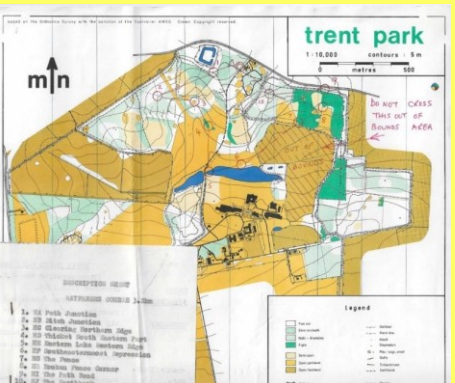
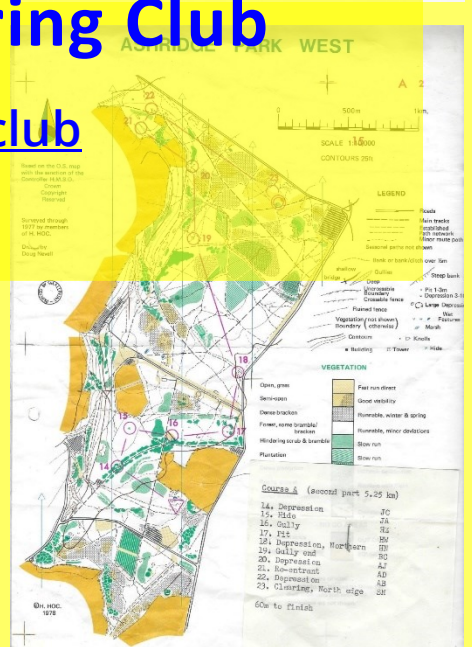
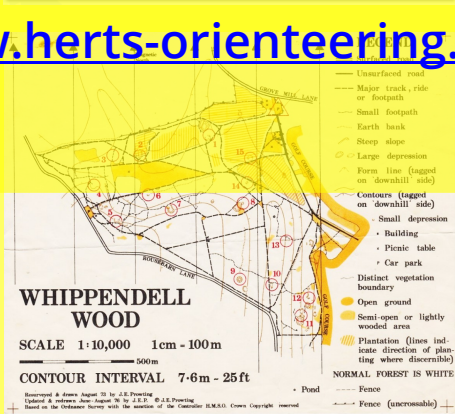
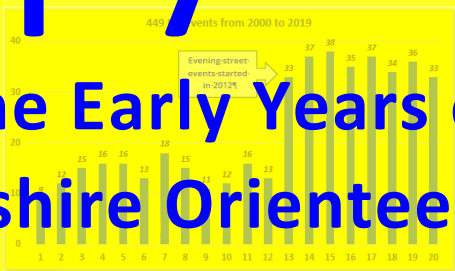
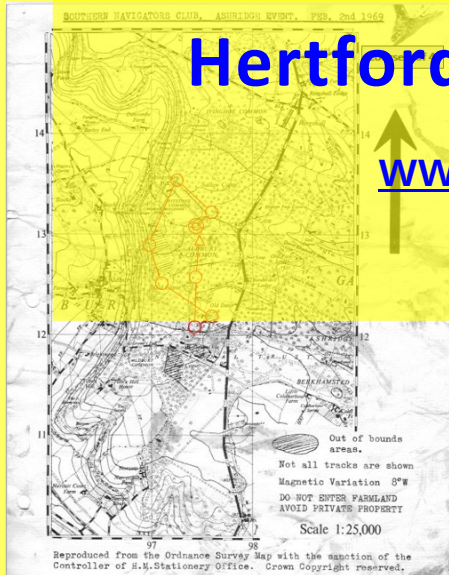


# Happy Herts

The Early Years of

Hertfordshire Orienteering Club

[www.herts-orienteering.club](http://www.herts-orienteering.club)



Alan Rosen  
July 2020

# Contents

Club Officials 1968 -1989 .....	4
1968 .....	5
1969 .....	5
The club logo .....	7
Early events at Ashridge .....	9
Orienteering in the UK – how did it start? .....	12
What did the Victorians ever do for us? .....	14
Bury Wood, March 1970 .....	15
1970 .....	15
Epping, October 1970 .....	16
Master Maps .....	18
Bentley Priory, October 1971 .....	19
1971 .....	19
Maps .....	21
1972 .....	23
Burnham Beeches, October 1972 .....	23
Burnham Beeches 1972 - 2020 .....	29
O-Kit .....	31
Age Groups - how many do we need? .....	31
Night Street Event, Harrow, 10 February 1973.....	32
1973 .....	32
Harrow-on-the-Hill Street Event, June 1973.....	33
Whippendell Wood, 7 October 1973 .....	35
Whippendell Wood 1973 - 2014 .....	36
Flora & Fauna in Whippendell Wood and Cassiobury Park .....	37
Burnham Beeches, 2 December 1973.....	38
1974 .....	40
HH Bury Woods, 1974 .....	40
1975 .....	41
1976 .....	41
Control Cards .....	42
Filmsets on 'our' land .....	43
Whippendell Permanent Course, 1976.....	44
Mapping.....	45
1977 .....	46
Schools, Scouts and the WI .....	47
Black Park, April 1977 .....	47
Control flags.....	49
Race Timing.....	49
SE Galloppen and SE League .....	51
1978 .....	52
Entries, Final Details and Results .....	53
Ashridge Badge Event, 12 March 1978 .....	54
Ashridge northern extracts 1969 - 2019.....	56



Ashridge southern extracts 1971 - 2019.....	57
Control Descriptions .....	58
<b>1979 .....</b>	<b>59</b>
HH Club Champions 1978 - 2019 .....	60
Compasses .....	60
“But we don’t have very much land!” .....	62
Specification for Wayfaring Maps 1979 .....	64
WI events .....	65
Herts Advertiser 1979 .....	67
<b>1980 .....</b>	<b>68</b>
Start procedure – 1970s-style .....	68
Stopsley Common, Luton, Night Event 1980 .....	69
HH event, Oxhey Woods, January 1981 .....	71
<b>1981 .....</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>1982 .....</b>	<b>75</b>
Then & now .....	76
<b>1983 and beyond - what happened next? .....</b>	<b>77</b>
HH Events 1996/7 - 2020 .....	78

Please note that maps are not reproduced to scale

This history starts with the creation of HH in 1968 and tracks the club’s development until around 1982/3 when Pacemaker was first published, with some material from later years included. It also covers the development of orienteering as a sport in the UK.

If you have any material that could add to the history or any corrections please do get in touch.

My thanks to orienteers who have helped with the gathering of memories and materials from so long ago, including Mac Gollifer (SN), Tim Pribul (CHIG), David Rosen (LOK/SROC), Jim Prowting (HH and now TVOC, whose records have been invaluable), Neville Baker (TVOC), David Jukes (BKO), Clive Allen (BOF) plus lots of HH members. Mac and Tim deserve special medals for controlling more HH events than anyone else over the past 50 years.

As well as Pacemakers and Newsletters, the HH paper archives consist of a number of ring binders with meeting minutes and some event correspondence and materials, and individual ring binders for the major pieces of land we have used (mainly covering from the 1980s to the mid-2000s, after which most material is online). Please just ask if you would like to see anything.

Alan Rosen  
[ajvcrosen@aol.com](mailto:ajvcrosen@aol.com)  
 July 2020

## Club Officials 1968 -1989

	Chair	Secretary	Captain	Treasurer	Equipment
1968-1969		Bernard Williams			
1969-1970		Bernard Williams			
1970-1971		Michael Fox			
1971-1972		Alan Rosen			
1972-1973		Alan Rosen			
1973-1974		Carole Birch			
1974-1975		Carole Birch			
1975-1976		Robin Smith			
1976-1977		Robin Smith			
1977-1978	Cliff Birch	Alec Farmer	Jim Prowting		
1978-1979	Cliff Birch	Alec Farmer	Jim Prowting		
1979-1980	Cliff Birch	Alec Farmer	Alan Rosen		
1980-1981	Cliff Birch	Alec Farmer	Alan Rosen		Phil Powell
1981-1982	Cliff Birch	Sylvia Harding	Alan Rosen	Tony Miley	Phil Powell
1982-1983	Stan Harding	Gerry Elliott	Alan Rosen	Tony Miley	Phil Powell
1983-1984	Stan Harding	Gerry Elliott	Jackie Tollitt	Tony Miley	Keith Marsden
1984-1985	Stan Harding	Gerry Elliott	Arthur Boyt	Joe Harrison	Keith Marsden
1985-1986	Gerry Elliott	David Eastham	Arthur Boyt	Joe Harrison	Tony Grainger
1986-1987	Gerry Elliott	David Eastham	Arthur Boyt	Joe Harrison	Tony Grainger
1987-1988	Keith Marsden	David Eastham	Janet Rosen	Andrew Cummings	Tony Grainger
1988-1989	Tony Miley	Tony Grainger	Janet Rosen	Andrew Cummings	Sue Hooper

As well as the posts shown in the table above, over the years there have been a good number of other posts (both elected and non-elected), including:

Coaching Co-ordinator

Development Officer

Event Co-ordinator

Junior Co-ordinator

Mapping Co-ordinator

Membership Secretary

*(special thanks to Susan Marsden for holding this post for much of the club's existence)*

Newsletter & Pacemaker Editors

Publicity Officer

Saturday Series Co-ordinator

SEOA representative

SI Co-ordinator

Street-O Co-ordinator

Training/Junior Training Co-ordinator

Volunteer Co-ordinator

Webmaster

Welfare Officer

Youth/Schools League Co-ordinator

*Thank you to everyone who has ever done anything for the club in the past 52+ years!*



1968

The August 1968 edition of Stop Press, BOF's monthly newsletter, mentioned that Happy Herts had been formed and that Bernard Williams was the club secretary. This suggests that the club had started in the summer of 1968 but we have no records of the club's earliest steps.

The first mention of an HH runner in our archives is Jerry Caldicott, running on 22 December 1968 at an event at Bramshill. He was also at an event at RAF Halton, presumably running in Wendover Woods, in early 1969, together with S Smith, Bernard Williams and A Scott.

1969

The club started growing in 1969 following a lecture on orienteering and a novice event on 16 February in St Albans. The instructor was Tony Wale, who had introduced orienteering as a training activity during his time in the Army and later ran the Sweatshop (which was the first orienteering equipment van before it became a sports shop); he then became the UK managing director of Silva.

After the event, a newsletter written by John Easson was sent out. It gave some guidance which provides us with clues about the nature of the sport at the time. John had started orienteering having read articles in the Observer by Chris Brasher and a book by John Disley. He recalled the following about his first event:

*It was unfortunate that many of the controls related to rivers and ponds, for that weekend turned out to be one of the wettest of the season...My compass work was terrible, map reading atrocious and pacing technique non-existent, but after nearly three hours thrashing around the undergrowth I eventually finished having found five out of eight controls, although two of these were out of order.*

He added:

*There are many orienteering stories of the tortoise beating the hare and if you patiently develop technique then speed and fitness will increase automatically.*

*Do not spend more than 20 minutes looking for a control but go on to the next for there is no reason to think that this next will be any easier and three hours of endeavour at the first couple of events should be sufficient competition.*

*Some of you may not yet be kitted out...but any old clothes and footwear will do. The only real essential is a compass...the Silva No. 4 is the one to ask for [cost 39s 6d: £1.97½]. On the other hand, there is the much cheaper Silva No. 5 'Junior'...completely adequate for all but the enthusiast [cost 15s 6d: 77½p].*

The SOS event in Epping Forest on 9 March 1969 had ten HH runners:

Long course	Tony Nuttall
Medium course	Audrey Stokes, R Purle, John Eassom, ? Wright & ? Eassom (pair)
Short course	J Freeman, Ann Williams, Diana Wrightson

At a meeting on 2 May 1969, Happy Herts was accepted as the club name and blue and gold were chosen as the club colours. The club had £3 7s 1d [£3.35].

By the end of the year there were almost thirty members coming from St Albans, Harpenden and Hatfield, and also Bedfordshire and Middlesex. In 1970 and 1971, numbers slipped to the low twenties and it wasn't until 1974 that they started to pick up.

At the time, there was a liking for alliterative club names: eg Aberystwyth Aberoriginals, Bangor Backwoodsmen, Checkpoint Charlies, Devizes Dawdlers, Dysart Dashers, Medway Maunderers and Occasional Orienteers, etc, so we have to presume that Happy Herts was named to fit in with the others. By 2020, only Happy Herts, Northern Navigators (est. 1985) and Roxburgh Reivers (est. late 1970s) are still in existence. There have been several initiatives to change the club name but none have succeeded (yet, it's never too late!) – and these days not only do you have to come up with a good name and unique initials, but also an available website address.

To the east of us, Chigwell became an open club in 1970, having started in 1966 at Chigwell School, while Stragglers Orienteering Society had started in 1966/67 based on a youth centre in Essex.

To the north west, in December 1971, Oxfordshire OA, Aylesbury OC and Chiltern OC, with 27 members between them, merged into Thames Valley OC.

To the north there was no club until South Midland filled in the gap in 1986, with HH members based in Bedfordshire understandably joining the new club, along with people moving into the ever-expanding Milton Keynes.

London OK started in 1971 and covered London north of the Thames and west of the Lea Valley.



# The club logo

By July 1969 the club badge design was agreed. It was described as "A hart rampant in gold on blue, with letters HH top right and bottom left". [Pedant's heraldic note...our hart is actually *Springing* rather than *Rampant*] It is normally going from right to left, except for the pennant at the bottom of the page. The first badge to sew onto kit cost 15p.

The logo was developed from a design by Lily Gill, an artist friend of the Rosens, and in 1991 Mark Adams worked with her and Arthur Boyt on the development of the existing logo; Mark has adapted the logo from time to time as the technology has evolved.

In profile, it is not clear how many points the antlers have:

- 12 'Royal'
- 14 'Imperial'
- 16 'Monarch'



First row: reference design by Lily Gill; one of several reference drawings by Arthur Boyt; the best available electronic version of the existing logo, used as the starting point for the final drawing. Second row: two of the many iterations; the final logo after several rounds of cleaning up by computer in later years.



Simon Errington's 2020 Hart route - possibly a Royal Hart Statant (standing)

The springing hart has been seen in its various forms on o-kit, car stickers, a 'giant badge to go on the secretary's car', bobble hats, sweatshirts, jackets, banners, feathers, mugs and pennants over the years, as well as on paper and online club communications.



12 cm square knitting pattern designed by Sylvia Harding



Hertfordshire's Coat of Arms (1925) The blue & white lines represent the county's many rivers; the harts are 'supporters' and 'proper' (in their natural colour)

The County Flag (2008) has the hart 'lodged' (as a seated herbivore)



Michael Fox became secretary in 1970 and Alan Rosen took over for 1972 and 1973, his family having joined the club in 1969. The club by then had 12 individuals and 8 families.

Subscriptions were 15 shillings/75p for BOF, 10 shillings/50p for SEOA and 5 shillings/25p for the club (it was also possible to join BOF and the SEOA without joining a club).

The other people from pre-1975 still running are David Rosen (joined early 1969, now LOK and SROC), Jim Prowting (1971, now TVOC), David Nevell (1973, now Harlequins) and Robin Smith (1974, now Southdowns).

HH's first events were held in Epping Forest and there was an early discussion about the merits of merging with Stragglers Orienteering Society, based in Essex, although SOS were only prepared to do it as long as they could keep their name.

HH was affiliated to the South East Orienteering Association but there was a suggestion at one point that the SEOA should not extend so far north and HH should move to EAOA, established in 1971. Either way, it would possibly not fit precisely with the Sports Council regions (and Hertfordshire has wavered between being in the South East and Eastern Regions for a variety of administrative purposes over at least the past 75 years). Because of the strength of orienteering in the SE we resisted any change but compromised to the extent that individual members could join either EAOA or SEOA; the club would remain SEOA-based (Southern Navigators had similar divided loyalties with the South East and South Central).

The HH members of the late sixties and early seventies were diverse and it is probably harsh but fair to say they were not all focused on the elite end of the results, which reflected the sport's appeal, then as now, to a wide range of ages and backgrounds, unlike many other sports where participation drops off so sharply with age. A number of sports (athletics being a good example) were run, and constrained, by former competitors who no longer took part themselves - orienteering has always been different in that respect. The small number of UK orienteering clubs specifically formed to be highly competitive haven't managed to last long.

Having said that, since the earliest days HH runners have run for the South East, England, Wales, Ireland and Great Britain at all levels - junior, elite and senior - as well as going on domestic and foreign tours and training camps. We have also had throughout our existence regional and national champions (individual and team), with one World Champion - Val Challacombe (Sprint in 2011) - not forgetting former member Quentin Harding (Sprint *and* Long World Champion in 2012).

We have had local, regional and national coaches (making major contributions to tours and junior development as well), and local, regional, national and international controllers (up to and including the World Championships), as well as contributing at least our fair share of officers to support orienteering in the South East and nationally.



# Early events at Ashridge

David Rosen's first event was on 2 February 1969, at Ashridge.

The event was run by Southern Navigators, with Mac Gollifer planning and organising. The details said:

General We have permission to use the estate on condition that the National Trust Bye-laws are strictly observed and that we do not interfere with the pleasure of the public who use the estate. So please try not to splash mud over people exercising their dogs and don't frighten any horses you may meet.

Some tracks have become obliterated or altered and new ones have been cut. There are some new plantations not marked as out of bounds but they are very thick so please avoid them.

The results included these comments:

## Southern Navigators Ashridge Event - 2nd February 1969

This event was postponed from last year because of the foot and mouth outbreak and was then to have been a regional fixture. The policy is now to use any new area in the first instance for a national event so the senior courses were stretched and rearranged to be a little more difficult. It was hard to find orienteering problems as there were many tracks running in all directions and often the choice was between running round muddy tracks or direct through the undergrowth.

### COURSE I

M. Wells-Cole		R.M.O.C.	60.00
J. J. Thomson		R.M.O.C.	70.15
T. Walker		Nuts.	71.30
G. Bradshaw		Nottingham O.C.	71.50
T. Wale		O.O.	71.55
J. Disley		S.N.	72.15
G. Van Hee		O.D.	72.50
K. Parris		Southampton O.C.	73.15
P. Darling		S.G.S.	75.30
K.I. Evans		O.O.	76.10
B. Bullen	J.M.	C.H.	76.40
P. Simpson		Nuts.	76.40
R. Harvey		U.L.O.C.	76.50
J. Hackett	I.M.	R.M.A.S.	78.25
P. Watson	I.M.	Nottingham O.C.	78.25
C. Brasher		S.N.	79.10
R. Plumb	I.M.	C.H.	80.40
W.A.P. Barnhill		R.M.A.S.	80.45
T. Ottley	I.M.	U.L.O.C.	80.55
A. Shaw		O.O.	82.35

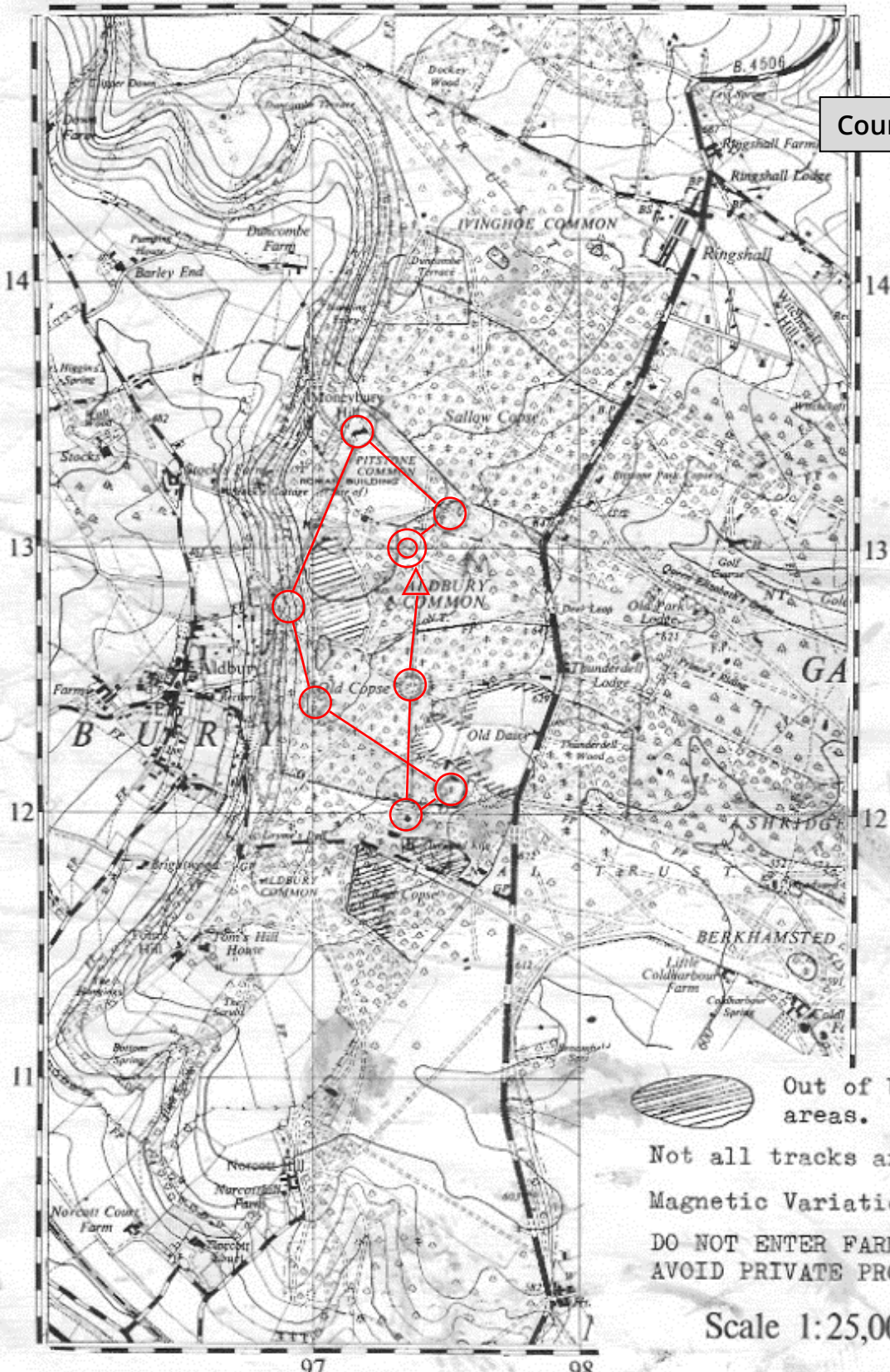
It was a *very* high-class field! Mike Wells-Cole and Jonathan Thomson were both Royal Marines who ran for GB in the World Championships. Mike was British Champion in 1969 and 1970; Jonathan held the Royal Marines mile record and was involved in the Falklands War of 1982. Tony Walker, Tony Wale, John Disley, Brian Bullen and Rik Plumb were also in World Champs teams between 1966 and 1976, as was Graham Wheeler, the Event Vetter (Controller). Andrew Shaw controlled our 1972 event at Burnham Beeches.

Lots of early events had team results as well (best four here), probably as a legacy from athletics.

### Team Event:


1. Occasional Orienteers	316.25
2. Royal Marines Orienteering Club	331.20
3. Octavian Droobers	336.55
4. Combined Harvesters	338.30
5. University of London O.C.	345.00
6. Reading O.C.	356.25
7. Royal Military Academy Sandhurst	357.10
8. Southern Navigators	368.50
9. Nottingham O.C.	432.45

SOUTHERN NAVIGATORS CLUB, ASHRIDGE EVENT, FEB. 2nd 1969



Course 3 of 4



 Out of bounds areas.

Not all tracks are shown  
Magnetic Variation 8°W  
DO NOT ENTER FARMLAND  
AVOID PRIVATE PROPERTY

Scale 1:25,000

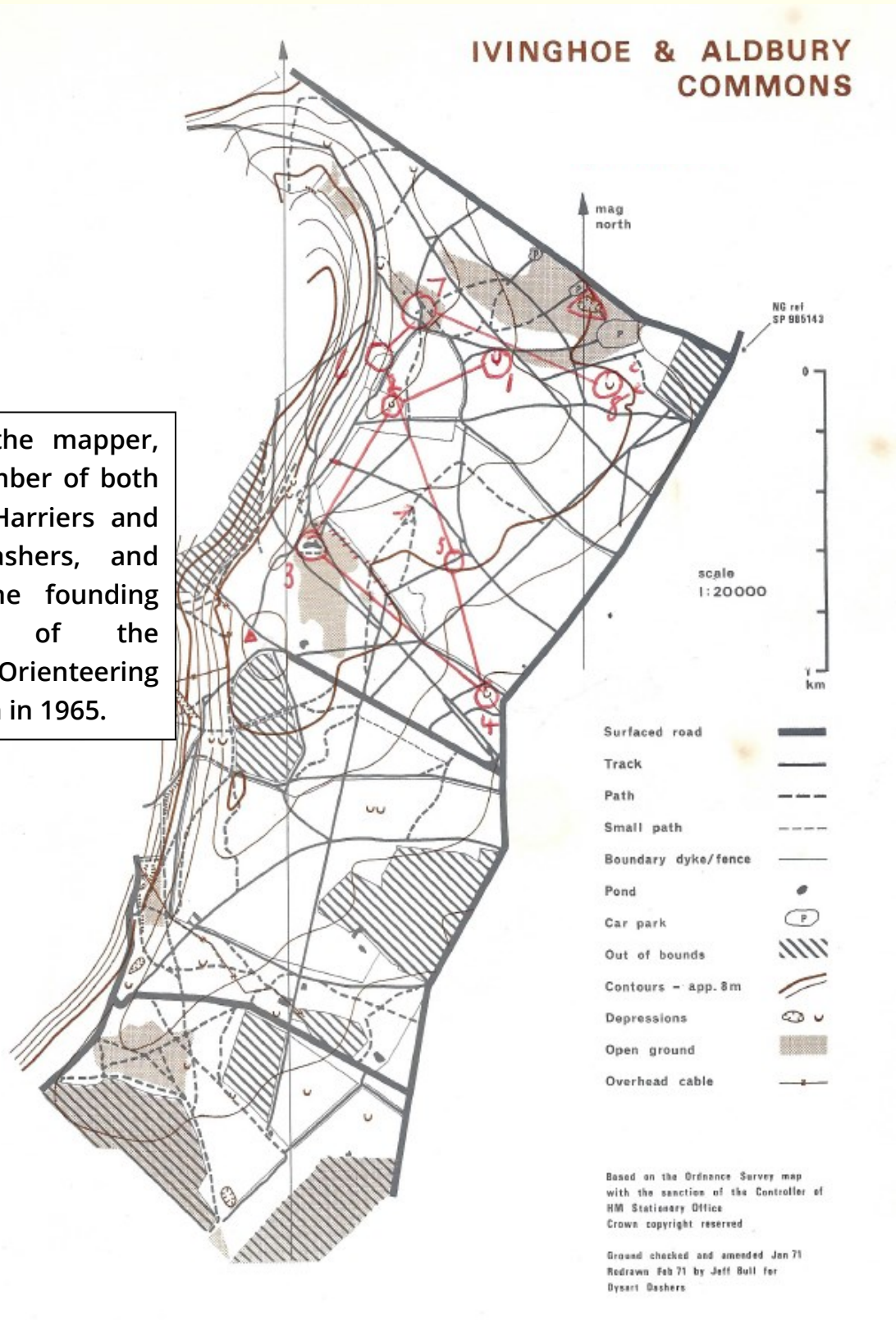
Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Map with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office. Crown Copyright reserved.





Two years later, the 1971 event at Ivinghoe & Aldbury was run by newly-formed LOK on a re-drawn map. The map corrections were added by competitors before starting. The Bridgewater Monument was a bit of a mapping omission – it was built in 1832. The contour interval of 'app. 8m' was because the contours would have been taken from the 2½ inch (1:25,000) OS base map which had a contour interval of 25 feet.

Jeff Bull, the mapper, was a member of both Ranelagh Harriers and Dysart Dashers, and one of the founding members of the Southern Orienteering Association in 1965.



---

## Orienteering in the UK – how did it start?

---

Orienteering started as military training in the then United Kingdom of Sweden and Norway. The first public event was near Oslo in October 1897. Early maps were black and white at 1:100,000 with hachure lines (shading) to show slopes.

By 1952 specially-drawn colour maps were appearing, with runners using liquid-filled Silva and Suunto baseplate compasses first developed in the 1930s.

The International Orienteering Federation was formed in 1961; Britain joined in 1967.

In Britain there was no single starting point for the sport. Chris Brasher (1956 Olympic Gold medallist in the steeplechase) had written in the Observer in 1957: "I have just taken part, for the first time, in one of the best sports in the world. It is hard to know what to call it. The Norwegians call it 'orientation'....". John Disley (1952 Olympic Bronze medallist in the steeplechase and, importantly, Physical Education Officer for Surrey in the early sixties) had been introduced to the sport in Sweden in 1953, and organised a race in 1955 at Plas y Brenin when he was Chief Instructor. Apparently one of the obstacles to the sport taking off at that time was that you had to buy a new OS map each time you took part – it was only when photocopiers such as the Xerox 914 became widely available that copying maps became feasible without great expense (you can tell that the technology was at an early stage as Xerox provided a small fire extinguisher with each copier...).

Orienteering had taken place as a school activity since at least the early 1960s, possibly earlier, and the first Scottish open event was in 1961. The first open event in England was in November 1963 and that led to the setting up of South Ribble OC in 1964. Activities in Lancashire and Scotland were often run by people with a mountaineering background, whereas those in the South were run by some very well-known ex-athletes, notably Chris Brasher, Roger Bannister (who Chris had paced on his epic sub-four-minute mile in 1954), John Disley, Gordon Pirie, Martin Hyman and Bruce Tulloh.

It tells us something about sport in the 1960s that Chris Brasher sought agreement from Harold Abraham (*Chariots of Fire*), then chairman of the Amateur Athletics Association, that athletes could compete in orienteering without prejudicing their amateur status, as long as there were no money prizes.

The Dysart Arms pub in Richmond, London, was just round the corner from Chris Brasher's house (appropriately called The Navigator's House, previously occupied by 18<sup>th</sup> century naval officer and explorer George Vancouver). Some of the foundations of English orienteering were laid there by Chris Brasher, John Disley and Peter Palmer in 1965, as well as being the venue for South East Orienteering Association meetings for many years.

Peter Palmer planned and John Disley vetted (controlled) the first English Champs in Hindhead in 1966 with the first British Junior Champs organised and planned in 1967 by Peter Palmer in the Forest of Dean.

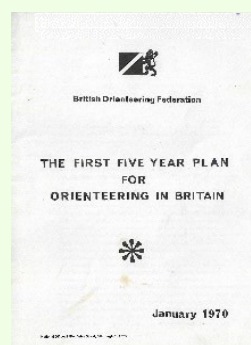
The British Orienteering Federation was created in 1967 so that a team could be sent to the World Championships. In the same year, the first Jan Kjellström Festival was held in memory of Jan (son of one of the brothers who founded Silva compasses) who had come to Britain to help develop competitions, coaching and mapping, and the first British Champs were held in Hamsterley Forest, won by Carol McNeill and Martin Hyman.



British Orienteering Federation - First Logo

*First BOF logo:  
source BOF website*

BOF's first Five Year Plan was produced in January 1970 and showed that the South East was the largest of the nine regions with about 25% of the national membership (353/1490 members, 16/65 clubs). The Plan promoted school development, improving mapping standards, developing coaching at all levels, and aiming to host the 1976 World Championships.



In 1974 the updated Plan stressed the need for 'consolidation and improvement of the already established practices', especially recruiting and retaining orienteers, organising good numbers of local fixtures, promoting permanent courses (there were just 6 in existence at the time), establishing a Coaching Award scheme, supporting both elite development and promoting orienteering as a 'sport for all ages and levels of ability, including via schools and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

The Plan also noted cryptically that there was a need to ensure that 'courses are of the correct length and difficulty for the age group in question', and (much later) this led to the development of the concepts of Technical Difficulty 1-5 and Physical Difficulty 1-5.

By the end of the Sixties and early Seventies, not only were the structures in place for orienteering to function as a national sport (rules, fixtures co-ordination, club/regional/national communication channels etc) but there was recognition by the government that promoting sport was a Good Thing. Roger Bannister, as chair of the Sports Council, was very influential in the 'Sport for All' movement, so sports which didn't just focus on the elite were definitely in vogue. Funds became available to increase participation as well as to support elite teams.

As with other sports, the respective roles and responsibilities of the National Governing Body, the regions, the clubs and the members took a long time to be established. Orienteering has moved forward partly through initiatives driven by the centre, but just as importantly with individuals and clubs experimenting and innovating. Even the sport's rules are not just drawn up by a remote committee and then set in stone; they are the distillation of thousands of events, where Murphy's Law has been repeatedly proved to be correct: "whatever can go wrong, will go wrong" - many rules are (rightly) there to prevent us repeating issues from past events.

## What did the Victorians ever do for us?

**Epping Forest** (HH events 1970-1974) has been owned and managed by the City of London Corporation since 1878 when the Epping Forest Act protected it in perpetuity for the 'recreation and enjoyment of visitors'. The Corporation traces its origins back to 1111 and governs the City's 'square mile'. It describes itself as the world's oldest continuously-elected democracy and predates Parliament.

**Burnham Beeches** (HH events 1972-now) was up for sale as "land suitable for the erection of superior residences", so it was bought by the City of London Corporation in 1880 to protect it as a public open space and wildlife reserve.

Both of these acquisitions came about largely because many areas which had been common land for hundreds of years were in danger of going into private ownership and being enclosed – it was a potentially rich source of income for the government at the time. Fortunately for us, the City of London's Open Spaces Act (1878) allows access on foot to all areas of the City's open spaces, by all persons at all times.

**Hampstead Heath** (HH event 1976) was suffering from uncontrolled sand excavation and the potential for housing development when, in 1871, East Heath, Sandy Heath and West Heath were sold to the Metropolitan Board of Works. The Hampstead Heath Act in 1871 provided that 'the Board shall forever keep the Heath open, unenclosed and unbuilt on' and that 'the Board shall at all times preserve, as far as may be, the natural aspect and state of the Heath, and to that end shall protect the turf, gorse, heather, timber and other trees, shrubs and brushwood thereon'. The City of London Corporation became the 'guardian' of the Heath in 1989.

**Ashridge** (HH events 1978-now) was not saved by the Victorians but by the National Trust in the 1920s when the Brownlow Estate, including the house, was broken up. For £40,000 the NT purchased 4,000 acres. The house, which had previously been a royal residence housing Princess Elizabeth in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, became the Bonar Law College for training Conservative candidates, a hospital during WWII as part of Charing Cross Hospital, a finishing school for young ladies and, from 1959, an International Management/Business College (now offering 'Executive Education'). During the Victorian era, Lord Brownlow was employing 800 people on the estate. Red and fallow deer were managed as well as St Kilda sheep, white Angora goats, and pheasants for shooting.



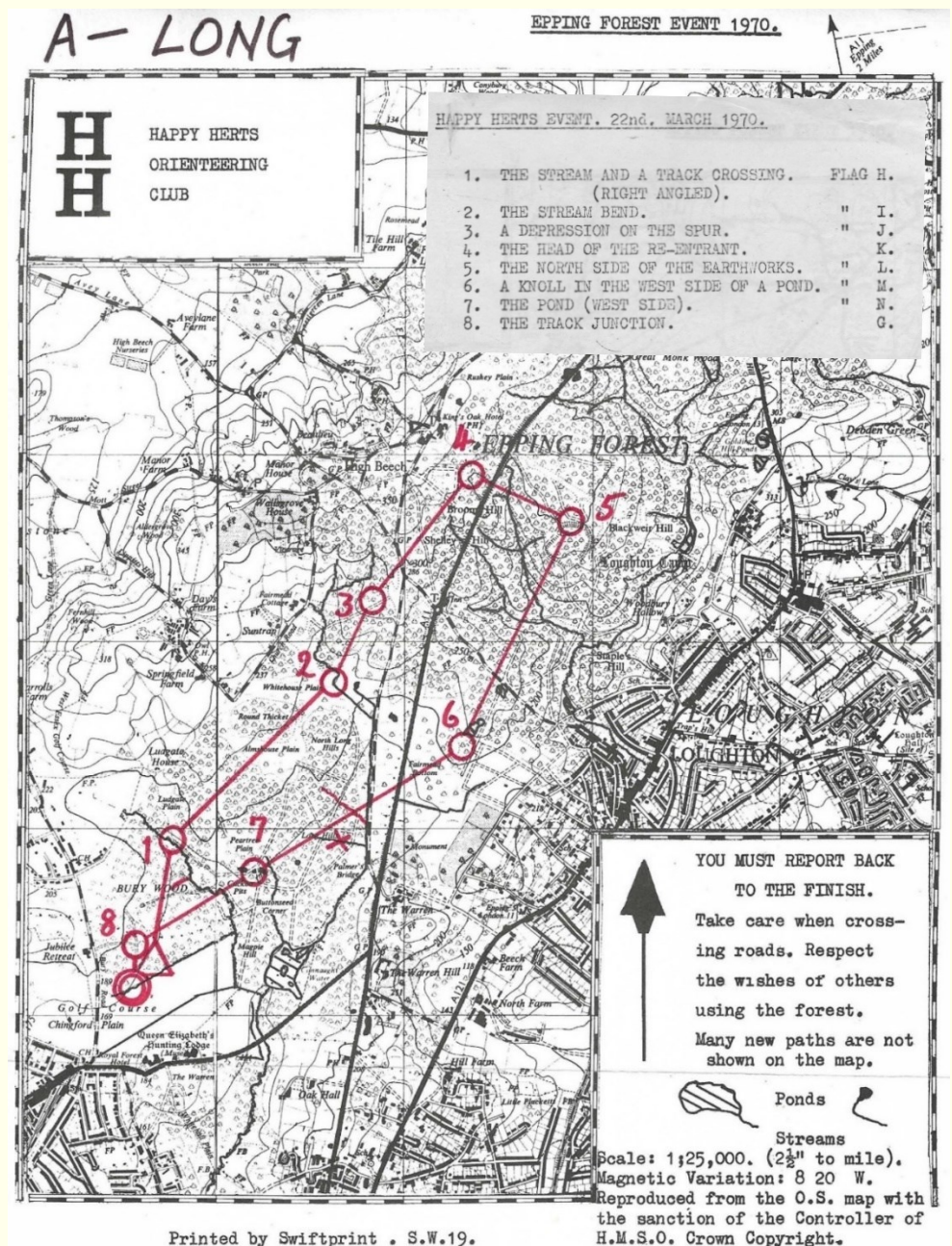
1970

## Bury Wood, March 1970

The first HH event that we have records of was on 22 March 1970, held at Bury Wood in the SW of Epping Forest. There were three courses, approximately 3, 5 and 8km long. The details warned that it 'could be damp underfoot'.

The 8km course was won in 53:30; only eight of the 40 runners had times with seconds included on the results. Chris Brasher was second, running for SN, David Rosen was fifth for HH. Tim Pribul of CHIG (controller of our 2020 event at Burnham Beeches & Egypt Woods) won the medium course by seven minutes - but as his time was faster than the winner of the short course it must have confused the person typing up the results; all the medium runners are shown under the short course heading and vice versa! In all there were just over 100 runners, some in pairs or threes. The event made a loss of £6 (income £15, expenditure £21).

Note the codes of the control flags, and the mixture of definite and indefinite descriptions (eg *A knoll in the west side of a pond*) showing which control features were and were not on the map.

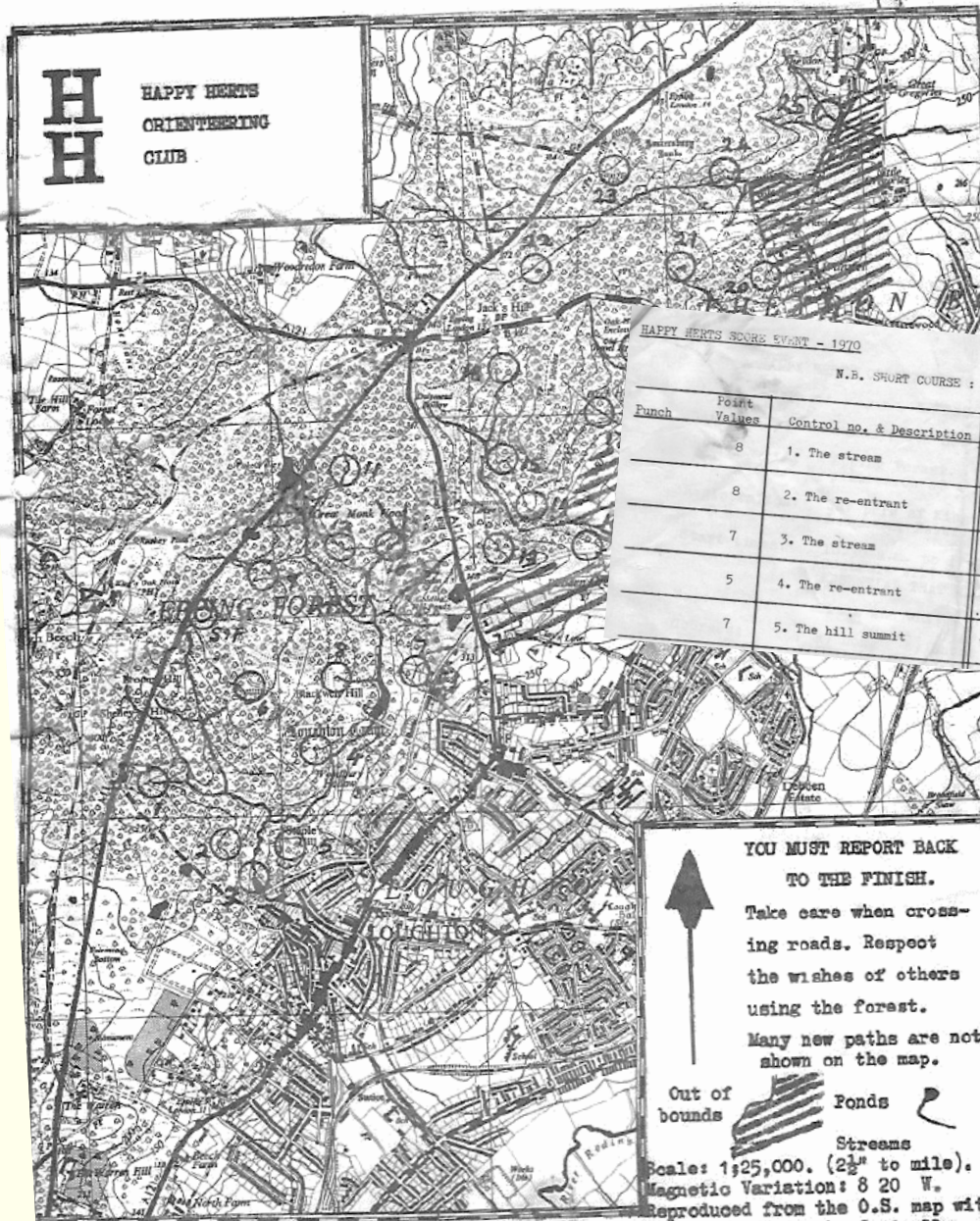




# Epping, October 1970

On 4 October 1970 we ran a score event on the same area in Epping Forest. There were two courses: Long (90 minutes) and Short (60 minutes). The controls had all sorts of points values: 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 20 points. The winner, Robin Harvey (who went on with Sue Harvey to draw the maps for the 1976 World Champs and set up Harveys Maps) had a net score of 224 points. At the other end of the list, in 94<sup>th</sup> place, was someone who had -564 points having been out for over three hours and who only managed to accrue 24 points from controls (with -588 penalty points), but good luck to them! The event made a profit of £3.59 on income of £26, the maps costing around £10.

EPPING FOREST EVENT 1970.





HAPPY HEARTS SCORE EVENT - 1970


N.B. SHORT COURSE : CONTROLS 1 TO 12 ONLY

Punch	Point Values	Control no. & Description	Control no. & Description	Point Values	Punch
	8	1. The stream	13. The niche	10	
	8	2. The re-entrant	14. The spur	10	
	7	3. The stream	15. The pulpit	11	✓
	5	4. The re-entrant	16. The track (N side)	14	
	7	5. The hill summit	17. The boundary (bank)	15	✓

**YOU MUST REPORT BACK TO THE FINISH.**

Take care when crossing roads. Respect the wishes of others using the forest. Many new paths are not shown on the map.

Out of bounds  Ponds 

Streams 

Scale: 1:25,000. (2 1/2" to mile).  
Magnetic Variation: 8 20 W.  
Reproduced from the O.S. map with the sanction of the Controller of H.M.S.O. Crown Copyright.

Printed by Swiftprint . S.W.19.



## HAPPY HERTS EPPING FOREST EVENT - OCT 4TH

### Controller's comments

A successful day! 166 participants is no mean achievement for an event just this side of London, and most of the competitors seemed to have enjoyed the unusual freedom of movement that Epping Forest affords, with its lack of really dense undergrowth. Certainly, it was as dry underfoot as I've ever seen it.

The brunt of the work was accomplished by Alan Nuttall and Jerry Caldicott, who as organisers, fully deserve the praise that is all too often omitted when assessing the day's results. Their course setting, in particular, drew favourable comment from the experts, for this was a score event where even the elite had to decide which controls to omit. It was also interesting to find, that in this type of event, quite a few orienteers quickly abandoned looking for a control which was not easily located, to go on to the next one instead.

In this respect, no one particular control seemed to prove outstandingly difficult, although on the Long Course, some found the featureless and overgrown aspect of "22" a problem; while the path on the map which is now overgrown misled others looking for "15"; "13" was made a little more confusing by the presence of other niches in the vicinity; "16" was definitely BY, as stated (but not ON) the track; while the assortment of untrapped "bumps" around "18" was definitely off-putting.

In fact, for most of us, this was the first occasion we'd used a copy of an O.S. map in quite a long time, and the experience drew forth a sudden realisation of what a good job is done by our orienteering map-makers. Yet, strange to relate, many of the old-timers found this step back into the past pleasantly reminiscent.

A particularly pleasing point, in view of our lack of land, and the apparent over-use of what we have, was the surprising number of really bad "clangers that were dropped" by those who thought they know the Forest well. In my case (as in others, I suspect), familiarity breeds contempt (for established routine navigational precautions), for I too went completely astray, on the day, while checking the course!

Ron Russell

### Comments from the organisers

We hope everyone enjoyed themselves last Sunday. We were certainly lucky with the weather - some rain fell shortly after the last control was taken in!

Our work-load was considerably lightened due to the valiant efforts made by Bob Griffith, Ed Broom, Bernard and Ann Williams, Linda Nuttall, Maureen Martin, David and Alan Rosen, Audrey Stokes and Michael Fox. Most of our helpers also found time to run round one or other of the courses too, so they must have slept particularly well on Sunday night.

We are particularly grateful to Ron Russell, our course controller, who spent a considerable amount of his leisure time in helping us set and run the event, and to Joyce Freeman who organised all the typing and duplicating work involved.

The courses were designed so that two Sunday hats would have been eaten should anyone have found all the controls within the allotted time period. Nob dy did, so the "Alka-Seltzer" bottle seal remained unbroken.

We were delighted that so many novices turned up. We hope that they won't feel in any way disappointed should they have incurred heavy penalties. Score events are not quite so suitable for newcomers to the sport as are cross-country events, for there are several more factors involved in making decisions.

We particularly admire one participant who had the misfortune to lose his spectacles but, despite this, found his way to the finish!

We look forward to seeing all 166 of you at our next event.  
Alan Nuttall and Jerry Caldicott



## Master Maps

At your start time, for all but the most important events, you ran to map boards and copied down your course as quickly and accurately as you could, and then put your map in a plastic bag before setting off. In bad weather, your map was in danger of disintegrating as you drew the course, and your pen may not have wanted to write on wet paper.



Chinagraph/wax pencils, normally red, were used by those who had, prior to the start, covered their map in clear sticky-back plastic (Transpaseal or Fablon) – see example on page 22.



It was only in the 1970s with the introduction of an overprinting machine that courses could be pre-printed by hand by club members; the machine had rubber circles, numbers and lines which had to be aligned (back to front) before printing the course on the map. Here's an example from Ruislip Woods. The printed maps were then put in plastic bags which, sometimes, were sealed by a heat-sealing machine. Paradoxically, that then required the bag to be pricked with a pin to let the trapped air out.

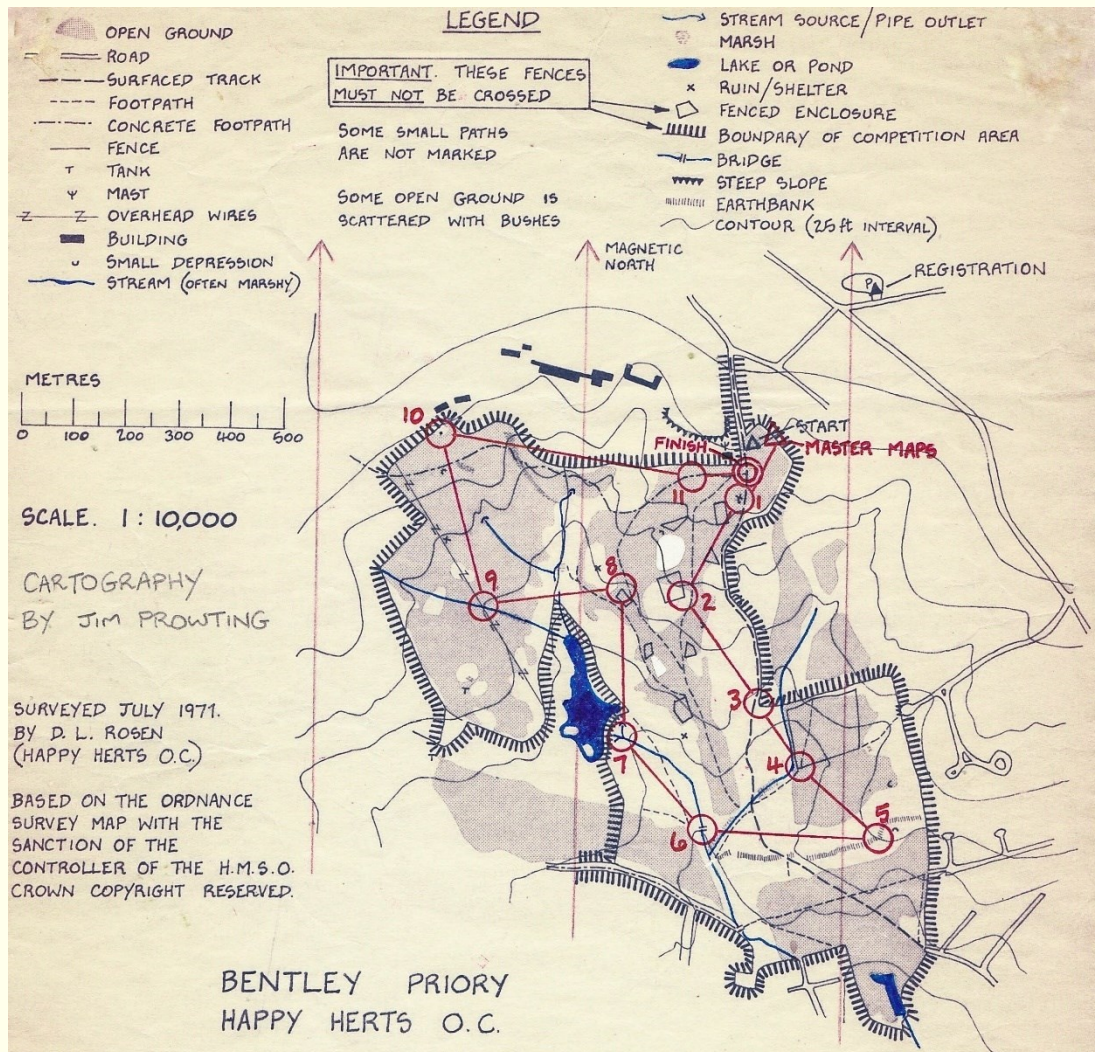




1971

## Bentley Priory, October 1971

3 October 1971 saw a 'Come and Try It' event at Bentley Priory, Stanmore, with a map surveyed by David Rosen and drawn by Jim Prowting - the blue lakes and streams and grid lines were coloured in by hand.



HAPPY HERTS ORIENTEERING CLUB. "COME-AND-TRY-IT-EVENT".

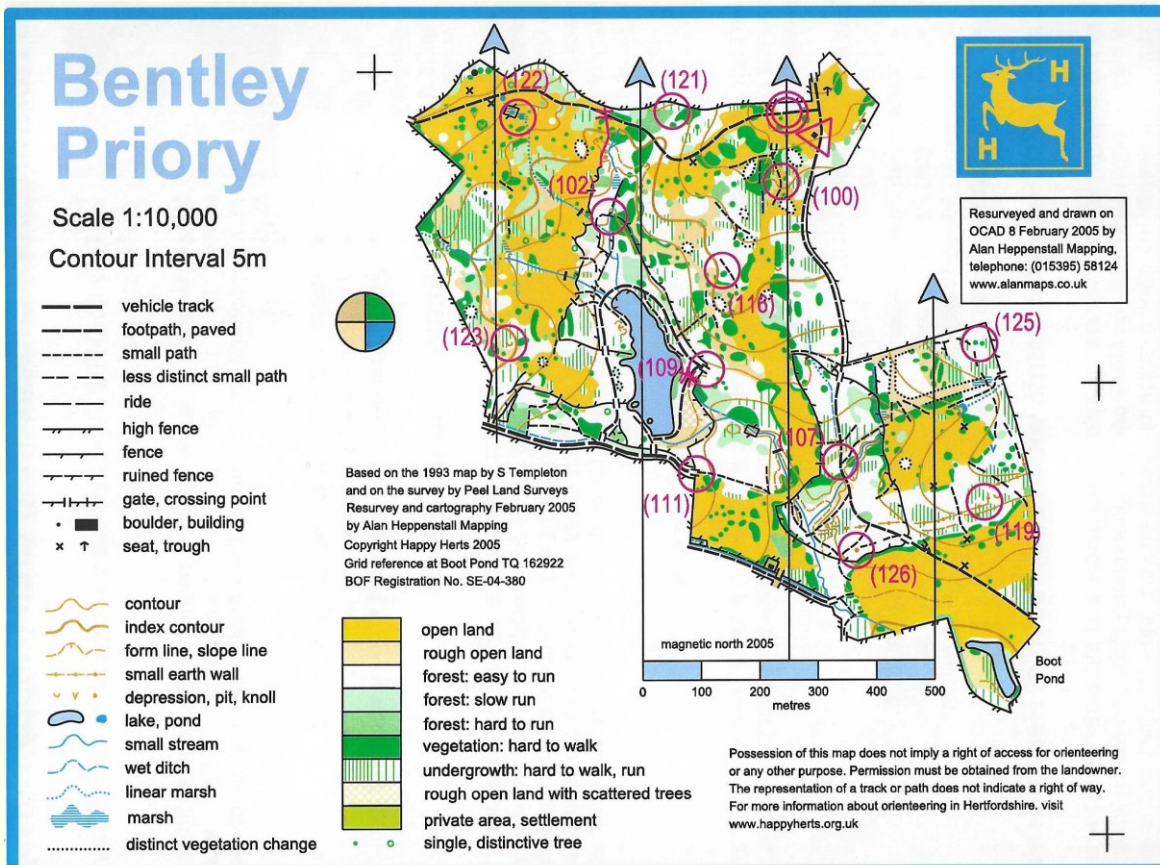
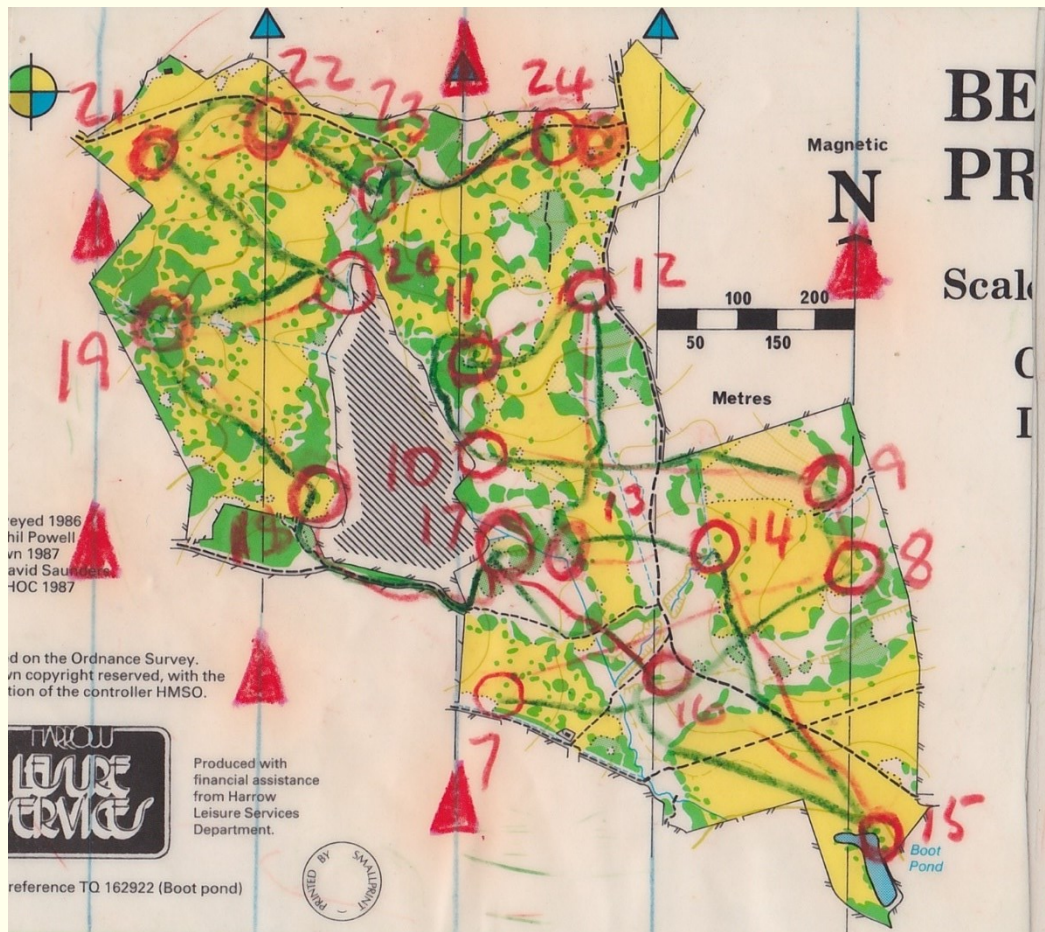
6th OCTOBER, 1971.

To all of you who turned up on Sunday October 3rd thank you very much for coming. Thanks are also due to the London Borough of Harrow for permission to use Bentley Priory. It was very gratifying for our club members who did the organizing to be rewarded with lots of interested participants. There were 80 people of all ages and they formed approximately 50 official entries. The event was planned mainly for beginners and for this reason the courses were laid out simply. To the experienced people who found the course too easy I hope you found your compensation in the other aspects of orienteering you learnt about: namely--regional and club membership, orienteering for schools, orienteering publications and the uses of small pieces of land for orienteering.

Michael R. Fox.  
(Secretary).



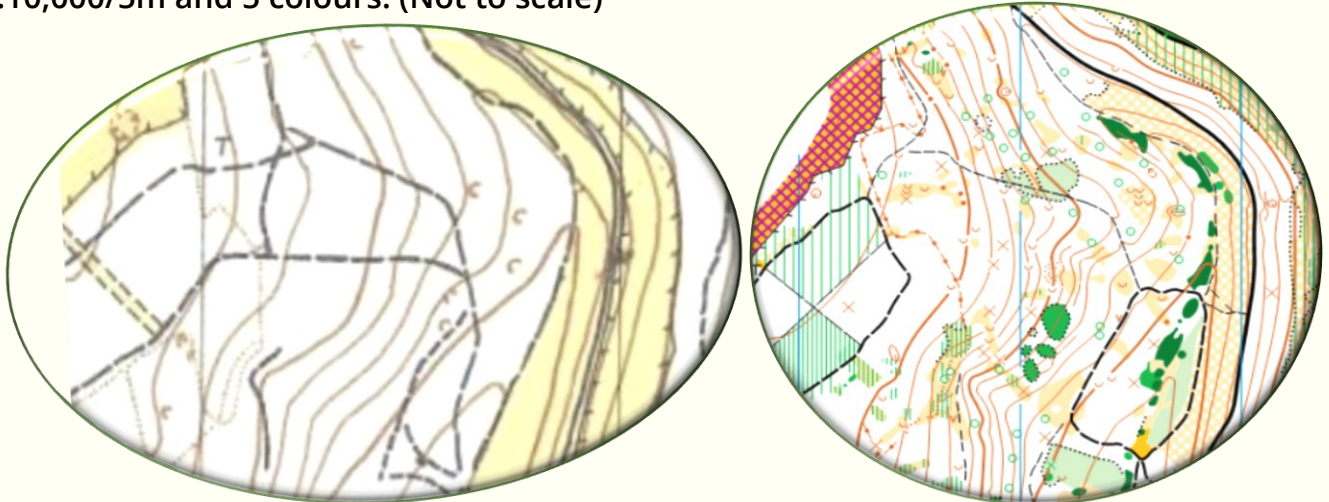
We used Bentley Priory (and adjacent Stanmore Common) regularly up until 2006. The 1987 and 2005 Bentley Priory maps are shown below for comparison.



**Maps** The earliest maps were photocopies of OS maps, often at a scale of 1:25,000 (2½ inches to the mile). As more maps were drawn by orienteers the scale became 1:20,000 and 1:15,000, and sometimes even 1:10,560 or 1:16,666. Geoff Peck (five-times British Champion) produced the UK's first specialist 1:20,000 orienteering map for the 1969 British Championships at Kirroughtree Forest in Scotland. Club orienteers were now producing a wide range of local maps in different scales and styles and a BOF Mapping Committee was set up to standardize map legends and symbols. By the end of 1970 it was unusual to use OS maps, and 3, 4 and 5-colour maps drawn specially for the event became the norm.

OS map extracts for events used grid north whereas our compasses obviously align to magnetic north (just to complicate matters, grid north is slightly different from true north as well). In 1970 the variation (or declination) between grid and magnetic norths in the UK was around 8° West, so using a compass and O-map involved adding or subtracting 8° before setting off [Grid has fewer letters than Magnetic so if you take a bearing from a map using *grid* north, add 8° to get the *magnetic* bearing; subtract if going from magnetic to grid, eg if you've taken a bearing on a distant feature and want to locate it on the map]. At present (2020), the magnetic declination is close to 0° in the UK so this is only relevant if using (non-O) maps abroad which aren't orientated to magnetic north.

Here is a March 1970 map of part of TVOC's Hambleden, recently used for the 2020 British Night Champs and Chiltern Challenge. The 1970 map was 1:20,000 with 10m contours, only used three colours, and the depressions all point downhill. The 2020 map is 1:10,000/5m and 5 colours. (Not to scale)



In more recent times we have shifted towards 1:10,000 and 1:7,500, and even 1:3/4/5,000 for urban areas, which reflects the vast amount of detail that we now expect to put on maps as much as our failing eyesight(!).

The first International Specification for Orienteering Maps (ISOM) was produced in 1969 by the IOF with the aim of providing consistency especially in international races, and has been followed by equivalents for Ski-O, Mountain Bike-O and Sprint Orienteering.

It was only in 1975 that three standard shades of green were introduced for runnability in vegetation.

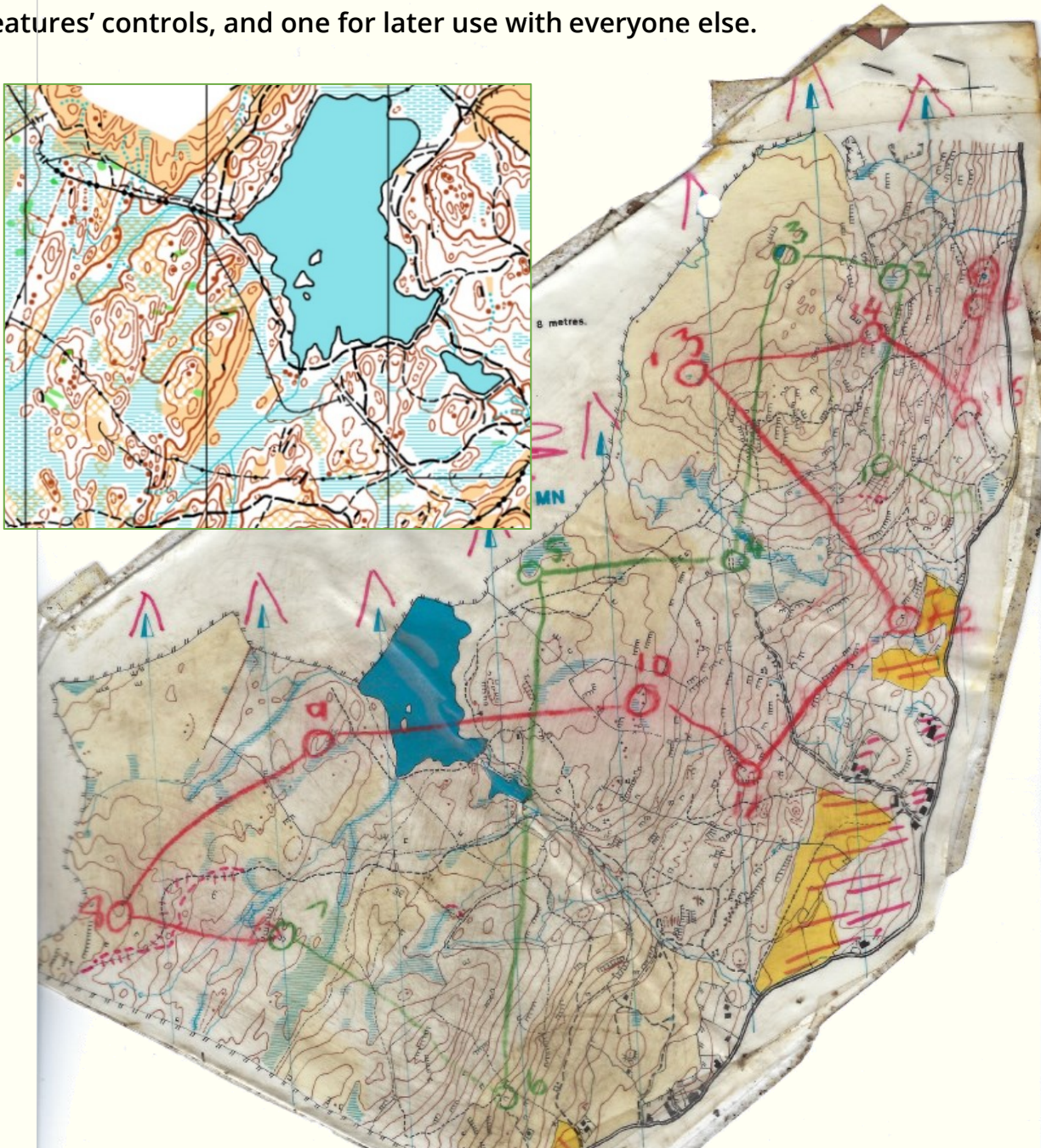


David Rosen's transpasealed map of High Dam, December 1971, with an extract from the 2017 British Champs map - can you find the feature for control 9 on the new map?

Note:

- Map corrections
- The use of two colours of chinagraph pencil as there were second master maps at control 7
- Emphasis of the top of the map and (magnetic) north lines as it helped re-orientate the non-rectangular piece of paper quickly while running.

The fantastic amount of detail on the 2017 map makes it quite a different sport in some ways; these days the IOF are rigorous about ensuring that World Champs and World Cup maps generalise areas significantly more than we would expect as 'normal' orienteers, and sometimes two maps are produced for an area - one for the elite designed for speed and not allowing 'hunt for the tiny feature amongst lots of tiny features' controls, and one for later use with everyone else.



1972

At the club AGM in September 1972 it was reported that the club was in credit, with around £17, and plans were proceeding well with Burnham Beeches, our first major event. It was agreed that the secretary should also be the treasurer, that no elected club chair was required, and that the club funds were not sufficient to merit opening up a bank account (which didn't happen until 1978).

## Burnham Beeches, October 1972

### HAPPY HERTS BADGE EVENT      SUNDAY 8th OCTOBER 1972

The first event of the South East Galloppen And Club League

**VENUE:** Burnham Beeches, Bucks. Registration at 159/946844

**FEES:**      Over 19      30p  
                 Under19      15p      Entries on day only

**START TIMES:** 10.30 to 12.30      Courses close at 16.00  
Courses will use the new age groupings. M19 means men aged 19-20. Age as on 31st December 1972.

**MAP** 1:10,000 4 colour Grade 2 Drawn Nov 1971-Sept 1972 by Jim Prowting  
Some seasonal features such as marshes, streams, paths and also clearings are not shown on the map. There are 7 out of bounds areas WHICH MUST NOT BE ENTERED.

**RESULTS** Address an envelope at registration, and put 2½p in the box for postage. There will be a results ladder at registration.

<u>COURSES</u>				
A.	11.6km	19 controls	Norwegian MM	M21A M35
B.	8.4km	16 controls	2nd MM	M21B M43 M19 W19
C.	6.0km	13 controls	2nd MM	M50 M17 W35
D.	5.2km	12 controls	2nd MM	M15 W17 W43
E.	3.3km	9 controls		M13 W15 Novices
F.	2.2km	6 controls		M12 W12 Novices

The courses have been lengthened in order to bring the winning times closer to the BOF recommended times. The terrain is extremely fast and runnable; mainly open deciduous woodland. There are occasional bramble patches: leg protection advisable.

*Norwegian Master Maps* on course A meant that at the start only a few controls were divulged to the runners; at the last control of this section there were further master maps with the next few controls, etc (so don't drop your pen in the forest while running!). Sometimes there was a master map at every control just giving the location of the next one. This was to make best use of a relatively small area; these days electronic punching makes this unnecessary. For courses B-D there were second master maps part-way round.



The map was 'Grade 2' under a short-lived scheme to give runners an idea of how detailed the mapping was, given that maps could be missing quite significant details, and might also show features which didn't necessarily exist at the time of the event. The lowest grading was something like 'Everything on the map is on the ground', the highest grade was something like 'Everything on the ground is on the map'(!)...but the details are lost in the mists of time.

Here is the base map which mapper Jim Prowting used in 1972.





IT IS FORBIDDEN  
TO CROSS FENCES,  
MARKED AS  
UNCROSSABLE

# BURNHAM BEECHES

## LEGEND

- SURFACED ROAD
- - - UNSURFACED ROAD
- - - TRACK
- - - FOOTPATH (WELL DEFINED)
- - - SMALL OR POORLY DEFINED FOOTPATH
- FENCE (CROSSABLE)
- - - FENCE (UNCROSSABLE)
- - - CONTOURS (INTERVAL 8m)
- - - FORM LINE
- - - STEEP SLOPE OR EMBANKMENT
- - - PREHISTORIC EARTHWORKS CONSISTING OF 2 LOW PARALLEL BANKS WITH A DIP BETWEEN ABOUT 10m ACROSS
- - - EARTH BANK OR DITCH AND BANK: MORE THAN 0.5m
- - - LESS THAN 0.5m
- - - STREAM
- - - SEASONAL STREAM OR DITCH
- ☐ QUARRY
- LARGE DEPRESSION OR PIT
- ∇ SMALL DEPRESSION OR NICHE
- KNOLL
- ∩ GULLY
- ▨ MARSH
- ▨ UNCROSSABLE MARSH
- ▨ POND
- ▨ BUILDING OR SHELTER
- ▨ FOUNDATION
- ▨ BRIDGE
- ▨ OPEN GROUND AND OPEN

PRINTED BY SWIFTPRINT

EXTENSIVELY RESURVEYED  
AND DRAWN BY J.E. PROWING  
NOV 71 - SEPT 72

SCALE 1:10000

NOTE: SOME SEASONAL PATHS ARE NOT MARKED.

Much of the text is hand written as the alternative was to use Letraset (and Jim has neat handwriting). There was a small panic when the maps came back from the printers as they had forgotten to print the yellow. Fortunately, there was just enough time to get a new print run.

The map above is Hedley Calderbank's, then running for Birmingham University OC; he came a creditable 26<sup>th</sup> out of 134 on course B. Hedley says, "I recall it as a pleasure to run through open beech woodland rather than some of the areas in the Midlands."

The event had a total of 595 runners and was the biggest event ever to have taken place in the south east apart perhaps from regional championships.

The winners' time on the six courses were probably not so different from those in 2020 but what is different is the time taken by the 'tail' on each course. Whereas now it is not so common for many runners to take much over double the winning time, in 1972 there were more people taking up to and over three hours on relatively short courses - probably more to do with their technique than fitness?

We hope you all enjoyed the event - it ran exceptionally smoothly, considering the number of problems that we came across. The event was originally planned for December 5th 1971, but due to the short notice given to us, the map was not ready, and the event was postponed. Since then Jim Prowting has been spending most of his spare time in the forest, the result of which was the excellent map. The course setting also had its problems, the main difficulties being the comparative smallness of the land, and the abundance of paths, which despite the many features, meant that path running was difficult to avoid. We tried to adhere to the BOF recommended winning times and certainly on the A course, it was only Mike Murray who upset this. Winning times for the other courses were a bit more difficult to judge beforehand, especially when 'some people' decide to run two courses lower than usual.

Many thanks to all members of Happy Herts who put in a lot of hard work both before and on the day, and also to many others who gave a hand when it was needed. Apologies for the mistakes and inconsistencies in these results; at least you have not had to wait too long for them. All times have been double checked, but if you are sure that your result is wildly inaccurate, please contact us within 10 days so that if necessary, it can be changed before being sent to the National Statistician.

The car park had to be changed at very short notice as the original area would have required high car parking fees. The field was found, and we were given every help by Mr Butler the owner, and his assistant.

Land permission was obtained from Mr Qvist, for which we are extremely grateful. Also thanks to his wardens who were always most helpful.

Finally our thanks to the weather for holding off until Monday morning, and keeping the temperature down far enough to make Orienteering a pleasure.

Alan & David Rosen

PROVISIONAL ACCOUNTS		PROVISIONAL ACCOUNTS	
Income		Expenditure	
£152.40	Entries + map sales	£3.02	Poster board & hardboard
£ 5.85	Results postage	£2.22	Postage before event
<u>£158.25</u>		£5.85	Results postage
		£1.49	Envelopes
		£6.25	Duplicating
		£9.83	Paper
		£1.00	Stencils
		£2.38	Miscellaneous (Pins, String
		£1.56	Orange Juice c.t.c)
		£2.04	Cups
		£11.35	Equipment Hire
		£3.50	Lost Equipment
		<u>£51.27</u>	Organisers Expenses £51.27
		£16.50	Map Printing
		£12.32	Drawing Expenses
		£20.00	Mappers Expenses
		<u>£43.82</u>	Mapping Expenses £48.82
			Controllers Expenses £2.00
			Hire of field £3.50
			OS Map Levy £1.00
			BOF Levy (595) £41.40
			<u>£147.99</u>
			Surplus provisionally £10.26
			<u>£158.25</u>

P.S. A note about the BOF levy:  
On the last 95 people, we are paying a levy of 12p per person. This means that we were making a definite loss on some under 19s,

COURSE A RESULTS				
NAME	CLUB	TIME	M21A	M35
1. M. Murray	OKN	1.08.55	1	
2. T. Wale	OO	1.13.07	2	
3. R. Plumb	CH	1.15.26	3	
4. G. Wheeler	TV	1.15.30	4	
5. M. Wells-Cole	OKN	1.19.07	5	
6. T. Goffe	SN	1.19.07	5	
7. A. Barnes	CH	1.19.25	7	
8. T. Ferd	CH	1.20.34	8	
9. M. Roach	OO	1.21.55	9	
10. J. Hague	ROC	1.23.33	10	



Honourable mention should be made of Mike Murray who has an enviable record at Burnham Beeches and in 1972 was the British Champion at Mark Ash Wood in the New Forest.

Running for OK Nutfielders (aka OKNuts) in 1972 (Nutfield is in Surrey), he won the M21 course in 68:55 with a 4-minute lead over Tony Wale of OO.

Since then, running for SLOW, Mike has won his class at Burnham and Egypt Woods many times (including in 1972, 1973, 1986, 1989, 1998, 2002, 2003, 2007, 2010, 2013, 2018 and most recently in M75 in 2020, and probably several times between 1973 and 1986 as well). In 2006 he came 2<sup>nd</sup> by 1 second.



START 1972

Monty Rosen blowing the starter's whistle at Burnham Beeches, HH badge on shirt.



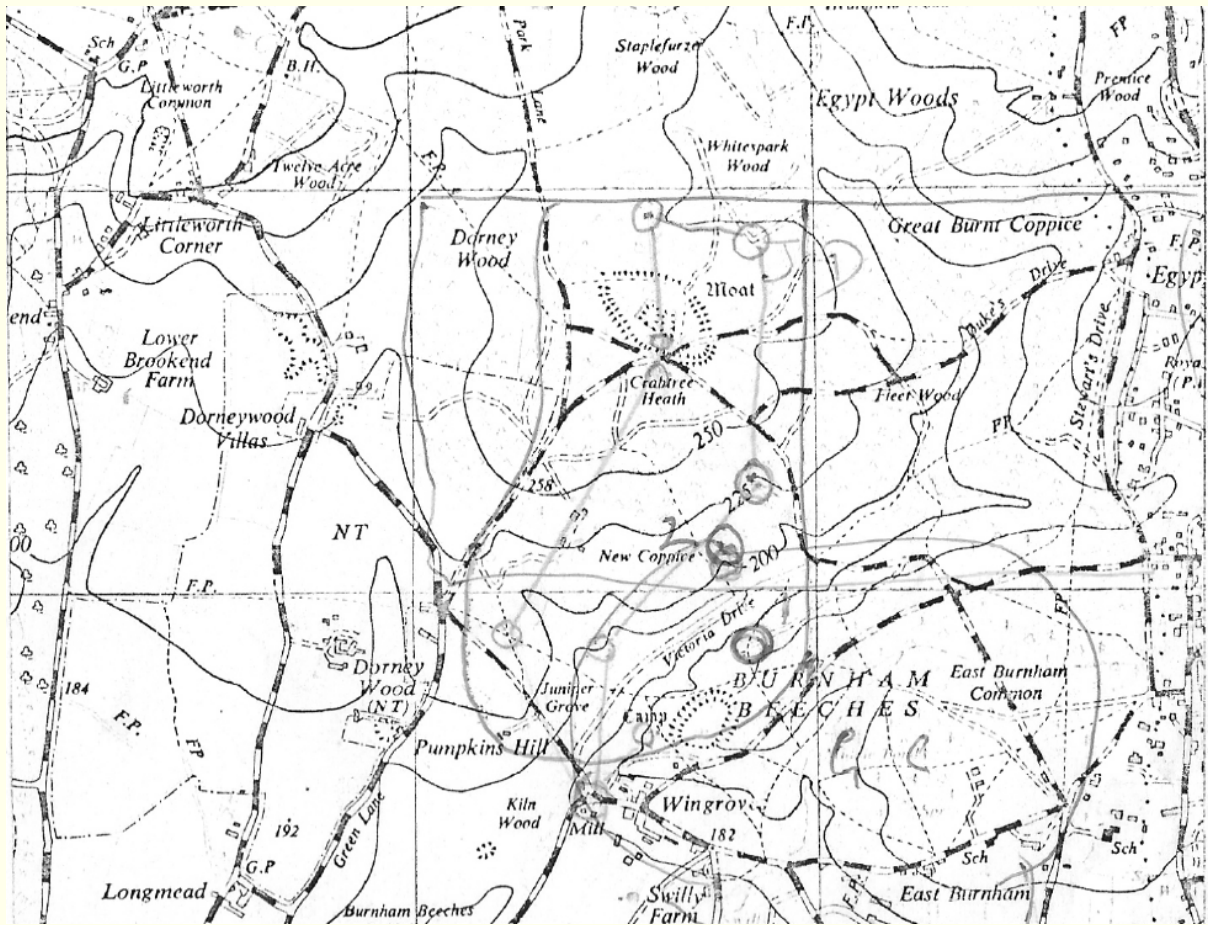
FINISH 1972

Des Waite handing the raffle ticket to the runner finishing.

Cliff Birch is on the left.



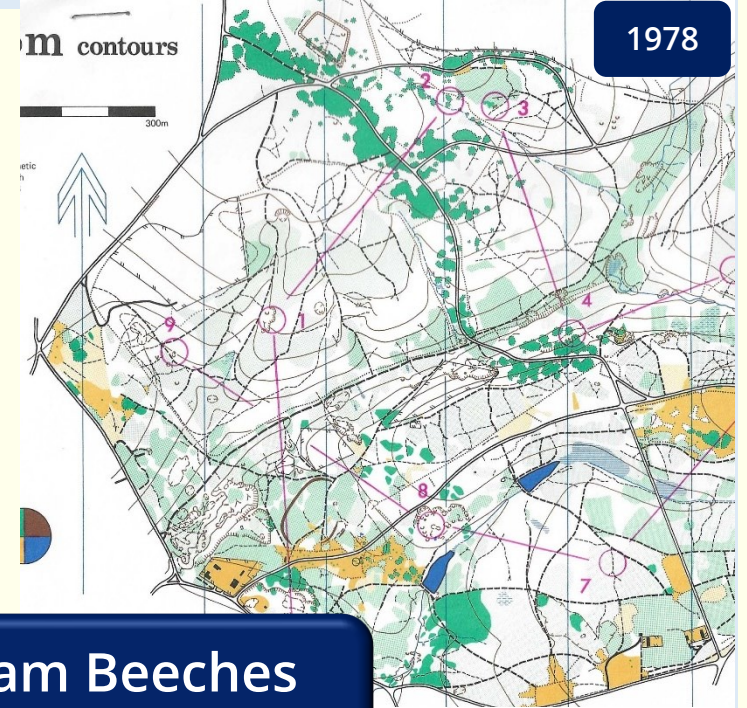
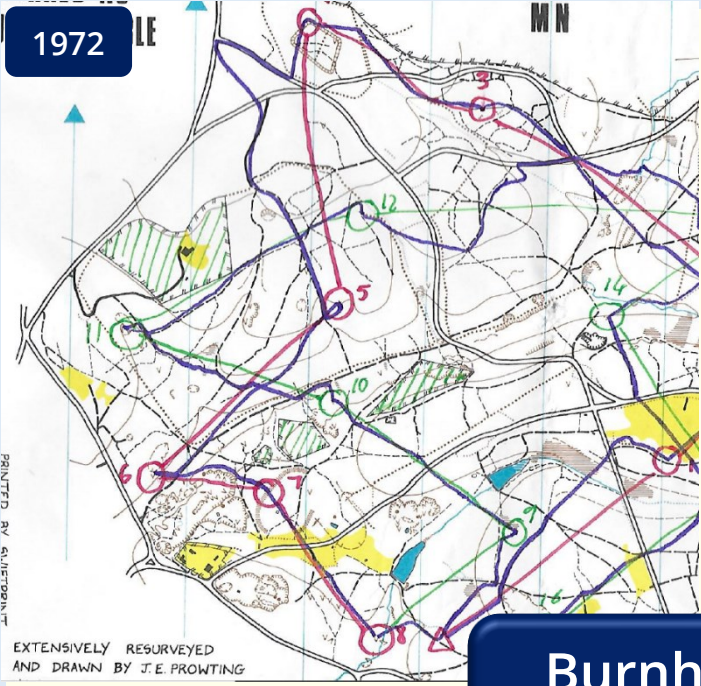
Burnham Beeches had previously been used in 1968 for a 'Setters and Vettors' course (ie Planners and Controllers) based at nearby Bisham Abbey and run by John Disley and Gerry Charnley. They had a 4km course with 7 controls. [Thanks to BKO for this]



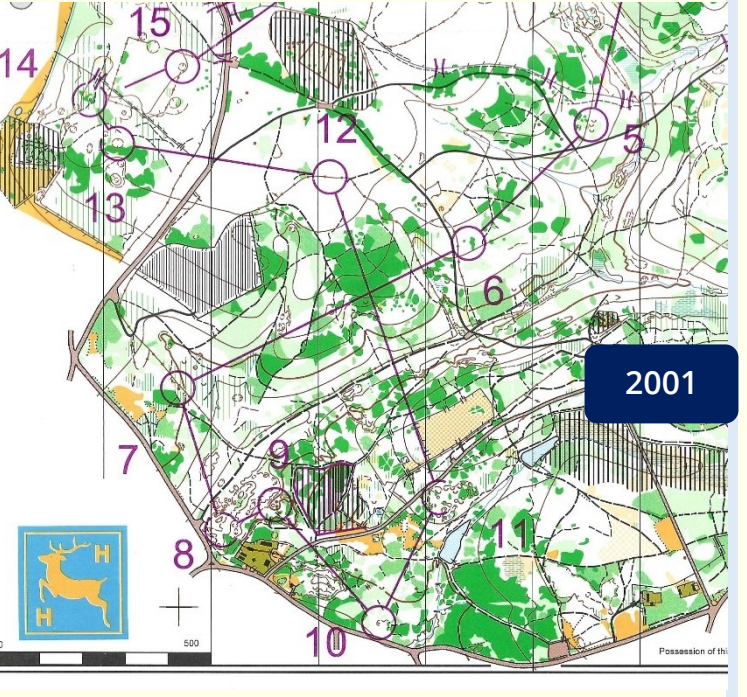
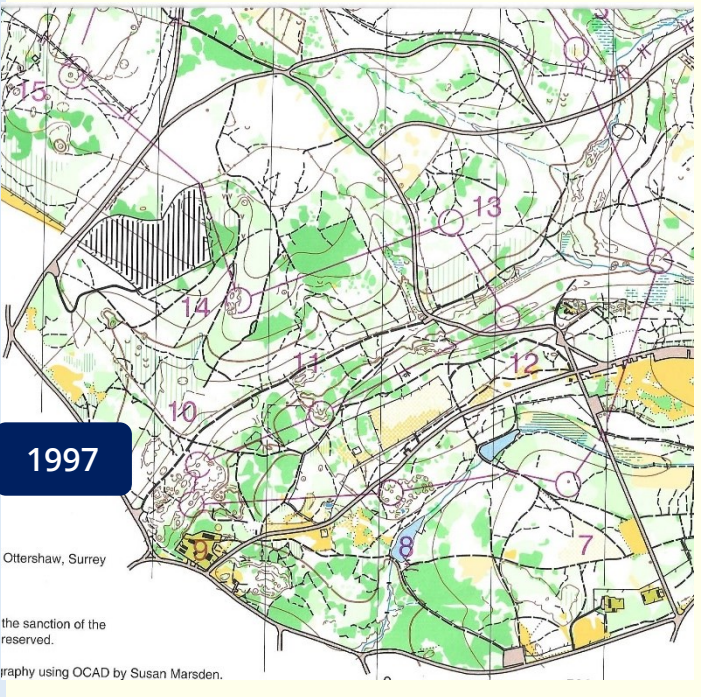
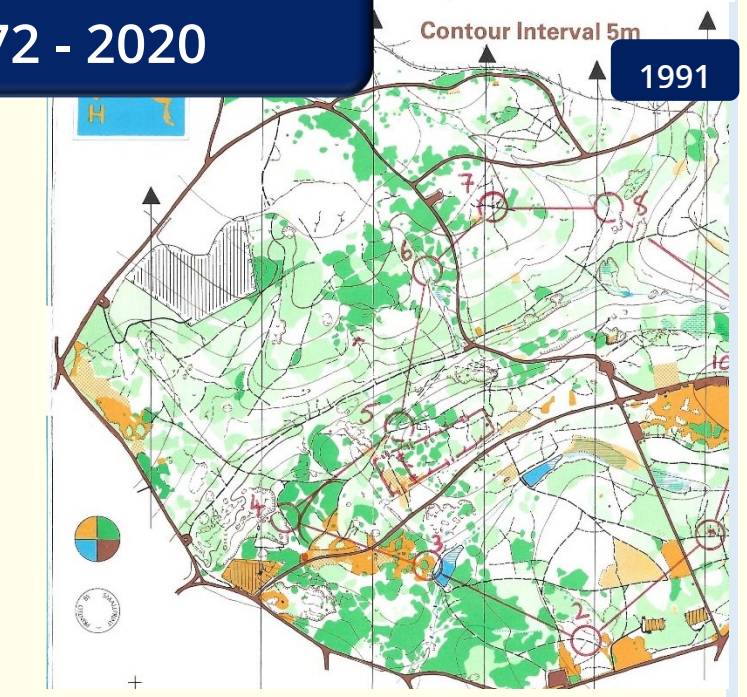
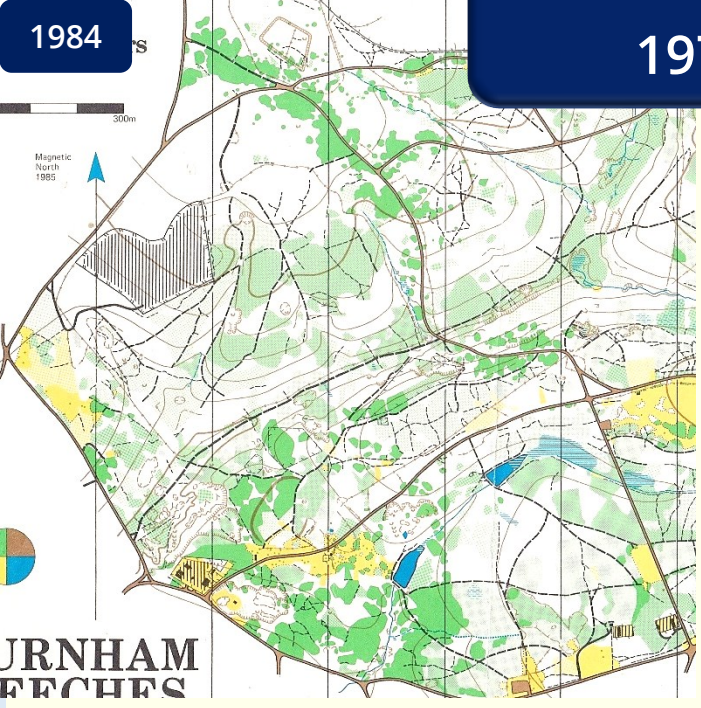
*Setters and Vettors Course at Burnham Beeches 1968*

BOF's *Stop Press* reported that Dysart Dashers held an event at Burnham Beeches on 9 June 1968, course vetter was Mac Gollifer and the winner of the longest course was Richard Raynsford (who had started orienteering in 1965 whilst at Guildford Technical College; he went on to join Guildford Orienteers, then set up Suffolk OK and EAOA, followed by a move to Quantock Orienteers - he's now running for BOK).

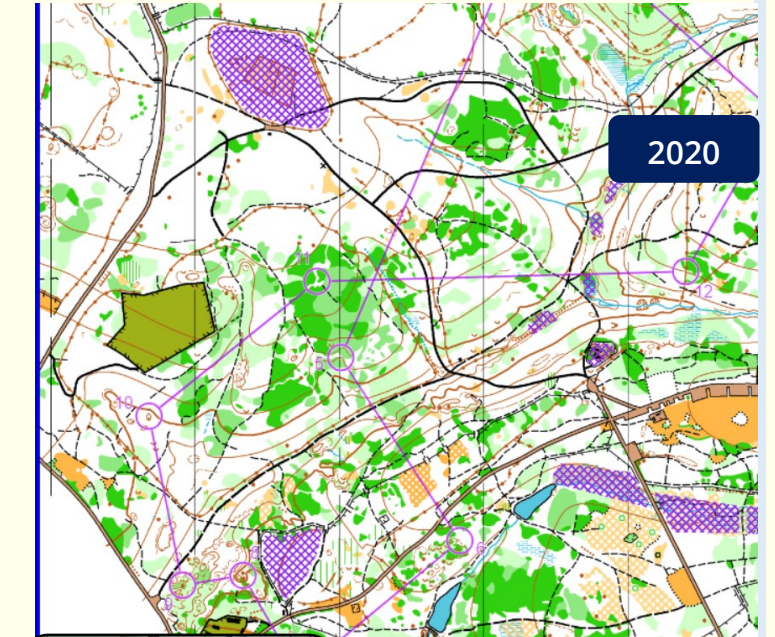
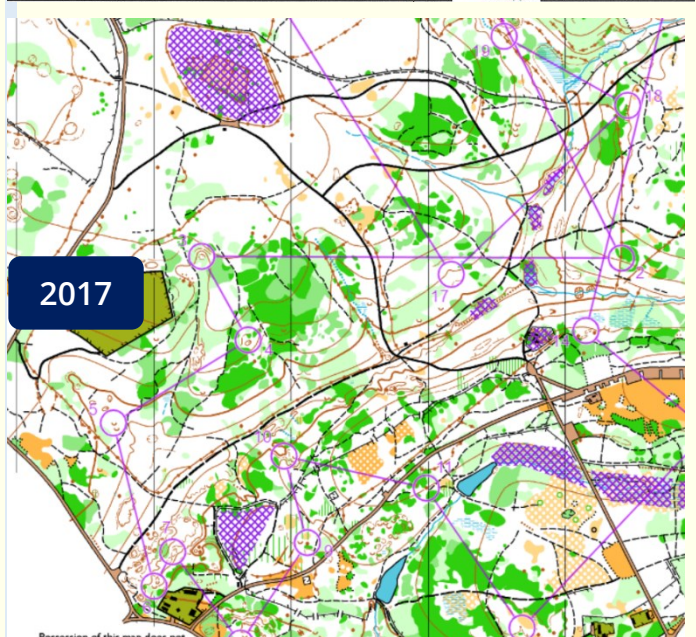
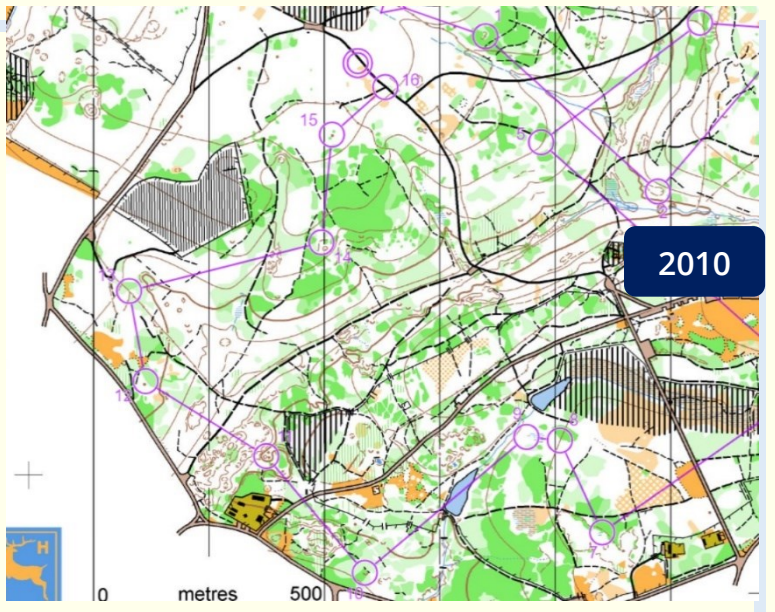
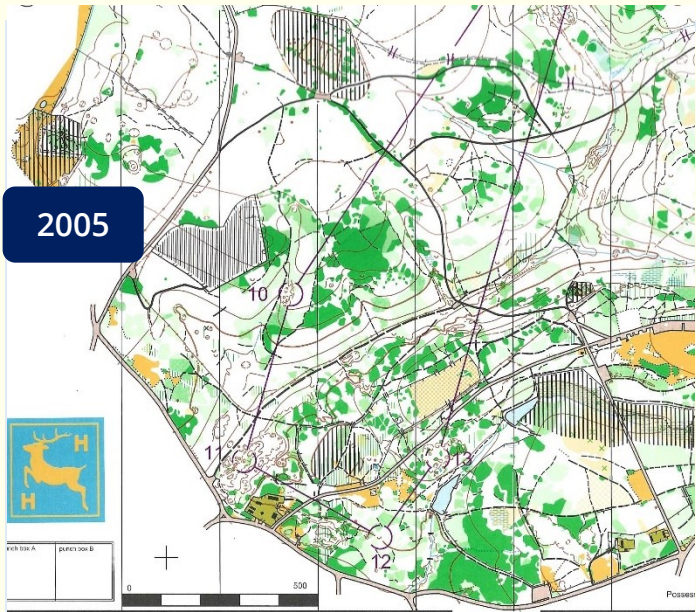




**Burnham Beeches**  
1972 - 2020







2005

2010

2017

2020

Possession of this map does not imply a right of access for orienteering or any other purposes. The representation of a road or path does not indicate a right of way.

Hartley Court (or Hardicanute's) Moat (12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> Century farmstead)

First HH event to use Egypt Woods was in 1996, with Hanging Wood at the N end added in 2006

Look out for:  
Adders, Bats, Common Lizards, Dragon flies, Epiphytic mosses, Fungi, Grazing cattle, Heather, ...etc

Dorneywood is the wood to the NW of BB (see o-maps above from 1997 onwards) and also the name of the house just W of BB used as a grace-and-favour residence by government ministers

Bricks and rubble here from Blitz damage in London

Victoria Drive named after Queen Victoria who was reigning when BB was bought by the City of London Corporation in 1880

This is called Mendelssohn's slope after the composer who regularly visited BB in the 1840s

For many years the Lord Mayor of London planted a tree in BB; more recently a tree has been pollarded

BB was Vehicle Reserve Depot Number Two from 1942. 10,000 vehicles were parked here before D Day. Troops were in Seven Ways Plain Hillfort just N of Druid's Oak.

Earthworks are from digging out clay for bricks

Italian prisoner of war camp here during WWII

BB is particularly noted for its pollarded oaks and beeches; a programme is underway to restore these trees

Druid's Oak, a pedunculate oak, is the oldest tree in BB, about 700 years old [seems to be called both Druid's and Druids']

There are ~500,000 (human) visits to BB each year, with ~200,000 dogs...77% (of humans) come by car



## Age Groups - how many do we need?

Not long before the event at Burnham Beeches took place, Age Groups had changed from:

Boys, Girls, plus Junior/Intermediate/Senior/Veteran classes for Men and Women to

M/W 12-, 13, 15, 17, 19, (M)21, 35, 43, 50+ there was no W21 at the time

which was 9 + 8 classes compared with the previous 5 + 5 classes – and now we have 18 + 18.

M&W 56 and 62 were introduced later, together with M&W 10- and 11 (which replaced the 12-classes). They were all succeeded by the present system.

Originally, age classes were based on one's real age, but competitors aged 20 or younger now change age class at the *end* of the calendar year in which they reach the given age.

## O-Kit

There are still occasional sightings of the oldest nylon orienteering suits – they may be faded and even in their youth they were highly unfashionable. However, their longevity shows that they were pretty good at withstanding brambles although they gave no defence to the skin beneath. Club badges could be sewn on to the kit. Reasonably good lower leg protection was provided by 'bramble bashers' – knee length socks with a rubberised coating on the front – until gaiters superseded them.

In the early days, shorts were quite acceptable even if inadvisable in the most brambly of areas, but concerns about the transmission of hepatitis B in Scandinavia (possibly aided by sharing towels etc) led to the full-body cover requirement being adopted in 1974, later relaxed to allow short-sleeved tops.

Lycra was invented in 1958 but took quite a long time before it appeared in sportswear – it gained popularity with the rise of the aerobics fitness movement in the late sixties and early seventies. Lycra is actually a brand name from Du Pont to distinguish their version of the fibre spandex (so-named because it's an anagram of expands!).

There have been numerous HH club kits over the years – always using yellow and blue. Perhaps one of the most memorable designs had an H in yellow back and front, looking a bit like the marker for a helicopter to land on – here is Roger Moulding's.





1973

## Night Street Event, Harrow, 10 February 1973

### HAPPY HERTS NIGHT STREET SCORE EVENT 10th February 1973

60 minutes score event Penalty 1 point for each 10 secs late  
Maximum possible score : 430 points

<u>NAME</u>	<u>CLUB</u>	<u>CLASS</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PENALTY</u>	<u>POINTS SCORED</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1. D. Rosen	HH	M19	56.29	-	415	415
2. R. Smith	MV	M35	60.37	4	390	386
3. R. Cressy	TVOC	M21	57.40	-	385	385
4. D. Thomas	SN	M35	61.14	8	385	377
5. B. Brandon	BRUN	M21	60.42	5	370	365
6. P. Entwistle	LOK	M21	62.32	16	375	359
7. I. Gilliver	LOK	M21	57.55	-	350	350
8. J. Dixon	UIOC	M21	66.09	37	385	348
9. M. Blackstone	LOK	M21	51.25	-	330	330
10. T. Dooris	SN	M43	61.58	12	320	308
11. C. Hurren	REOC	M21	65.57	24	310	286
12. M. Rejman	UIOC	M21	58.15	-	255	255
13. S. Dutfield	SYO	M17	63.24	21	240	219
14. J. Harrison	LOK	M21	60.55	6	215	209
15. P. Skinner & R. Rogers	Ind	M21	57.30	-	205	205

At least five of the runners above are still competing in 2020. Roger Smith, in 2<sup>nd</sup> place, became the editor of BOF's magazine, *The Orienteer*, later merged for a while with *Compass Sport*, which had started in 1980; Stewart Dutfield, in 13<sup>th</sup> place, went on to win the first Everest Marathon in 1987.

One thing that can be said about a Saturday night event is that it is a good excuse for a Sunday morning lie-in. Too many people missed this rare opportunity, and judging by the comments of the competitors, missed an interesting and stimulating event.

The lines written by Byron inspired a number of people to look for greater works amongst the tombstones, and one 'oddfellow' who was seen boarding a number 136 bus was accordingly disqualified.

Although the numbers were dissappointingly low, it was a most enjoyable evening, and our thanks must go to Mr Marshall who kindly offered his school hall, and to Mr Callagher who gave everyone a warm welcome. Thanks also to Johnathon Spicer, the Rosens, Jim Prowting and all the others who contributed to the success of the evening, and of course to all of you who supported our event.

It is to be hoped that the enthusiasm generated by those who took part in the event will kindle a greater support in our next. P. Houseman

Income  
£8.25 Entries & map sales

Expenditure  
£8.30 MAPS  
£6.00 HALL HIRE  
£3.06 DETAILS  
£1.10 RESULTS  
£0.64 BOT LEVY  
£19.10

Net loss - £10.85







HAPPY HERTS STREET SCORE RELAY. 17th June 1973.

This was an enjoyable event to run and control. Happy Herts provided a local event, as requested by the SEOA committee, yet few people came along. I should like to record my thanks to Happy Herts and also encourage them to make direct application to the SEOA executive to cover any loss involved.

Des Entwisle Controller.

Many famous lines have been written on the slopes of Harrow-Hill but these will not be added to them because too many orienteers took the Sunday observance laws too seriously for once. For those who turned out we had layed on good weather and a sparkling event of good variety. There is no doubt that those who competed really enjoyed themselves. Many thanks to all the members of Happy Herts who gave their valued assistance, and to Mr. Marshall and Mr. Gallagher of St. Anselms school who helped to make it all possible.

Peter Housenan Organiser.

NAME.	CLUB.	TOTAL POINTS	LESS PENALTY.	FINAL TOTAL.
1. R. Brandon	Brunel U.	660	1	659
J. Dixon	London U.			
2. R. Thomas	SN	590	28	562
D. C. Thomas	SN			
3. P. Burt	-	620	88	532
T. Dooris	SN			
4. P. Harborough	St. Albans	505	5	500
D. Kingham	St. Albans			

The 1973 club AGM heard that members had competed all round the country as well as at the Swedish O-Ringen, the Swiss 6-days, and running for England and Great Britain in Bulgaria, Denmark and West Germany. We had some successes in the SE Galloppen but a modest 8<sup>th</sup> place in the SE League due to our small size and the fact that we didn't score points at Burnham Beeches.

There had been five events in the past year: Bentley Priory, Burnham Beeches plus two street events and an evening training event with 40+ participants.

The club's balance was £13, having made a surplus of £3.53 over the year.

Looking ahead, there was a forthcoming event at Whippendell Wood (or Woods) on 7 October 1973 and a second event at Burnham Beeches.

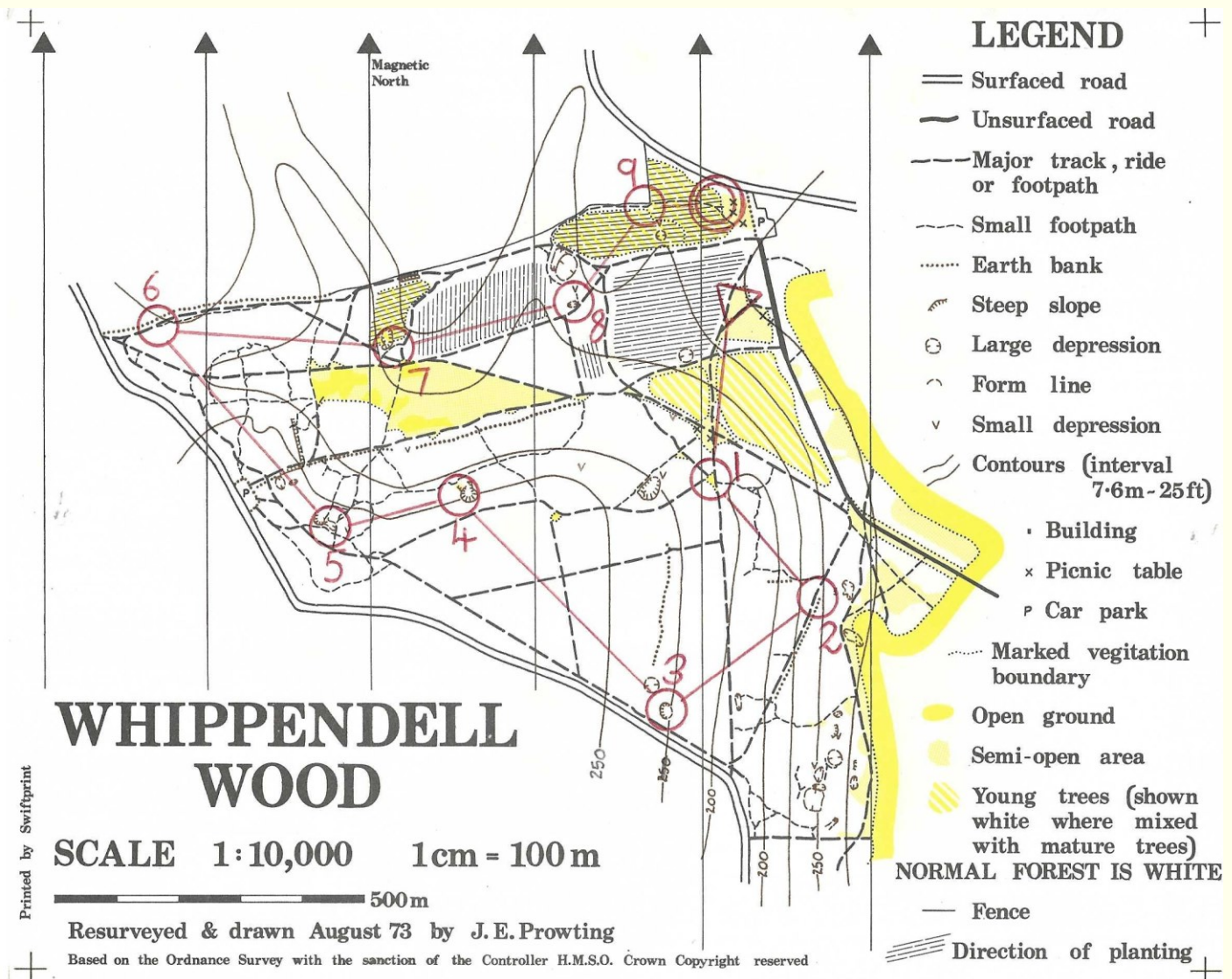
Whippendell has been a valuable piece of land for the club, with a variety of 'add-ons' from time-to-time: the scout camp at Lees Wood, the adjacent Harrocks Wood and also being joined to Cassiobury Park across the canal. It still has some surviving features, such as Lime Avenue, established in 1672 when it was part of the Cassiobury Estate, which was broken up in the early 1900s after several hundred years as a major estate based on the now-demolished Cassiobury House.

'Ownership' of particular pieces of land was relatively fluid at that time. Ashridge (then called Ivinghoe and Aldbury) and Burnham Beeches had both been used by Southern Navigators and Dysart Dashers, and possibly other clubs, before they became 'ours' in the seventies.

At some point in the early seventies the SEOA created a land register identifying as many areas as possible, with their potential for different sizes of event (it would be interesting to compare it with today to see the changes over 50+ years). This in turn led to a shared understanding of how often areas should be used, and especially the need to not use an area for at least two years prior to a major event taking place on it, which tended to give a three-year rotation: major event, then minor event a year later, then two years 'rest'.

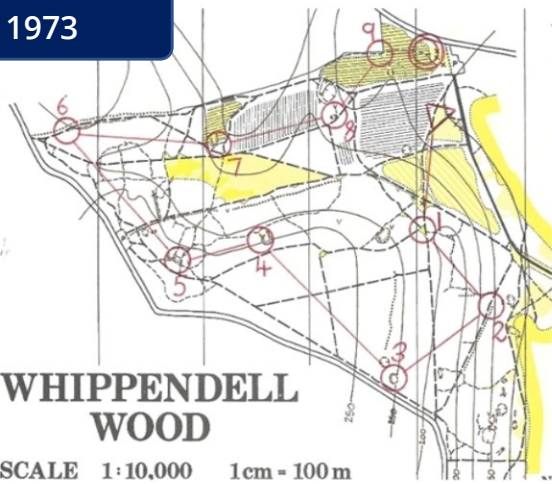
At Whippendell Wood there were events in October 1973 and March 1974, plus a Come & Try It event in September 1974 which attracted around 100 runners.

## Whippendell Wood, 7 October 1973

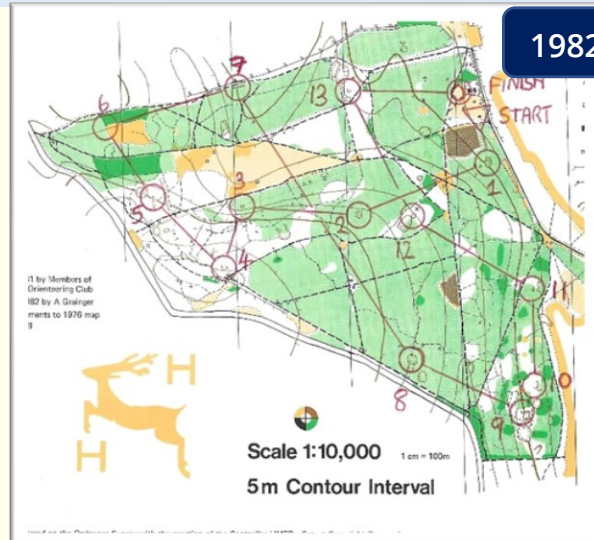




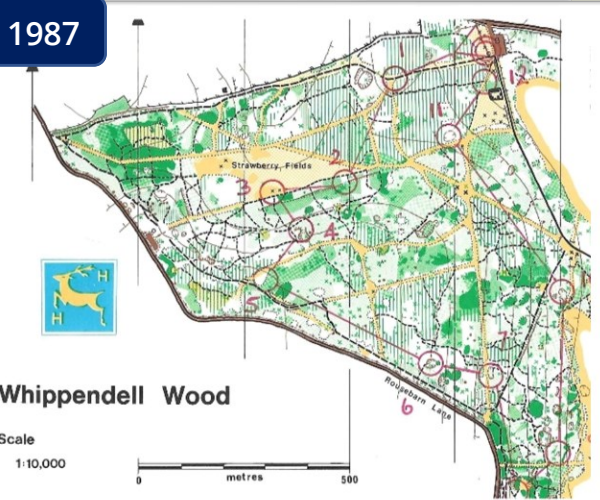
1973



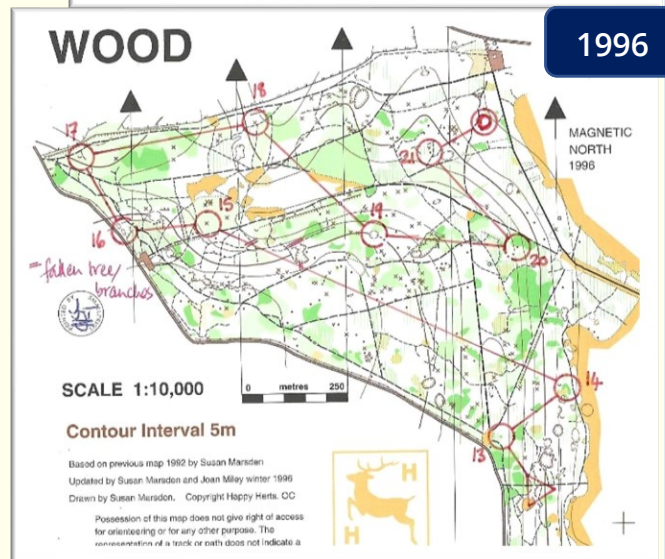
1982



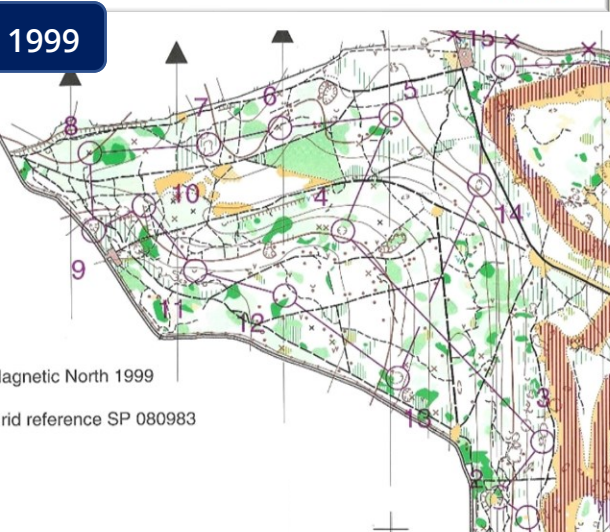
1987



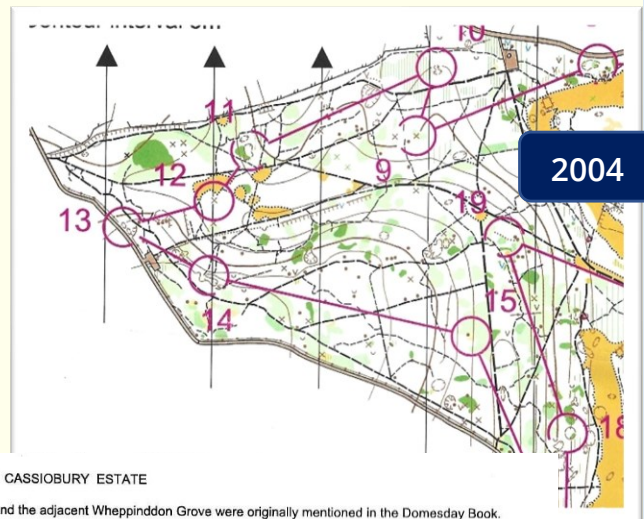
1996



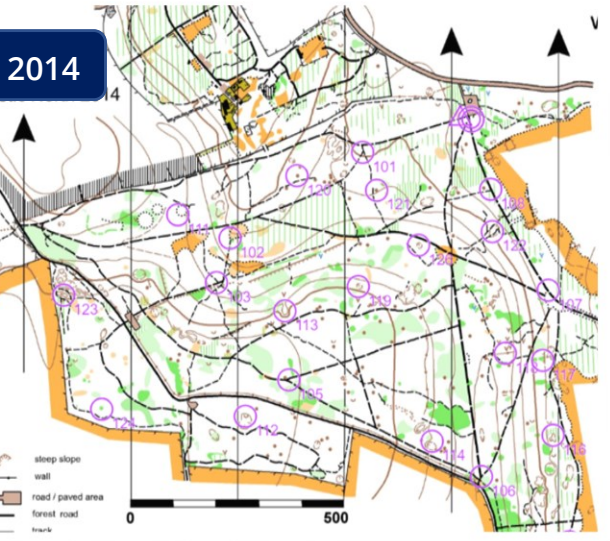
1999



2004



2014



THE HISTORY OF CASSIOBURY ESTATE

Cassobury Grove and the adjacent Whippendell Grove were originally mentioned in the Domesday Book.

In 1546 Henry VIII granted the Manor of Cassobury to Sir Richard Morrison who built a large house in beautiful gardens with many woodland walks.

In 1661 his great great grandson became the first Earl of Essex who rebuilt the house and added the renowned formal gardens.

In 1672 an Avenue of 296 lime trees was planted linking the gardens to Whippendell Wood. Part of the Avenue can be seen today between Cassobury Park and the woods.

In 1837 the park was 693 acres, the Home Park and the Upper Park being separated by the River Gade.

During the 19th century The Grand Union Canal was built following closely the line of the River Gade.

In 1930 some of the land was bought by Watford Borough Council and since then has been used for public recreation.

The first Permanent Orienteering Course in Whippendell Wood was opened in 1968.

**Whippendell Wood**  
1973 - 2014

# Flora & Fauna in Whippendell Wood and Cassiobury Park

A 1980 botanical study of Whippendell Wood, plus some other sources about Cassiobury Park, have reported the following flora and fauna:

## HABITATS

- Chalk streams, reedbeds, ditches, springs, ponds and watercress beds (and the canal)
- Wetland and wet woodland.
- Acid grassland
- Veteran trees
- Semi-ancient woodland

## BIRDS

Blackbird, Blackcap, Blue Tit, Chaffinch, Chiff-Chaff, Coal Tit, Crow, Cuckoo, Dunnock, Egret, Fieldfare, Garden Warbler, Goldcrest, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Green Sandpiper, Green Woodpecker, Greenfinch, Grey Heron, Grey Wagtail, House Martin, House Sparrow, Jay, Kingfisher, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Little Owl, Magpie, Mallard, Mandarin Duck, Mistle Thrush, Moorhen, Nuthatch, Pheasant, Redwing, Robin, Snipe, Song Thrush, Song Thrush, Spotted Flycatcher, Starling, Swallow, Swan, Swift, Tawny Owl, Teal, Tree Sparrow, Water Rail, Willow Warbler, Wood Pigeon, Wren, Yellow Hammer (and probably Buzzard, Parakeet and Red Kite)

## TREES

Ash, Beech, Cedar of Lebanon, Cherry, Downy Birch, Elm, Field Maple, Hazel, Holly, Hornbeam, Horse Chestnut, Larch, Lime, Oak, One old apple tree, Red Oak, Redwood, Rowan, Silver Birch, Spindle, Spruce, Sweet Chestnut, Sweet Chestnut, Sycamore, Turkey Oak, Western Red Cedar, Willow as well as the smaller species such as Hawthorn etc

## MAMMALS

Badgers, Common and Soprano Pipistrelle bats, Fox, Grey Squirrel, Mole, Muntjac, Noctule Bats, Rabbit, Roe Deer, Water Shrew, Wood Mouse

## AMPHIBIANS

Frogs, Great Crested Newt, Smooth Newt, Toads

## REPTILES

Grass Snake, Common Lizard

## GROUND FLORA & UNDERSTORY

Angelica, Barren Strawberry, Black Bryony, Black Medick, Bluebell, Bracken, Bramble, Broad-leaved Dock, Buckler Fern, Bugle, Burdock, Bush Vetch, Celandine, Chickweed, Cinquefoil, Common Hemp Nettle, Common Ragwort, Common Vetch, Creeping Buttercup, Creeping Thistle, Dandelion, Dog's Mercury, Dogwood, Enchanter's Nightshade, Field Scabious, Foxglove, Germander Speedwell, Grass-leaved Pea, Ground Ivy, Hairy Bittercress, Hairy Tare, Hawthorn, Hazel, Heath Bedstraw, Hogweed, Holly, Honeysuckle, Knapweed, Male Fern, Marjoram, Mouse-ear Chickweed, Privet, Rat's-tail Plantain, Red Campion, Red Clover, Rosebay Willow herb, Self-Heal, Silverweed, Slow, Spindle, St John's Wort, Stinging Nettle, Sweet Violet, Thyme-leaved Speedwell, Twayblade, White Clover, Wild Basil, Wild Strawberry, Wood Avens, Wood Figwort, Wood Sorrel, Wood Speedwell, Wood Spurge, Wood Violet, Woodruff, Yellow Pimpernel



---

## Burnham Beeches, 2 December 1973

---

### HAPPY HERTS

CLUB EVENT, BURNHAM BEECHES, SUNDAY DECEMBER 2nd. 1973.

#### Organisers' Report:-

The preceding weeks were clouded by the uncertainty of the fuel situation, with considerable doubt whether, even if fuel remained unrationed, any considerable number of people would consider us worth visiting despite the attractions of three other events. However, all those people who urged us to press on with our preparations were amply vindicated by the rather fine turn-out of 250 orienteers. Thank you all for coming.

A further happy surprise was the almost summery weather. We put out the controls in bright, immediately post-dawn, sunshine, a hard frost serving merely to keep our feet dry by freezing the very small areas of marsh that exist among the Beeches. Sincere thanks to Mr Qvist for his kind permission to use the ground, and to Mr Butler for the car parking facilities in his very handy field. Thanks also to Mac Gollifer for his tactful control of the event, and to Jim Prowting for setting courses that were universally appreciated for their sustained interest. Thanks also to Happy Herts members who helped beforehand and on the day.

Rosemary & Monty Rosen.

#### Controllers Report:-

The planner's problem was to follow the badge event of just over a year ago without too much repetition. Especially on the A Course which on both occasions was three times round the Beeches! This I think was admirably done, helped by the wealth of detail that he had put on the map in the first place. The size of the area gives little alternative to the Norwegian type of event for the longest course, and this led to a disappointing run for some of the early starters when a map disappeared. Apart from naming controls we could perhaps suggest strong mapboards wired or chained to a tree at least 3" in diameter for future events, but determined vandals would no doubt find a way of spoiling any event.

Mac Gollifer. (SN)

#### Planner's Report.

The major problem in planning courses in Burnham Beeches in winter when most trees are leafless is that of concealing the marker sufficiently to prevent it being seen from too great a distance reducing the accuracy and complexity of navigation required in finding it. I tried to make it necessary as often as possible to find the feature before the marker could be located, hence descriptions like Knoll S W foot, Pulpit N W Side, Pulpit S foot.

On Course A leg 5-6 (35) prevents a dog leg into 5 and increases the route choice on leg 6-7; similarly 9-10.

The disappearance of the Norwegian Master map at control 6 on the A Course is justification perhaps for sticking it to the control marker itself, preferably, I think 3 master-maps, one on each face of the control.

Jim Prowting.



IT IS FORBIDDEN  
TO CROSS FENCES  
MARKED AS  
UNCROSSABLE

# BURNHAM BEECHES

## LEGEND

- SURFACED ROAD
- - - UNSURFACED ROAD
- TRACK
- - - FOOTPATH (WELL DEFINED)
- - - SMALL OR POORLY DEFINED FOOTPATH
- FENCE (CROSSABLE)
- - - FENCE (UNCROSSABLE)
- - - CONTOURS (INTERVAL 8m)
- - - FORM LINE
- - - STEEP SLOPE OR EMBANKMENT
- - - PREHISTORIC EARTHWORKS CONSISTING OF 2 LOW PARALLEL BANKS WITH A DIP BETWEEN ABOUT 10m ACROSS
- - - EARTH BANK OR DITCH AND BANK: MORE THAN 0.5m
- - - LESS THAN 0.5m
- - - STREAM
- - - SEASONAL STREAM OR DITCH
- QUARRY
- LARGE DEPRESSION OR PIT
- SMALL DEPRESSION OR NICHE
- KNOLL
- GULLY
- MARSH
- UNCROSSABLE MARSH
- POND
- BUILDING OR SHELTER
- FOUNDATION
- BRIDGE
- OPEN GROUND AND OPEN GROUND WITH SCATTERED TREES AND CLUMPS (SMALL CLEARINGS NOT MARKED)

PRINTED BY SWIFTPRINT

EXTENSIVELY RESURVEYED  
AND DRAWN BY J.E. PROWING  
NOV 71 - SEPT 72

SCALE 1:10000

NOTE: SOME SEASONAL PATHS ARE NOT MARKED.  
SEASONAL MARSHES AND PONDS ARE NOT  
MARKED. NO INDICATION HAS BEEN  
MADE ON THE MAP OF AREAS USED BY

*clearings will grow trees*

COURSE A. NORWEGIAN - 21 CONTROLS, 10.1Km.

<u>NAME.</u>	<u>CLASS.</u>	<u>CLUB.</u>	<u>TIME.</u>
1. M. Murray	M21A	OKN	1.04.27
2. T. Goffe	M21A	SN	1.06.41
3. T. Watkins	M17	ROC	1.10.55
4. T. Ford	M21A	CH	1.11.20
5. J. Pratt	M21	LOK	1.12.34
6. R. Smith	M35	MV	1.15.38
7. T. Walker	M21	OKN	1.15.55
8. G. Wright	M21	LOK	1.16.00
9. T. Meadows	M35	ROC	1.16.07
10. D.C.Thomas	M35	SN	1.16.21



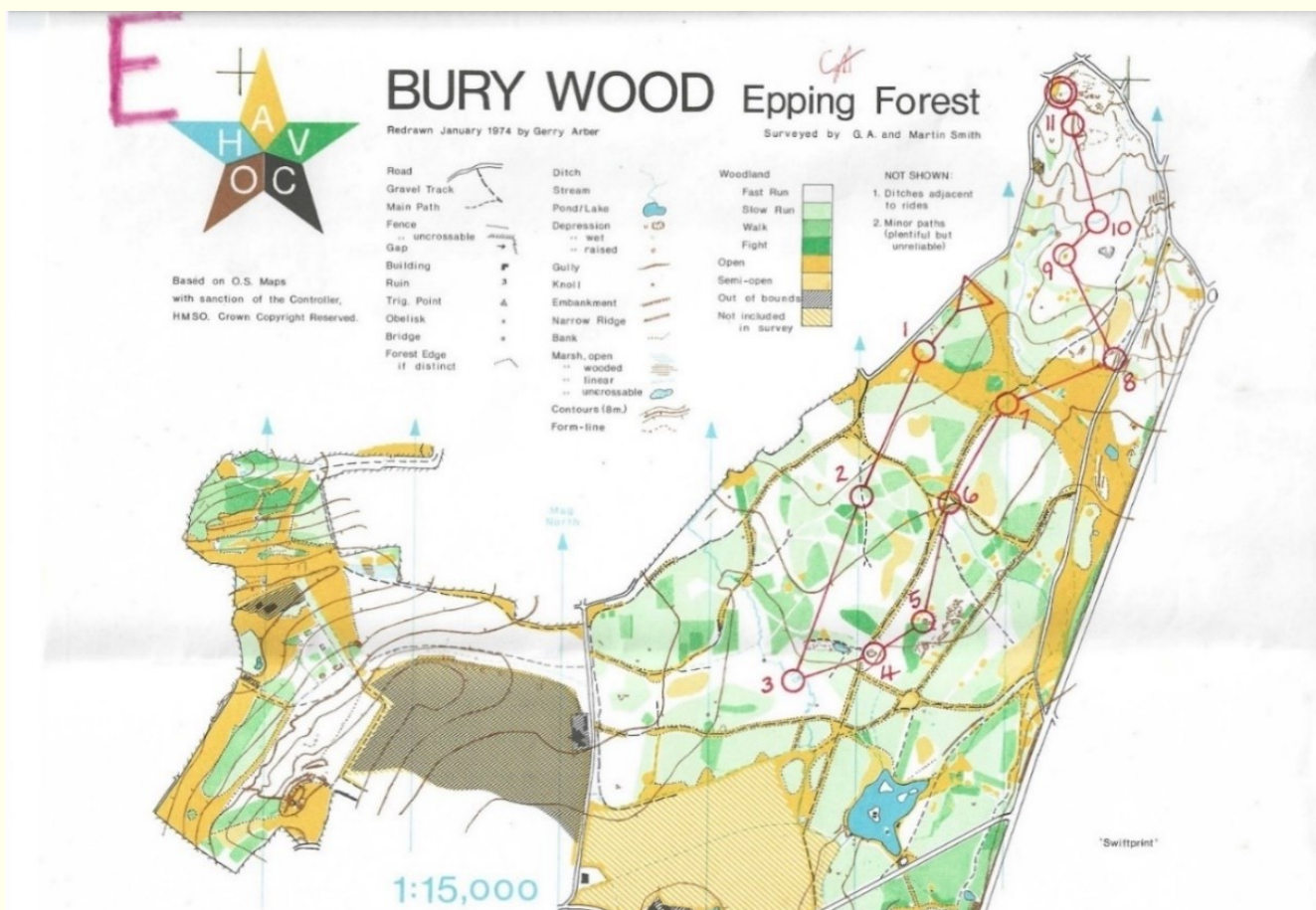
1974

By the 1974 AGM, club membership had risen to 35 and the balance was now £19.82. We were looking at using Oxhey Woods and LOK had passed over their remaining Ivinghoe and Aldbury maps.

Although our land is not as extensive or challenging as other parts of the UK, we have, by borrowing other clubs' areas as well as using our own best areas, managed over the years to wholly or jointly run the British Night Champs, British Middle Champs, British Relays, JK Relays, Harvesters' Trophy, Southern Championships, Interland, as well as helping with other clubs' major events.

By September 1974 the club funds had crept up to £20.27, with 32 members.

## HH Bury Woods, 1974



Note the controller's initials at the top to show that he (Gerry Arber of HAVOC, who also drew the map) had checked this course was accurately drawn and could be used for the master maps. These days, we would probably comment on the technical demands of some of the legs to ensure they were OK for the people running that course.

1975

In 1975 there was News Sheet No 1, produced by club secretary Robin Smith, which proposed a league for HH members, calculated at each event by your time divided by the winner's time. After three events, Rosemary Rosen led with 2.79, followed by club secretary Carole Birch (2.69) and Dennis Cannon (2.60). The club had 18 individual and 22 family members.

At a club meeting held in November there was a discussion about changing the club name, but there were no ideas for alternatives, nor a wish to change the name, so Happy Herts it still is!

Clubs in the South East had agreed to have different control codes for each club, possibly so that if one club borrowed another's they wouldn't have duplication (HH was generating a modest income from hiring its controls at the time). The World Championships were being held in Scotland in the summer of 1976 so the club discussed follow-up events to take advantage of the publicity the WOC was hoping to generate. Events at Whippendell and Oxhey Woods were planned for the autumn of 1976.

Plans were made for an HH event to be held at Woburn Sands (which had previously been used in April 1974 for a British Universities Champs Relay, the Individual having been held at Burnham Beeches). Unfortunately, permission was not obtained and subsequently we learned that much of the area was being turned into a golf course. SMOC still use Aspley Heath which is the NE part of the land.

1976

On 29 February 1976, David Rosen and Jim Prowting were part of the 6-person SEOA team who came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the first Inter-Regional Champs, and Geoff Birch ran in the EAOA team who came 10<sup>th</sup>.

On 8 July 1976 it was confirmed that HH would run the Greater London Orienteering Championships at Hampstead Heath on 26 September. Quentin Harding (now CLARO, then St Alban's School) and David Saunders (now HH, then 4<sup>th</sup> Harrow Scouts) completed the C and A courses respectively (and Alan Rosen was the Controller). It was on the same day as the relays were taking place at the 6<sup>th</sup> World Orienteering Championships in Scotland. Staging the World Champs was a recognition by the IOF that orienteering had reached a suitable level of maturity in the UK. At that time it consisted of an individual (long-distance) race followed by relays.

By September 1976, work was well advanced on setting up a permanent course at Whippendell Wood, financed by Watford District Council, with a monthly rota to check the posts being established. Mapping had commenced at Black Park, Oxhey Woods and Ivinghoe (Ashridge). There were 17 individual and 17 family members, Robin Smith was secretary.



# Control Cards

These were both to prove that you had completed the course, and to count runners out and back in.

The stub on the right was handed in at the start and then matched up with control cards handed in at the finish.

ALL COMPETITORS MUST REPORT TO THE FINISH  
Have you got your: write case? map case? match? map? description sheet?

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

COMPLETE AND HAND THIS SECTION IN AT THE FINISH

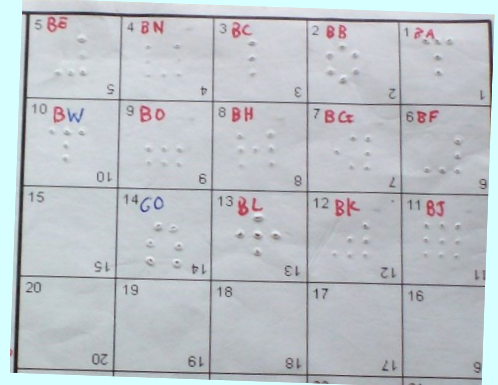
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Finish \_\_\_\_\_  
Class \_\_\_\_\_ Course \_\_\_\_\_ Start \_\_\_\_\_  
Club \_\_\_\_\_ Start Time \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle Reg No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Class \_\_\_\_\_  
Club \_\_\_\_\_  
Course \_\_\_\_\_  
Finish \_\_\_\_\_  
Start \_\_\_\_\_  
Time \_\_\_\_\_

19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

As runners crossed the finish line they were handed a raffle ticket which was stapled to their control card; the number on the ticket corresponded to the time written down on a sheet by finish officials, typically one reading the time off a watch or clock which the other wrote on a list which was regularly transferred to the results team.

The stubs could then be used as a results display (and those stubs not matched to control cards gave a list of who was still out in the forest). It all worked well except in the rain, when those who hadn't protected their card with Transpaseal or a plastic bag gave in a soggy card for the results team (which often needed the most club members at the event) to try to check that the right pin punches were in the right boxes. Waterproof control cards (often Tyvek) were eventually introduced, which did make them durable.



There was guidance about how to deal with poor punching, such as requiring at least one pin hole to be in the right box, but it was common to see competitors anxiously deciphering their card to try to persuade finish officials to reinstate them.



Prior to the pin punches we had used self-inking stamps (image from BOF archive) and prior to that you copied down a letter at each control. Pin punches cost 8 shillings each in 1970 (40p) and control cards were 200 for £1.



Electronic punching started with Emit (initially called Regnly) in Norway in 1994, with the first UK event in 1997, the same year that SPORTident was trialled in the UK. By 1999 electronic punching was becoming widespread at all but the smaller events.



## Filmsets on 'our' land.

Our proximity to Pinewood Studios (just off the Black Park map), Elstree Studios and Leavesden Studios has meant that many well-known movies and television programmes have been staged in scenery that we might recognise. We have occasionally had to modify our planning to accommodate filming. Here are some examples:

### Ashridge

- Fast & Furious 9 was filmed in Golden Valley, behind Ashridge College
- Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire
- Ivanhoe
- Killing Eve
- Maleficent
- The Little Drummer Girl

### Burnham Beeches

- An American Werewolf in London
- A Town Like Alice
- First Knight
- Goldfinger
- Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix
- Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1
- Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves

### Haberdashers' Aske's

- For those with very long memories, Habs was the location for the opening scene in the 1960s Avengers television series, with lots of Elstree-based productions using the lanes around the school and the school entrance.

### Whippendell Wood

- Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace

### Black Park

- Atonement
- Casino Royale (2006 version)
- Dracula: Prince of Darkness
- Goldfinger
- Harry Potter and:
  - o the Chamber of Secrets
  - o the Goblet of Fire
  - o the Order of the Phoenix
  - o the Philosopher's Stone
  - o The Prisoner Of Azkaban
- Octopussy
- Scrooge
- Several Carry On films
- The Charge of the Light Brigade

### Frithsden Beeches

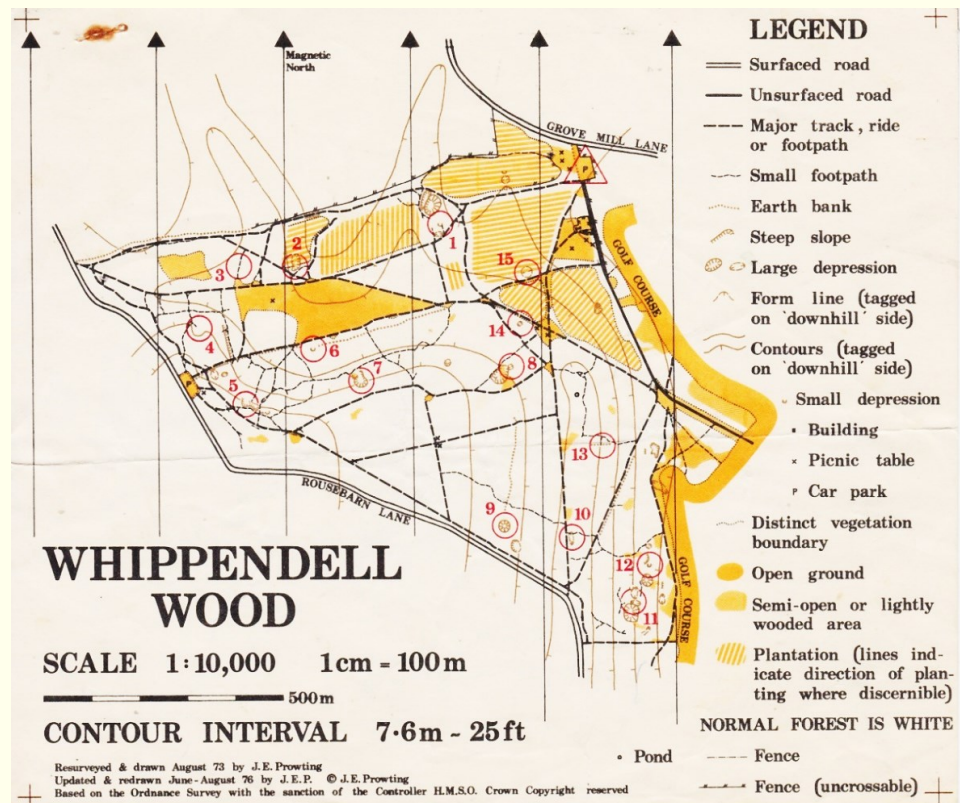
- Harry Potter and The Prisoner Of Azkaban & Goblet of Fire (The Whomping Willow is actually a pollarded beech tree, no longer standing)
- Jonathan Creek
- Les Misérables
- Sleepy Hollow

### Hatfield House

- Band of Brothers
- Batman and Batman Returns
- Shakespeare in Love
- Sleepy Hollows
- The Crown
- The King's Speech
- Tomb Raider & Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life



# Whippendell Permanent Course, 1976



## ORIENTEERING IN WHIPPENDELL WOODS

Here is a map of Whippendell Woods, with the Control Points of a Wayfaring Course marked on it in red.

Wayfaring is an exciting new form of countryside recreation. It is a walk with a difference. Instead of following a way-marked route you use the map to find your own way to each of the 15 check-points, or 'control' sites described overleaf. The CONTROL DESCRIPTION column tells you where to look for the Control Points, which are posts with red and yellow rings, and code letters. Find your way from control to control in any order, but remember to copy down the code letter from each post as you go, as this is the only evidence that you have been to each control site.

## HH have set up Permanent Courses over the years at:

- Highfield Park, St Albans
- Rothamsted Park, Harpenden
- Stanborough Park, WGC
- Stopsley, Luton
- Verulamium Park, St Albans
- Whippendell Wood, Watford

Now for the map. The position of each control is indicated on the map with a red circle, the actual control site being in the centre of the circle. We suggest that the best place from which to start would be the Car Park in Grove Mill Lane, indicated by the red triangle, on the map, near the northern edge. Printed on the side of the map is a legend - use it! Remember that a map is a two-dimensional representation of a three-dimensional object, the land, and the legend clearly identifies the essential information required in order to relate the paper representation to the ground.

1. Look at the scale of the map and try to relate the distance shown on the map to the actual distance which you will cover in walking.
2. Height is represented by brown contour lines which show the shape of the land. The contour interval is 25 ft. and shows the relative rate of climb.
3. Re-entrants are valleys shown by contour changes. They may be difficult to find if they are shallow.
4. Open areas - any area where no tree cover exists.
5. Paths/tracks - easy navigation features, but may result in increased distance being travelled.
6. Depressions - small or large holes in the ground, easily missed if you are not careful.

These are the most common features found on orienteering maps. There are others there to help you locate your position on the ground, so use your eyes and your brain. Look and think. Remember that this course is designed for beginners and gives a taste, no more, of what orienteering is all about. So now - have fun - enjoy yourselves.

Clifford Birch, (Happy Herts. Orienteering Club),  
A. J. Burrige, (Borough of Watford, Amenities and Recreation Dept.)

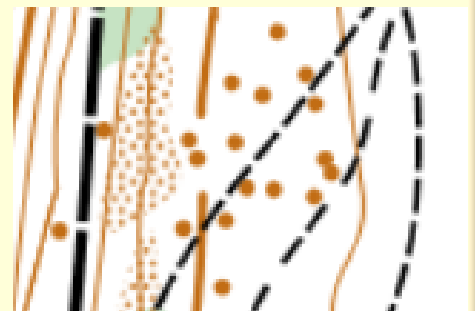
# Mapping

In the late sixties and early seventies, o-mapping was entirely carried out by orienteers; the professional and semi-professional mappers did not appear until the later seventies. A couple of clubs benefited from having OS surveyors as active members.

Although in the UK the Ordnance Survey provided a base map for surveying (often the 1:10,560/six-inch to the mile maps), they did not have the detail required for orienteering. Contours on the OS maps were 'interpolated' between the major contour lines that had been surveyed, so smaller re-entrants and spurs, for example, would not appear on the OS map. Photogrammetry provided a partial solution to this, where aerial photos were available. Now, with UK-wide LIDAR surveys becoming available in 2020, maps are becoming much more accurate, not only contour and earth features but also the vegetation boundaries and tracks which LIDAR data shows. The advent of GPS watches in the 2000s had highlighted that control features are not necessarily where the map says they are...Routegadget adjusts your GPS track to visit the controls.

HH ran some club mapping days at its areas in the 1970s to try to create or update maps. These were, to put it mildly, not entirely successful! Even after training on surveying and some pacing exercises (to get everyone measuring distances accurately) the person trying to draw up the map afterwards found it almost impossible to reconcile the many sets of surveyors' notes and, of course, there was great inconsistency in mapping across a map. Even bearings taken with a normal compass were probably only accurate to  $\pm 20^\circ$  so 'real' mappers used sighting compasses for much more reliable surveying.

Any o-map is a simplification of the terrain so many judgements have to be made even for a straightforward path in terms of how many twists and turns to include. Map symbols are not necessarily to scale, eg a small knoll symbol is actually drawn as though it is 7.5m across, so drawing up a group of small knolls which could each be 1m high and 2m across inevitably produces some distortion of what is on the ground.



*Ashridge knolls*

Part of the art of mapping is to exaggerate or simplify what is on the ground – ISOM 2017 says, "Readability is always more important than absolute accuracy."

After a while, we gave up mapping by committee and relied increasingly on individuals who were willing and able to spend potentially hundreds of hours surveying in the forest and then at a desk drawing the final map. The development of OCAD and other drawing software in 1989 was a major advance in producing accurate maps that could be relatively easily updated.

Special mention must be made of Jim Prowting and Susan Marsden who have mapped so many of HH's forest areas over the past fifty years.



1977

In April and May 1977, we were planning the setting up of a permanent course at Stopsley Sports Centre, Luton, (although it wouldn't open until 1981) and that tied in with a 'Cross Country/Orienteering Challenge Match' between HH and Luton AC at Whippendell Wood, organised by Jim Prowting on 14 September 1977. There was a 3.3 km cross-country race and then, after a suitable break, a 3.0 km o-course. Based on the best six times for each race, for each club, HH won easily: an average time of 34:20 compared with Luton's 39:43 but, based on positions using all runners, Luton had an average of 7.93 against HH's 8.06. Here's an extract from Luton AC's newsletter:

The cross country season started with problems over route finding. On September 14th the club took on the Happy Herts Orienteers in a combined orienteering/cross county event at Watford. Despite some highly competent navigating by Robin, Alex and Alan Wakefield we still averaged over 36 minutes a man compared with the opposition's 22 minutes. Unfortunately when the allotted time for the start of the cross country race arrived three star members of the team were still wandering around the forest. Eventually at 7.45 p.m. in almost complete darkness the race started and Luton were soon well placed with 6 in the first seven. The leaders, Tim Watson and Pete Martin then blundered out of the forest and headed down the road to Rickmansworth while everyone else returned to Watford. Alex Wakefield produced a superb race to finish 3rd only losing the lead in the last half mile. A week later we received a masterpiece of a results sheet in which the final score was calculated in two different ways, thus allowing both teams victory; though the subjective opinion of the organiser was that they won. I cannot agree - we got no points for finding a Charles Wells pub on the way home.

The club was still running on very limited funds - the balance at the end of 1975/6 was £38.77, but this was sufficient to encourage the club to purchase two kitchen clocks and a 5-gallon orange juice dispenser [for comparison, the club's 2020 balance of around £23,000 would have equated to ~£3,000 in 1976].

A significant cash flow problem that HH and other clubs struggled with was having to print enough maps for an area such as Burnham or Ashridge for both the Badge Event and a Club Event up to a year later, but with only the income from the first event available to pay for the printing. This was shown by the 1977 accounts which had a reduced balance of just £24.59½ due to the cost of map printing for Black Park.

## Schools, Scouts and the WI

A small number of groups have affiliated themselves to HH or been linked over the years: St Albans School under Lieutenant Colonel Pryke and then Caroline Belam, Ward Freeman School under Dave Lewis, the 9<sup>th</sup> St Albans Scouts under Martin How and the 4<sup>th</sup> Harrow Scouts.

In 1978 we were approached by members of the sports sub-committee of the Herts Women's Institute to put on events for them. Alec and Norah Farmer played a leading role in setting up the events, the first one being on 13 May at Whippendell Wood. A number of WI members, and their families, went on to join HH.

HH also successfully ran the Herts/Beds Schools League jointly with WAOC on Wednesday summer evenings from 1983, each club typically putting on three events per year.

## Black Park, April 1977

### HAPPY HERTS ORIENTEERING CLUB

#### Club and SE Galoppen event

24 April 1977

Venue : Black Park, Iver Heath. 176/005833 3 miles NE of Slough.  
Signposted from A412 Slough/Uxbridge road (North side of dual-carriageway)

Parking : Very limited. The car park cannot accept coaches or large mini-buses and there is no parking on adjacent access roads. The car park is also used by the public and on a fine day it gets full! Please park as directed and compactly.

Start times : 09.30 to 12.30. There will be no extensions. Courses close at 15.00. Report back to the finish at this time even if not finished.

Courses : A M21 10k (2nd master maps) D M15/M50/W15/W35 5.2k  
B M35/M19 8.6k (2nd M.M.) E W13/W43/W50/M13 3.6k  
C M17/M43/W19 7k F M12/W12/WAY 2.5k

Fees : Under 19 30p 19 and over 50p (Including results) E.O.D.

Facilities : Toilets, snack bar ; orange juice at finish

Map : 1:10000 5 colour. Surveyed and drawn winter 1976 by R.G. Smith

Planner : Roger Cole Controller : Mac Gollifer (SN)

Organiser : Robin Smith, Tanglewood, Summerleys Road, Princes Risboro', Bucks. Tel P.R.6474

### HAPPY HERTS CLUB AND SE-GALOPPEN I

#### Course A

1.	J.Prowting	M21A	HH	57.30
2.	J.Crawford	M21	OO	58.46
3.	M.Blackstone	M21	LOK	62.30
4.	I.Gilliver	M21	LOK	62.47
5.	P.Watson	M21	HH	63.16
6.	C.Bristow	M35	TVOC	64.28
7.	A.Rosen	M21	HH	65.22
8.	L.Bean	M21	BACC	66.14
9.	W.Ody	M21	TVOC	66.36
10.	F.Ashford	M35	TVOC	66.49
11.	B.Palmer	M21	TVOC	71.02
12.	R.Harris	M21	'Aussie'	71.52
13.	T.Ferrari	M21	LOK	74.15
14.	P.Entwhistle	M21	LOK	75.47
15.	D.Nixon	M21	LOK	76.42
16.	M.Elliott	M21A	NV	77.24
17.	B.Mason	M21	IND	78.20
18.	N.Kearns	M21A	HAVOC	79.22
19.	M.Murray	M21	CUOC	83.17
20.	S.Swalwell	M21	HAVOC	83.53
21.	M.Macklin	M21	IND	84.50
22.	A.Hinder	M21A	NV	85.29
23.	D.Lange	M21A	ULOC	85.01
24.	D.French	M21	TVOC	86.43
25.	N.Pye	M43	TVOC	87.01
26.	B.Camille	M21A	HAVOC	89.35
27.	M.Wilson	M21A	LOK	89.45
28.	L.Hunt	M21	SN	93.20
29.	C.French	M21	TYC/TVOC	94.02
30.	J.Tombling	M21	HAVOC	94.54
31.	I.Birkinshaw	M43	WAOC	95.25
32.	E.Lachlan	M43	Ubique	95.42
33.	D.Cload		ROC	96.17
34.	D.Saunders	M17	4HS	98.52
35.	P.Hill	M21B	LOK	101.10



# BLACK PARK 1:10000



Surveyed and drawn by  
Robin Smith, Winter 1976  
© HM DC 1976

## LEGEND

- Road
- Unmetalled track
- Track
- Footpath
- Small footpath
- Ride
- Contours (5m)
- Form line
- Stream/bridge
- Ditch
- Earthbank
- Gully
- Pit, small/large
- Knoll/other object
- Fence, broken
- Power line
- Vegetation boundary
- Steep slope
- Tank/pond
- Buildings
- Marsh
- Felled area
- Open
- Semi-open
- Walk
- Fight
- OUT OF BOUNDS!

All fields and young plantations OUT OF BOUNDS!

Based on the Ordnance Survey with the sanction of the Controller of H.M.S.O.  
Crown Copyright reserved



## Race Timing

...has never been perfect! Results from some early events were rounded to the nearest ten seconds to reflect this. It was not unusual to see a kitchen clock being used (the first digital watch was developed in 1972 and it took a while before they were cheap enough to be ubiquitous). HH purchased two 'sweep second kitchen style clocks' in October 1976.

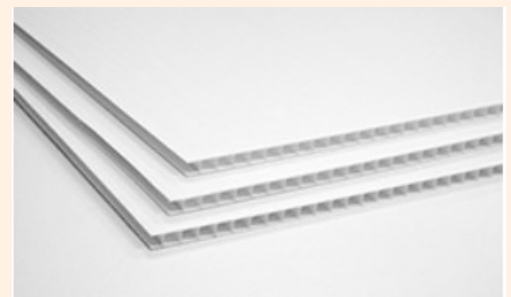
Clocks and watches suffered from 'drift', both because they just weren't accurate and because they and their batteries struggled in the cold, so a procedure for organisers was to make sure the start and finish clocks were synchronised before the event *and* to check at the end of the event that they were still telling the same time (and if they weren't, it caused major headaches!). Interestingly, today's electronic timing systems can still drift.

## Control flags

Flags are almost identical to those used back in 1969 although the colour has changed from red to orange (Pantone 165) to be slightly more colour-blind friendly. Prior to that a variety of markers were used, including biscuit tins.

In 1974/5 Doug Nevell and Ray Vale constructed HH's own distinctive style of flag using Correx, with a metal clip to hold it together – they lasted a long time and were great for visibility, although it was a bit awkward to carry large numbers out into the forest. 40 controls were made for about £6.

Control codes have been single letters of the alphabet, pairs of letters and numbers above 30, normally three digits these days.



BOF Rules say, "control codes that could be easily confused are not to be used on control sites that are close to each other." That means both numbers that look similar (68 and 89, or even 61 and 67, depending on the font used) and numbers close to each other (63, 64, 65 etc). Planning software now has the useful ability to re-number all of the control codes to avoid codes which are similar being adjacent.

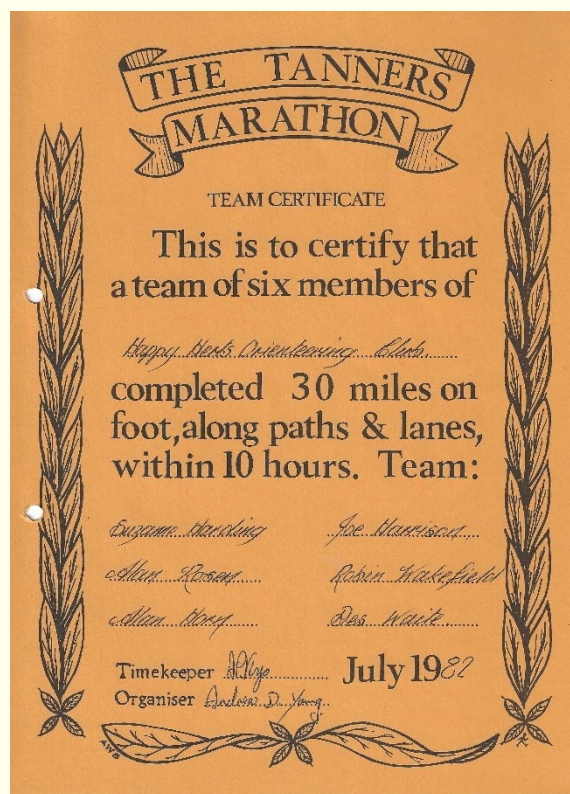
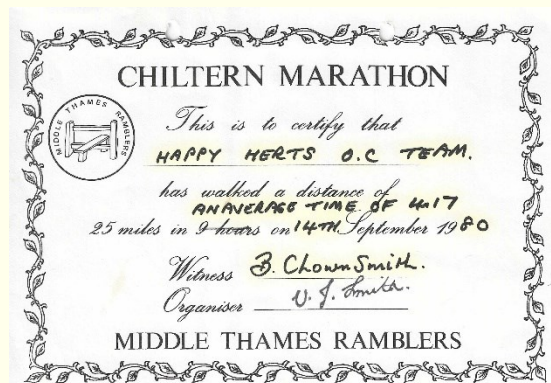


It may not have been orienteering, but club members were very active at the time taking part in Long Distance Walkers Association events such as the 30- mile Tanners Marathons (sometimes with HH teams entered) and the 100-mile LDWA 'challenge'; David Rosen won the first 100 race in 1973, and Roger & Max Cole, John Walker, Robin Smith and Alan Rosen also completed a number of 100s – Roger completing an incredible and unrivalled 41 100s over 41 years. It was from people involved in both long-distance walking and orienteering that the concept of marathon running for 'fun' emerged, with HH members helping to run the early London Marathons – a carrot being guaranteed entry to the following year's race.

Despite being 'southerners' and many hours away from real mountains, HH runners also featured very strongly in mountain marathons and fell races, including the 'Karrimor' (now the OMM, with former HH member Duncan Archer winning three times) and the Lake District Mountain Trial which started in the 1950s and was one of the precursors to UK orienteering (LDMT completions: David Rosen 39, Kevin & Quentin Harding 22, Alan Rosen 14).

By September 1977, the club membership had grown to about 80 people, with the impact of the 1976 World Champs being given some of the credit, although it was noted that only a quarter of club members orienteered regularly. Alec Farmer took over as Secretary and Jim Prowting became the club's first Club Captain, organising teams for relays etc.

A few months later, a club long-sleeved t-shirt was approved with a large hart 'flocked' on the front, at a cost of between £2.70 and £3.55 depending on size. These were very popular but quite warm to use in the summer, so a year later investigations were being made about a lightweight club top. Subsequent designs ran into difficulties because of the technical problems with printing yellow on top of blue at the time.



## SE Galloppen and SE League

The SE Galloppen and SE League were (and are) annual rankings for individuals and clubs respectively, based on Club and Badge Events. The Galloppen was based on position while the League used target speeds for each class. The number-crunching for the League was complex and carried out by Peter Burt of Mole Valley, who allegedly did the (pre-PC) calculations while flying planes to far-flung destinations for BA. HH's golden period was seven years in the eighties!

The Galloppen suffered with the introduction of colour-coded courses and HH member John Duffield revised the system to use BOF ranking points (for seniors) and League points (for juniors), and changing the name to the SE Individual League.

SE League winners over 48 years:

Year	1971/72 - 1977/78	1978/79	1979/80	1980/81	1981/82	1982/83	1983/84 - 1989/90	1990/91 - 1996/97	1997/98 - 2009/10	2010/11
Division 1	SN (7 yrs)	SAX	HH	SLOW	SLOW/MV	MV	HH (7 yrs)	MV (7 yrs)	SO (12 yrs)	SO
Division 2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	LOK

Year	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Division 1	SO & HH =	SO	SO	SO	SO	SO	SO	SO	SO*
Division 2	SAX	MV	DFOK	MV	DFOK	MV	SN	DFOK	SAX*

\* Season not completed

### Target speeds

Age group	mins/km	Age group	mins/km	Age group	mins/km	Age group	mins/km
M 10	8	M 45	7.25	W 10	8.5	W 45	9.25
M 12	7.75	M 50	7.5	W 12	8.75	W 50	9.75
M 14	7.5	M 55	8	W 14	8.75	W 55	10.5
M 16	7	M 60	8.75	W 16	8.5	W 60	11.75
M 18	6.75	M 65	9.5	W 18	8.25	W 65	12.75
M 20	6.5	M 70	10.5	W 20	8	W 70	14
M 21	6	M 75	11.5	W 21	7.5	W 75	15.25
M 35	6.5	M 80	13	W 35	8.25	W 80	17
M 40	6.75	M85	14.75	W 40	8.75	W85	19



1978

Editorial, Advertising, Watford 42211, 4

## If you go down to the woods...

IF YOU go down to the woods any day now, you could be in for a surprise...

You could see people, armed with maps and compasses, walking anxiously among the trees.

They may look a bit lost — but don't help them out with directions.

For they will probably be taking part in a sport fairly new to the area — wayfaring.

The Happy Herts Orienteering Club in cooperation with Watford Amenities and Recreation Department have devised a new permanent orienteering course which opens this weekend at Watford's Whippendell Woods.

A distance of about three miles or five kilometres is involved between the 15 control points. At an average walking pace it should take 2½ hours.

Instead of following a way-marked route, a map is provided, with check points, or control sites. Those taking part have to find their own way between the points. A compass helps to find the shortest route, although it is perfectly possible to cover this course without one.

Free maps of the woods and course, together with instruction sheet, are available at Watford Town Hall, main entrance, porters lodge, and Watford Town Hall Annex, Amenities and Recreation Department inquiry desk Monday to Thursday, 8.45-4.15, Friday 8.45-4.45.

Watford Leisure Centre, reception desk, Monday to Friday noon-11.00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 9.00 a.m.-11.00 p.m., Whippendell Woods, green hut at picnic area near Grove Mill Lane car park, every day, available from "pick up box" when the hut is not staffed, Cassiobury Park bowling green keeper's hut, from May 1 until the end of September.

Mr Clifford Birch of Tudor Drive, Watford, of the Happy Herts Orienteering Club says the course has been designed as an introduction to the sport of orienteering, and if people are fired with enthusiasm by it and would like to hear about future events, they should write to him or telephone him, Watford 43724.

The suggested start is at the Grove Mill Lane car park, and like a golf course the control points are numbered. At each



□ In fashion, to coat (about £73), evening,

control those taking part have to make a note of a code letter they will find at the post, as proof they have been there.

Advice to beginners is to wear sensible clothes (that will not be spoiled by brambles, dust and mud) suitable shoes, to take a red biro, a polythene map cover to protect the map

The beauty of wayfaring is that the course is as easy or difficult as people want to make it. By studying the map and noting contours they can take or avoid the steepest routes, watch out for difficult terrain, find tracks and paths.

A few controls can be visited on the first attempt, and alternative routes can be planned for subsequent excursions.

Youth groups, schools, even clubs for senior citizens can use the course for their own local competitions. The athletic can run round it!

A wayfaring course, says Mr Birch, can provide a chance to enjoy the peace and quiet of the countryside and to observe the natural world.

By 1978's AGM, membership was up to 137, showing the effect of the World Championships and initiatives made by clubs such as HH to spread the word about the sport.

Even then there was the image problem, which we still experience, of people having set ideas of what the sport entails, which can only be overcome by a good experience at a good event. For some reason, not everyone appreciates rain, mud and brambles, plus getting very, very lost...

What we call orienteering isn't necessarily the same as newcomers may have experienced in scouts and guides, in schools and at activity centres, so the 1970s saw significant efforts to influence those organisations as well as the general public through local newspapers.

For better or worse, the headlines of articles about orienteering (and car stickers) have tended to be used again and again:

- Cunning Running
- If you go down to the woods today
- The Thought Sport
- Car rallying on foot (car rallying was both a professional sport on the roads, eg the famous Monte Carlo Rally, and an amateur pastime where people were given locations and had to drive between them, so not dissimilar to orienteering)

The comparisons with doing the crossword while running for the train and treasure hunts seem to have disappeared, fortunately, but orienteering in all its different forms continues to be an experience that is difficult to describe to the general public in a way that would encourage them to 'come and try it'.

## Entries, Final Details and Results

Some events didn't have pre-entry as master maps meant there was no need to know just how many were coming, and unused maps could be kept until the next event. To find out about an event you could send a stamped addressed envelope (SAE) to the organiser and receive the details.

For those events with pre-entries, entry by post was the norm, enclosing two SAEs (self-addressed - and stamped - envelopes), one to receive your control cards with a start time written on plus any final details, the other for results.

Events tended to ask for a range of information in a range of formats so eventually a standard entry form (SEF) was developed and used widely.

At the event, if you hadn't already done so, you would self-address an envelope provided by the organiser (or bring your own, which caused problems if it was too small for the printed results) and put money in the box to pay for postage (First and Second Class stamps were 5d and 4d respectively pre-decimalisation, then 3p and 2½p from 15 February 1971).

The results needed typing up from the soggy, sweaty, torn control cards (on a typewriter, not a word processor; much less forgiving if you mistype something!).

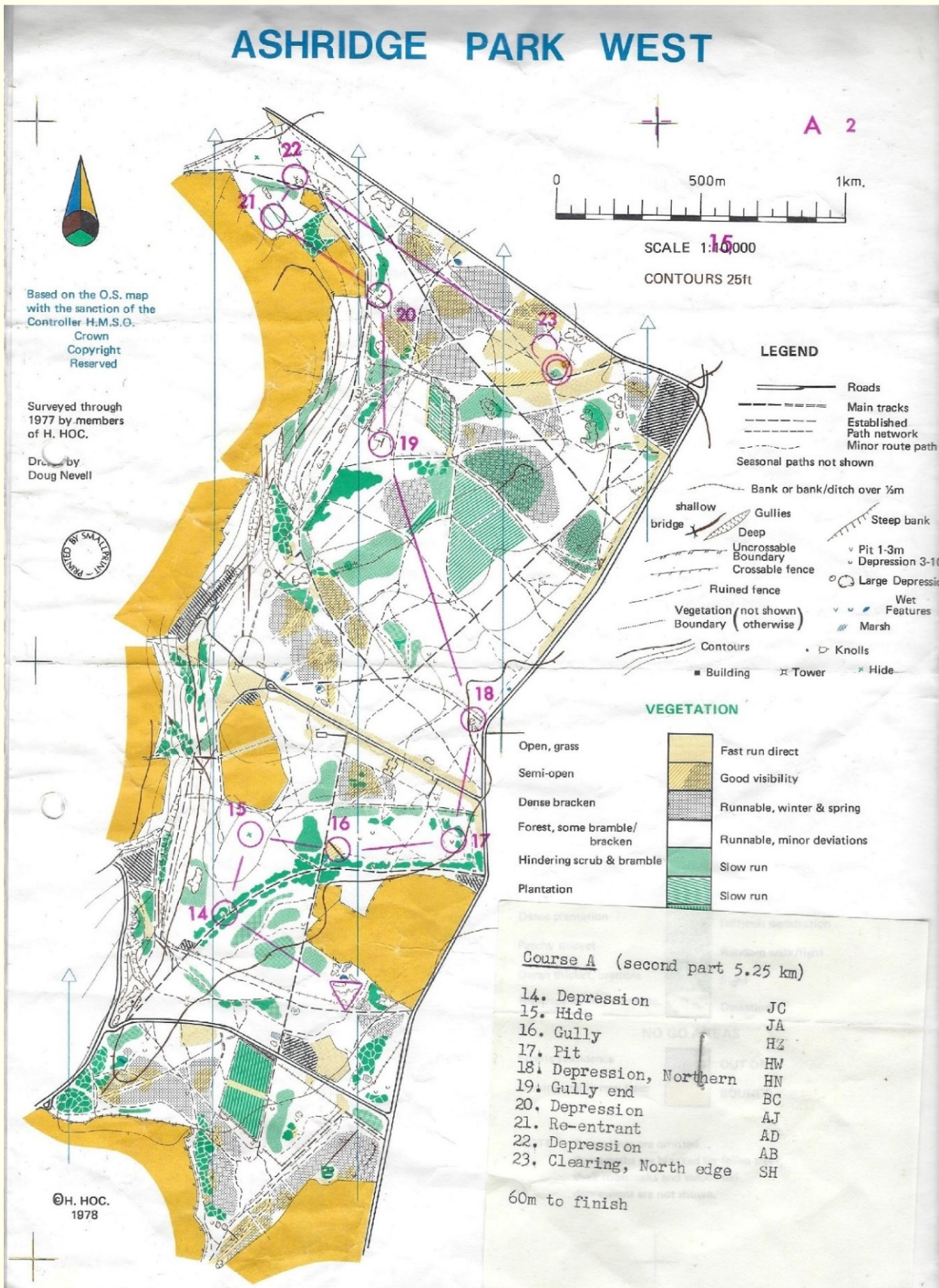
While events such as the World Champs had people at every control to record split times, it was only when we started wearing digital watches with a lap function that we could confidently boast/complain about how much time we had taken to find each control.

Larger events were designated as Badge Events (one step above Club Events); badge times were calculated for those seeking to gain a cloth badge to sew on their o-kit to show they had run three events within +25% (Gold) or +50% (Silver) or +100% (Bronze) of the average of the first three runners in your class on the appropriate course, so these needed calculating and adding to the results. (There was also an Iron Badge for completing three Badge events.) The badge calculations weren't difficult but did take some effort because of our sexagesimal time system - occasionally one came across races abroad where they divided their minutes into hundredths which must have made calculations easier.

Also included in the results were comments obtained from the organiser, planner and controller - sometimes but not often short and sweet, sometimes self-congratulating, sometimes worth reading!



# Ashridge Badge Event, 12 March 1978



Second part of Course A, Ashridge 1978



Janet Rosen   Alan Rosen   Alan Wakefield   John Walker   Alan Horne   Robin Smith  
 Alec Farmer   Monty Rosen   Tracey Cole   Pat & Doug Nevell   Roger, Max & June Cole   Bridget Walker



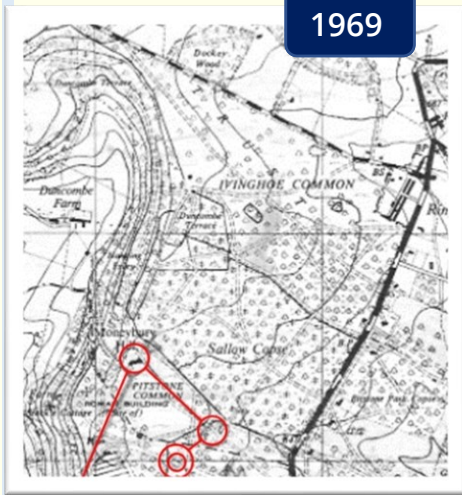
*HH members at Ashridge, 1978, with club t-shirts, Robinsons Barley Water bottles and flared trousers*



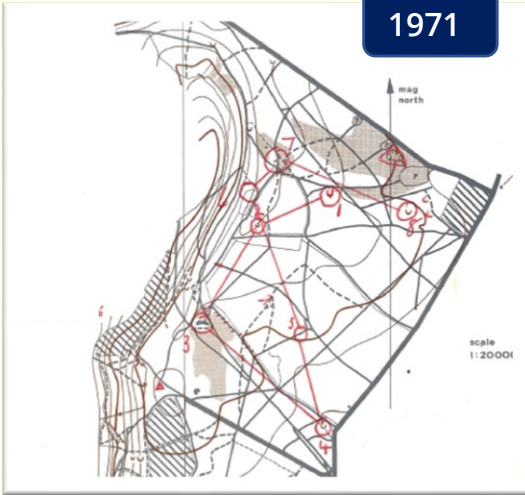
*Alistair Harding on the right; Roger Cole blowing starter's whistle far left (event unknown)*



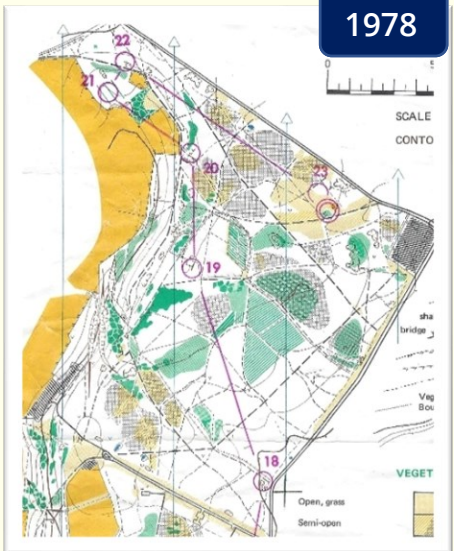
1969



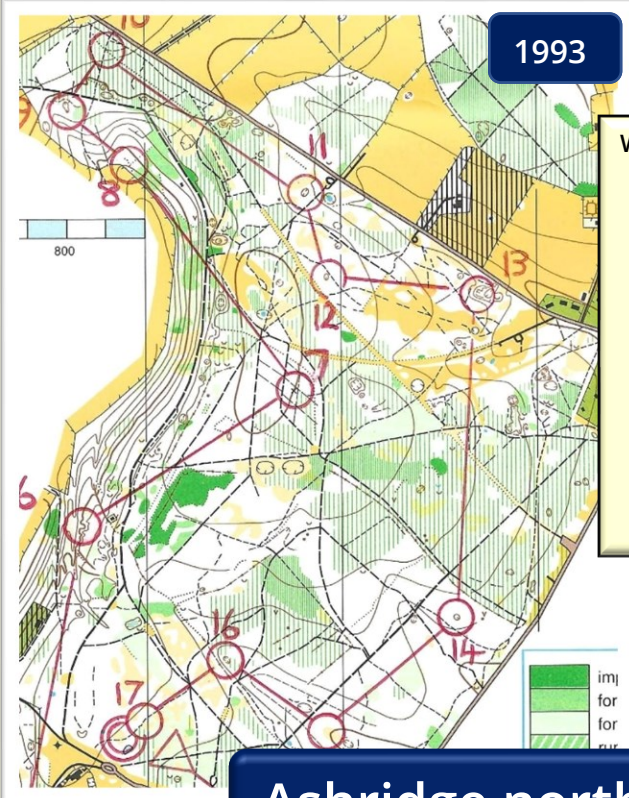
1971



1978

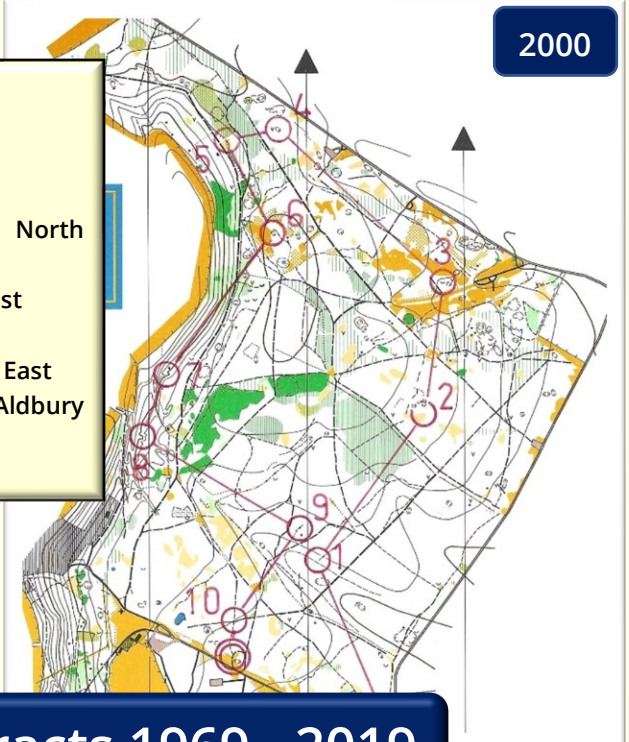


1993



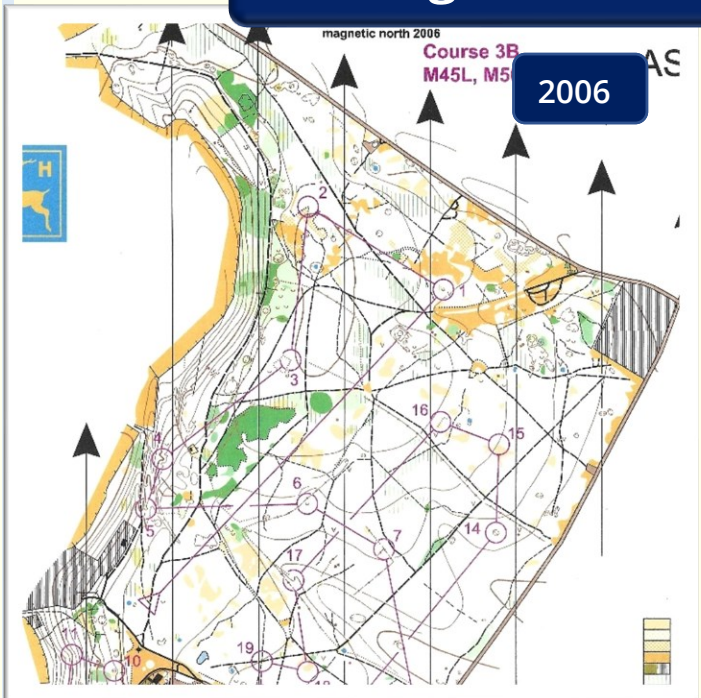
**What's in a Name?**  
 Ashridge  
 Ashridge East  
 Ashridge North  
 Ashridge Park North  
 & Beacon Hill  
 Ashridge Park West  
 Ashridge South  
 Ashridge South & East  
 Ivinghoe & Aldbury  
 Commons

2000

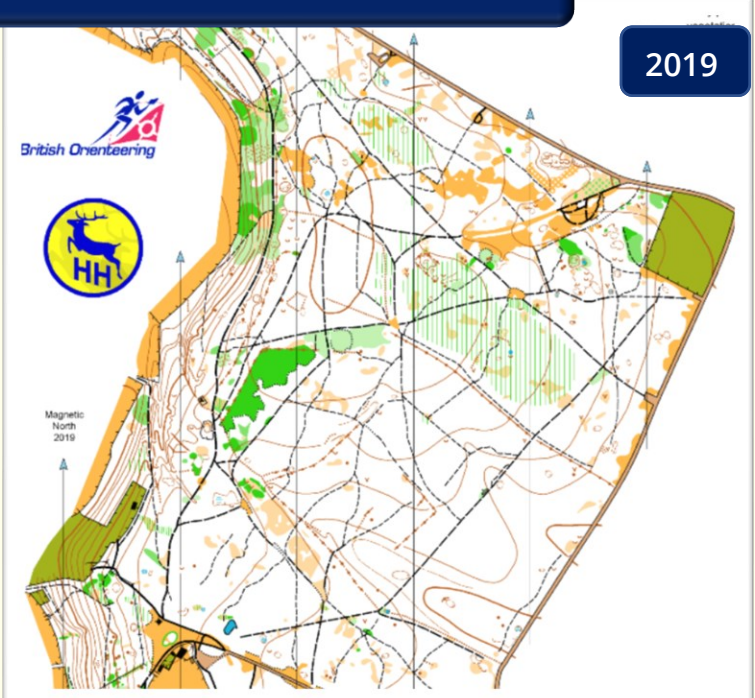


**Ashridge northern extracts 1969 - 2019**

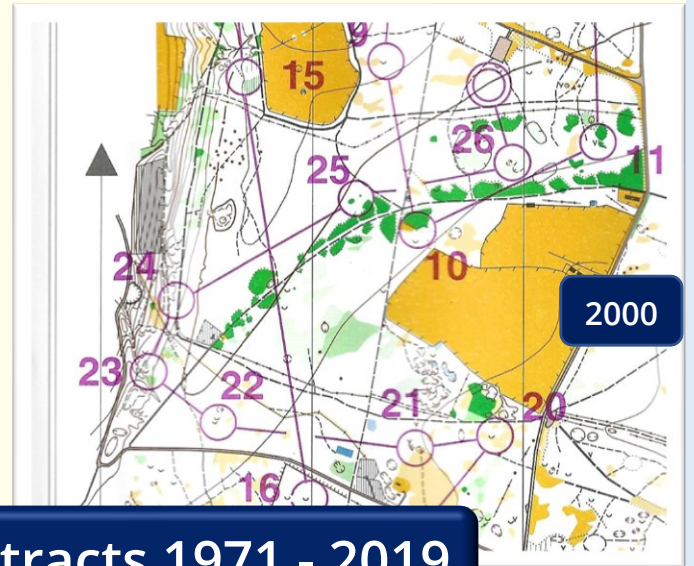
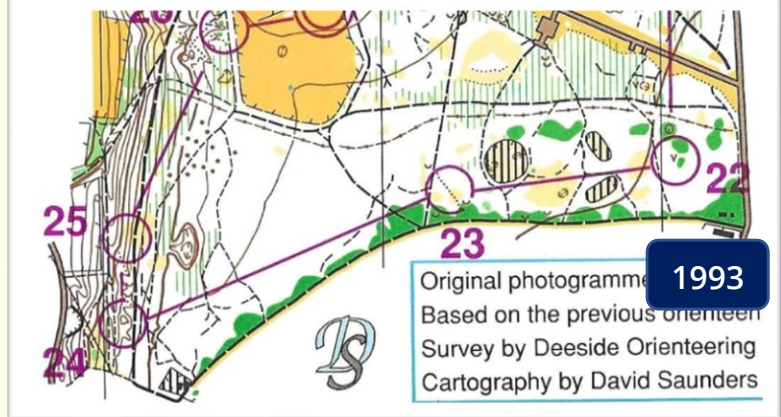
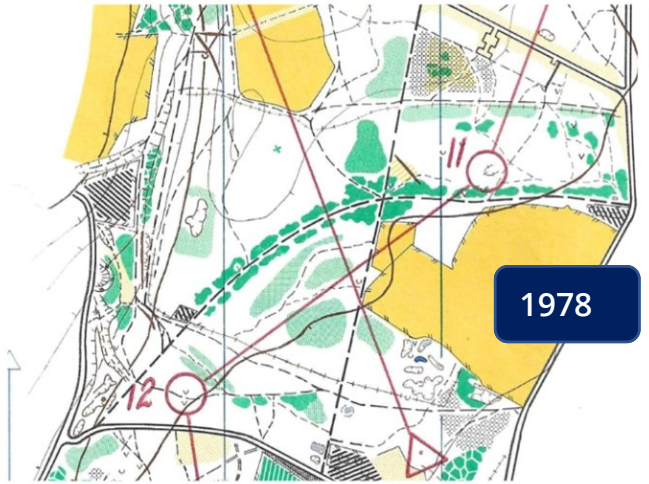
2006



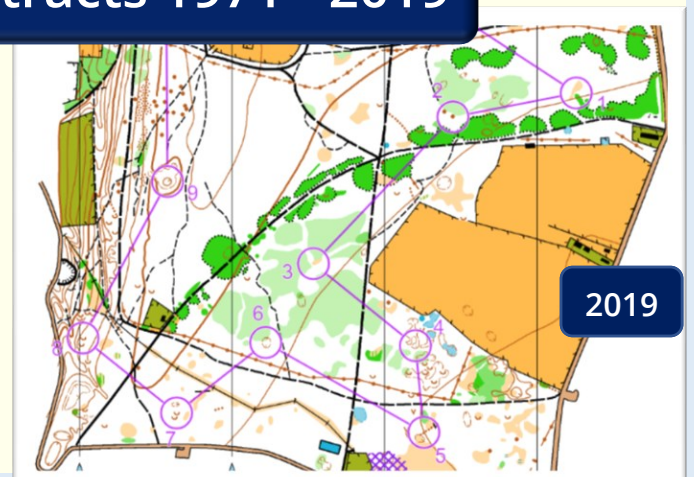
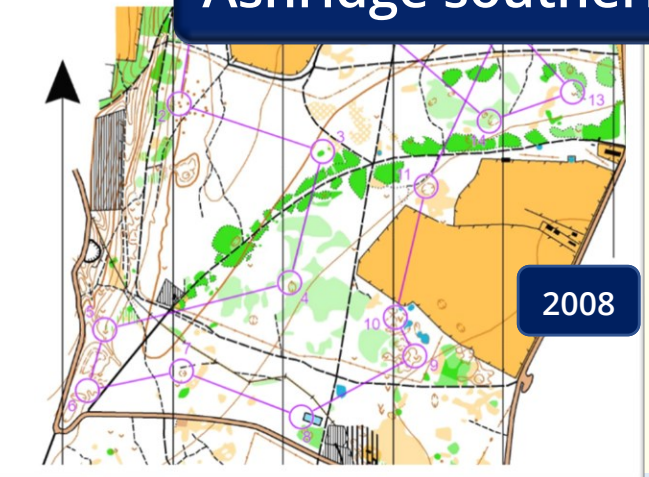
2019







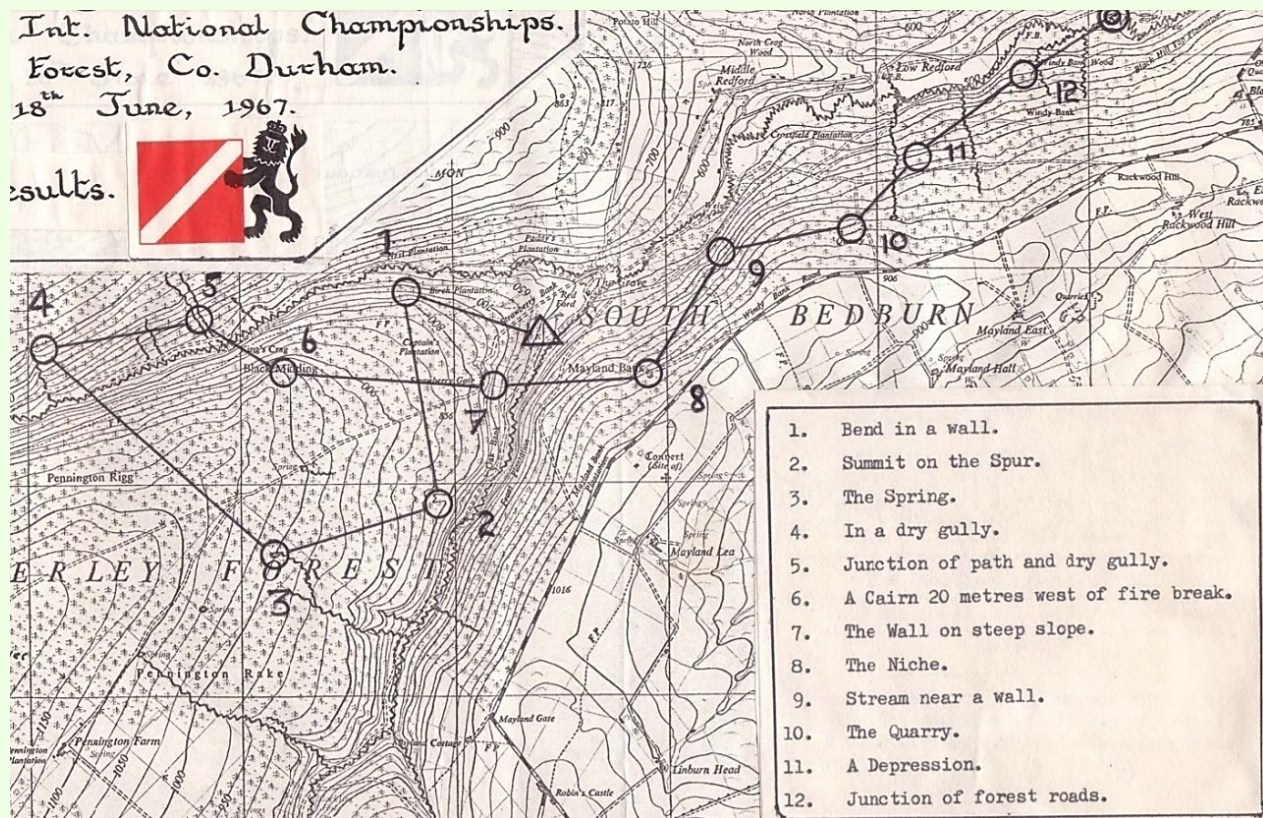
# Ashridge southern extracts 1971 - 2019





# Control Descriptions

These days in 'normal' orienteering, descriptions have to refer to identifiable features on the map but early descriptions could be 'indefinite', ie describing something that you would find on the ground in the centre of the circle (if you drew it accurately!) but which wasn't shown on the map. Any description that used 'a' or 'an' was indefinite. The 1967 British Championships had some interesting descriptions:



Interestingly, we have gone back to indefinite descriptions with our street-O where one has to find something written on a particular unmapped lamp post, in a street of lamp posts. It's slightly less of a problem with pre-marked maps compared with when we still drew the circles ourselves under time pressure in the race.

As multi-day events such as the Swedish O-Ringen and Swiss 6-days grew in popularity they attracted more foreign competitors speaking a variety of languages, so by 1975 pictorial descriptions were also developed and are now used everywhere except for beginners' and the most junior courses. Pacemaker 55 has an article by Val Challacombe explaining the delights at the 1994 French Championships of using a dictionary to translate descriptions such as *Une futaie de hêtre* (beech wood) and *Profonds thalwegs* (maybe deep valley bottom?).



The idea of a Club Championship was discussed, to be held at another club's event and having everyone running the same course, with an Open winner and a Handicap winner using factors similar to those used by BOF at the time.

The first champs were held at the Nower, Dorking, on 21 May 1978 after plans to run them at an SN event at Ruislip Woods had to be scrapped when it was designated as an SE Galoppen event.

1978 JIM PROWTING  
 1979 QUENTIN HARDING  
 1980 JIM PROWTING  
 1981 QUENTIN HARDING  
 1982 DAVID NEVELL  
 1983 JIM PROWTING  
 1984 KEVIN HARDING  
 1985 QUENTIN HARDING  
 1986 ANDREW MONRO  
 1987 MATTHEW SANDERSON  
 1988 JIM PROWTING  
 1989 ALAN ROSEN  
 1990 JIM PROWTING  
 1991 KEVIN PICKERING  
 1992 ANDREW CUMMINGS  
 1993 ALAN ROSEN  
 1994 PETER NORMAND  
 1995 NEIL GOSTICK  
 1996 MARK ADAMS  
 1997 TOM FRENZT  
 1998 ANDREW CUMMINGS  
 1999 MARK ADAMS  
 2000 KEVIN HARDING  
 2001 CLIVE STREET

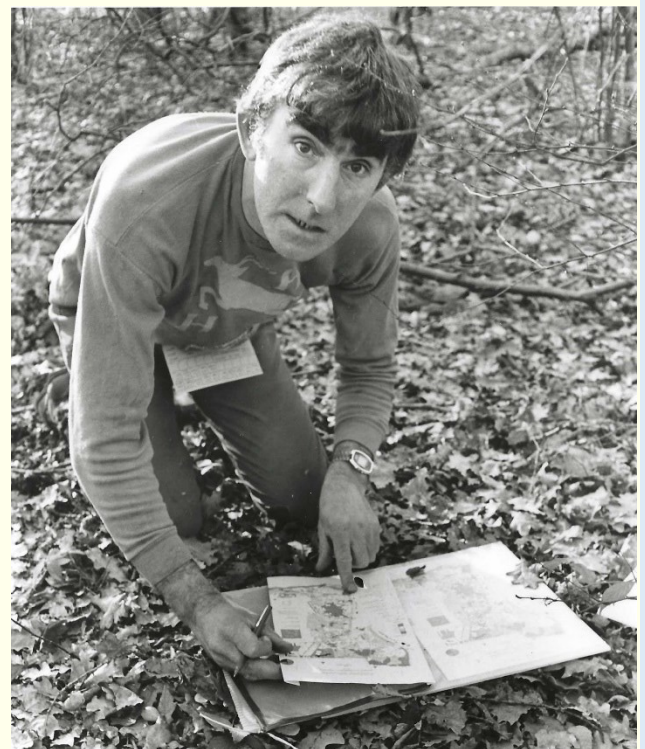
HAPPY HERTS ORIENTEERING CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS  
 21 May 1978

OPEN CLASS				HANDICAP CLASS			
1.	Jim Prowting	M21A	26.40	1.	David Nevell	M17	24.57
2.	David Nevell	M17	28.41	2.	Chris Baines	M17	28.57
3.	Robin Smith	M21A	29.50	3.	Jim Prowting	M21A	28.59
4.	Alan Rosen	M21A	30.12	4.	Alan Horn	M21B	29.16
5.	Francis Waite	M21A	33.03	5.	Julia Prudhoe	W19B	29.49
6.	Chris Baines	M17	33.17	6.	Phil Powell	M50	30.04
7.	Alan Horn	M21B	33.39	7.	Janet Rosen	W19A	30.29
8.	Janet Rosen	W19A	37.30	8.	June Cole	W35	31.25
9.	Dennis Cannon	M35	37.42	9.	Alan Wakefield	M43	32.17
10.	Alan Wakefield	M43	39.04	10.	Robin Smith	M21A	32.26
11.	Alex Wakefield	M15	40.48	11.	Cliff Birch	M56	32.31
12.	Doug Nevell	M43	41.34	12.	Alex Wakefield	M15	32.38
13.	Phil Powell	M50	42.05	13.	Alan Rosen	M21A	32.50
14.	Wick Hockey	M21B	42.42	14.	Brenda Cannon	W35	33.12
15.	Martin How	M21B	43.25	15.	Doug Nevell	M43	34.21
16.	Julia Prudhoe	W19B	44.26	16.	Francis Waite	M21A	35.55
17.	Roger Cole	M35	45.09	17.	Dennis Cannon	W35	36.36
18.	June Cole	W35	45.33	18.	Nick Hockey	M21B	37.03
19.	Eric Hill	M35	46.42	19.	Monty Rosen	M56	37.27
20.	Brenda Cannon	W35	48.08	20.	Tracey Cole	W13	37.34

Plaque from HH Club Championship Open Trophy

1979

The 1979 champs were at Ruislip Woods on 9th June, with a barbecue afterwards. Alan Rosen provided a new handicap scoring system which was felt to be an improvement on the previous version; Quentin Harding won both the Open and Handicap Trophies (which was a reflection of how well he had run, but it is generally best if handicapping produces a different winner!).



Peter Pratt, who joined HH in 1978, organised the barbecues that accompanied several HH club champs.

HAPPY HERTS CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS - RESULTS

OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP			HANDICAP CHAMPIONSHIP		
1.	Q. Harding	M17 25.45	1.	Q. Harding	M17 30.3
2.	K. Harding	M19 28.15	2.	S. Harding	W43 33.2
3.	F. Waite	M21 28.45	3.	S. Harding	W15 34.4
4.	R. Smith	M21 30.52	4.	K. Harding	M19 35.3
5.	A. Rosen	M21 31.19	5.	M. Brevik	M10 35.5
6.	J. Prowting	M21 31.26	6.	P. Powell	M56 36.6
7.	D. Nowell	M19 31.56	7.	J. Cole	W35 38.8
8.	A. Horn	M21 33.20	8.	A. Wakefield	M15 39
9.	A. Harding	M21 33.55	9.	J. Rosen	W19 39.4
10.	A. Wakefield	M15 35.03	10.	D. Nowell	M19 39.8
11.	N. Hodson	M35 38.20	11.	T. Cole	W13 41.1
12.	J. Rosen	W19 38.24	12.	C. Birch	M56 43.1
13.	D. Cannon	M35 39.27	13.	S. Harding	M50 43.5
14.	D. Nowell	M43 40.05	14.	D. Nevell	M43 43.6
15.	P. Pratt	M43 40.25	15.	P. Pratt	M43 43.7
16.	R. Cole	M35 40.58	16.	F. Waite	M21 44.5
17.	S. Harding	W15 41.13	17.	A. Wakefield	M43 44.9
18.	A. Wakefield	M43 41.30	18.	B. Cannon	W35 45.9
19.	R. Hare	M21 44.05	19.	R. Smith	M21 47.5
20.	O. Brovik	M21 47.20	20.	N. Hodson	M35 47.9
			21.	A. Rosen	M21 48.2

M10	M11	M13	M15	M17	M19	M21	M35	M43	M50	M56
1.3	1.15	1	0.9	0.85	0.8	0.65	0.8	0.925	1.15	1.25
W10	W11	W13	W15	W17	W19		W35	W43	W50	W56
1.6	1.45	1.3	1.2	1.1	0.975		1.2	1.45	1.6	1.8

Divide actual time by factor to get handicap time - lowest wins



# HH Club Champions 1978 - 2019

(if anyone can fill in the gaps, please get in touch)

Year	Open	Open Handicap	Junior	Junior Handicap
1978	Jim Prowting	David Nevell		
1979	Quentin Harding	Quentin Harding		
1980	Jim Prowting	Sylvia Frey		
1981	Quentin Harding	Quentin Harding		
1982	David Nevell	Sylvia Harding		
1983	Jim Prowting	Jim Prowting		
1984	Kevin Harding			
1985	Quentin Harding			
1986	Andy Munro	Ladies Andy Munro		
1987	Matthew Sanderson	Janet Rosen Arthur Boyt		
1988	Jim Prowting	Emma Grainger Mark Sedge		
1989	Alan Rosen	Janet Rosen Gillian Granger		
1990	Jim Prowting	Janet Rosen Margaret Livermore		
1991	Kevin Pickering	Janet Rosen Kevin Pickering		
1992	Andrew Cummings	Janet Rosen Andrew Cummings		
1993	Alan Rosen	Madeleine Limpar Alan Rosen		
1994	Peter Normand	Ann Sanderson Dennis Cannon		
1995	Neil Gostick	Janet Rosen Alan Rosen		
1996	Mark Adams	Liz Abbott Tim Hall		
1997	Tom Frenzt	Janet Rosen Tom Frenzt		
1998	Andrew Cummings			
1999	Mark Adams	Janet Rosen Pauline Goddard		
2000	Kevin Harding	Helen Errington Tim Hall		
2001	Clive Street	Helen Errington Maureen Webster		
2002	Neil Gostick	Gillian Jubb Graham Perry		
2003	Simon Errington	Maire Convery Gillian Jubb		
2004	Clive Street	Carol Lovegrove Phil Brown		
2005	Alan Rosen	Helen Errington Paul Mace		
2006	Graham Parkes	Sian Challacombe Sean Mitchell		
2007	Tim Bean	Sian Challacombe Jenny Gostick		
2008	Paul Langston	Sian Challacombe Tim Platt		
2009	Chris Young	Janet Rosen Paul Hearn		
2010	Simon Errington	Laura Parkes Kevin Parkes		
2011	Kevin Harding	Rebecca Harding Neville Young		
2012	Kevin Harding	Alison Harding David Frampton		
2013	Adam Bennett	Gillian Jubb David Frampton		
2014	Kevin Fielding	Sian Mitchell Danny Figg		
2015	Mark Adams			
2016	Sam Fielding	Sian Mitchell Jacob Sharpe		
2017	Kevin Fielding	Becky Raftery Alan Bowers		
2018	Simon Errington			
2019	Tom Cochrane	Becky Raftery Emily Grover		

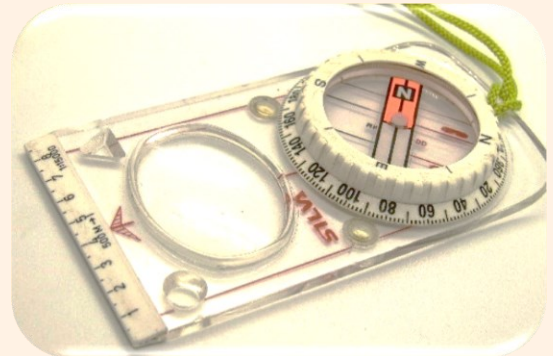
Year	Vets Open	Vets Handicap	Intermediate Boy	Intermediate Girl	Sprint - Men	Sprint - Women
1993	Alan Rosen	Alan Rosen			Graham Parkes	Janet Rosen
1994	Peter Normand	Dennis Cannon			Richard Freeman	Janet Rosen
1995	Neil Gostick	Alan Rosen			Kevin Fielding	Janet Rosen
1996	Mark Adams	Tim Hall				
1997	Tom Frenzt	Lesley Brown				
1998	Andrew Cummings					
1999	Mark Adams	Lesley Brown				
2000	Kevin Harding	Robin Barris				
2001	Clive Street	Robin Barris				
2002	Neil Gostick	Janet Rosen				
2003	Simon Errington	Robin Barris				
2004	Clive Street	Carol Iddles				
2005	Alan Rosen	Janet Rosen				
2006	Graham Parkes	Alison Harding				
2007	Tim Bean	Robin Barris				
2008	Paul Langston	Mick Smith				
2009	Chris Young	Mick Smith				
2010	Simon Errington	Mick Smith				
2011	Kevin Harding	Mick Smith				
2012	Adam Bennett					
2013	Kevin Fielding					
2014	Mark Adams					
2015	Sam Fielding					
2016	Kevin Fielding					
2017	Simon Errington					
2018	Tom Cochrane					
2019	Becky Raftery					

## Compasses

Silva and Suunto baseplate compasses have been ubiquitous for almost all of the last century, with liquid-filled capsules making the needle settle smoothly since the 1930s, but other manufacturers have emerged in recent years.

Thumb compasses were developed in 1983 as they eliminated the need to turn the compass housing when taking a bearing - you turn yourself instead!

Before o-maps were drawn to point to Magnetic North, the numbers on the compass were still important. While most compasses have always had 360° in their circle, military compasses sometimes had mils (one thousandth of a radian, so there were 6283 in a circle; 6000 or 6400 were used for simplicity). This does apparently have real advantages when controlling artillery fire, but not when orienteering. Similarly, the other unit of angle on compasses was the grad, with 400 in a circle, so it's a metric system with 100 grads in a right angle. One hundredth of a grad was known on the continent as a centigrade, which was one contributing reason for the temperature scale to be renamed after its inventor, Anders Celsius.



By 1979, membership had again risen by 30% and, counting families as having three people each, the club had 179 members. There was concern expressed about the club's size, and the difficulty of getting to know members despite the Club Champs and Barbecue, the Christmas Party and Wednesday training evenings. Regular meetings were being held at the Scout Hut in Sandpit Lane, St Albans, attracting 30 or more members.

In April 1979, Wednesday summer training began at Whippendell Wood, with a good number of members turning up at the Grove Mill Lane car park each week.

The upside of being a large club was the range of activities taking place over the year: we were putting on a good number of well-attended and well-regarded events, club members were being selected for BOF foreign tours, individuals and teams were doing well in championships, the JK and the Scottish 6-days.

We helped the Herts WI celebrate their centenary year by providing a film, talk and practice event, we ran a stand at the Harpenden Leisure Exhibition, and Alec Farmer gave talks to Venture Scouts, Army Cadets, a Ladies Circle and other adult groups. The financial health of the club had improved, with a balance of £286 in August 1979, enabling the purchase of two sighting compasses for surveying, and a set of Rotring pens for drawing up maps (OCAD software was first released in 1989).

The first HH Christmas Party was held at the 9<sup>th</sup> St Albans Scout Hut, which had also become the venue for regular club meetings. 60 adults and children attended the highly successful event.

1979 also saw the first suggestion that mapping should be undertaken by professionals and we approached Harveys Map Services for an idea of costs.

It feels as though the late 70s were the time when HH had (finally) reached a critical mass and was both large enough and run effectively to flourish in more ways than it had previously done.

The club had risen to fourth out of 16 in the 1978/9 SE League while our A team was fifth out of 62 in the Harvester Trophy (Jim Prowting, Alan Rosen, Quentin Harding, Dave Nevell, Kevin Harding, Janet Rosen, Robin Smith). Jim, Alan and Janet were first in the Mammoth Relays in Lyme Park (the Mammoth was an annual weekend in August, in the NW) and eight members were part of the SE team at the Inter-Regional Champs in North Yorkshire.

The 1979 Christmas Party was so successful, with 90 attending, that it was wondered whether there should be a separate social function for adults, which emerged as a dinner dance in October 1980. The details noted that the dress code was 'Full body cover of the informal variety'. Later dinners included a Barn Dance.







# “But we don’t have very much land!”

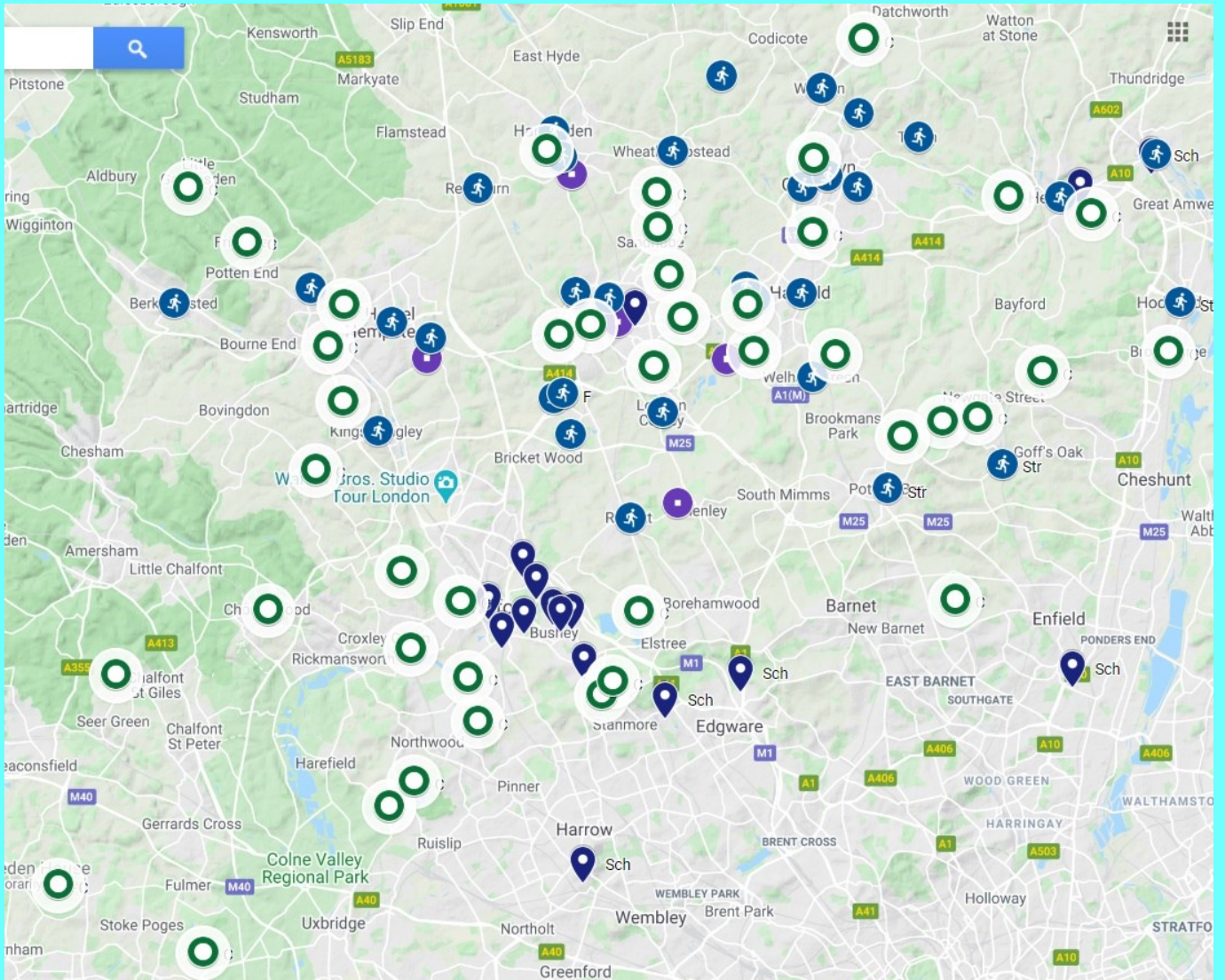
We have always struggled to put on major events due to a shortage of high quality ‘classic’ orienteering land in our highly populated territory, but the number of areas we have ingeniously managed to use is remarkable.

Please say if there are areas omitted from these lists and any amendments to make.

Note: several areas have versions (eg ‘North’ and ‘South’ which are not listed here.

<p><b>HH areas used for 'normal' orienteering</b></p> <p>Ashridge Balls Park Bentley Priory Bigwood (part of Oxhey Woods) Black Park Boxmoor Common Broxbourne Burnham Beeches &amp; Egypt Woods Cassiobury Park &amp; Estate Cherry Green Trees, Colney Heath Chipperfield Common Chorleywood House Estate Croxley Moor Cuffley Camp Ellenbrook Fairlands Valley Frithsden Gadebridge Park Haberdashers' Aske's Hatfield Park &amp; Millward's Park Heartwood Highfield Park Hodgemoor Woods Jersey Farm Mardley Heath Nomansland Northaw Great Woods Oaklands College Oxhey Woods Panshanger Park Phasels Wood Scout Camp Queenswood Rothamsted Park Ruislip Woods Sherrards Park Woods and Malms Wood St Albans Stanborough Park Stanmore Common Stopsley Trent Park Verulamium Park Whippendell Wood Willow Tree Centre Wormley Woods</p>	<p><b>School maps drawn 2001-2007</b></p> <p>Aylward First &amp; Middle School Bournehall Primary School Bromet Primary School Bushey Manor Primary School Bushey Meads School Christchurch Primary School Colnbrook Primary School Fairway Primary School Field Primary School Fleetville School Hartsbourne Primary School Highwood Primary School Larwood School Little Reddings Primary School Orley Farm School Oughton School Presdales School Queen's School Simon Balle School Watford Girls Grammar School Wilbury School</p>	<p><b>HH Street/HARC Areas</b></p> <p>Ayot Batchwood Berkhamsted Bernards Heath Boxmoor and Gadebridge Chiswell Green Cuffley De Havilland Campus Digswell Greenwood Park Handside, Welwyn Garden City Harpenden Hatfield Hemel Hempstead Hertford Highfield Park Hoddesdon How Wood &amp; Park Street Kings Langley Leverstock Green London Colney Panshanger Park Peartree and Handside Potters Bar Radlett Redbourn Rothamsted Salisbury Village &amp; Ellenbrook Fields Sandridge and Jersey Farm Sherrards Park Woods St Albans Stevenage Tewin Ware Welham Green Welwyn Garden City Welwyn Village Wheathampstead</p>
	<p><b>New maps registered but not yet completed</b></p> <p>Batchwood Bunkers Park Clarence Park &amp; Fleetville Area Colney Heath Ellenbrook Open Space Greenwood Park, Chiswell Green Harpenden Common Jersey Farm Napsbury and London Colney Oaklands College (Smallford Campus) Shenley Park</p>	

-  'Normal' orienteering
-  Street/park orienteering
-  School map
-  Possible future area





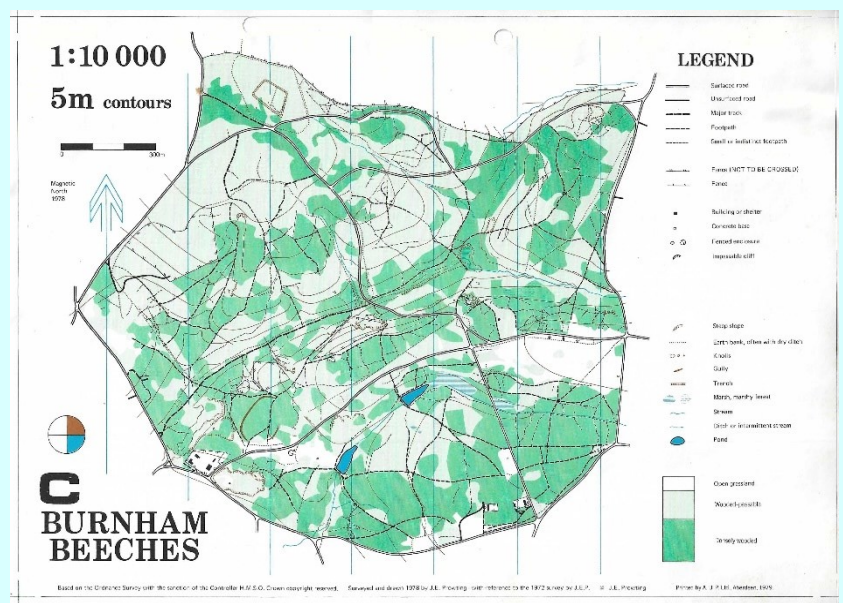
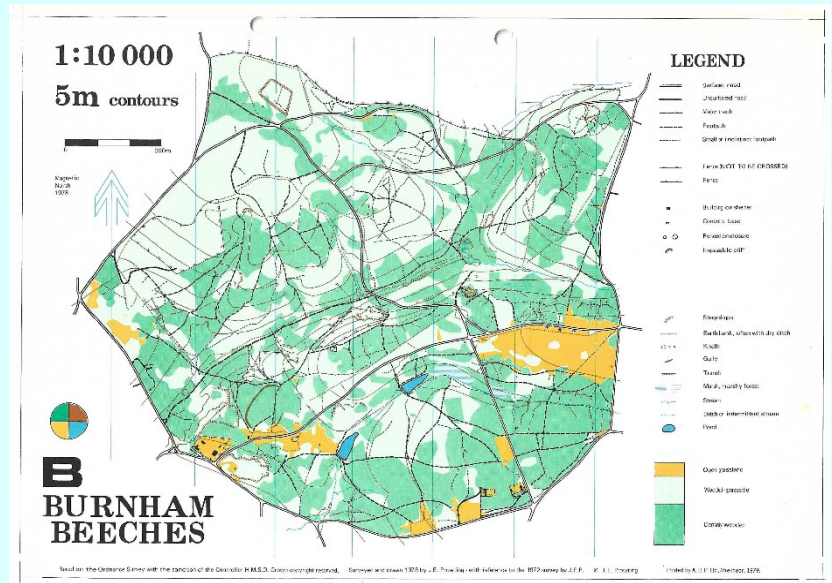
# Specification for Wayfaring Maps 1979

In November 1979 the BOF Mapping Committee reviewed the specification for Wayfarers' (Beginners') maps and used Burnham Beeches (with Clydeside's Mugdock Wood and Drumclog Moor in Scotland as a contrast), to test out an idea for changing the colours so that the maps were nearer to OS map colouring and therefore easier to understand for beginners.

Three maps for each area were printed:

- Version A was the original (orienteering) map.
- Version B had all woodland in two shades of green – pale green for 'passable' and dark green for 'dense' – with open land in solid yellow. Also, many minor features would not be shown.
- Version C was as 'B' but with all open land in white.

The maps were sent out to all O-clubs for comment and while we don't have the national conclusions, HH responded to say that those with no previous contact with O-maps 'accepted version C most readily' while orienteers thought having differing types of O-map would only serve to confuse.



40+ years later we still use the colours which are best described as what you can see if you look upwards on a sunny day – bright yellow in the open, white in wood where lots of light gets through and then increasingly darker shades of green as the vegetation takes over.



# WI events

**HERTFORDSHIRE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**  **MONTHLY NEWS**

PRICE 3p JULY, 1978

**Whippendell Woods....**

## Orienteering day for all age groups

If you went down to the woods one Saturday...you may well have met up with numerous families navigating their way round on the first W.I. Orienteering afternoon. Held on a dry but overcast afternoon at Whippendell Wood near Watford, grandparents to the youngest children all took part in this new venture organised by the Sports Sub-committee.

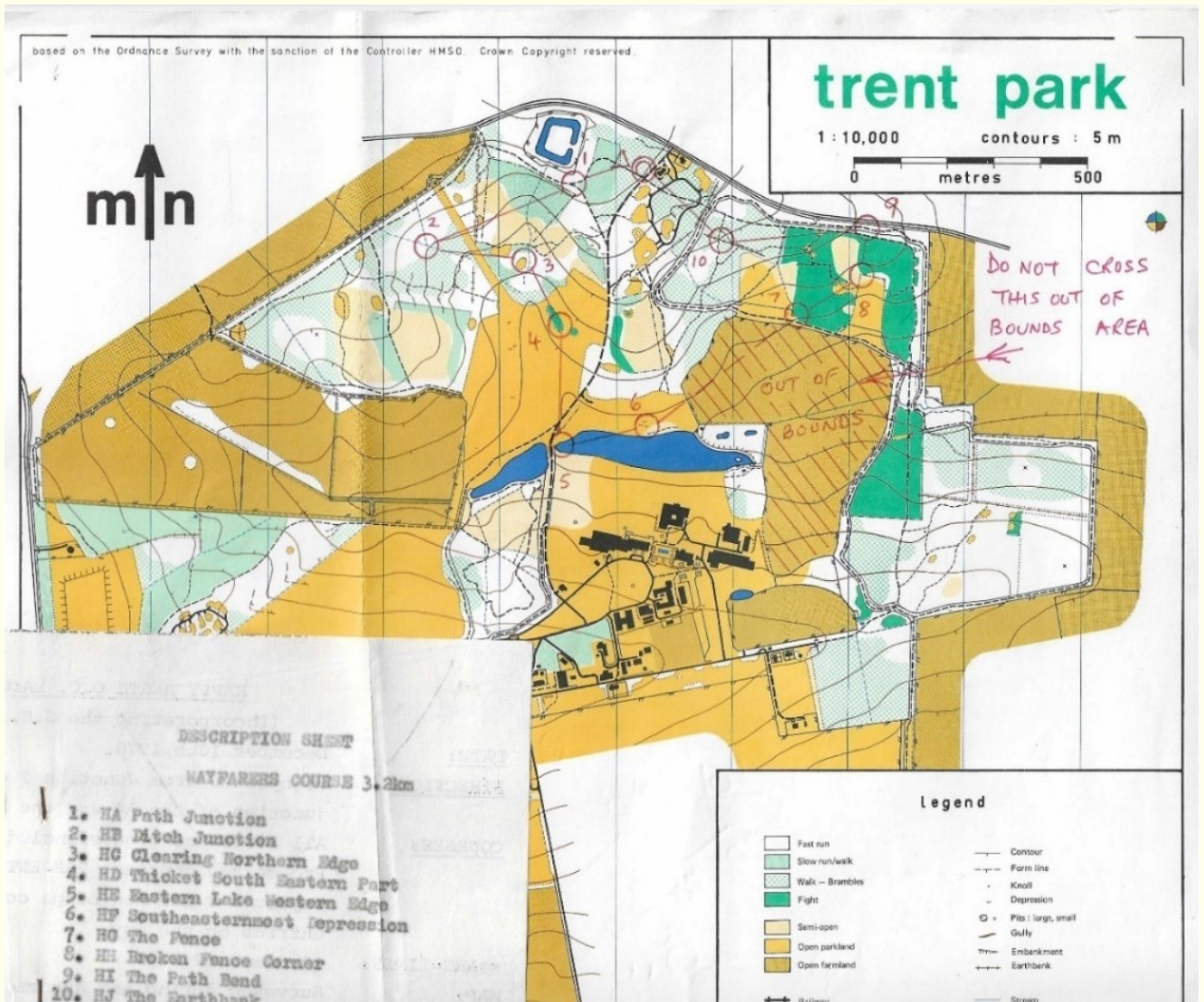
Mr Alec Farmer, secretary of the Happy Herts Orienteering Club set the scene by explaining to participants how to use a compass and how to read the special map provided.

### Herts Orienteering Club act as helpers for this day out.



Mr Alec Farmer, secretary of the Happy Herts Orienteering Club, explains how to use a map and compass.

Continued  
on  
page 2





atches of country-  
e since that time.  
s run as a non-  
fit making body  
ing on gifts,  
nations and sub-  
scriptions and  
quires properties  
three main ways  
by purchase; in  
of death duties  
by the country  
se scheme  
ere houses are  
en to the Trust  
are still lived in  
the owners rent  
27 who however,  
st endow money  
WS maintain the pro-  
ck ty. Mrs Smith  
als pleted her talk  
itch a slide show of  
jional Trust pro-  
tes, many of  
ch had been  
ted by members.  
Beryl Liggatt  
e the vote of  
nks.  
Mrs Cherry Nolan  
s welcomed back  
the Institute as a  
y member and  
s Shirley Cotterell  
s thanked for  
viding soup for  
carol singers  
en they had col-  
ted £8.40 for the  
ve the Children  
nd before Christ-  
s.  
he competition  
to who could  
ate National  
st properties  
m photos passed  
nd was won by  
s June Howard.

## Members gather

om were new-  
ers to the village.  
fter the refresh-  
t break, one of the  
nger members, Mrs  
n Pike, entertained  
recitations and  
gs. This had been  
nged that very day  
the members were  
t appreciative of  
Pike's contribution  
the evening.  
e winner of the  
petition for the  
st Treasured Book  
My Bookshelf' was  
Mary Davies,  
e president, Mrs  
Filby, asked mem-  
to propose ideas  
the forthcoming  
ration of their  
Jubilee later in

Whippendell Woods is venue for orienteering day

# Orienteering is fun for all the family

Bring your family to our first Orienteering Day in Whippendell Woods, Watford on Saturday, May 13th at 1.30 p.m.

We are arranging for you to tackle a permanent Wayfaring Course in Whippendell Woods. Wayfaring serves as an introduction to the competitive sport of Orienteering and is an exciting new form of Countryside recreation. It is a walk with a difference! With the aid of a special map (which we will provide) and a compass, you will find your way from one control point to another in the woods, using your skill to choose the best route.

Wayfaring can be fun for all the family. The children can help to choose the route, you can walk at your own pace and explore the woods and countryside.

We are very fortunate to have the assistance of Mr Alec Farmer, secretary of the 'Happy Herts Orienteering Club' who with the aid of his helpers will instruct you and give you a brief description of orienteering navigation through the woodlands with the aid of a map and compass, and discuss your success, or problems afterwards.

We have been able to hire a scout hut on the edge of Whippendell Woods where tea, soft drinks and biscuits will be on sale after you have completed your course. The short instruction will be given here at 1.30 p.m. and you will move off in your groups, staggered between 2-2.30 p.m. on the 2½ to 3 mile course. The last group should finish about 4.30 p.m. (that's if nobody gets lost!) when you could

enjoy a drink and perhaps bring a picnic tea.

You should bring with you a Red Biro, small polythene bag about 10" x 8" and a 'Silva' type compass if possible. If you cannot get hold of this type of compass (only one would be necessary per group) you will be able to borrow one from us by leaving a deposit of £3 on the day. It would be advisable to wear old clothes, walking shoes or wellingtons if it's wet!

Instructions on how to get to 1st Watford Central Scout Group Camp Site: 1 mile north of Watford Town Hall on A411 turn into Grove Mill Lane (beside 30 mph Oblique D Limit sign) travel 1 mile to cross roads and turn left (sign Chandlers Cross/Sarratt) go past Lees Wood Scout Camp and at bottom of hill turn left up a track bearing blue plaque "1st Watford Central Scout Group". "The Lord Hyde Memorial Camp Site". The car park is about 300 yards up the track on the

right. Grid Reference 073 981.

Do make the effort to make this our Family Sports Event of 1978 and sent your names, entrance fees with SAE and tell us whether you will be bringing a 'Silva' type compass — see back page for free — to Mrs Rosemary Bannister, 2 Broadgates Avenue, Hadley Wood, Barnet, Herts. This course will not be suitable for prams or push-chairs.

## Some detective work required

We urgently need to know of any halls in your area that would be suitable for use for any size of County meeting. The information we require is as follows:

1. Name and location of hall.
2. Name, address and telephone number of Clerical Administrator or Caretaker.
3. Seating capacity.
4. Kitchen facilities.
5. Stage.
6. Piano.
7. Car Parking facilities.
8. Copy of Booking Form (if possible).

Please accept our thanks in advance for your help and send all information to Mrs Thelma Coughtrey, Rowans, Grove Road, Tring.

## Handside

Bleak January weather did not deter some members of Handside WI attending their monthly meeting last week. Once there, they were entertained by Mr R. L. Harris and members of the Gilbert and Sullivan Society, with a history of the working partnership of librettist W. S. Gilbert and composer Arthur Sullivan, punctuated with songs from their numerous light operas.

The newly-innovated market stall was well-supported and it is hoped that it will prosper throughout the year.

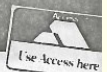
## Hexton brave storms

Members of Hexton WI braved the January storms to welcome Mrs Eki Luton magistrate and JP. Mrs Eki spoke on her work as a probation officer and described the changes and innovations in dealing with young offenders that she witnessed in her long career that began in Liverpool and progressed to London.

The Marj Barker competition cup was once again presented to Mrs Summerfield for her highest competition points over the year.

Later in the morning members reconvened for the new year party. Catering was under the expert direction of Mrs Thursby, who with the assistance of Mesdames L. Allt, E. Cole, M. Mar and S. Terzeon, planned and prepared a delicious meal. Service was by members of Lilley under our reciprocal agreement. Members and guests ended the evening with a glimpse of Scotland, an entertainment by Strathgadda Scottish Dancers of Harpenden, featuring slide music, dancing and singing.

# AMBRIDGE DISCOUNT



This is only one example of the many lines in our

BEDROOM FURNITURE



PHYSICAL AND MENTAL CHALLENGE

# EUROPEAN TRIPS FOR DAVID



**THE SPORT** that adds brainbox power to cross-country slogging is orienteering an exercise in map-reading at speed. Former St Albans School pupil David Nevell is one of the country's brightest prospects at this relatively new sport which came from Scandinavia in 1966.

Nevell, 19, who lives in Wood End Hill, Harpenden, has been called up by the British Orienteering Federation (BOF) to train with the national squad. 1979 should be an exciting year.

The sport demands the fitness needed for cross-country running, plus a high degree of deftness with the map and compass.

These athletes can't blame officials for not marking out the course clearly—they have to find their own way to victory via checkpoints. The more forest, woodland and hills there are, the more they like it.

Nevell, who takes up a mathematics exhibition at Queens College, Oxford later this year, captained the St Albans School cadet force team which won the Services Inter-Corps Championships in 1978.

He represented the BOF junior team in Denmark and Sweden, winning prizes in two major events.

His training with the senior squad will include intensive coaching and racing experience in Scandinavia and other parts of Europe. In July he leaves for Sweden to take part in a five-day competition.

● A map, a compass, special protective clothing and a sharp sense of direction are needed for this form of cross-country running.

Nevell, a member of the local Happy Herts Orienteering Club, says: "I like running and orienteering is a mental challenge. It's very demanding both physically and mentally."

He is currently filling in time before going to university doing production work at Vauxhall Motors in Luton. The five mile journey to work serves as a handy training stretch.

Orienteering, which can appeal to whole families is becoming increasingly popular and there is even

a permanent course laid out in Whippendell Woods in Watford.

Members of the public can obtain a free map and test their own navigational skills over the course.

The Happy Herts Club has nearly 150 members whose ages range from six to 60. Anyone wanting to have a closer look at this sport is invited to contact the club's secretary Alec Farmer of 4 Grassington Close, Bricket Wood, St Albans. Telephone Garston 70108.

## Soft drink sponsor

ROBINSON'S Barley Water are backing orienteering this year—by supplying free squash for competitors in three major events.

It might not sound very much, but the cost of soft drinks plus a cup for each competitor runs into hundreds of pounds.

The three events—Jan Kjellstrom Trophy Weekend (Devon), British Relay Championships (Staffordshire) and British Orienteering Championships (Lake District)—will be attracting a total of more than 5,500 entries from all age groups.

HARPENDEN'S bright orienteering prospect David Nevell has leapt into international reckoning.

HERTS ADVERTISER 9/3/79



1980

In February 1980 HH was leading the SE League and by May was declared the winner for the first time, aided by some concerted efforts to get as many club members as possible along to the league events.

Membership had stabilised in 1980 at around 180 members, and the unavailability of both Burnham and Ashridge (both having their 'closed' two years at the time) meant that the club only put on one mainstream event, at Oxhey Woods, with two Come and Try It events at Whippendell.

The 1980 Club Champs took place at Trent Park on 19 July, with Jim Prowting as Open Champion and Sylvia Frey, who joined the club from Switzerland while staying in the area for a few months, was Handicap Champion, with over a hundred members taking part. Helen Eastham won the newly-introduced Junior Handicap course.

Meetings were taking place every six weeks or so at the scout hut, and attracted 30-40 people, with both 'club business' and talks and training activities featuring as well. It was suggested that members consider having an Executive Committee and this was put to a vote at the 1980 AGM, but defeated by 16 votes to 8. The idea of having a newsletter was suggested but no volunteers came forward.

Events were picking up, with a night event at Stopsley in December 1980, a SE League event at Oxhey Woods in January 1981, the Hertfordshire Scouts Championships at Oxhey in April and a Badge event at Burnham Beeches in October 1981.

THE Happy Herts Orienteering Club held its annual dinner dance at the Watermill Hotel near Hemel Hempstead recently.

Club skipper Alan Rosen received the handsome South Eastern League trophy won by the club last season and he thanked all team members for their efforts.

Jim Prowting was club open champion with the handicap winner Sylvia Frey.

The club, which covers Bedfordshire, Hertford-

shire and North Middlesex, has 200 members, ranging from internationals to families who like a brisk weekend walk.

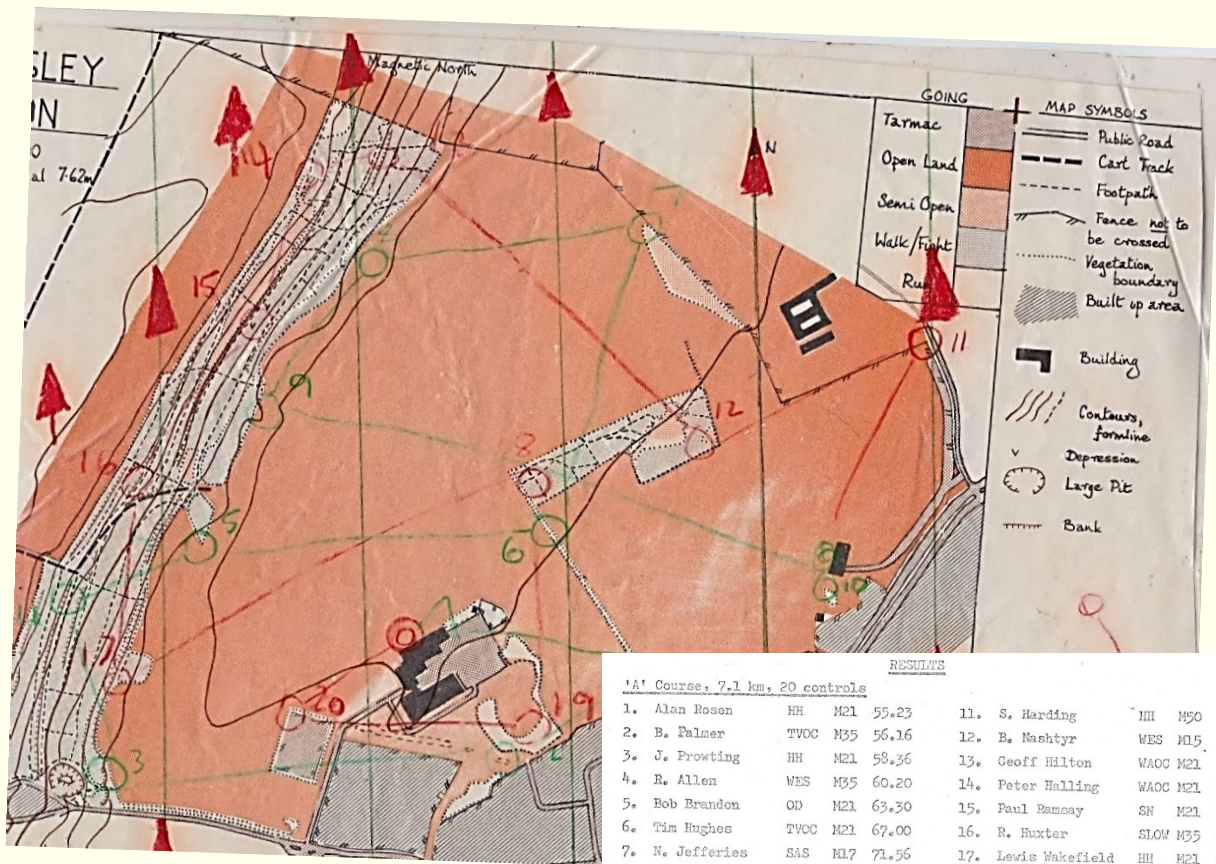
24 Oct 1980 Hemel Gazette

## Start procedure – 1970s-style

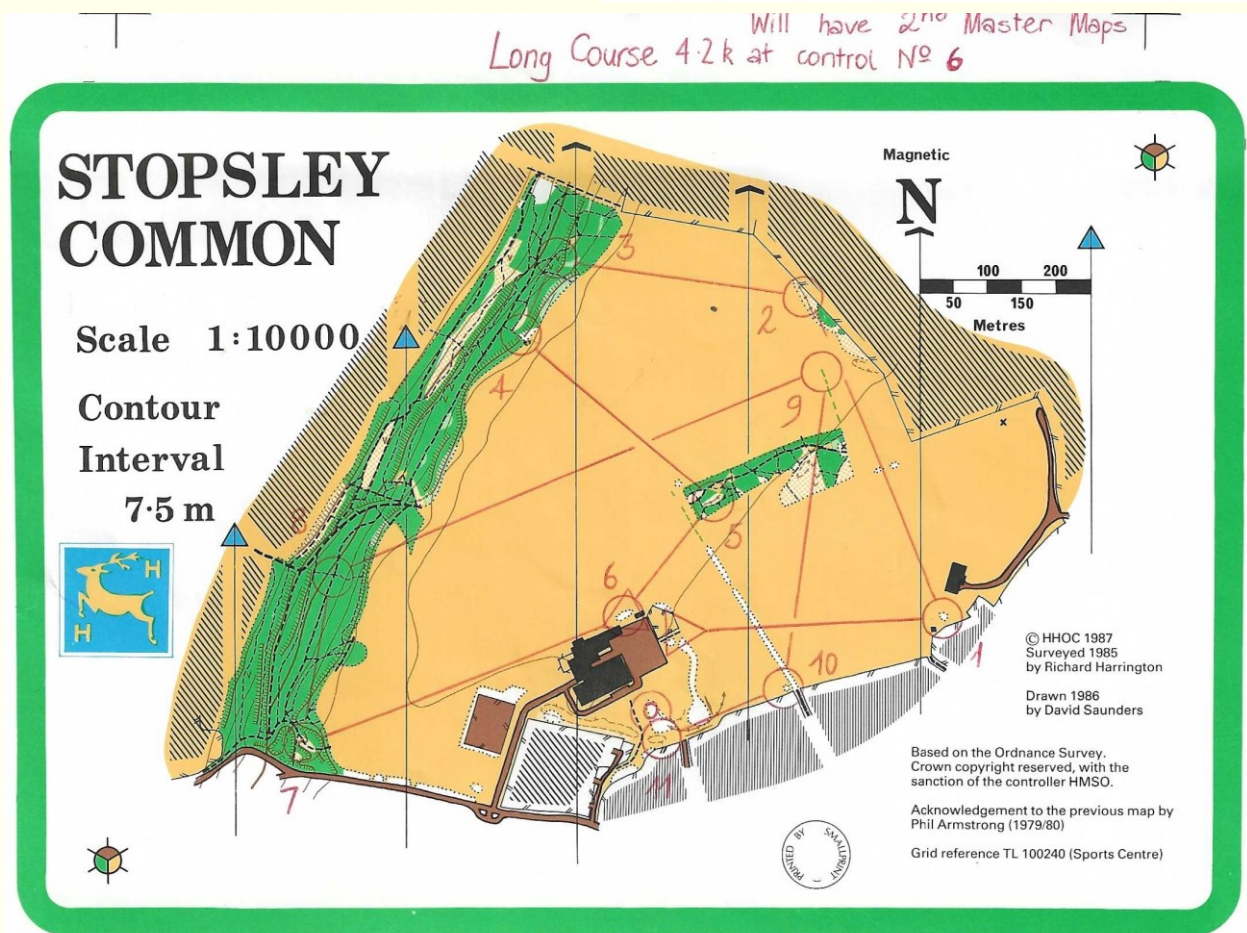
1. Collect blank map and control card at Registration (often a car window)
2. Do map corrections from boards nearby, sometimes just those for your course
3. Maybe collect descriptions at the same time or near the start, copy codes onto control card
4. Give in control card stub at pre-start
5. Call-up -3 mins as not much to do in boxes
6. Wait for starter's whistle
7. Go to master map boards, hope there is one free
8. Copy course as quickly as possible as clock is running – not uncommon to misplace a circle and have to retire
9. Stuff map in plastic bag and get going!

The starter's whistle was fine for normal events but at the 1986 JK Relays in Brandon, which we organised, someone in the crowd let off their air horn shortly before the Open Relay start, so the runners thought it was their signal and started – there was no way we could have stopped them at that point!

# Stopsley Common, Luton, Night Event 1980



1987 map and course for comparison





# The cunning runners in the woods

ORIENTEERING is the world's biggest participant sport. In Sweden, the country of origin, up to 17,000 people compete in one event. So it is not surprising to find these "cunning runners," as they call themselves, in Watford.

The people who take part in what is also known as the "thought sport" are all ages.

In some families children are being taken around forests and woodland just as soon as they are able to walk.

There are even special pram-pusher events for parents with youngsters in pushchairs!

## Internationals

Orienteers in Watford belong to the Happy Herts Club, which gleans members from Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and North Middlesex.

When it started in 1969 there were 20 people, but the club now boasts more than 180 members.



And they're off — dressed in bramble-bashers and thorn-proof suits — at the start of an orienteering course.

There are many instances of one member of a family joining the club, enjoying the sport and then getting the rest to come along.

One of the club's two internationals, Quentin Harding, 18, is an example.

He said: "There are six people in my family and we are all orienteering now, even my mother!"

For people who enjoy the countryside and nature orienteering is an ideal sport. You do not have to be a first-

class athlete or buy any special equipment. All you need is a strong pair of shoes or wellington boots and some old clothes which you do not mind getting muddy.

The experts like Quentin are good runners and buy special gear. This includes a pair of "bramble basher" shoes, long stockings with rubberised fronts, and a nylon thorn-proof suit.

The sport of orienteering came to this country from Scandinavia in 1966. Two of the big names behind it in this country are the former Olympic athletes, Christopher Brasher and John Disley.

The aim of orienteering is to get from points marked on a map in the quickest time.

At an event competitors are given detailed maps of the terrain the course covers.

The darker the areas on the map the more difficult they are to penetrate — so that an open field would be shown as a white area and thicket in a dark colour.

## Groups

Courses range in length from two to ten kilometres. There are a number of control points along the way to which a competitor has to report with the help of his map and compass.

There is a punch at every point, which is used to mark what is known as a control card to prove that the competitor got to that point.

Beginners and families can go around the course in

groups or pairs but at major competitions you are on your own.

There are usually several different courses, in length and difficulty, at one meeting.

Events are held all over the country. Whippendell Woods and Oxhey Woods locally have been venues for orienteering events and a car-drive away there are Burnham Beeches and Ashridge Park.

Most Sundays during the year there are events in woodlands and forests in the South of England.

## Leaflet

The secretary of the Happy Herts Club is Mr Alec Farmer, of Grassington Close, Bricket Wood.

His wife introduced him to orienteering when they were living in Southampton.

He said: "I went out for the first time and I was hooked. I find it is a challenge. You are on your own and if you make a mess it is your fault."

Since 1971 the club's chairman has been Mr Cliff Birch, of Tudor Drive, Watford.

Anybody can have a go at orienteering around Whippendell Woods. In conjunction with Watford Borough council the Happy Herts Club has produced an introductory leaflet and map, which are available free of charge from the amenities and recreation department at the Town Hall.



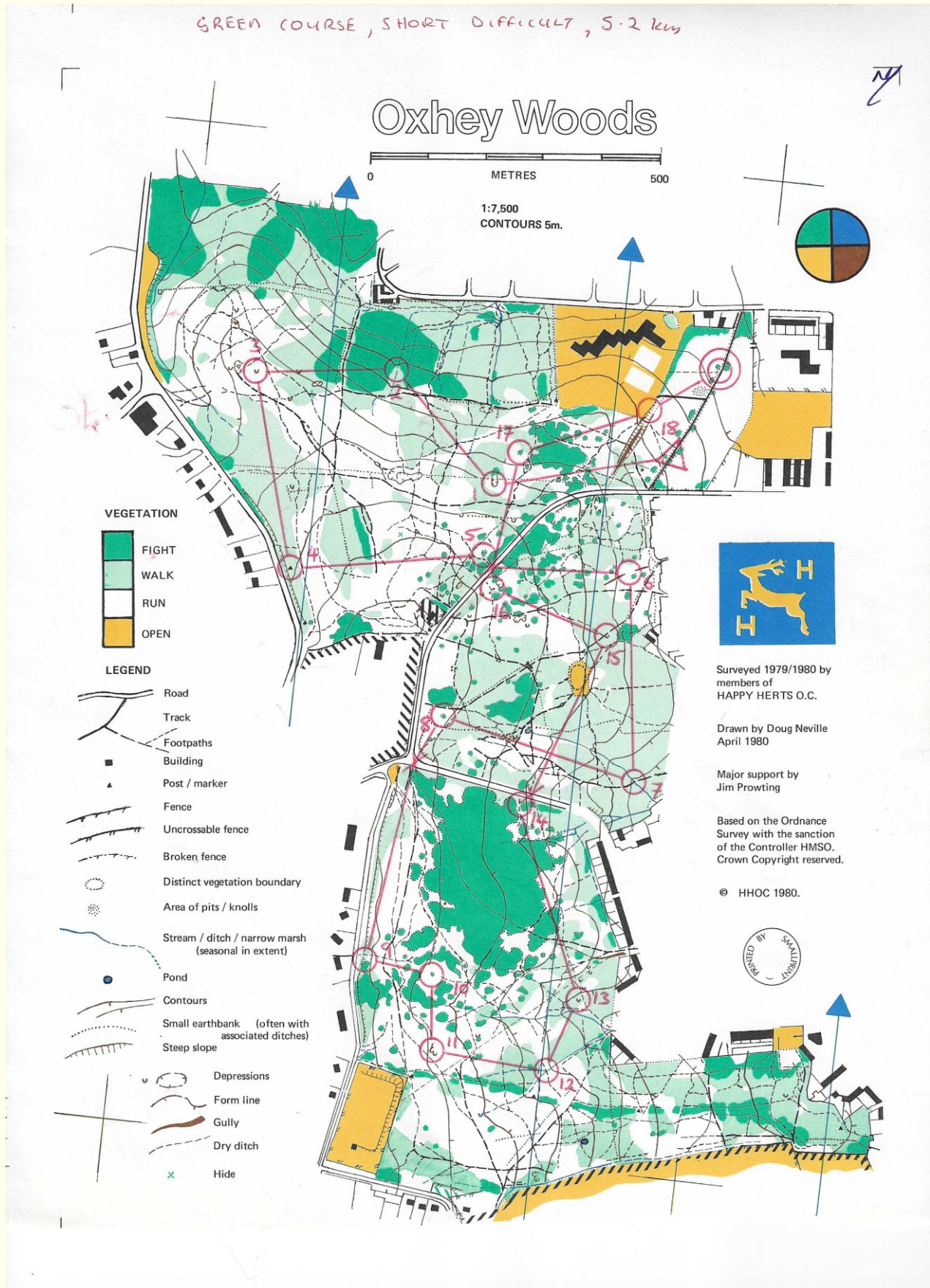
Marking down the route at the start of another course — they are all different and present participants with different problems.

*'I was hooked  
... I find it  
is a challenge'*

5 Dec 1980

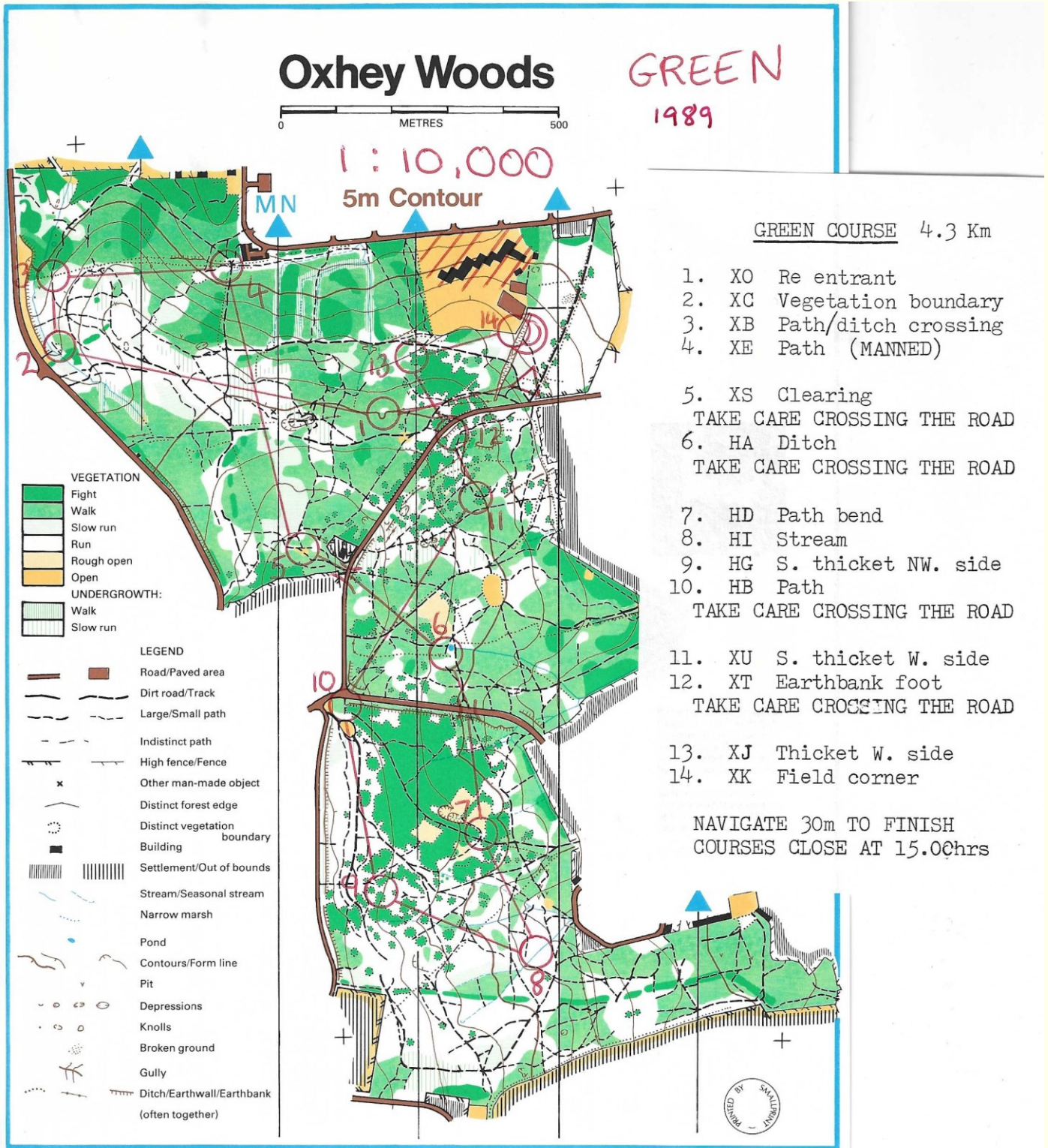


# HH event, Oxhey Woods, January 1981





1989 Oxhey map for comparison (same first leg)



Oxhey has never been the easiest of areas to use for events. The first event was affected by vandalism, with 23 pin punches being lost, and subsequent events both during the day and at night have suffered.



# If you go down to the woods...



THE wildlife in Oxhey Woods on Sunday was more obviously human than any other species. More than 350 people converged there for a South-East Orienteering League event, organised by the Happy Herts Orienteering Club.

They came from as far away as Sussex to take part in what has become the world's biggest participant sport. In Sweden, where it originated, up to 17,000 people take part in one event.

From 10 a.m. people of all ages set off on a

course around the woods. The idea was to report at a number of checkpoints in a given order using a map and compass to get there.

In some families children are taken around woods in such events almost as soon as they can walk. There were many babies and toddlers accompanying their parents.

Secretary of Happy Herts, Mr Alec Farmer, of Grassington Close, Bricket Wood, said it was the second event to be held at Oxhey Woods.

"We thought it was pretty good. The ground was just right for running — not too muddy and reasonably dry," he said.

The same course will be used again in April when the Happy Herts Club is organising the Hertfordshire Scouts orienteering championships.

Our picture shows a "cunning runner," as orienteers like to be called, punching her card at one of the checkpoints dotted around Oxhey Woods.

WO Photo 49158

T  
v  
i  
p  
P  
o  
p  
w  
y  
d  
c  
c  
t  
i  
c  
o  
p  
a  
n  
i  
A  
t  
t  
h  
C  
k  
F  
I  
a  
I  
c  
i  
i  
i  
s

and the lack  
Richard  
suggest we  
e what they  
sales could  
asset that  
e to have."  
t Thorne,  
tative for  
umber of  
s just the  
lon't want  
illage. We  
e antique  
no shop.  
not pay  
ie in to try  
s.  
g we shall



## Scouting around the woods

**BOYS** from Watford Central Sea Scouts have navigated themselves to victory on land.

Paul Sykes and R. Whitton came first in the 11 to 12 age group and 13 to 14 age group respectively at the Hertfordshire Scouts orienteering championships which were held at Oxhey Woods.

But the 15 to 16 age group was won by a member of the 9th Harpenden Scout group.

The event coincided with the annual

orienteering sports day for the Hertfordshire Federation of Women's Institutes and a Come and Try It day organised by the Happy Herts Orienteering Club.

The club's secretary, Mr Alec Farmer, said that the general turn-out was disappointing — probably because the date clashed with the University Boat Race and the Grand National — but several newcomers had taken part and expressed interest in going again.

Happy Herts Orienteering Club has

been going since 1969 and has around 180 members. It is a family sport which involves reading a map and navigating one's way around a set course in the fastest time possible.

The club's next home event will be on October 18 at Burnham Beeches, Buckinghamshire.

Our picture shows club junior champion Helen Eastham (left) and Alison Spencer (centre) and Caroline Mathers (right) studying the route at Oxhey Woods.

WO Photo 50222

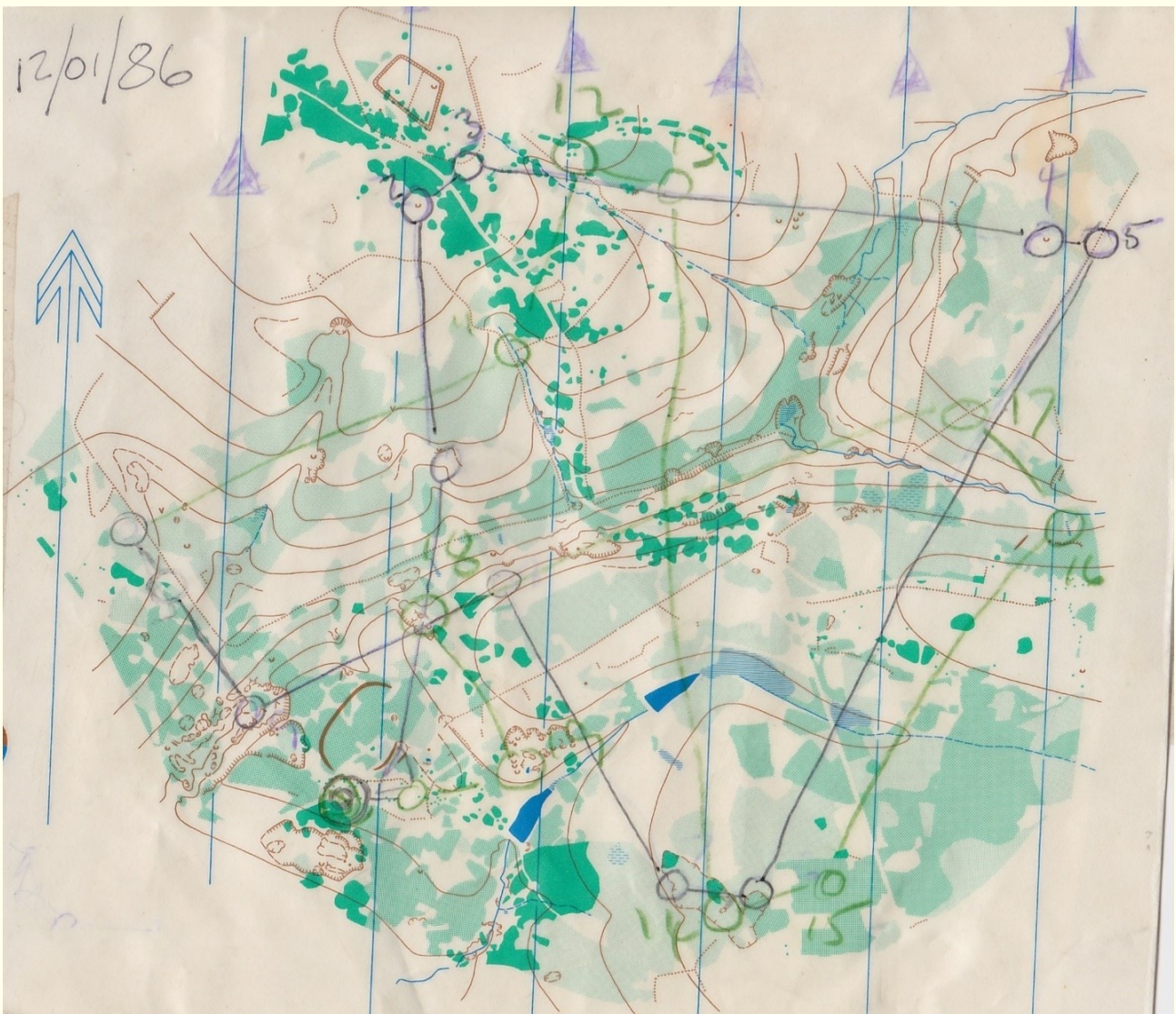


1981

1981 saw the relaxation of the BOF 'full body cover' rule so that short-sleeved shirts were allowed.

The summer club training evenings started at Whippendell and sessions were also held at Oxhey, Stopsley and the Hemel Hempstead Athletics track (for running training).

For the Burnham Beeches event, not only were 2500 'normal' maps printed but also 500 with just the brown, green and blue colours (map used by Jim Prowting in 1986 shown below) - does it make it easier or harder?



1982

16 training evenings were held with between five and fifteen attending each time.

A proposal was put to the AGM to set up a Working Group, to meet monthly and take on more of the long-term planning and thinking which did not get discussed at the regular club meetings, which also had a social and training function. Examples of items the Working Group might tackle included how to encourage and welcome new members, starting a club newsletter and how to win the SE League and the Compass Sport Cup (which started in 1982).

This proposal was accepted and the five officers plus two other members became the first Working Group.

## HH PACEMAKER No. 1

DECEMBER 1982

Welcome to the first issue of 'Pacemaker', the new club newsletter from Happy Herts O. C. In fact this is not the first-ever newsletter, there was one which was produced in 1975 for one issue but never appeared again.

This is a very interesting time in the club. We have a reputation for producing good quality events with speedy results. However the club does considerably more than run events. Our club meetings are both for business and pleasure but the business part is being shortened and the pleasure part extended. Over the next year we hope to have two film shows (of orienteering films), a session on Route Choice based on experience at a recent event and O-Games. So do come along to the meetings - they should be most enjoyable.

The Working Group will be meeting about once per month and will be reporting back to the Club through this newsletter and the meetings. If you think of anything that you feel should be discussed then mention it to any member of the Group or put a suggestion in the box which is on the club noticeboard which appears at most events.

Over the next two years we are running at least 5 events and possibly more. This does not include our evening training events, schools and scouts competitions and our own club championships. Of the 5 principal events, one is the British Night Championships, two are Badge events, one is a night club event and one is a club event. Running this many events is a very healthy sign and it provides several opportunities for you to gain experience in organising, planning and taking a major part in running an event, for example being responsible for the start. Don't be backwards in coming forward - if you volunteer for a job you can be assured of every assistance. We have never done anything as ambitious as the British Night Championships before but the club is certainly strong enough to do the event with distinction.

### Compass Sport Cup.

We took part in the first and second rounds of the Compass Sport Cup at the Icenian Trophy on November 21st at 'Bromehill and Santon Warren'. The Cup is an inter-club knockout competition in its first year. We were drawn to compete against West Anglia OC in the first round but it proved impossible to find a suitable club event for the match. We therefore decided to hold a 4-way competition with SUFFOC and Stragglers OS as we would have to play the winner of their match in the second round. The only problems with using the Icenian were that we had to devise a new scoring system and also that Happy Herts would be without Quentin Harding who organised the event. There were no fewer than 76 Happy Herts competing on the day - a magnificent number. The results have many good performances but special mention should be made of the first places of Hayley, Anna and Cliff, the second places of Alison, Sylvia, Norah, Phil and Maurice, and the third places of Giles, Barbara, Sara, Sara and T. Heydeman. However, WAOC also had some very good results and it was impossible to tell who had won. It was unfortunate that two courses (and four classes) had to be declared void because of errors, but we decided to keep the results for our purposes. The result of the 4-way match was not known until the following Thursday. There were various ways of working out the points, but with each method Happy Herts came out on top. With a typical scoring system (!) the points were: HH 143, WAOC 137, SOS 120, SUFFOC 118. Many thanks to everyone who took part, we won through quality and quantity. The next round is likely to be a 3-way match against HAVOC or LOK or SAX and SLOW or SO or MV. Watch this space for details!

In the Icenian competition the results placed us 6th, but my calculations of our best 5 results gives us a time of 3 minutes 20 seconds, just behind SN who had 3 minutes 9 seconds.

All typed on a typewriter and then photocopied. The title is created using Letraset (the font is called *Profil*, developed in 1947) - rubbing what are known as dry transfer decals onto the paper - time consuming - and the underlining was done with a pen and ruler!

Word processing using microcomputers started in the late 70s but only became widespread in the mid-80s; desktop publishing started in 1985 but, again, took some time to be widely adopted.



## Then & now

## Around 1970

## 2020

HH membership	30	274 (end of 2019)...so 9.1 x 1970
BOF Membership	1490	9952 (2019 report)...so 6.7 x 1970
Find out about events	BOF's 'Stop Press' & 'The Orienteer' SENAV (the South East's magazine) SEOA Answerphone Displays/fliers at events	BOF website (& club websites) Compass Sport Displays/fliers at events
Mapping	Based on OS 6" base map Surveying all by foot, with some use of aerial photos Drawn using Rotring pens on mapping film	Based on digital base maps Use of LIDAR & GPS Some DIY maps available online eg OpenOrienteeringMap Drawn with OCAD & other packages
Enter*	On the day or in advance by post	On the day or online (mainly via SIEntries and Fabian4)
Final details	In the post	Online
Course planning	Pencil and ruler Tracing paper	OCAD Condes Purple Pen
Map printing	Photocopy Offset litho (all early maps had register marks to ensure the colours were properly lined up Self-drawn at master maps OR Hand-drawn by organisers OR Printed onto the already printed map (as a sixth colour) OR Over-printed with hand over- printing machine. On paper, preferably in a 500-gauge plastic bag and sealed	Offset litho Commercial digital printer 'Home' inkjet or laser printer
Course printing		At the same time as the map  Waterproof paper
Map Scale	1:25,000, 1:20,000, 1:15,000	1:15,000, 1:10,000, 1:7,500. 1:5,000, 1:4,000
Descriptions	Paper, text, definite and indefinite	IOF pictorial, waterproof paper
Punching controls	Self-inking stamps or pin punches on control cards	SI or SIAC, Emit or EmiTag
Final results	By post, hopefully but not always within 1 or 2 weeks	Online, generally the same day
Results display	Results ladder from control card stubs	Wifi in assembly area Paper displays Routegadget Splitsbrowser Winsplits
Race analysis*	Draw your route on your map	
Litre of petrol	£0.07	£1.30...so 18.6 x 1970
Pint of milk	£0.19	£0.43...so 2.3 x 1970
Value of £1 in 1970	£1!	£15.57
UK Population	55.6 million	67.9 million...+22%

\* There are a variety of systems used abroad as well

## 1983 and beyond - what happened next?

Whilst the detailed answer to that question requires another publication, here are a few of the many achievements by the club and its members:

-  Running the British Night Championships in Burnham Beeches, 1984
-  Winning the South East League from every year from 1983/84 - 1989/90 and joint 1<sup>st</sup> in 2011/12
-  Organising the JK Relays at Brandon Park in Thetford Forest, 1986
-  Running the Harvester Trophy at Hankley Common, 1991
-  Planning the British Relay Championships, 1994
-  Running the British Schools Championships in Whippendell and Cassiobury Park, 1999
-  Planning the British Middle Championships, Leith Hill, 2009
-  Running the 2009 Southern Championships and Interland, and the 2020 Interland, at Burnham Beeches and Egypt Woods
-  Reaching the CompassSport Cup Final, most recently in 2012 near Hawick
-  Winning a variety of individual honours, see the HH website for some highlights
-  Club members representing England, Wales, Ireland and GB
-  Club members coaching and controlling at the highest levels (up to British Champs, JKs and World Champs)
-  Club members responsible for much-used event software
-  Producing 107 Pacemaker magazines
-  Producing 272 Newsletters (so far)
-  Top BOF club by % of junior membership (BOF Annual Report 2019)
-  ...and running lots of events! (numbers overleaf won't be precise)

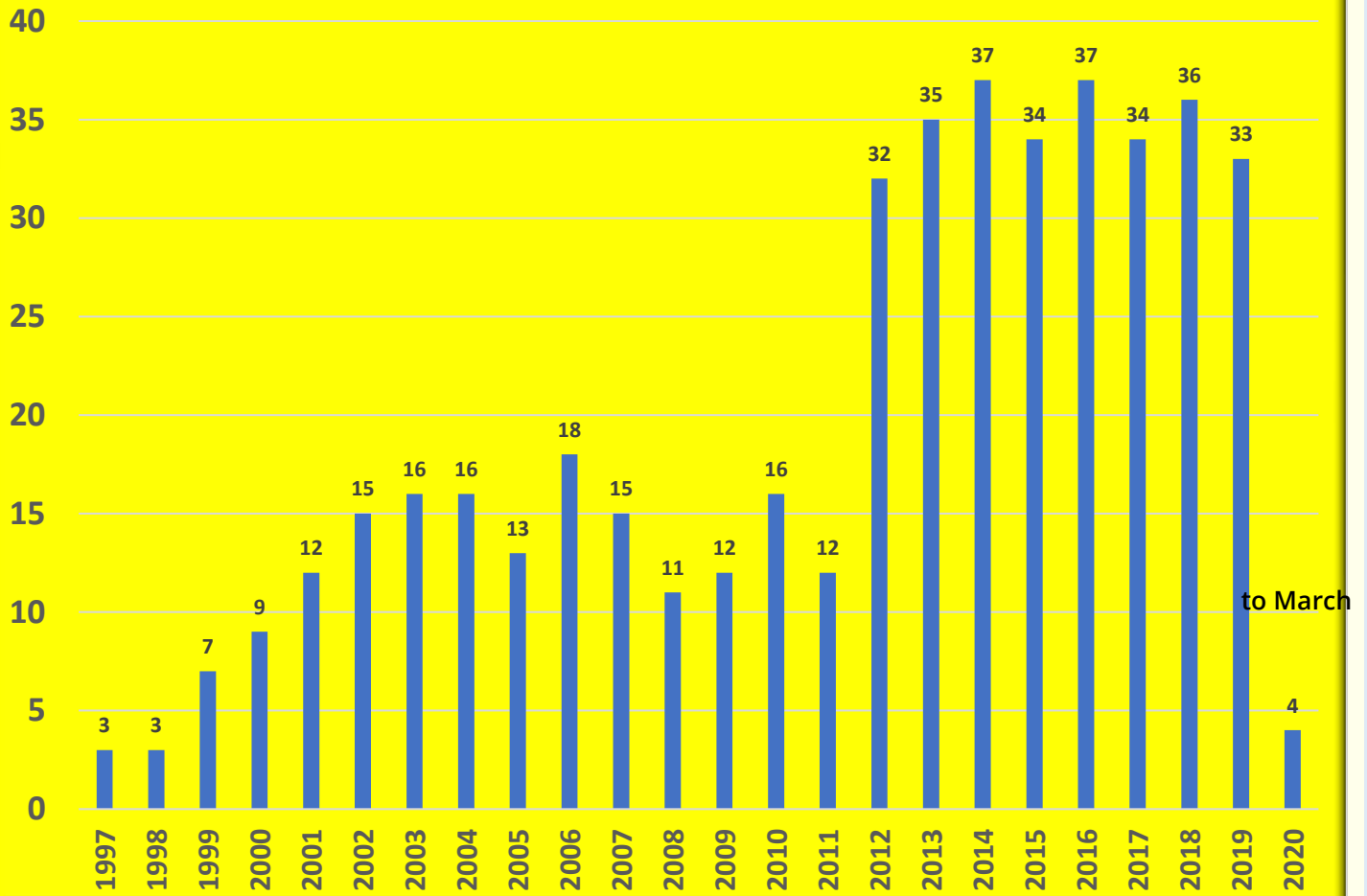


## HH Events 1996/7 - 2020

Area	Events	Area	Events	Area	Events
Abbots Langley	1	Hatfield	5	Sherrards	1
Ashridge	18	Hatfield North	1	Sherrardspark Wood	17
Ashridge North	1	Hatfield South	1	South Hatfield	2
Ashridge South	1	Heartwood Forest	7	St Albans	9
Ayot	1	Hemel Hempstead	3	St Albans (NE)	1
Balls Park	4	Hertford	6	St Albans (SE)	1
Batchwood	2	Highfield Park	19	St Albans (W)	1
Bentley Priory	7	Hoddesdon	1	St Albans S	1
Berkhamsted	2	How Wood	1	St Albans SW	1
Bernards Heath	1	Jersey Farm	7	Stanborough Park	23
Boxmoor	2	Kings Langley	2	Stevenage	2
Boxmoor & Gadebridge	1	Leverstock Green	2	Stevenage (N)	1
Broxbourne	2	London Colney	2	Stevenage (S)	1
Burnham Beeches (often with Egypt Woods)	13	London Colney	2	Tewin	1
Cassiobury Park	11	Mardley Heath	14	Trent Park	11
Chipperfield	11	Marshalswick	1	Verulamium Park	34
Chiswell Green	3	Marshalswick	1	Ware	1
Chorleywood	10	Marshalswick & Jersey Farm	1	Welham Green	2
Clarence Park	4	Millwards Park	4	Welwyn	5
Croxley	3	Nomansland	10	Welwyn Garden City	8
Cuffley	1	North Watford	1	Welwyn Garden City E	2
De Havilland Campus	1	Northaw Great Wood	12	Welwyn GC North	1
Ellenbrook Fields	13	Oaklands College	5	Welwyn GC South	1
Fairlands Valley Park	6	Oxhey	1	Welwyn North	2
Frithsden	4	Panshanger Park	7	Welwyn Village	1
Gadebridge	2	Phasels Wood	12	Wheathampstead	6
Greenwood Park	2	Potters Bar	3	Whippendell Wood	14
Haberdashers	7	Queenswood School	5	Wormley Woods	2
Harpenden	11	Radlett	2		
Harpenden Common & East	1	RAF Halton	1		
Harpenden East	1	Redbourn	3		
Harpenden SW	1	Rothamsted	8		
Harpenden West	4	Ruislip	4		
Harrow	1	Sandridge & Jersey Farm	1		

# HH Events 1997-2000

(Evening Events started in 2012)







# Hertfordshire Orienteering Club

[www.herts-orienteeing.club/](http://www.herts-orienteeing.club/)