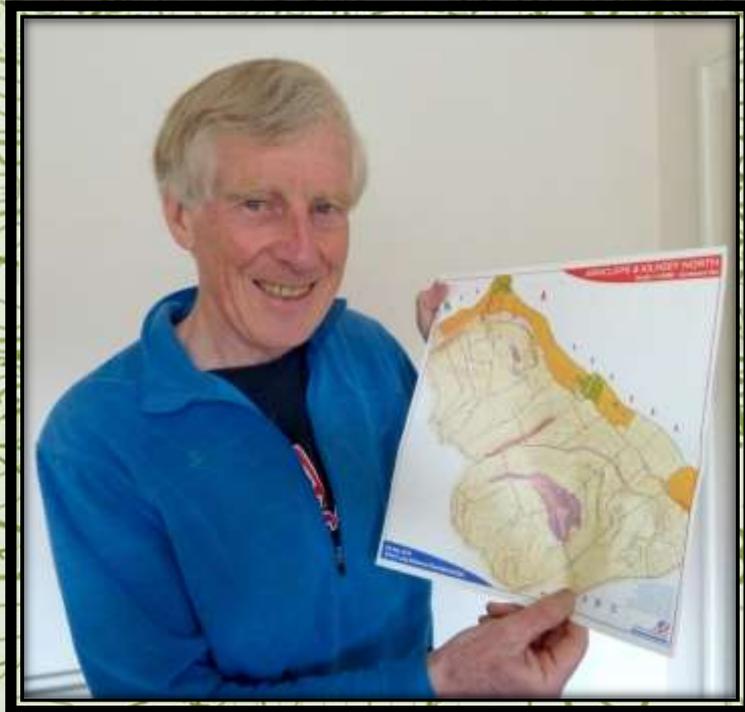
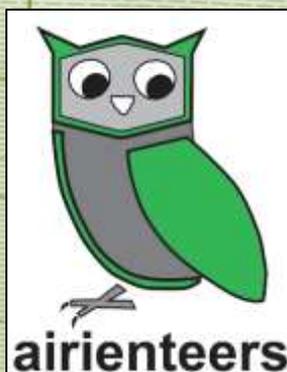




Aire Affairs



Lockdown Issue May 2020



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 Tony with the Arncliffe and Kilnsey North map for which he has been awarded the Chichester Trophy for Mapping.



Edit O – Wendy Carlyle

So here we are in lockdown! Can you guess what I have been doing during this time? Along with cleaning the oven (!) I have been taking occasional photos of our neighbours on their doorsteps in these strange times. Thank you to all those of you who have shared what you are doing in lockdown for this issue. Airienteers are a creative lot! Let's hope that the next issue will contain some orienteering.

We have recently had good news about Nev (Myers) of Eborienteers. Many of you will know of Nev or know him personally. He was amongst the first to fall ill with Covid 19 and was very ill for a while.

He is now in rehabilitation, making excellent progress and pleased that the food is better than in hospital, which is all good news. Our best wishes to you Nev.



AA Archives

1995 was the year when Yorkshire organised the JK and we were managing the string courses each day. I recorded my thanks to Sandy Van Rossum who 'struggled with a ton of flumps, provided me with endless cups of (cold) coffee, helped to keep things in perspective when the string tangled, when competitors were stropky (adults, not children!) and when we almost ran out of badges.'

Rob and Lindsey married, woo hoo! As Joint Chairs they wrote a vivid account of the AIRE day at JK from their arrival to camp at Kilnsey on the eve of the event when there were just three marquees, twenty toilets, planners Tony and Alistair and the Van Rossum camper van. Within a few hours the PA system was on the go, there were 3,500 runners on the moor and a field 'smothered in cars'. Apart from the traffic queue caused by a man who wanted to turn around when he realised he wasn't on the way to a car boot sale, 'the event passed with professional finesse.'

Our Becky (12 at the time) summed up the British Champs at wintery Newborough. She bemoaned the fact that lots of Airienteers were sporting their new AIRE suits, but not us! She finished in first place and was very pleased with her dragon memento. Airienteers staying at Bryn Gwynant Youth Hostel raised funds for the JK String Course by preparing a fine dinner which included carrot & orange soup, beef goulash with a veggie alternative and apple pie, fruit salad and cheesecake. Fifty Airienteers achieved bronze, silver, gold or championship standards at the event!

The Fantasy Orienteering League boasted fifty teams with David Needham's team 'Bargins Galore' leading, Alex Needham's 'Sad Exiles' in second place and Maurice Calvert's 'Interesting of Calverley' in third.



Chair Affairs – David Williams

I hope that you have all been keeping safe and well during the lockdown. Hopefully making the most of your exercise allowance! Personally I'm very lucky to have Danefield an accessible distance away and have enjoyed running through the woods and particularly watching the bluebells come out to full flower during the last couple of weeks.



I am desperately missing being able to go to Events though and as we come out of lockdown as a club we will strive to put on events of an appropriate nature as soon as we can. In this we must follow the advice and guidance of British Orienteering. Last week they issued some draft guidance, "Navigating out of Lockdown" and have also published a proposed "Code of Conduct" for people attending restart events. I have put an article on the website with links to both these documents which I will keep updated as BO updates us on what Guidance it is getting from Government and what they as our governing body are recommending.

If, as seems likely, gatherings and certainly larger organised events are not to be initially allowed but self isolating individuals and family groups can go further afield for outdoor exercise, BO have emphasised the promotion of permanent and virtual courses. We are looking into options for individuals to download courses and to be able to undertake them and record their run and time. Two main options are coming forward, Routegadget and Map Run, which both operate off GPS tracking on a smart phone. British Orienteering has organised webinars on both systems and I have independently been in touch with the British organiser of Map Run, registered the Club's interest and been trying it out. It is well suited to urban events and could definitely be usable longer term for the Autumn and Winter Night Leagues.

Keep an eye on the website for further information and details. When we do come back to orienteering, one event you will notice that we had to take an early decision to cancel was the major event in the Club's calendar, the Dales Trophy in September. The reason for this decision being taken so far in advance is that Natural England need to be consulted on and give permission for all our Dales Events. They need the paperwork at least four months in advance of the date of the event. This paperwork needs to be signed by the landowners and farmers. Patently, we could not either ask Guy Patterson, our Dales Permissions Coordinator, to travel up and down to the Dales or expect



assistance/support from the farming community turning up on their isolated farms during lockdown. Against this background, cancelling early saved potential costs and, most importantly, abortive Volunteer time. I hope it won't be too long before we can resume orienteering and I look forward to seeing you then.



Captain's Report – Steve Webb

I hoped to include this time a report on the performance of our teams in the British and JK relays, but sadly that's not possible. We can only speculate on what might have been. I was particularly interested to see if our JK Premier team of Ali Mcleod, Joe Woodley and Hector Haines (yes, really!) would have swept all before them.

The JK was cancelled and Pete is able to pay a full refund to all who paid the club in advance for their relay entries. The British was postponed with the intention of being restaged later in the year, so for the moment no refunds have been paid for individual or relay entries. Our existing team entries stand and we wait to see what will happen.

Sadly, the British Mixed Sprints and Harvester relay events have been cancelled for 2020.

But let's talk about a bit of good news, the Compass Sport Cup! A big thank you to everybody who ran for AIRE at the last orienteering event for ages, staged by EPOC at Fixby and Bradley Woods. I thought the planner made really good use of the area and I particularly enjoyed running through the beech woods; there was even less bramble than I thought might be the case! Thanks to EPOC for a good competition.

We had just under 60 competitors and everybody ran well enough for us to take second place in the Cup and thereby qualify for the final for the first time in years. Put the date in your diaries now, and we will see what happens!

******SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER AT SUTTON PARK, SUTTON COLDFIELD******

For the record, the team results at Fixby were:

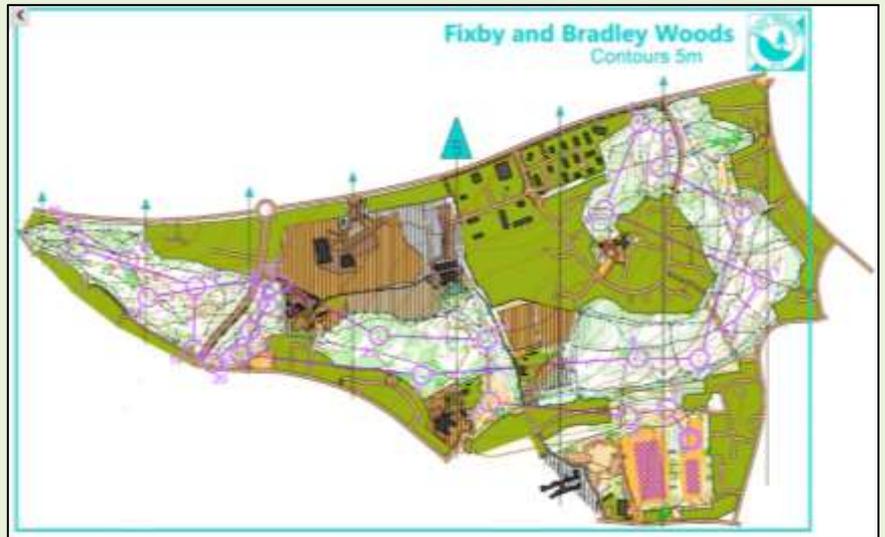
SYO	2418	DEE	2249
AIRE	2349	CLOK	2166
DVO	2295	EBOR	2120



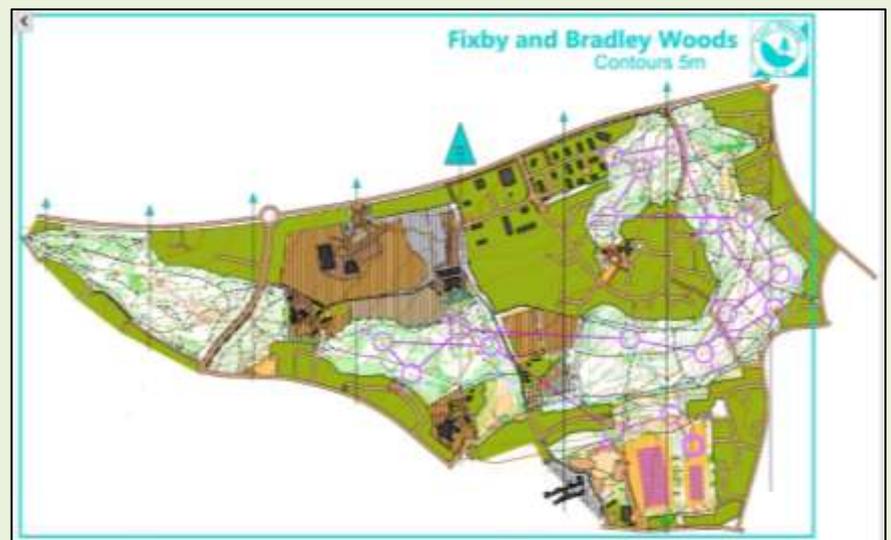
Name	Class	Score
Joe Woodley	1	100
Peter Haines	6	100
Alice Leake	3	100
Tony Thornley	7	99
Andrew Stemp	1	98
Steve Webb	4	97
Andrew Kelly	6	97
Douglas Tiffany	8A	96
Tim Patterson	1	96
Evie Conway	3	96
Neil Conway	4	95
Leon Foster	1	95
Robert Gatenby	2	94
Joyce Marshall	5	94
Lucy Needham	3	94
Natasha Conway	5	93
Jake Powell	8A	92
David Williams	4	92
Robin Culshaw	3	91
Roger Lott	7	90
Sue Stevens	7	89
Robert King	6	89
Tom Crowther	10	88
Peter Jones	6	88
Sarah Haines	7	86

We had three centurions getting the maximum score in their classes; so very well done to Joe, Alice and Peter H. All 25 scorers in our total can be seen to the left.

But I'd like to thank everybody who ran for AIRE; even if you don't score directly you can push runners from other clubs down to a lower score and it was really good to see our Juniors representing the club.



Blue Men Course



Green Women Course (Maps: EPOC)



Juniors shine at Compass Sport Cup – Lindsey King

Well done to all the AIRE juniors who ran at Compass Sport Cup in March. We had eight juniors competing in the competition and nine juniors there in total including the White/Yellow course. Special mention must go to Douglas who had a storming run on the green course finishing 3rd. Jake came in 5th position on the same course and both scored valuable points for the club. Also scoring lots of points was Evy 5th on blue course.

Other juniors deserve congratulations for completing courses at a technical level that really stretched their skills and fitness - well done Tom and Joseph and Poppy too. James and Megan are improving their times for orange courses after regular attendance at events and coaching. Eleanor is now confident to try courses by herself and is learning quickly. A fantastic team – well done!

Blue women - Evy 5th

Green junior men - Douglas 3rd, Jake 5th, Tom 10th

Orange junior men - James 11th, Joseph 13th

Orange junior women - Megan 11th Poppy 12th

White/Yellow – Eleanor



Concentrating on the Green Course
(photo: Lindsey)

New club kit out in the sunshine!

The lack of orienteering events at present is very frustrating so I thought you would like to see some of our juniors sporting their new AIRE tops to cheer you up.

Middleton Woods in the sunshine looking cool!

(Photo: Lindsey)





It was good to have an e-mail from ex-Airienteer Simon Walton, who shared some of his early memories of the Club. Long standing members will recall names and events. Thank you to Simon!

Way back when – And to make an end is to make a beginning – Simon Walton

A post on twitter about Airienteers' win at last year's relay championships and an associated note about the victory brought back many memories. While I had searched on the internet before, reconnecting a month or so ago back with Don Hill, my best friend at the time, led me to link up with and see many familiar names from the past. This has included, as can be seen in this photo from an Airienteers training event at Timble Ings, the 1978 relay winners of Pete Haines, Alistair Wood, and Mike Smithard.



However, I'm literally jumping ahead of myself as this came towards the end of my relatively short time as a member from about 1973 to 1979/80 before university, injury and other pursuits took over. But what a time to be a member, fantastically enjoyable and competitive as the club developed and changed.



Unfortunately, in the various house moves most of my orienteering memorabilia has sadly been dispersed and/or more likely lost. So I am left with the odd map, a few certificates (somewhere), and some photographs with familiar (and unfamiliar) faces and places. Whilst it's difficult to know what to include I've decided, for this short piece, to use a few photographs that represent, for me, some key parts of my link with Airienteers.

This photograph is of Ossett School Orienteering Club (OSOC) from, I think, 1976 when I won the Yorkshire Schools Championships. While one of my better performances, it may have been more by luck as I can only assume that some of my peers were elsewhere. However, it does show



the importance of schools then in not only introducing individuals to Orienteering but also as a method of sustaining involvement. The Club, started in about 1973 by Christine Roberts (EBOR), was fairly active but school suitable events, mostly on black and white maps, were often few and far between. Therefore, even though running for a school club at regional and national events was relatively normal I joined Airienteers.

And a whole new world opened up with colour maps, score events and monthly club meetings held on rotation at member's houses which were both educational and fun. Who can forget street O with parts of the map blank and the associated refreshments afterwards? I also remember the annual Christmas dinner and early editions of Aire Affairs which, if I remember correctly, I may have even contributed to. I know I did draw a couple of cartoons for the YHOA newsletter YAHOO at some point! Membership also meant you got to meet fellow orienteers of all ages and skills; although quite small in numbers amongst them were Sue and Dick Courchee, Clive and Hilary Allen, Simon Green and the Ellisons, Alistair Wood, Malcolm Cox(?), and the one person who became a friend/mentor (and taxi driver) Mike Smithard. One effect of me joining was that Airienteers had a team of three competing in a junior men's class. Not sure if we took advantage of that at the 1974 JK in the Forest of Dean but I can remember going with the Ellisons and doing reasonably well at my first really big event with over a 1000 people in attendance.

This photo says it all about the fashions and frustrations of orienteering in the early 1970's. As a keen M13/14 year old having the right 'nylon' suit and getting to as many approved badge events to achieve a badge was a big deal. Having managed to achieve two gold standards by being within a certain percentage of the winner's time, I only needed one more to get the badge. This was the last eligible event of the year, somewhere Lancashire way, and I managed to persuade my dad to take me and a couple of friends. While the weather may not have helped, unfortunately, as became a staple part of my orienteering, I blew it on the big day with a silly navigational mistake.



However after that my orienteering came on in leaps and bounds with; numerous local events, regional and national championships far and wide, JK/Welsh/Mammoth/White Rose weekends, Scottish 6 day 1977, training days both locally and nationally (by invite), and a junior squad trip to the French 3 day and the Swiss 5 day. While I could touch on these at another time if I ever find anything to prompt my memory, I'll jump to the first Harvester Trophy in 1978 in Ecclesall Wood, Sheffield which may have been one of the last times I ran for Airienteers.

The relay event started at midnight with each of the seven members of the 80 plus teams running the same course one after the other. We entered a scratch, and fairly young team,



with myself as one of the more experienced running one of the night legs, big mistake! The 'communal sleeping arrangements' allowed no rest and not only did I have little experience of night orienteering but also didn't really like it that much. Having said that after a disastrous start in not realising there was a taped route to the actual starting point itself I had a reasonable run (although others may correct me here).



However, what a surprise at the end to find out we'd come second to SLOW, beaten by the small margin of ten minutes (from what I've read elsewhere). The astonishment may have been the reason we are not all uniformly dressed wearing the club shirt here modelled by Mike Smithard (second from right) and the person next to him. While I recognise all here, apart from Mike and myself the only other two I can put names to are; Steve Barrett on the left and next to him Gary (or Graham) Watson.

I think this photo shows that as the club grew so did the number of families and juniors with amongst many; Don and Eric Hill, Christine Whalley and her parents, Steve Barrett and the Crofts, Watsons, and the Bloors. And that social 'family' atmosphere was for me a key part of orienteering with friends across the country including Chris Hirst, Nev Myers, Elgoods, Pillings, Colletts, Bradleys, and Malleys to name but a few. One of the exciting parts was to get to an event to not only compete but also socialise with friends. Talking of families I'll end with this photograph from the 1980 JK prize giving.



By this time I was probably running for the University of London and may have simply snapped this shot having seen the bobble hats. Not sure if I realised at the time who it was but can now see that two of the girls are the daughters of Hilary Allen, who is hidden by the metal post. Not sure who any of the others are, but the person at the front is wearing one of the gold badges that I previously mentioned. Not sure I ever got one and yes at my last tidy up I did still have the original club shirt and bobble hat.



Well that's all for now, I would love to hear any reminiscences from that period either by email and/or Facebook. It would also be great to find old copies of Aire Affairs from that early period to see if I really did contribute ever!

All the best

Simon Walton (simonwalton59@googlemail.com)

(Oh to have that bobble hat! Ed. Does anyone have those earlier issues of Aire Affairs?)

Jack Bloor Update – Rob King

To all our loyal AIRE runners and supporters of the annual Jack Bloor Races

Hello! Hope you're all faring well during this challenging time.

Alas, the 35th annual Jack Bloor Races will have to wait until next year when we hope to see you on t'Moor on the evening of **Tuesday 11 May 2021**

Meanwhile, thanks for your long-time support. If you feel able to donate all or part of your 2020 race entry fee to the **Jack Bloor Fund** that would be most appreciated. All donors' names will be put in a hat to receive one of the coveted Jack Bloor Races small trophies!



Also, why not go for a run on the evening of Tuesday 12th, somewhere near your home? The most original run will receive one of the small trophies - you'll need to donate as well to go



into the hat! Donations can be made via: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/jack-bloor-memorial-fund>

The Fund has accepted several applications from young people this year although their various endeavours are currently on hold. We continue to welcome applications and will be promoting this opportunity further as outdoor adventure gets going again

Thank you and stay safe.

From the Trustees of the Jack Bloor Memorial Fund

(The next item has come through from Chris Smithard. Apologies but the date is already past, however there are future events planned, see below, so please do take a look. Ed.)

Lockdown Orienteering - Next Event 8th-10th May

As real orienteering is currently on pause, we have started organising virtual orienteering events. This involves a series of challenges using online games and puzzles related to orienteering. The challenges test things like choosing the best route choice to navigating round a course using Google Street View. We also have optional races in the orienteering game Catching Features.

So far we've had two competitions with 500 people at each. The competitors range from multiple time world champions like Thierry Gueorgiou to newcomers to the sport. We have a facebook group just for participants of the event where people share their stories and struggles of how they're getting on. Then each evening we have a live video roundup, looking at some of the challenges and talking to competitors.

The event is coordinated by GB Team member Chris Smithard and part of the entry fee goes to the GB Team and other good causes around the world - so far raising over £2000.

Our next competition is between Friday 8th - Sunday 10th May and entries close on Tuesday. For further info see lockdownorienteering.com. Hope you can join us!

Kind regards,
Chris Smithard



Lockdown Orienteering Upcoming Events:

Wednesday 13th – Saturday 16th May: Free World Orienteering Day Virtual Event – [More information and entry](#)

Friday 15th – Sunday 17th May: Knock-Out in *Catching Features* – [More information and entry](#)

Sunday 17th – Sunday 24th May: Team Competition – [More information and entry](#)



So What Have You Been Up To in Lockdown??

I asked you to share what you are doing during the Covid-19 Lockdown, so here goes!

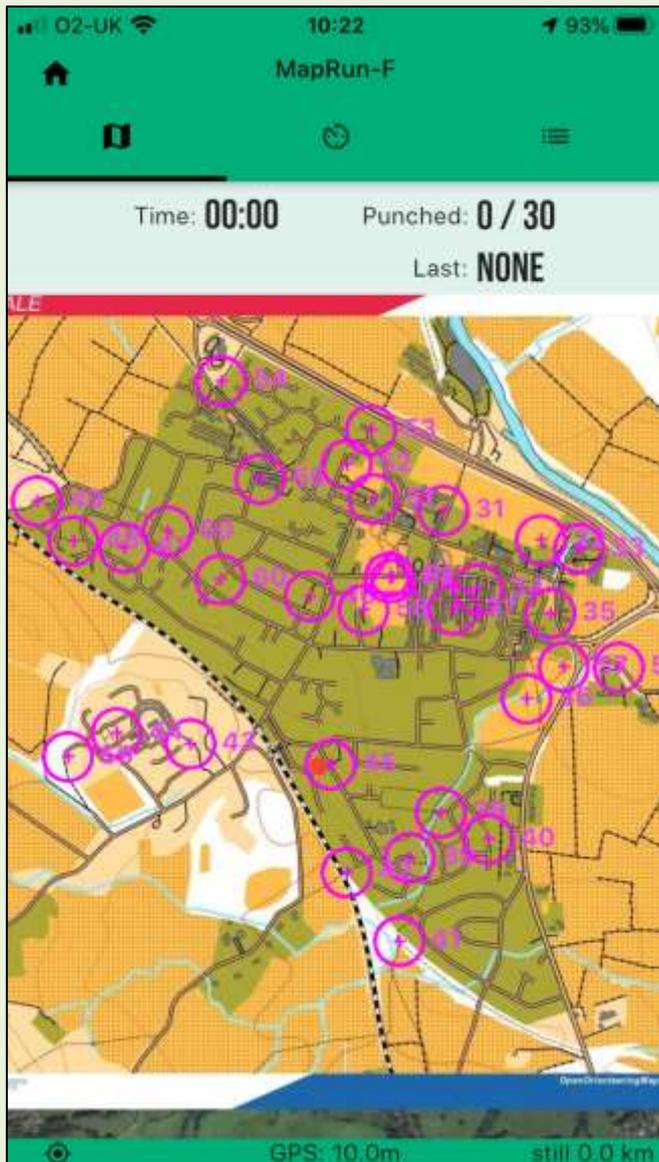
Henk and Sandy moved house (!) and Henk had this to say:

It is as it is!! We are imprisoned but luckily in our new home! We managed to move by the skin of our teeth (does anyone know where that comes from?).

So we are mentally staying fit by organising our new home and deciding where we should put our many pictures and other bits and pieces which make a home a home.

Physically, Sandra and I walk every day for at least an hour and on alternate days we cycle 1 and a half to 2 hours, during which we seem to continuously bump into fellow Airienteers - Ian Hill (lovely conversation by the way Ian), the Broadests (thank you for the Easter eggs Beth and Ali) and Helen and Mike Cox (thank you for the graveyard tip Mike!)

Looking forward to meeting all fellow Airienteers when all this is permitted. I for one hope to be able to ring to ask for help at any forthcoming O event



In the week before lockdown, Peter Jones created and ran some MapRun courses around Burley, using Open Orienteering Map and PurplePen. Here is his Score/Scatter course. (Thanks Peter. Ed.)



Meanwhile, Richard was putting his feet up with a cuppa in one of his prize-winning mugs, and the doughnuts were his reward for running twelve miles that day. (One for every 2.4miles, you might need to do another twelve to work off all those calories, Richard. Ed.)

Lockdown for Judith has been confined to trips down memory lane, so here are her memories of one particular JK.

Memories of our first JK

1981 on Cannock Chase. We were still in our early years of orienteering but had already started going to National Events. Colin however was not prepared to give up his Easter climbing, but as our club (Wrekin) was anxious for all the help it could get - they were doing the training and the Relays - I decided the children and I should support our new sport, So Colin took my mini and a tent and I had the children in our campervan. It was my first



experience of a major international event and was well supported by overseas competitors, the Scandinavians seemed to be out in force. Training day on Lizard Hill was a gloriously sunny day and there was an event campsite about two miles cross country walk away, so having pitched camp the hordes started to walk over – and went on and on. Course closing time came and went and still they poured in, so still we sent them off into the forest. Wrekin had a big supply of very small training maps which Dave Gittus had used to fill up the spare space on the plate when we had a map print. No Just in Time printing then, you had to make up a whole plate and decide how big a print run you would need for an event, plus extras for future events. He set up a table and our juniors were set up as shopkeepers selling these tiny maps for 10p each, and they sold like hotcakes to fascinated overseas competitors, thus giving our club coffers a welcome boost.

I don't have many memories of my time in the forest, except for the joy of being out there in the dappled spring light among the glorious fresh green leaves. I was barely running then so I expect I was down amongst the also rans, so it was left to Sophie to do the family honours – she won W10A!

The prizegiving gave an interesting insight into the prevalent misogyny of the times, as a great fanfare was made of the Male Elite winner who was duly given a bottle of champagne, but the Woman elite winner was not. (Shocking! Ed.) There were some mutterings among the Elite women on the podium at the time, it wouldn't enter any organiser's head to do anything so crass these days. As soon as the prizegiving was over it was post haste to Bishops Wood to help set up for the Relay event. Eventually all tents were up and lanes taped out, so it was time to eat and bed down on site in our camper van. By this time it was dark, when lights appeared at the field entrance as the toilet trailers arrived. Unfortunately the first one got well and truly stuck at an angle across the gateway, and after much failed pushing and shoving, I drove our heavy old campervan across the field with the children asleep in the back and we managed to get a tow rope fixed and I towed it through.

My other significant memory of the relay, was of standing by the changeover tent and looking up just as an outgoing runner passed a baby over to her incoming runner and ran off into the forest. I thought, "what a wonderful family sport". I have never seen that changeover at a relay since, but who were the runners and who was the baby? The baby would be M/W40 by now, did he/she become an orienteer? Mum would be W60/65, is she, like me, still orienteering? (Now that handover would have made a great photo! Thank you Judith, Ed.)



Angie and Nigel have been decorating their smallest room! (You may have difficulty getting orienteers out of there! Ed.)



Being close to open country Eddie has plenty of options for his time in lockdown:

“I’m doing lots of road cycling, avoiding the Dales, as the one time I went that way it seemed everybody else was doing the same, although it was a Sunday lunchtime as I used the back road out of Ilkley. I had an interesting trip a couple of weeks ago into Leeds to donate blood; the juxtaposition of a clear, sunny day with a near empty city centre was straight out of any number of “the morning after” apocalypse films.

I’m also doing a bit of running on Rombalds Moor, which is being used for exercise by some people but not significantly, so easy to keep isolated.

Plenty of hill reps and weight training J. Our garden is on a steep slope and the brambles/self-seeded raspberries et al have been getting out of hand in the top part. Not anymore (see below for what one man with a mattock can achieve when the weather is nice). I’ve lost count of the number of times I’ve wheeled a barrow up and down the slope.

Not looking forward to when the weather changes.



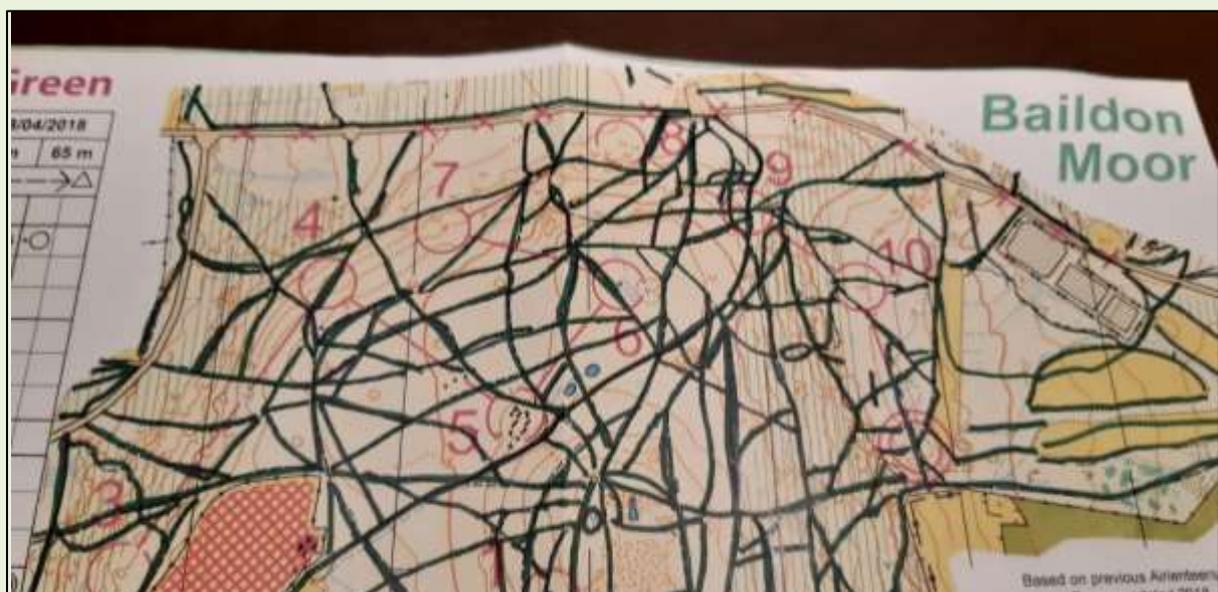
Before



After



Watch out for Adam in the next Baildon results! During the lockdown he has been up on Baildon moor every day. So as a challenge he decided to walk every path/track on the Baildon moor orienteering map. "There are a lot up there," says Adam.





Prize-giving organisers, remember those 'missing trophies' which drive you crazy? David has this happy ending story for one Aire cup! "One good thing to come of the coronavirus situation is that people sort through their lofts. Ian Nixon is one such person. He asked me if I knew who the current Male Senior Orienteer was, I duly found out, biked over to his house, and then passed it on to someone who lives just 100m from me: Joe Woodley. We just hope that Joe doesn't keep it in his attic for ten years..."



There is no end to the creativity of orienteers in these strange times. Here's a message from Rob Greenland with some ideas of how to get your orienteering fix:

"In case it's of interest I have set up a "Postbox Challenge" - [street orienteering for our running club](https://streetorienteeing.com/) using <https://oomap.co.uk/gb/#/new/streeto/8/-0.9000/51.8000/> - it's been a nice way to get people who are new to orienteering into it - and added interest to people's local walk/runs."

Rob Greenland

[Iftwitter.com/TheSocBiz/status/1241026830783692800?s=20](https://twitter.com/TheSocBiz/status/1241026830783692800?s=20)

(Contact Rob if you would like more details. Thanks Rob. Ed.)

David has sent through the following ideas and links to keep us all active. "Whilst all orienteering fixtures have been suspended for the foreseeable future, you may want to try these ideas:

If you are still able to visit local forests or mapped urban areas, you could re-run an old course, or use your maps to create your own courses - perhaps you could connect 5-10 of the same TD4/5-style features (e.g. pits and re-entrants) with lines. Or you could set it as a score event.



Or you could do similar activities using the permanent orienteering courses (see AIRE website). Another simple idea is to close your eyes and draw a wiggly line on an old map, then go to the terrain and follow the line as closely as possible.

In terms of home-based events, you can try some of these activities to practise your orienteering skills: -

https://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/Home_Resources

<https://www.scottish-orienteering.org/resources/puzzles-and-challenges/>

<https://lockdownorienteering.wordpress.com/>

<http://news.worldfo.com/2020/04/12/alternative-orienteering-activities-during-covid-19/>

Use your daily exercise allowance wisely - and see you out there in the forest or on the streets once the restrictions have been loosened.

Stay safe and well.”

David Alcock (Coach)

But if you don't want to tire yourself out, how about Mini-O?? Lindsey and Laura have turned their garden in to an orienteering course. “As a club coach, one sunny afternoon during lockdown I decided to teach myself how to use our new SI training kit in the back garden. Guess which young international orienteer tested my course- she even received a results printout- 32 seconds!”



David shares his best JK memory with us. “My best JK memory is getting a podium spot in the M35 sprint at Swansea Uni in 2014: with full concentration and flow, coupled with a fair bit of running and bike commuting on the build-up, I finally made it to the top three in my age group after thirteen years in the sport! It helped that Vet35 is usually one of the least competitive categories, as the top dogs usually stay running as seniors!”



Talking of top dogs, taking over from Ian Nixon in first place, on second leg in the 2010 relay champs on Cannock Chase was far too tall an order, and I lost a dozen places!”



(Sadly I don't have a photo of you on the podium, David, but what a great venue for the event at Swansea University! Ed.)

Continuing the theme of how to orienteer in the lockdown, David B shared how he and his family enjoyed some creative Easter orienteering in their own garden:

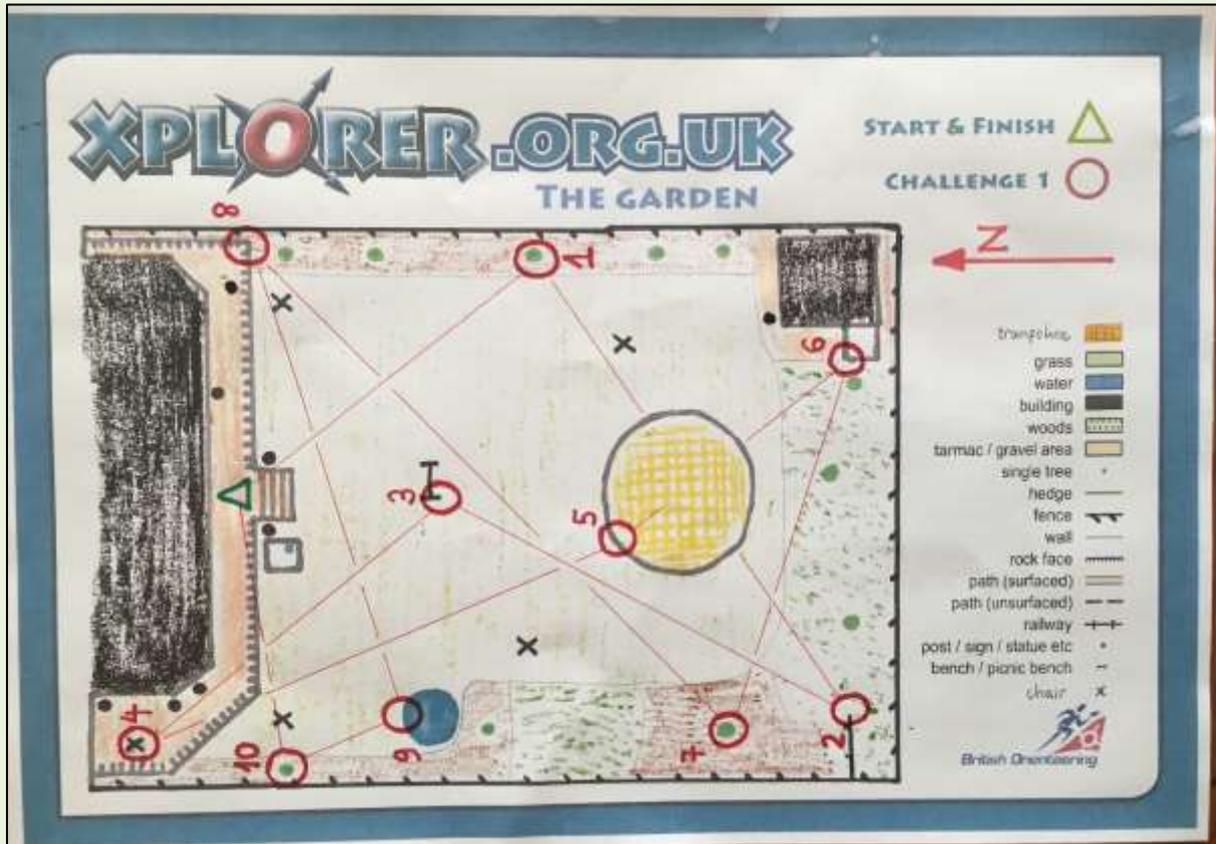
Easter Egg “O” at home

From our home in Horsforth, we're lucky to have several O maps on our doorstep – during lockdown I've re-run old courses at Hunger Hills & Hall Park, Hawksworth Woods, Bramley Fall and Ireland Wood. But one terrain was missing – the back garden. So I used the template from the BOF website to draw a map. It's hardly a contender for the Chichester Trophy, but it did the job for the inaugural event on Easter Sunday. The 10 control markers each had a letter that revealed the location of the chocolate prizes (EGGSINSHED).





The fastest round the course got to choose their egg first. Marion narrowly beat Joanna. Amy got lost because she didn't read the control descriptions...



(Can anyone solve this mystery for David? Ed)

Mystery control



In the absence of Sunday O events, we're getting out for a long family walk in the countryside every Sunday. On 3rd May we enjoyed a nice ramble in farm fields between Stainburn and North Rigton, taking in Almscliff Crag on the way. We were heading back to the village of Huby when we crossed a stile and saw this control marker. It reminded me how sad it is that we can't orienteer properly at present. But it also intrigued me – Who has put the marker there so recently? Is

there secret lockdown orienteering going on that I haven't heard about? How fast can that bull run?



And finally, a quiz from Martyn: Guess the Year and Venue!

(Could it have been the year when the shop had to source bananas far and wide and the bouncers on the nightclub had their quietest week ever.....?)



And now some good orienteering news!

[Tony Thornley Wins Mapper of the Year Award](#)

Chichester Trophy for BOC 2019 Map – David Williams

Many Congratulations to Tony Thornley who has won the Chichester Trophy which is awarded annually by British Orienteering for the best map by an amateur mapper. The judges recognised Tony's top quality map of Kilnsey and Arncliffe, used for BOC 2019, scoring it highest overall on specification, cartography and presentation. The prestigious award should have been made at the BO AGM at the JK but obviously that had to be postponed. So I would like to reflect on this major achievement in more depth here, even more outstanding as this is a record fifth victory.

We all need a map to orienteer and the best proponents of producing our specialist maps should be celebrated as enthusiastically as those that go fastest around the course. I think a way to analyse it is to look at it like the BAFTA's. Ali McLeod's run to win King of the Forest = Best Actor in a leading role. Tony's Chichester Trophy = BAFTA for Best Cinematography. Without the Actors' performance being put onto film in the best way we can't appreciate the performance. No map or a substandard map and we can't have our sport or a fair race - we can't give our performance. I liken it to Cinematography as well because there is art in a top quality Orienteering map. The finished Kilnsey and Arncliffe map is a thing of beauty to those of us who love looking at maps.

The art is not only in the presentation but in the nuance of the mapper's interpretation. A couple of years ago Pete Haines and I travelled with Tony to an event at Formby sand dunes. He told us it was the first time he had been back since he did the original map in 1978. After the event a well known SYO member was having a go about the new LIDAR version in a certain area. Tony went and got his 1978 out. Immediately on seeing the area on the old map the exclamation went out, "that's right that's much better." Literal interpretation of the LIDAR hadn't led to a satisfactory map without the experienced eye to interpret and present best for the competitor. All the more amazing given Tony's comments in the interview below.

Of all our volunteer roles Mapping takes by far the most time both out in the field and at the desk. Consider for the prize winning map;

Tony has over many years meticulously mapped Airienteers Dales areas. The BOC area had been used for major events before in three substantial parts used for the JK 2016: "Kilnsey North"; Northern Champs 2015 "Monks Road" and 2015 YHOA Champs "Hawkswick Clowder and Arncliffe". The map for the BOC Long covers about 14 sq km and included approx 25% which hadn't been used for orienteering before, including the area of all courses' final controls and finish and an area on the south west of the new map.



The whole of the area was resurveyed with more detail of rock features and limestone pavements mapped providing consistency across the area. The southernmost km was originally surveyed by Stirling Surveys, but Tony resurveyed that, as well as the remainder of the map which he had surveyed originally or surveyed from scratch for BOC. There was no LIDAR for the majority of the area so the survey is based on photogrammetry from aerial photos.

The end result being the highest quality map, a credit to the mapper and befitting holding the country's premier 2019 race.

As previously mentioned, this is the fifth time Tony has won the national award which was first awarded in 1971, this now means he has won it most times, a record shared with Rod Postlethwaite of Wrekin. He won it in 1979 for the British Champs map in that year, Bethacar Moor, a previously unused moorland area with next to no line features and part of the Grizedale Forest on the eastern side of Coniston.

On moving to Yorkshire he has previously won in 1993 for Flasby Fell, 2003 Attermire and 2015 Monks Road.

The club is very fortunate to always have had have a number of active mappers in its ranks rather than us having to employ professional mapping services like so many other clubs. While the Chichester Trophy is awarded for the best single map and therefore usually goes to Championship venue maps, the Bonnington trophy is British Orienteering's award for best contribution to mapping. This covers a full range of activities related to mapping and therefore picks up the contributions of making quality maps for regional and smaller event use. Tony won this in 2005 and it was also won in 2011 by Chris Burden. The third of the BOF mapping awards is the Walsh Trophy given to the best sprint or urban maps. This year the club nominated Richard Foster for his superb Leeds City Centre map, the award being won by Graham Gristwood for two of his maps in Scotland.

So a big thank you to them and all the members past and present who have put the hours - sorry I mean days and months - in mapping for the club and providing us with the basis for our sport and giving us the ability to put on so many events.

By the way, If you think that there is a tone of reverence and awe in this piece you are probably right. In my two stints in the sport I believe that I have had a go at just about every facet and undertaken every volunteer role. However in all that time there is one area that I had a go at once, found it so difficult and was never going to follow up again....MAPPING.

So as his award was announced I took the opportunity to ask Tony some questions on his mapping career.



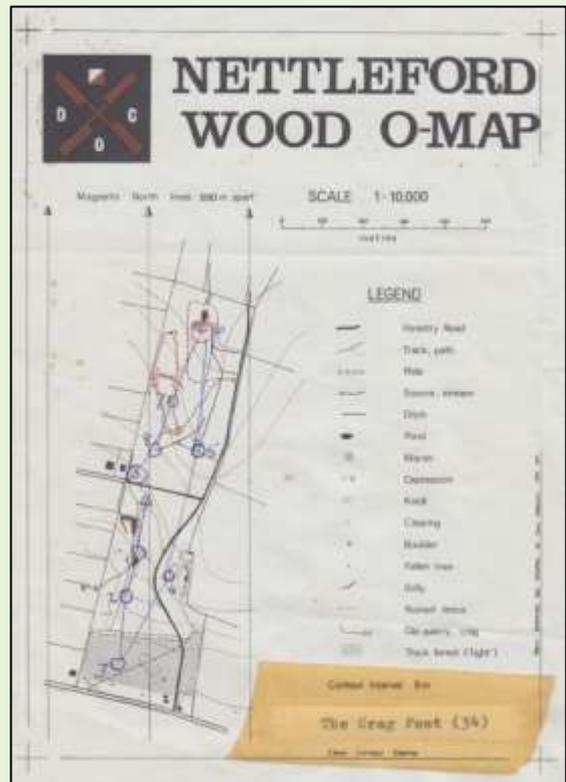
Chichester Trophy – TT interview with DW

When did you start mapping?

1971, a year after I started orienteering with Deeside OC in Cheshire. The first map I was given to do, Nettleford Wood, was ideal for a novice. A tiny area with a few features and not much undergrowth.

Like nearly all maps at the time, the 6" OS map was used as the basis for surveying. It was usually pretty erratic. We surveyed an area in mid-Wales, Groes y Forwyn, where none of the forest roads were on the OS map. The only contours were interpolated 100 foot contours. It was a nightmare to survey!

My first maps were drawn with ink pens – different width nibs for different line thicknesses – and leterset for the lettering and the screens. You drew at twice the final scale on drafting film, a sheet per colour, so that the reduction by the printer removed some of the handshake in the drawing. Even so it was messy.



Have you any idea how many maps you have done?

Over 100 new maps or major redraws, but quite a lot more including minor updates.



Which of your maps did you enjoy doing most and why?

Very hard to say. The best maps were those with interesting contours, not too much vegetation and a reasonable base map to survey from. I got a lot of pleasure from my first Lakes map: Nibthwaite and Parkmoor (extract left) – although the OS base map was not much help. And perhaps Attermire because, despite the walls, it had a lot of interesting rock and contours and had a very good photoplot.



Which of your maps advanced your skills as a mapper most?

I think every map improves your skills. On the survey side, the first time I worked with a good photogrammetric plot was a revelation. You could be confident that things were in the right place and didn't have to spend all your time pacing distances and triangulating features. The main challenge nowadays is to generalise the map sufficiently so that the orienteer is not confused by too much detail. This is a particular issue in Dales areas when trying to represent scree, pavement, rocks and crags.

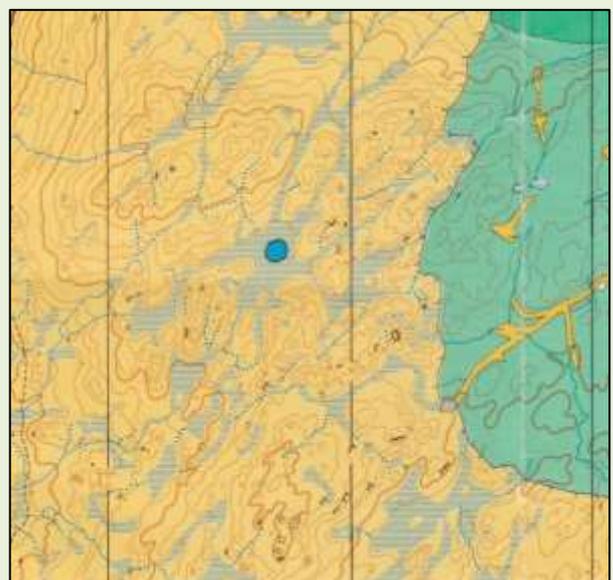
On the drawing side, learning how to scribe was a real challenge. Scribing was a professional cartographic technique used by the OS before computers took over. It produces much better images for the printer than pen and ink which in turn lead to much clearer maps. The principle is that your survey is 'scribed' on to translucent plastic sheets covered on one side with a thin orange film. The film is photo-opaque but you can see your survey through it by putting it on a light table. You scrape off the orange film where you want a line to appear on the map – so you are working in negative. You use one sheet for each colour. You remove the film with a set of 'scribes' – tripods on small ball bearings that can be moved easily over the surface you are scribing. One leg of the tripod holds a diamond cutter whose size is determined by the line thickness you want. Dashed lines are made by scribing a single line then inking over the gaps. Lettering is done on a separate clear sheet as a positive. Looking back, it makes OCAD look like child's play!

Any particularly help with your competitive orienteering skills?

Very much so. Mapping helps you form a much better mental picture of what the ground that the map shows will be like. This is particularly the case where the contouring is intricate – and probably why I tend to have better results on more complex terrain. I think the ability to visualise the ground matters less in urban orienteering – which is mostly a 2-D sport – and in terrain which lacks detail, obviously. There is a flip side to this also: if the ground does not look like you think it will then you are highly likely to make a mistake. You can't afford to be too set in your mind about what you are going to see. I find I do better with mappers who usually see the terrain the way I do – eg Martin Bagness and Stirling Surveys – and less well with others who don't generalise as well as they do. Especially in the early part of a course.

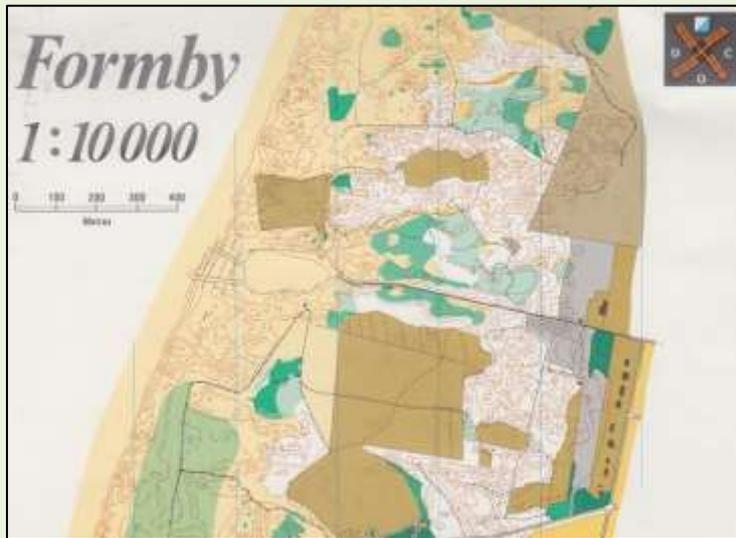
Which map was most difficult to complete and why?

Hard to say. Remoteness of survey – as with Bethacar Moor (BOC 79, Lakes, extract right) and





several Dales areas – eg Langstrothdale and Kilnsey – is an increasing problem with age. Bethacar Moor was memorable as it was my first Chichester Trophy map and one of my first scribed maps from a reasonable pg plot. And it was 100 miles from where we then lived.



But for a real challenge you need a really poor base map. Formby was probably my worst. We had one of the first pg plots done for this map, so I anticipated that, even though it is sand dunes, the survey would be fairly straightforward. Nothing could be further from the truth. Where the dunes were wooded the plotter could not see the ground so there was no useful base map. In the open, which I had given to a friend to survey

assuming the pg would be ok, the plot was also pretty useless, as the photo resolution was not good enough. It took me something like 25 hours survey per block of wood. It was a challenge for the planner to make the control sites fair! Part of the 1978 map is shown (L) for interest.

What difference have computers made?

A huge amount. They have opened up cartography to many more people, they mean you can see instantly what your map will look like and they make corrections and enlargements easy. I have always drawn maps with Adobe Illustrator – partly because that was what the Harveys were using for their maps, but also because OCAD was not around when I started computer cartography, and when it appeared it would not run on a Mac. OCAD is now much better but, whilst I can use it, I'm still happier with Illustrator as I know it much better. More recently, live GPS and drawing in the field on a tablet has become the norm. I've not taken the time to learn how to do this, and I manage pretty well as long as the base material – for example from LIDAR - is good. Last year's BOC map – extract R – shows how far computer cartography has come since I first used it in 1993 for Flasby.

