

Aire Affairs



May 2019



Airienteers

Orienteering in Airedale and Wharfedale

www.aire.org.uk



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AIRE AFFAIRS is the Club’s official magazine and is available on our website www.aire.org.uk and via e-mail/paper format to all members and interested parties.

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The cover photo shows new Airienteer Dane Blomquist heading out on the first leg of the Men’s Open Relay from South Leeds Stadium at the British Orienteering Championships.



Edit O – Wendy Carlyle

After being in the orienteering wilderness for a few months, it was good to be back amongst the action and able to catch up with friends and events. We travelled south for the JK weekend, dropping in at RHS Wisley en route. Despite the issues with the results processing, the weekend was excellent: great weather; seamless organisation; taxing areas and interesting courses. Many congratulations to Evie who secured first place overall in W18E! Peter Haines wrote, “My standout moments of the JK were the warm weather all weekend (warmest JK I have ever been to!) and the beautiful runnable forests used with great arenas and parking! A really good event, on a par with the BOC weekend just organised by Aire!”



I'll leave it to the contributors to reflect on the BOC weekend, suffice to say from enjoying the Kilnsey views moving stiles beforehand to snapping photos at the action packed mixed sprint relays and in the sporty setting of South Leeds Stadium I think our Yorkshire Clubs and countryside did us proud!

Chris March

Chris, a long term member of Airienteers, passed away on 7th March. The family had been able to celebrate his 80th birthday with him in January. Chris had an engineering degree and worked at Leeds University before setting up in business related to his research. He loved the outdoors and they usually attended the Scottish 6 Days. Our thoughts are with Helen and their family at this sad time.

AA Archives



The May 1994 issue of Aire Affairs featured past Chair Tony Thornley, for whom 1994 was a successful year in orienteering, with good results at the British and JK and the awarding of the Chichester Trophy in recognition of his services to mapping.

At the JK the relay team of Tom Van Rossum, Matt Burden and Steven Chapman were third but the W45 relay team of Hilary Allen, Gill Ross and Jo Thornley took first prize.

Robert Ker reported on the CompassSport Cup round at Timble Ings which resulted in AIRE losing to EBOR by 13 points. Tim Boden, Tony Thornley, Ruth Ker and Hilary Allen were notable scorers at the event, Hilary being beaten in to second place by just five seconds on the Green course! Chris Burden put out a plea for organisers, planners and controllers. Some things never change!



Chair Affairs – David Williams

BOC Weekend

There is only one place to start and that is with a huge pat on the back and thank you to all of those who helped and volunteered in so many roles to make the BOC weekend a resounding success.



Aire members were heavily involved in all 3 days' events with many taking leading roles. The commitment of a team of people over the three years from volunteering to be the lead club for YHOA to deal with all the background work from Land Permissions, to Mapping, to Planning, to Controlling, to on day organising etc etc has been immense. The outcome of the event should be celebrated as a fantastic achievement by individual members and the club - Thank you.

Results

Articles elsewhere will give detail on outstanding results from the Spring's major events. I did however want to comment on our Double Winners.

Ali McLeod winning his first King of the Forest M21E British Champion at Kilnsey, followed the next day by anchoring the Aire Relay team with Joe Woodley and Dane Blomquist to victory in the Men's Open. Our first Men's Open victory since 1987.

...When one of that team was a certain Peter Haines who won M65L at Kilnsey following on from a JK where he was Second (First Brit).

Evie Conway vanquished all at both British and JK in W18E. It is always fantastic when Juniors make major leaps forward in performance levels and Evie certainly seems to have done that this Spring.

Membership

Club membership is at a recent high of 235 with 44 new members this year. Welcome to all our new members. We hope you are enjoying the range of events we are putting on. Remember the club does have coaching sessions and is happy to organise mentors to help you.

Ali & Bryony

Having congratulated Ali on his recent performances it is with regret that I report that he and Bryony are moving on to Glasgow to pursue new work opportunities. We wish you well and thank you both for your contributions to the club not only in terms of results but also organising and volunteering.



Junior Participation

As a club we are continuing with our strategy to try to bring Orienteering to the attention of more Juniors and to try to bring some of those juniors to regular orienteering events. Our JDO Simon Martland is continuing in his role. He has a full diary going into Primary schools to give 7-11 year olds a taster. He is finding that most schools are wanting to extend his input from that which we as a club fund, being the first half day. This can be for further time and /or for him to make maps of the school grounds so the school has flexibility to teach O in the future. The extra time is funded from schools' budgets.

The majority of schools he has worked with over the last three years are those which have taken part in the West Yorkshire School Games. Circa 600 pupils took part in heats this year and the final with 160 was the largest single event out of ten sports on Schools Games Day at Beckett Park.

We want to keep Simon doing this work and now move forward to try to capitalise on his groundwork. So as a club you may have noticed we have four Junior Saturday events in May and June. The first of which took place last weekend in Wetherby and, despite particularly badly timed downpours, the event was well attended with over 40 juniors. We will see how the other three go but would ideally like to have a programme of junior/starter events to give those who are keen a chance to orienteer regularly.

Malham Show O Maze

For Kilnsey like all our Dales events we are greatly indebted to the landowners and farming community for access. Guy Patterson, who does outstanding work as our club liaison in the Dales, likes to put on a couple of events a year for that community as a thank you. This year he is wanting to run an O Maze on Saturday 24th August at the Malham Show. If you are thinking of going or needed an idea for great day out and could spare a couple of hours to help we would be very grateful.

Coaches

As above we have more new members and are working hard on the Junior programme. This means the club could do with some more Level 1 qualified coaches. If you are interested please contact Lindsey King or David Alcock who will let you know how to progress.

Bufs

We have successfully distributed about 2/3rds of the free 50th Anniversary club headgear. I am continuing to take to Wednesday evening events and will also have them at Lower Baildon for anybody yet to pick theirs up.

Club Picnic



The annual club picnic will be held with the Lower Baildon Urban Event on **Saturday 6th July**. The club will provide the strawberries and cream, if you can bring a dish to share. Please join us, it's always a great way to catch up and particularly for newer members to get to know more of their clubmates.

YHOA British Orienteering Championships

Thank you to all contributors for writing different angles on our very successful weekend. Firstly the Team Captain's Report on the major events for the Club this Spring.

CAPTAIN SLOG: SPRING 2019 – Steve Webb

A big thank you to everybody who ran for AIRE in team events this Spring. There were some really enjoyable races and great performances so I thought I'd quickly review what happened.

Compass Sport Cup Round: Bampton Common

By way of background there was no Yorkshire round in the CSC this year and we had to choose between events at Sherwood Pines (deemed not very good terrain and likely to be an overcrowded match), Thropton (too far away and appeared to be a completely green forest) or Bampton (2 hours up the A65 on a new fell area). We opted for Bampton and dug our heels in when the organisers tried to persuade us to go to Thropton!

After bad weather in the week leading up to the event the day itself was bright but windy and the fell was surprisingly dry underfoot and very runnable (other than the straight uphill bits). It was like two events in one: the longer courses felt a bit like a mini mountain marathon up on the high fell whilst the shorter course terrain at lower level seemed to be dominated by a labyrinth of gorse bushes. I was really pleased that we had just short of 50 AIRE members running on the day with representation across all of the courses (which is essential for success). We hammered MDOC and LOC but were beaten by WCOC, who I have to admit were stronger than I expected, and they of course did have the advantage of being virtually on home turf.

Final scores were: WCOC 2450, AIRE 2418, MDOC 1836, LOC 1435

Interestingly the same teams were in the match at Clowbridge last year and the scores then were:

LOC 2414, AIRE 2407, WCOC 2337, MDOC 1906

So we've got a bit better but WCOC have got a lot better. And LOC seem to have mislaid about a thousand points!

Our star performers on the day were course winners Tony Thornley, navigating through the gorse bushes on the lower part of the common with aplomb to win Veterans Short Green by 1:43, Evie Conway a clear winner on Junior Women Short Green by 1.00 minute exactly, and Ali McLeod coolly doing just enough to win Brown by one second!



Congratulations and thanks also to the juniors who represented us so well: Matthew Hall and Jake Powell on Junior Men, Douglas Tiffany, Tom Threlfall and James Woodham on Orange Men, and Katie Buckley on Orange Women.

I saw Mike Billingham of WCOC (a nemesis of mine through many age group classes) at the JK and congratulated him on WCOC's win in the match. Of course they now face one of the great diagonal journeys in English orienteering to reach the final: West Cumbria to East Sussex. But he says they are up for it and will make a real effort so we wish them luck for the final. I heard a rumour that in 2020 there will be a Yorkshire heat in CSC (possibly at Ogden?) so we won't have too far to travel and hopefully the final might be easier to get to as well.

JK Relays: Minley

AIRE had five teams running in the very fast terrain of Minley. This was the wooded former estate of Minley Manor, one of many country houses around North Hampshire requisitioned by the MOD and turned over to military use for decades – I think it's now a hotel. There was a crisis with the JK Trophy team a few days before the JK as Jack Wood had to withdraw with injury. With limited numbers attending the JK it looked as though I might have to pitch an over 50 into the fray. Thankfully Ben Stevens was able to abdicate from his DRONGO team and stepped in for us to run with Joe and Ali, which was a huge relief to me and Neil!

Although the relay races were well planned with good views of the action, the dodgy results service which prevailed throughout the weekend meant it was impossible for the commentators to give any meaningful information, and so very difficult to follow progress of the races. After the dust had settled it looks as though we had some really good performances from all teams, with the highlight being a bronze medal for Sue and the Tonys. Our M165+ team was only 18 seconds off a bronze medal and I now realise I'd probably got up to 3rd place just before entering the finish field. As a new combination we were pleased with that: I've run loads of times with Pete in recent years and have also run a relay with David before – but that was about 35 years ago at Uni!

In addition to the performances shown below Ian and Joyce Marshall were running in a "Yorkshire Pudding" team having forgotten to tell me they wanted a relay run.

JK Trophy: 8th out of 39 Joe Woodley, Ben Stevens, Ali McLeod

Women's Trophy: 12th (21) Evie Conway, Natasha Conway, Bryony McLeod

Men's Short: 29th (40) Richard Foster, Lindsey King, Chris Burden

M165+: 5th (61) Pete Haines, David Williams, Steve Webb

M/W210+: 3rd (30) Tony Carlyle, Sue Stevens, Tony Thornley





British Mixed Sprint Relays: Bradford University

This is a recent addition to the calendar and had a much higher profile this year thanks to inclusion in the British weekend. Congratulations to course planner Leon Foster and everybody else involved in the organisation as I thought it was an excellent event with both a fun atmosphere and exciting competition with an effective commentary keeping spectators informed of progress.

I thought as the lead local club we ought to support the event with as many teams as possible, so thanks to all who answered the call, including those transferring across to the relay having originally entered the individual sprint. We had good representation in the classes, including some healthy intra-club competition. For a while our AIREforce team held the lead in the Open which was really exciting, and in the end we did place one team on the podium, with Pete, Sue and Tony winning silver in the Ultra Vets. With quite a lot of shuffling team members just prior to the event I have to admit to one schoolboy error as young Martyn Broadest inexplicably ended up in a 55+ team, sorry Martyn!

Open (24 teams):

- 5 AIREforce Alice Leake, Joe Woodley, Ali McLeod, Brony McLeod
- 15 AIREapparent Anne Maguire, Dave Murgatroyd, Andrew Hobson, Jo Buckley
- mp AIREloom Julie Mair, Ian Furlong, Richard Foster, Sophie Brown

Vets (28 teams):

- 8 AIREtraffic control David Bowman, Natasha Conway, Robert Gatenby

Super Vets (24 teams):

- 4 AIREcraft David Williams, Carey Martin, Steve Webb
- 10 AIREspeed (n/c) Rob King, Lindsey King, Martyn Broadest
- 13 AIREfix Pete Jones, Joyce Marshall, Brent Hill

Ultra Vets (21 teams):

- 2 AIREsupply Pete Haines, Sue Stevens, Tony Thornley
- 14 AIREport Tony Carlyle, Diana Gorton, Chris Burden



British Relay Championships: Middleton Park

This was another very well organised and memorable event at the Yorkshire British weekend. The use of the athletics stadium for start/finish with grandstand seating and occasional steam train drivepasts was inspired. As you may have heard we did rather well in the Premier classes with the men, including new recruit Dane Blomquist, taking the lead on leg 1 and never losing it for a famous victory. Then the ladies performed brilliantly as well to take the silver medal. Full results are:

Men's Premier (20 teams):

- 1 AIREforce Dane Blomquist, Joe Woodley, Ali McLeod "well done guys"



mp AIREapparent Tim Patterson, Dave Murgatroyd, Andrew Hobson

Women’s Premier (6 teams)

1 AIREobics Alice Leake, Evie Conway, Bryony McLeod “well done girls”

Men’s Short (17 teams)

4 AIREspeed David Alcock, Ian Furlong, Richard Foster

15 AIREbnb Robert Gatenby, Graeme Tiffany, Brent Hill

Women’s Short (13 teams)

7 AIREspray Anne Maguire, Natasha Conway, Joyce Marshall



M50 (14 teams)

9 AIREfix Alun Powell, David Williams, Tony Carlyle

M60 (20 teams)

5 AIREfield Pete Haines, Pete Jones, Tony Thornley

W60 (7 teams)

4 AIREcraft Carey Martin, Sue Stevens, Wendy Carlyle

When running relays do remember to check your control codes; we had a few mispunches in the heat of the moment.

Ad Hoc (29 teams)

27 AIREsupply Lindsey King, Judith Powell, Rebecca Gray

Junior Ad Hoc (12 teams)

Mp AIREcompressor Adam Powell, Douglas Tiffany, Jake Powell

Thanks again to everybody who either volunteered to be part of the CSC or relay teams, or who succumbed to my pleadings. I hope you enjoyed racing as part of the AIRE teams. Please can you keep Treasurer Pete happy by paying any outstanding entry fees. Also for next time please make a note of the following: if it’s a relay you’ll need to wear a number, and if you need to wear a number you’ll need to bring safety pins!



(Photo shows Team Captain Steve vaulting a stile en route to the steep finish at Kilnsey)



A Rookie's View on BOC weekend – Adam Collinge

I started Orienteering again last April at the Baildon Moor Regional event. It was a great event and I started doing more events over the summer. Early on I spotted the BOC was being held in the Yorkshire Region. I joined Aire at the start of the year so I could enter. I decided to enter the individual sprint on the Saturday at Bradford University.

Only three days before the event I found out I had to work in Leeds on a Tour de Yorkshire event, not the ideal pre race preparations. I made it to the event just before my start time. I suddenly realised the size and scale of this event. I was helped greatly by the people at Enquiries to get my bib and what to do next. The course was great fun, reasonably flat with some great legs. The finishing area in a steep bowl was very impressive. I came 20th on my course which I was pretty happy with.

The next day I headed up early to Arncliffe as I wanted to watch the TDY in Kettlewell in the afternoon.

I entered the Orange course on the day. I was impressed with the organisation and set up in the lovely field at Arncliffe. I started the long walk up the Monks Road having realised I had forgotten my wind smock! I liked the mini map we got on the way up to get used to the terrain.

I arrived at the Far start warmed up nicely and, after a short breather, I lined up at the start. I got some good words of advice and encouragement from Henk. My first leg was a long one of 600m up hill, I always like to find the first control well. A bit of a dodgy bearing on leg 2 was quickly sorted then there were a few walls to cross on the next few legs. Control 4 on my course was also used on the M21E course. After this the course turned for home. A great control by a lovely cairn came next, then came the steep descent to the finish and a leg through a herd of cows and the sprint to the line. I finished in a time of 46.26 which gave me 3rd place.

I was really happy with that. It had been a great weekend of orienteering in God's country.

BOC 2019 – Highlights and Hiccups – Tony Thornley

Wendy has asked me to write something about BOC. The fact that I can't think what to say shows what a good job everyone did. The art of being coordinator is to have people who you can rely on to do the hard work – and that's exactly what I was fortunate enough to have. There is a lot of orienteering



experience and enthusiasm in AIRE and YHOA. Collectively, all the volunteers made my life easier, and produced really good competitions.



(Thank you to Tony for the photos, especially of me moving quickly through the terrain! Ed)

So a few highlights and hiccups.

Highlights, in no particular order:

- Being able to delegate stuff easily to willing volunteers - and with confidence.
- The assembly field for the Long and the support from Arncliffe residents and farmers.
- A nice, tight arena at Bradford University which created a really good atmosphere and set the three days off in the right way.
- Very smooth organisation at the MSR, notably the map issue and changeover which could easily have been a problem with so many runners in such a short time.
- The number of AIRE members who helped with all sorts of things, especially unpopular jobs like stiles and control collecting.
- The setting provided by the stadium at the relay with the run-in down the back straight.
- AIRE winning the premier men's relay and coming second in the women's premier. And AIRE class winners in the Long.
- Good maps, good planning.
- The hand-made prize mugs.
- CLARO's thorough organisation of the start at the Long.
- SYO's excellent work on the website, programme and prize-giving.
- Not having to convene any jury meetings during the three events.
- The accuracy of our draft budget – at least as far as entry numbers went – and that we've made a small profit.
- Unsolicited praise from many participants.
- Personally: winning a silver medal at the mixed sprint relay (thanks Peter and Sue).

Hiccups, again in no particular order:

- Shame that more teams didn't enter the Middleton Park relay.
- Failure to get Natural England's agreement to use the SSSI Craven terrain for the Long distance until the very last minute, resulting in re-planning of quite a few courses three days before the print deadline.



- Failure to get course proofs for each of the events sooner – not our fault – with the consequence that there were some problems with the overprint on the MSR maps.
- Lots of little niggles – eg about seeding and start times, duplicate entries for the MSR, delays in final results at the Long..... I could go on!
- I was disappointed that British Orienteering had no visible presence at the events.
- Personally: going out in the lead on the last leg of the M60 relay and being overtaken by a train of faster M60s near the end (sorry Peter and PJ).

So a huge thanks to all of you who helped make the three days a success. A particular thank you to the major officials from AIRE: Chris Burden (relay organiser and mapper for BMSR and BRC), Leon Foster (planner, BMSR), Dave Shelley and Guy Patterson (organisers, Long), David Alcock and Neil Conway (planners, Long), Ian Marshall (assistant coordinator) and Richard Foster (treasurer).



Tony on the podium with Sue and Tony C, taking third place in the Ultra Vet Relay at BOC.

BOC Weekend Reflections - Ian Marshall

After many hours of planning, discussing, thinking through scenarios and on occasions worrying and panicking it was great to see the sequence of events over the British Champs Weekend unfold with near perfection.

My role was very much in the background as Assistant Co-ordinator supporting Tony T. The whole organising team of lead officials should take the credit for using their skills and experience to their full potential and delivering a marvellous weekend.

Thanks to all the AIRE members who helped over the weekend – the contribution of your time and effort was much appreciated.





Day 1 saw a great atmosphere develop in the arena on the Bradford University Campus as orienteers from all over the country converged to compete in and spectate at the British Mixed Sprint Relays, crowding into the cavernous Student Central building and outside in the small (sometimes sunlit, but chilly) valley that formed the changeover area. The prizes were mugs from Bentham Pottery and they made a fine display lined up on a table behind the podium. Wendy was hiding in the bushes with her camera to record it all.

Day 2 – the main event for many, lived up to the reputation that our Dales events have acquired: challenging both for competitors and the organising team. The drive in had been remarkably quiet, given our concerns over many months about the potential clash with the Tour de Yorkshire. The stiles were all in place, thanks to the planning and hard work of a mature group of members and friends. The cold wind blew up at the Starts, but this was deceptive as once you were running south with the wind behind you it felt like a Spring day. Standing at the string course after my run I had a fine view of orienteers of all ages picking their way across the scree strewn slope down to the last controls and down the arc of the run-in.

Day 3 – a clue to how this day might go arrived when an e-mail popped into my Inbox on 22nd April from BO informing me that Dane Blomqvist had joined the newly formed Surrey branch of Airienteers. Apparently, Dane's dad, Axel had thought it would be a good idea if he joined a club with his mate, Joe Woodley, another young chap returned from foreign parts – thanks Axel. The rest is history as Dane and Joe were teamed up with Ali McLeod to take the JK Relay Trophy in South Leeds Stadium after each scorching around Middleton Park. Peter Haines informs me that this was AIRE's first victory in the Men's Open class for 41 years, the 1978 team comprising himself, Mike Smithard and Ali Wood being the last to achieve this – the latter dislocating his shoulder during the course of his Leg back in the seventies and popping it back in!

A sterling performance by Alice Leake, Evie Conway and Bryony McLeod to take second place in the Women's Open topped off the weekend for me. The stadium venue was excellent, there were more steam trains than expected and no-one was run over by a mountain bike – result.

(Photo shows Ian sprinting in to the finish at Bradford University on Day One of BOC, Ed.)

My thanks to Peter for capturing the spirit of orienteering in the seventies and that 1978 performance for Aire Affairs:



The Glory Days of 1978 – Peter Haines

Those of you at the British Relay Championships at Middleton Park will have heard on the commentary that the last time Aire won the Men's Open Relay was in 1978 (41 years ago). I thought it might be interesting to reflect on that momentous day in the history of the Club.

In 1978 orienteering in the UK had really taken off following the World Championships in Aviemore in 1976.

The JK that year was in Yorkshire, held on a very snowy weekend at the end of March in Wharnccliffe Woods with the relay at Strines. In those days the sport was very popular with younger runners. They are mostly still active, now all in the veterans classes! At the JK there were 640 runners on M21 (spread over 4 classes), and 120 each on M18 and M20. Female classes were also proportionally popular. I remember over 100 volunteers in a marquee checking pin punch cards and calculating times for the results string lines (electronic punching only arrived 20 years later and computers were still the size of cars). The Aire men's team of Mike Smithard (now DEE), Peter Haines and Alistair Wood finished 7th. We were all still running at the BOC at Arncliffe.

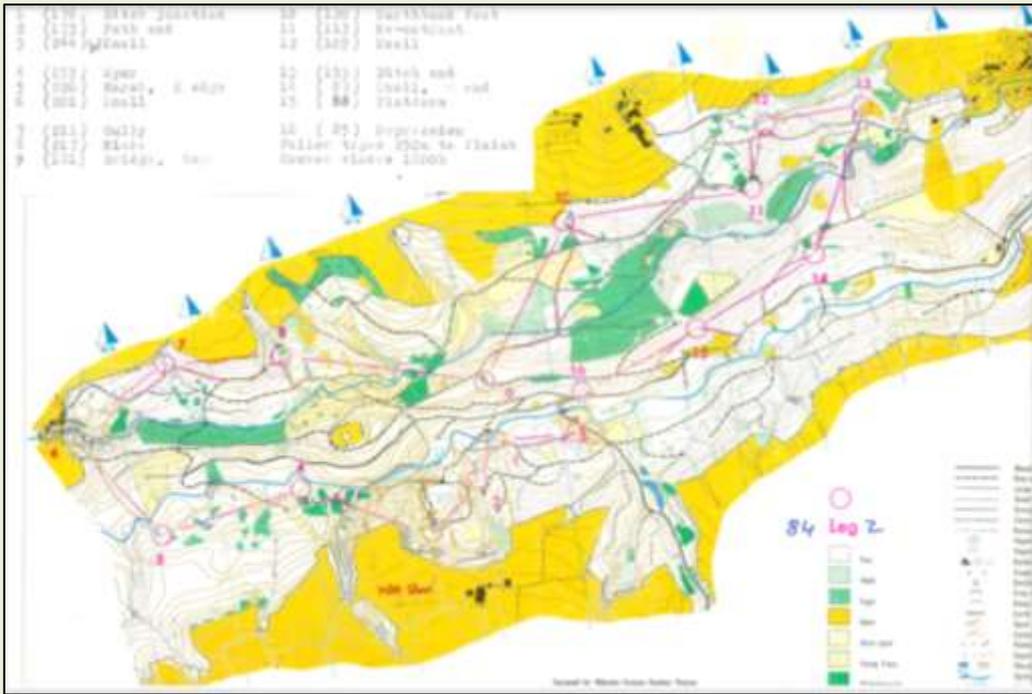
Four weeks later we reconvened on a cold Saturday at Mulgrave Woods, Whitby for the British Relay Championships. Mike led off bringing Aire back in 10th. I managed to pull us up to 3rd, and handed over to Alistair for the glory leg. Alistair gradually picked off the leaders until about half way round he took a fall and dislocated his shoulder. However, Alistair is made of true Yorkshire Grit, and he pushed his shoulder back into place, and carried onto victory! WHAT A LEGEND!!

As a postscript, Alistair's son Jack suggested that Aire should try to form a relay winning team called "Sons of Legends"; Jack Wood, Hector Haines and Chris Smithard. Unfortunately before it could materialise, Chris left Aire to join FVO.

Congratulations to Dane, Joe and Alistair for their 2019 victory – well deserved!



The 1978 Men's Open Team members: Mike, Peter and Alistair competing at the BOC weekend recently. (Thanks to Tony T for the photo of Alistair. Ed)



Peter's 1978 Map

And here is the victorious 2019 Men's Open Team:



This issue's Aire Affair Interview is a double affair, with long-standing members and active couple Alan and Margaret Parker:



Aire Affairs Interview with the Parkers

1. Alan and Margaret, as regular and long serving members of AIRE who enjoy the full range of orienteering type events, could you tell us what appeals to you about the different challenges they provide?

Orienteering provides both physical and mental challenges in areas of the countryside to which we might not normally have access. Jogging around the streets can be boring!

2. How did you both get in to orienteering?

A Come and Try It event in Roundhay Park organised by Jeff Mason, when our daughter was aged 9 sparked a renewed interest in the sport having first tried it as part of a Mountain Leadership Course at Glenmore Lodge. It took ages to get used to the scales of the map!

3. What are you looking forward to in the coming orienteering year?

An amazing variety of places and events especially the Indoor Sprint at Bradford Grammar School. Familiar urban spaces, such as York City, always look different when you have an O map in your hand.

4. How is your training planned and what do you include?

No specific O training done. However we try to go swimming once a week, Margaret has weekly ballet class and Alan does a little leisure cycling.



5. How else do you spend your spare time?

What spare time!?! Margaret convenes an international textile group over the internet (www.onlineguildwsd.org.uk) and Alan volunteers with a group of retired engineers who make specialized equipment for people with disabilities (www.remap.org.uk). In addition Margaret helps with admin for the local guide company and Alan is secretary of our church council. The Parish Hall in Headingley was used for the base for some Wednesday Evening Informals a number of years ago.

6. Which have been your most satisfying/enjoyable orienteering events to date and why?

A unique Canoe O event at Ravensglass in 2016 on the western edge of the Lake District (written up for a previous edition of Aire Affairs). Perfect weather and perfect family company. (www.copelandcanoe.org.uk/seaquest.html)The terrain changes over the course of a 3 hr Score as the tide ebbs and flows. What was an easy control early on, is later in the middle of a sandbank.



7. Have you ever achieved what might be termed 'perfect runs' and, if yes, could you tell us about them?

No perfect runs, just on some occasions we make fewer mistakes than on others

(Photos show Margaret and Alan competing in the Individual Sprint at Bradford University. Ed.)

Caption Competition Result!!



I don't think much of this blindfold-O shenanigans!

Thank you to Airienteers who sent in captions for this photo of Steve last issue. The winner of the Ordnance Survey Puzzle Book was David Alcock with his caption above.

Six Months in Victoria –Joe Woodley

Coach in Residence for Orienteering Victoria September 2018 – March 2019

Australia is on the other side of the world, it's about as far away as you could possibly be from Britain. It's a long way from home.

'Hey mate, we both finish Uni this year'

'How do you feel about the coaching scholarship down in Oz?'

'Snakes, spiders, sharks, right?'

'Sunshine, Sheilas, shrimps, no?'

'Orienteering'

'Go on then.'



Not the most auspicious, or even well thought out plan, but a few months later I touched down in Melbourne. I'd had one Skype call from two blokes with funny accents, it was supposed to be an interview but I couldn't get a word in edgeways! Carl Dalheim and David Jaffe told us how awesome Melbourne was and what fun we could expect. This was happening.

My first day in Melbourne was surreal, exotic Rosella, the mesmerizing city skyline and a golden sunset. Quite the backdrop for O-Sprintervals around an inner-city housing estate on jet lagged legs. Thankfully I had Nathan Lawson (OD/SHUOC) my fellow coach who had come out a month in advance to keep my feet firmly on the floor for the first few days. So began our adventure in Australia.

A normal week's 'work' in Melbourne consisted of Tuesday intervals down at the Collingwood track, Thursday Sprintervals and usually some bush training. This schedule left ample time for me to train (over-enthusiastically at first) and explore the State. At this point I'd like to shout out the hardy bunch of dedicated runners who turned up without fail to these sessions. Will Davey, Jenson Key and Brodie McCarthy are legends, hardly missing a single session. If you keep working as hard as I've witnessed this year you will achieve it all, JWOC and beyond! Tash, Aston, Aislinn, Torren and Mason formed the core of this group and with occasional guest appearances from Pat and Brodie we had a merry gang of Victorians. A strong training group with common goals can go a long way to generating the team vibe often lost in our individual sport. This was our training family.



There were not too many normal weeks! School sessions assisting Rob Fell at Westerfold's Park and beyond were always fun and following Rob's lead they ran like a dream. A highlight for me was the two-week stint in which Nathan and myself lead PE sessions at Keilor Views Primary School. Every day children from prep to year 6 turned up to PE sessions and gave us 100% of their focus and energy. By the end of our time at the school Nathan and I had

perfected our introduction to the map and sport before releasing the children onto the school grounds where they raced around our courses using the School's own Sport Ident system. We also organized and planned events, from Sprint into Spring to Autumn Bush League and more. Whilst Nathan and I were a great team none of those events would have happened without the support, advice and guidance of Margi Freemantle and Ted van Geldermalsen. Margi and Ted are unbelievably generous and work tirelessly for Orienteering Victoria. This work gave purpose to our visit. I am immensely proud of raising over \$1000 for the Victorian Junior team at our La Trobe University event. Thank you to everyone who volunteered help, equipment



and to everyone who ran. Our work was rewarding because of the volunteers, orienteers and ever enthusiastic children we coached.

Aside from our duties as coaches we had so many amazing adventures. A few days after I landed, we headed to South Australia for the Australian Championships. We had an amazing time racing the 4 Peaks – Bright Alpine Climb races and annoyed the Australians by placing 1st, 2nd and 3rd overall with Oliver Williams a fellow Sheffield Uni Alumni and Coach in Residence for SA. We were lucky enough to spend the week hanging out with Matt, Clare, Aislinn, Anna and Jayne amongst others. All well versed in the art of suffering their way up steep hills for a kick... with a freshly broken hand in Aislinn's case! With Nathan, Mary and Antonia I experienced the Ferg and Mari deluxe holiday package down on the Great Ocean road. Thank you so much for accommodating us, our visiting girlfriends and treating us to Dead Snow, Bargearse and the best extended breakfast I've ever had! I watched fireworks from a hot-tub in Queenstown NZ on New Year's Eve and celebrated Christmas with the extended Dalheim family. Even on my very last weekend in Australia the fun didn't stop. I was treated to a weekend of climbing at the Australian Climbing Mecca of Mount Arapiles. I've faced and conquered my fear of snakes, seen echidna, koalas, emus, wallabies and kangaroos galore.

Finally, I must mention a few people who have so far remained anonymous in this story. The Dalheim family were integral to most everything I've written about so far. From the moment I landed to the day I left I was treated as one of the team, part of the family, I never once felt like a guest. Carl and Nicola would consistently plan trips and adventures, all for my benefit. Nicola smiled her way through an AFL game for me and Carl battled bus-loads of tourists on the great ocean road and when penguin spotting on St. Kilda Pier. The family has put up with a few visiting scholars in recent years so I'm sure some of the classic trips are becoming a bit repetitive... you wouldn't know it! Although, Carl has vowed never again to rub shoulders with another bus full of tourists for fear he may commit a selfie-stick related atrocity! You are kind, generous and full of wisdom, I cannot thank you enough for looking after me for six months.

Australia is on the other side of the world, it's about as far away as you could possibly be from Britain. It feels an awful lot like home.

Thank you for all the memories.

Joe was recently spotted out running through the bluebells in Esholt Woods by a roving reporter from the Yorkshire Post! The article can be found on this link: <https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/people/charting-a-course-through-beauty-of-bluebells-in-yorkshire-1-9750605>





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