goodbye,  
Julia Crook

## ***Next Copy Date***

?

## **WAOC Membership Information**

### ***New Members***

No new members this time.

### **Olivia Brown**

It is with great sadness that I have to report the death of a long time member of WAOC. Olivia Brown died in Addenbrookes on 21 May after fighting cancer for over 6 years. She hadn't been active in orienteering since the 2005 Scottish 6 days, but was quite an enthusiast in the 1980s and 90s. She filled those six years to the brim, including trips to Nepal, Thailand and Canada, and was hardly ever down hearted.

She and husband Chris joined WAOC in 1979 and both have been active WAOC members, with Chris being chairman for a time and Olivia being Jabberwaoc editor in the early 1980s. Chris remembers going to the British Champs in 1982 with then 3 week old daughter Leonie. Olivia helped organize events and string courses from time to time. She was not a great runner but enjoyed out-thinking those who were, and has on occasions given one of WAOC's better female competitors, Lindsey Freeman, a run for her money.

On behalf of those in the club who know the Browns may I pass on our condolences to Chris and the family at this difficult time.

Julia Crook (*thanks to David Peregrine, Hally Hardie and Chris Brown for information*)

## Chairman's Chat

Although Summer is the low season for ordinary O-events, doubtless due to high bracken and brambles in typical forest areas as well as the holidays, Orienteering nevertheless continues in our local area, on a lower key.

WAOC's SMILE and Summer Galloppen events can be great fun, helping prevent fitness from falling away completely in the warmer weather, and keeping O-skills alive ready for the autumn - many thanks to those who volunteer to plan and organise these events.

Some of us are travelling further afield for orienteering over the summer - half-a-dozen to the Twin Peaks in the Lake District this weekend, over fifty WAOC members to the Scottish 6-Day event near Aviemore in early August, and doubtless several to other multi-day events abroad. Let us hope for good weather, great runs, and good fun all round.

### **Urgent news from the committee, 7<sup>th</sup> June:**

We need someone to handle Publicity for the club and others to take an interest in Training and/or Coaching (perhaps a series of people to organise one session each), not to mention a new editor for Jabberwaoc. Anyone interested in any of these posts please contact me or the secretary Karen Heybrock.

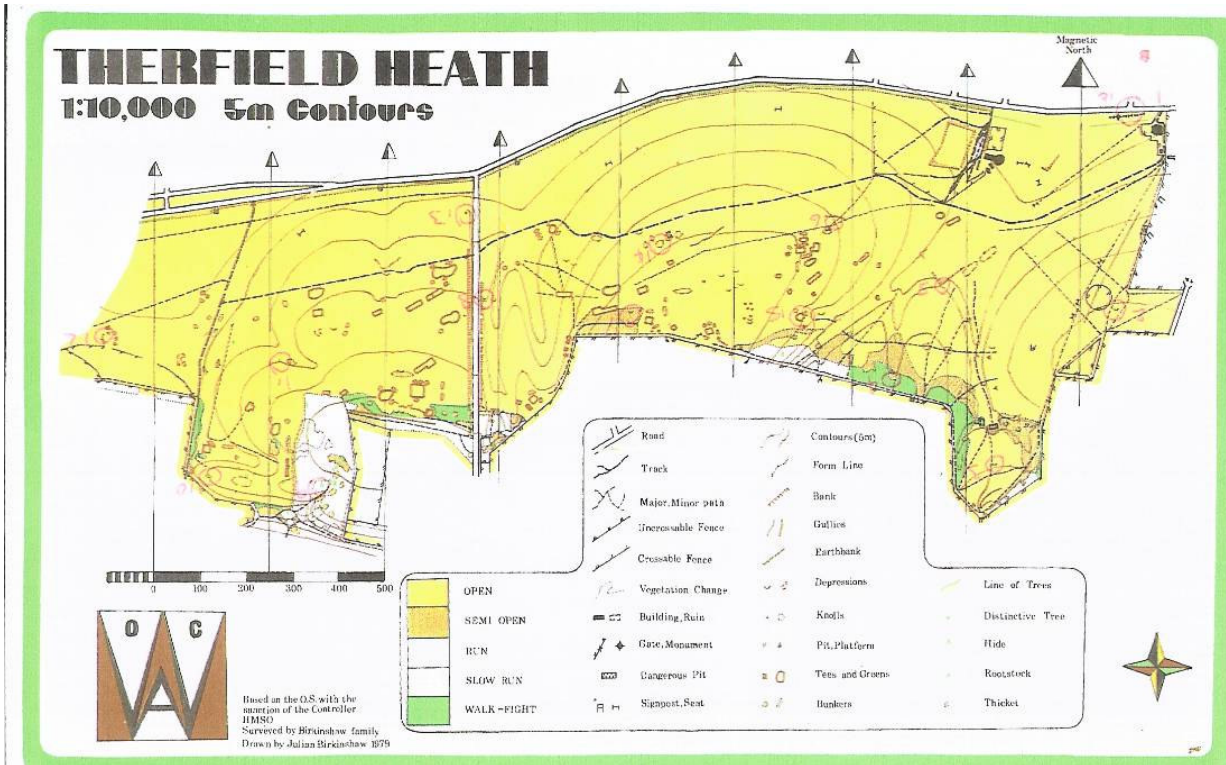
Chris Morley

## More History Of WAOC Maps

May I take you back in time, yet again, to try to show you some of the earlier maps and those earlier orienteering areas, most of which (the areas) are still used, even if only rarely? In putting together these historical jottings I try to find all those maps I've so religiously kept – then lost – despite what I considered to be a fairly good filing system. Dragging out maps for various exhibitions and displays, and briefing myself for forthcoming events, or at AGMs for instance, and then not being put back where they ought to be. If any of you older O's out there can provide some of your own copies for display, then please do so.

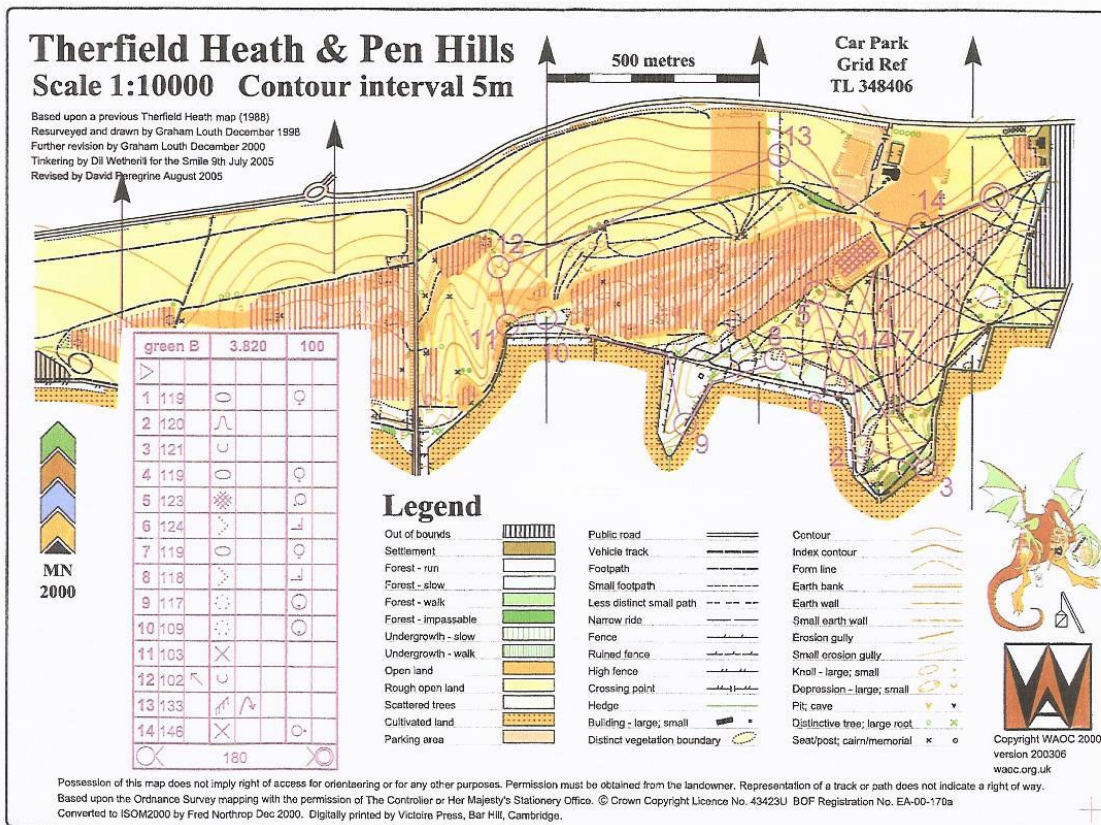
For those of you so used to OCAD produced maps please bear in mind that ALL of these earlier maps were hand drawn, using special-nibbed pens and Letraset screens, using a different drawing for each printed colour, before being pulled together in the offset litho printing process.

Therfield Heath was first drawn in full colour back in 1979 by Julian Birkinshaw, late of this parish, whilst still a student at The Perse in Cambridge. Living then in Meldreth it wasn't too hard to get to Therfield to do the job, but bear in mind Julian was obviously still a teenager. Other maps produced for the Club by Julian at this time was a fairly crude B&W map of Coe Fen which was adopted by CUOC much later on. And he also produced the first B&W map of Harlton Clunch Pit, just the pit area alone, for a Midsummer Madness event (whatever happened to these annual 'fun' events?), and which also happened to be the Birkinshaw's 'Goodbye' event to the Club.. I note from the back of Julian's Therfield map, printed below, that the Club actually got advertising revenue (from Britannia Building Society) in those days.



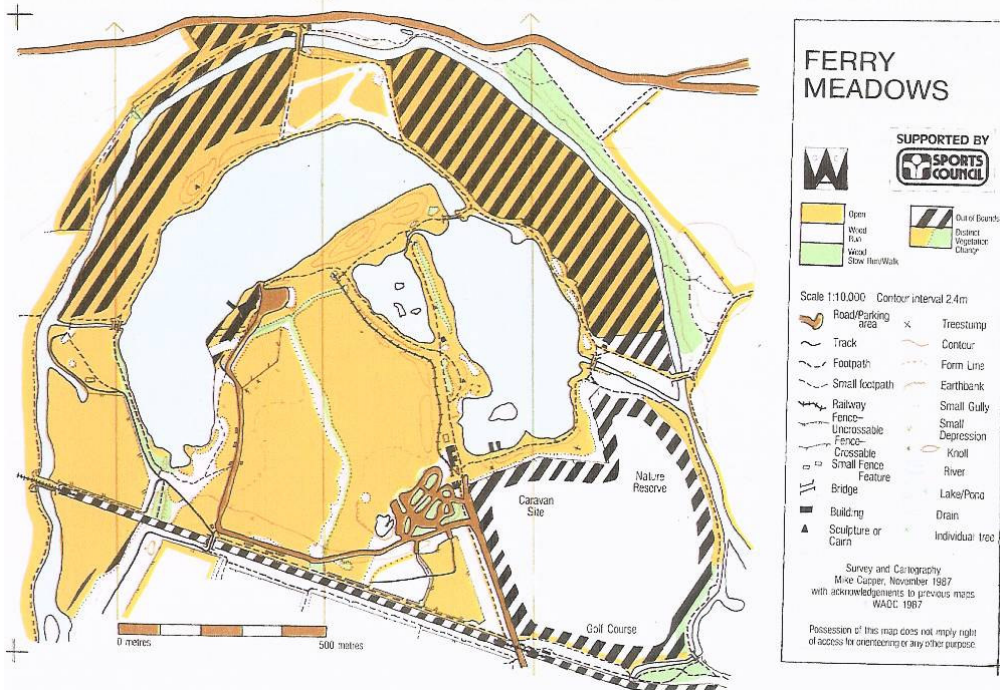
(C Crown copyright 2006. All rights reserved. Licence number WL8987)  
Julian Birkinshaw's map of Therfield Heath dated 1979

And now the latest version of this map. Go on, ask yourself, just which map would you REALLY prefer to use in an event? OCAD apart is this really progress?



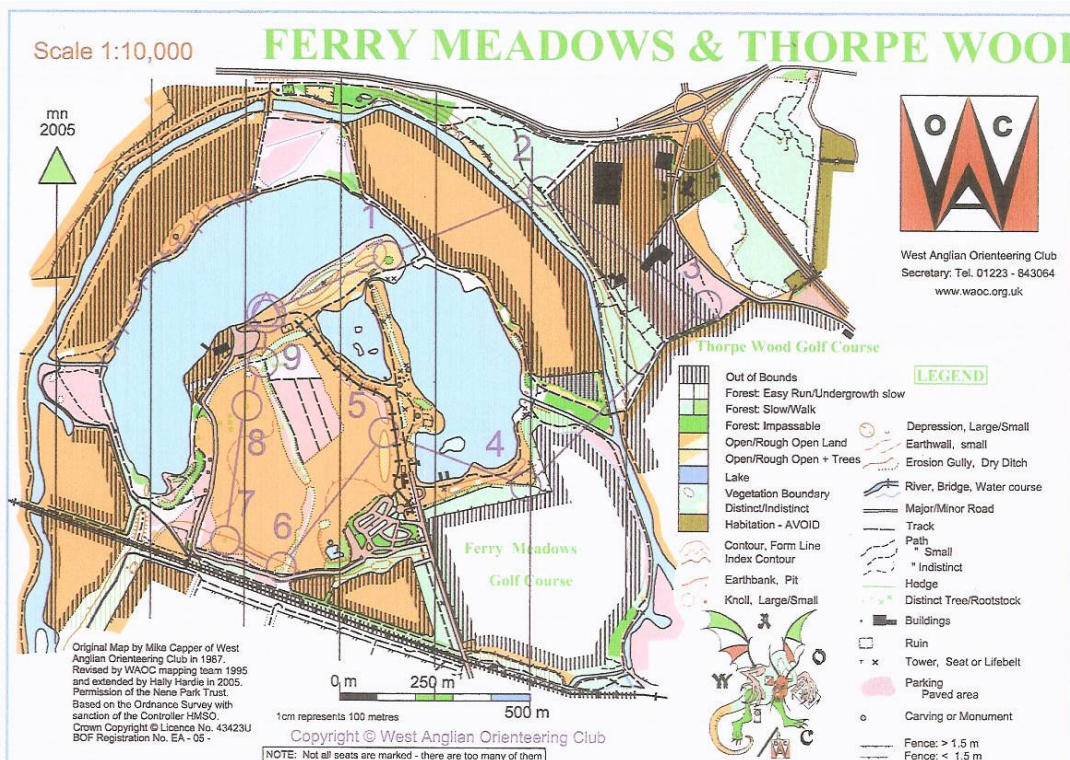
(C Crown copyright 2006. All rights reserved. Licence number WL8987)

Ferry Meadows, alias The Nene Valley Park, was also first used in the late 70's but the earliest, and first colour, map I have is that produced by Mike Capper in 1987. This is shown below, as is my own update including two additional woods to the northeast. There is also a strip of contoured woodland to the southwest, Lynch Wood, also waiting to be added. However, although this area was fairly frequently used in the 70's and 80's it has fallen out of favour. Yes, it is fairly small and restricted, but nevertheless it does have some interesting bits we could play with.

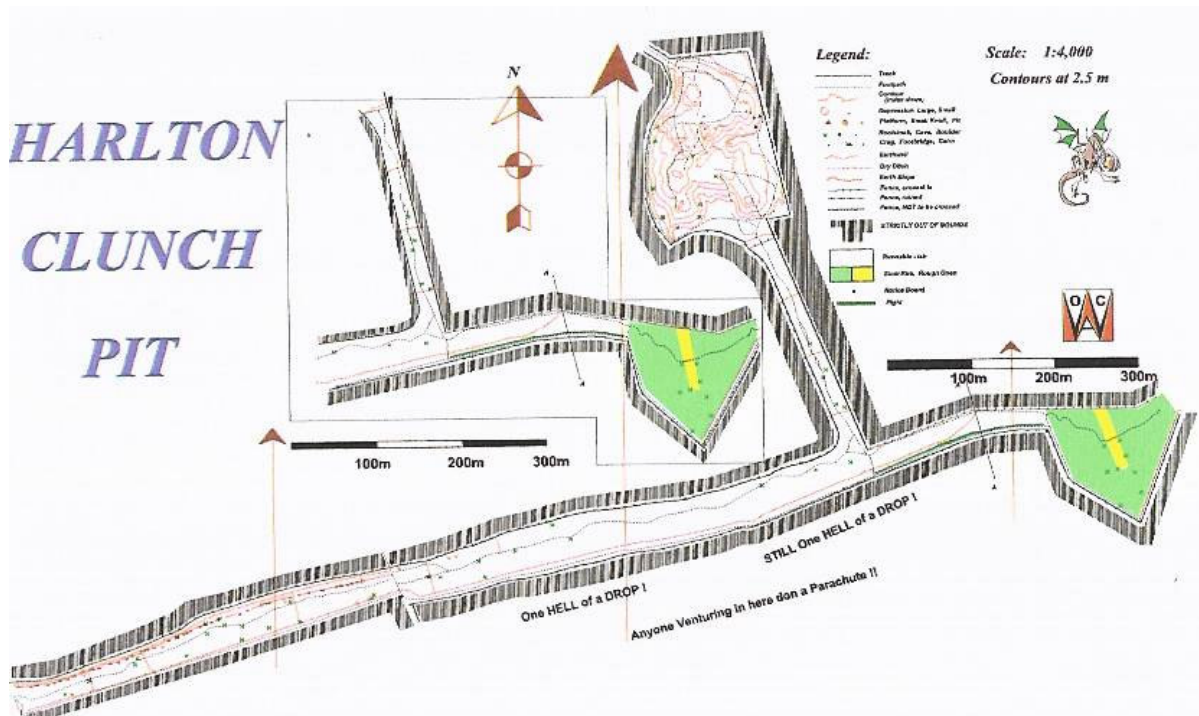


(C Crown copyright 2006. All rights reserved. Licence number WL8987)

Mike Capper's 1987 map above and Hally Hardie's 2005 map below.

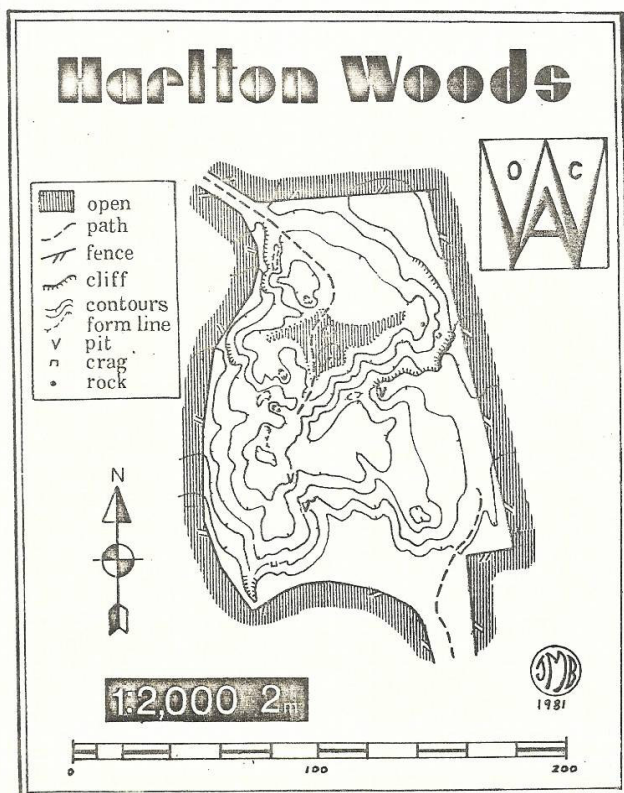


(C Crown copyright 2006. All rights reserved. Licence number WL8987)



(C Crown copyright 2006. All rights reserved. Licence number WL8987)

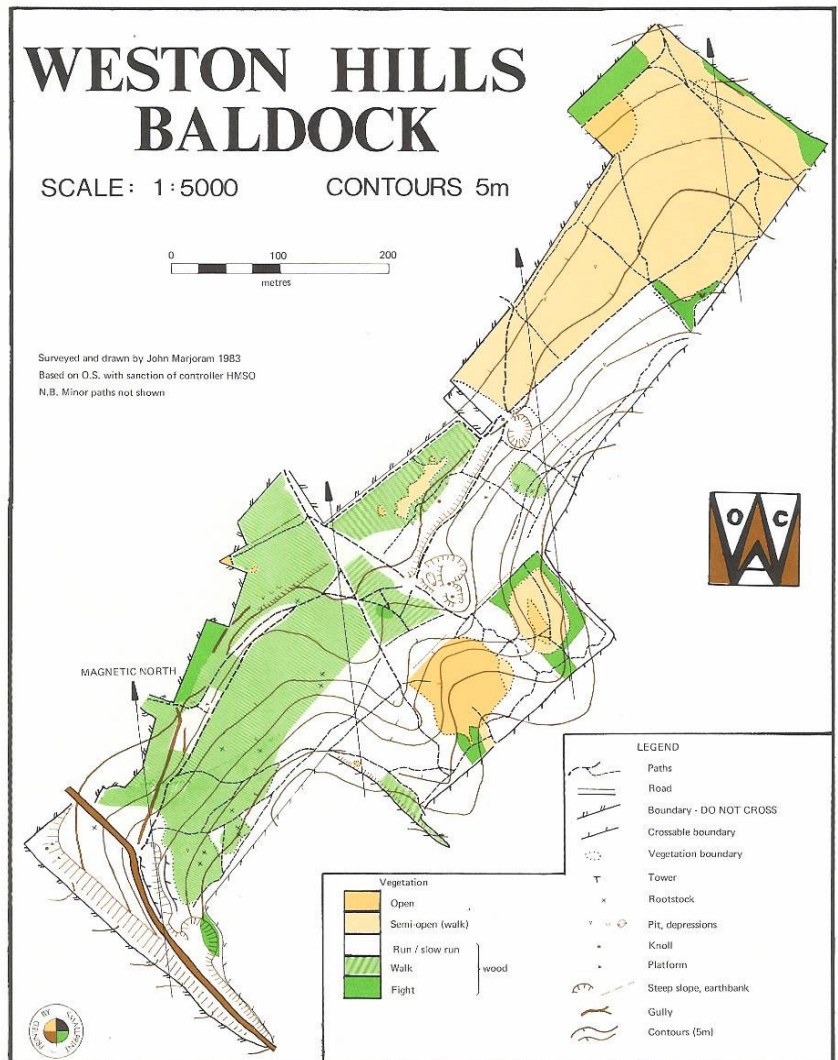
Hally Hardie's undated Harlton map of c 2000 above with Julian Birkinshaw's original of 1981 below.



(C Crown copyright 2006. All rights reserved. Licence number WL8987)

Julian Birkinshaw's Clunch Pit in Harlton Woods.

Has anyone heard of Weston Hills? This is a very small, and pretty rough patch of hillside to the south of Baldock. It was used fairly often until most of the significant trees, mostly beech, blew down in one of the gales of '87 or '89. They have since replanted with some form of trees, but have also decided that there's something to make it worth calling part of the patch an SSSI. So that's it so far as we're concerned. We won't be back in there, but perhaps no great loss when we have plenty of other little patches.

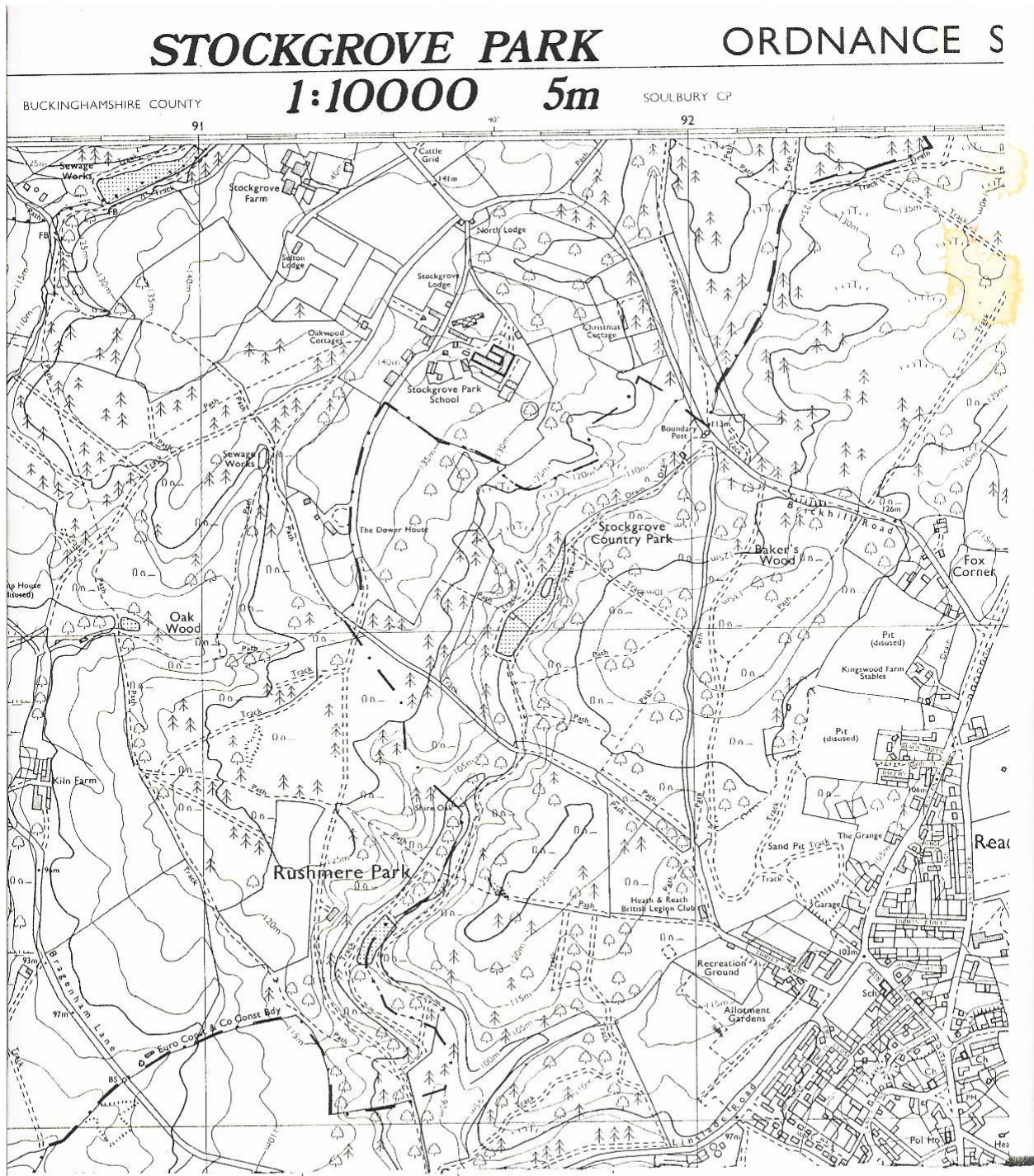


(C Crown copyright 2006. All rights reserved. Licence number WL8987)

This map was produced by John Marjoram, who was a Jabberwaoc editor in his time. He now lives in Wales.

Yet another such pocket-sized patch, which isn't a million miles away from Baldock, is Norton Common on the northern side of Letchworth. This is a very heavily used area by the locals for dog walking (excreting) etc, which made it less than desirable. But again an SSSI has been found within the area, which is probably wildly violated by the locals, but any responsible organised group such as ourselves gets excluded. This patch is also in Hertfordshire and to the south of the current WAOC domain, although in the 'good old days' we actually had members as far south as Dunstable. However, when SMOC was born out of some WAOC and quite a few Happy Herts, the WAOC territory shrank a bit. A useful area lost to us through the emergence of SMOC was Stockgrove Park, which is a bit like a smaller Rowney Warren. We had never got around to

mapping it in the earlier 80's but just used it on occasion via a photocopied 1:10,000 (probably 1:10,560 actually) OS. It was left to SMOC to map, and extend, the area used.



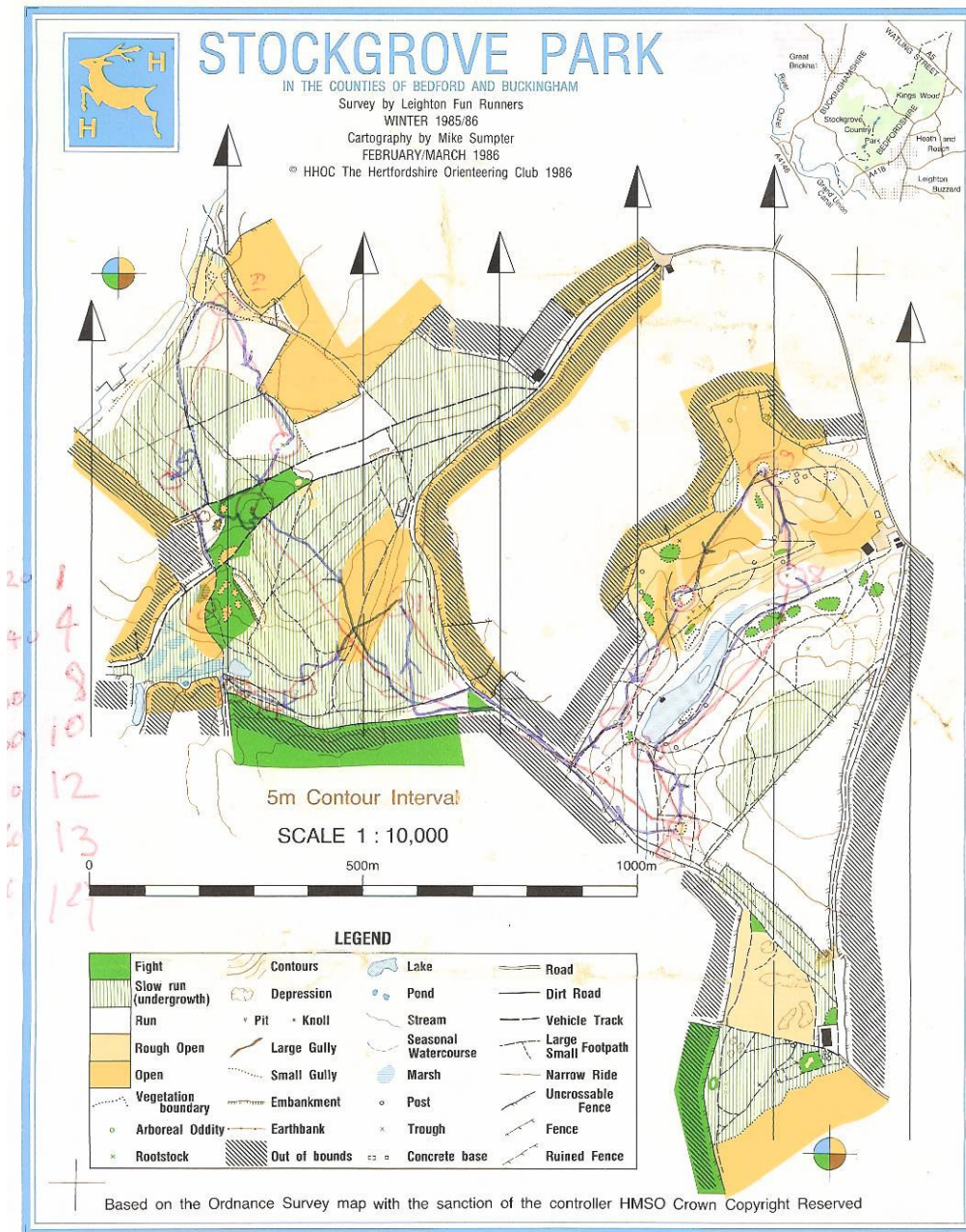
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

(C Crown copyright 2006. All rights reserved. Licence number WL8987)



Stockgrove Park as we originally used it in the very early 80's, and below – 1985 onwards;

You notice the difference? Silly b..... question!!



(C Crown copyright 2006. All rights reserved. Licence number WL8987)

Hally Hardie April 2007

## Milton Country Park Latest News

As you may have read in the press recently, another milestone passed regarding the Park - 100 days to the day when South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) will start the process of closing the Park if they've not found anyone to take it on. Currently over 10,000 people have signed up to the campaign to save the Park.

## **Pledge for the Park**

As a result of changes SCDC have made to their requirements for how the Park should be run the campaign can finally see signs that an organisation may be found to take on the Park. There are several possibilities, including a local trust created especially to run the Park or a membership trust working alongside who ever takes on the Park to provide support, both financial and in time as volunteers, from people like you who love the Park.

With that in mind a new campaign "Pledge for the Park" has been launched where the organisers of the campaign are asking you to pledge what you would be willing to offer whoever takes on the Park. They don't want your money now but would like you to pledge what you can afford so they know how much income the Park could expect.

The campaigners can then give organisations thinking of taking on the Park some idea of the sort of income they can expect from the public which should help them with their decision as to whether they can take on the Park.

You can pledge online via the web site [www.PledgeForThePark.com](http://www.PledgeForThePark.com) or you can download a paper form from the site for you to fill in and return.

## **Other Ways You Can Help**

Before the campaigners can write to everyone who's signed up on paper they have quite a big data entry task to undertake. They will give volunteers a batch of paper petitions to be entered into the web site using a page similar to the electronic sign up page. So they are looking for people who can help with this. You will need a computer, broadband access to the internet, and reasonable typing skills.

If you can help then email  
[volunteers@savemiltoncountrypark.com](mailto:volunteers@savemiltoncountrypark.com)

## **WAOCjuniors June 2007 update...**



Well, since I last wrote this update, the Jan Kjellstrom Festival of Orienteering took place, followed by the British Sprint and Middle distance championships and then the Future Champions Cup final for the M/W 18's and 20's. After a short break of one weekend, this mass of events was followed by the British Championships. It has to be said that there were some glory moments from amongst the WAOC juniors at many of those events.

The JK Festival of Orienteering took place in the Forest of Dean and the surrounding area this year. Good Friday saw the Sprint race organised in the grounds of the University of West of England in Bristol. A sprint in orienteering is still a relatively new discipline but seems to be enjoyed by more and more orienteers, and it was obvious that this year was well attended, and certainly not just by the elite. As for the results, congratulations to:

- **Edward Louth** who was **54th** out of 204 runners on the **Men's Open**

Saturday and Sunday were the two individual days of the JK run in the vicinity of the Speech House in the midst of the Forest of Dean, and we had some commendable results from our juniors, including:

- **William Louth** finishing **3rd** overall on **M10A** (of 18), having finished consistently 3rd on both individual days
- **Thomas Hemingway** finishing **3rd** on **M12B** (of 18), having won the first day and finished 6th on the second day
- **Thomas Louth** who came **5th** on **M14A** (out of 33), consistently 5th on both days
- **James Haynes** who had a good day 2 run to finish **12th** of 36 on the M14A course
- **Edward Louth** finished **9th** on M18L (of 45) overall, having taken 16th and 8th position on the two separate days

The relay was held on Easter Monday in the army training area of Caer-Went near Chepstow. We had a great result from the WAOC Whippets (**Thomas Louth, Jonathan Cronk** and **Edward Louth**) running the M48- relay (age class total of 48 or less), who finished **4th**, just 24 seconds down on third placed DEE and less than 3 minutes down on the winners from NOC. Aside from that, **Sophie Louth**, running with Helen and Penny Bickle in the Women's Short relay, had a very good run to finish **9th** of 60 on her course, therefore gaining 2 places for her team during the run.

The following week (14th/15th April) saw the Seaside Scramble weekend of the British Sprint and Middle Distance Championships take place in the north-eastern region, centred around Scarborough and Whitby. In the sprint, held in the seaside resort of Scarborough, we had the following commendable results:

- in the qualifier heats, **Simon Gardner** was **17th** out of 48, and **Edward Louth** **9th** of 43, missing out on the A final by less than 30 seconds
- in the final, **Simon** and **Edward** were **22nd** and **24th** out of 57 respectively on the **Men's B** final, with **Thomas Louth** **18th** of 52 on the **Men's C**

On Sunday, the competition moved to Mulgrave Woods near Whitby (the venue for one of the days at the 1996 JK) for the middle distance race. For this race, congratulations to:

- **Thomas Louth** 3rd of 11 on M16A
- **Edward Louth** 4th of 17 on M18L

As a third high-level orienteering weekend in a row, the finalists of the **Future Champions Cup** (from WAOC this was Simon Gardner and Edward Louth) attended the national competition final in the West Midlands region, hosted by Octavian Droobers (Coventry and Warwickshire area club) and Walton Chasers. This took place on the 21st/22nd April, and consisted of a middle distance race on Saturday and a classic distance race on Sunday. In terms of the overall standings:

- Simon Gardner was 12th of the 27 male finalists (17th in the middle and 13th in the classic)
- Edward Louth was 18th of the 27 (24th in the middle and 16th in the classic), having been 7th out of 13 M18's

The early May Bank holiday weekend saw the **British Orienteering Championships** take place in South Wales, near the coal-miners' heritage town of Blaenavon. The individual day was run in fairly hot weather, but this doesn't seem to have stopped plenty of WAOC juniors finishing in pretty good positions. Congratulations to:

- **William Louth** for **WINNING** M10A (of 15 competitors)
- **Thomas Louth** coming in **2<sup>nd</sup>** place (of 41) on M14A
- **Edward Louth** for finishing **4<sup>th</sup>** (out of 30) on M18L, only 20 seconds down on 3<sup>rd</sup> place and 22 seconds down on 2<sup>nd</sup>



Apart from these amazing results, there were also some commendable performances by other WAOC juniors, including:

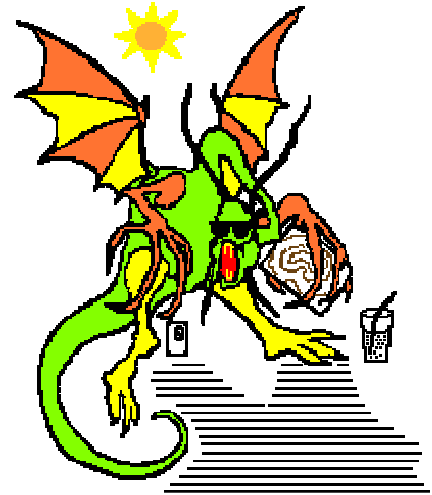
- **Thomas Hemingway** who was **16<sup>th</sup>** (of 39) on M12A
- **Robert Armitage** **2<sup>nd</sup>** (of 6) on M12B
- **Sophie Louth** **16<sup>th</sup>** (of 38) on W16A

The Sunday of the weekend (6<sup>th</sup> May) saw the **relay championships** taking place on the same area, and huge congratulations are due to WAOC Wombats, our M14 team of **Thomas Louth**, **William Louth** and **James Haynes** who finished in **2<sup>nd</sup>** place with a silver medal.



With the summer months now coming up, the year's competitive orienteering season is pretty much over, and we are now looking forward to all the various holiday events. Having said that, the East Anglian Schools' Championships are still due to take place in June (and will have probably taken place once you read this) so watch for the next newsletter to read about that. The junior club is also preparing for the Peter Palmer relays (in September) and the Yvette Baker Trophy competition (qualifier round in October), which will be taking place in the autumn months so watch this space...

*Blanka Sengerová (WAOC junior newsletter editor)*



## Summer Mid-week Galoppen 2007

Here is a list of the summer galoppen events planned so far. Start times are typically from 6-7pm. If any one is willing to organise another one please get in touch with me at [ianh.lawson@ntlworld.com](mailto:ianh.lawson@ntlworld.com).

Other areas available include Coe Fen, Milton Country Park, Fairlands Valley, Priory Country Park, Ferry Meadows, Hinchingbrooke Park and Wimpole Hall.

Date	Location	Organiser
Wed, 20 June	Wandlebury CP, Cambridge, TL493533	Bruce & Maria Marshall
Wed, 27 June	Bar Hill, Tesco car park (tbc)	Julia Crook
Wed, 4 July	Rowney Warren or Ampthill Park (tbc)	Chris Bell
Wed, 11 July	Portholme, Huntingdon, TL240718	Hally Hardie
Wed, 18 July	Cherry Hinton Hall, Cambridge, TL480564	Hazel Bickle
Wed, 22 August	Therfield Heath, Royston, TL348407	Ian Lawson

## WAOC Committee

See the membership list.

## Fixtures

See the BOF fixture list at <http://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/fixtures/fixtures.htm>