

# Aire Affairs



May 2023



**Airienteers**

Orienteering in Airedale and Wharfedale

[www.aire.org.uk](http://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](http://www.aire.org.uk) and via e-mail/paper format to all members and interested parties.

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The cover photo shows our future: The AIRE mini relay competitors at the JK.



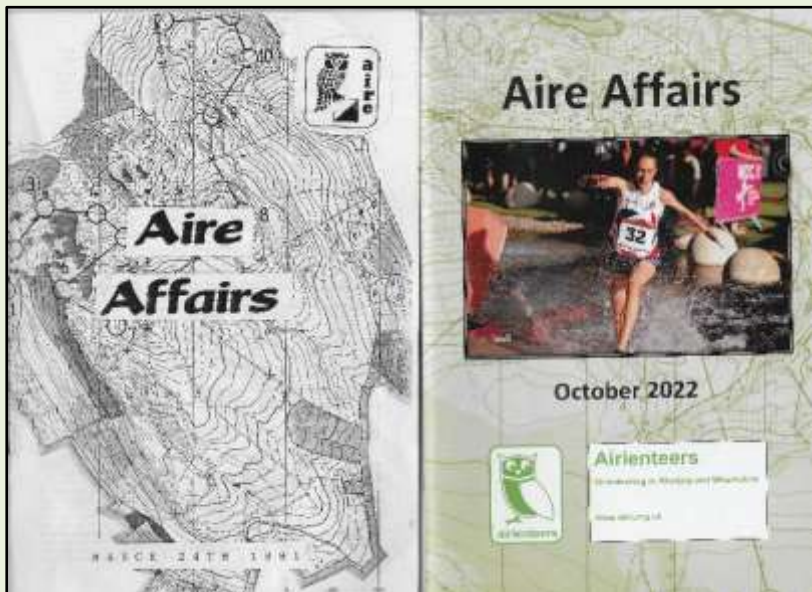


## Edito – Wendy Carlyle

This will be my last issue of Aire Affairs as Editor and I want to thank everyone who has contributed to our newsletter during both of my tenures in the role. I feel that it's time for a fresh input of ideas and a revitalisation of design and I hope that someone will feel able to take on the mantle. Please do not hesitate to ask me what is involved if you are interested.

The production of our newsletter has certainly moved on since my first issue in March of 1991. No longer is the living room floor covered in typed documents awaiting cutting and pasting which would then be taken to my school for photocopying before being folded, stapled and put into envelopes for mailing out, quite a job!

No longer is it necessary to include long lists of fixtures and results which are now instantly available on the internet. Colour and design elements have replaced black and white, and the quality of photographs is vastly improved. Have I sold it to a budding editor yet?



On the orienteering front, Tony and I were looking forward to the British Championships and the JK. Tony made several trips to the South Lakes in his role as Controller of the Long Distance Day at Bigland at the JK. We drove south to stay with Becky and family for the British and I came away with Covid,

preventing us returning home for several days. Tony succumbed a couple of days later and we were understandably concerned about the JK. In the event, we recovered just in time to attend with Tony departing early in the week for final controlling and me following on foot, train and bus to the Friday Sprint Event at Lancaster University. With Senior Railcard and Bus Pass it cost me all of £6.50 and I was very grateful for the several offers of lifts to Newby Bridge afterwards. I made the decision not to run over the weekend due to recovering from Covid, so focused on taking photographs. My favourite from the JK has to be the one I have used for the cover this time, of the enthusiastic mini relayers outside the Club tent. Well done



to those youngsters who are AIRE's future. I look forward to seeing their progress over the coming years. (Thanks to Barry Jones for my Lagganlia photo)

## Chair Affairs – Liz Carter

I thought that I would focus on the subject of volunteering this time. I have been a member of AIRE for a very long time. I first started orienteering casually back in the late 80s and joined at some point back then. I came to events mainly to improve my overall navigation techniques and generally managed to get round. I never really considered the organisation behind an event at all and didn't put myself forward to help either. It didn't really occur to me, and I didn't really know anyone from the club as I tended to come to an event and go straight home after finishing.



It was in the early 2000s when I realised that my neighbours orienteered and were involved with results. I got talking to Alex and became involved with it to the extent that I was able to take over when she decided to stop. In that role I began to get to know more club members and took on some organisation of events and have quite enjoyed it.

You will have noticed a few emails recently asking for volunteers to come forward for a number of different roles - some more involved than others. We rely on club members to support the club not only by coming to events but also to take on roles at and before events. Without your support we could not put on such a variety of events from our Saturday introductory events for children and families to the regional and national ones. From urban to woodland to Dales; Wednesday nights and Sunday events.

We have a small, dedicated core of mappers (without whom we could not use as many different areas), and we are hoping that number will grow after our mapping introductory course that we put on last year. Equally we have a core of people who plan courses, organise events, produce results and club members who are willing and able to help on the day.

Planning and organising an event are time consuming and it is much easier to be involved if you are a retired person than when working full time. I certainly have found that to be the case. One of the most difficult things we find is persuading more of you to come forward to either plan, organise, produce results or help on the day. Many of you have full time jobs, are balancing family commitments and simply cannot commit to the time needed. That I completely understand. If you are unable to help on the more time-consuming roles then just giving an hour extra at an event to help out is just as important. If you are one of those who are a bit reluctant to volunteer as you may think that you don't have the experience to do so we are very happy to mentor or pair you up with an experienced person – a bit like a job



share. And of course, you can chose the role you would prefer and what time suits you best so that you can also get a run. The organiser will endeavour to make that work. Also, if you can spare the time to volunteer it makes the organiser's job so much easier if they know earlier rather than later. Have a look at the 2023 events list on the website to see if there are any that you may be able to help at. Also, we are looking for a budding news editor to take over Wendy Carlyle's role. She has done a great job over the last few years but now wants to hang up her pen and concentrate on other things.

We are thinking about how to find out what prevents volunteers coming forward. We could do a survey (but I bet a lot of you get requests to do a survey every time you shop or buy anything online and get fed up with that. I certainly do). If any of you have any ideas, comments or feedback please email me at [chair@aire.org.uk](mailto:chair@aire.org.uk)

Many Airienteers will remember Fred, a long standing member of our Club before his move to EPOC, and will be saddened to hear of his passing. Gill, Emma and Charlotte have sent the following tribute to a much loved Husband, Dad and Grandad.

## **Fred Ross EPOC 14<sup>th</sup> December 1945 – 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

Fred was a keen cyclist and orienteer. During his youth he spent many hours cycling and this continued when he met his wife Gill, including many cycle touring holidays in both the UK and Europe.

In 1975, Gill discovered orienteering. Although Fred was not initially as enthusiastic, he quickly realised that 'if you can't beat them, then join them'. He soon became hooked and never looked back. Fred was a member of AIRE for 40 years during which time he held committee roles including Secretary and was



also Treasurer of YHOA. He took on a key part of organising one of the events at Barns Cliff for the JK 1987. Fred also helped at many other events while he was in AIRE. Following retirement, Fred and Gill joined EPOC as they were spending more time socialising with the EPOC wrinklies walking group and Friday bike rides. Fred continued to help at events and always had a preference for a job on the start where he would enjoy a chat with competitors as they passed through.

Although he never really expected to be near the top of the results list, it didn't stop Fred offering helpful words of advice to other family members including daughters, nieces and



nephews and more recently to his grandchildren. He did win the occasional event, including winning an iconic White Rose mug. Fred very much enjoyed the fact that orienteering is a family sport and there was always an opportunity to see family members at events and from 3 generations of the family. Fred also ran the Jack Bloor fell race on a couple of occasions and much to his surprise he won a trophy for coming second in 1991 when the leaders went the wrong way and he overtook them!

In 2019 Fred was diagnosed with a terminal respiratory condition but this did not stop him remaining as active as he could be for as long as possible, so most people were unaware of his illness until very recently. Fred passed away peacefully the day after Gill's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday having spent that day with his closest family.

## **COMPASSSPORT CUP QUALIFYING ROUND**

### **AIRE FINISH SECOND AT BEANLEY – WCOC GO THROUGH**

A heartfelt thank you to the hardy bunch of Aires who travelled all the way up to Beanley in Northumbria to represent the club in the CSC. We were very much the “away team” in this fixture, competing against CLOK and WCOC for a place in the final. Unfortunately, many of our star performers were not able to attend on this occasion, but nevertheless we had a good entry of 35 prepared to make the journey and had good coverage across the courses from Brown to Orange. I was particularly impressed that both Charlie Alcock and Kate Parkinson were prepared to tackle the Orange courses for the first time, and those courses turned out to be at the long end of the usual range for Orange.

The racing took place in dry but extremely blustery conditions on a moorland area with rock detail, evidence of antiquities but mainly lots of deep heather which made for tough going. The recent Northern Champs at Burbage was good practice for the heather bashing!

We actually held the lead for a long time, but WCOC had turned up in big numbers (they had 50 entrants) and with surprisingly good quality, and when their late starters began winning courses they took the tie away from us. Final scores were:

**WCOC 2460, AIRE 2380, CLOK 2318**

The Trophy competition for small clubs was incredibly close, with NN taking the win just 3 points ahead of BL and with host club NATO only 3 points further back.

These were our gallant 25 points scorers:

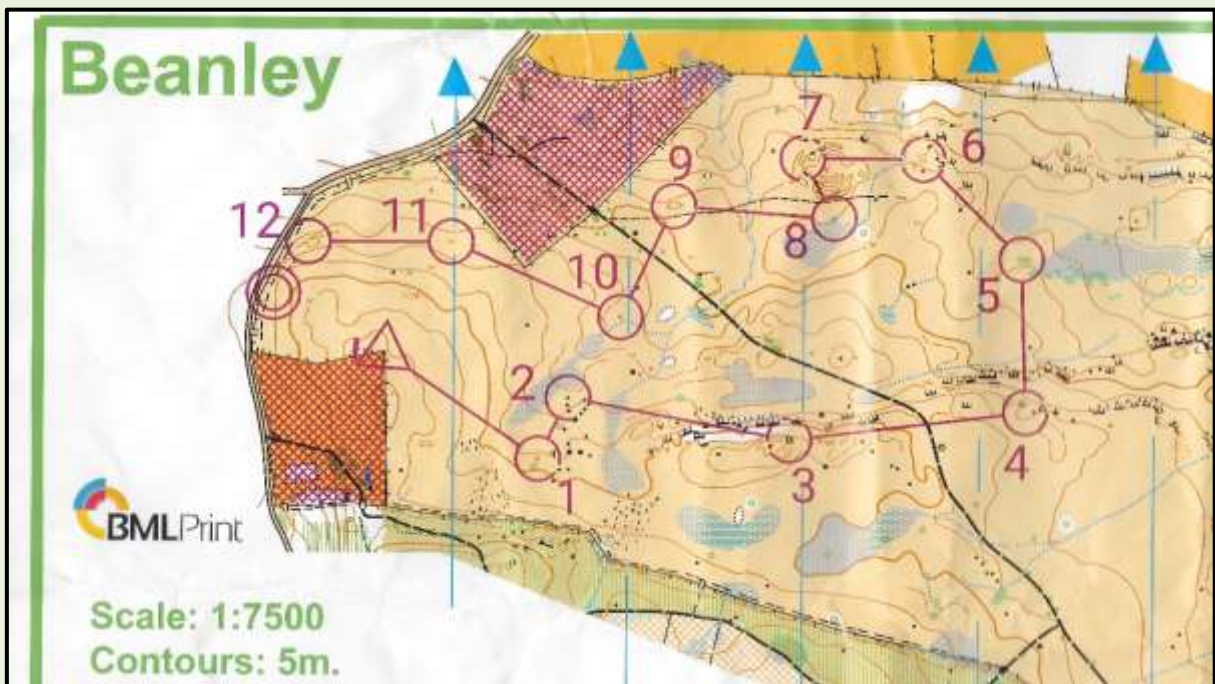
100 Steve Webb





- 99 David Bowman, Tony Thornley
- 98 Liz Carter, Kate Parkinson, Jo Buckley, Natasha Conway, Katie Buckley, Tony Carlyle
- 97 David Alcock, Anne Murgatroyd, Neil Conway
- 96 Joyce Marshall, Tom Crowther
- 95 Shirley Wood
- 94 Judith Powell, Robert Gatenby
- 92 Paul Wood, Wendy Carlyle, Henry Stitson
- 91 Tom Woodham, Peter Carter
- 90 James Woodham, Megan Robinson, Ian Marshall

So, on this occasion we had only the one course winner as I managed to sneak the victory on Green by 9.5 minutes (second place took 30% longer!). All the other courses were won by WCOC. Good luck to them for their trip down the M6 and M5 for the final, which will be hosted by Bristol OK in November.



The Veteran Short Green Course at Beanley, 3.3k 55m



## Check that Compass! – Liz Carter

Happy New Year to all – a bit belated I guess when you read this. I wrote this shortly after the New Year when the event below was still etched in my memory. I thought I would regale you with the time that the AIRE Chair nearly had to have a search party sent out for her (slight exaggeration maybe).

‘Twas a chilly night at Brimham. I was (and still am) a novice at night orienteering. I decided to enter the short but then (for some unknown reason) altered it to the medium. It was drizzling with rain so I had my peaked cap on to keep my glasses dry so that I could see. First mistake! I stood at the start line trying to get myself organised. Realised that I couldn’t see the map as my headtorch was above the peak so had to get that sorted out. My headtorch was not the brightest either 😞. By the time I had done all this I stood at the start with my map trying to make sense of it and everyone else on my start had disappeared, so I panicked a bit and set off down the track but got completely disorientated, had no idea how far I had gone and had to stop and give myself a bit of a talking to. “Go back to the start!” was the instruction I gave to myself.

Once there I then set off again much more carefully and started to navigate properly. I then did the first 12 controls fairly well (one minor mistake) albeit not very quickly and was beginning to enjoy myself. Then at Control 12 it all went pear shaped. Leaving it for #13, I made a complete 180<sup>o</sup> error picked up the wrong path and then headed off into the dark trying to make sense of where I was. I ended up completely lost up on the top of the moor where there were very few relocating features. Time was getting on, so I decided to head south in the direction of the finish. So what did I do??? Headed north on a good track thinking I was on the way to the finish. Rookie mistake - didn’t check my compass did I!

I dropped down and after a while came across a road/track I wasn’t expecting, no lights anywhere to be seen and realised what an error I had made. At that point I made a sensible decision to return the way I came rather than go heedlessly along the track. Good job I did I realised afterwards. Eventually I got back up the hill and started to see torchlights (relief) and then got to an outcrop I recognised from earlier. I then headed off in the correct direction to the finish. By then I was over half an hour after Pete had finished and he had been checking with download to see if I had got back and was beginning to get a bit concerned. He was relieved to see me pass (and surprised as I had approached from the opposite direction from download) and more relieved to see me grin at him. I think he expected me to be upset and angry – I was simply glad to be back. I don’t think the download team were particularly worried at that point as the courses hadn’t closed. However, I would have been embarrassed if I had continued with my error as I would not have made it back before the courses closed.





Moral of the story – check your compass and check it again, and again.

## Juniares May 2023 – Lindsey King



Dibber the owl is seriously impressed at how much AIRE juniors have achieved already in 2023!

Coaching sessions, club events and national & international competitions have attracted lots of participants. Since January, more and more juniors in green AIRE tops can be found improving their navigation skills or competing in races and relays.

### Coaching

Micklefield Park coaching session attracted 18 juniors, aged 2 to 16 and lots of parents. We practised careful following of lines, orientation and thumbing the map and a fun relay with a moving control.

At Horsforth Hall Park a much smaller group enjoyed finding controls using photo clues and developing their knowledge of different map symbols.

Since then, coaching exercises have been offered at the Saturday introductory/junior events and, at Roberts Park, juniors had a chance to focus on route choice to and from controls as well as running the various courses on offer. At Littlemoor Park Queensbury accurate map orientation at speed was practised around a small maze.

### Events

**Flasby Fell** - 17 AIRE juniors ran courses over the open fellside at our regional event in February. Lots of fun was had by all ages racing around the string course in the fastest time! Ross Carson took 4.04 for the boys and Bethan Buckley 4.06 for the girls. Sebastian spotted the off string short cuts!

**Compass Sport Cup heat**- We are very grateful to families with juniors who drove a long way to Northumberland in March to compete against West Cumberland and CLOK. All five juniors Kate, Katie, Megan, Henry and James scored points for the team result. This year we were beaten by WCOG which does save us all a long journey in the opposite direction for a final.



**British Championships** – Enough juniors travelled south to make up a team for a junior ad hoc relay. Katie, Bethan and Henry came home with a bronze medal for AIRE making the trip well worthwhile - well done!

**JK 2023** - A record number of juniors (20) and families participated in the annual Easter festival this year in south Lake District. For some it was their first taste of a large international event. Three of the days' races were selection opportunities for international summer competitions.

Some of results (apologies for any mistakes or omissions) in A-Z order:

Alethea - W12 - sprint 10th silver, middle 13th, long 11th

Alfie - M10 - spring 12th bronze, white courses

Bethan - W14 sprint 11th W14A middle 16th silver, long 16th bronze

Charlie - M10 - 2nd sprint, M10A middle 1st - both championship standard

Charlotte - W12 sprint 8th silver, W12A middle 8th bronze, long 12th

Emily - W18Elite - sprint 4th, middle 6th, long 5th- all championship standard

Ewen - M16A - middle 37th, long 21st bronze

George - M10 sprint 13th M10A middle and long shadowed

Henry - M16 sprint 27th silver, M16A middle 25th bronze, long 29th bronze

Isobel - white courses

Jack - M16 sprint 44th, M16B 3rd silver, long 5th

James - M16 sprint 36th bronze, M16A middle 36th, long 37th

Joby - M10 sprint 11th bronze, M10A non comp middle, long 7th bronze

Katie - W16 sprint 8th championship, W16A middle 12th gold, long 20th silver

Lauren - white courses

Megan - W16 - 31st silver, W16A middle 32nd

Oscar - Novice sprint then white courses





Penny- W10 sprint 2nd championship, W10A middle 4th, long 2nd .....  
Sebastian - M10 sprint 9th bronze and white courses  
Theo - Novice sprint then white courses

The best overall results were Emily 4th on W18E, Jack 2nd on M16B and Penny 2nd on W10A. Emily's results qualified her for international selections this summer – Congratulations Emily!

My favourite moment was watching our three mini relay teams on the start line and watching all nine race down the hill at the end of their courses - Penny, Charlie, Alethea, Joby, Alfie, Sebastian, Theo, Oscar and Isobel. Top marks go to Helen Alcock for shadowing multiple legs!

Relay running needs confidence and care. Racing as a team is a great skill to learn when young and two of our teams participated as shadowed non-competitive teams which will be great preparation for future races. Also, mental strength and skills develop from making mistakes which lead to better performances in the future.

One lesson for us to learn as a club is that we should help prepare newer members for larger events by explaining things like the need to allow plenty of time to reach starts, accessing and reading the final details and noting the stricter rules that apply to big competitions.

**Yvette Baker Trophy** - Eleven AIRE juniors travelled to Lincolnshire by minibus on 16th April to compete in the annual junior inter club competition in April. There were eight courses: yellow to green for boys and girls. As usual we were competing against South Yorkshire who brought 40 juniors to our 11. However, only nine from each club count and so although they won seven of the eight classes we were only 20 points behind them at the end. Well done to Ewen for winning light green for us! It was great to have parents along too who all competed. The return trip was lively! Thanks to the Club for paying junior entries and the minibus hire and David Alcock for driving.

The **Yvette Baker final is on Sunday 9th July** near Doncaster so please put book this date as we need at least nine runners and Bradford Grammar School have already started their summer holidays by then which may reduce numbers.

(Well done to Katie on her selection for the Deeside Tour this summer! Ed.)





**AIRE Juniors in action at the British Champs and JK!**



## Are you under 26?

Want to improve your skills in outdoor adventure sports?

Training for a competition?

Embarking on an expedition?

Doing an outdoor skills course?

Selected for an international event?

## The Jack Bloor Fund may be able to help

The Jack Bloor Fund is available to individual applications from:

- Young people under 26 years
- Who live or are based in Yorkshire
- And are members of a Yorkshire Sports Club OR a National Sport Governing Body (NSGB) OR a Yorkshire Scout, Guide, Explorer Group

### What can you apply for?

Grants to improve your physical and/or technical skills in any recognised outdoor adventure sport (ie has a NSGB)

### What support can you receive and when should you apply?

Up to 50% of the total cost is available – with a maximum grant of £300

### These are some of the outdoor adventure activities we have supported:

Fell Running	Orienteering	Climbing	Cycling	Athletics
Duathlon	Mountaineering	Sailing	Lifesaving	Biathlon
Triathlon	Canoeing/Kayaking	Courses/Qualifications		
Outdoor First Aid (16hr)	Independent Expeditions			

**How to Apply:** Please see the Fund page of the Jack Bloor website to make an application. Applications are welcome from individuals all year round. <https://jackbloor.co.uk/>





***Money for the Jack Bloor Fund is raised through donations and the annual Jack Bloor Races held on Ilkley Moor each May, this classic fell race commemorates Jack's life. Rob King***

## **RELAY REPORT – Captain Steve Webb**

Thanks to all the AIREs who answered my call to action and represented the Club at the British and JK relays. I thought both events were staged really well and produced some exciting racing, and best of all we achieved podium performances!

### **British Relays, Hambleden**

Thankfully we had a much better turnout than the solitary M60 team of 2022 and were duly rewarded with two gold medals and one bronze. Unfortunately, Tony Thornley had to drop out of the M/W70 team with Roger Lott and Sue Stevens. But I had a strong reserve in Tony Carlyle who duly came off the bench to run the anchor leg and secure an excellent first place.







Alice and Fay were unavailable for the British and so I put our new W21E Tamsin Moran in a Women's Short team with Anne Murgatroyd and Jo Buckley. This proved to be the ideal combination of youth and experience, and they also ran brilliantly to win gold medals (despite Jo on final leg initially heading up the wrong finish lane!).



It was great that we were able to field a junior team this year, running the Junior Ad Hoc class with a combination of short, medium and long legs. Our team of Bethan Buckley, Henry Stitson and Katie Buckley ran the legs in that order and did tremendously well. They were delighted to get bronze medals, plus some bonus early Easter eggs.





Hambleden was a good venue for the relays as the open beech forest provided little impediment to running and meant you were always aware of other competitors to enhance the head to head aspect of relays. But there was a very long run out to the start triangle and a very long run into the finish! When I left the event and headed back towards the M40 I took a lane which climbed gradually up a long spur through idyllic hamlets and with glorious views of the Chilterns. Best of all it went right past the windmill which was used for location filming in “Chitty Chitty Bang Bang”.

**Full BRC results:**

Men’s Short:	AIRE Sea Rescue	8/28	Steve Webb, Neil Conway, Dave Murgatroyd
Women’s Short	AIREstyle	1/20	Anne Murgatroyd, Tamsin Moran, Jo Buckley
M60	AIREfix	22/27	Ian Marshall, Chris Burden, Joyce Marshall
M/W70	AIRElooms	1/12	Roger Lott, Sue Stevens, Tony Carlyle
Junior Ad Hoc	JuniAIREs	3/14	Bethan Buckley, Henry Stitson, Katie Buckley
Mixed Ad Hoc	AIREambulance	17/36	Natasha Conway, Nick Green (GO), Bethan B

**JK Relays**

The fine Easter weather in Lakeland had broken by the time it came to relay day, but that did not dampen the spirits of the large crowd of AIREs who gathered on a muddy field at Dale Park ready to do battle. The arena was set out with start/finish/changeover in the valley so the spectator area on one side had clear views of incoming runners as they slalomed down a field from the last controls.

First event was the Mini relay where we had no fewer than three teams of bAIREs; Paddington, Pudsey and Rupert. They all looked very keen in their club O tops and the commentators

highlighted all of them as they zoomed into the finish at the end of each leg. The Mini relay mass start was hilarious: the whistle went and the pack charged up the steep muddy hill and down the muddy descent on the other side to the







start kite on a gate. At this point the lead pack all stopped, all the slower ones caught up, and the race was then on for little fingers to pull their maps open and actually start the course proper. Maybe Lindsey and David need to incorporate map opening classes in junior coaching sessions! In an exciting finish we thought the Paddington team had got 3<sup>rd</sup> place but unfortunately there was a mispunch. Never mind it was all good experience and hopefully we can get a team on the podium next year.



We did have some conspicuous success in the prestigious Women's Trophy. I was delighted to hear that Laura King would be available to run leg 1 and with Fay and Tamsin we had a really competitive team. All three Koala bAIREs ran really well to secure bronze medals with Tamsin involved in a sprint finish to get on the podium with 4 seconds to spare.



AIRE also picked up a great third place in the Mixed Ad Hoc relay. I confess I played no part in the selection of this team which was entered by Amicia Lee and Tom Edwards running with Will Spain. I think Mixed Ad Hoc was actually





the biggest field at the event so they did incredibly well to battle through to get on the podium and I'm happy for AIRE to bask in the reflected glory!

I noted a couple of really strong performances from our leg 1 runners. Coping really well with the hurly burly of the mass starts were David Alcock finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> on Veteran Men and Andrew Stemp 4<sup>th</sup> on Men's Short.



As with the BRC we had a couple of withdrawals due to illness/injury and I'd like to thank our reserves Anne Wilson and Peter Branney who stepped in to enable us to have complete teams. Special thanks also to Peter who helped me pack up the tent and banner and get them back to the car park after everybody else had disappeared.

**Full JKR results:**

- Women's Trophy: Koala bAIREs 3/27 Laura King, Fay Walsh, Tamsin Moran
- Men's Short: Brown bAIREs 11/49 Andrew Stemp, Neil Conway, Dave Murgatroyd
- Senior Men 120+: Polar bAIREs 17/19 Greg Hull, James Woodham, Tom Woodham
- Senior Women 120+: Sun bAIREs 5/15 Anne Murgatroyd, Joyce Marshall, Natasha Conway
- Veteran Men 165+: Grizzly bAIREs 16/48 David Alcock, Ian Marshall, Steve Webb
- Ultra Vets M/W210+: Black bAIREs 32/47 Roger Lott, Lindsey King, Chris Burden
- Panda bAIREs 41/47 Anne Wilson, Judith Powell, Peter Branney
- Spectacled bAIREsmp Richard Wilson, Sue Stevens, Rob King
- Mini Relay M/W 12- Pudsey bAIRE 5/9 Joby Pinker-Hull, Alfie Alcock, Sebastian Carr



Rupert bAIRE 6/9 George Ricketts, Isobel Ricketts, Theo Branney

Paddington bAIRE mp Penny Pinker-Hull, Charlie Alcock, Alethea Carr

Mixed Ad Hoc Tromso Flag Chasers 3/50 Wil Spain, Amicia Lee, Tom Edwards

Looking ahead to future relay opportunities it seems as though the Harvester Trophy will not be taking place this year; a shame as I think we had at least five people expressing interest in this night and day challenge. The British Mixed Sprint relay we all enjoyed so much last year at the Leeds Becketts Park campus will be at Brunel University, Uxbridge on Sunday 17 September. It's linked with the London City race on the Saturday if you want to make a weekend of it in the capital. At present we have a third of one team expressing interest.

### Try it – Plan and run a string course – Lindsey & Rob King

We know from experience with our own children that string courses are the ideal introduction to orienteering for toddlers upwards. Families with young children are the future of the sport and our view is that all clubs including AIRE should offer string courses at all our weekend events where possible.

Each course needs some planning, this is not onerous and the start/finish of the course whether in a tent or from a car or other base can offer a focal point for families to meet and socialise. Getting to know others helps everyone feel a part of the club. Juniors enjoy getting involved which teaches them more life skills.

AIRE needs 3 to 6 families with young children or 1 or 2 teenagers with a supportive parent to each put on 1 or 2 string courses per year. We know everyone is busy so the more families we have on the list, the less there will be to do.

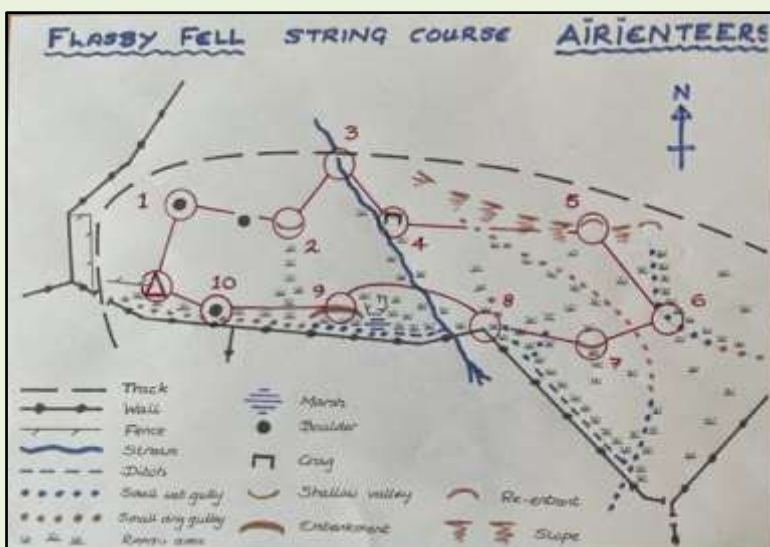
We are happy to assist families plan and run a first string course. If we are not available on the day we can find someone to help. Please contact us to join the team : [lindseyking49@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lindseyking49@hotmail.co.uk) or volunteer to Ian Marshall membership secretary.

#### How to do it:

1-2 months before	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact organiser to find out where registration, start &amp; finish are and where suitable for string course. Best to ask for a copy of map with these marked on</li> </ul>
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1 month before	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit area once and check the suitable space for string course and</li> <li>• sketch out a simple map (accuracy not important as will not be used for navigation but children like something to take home)</li> </ul>
3-4 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draw map by hand - copy at A4 with control descriptions on map (obtain these from us)</li> <li>• Remind organiser to collect string course kit from stores (list provided) and ensure they advertise string course in final details with any additional information you think is needed.</li> <li>• Recruit 1 or 2 on the day helpers if you think you need any to ensure that you can all have your runs.</li> <li>• Arrange to borrow SI training kit (dibbers and printer) from us if required.</li> </ul>
On day- at least 1- 1.5 hours before start	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrive to collect kit from organiser</li> <li>• put out string and controls (in same order as control descriptions on map) and</li> <li>• set up registration inc tent if using one.</li> </ul>
On day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Run registration/start/finish for the allotted time</li> <li>• Collect in string and controls. Pack away kit and return to organiser (SI training kit to us if used)</li> </ul>
On day- back at home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Type list of results and send to organiser</li> <li>• Congratulate yourselves on a great job done!</li> </ul>



(Ed. When our girls were young we enjoyed drawing up the maps and running the string courses. Erecting a tent gave us a great base for the children. Do consider getting involved.)





## THE PERILS OF FIELD SURVEYS. A SONG BY STEVE WEBB

About 30 years ago, following an introduction to mapping run by Wimborne Orienteers, I created some lyrics which were published in “Waffle”, the club newsletter. Inspiration came from my attempts at undertaking basic field surveys for our new map of Moors Valley Country Park, and also from the classic “Hole in the ground” song by Bernard Cribbins.

All these years later I thought I’d resurrect my creation for readers of Aire Affairs. Three reasons for this:

- the sad news of the death of the brilliant Mr Cribbins,
- the recent AIRE session on mapmaking reminded me of my attempts at field surveying,
- the 2023 British Night O Champs being held by WIM at Moors Valley.

I’ve added some footnotes by way of explanation of some of the content.

‘So there I was, mapping this hole,  
Hole in the ground, sort of deep and sort of round,  
It was a lovely hole, just right for a control,  
It was clear of the fight, and I knew I’d got it right,  
But then over to me comes the dreaded MC<sup>1</sup>.

(He said) “Don’t map it here, map it over there,  
You’re drawing it round and it ought to be square,  
The shape’s all wrong, it’s far too long,  
And a pit can’t be shown where a pit don’t belong!”

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<sup>1</sup> MC stands for “mapping co-ordinator”. As I recall there was a bit of a fuss about this at the time; it was an initiative by BOF to introduce some quality control or audit of O maps produced by clubs. I’ve taken considerable artistic licence here as I don’t believe the MC would ever be present during the survey; they would review the finished product. Tony T probably knows all about this.



(I said) "It must be right, I've been here day and night,  
I paced in from the track, though the brashings held me back,  
But on a bearing from the ditch, it went without a hitch,  
Don't have a go at me, I'm not Robin Harvey<sup>2</sup>!"  
(He said) "I'm not sure you can cope", and he strode off down the slope,  
Did he know that near the streams, the ground's not what it seems?  
Well he found it out with haste, as he sank up to his waist,  
"Looks uncrossable" I said, as it rose above his head.

So our survey was complete, and we sent it off to Pete<sup>3</sup>,  
He scribed<sup>4</sup> it for a while, in his British Army<sup>5</sup> style,  
And the map's a lovely sight, but we daren't use it at night,  
Just in case there be, a very ghostly MC....

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<sup>2</sup> The founder and director of Harveys Mapping Services, a well-known professional mapper. At the time Harveys still produced maps for major orienteering events; they now concentrate on mountain maps and strip maps for walkers.

<sup>3</sup> This refers to my friend and WIM clubmate Pete Child. Pete has now worked at Harveys in Perthshire for about 30 years.

<sup>4</sup> Scribing was the pre digital style of mapmaking. It involved cutting all the lines and symbols required on the final map into an acetate sheet, one sheet for each colour. See Tony T for a proper explanation of the technique.

<sup>5</sup> At the time Pete was a cartographer in the army. Can't recall fully, but I think he was probably attached to the Royal Artillery who presumably needed decent maps so they could work out where their shells were landing.



## 10 000 Photographs – Wendy Carlyle

I was taken aback recently to note that on my Flickr site I have amassed 209 119 photos, but then it's not surprising as I took roughly 10 000 photos over the British Champs and JK weekends!

It's great rushing around from Starts to Finishes to Relay Handovers to Prize-Givings capturing orienteering moments: the focus on competitors' faces at the start; the weird and wonderful warm-up exercises; the relaxed groups chatting before the off; the determination and enthusiasm of youngsters; the agony; the frustration of missed opportunities; the velocity wrinkles; the stumbles; the sprint finishes against rivals and for podium places; the daring leaps of faith; the podium antics.

The downside of enthusiastically taking some many photographs is the post event processing. It took me four days to whittle the JK photos down to those I thought worthy of uploading to Flickr. The rule of thumb I use is basically, would I be happy if that was my photo on the internet? A photo may not be 'flattering' but if it demonstrates effort, it goes in. Generally, I take three photos of each competitor, deleting the one with the missing leg and the one where gravity has taken over so that hopefully I'll be left with an athletic looking result. Have there been any bloopers over the years? Well, I'm particularly careful when snapping runners coming into the finish in case there is a bare bottom in the background (oops!) My other memory is when I spotted that one photograph of a particularly important mass start was receiving an inordinate number of views. I had unknowingly snapped one eager elite having a quiet shifty at his map.

And so, to complete my final issue of Aire Affairs, here are a few photos of Airienteers through the years. I wonder how many folks you will recognise?



