



Welcome everyone to the 2021 Wimborne Orienteers AGM.

Before we get on with the meeting, I would like to invite everyone to join me in remembering two of our members who sadly passed away this year.

Richard Brightman passed away in September after losing his long battle cancer. Richard was a much-loved member of Wimborne Orienteers and I know he will be greatly missed by everyone. He was always present at events and was always willing to help, more often than not helping out with car parking. At Richards funeral his great niece read a poem, which can be found on Waffle, and one excerpt from the poem ran true and summed up Richard.

“A fine navigator,”
We have heard people say
Thrashing around in a forest,
His ideal way to spend a day.

Brian Johnson passed away June whilst in the Lake District. I saw Brian at a local Lake District event on the Wednesday before the British Middle Distance Championships and unfortunately that was the last time we saw him. Brian was a very competent orienteer always in the mix in the major competitions. He was not just an orienteer though; there were many other interests and activities that a lot of people may not be aware of. He wrote walking/trekking guides for Cicerone, was described by John Warren as “a near professional Mountaineer” which is probably right having climbed all 284 Munros in one summer, played bowls and bridge regularly and was a World Amateur Chess Champion.

Can I please ask everyone to stand to pay their respects and remember Richard and Brian whilst we hold a minutes silence.

Now moving on, firstly I would like to report on the achievements of our junior members.

It has been an excellent effort from them throughout 2021.

Currently we have four juniors in the SWJOS.

- Lizzie Horsler
- Harry Bratcher-Howard
- Grace French
- Monty Bratcher-Howard



Chairman's Report

All of them have been very active throughout the year, attending weekly zoom squad calls, training weekends, and competing at the major selection competitions around the country.

As a result of this participation and hard work their efforts have been recognised.

Lizzie was selected for the Stockholm training camp (actually held in Scotland this year for reasons I do not need to spell out tonight). During the camp which was based in Moray they travelled one day to run on the 2019 WOC map at Glen Affric. By all accounts that day consisted of a 2 hour drive, kayaking across a Loch, walking up to the area, doing some training, swimming back to the transport and then returning to the accommodation. Some effort to get to train on the WOC map.

Harry and Grace were both selected for the Lagganlia camp which is normally held in the week before the Scottish 6 Day. This camp was delayed as they could not meet the requirements and it is being held this coming half term week. Grace is already in Scotland and Harry is travelling up tomorrow. To say the excitement has been building would be an understatement. The group attending have set up a WhatsApp group which routinely has 200+ messages an hour! They also have a Spotify playlist containing what I would call an eclectic mix of music.

The friendships they are all forming not just within the SWJOS but with the juniors from the other regions will hopefully keep them all engaged with the sport into their adult life.

It has also been a busy year for the junior competitions.

Notable successes include:

- Harry Bratcher-Howard being selected to run for England in the Junior Home International where he achieved a very creditable 5th, with England winning overall.
- Junior Inter Regional Championships held in Redcar, in which Lizzie, Harry, Grace and Monty competed. At the JIRC's the SWJOS achieved it best result in 30 years with a 2nd in the individual competition, 2nd in the relays and 3rd overall.
- British Middle Distance Championships
 - W18 Lizzie – 13th
 - M14 Harry – 3rd
 - W14 Grace – 4th
 - M12 Monty – 11th
- British Long Distance Championships
 - W18 Lizzie – 3rd
 - M14 Harry – 3rd
 - W14 Grace – 4th
 - M12 Monty – 4th
- British Sprint Championships
 - W14 Grace – 4th



Chairman's Report

- South West Long Distance Champions
 - W10 Alice
 - M12 Monty
 - W14 Grace
 - M14 Harry
- South West Middle Distance Champions
 - M12 Monty
 - W14 Grace
 - M14 Harry

So well done to all our juniors who have shown what hard work and dedication can lead to in terms of success.

As well as the Juniors we also have South West Middle Champions in Becca Ellis (W21) and South West Long Distance Champions in Steve Mallinson (M40), Chris Branford (M75) and Annie Pickering (W21).

We have not had much orienteering this year due to the unmentionable, however we have managed to keep a virtual MapRun league going when permitted, so thanks to Rob Mills for organising and all those who planned the events. In the background was Chris Branford who kept the MapRun side of things under control, including producing new maps and uploading the events to MapRun.

We did manage to hold events at Inside Park and Golden Cap in between various lockdowns. Both these events were well attended and enjoyed by those who made the trips, and they returned much needed income to the club.

More recently, although technically outside of the period I am reporting on, was the notable success of the Caddihoe Weekend held in September under the close control of overall organiser Kevin Pickering. As with previous Caddihoe events we shared the weekend with Wessex with them planning and organising the Saturday event and WIM the Sunday event. Despite the late notification of permission, the whole team rallied round to ensure the event was held. There were multiple factors that led to the success, the weather, the areas (thanks to SOC for the loan of the Sunday map that was used previously for a British Championship event), the venue, the local school cake/refreshments team but most importantly all the helpers on both days. All in all the weekend was an outstanding success and very well attended with 350 runners on the Saturday and 440 on the Sunday.



Chairman's Report

Thank you to outgoing committee of:

- Phil Harvey
- Karen French
- Chris Branford
- Rob Mills
- Dick Keighley
- Kevin Pickering
- Kath Pike
- Eamon Staunton
- John Warren
- and me.

Special thanks must go to Chris Branford who has decided to take a step back from front line duties. Since joining the committee in 2006 Chris has been fixtures secretary and more recently has been producing the weekly newsletters on MailChimp. Thank you, Chris, for all your hard work over the years and we are grateful that you have agreed to stand again for election to the committee in, as you described it, a less active role.

Andrew French
Chairman – Wimborne Orienteers
22nd October 2021