

Reports February 2025

Name: Ian Jones
Role: Chair
Report: February 2025

There has not been much input from the Chair so far in 2025. A lot of other discussion has taken place around forestry access in the face of environmental restrictions, which seem to be cutting in earlier each year – blame it on climate change? Also there has been some really positive development on the coaching front, which was something we agreed was a priority for the committee when I started as Chair last year.

The Minchinhampton event caused much discussion at committee due to the issues around providing access to green, blue and brown courses for junior orienteers, notably M/W16s where an event has unmanned road crossings.

The BKO Concorde Chase at Cold Ash on 26th January made the BBC news, due to issues getting out of the car park. Increasingly wet conditions combined with a slight uphill to get out of the parking field meant that cars leaving early struggled to get out. Four-wheel drives couldn't help, necessitating what ended up being three tractors on site to tow cars out. Once the tractors had been over the ground, it became impossibly muddy for any other vehicles which meant that the remaining cars had to be towed out one by one, with the last car leaving at 8pm. I am sure there will be lessons learned about putting down more tracking or having tractors on site early, but the two takeaways for me were:

- The field has been used successfully in the past without incident; will climate change mean we are going to see a trend of wetter, less usable fields?
- The electric cars, being heavier, stood far less chance of getting out of the field without help; does this mean we are going to have to think parking facilities in the future as we all make the transition?

On a more positive note, our portable toilet at Mallards Pike was widely acclaimed. Nick Barrable picked up on the article in Legend and I suspect we will see it in the next issue of CompassSport.

IN ROLE:

Tasks Completed

- First Aid training course
- Attended SWOA Committee meeting on 21st January to discuss Minchinhampton event, hear an appeal from NWO and discuss changes to event guidance in the rules

Tasks Progressing

- None in train

Tasks Planned

- Contact the OMM team and do own research to learn more about GPS trackers
- Revert to BMBO with club response about helping to prepare for the MTBO World Masters Championships
- Decide venue and format for this year's Chair's Challenge – all suggestions welcome!

Name: Vanessa Lawson
Role: Captain
Report: February 2025

IN ROLE:

Tasks Completed

- The CompassSport Cup Heat is taking place on 23 February, we have 35 members taking part. Entries have been submitted.

Tasks Progressing

- Gathering numbers for other 2025 team events, initial email has just been sent.

Tasks Planned

- To establish location of 2025 Peter Palmer relays to see if geographically we can ask parents to commit.

NOT IN ROLE:

Tasks Completed

- NTR

Tasks Progressing

- Planning for the Danby Lodge event in September, with Seth.
- Coaching course continues, a series of four sessions need to be planned and delivered by the summer.
- Ongoing communication with Junior parents about events via the WhatsApp group is working well (probably better than sending emails).

Tasks Planned

- NTR

Name: Alan Pucill
Role: Treasurer
Report: February 2025

- Current balances (at 11/02/2025)
 - Current Account £9,495.67 (Prev. report £8,927.50)
 - Deposit Account £16,021.19 (Prev. report £15,945.25)
 - **Total** **£25,516.86** (**£24,872.75**)
- Summary of larger items since last report on **04/12/2024** (rounded figures):
 - **Income**
 - Income from Fabian4 for August, September and October
 - League £1,639
 - Maprun £336
 - WNL £251
 - New Year's Day £976
 - **Total** **£3,202**
 - CSC Entries £168
 - EOD net income £197
 - Map sales (Chepstow CC) £25
 - Café/shop income £42
 - Membership fees £91
 - Interest £76
 - **Total** **£3,799**
 - **Expenditure**
 - BOF/SWOA/WNL levies £1,153
 - Landowners (FE, Woodland Trust Donation) £691
 - Café Supplies £29
 - Sundries (Bank Charges, Life Membership) £27

▪ FE application fees	£0
▪ Planners/Organisers/Controllers/Mappers expenses	£100
▪ Equipment (inc. Laptops, Battery Packs, Crickley POC signs)	£90
▪ POCs	£13
▪ Misc. Travel (Merthyr Mawr)	£85
▪ Donations (Maprun, OOM, Purple Pen)	£201
▪ Mapping Costs (BML Paper)	£468
▪ Courses (First Aid Certificates, Travel)	£232
▪ Toilet Hire (Mallards Pike)	£66
Total	£3,155

- Income from Fabian4 lags a month behind.
 - Expected income at end of February (from entries made in January)
 - League (Mallards Pike) £995
 - Mapruns £126
 - WNL £21

Name: Greg Best
Role: Fixtures/Permissions Officer
Report: February 2025

IN ROLE:

Tasks Completed

- Permissions for recent events held (at Mallards Pike, LTH, Blakeney and Staple Edge)
- Attempted to agree an alternative date for the February league event at Soudley, only to be thwarted at the last minute by restriction zones.
- Looked into whether we can get permission to cross the field between Chestnuts and Welshbury to have an event that covers both areas. Unfortunately unable to secure permission.
- On-site meetings with Cleeve School and the NT at Woodchester Park.

Tasks Progressing

- As always, lots of event permissions and fixtures issues on-going. Some dates in the schedule have had to move and there are likely still to be other changes, particularly Cheltenham College (already postponed for a second time), Dean Close and Chalford.

Tasks Planned

- NTR

NOT IN ROLE:

Mapping Work Completed.

- Total re-map of Woodchester Park using Lidar as a base in readiness for the event there. 10 full days surveying and lots more days on the computer. Hard work, but I feel it should make it a better area for future events, although the steep hills have not changed!
- Surveyed the extensive new housing estates at Bishops Cleeve and updated the map. Also surveyed the school in readiness for the up-coming event there.
- Did a major survey and refresh of the Crickley Hill map in advance of the up-coming WNL event.

Mapping Work Progressing

- Need to finish off some fringe parts of the Mallards Pike map ready for an event in those areas next winter.

Mapping Work Planned

- A further extension of the Nottingham Hill map to include the adjacent woodland that the landowner has offered us, so that we can hold a middle-distance event there next year.

- The annual update of the Cleeve Hill map after this year's gorse cutting ends at the end of February. The gorse is ever changing, so this is an important task, so it doesn't get out of hand.

Other Tasks Completed

- Controller for NWO at Minchinhampton.
- Organised December Maprun at Ebley

Other Tasks Progressing

- Organising/planning 2 Mapruns in the spring.
- Organising/planning the 2025 SWOL event at Newent Woods. Recruited Neil Fraser from NWO as Controller.

Name: Pat MacLeod
Role: Equipment Officer
Report: February 2025

OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

- 4f. Printer replacement. Map samples sent to Xerox, awaiting response
- 6a. SWJOS funding request. In hand, awaiting response
- 8c. MapRun mementoes – no progress, but Andy has been approached

IN EQUIPMENT ROLE:

Tasks Completed

- Purchased two new heavy duty storage bags, one for the blow-up tent, which is very difficult to squeeze into the supplied bag, and one for the string course, to make it easier to manage than the current golf bag; total cost just under £100, one bag being made to measure, the other off the shelf.

Tasks in Progress

- Printer replacement. See separate report under Mapping Officer

Tasks Planned

- Start to 'rehome' or dispose of some equipment no longer used (at least for a long time); generator, several heavy-duty tables, large numbers of small plastic signs now redundant either due to being too small for most purposes or rendered redundant by satnavs and what 3 words.

NOT IN ROLE

Tasks completed

- Helped at lots of events
- Usual maintenance of the website, and submission of Fabian applications.
- Creation of a new Gruffalo course at Symonds Yat for FE; they want to move the Mallards Pike course there, as they say they have some other activity planned for Mallards.
- Purchased a perpetual licence for TablePress, a web component we use extensively in the website. Previously we used a free version but made donations to its author. Recently it has switched from a free and voluntary donations model to a licence model, so we bought a perpetual licence, costing just under £350, in preference to an annual one at 89EUR, which with transaction fees would probably be over £80 pa.

Tasks in Progress

- Ongoing MapRun UK coordination and support, though now very few requests from Maprun developer to respond to new inquiries from UK people
- Ongoing submission of entry details to Fabian for our events, and website maintenance.
- Club trophies and awards – no progress since returning the sample trophies to Andy Creber. I have asked Andy for a small number of the boar mementoes but haven't followed this up.
- Establishment of a 'panel' of experienced orienteers to be invited to offer constructive comment on courses at league and other NGOC organised events of similar or higher status. This was useful for Light tree and the

Dowards, but I didn't feel it necessary for Mallards given the lack of public feedback, and level of experience of the planner!

- Event Ts & Cs on the Fabian entry system: we agreed at the last meeting we should do this, but when I came to look at it further, feel that maybe they are better located within the event details posts on the website; there is a sort of set of Ts & Cs in there, which I now carry forward.
- Introduction of the informal WhatsApp-based training group. First session planned for Saturday 15 Feb in lieu of the postponed Soudley event. 7 attendees expected. In addition, further courses being developed at Blakeney Hill and Merthyr Common.

Tasks Planned

- Implementation of an agreed training programme.

Name: Pat Macleod
Role: Mapping Officer pro tem
Report: February 2025

OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

- None

IN MAPPING ROLE:

Tasks Completed

- None, other than normal printing for events.
- We now print two scales routinely for league events.

Tasks in Progress

- Printer replacement. A set of sample maps printed by our Phaser 7100 printer has been sent to Xerox, together with 'reference' copies of each, printed by BML. They only went this week, so no response yet.
- Disposal of the Xerox 6600 printer. No progress yet.
- Experimentation with OCAD colour settings to improve the quality of brown symbols on our 7100 printed maps. On hold pending printer replacement outcome.
- Looking at how to reduce print wastage. MapRuns are now printed on used maps, with no adverse comments from runners so far. I have also reduced the number of spare maps we print for EODs and course changes, but particularly in low pre-entry low TD courses we still end up with a quite a lot of wastage due to making sure we can accommodate EODs for these from new orienteers.
- Creation of a suitable map library and archive on the NGOCOCAD Google Drive. In progress – some master map copies are store centrally, and I have created an archive of all 2024 events, plus earlier years for MapRuns.

Tasks Planned

- Creation of a better way to manage map version control, in line with the map library described above.

NOT IN ROLE

Tasks completed

- Covered under Equipment Office report

Tasks in Progress

- Covered under Equipment Office report

Tasks Planned

- Covered under Equipment Office report
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Name: Ginny Hudson
Role: Membership Secretary
Report: February 2025

As at 13.2.25

Category	Renewed/ Current	Other	Definitely not renewing	Still to chase
Senior	110	1	10	9
Junior	26		1	3
Young Adult	3			
Total	139	1	9	12

New members include James Hartley and Grace Davies.

Retirees of note:

Bob Teed
Steve Robinson
Paul Horsfall

I will be following up again this week, to try and get responses from the remaining 12 lapsed members.

Name: Alan Brown
Role: Newsletter (Legend) Editor
Report: February 2025

- Next issue of Legend due in April 2025.

Name: Judith Taylor
Role: Safeguarding & Welfare Officer
Report: February 2025

- No safeguarding or welfare concerns to report since the last committee meeting.
- I am going to do the BOF Introduction to Safeguarding e-learning course soon and would like to request reimbursement of the £10 course fee.

Name: Ian Prowse
Role: Volunteer Co-Ordinator
Report: February 2025

Nothing to report

Name: Rosie Taylor
Role: Communications & Publicity Officer
Report: February 2025

- Weekly email newsletter and Instagram account going well.

Name: Andy Creber / Paul Taunton
Role: Committee member
Report: February 2025

- Nothing to report
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