

WELSH ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION

Annual Report 2015

INTRODUCTION

This Report summarises the activities of the Welsh Orienteering Association during 2015. It takes the form of short reports from the officers of the Association and is presented at the Annual General Meeting for approval.

Chairman's report

Despite there being no major events in Wales in 2015 the association still managed to fulfil its commitments in hosting events for British Orienteering. MWOC staged a very successful Veteran Home International along with the Welsh Championships at Teifi Pools in October. There were 9 events counting towards the Welsh league in 2015, 3 each by SWOC and SBOC, 2 by MWOC including the Welsh Championships and 1 by ERYRI.

In the home internationals the Welsh teams did not have the best of years with the juniors finishing 4th in Northern Ireland and the seniors getting the same result in Yorkshire. The veterans despite being on home soil could not completely use this to their advantage ending up 3rd this year.

The number of Welsh athletes representing GB at international level continues to impress, and the highlight was certainly Kris Jones running for GB at the World Championships in Scotland. His excellent 8th place in the sprint was one of the British successes of the week and as a result he was chosen as WOA orienteer of the year for the 2nd year running. Megan Carter-Davies was unlucky not to receive this accolade also as she had an excellent 17th in the sprint at JWOC as well as fantastic 1st leg in the relay handing over in 4th position for the GBR team. Fay Walsh again represented GB at the European Youth Orienteering Championships finishing 41st in the Long race.

The WOA volunteer of the year was Terry Smith. Terry is very much an unsung hero, having a key involvement in schools orienteering in Mid Wales.

On the organisational side Roger Stein has taken over as WOA Secretary. We are still lacking an editor of Y Ddraig magazine. The association would welcome someone who has an interest in this area and would be prepared to produce a magazine either as hard copy or electronically. As always the committee would welcome new members with fresh ideas as to how the sport is going to evolve in Wales. Despite that I am always amazed at the amount of activity that goes on in the country despite our limited membership numbers.

The association held 3 committee meetings in 2015 as well as the AGM. One of these was face to face and a further 2 online via Google Hangout. This has proved to be relatively successful with the aim of reducing travelling time (and cost) for committee members. Bob Dredge has the role of British Orienteering council member with the remit of maintaining a 2 way link between Wales and the federation and has been able to provide input from a national level.

The association is looking forward to welcoming orienteers from all over the world to the 8th Croeso in SW Wales in 2016. We have come a long way since Lampeter in 1988. However the sport in the UK is facing a number of challenges both in terms of funding as well as ensuring that there is sufficient succession planning for key individuals. I am ever optimistic that we will find ways to overcome these, in order for the sport we all enjoy to thrive in the future.

Peter Ribbans SWOC

Treasurer's report

A. WELSH ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 1 APR 15 – 31 MAR 16

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The annual accounts for 2015/16 show an actual deficit of £216.86 compared to a budgeted deficit of £50. The balances of the reserve fund and development fund at year end are as follows:

Reserve:	£5783.14
Development:	£27414.10

2. The current financial situation is good but shows that the position is maintained by the regular infusion of income from CROESO and SCW grants.

Recommendation - That the Annual Accounts for 2015/16 be agreed and submitted to the AGM for approval.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2015/16

3. The Annual Accounts for 2015/16, which are subject to audit, are at Annex A in the format required by the Sports Council for Wales (SCW) and will be presented to the AGM for formal approval. More detailed information about the Actual Income and Expenditure for 2015/16 compared with the amended Budget for that year can be found in Annex B. This shows that the Actual Deficit for the year was £-216.86 compared to the Budget Deficit of £-50 as summarised below:

	Budget	Actual	Variation
	£	£	£
Income	10400	10705.22	305.22
Less Expenditure	<u>-10450</u>	<u>-10922.08</u>	<u>-472.08</u>
Surplus	<u>-50</u>	<u>-216.86</u>	<u>166.86</u>

4. The increase in the deficit of £166.86 is made up as follows:

	£
Subscriptions	435.40
Levies	-30.18
Interest	-100.00
Officers Expenses	-83.11
Committee Meetings	62.50
Schools Liaison	100.00
Training Officials	500.00
Domestic Events	641.27
International preparation/Training	309.34
International Programme	-600.88
Club Development Grants	-1501.20
Other	<u>100.00</u>
Increased Deficit	<u>£-166.86</u>

FINANCIAL STRATEGY

5. **Reserve Fund.** The main reasons that organisations need reserves are:

- To fund expenditure pending the receipt of income (e.g. debtors, stocks, temporary loans, cash flow etc.)
- To meet unavoidable unbudgeted expenditure and/or loss of budgeted income.

6. In determining what might be an adequate and prudent level of reserves, WOA has used the yardstick common to a number of voluntary organisations: that the minimum level of reserves ought to be at least 25% of its annual turnover, plus a further 25% to provide the facility to make temporary loans to the organisers of major events in Wales pending the receipt of income, making a total of 50%. The balance in the Reserve fund at the year-end was 55% of budgeted expenditure for 2015/16. This was deemed acceptable.

7. **Budgetary Control.** The other principle agreed was that the Association must be self-sufficient if it is to continue to remain a viable organisation. In other words, it must contain its expenditure within its income each year, which it has not done in year 15/16. Budgets are controlled during the year with regular monitoring reports submitted to the committee. It is deemed that an overspend of £216.86 is within acceptable limits.

8. **Development Fund.** The development fund was originally established with the bulk of the Association's share of the CROESO 2008 surplus and has been used to provide grants to the Welsh clubs to enable them to develop orienteering within their areas. The income from CROESO 2012 and JK 2014 has increased the balance in the development fund to a healthy level so that grants to the clubs can be maintained over the coming years.

9. **Development Grants.** Development grants totalling £5501.20 were made this year to MWOC, SWOC and SBOC clubs for a range of initiatives including publicity, mapping, coaching and new equipment to support holding events in primary schools and a new park event series in South Wales. The development grant also supported the volunteer weekend.

CONCLUSION

10. Whilst the current financial situation is good, to maintain the position, the Association is reliant on SCW grants and income from CROESO and other major events; it cannot support itself on income from membership subscriptions and levies alone whilst maintaining its current support to the international programme and club development.

Amy Peltor BAOC

Annexes:

- A. WOA Annual Accounts 1 Apr 15 – 31 Mar 16.
- B. WOA Actual & Budget 1 Apr 15 – 31 Mar 16.

WELSH ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT				
	To 31 Mar 15		To 31 Mar 16	
	Income £	Expenditure £	Income £	Expenditure £
Core Activities				
Administration		-138.46		-270.61
Membership	3054.73		2705.22	
Training of Coaches				
Training of Officials		-463.90		
Domestic Events		-925.53		-358.73
Schools liaison/projects				
	3054.73	-1527.89	2705.22	-629.34
Special Projects				
Development Grants (Write off 2014)		2500.00		-5501.20
JK 2014 levies	5415.91			
	5415.91	2500.00		-5501.20
Performance & Excellence				
International Preparation Training		0.00		-690.66
International Competition		-3931.00		-4100.88
		-3931.00		-4791.54
Totals Before Development Fund Transfers	8470.64	-2958.89	2705.22	-10922.08
Transfers to(-)/from Development Fund	5000.00		5000.00	
Totals After Development Fund Transfers	13470.64	-2958.89	7705.22	-10922.08
Deficit(-)/Surplus Before SW Grant		10511.75		-3216.86
SportWales Grant		3750.00		3000.00
Surplus/Deficit(-) After SW Grant		14261.75		-216.86
Reserve Fund Balance @ 1 Apr 15		7074.35		6000.00
End of year adjustment - transfer to dev fund		-15336.10		
Reserve Balance @ 31 Mar 16		6000.00		5783.14

WELSH ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION BALANCE SHEET				
	To 31 Mar 15		To 31 Mar 16	
Current Assets				
Debtors		716.80		65.80
Investments		0.00		0.00
Cash in Bank		37697.30		35513.44
		38414.10		35579.24
Less Current Liabilities				
Creditors		0.00		-2382.00
Net Assets		38414.10		33197.24
Represented by -				
Development Fund		32414.10		27414.10
Reserve Fund		6000.00		5783.14
		38414.10		33197.24

ACTUAL TO DATE - 31 MAR 16

		Revised Budget A	Actual to 31-Mar-16 B
Ser		£	£
	REVENUE ACCOUNT		
	Income		
1	Subscriptions	700	1135.40
2	Levies	1600	1569.82
3	Interest	100	
4	International Income	0	
5	WOA Development fund	5000	5000.00
6	BOF Development Grant	0	
7	BOF Coaching Grant	0	
8	SportWales Grant	3000	3000.00
9	Total Income	10400	10705.22
	Less Expenditure		
10	Officers' Expenses	-100	-183.11
11	Committee Meetings	-150	-87.50
13	Schools Liaison	-100	
14	Training Officials	-500	
15	Domestic Events	-1000	-358.73
16	International Preparation Training	-1000	-690.66
17	International Programme	-3500	-4100.88
18	Club Development & Grants	-4000	-5501.20
19	Club Coaching Grants		
20	Other	-100	
21	Total Expenditure	-10450	-10922.08
22	Deficit(-)/Surplus for the Year	-50	-216.86
23	Transfer from/to(-) Reserve Fund	50	216.86
24	Net Deficit/Surplus for the Year	0	0

	DEVELOPMENT FUND		
25	Balance @ 1 Apr 15	32414.10	32414.10
26	Transfer to Revenue Account	-5000.00	-5000.00
27	As at 31 Mar 2016	27414.10	27414.10

	RESERVE FUND		
28	Balance @ 1 Apr 15	6000.00	6000.00
29	Transfer from/to(-) Revenue Account	-50.00	-216.86
30	At 31 Mar 16	5950.00	5783.14

	Net Assets		
31	Current Account		35513.44
32	Debtors		65.80
33	Creditors		-2382.00
34	Net Assets at 31 Mar 16	33364.10	33197.24

B. BUDGET 2017-18 REPORT OF THE TREASURER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The budget for 2017/18 shows a deficit of £-1300 which decreases the balance on the reserve fund to £5200 at 31 Mar 2018. At 44% of the budgeted expenditure for 2017/18, that is slightly lower than the Association's policy of maintaining an adequate but prudent balance in the fund and therefore a transfer from the development fund may be required.
2. The development fund balance of £20414 at 31 Mar 2018 allows further development grants and continued support to the international programme. Additional development grants can be given at any time.
3. It is proposed that the budget for 2017/18 be agreed and that subscriptions and levies remain at the same level for 2017/18 as for 2016/17.

Recommendations:

- (a) That the budget for 2017/18 be agreed and be submitted to the AGM for approval.
- (b) That the proposal that subscriptions and levies remain at the same level as for 2016/17 during 2017/18 be agreed and submitted to the AGM for approval.

INTRODUCTION

4. Paragraph 11.1 of the Constitution requires that the Treasurer shall:
 - a. prepare a budget for the forthcoming year for presentation at the Annual General Meeting
 - b. submit recommendations for the membership fees for the ensuing year.

BUDGET 2017/18

5. Annex A compares the Budget for 2017/18 with that of 2016/17 and shows a surplus changed into a small deficit as summarised below:

	2017/18	2016/17
	Budget	Budget
	£	£
Income	10500	15500
Expenditure	<u>-11800</u>	<u>-11950</u>
Surplus/Deficit (-)	<u>-1300</u>	<u>3550</u>

6. The change from a surplus in 2016/17 to a deficit in 17/18 is mainly due to anticipated income from international competition in 16/17, which will not occur in 17/18.

7. The effect on the Reserve Fund is shown below:

	2017/18	2016/17
	Budget	Budget
	£	£
Balance at 1 Apr	6500	5950
Transfer to(-)/from Revenue Acct	-1300	3550
End of year adjustment – to dev fund		<u>-3000</u>
Balance at 31 Mar	<u>5200</u>	<u>6500</u>

8. The Reserve Fund balance at 31 Mar 18 of £5200 is equivalent to 44% of the budgeted expenditure for 2017/18. The Association's Policy is to maintain a balance in the Fund of at least 50% of the budgeted expenditure. It must be considered at that time whether a transfer from the development fund is required to achieve the 50%.

9. The Development Fund balance at 31 Mar 18 of £20414 allows a transfer to the Revenue Account of £5000 in future years to meet the costs of the development grants. This also allows for any other grants to be allocated as discussed by the WOA committee.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

10. WOA's policy (and the expectation of funding bodies such as British Orienteering and the Sports Council) is that fees are increased at least in line with inflation each year. WOA's subscriptions were increased on 1 Jan 2012 when they went up by an average of 7.1% - the first increase for 3 years.

11. It is proposed that membership subscriptions should remain at the current level for 2017/18. The current levels of subscriptions and levies are generating a satisfactory income and will be reviewed again in future budgets.

12. It is therefore recommended that membership subscriptions for 2017/18 are:

Seniors	£3.00
Juniors	£1.20

13. LEVIES

14. Levies can be varied by the committee at any time (and do not have to be agreed at the AGM) but it has been practice to implement any changes from 1 January. For the same reason as in Para 11 as for subscriptions, it is proposed that levies remain the same for 2017/18 as for 2016/17.

15. It is therefore recommended that levies for 2017/18 are:

Seniors	£0.70
Juniors	3 juniors for 1 senior

Amy Peltor
Treasurer

Annex:

A. WOA Budget 2017/18

WOA BUDGET 2017/18

		2017/18 Budget A	2016/17 Budget B	2015/16 Actual C
		£	£	£
	REVENUE ACCOUNT			
	Income			
1	Subscriptions	1000	1000	1135.40
2	Levies	1500	1500	1569.82
3	Interest	0	0	0
4	International Income	0	5000	0
5	WOA Development Fund	5000	5000	5000.00
7	SportWales Grant	3000	3000	3000.00
9	Total Income	10500	15500	10705.22
10	Less Expenditure			
11	Officers' expenses	-200	-100	-183.11
12	Committee Meetings	-150	-150	-87.50
13	Schools Liaison	-100	-100	
14	Training of Officials and Coaches	-500	-500	
15	Domestic Events	-750	-1000	-358.73
16	Preparation Training	-1000	-1000	-690.66
17	International Programme	-4000	-4000	-4100.88
18	Development Grants	-5000	-5000	-5501.20
20	Other	-100	-100	
21	Total Expenditure	-11800	-11950	-10922.08
22	Deficit(-)/Surplus for the year	-1300	3550	-216.86
23	Transfer from/to(-) reserve fund	1300	-3550	216.86
24	Net deficit for the year	0	0	0

	DEVELOPMENT FUND			
25	Balance at 1 Apr 17	25414.10	27414.10	32414.10
26	Transfer to(-)/from Revenue Acct	-5000.00	-5000.00	-5000.00
27	End of Year adjustments - from reserve fund	0	3000.00	0
28	At 31 Mar 18	20414.10	25414.10	27414.10

	RESERVE FUND			
29	Balance at 1 Apr 17	6500	5950	6000.00
30	Transfer from/to (-) Revenue Acct	-1300	3550	-216.86
31	End of year adjustment - to dev fund	0	-3000	0
32	At 31 Mar 18	5200	6500	5783.14

33	NET ASSETS AT 31 MAR 18	25614.10	31914	33197.24
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Membership Secretary's report

	2015			End 2014		
	TOTAL	M	F	TOTAL	M	F
<i>ERYRI SENIORS</i>	27	12	15	29	12	16
<i>ERYRI JUNIORS</i>	10	6	4	7	4	3
ERYRI - TOTAL	37			36		
<i>MWOC SENIORS</i>	34	19	15	26	16	10
<i>MWOC JUNIORS</i>	33	20	13	30	18	12
MWOC - TOTAL	67			56		
<i>SBOC SENIORS</i>	52	32	20	55	36	19
<i>SBOC JUNIORS</i>	27	19	8	31	19	12
SBOC - TOTAL	79			86		
<i>SWOC SENIORS</i>	68	44	24	71	43	28
<i>SWOC JUNIORS</i>	14	6	8	16	8	8
SWOC - TOTAL	82			87		
<i>BAOC SENIORS</i>	5	3	2	5	3	2
<i>BAOC JUNIORS</i>	2	1	1	2	1	1
BAOC - TOTAL	7			7		
<i>RAFO SENIORS</i>	0	0	0	1	1	0
<i>RAFO JUNIORS</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0
RAFO - TOTAL	0			1		
<i>SPLIT SENIORS</i>	9	4	5	9	4	5
<i>SPLIT JUNIORS</i>	2	1	1	2	1	1
SPLIT - TOTAL	11			11		
<i>EXPAT SENIORS</i>	31	22	9	35	23	12
<i>EXPAT JUNIORS</i>	6	1	5	7	2	5
EXPAT - TOTAL	37			42		
WOA - TOTAL	320			326		
TOTAL SENIORS	226	136	90	231		
TOTAL JUNIORS	94	54	40	95		
	320			326		

HONARARY LIFE MEMBERS 2015:

Enid Bourne, SBOC

Peter Seward, SBOC

Judith Powell, SWOC

John Butler, HALO/SBOC

Bill Marlow, MWOC (awarded in 2015 for 2016 onwards)

COMMENTS:

YEAR	WOA MEMBERSHIP	
2010	393	
2011	382	
2012	360	
2013	313	no family membership
2014	326	
2015	320	

Looking at the membership figures for the last 6 years, the trend in membership numbers is downwards (with the exception of 2014, when the membership increased after 4 years of dropping figures), with more non-renewals than new members. A rough trawl through the figures indicates that in 2015, of those who did not renew, 8 had joined WOA clubs in 2013 and 14 had joined in 2014. Others who did not renew were a few families, some juniors (presumably moving on to pastures/colleges/universities new), family members who did not take out individual membership.

Serious consideration must be given as to how we retain members once they join a club. Perhaps this is a topic for a future development meeting?

Honorary Life membership was awarded at the 2015 AGM to Bill Marlow for his tremendous contribution to orienteering, introducing so many school children to the sport. It might be a good thought to be more generous in awarding honorary life membership to outstanding contributors such as Bill, so many of whom have put in decades of service to our sport, and to whom we are eternally grateful!

Anne May SLOW

Fixtures Secretary's report

My written report covers the period January to December 2015.

In 2015 the following were staged in Wales:

Welsh Classic Championships and Veteran Home International at Llynnoedd Teifi staged by MWOC

The Cwpan Y Ddraig and Yvette Baker trophy qualifying round for Wales was held at Pembrey Burrows and Country Park hosted by SBOC.

The Welsh Short Course Championships and the Welsh Middle Distance Championships do not appear to have been held in 2015.

Activities staged in Wales included the WOA Volunteers Activity Weekend held in Mid Wales, Welsh Junior Squad training, SBOC club nights, MWOC club nights and ERYRI held several urban events.

WOA and Welsh clubs are reminded that an orienteering event or activity is only covered by British Orienteering (BOF) insurance if it is registered with British Orienteering. If an event or activity is being run by a BOF affiliated orienteering club but is not registered with BOF then club and the members taking part should ensure they are aware of the insurance arrangements for that event in case the liability arrangements are different. Urban events have further rules to follow to be covered by BOF insurance including where competitors under 16 years of age can run.

The BOF database shows that 77 (86 in 2014) events took place in Wales in 2015. This is made up of 0 Level A events (4 in 2014), 2 Level B events (3 in 2014), 8 Level C events (6 in 2014) and 67 Level D events (73 in 2014). This does not include events held by clubs outside of Wales but run in Wales such as DEE events which are registered with the North West Orienteering Association.

The BOF database shows 42 activities took place in Wales in 2014 (51 in 2014).

WOA members should be aware that in other regions of the British Orienteering Federation Area Night Championships, Urban Leagues and Score Championship and Trail-O events are among the types of events that are also staged. Welsh orienteers will not have the chance to take part in these types of events in Wales unless clubs can be supported to stage them.

Participation Figures for events in 2015

	Seniors	Juniors
ERYRI	180	41
MWOC	690	642
SBOC	876	332
SWOC	557	175
Other Events		
TOTAL	2303	1190

Participation figures for previous years.

Category	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Senior	2183	9169	2047	9244	2303
Junior	3978	3256	1360	4199	1190
Total	6141	12427	3407	13443	3493

(2012 figures do not include participation figures for SWOC)

(2013 figures do not include participation figures for three club activities held late in 2013)

(2015 figures do not include participation figures for eight club activities)

British Orienteering's Event Scheduling Group held meetings in March 2015 and October 2015 both of which I attended.

David Pal DEE

Mapping Officer's report

The following mapping has been reported for the year:

	NEW	UPGRADE	EXTENSION
SBOC	Rhossilli Down Hardings Down	Pembrey Millenium Coastal Park Clyne Valley Kilvey Hill Penmaen & Nicholaston Ogof Ffynnon Du Cefn Bryn	
SWOC	Sugar Loaf (almost completed) Gwaelod y Garth Caerphilly Mountain		
MWOC	North Road Maze Llyn Conach,(Anglers' Retreat) Waunfawr Community Park Ynys Las Bwlch y Garreg Craig Lan Las Woodland's Caravan Park	Coed Allt Fedw Y Plas, Machynlleth	Banc Trawsnant (to Bleanmelindwr) Allt y Crib
ERYRI	Street maps to: Llanfairfechan Llanfair PG Penmaenmawr Llandudno Conwy		

Robert Griffiths MWOC

Coaching Officer's report

The Junior squad has continued to have regular high quality coaching sessions under the leadership of Mark and Alice but assisted by several other parent coaches and some of the ex squad members. The reward for this is seen in the regularly high number of youngsters being selected for BOF/JROS training camps and also selection to represent GB at major international competitions.

Clubs:

SBOC, SWOC and MWOC continue to provide coaching for their members and for newcomers at schools events or local events.

Coach training:

5 coaches from Wales attended the British Orienteering coaching conference at Swindon.

There have been no L1 or L2 training courses in Wales during 2015 – both were scheduled in the Plas y Brenin programme but cancelled due to lack of interest.

An introduction to coaching workshop was offered at the Volunteers' Weekend at Aberystwyth but dropped due to lack of interest.

Links with British Orienteering

Helena attended the annual Association Coaching Representatives meeting in Birmingham on behalf of the WOA and also the National Source Group for Coaching meeting also in Birmingham.

Helena Burrows LOC

Information Officer's report

The main avenues for publicising the Association's affairs are the web site and the bi-monthly newsletter, Y Ddraig. Without an editor for Y Ddraig during 2014 and 2015, the association only managed one issue of the newsletter in 2014.

The web site has been maintained throughout the year though little new material has been provided for publication. The major activities of the association, however, can be located on the site where you can find information on the Welsh Championships, the Welsh League and copies of the reports and minutes of the WOA Committee.

The web site has changed little in structure in over 10 years and could well do with a modern re-vamp. We would be pleased to receive any expressions of interest on taking over the roles of webmaster, Y Ddraig editor and/or Information Officer.

Roger Stein SBOC

Schools Liaison Officer's report

WOA Orienteering in Schools 2015 Annual Report (collated in March 2016 by Bridget Stein SBOC)

Mid-Wales – by Bill Marlow and Gabriella Walsh (MWOC)

Most schools orienteering activities in 2015 year were in mid-Wales, due primarily to ongoing hard work by Bill Marlow and Terry Smith, continuing the programme that earned Bill national awards in 2014*. In conjunction with the Powys Sports Development, Bill and Terry have been promoting Orienteering within primary schools in Powys, through the organisation of Cluster Festivals in the Autumn Term of 2015 in mid- and north- Powys. Venues used included schools and other club maps, with a total of 1189 participants.

Additionally, in November, County Championships were scheduled for south and north Powys. Due to bad weather, these had to be postponed to 2016. It is also hoped to host a Powys Secondary Schools Championships in 2016.

Secondary school participation totalled 253 in 2015, giving **total participation of 1442** in this region in 2015.

There is evidence that funding cutbacks are reducing attendance at some events.

Bill's full report is available on request.

Additionally in Mid-Wales, Gabriella Walsh and Megan Carter Davies ran an introductory session for Years 4,5&6 from Pontrhydfendigaid School, and Megan updated the Pontrhydfendigaid School map.

South Wales – East (South Wales OC) by Ian Kennet (SWOC)

We continue with weekly introductory orienteering sessions to our visitors to the outdoor centres. That's around 5000 participants.

Four TOP1 courses were delivered to approximately 70 students in total, at Hartpury College.

School mapping - a few maps have been updated and I've taken on producing a new one for a school that has moved to a new site.

Visited one Newport school that is keen to expand their outdoor learning on site. Nigel Ferrand is due to map the site and staff to attend TOP1 in 2016.

South Wales – West (Swansea Bay OC) by Bridget Stein (SBOC)

School mapping: One comprehensive school in Swansea (Morriston) was remapped and updated. Possible future extension of map to include new playing fields?

Considerable interest and quotation apparently accepted to map Queen Elizabeth HS in Carmarthen, but no order placed.

Powys LA requested maps to be made of Welsh school cluster in Powys near Swansea, but had to cancel order due to funding cutbacks.

North Wales

No activities to report.

* Following his Unsung Hero Award in 2014, Bill's – and orienteering's - fame continues into 2015 as he is featured on the advert for this year's Unsung Hero Award. He also received a Christmas card from the Prime Minister!

Development Officer's report

A very successful "Volunteers Activity Weekend" was held at Plas Dolau near Aberystwyth in June. Every member of WOA was invited along and in the end we had some 28 attendees (more than 10% of the WOA senior membership). We were also joined for the weekend by British Orienteering's professional development Officer. Amongst other things sessions were held on Event Organising, Course Planning, Club Development, Introduction to Mapping, use of Purple Pen software, Club night activities and Downloading and Results software. There were also opportunities for Orienteering training and a fun orienteering race on the Sunday afternoon – for which we were also joined by some of the local youngsters. Many thanks to everybody who helped with the weekend. Great feedback was received and it is hoped that we will be able to run something similar in 2017.

Bridget Stein was commissioned to look at the possibility of instigating some sort of West Wales Orienteering initiative, however so far no clear nucleus for activity has arisen from her research, so nowhere to take the project forward to the next stage, at this time. Primarily this is because most of the more promising National Trust areas do not seem to be available (apart from Dinefwr). However, there are still some promising outcomes, potential partners and areas been found, and she is now focussing on completing her report, so that all the information is available on file should it be needed in future.

Over the course of the year a number of grants were made from the WOA development fund to the Welsh Clubs to support them in their development work. This was all done one on a matched funding basis.

SBOC and MWOC were supported with publicity materials

SBOC and MWOC had volunteer mapping expenses supported.

MWOC's primary schools initiative in Aberystwyth was supported

SWOC's grant application for a new park event series to be held in summer of 2016 was agreed.

In addition clubs were successful in obtaining funds from their local authority community chest.

Mark Saunders BOK

Welsh Junior Squad report

The following activities were held in 2015

Jan 10th/11th - 2 days Orienteering Training in Forest of Dean. Including staying over in a village hall, and various map exercises/games in the evening. Joined for this by a group of youngsters from Bristol Orienteering Klub

Feb 28th/Mar 1st - 2 days Orienteering Training on the Gower. Including staying over, night navigation exercise, and various map exercises/games in the evening. Joined for this camp by a group from a Midlands based Orienteering Club - "Octavian Droobers" - about 20 additional adults and youngsters.

Mar 21st/22nd - 2 days Orienteering training in the Lake District - focussing on preparing for "JK festival" = Selection races for the youngsters.

Mar 31st to Apr 2nd - 3 days Orienteering training in the Lake District - focussing on preparing for "JK festival" = Selection races for the youngsters.

Jun 6th/7th - 2 days Orienteering coaching on Pwll Du and Llangynidr, near Blaenavon. Including staying over in a village hall, and various map exercises/games in the evening. Joined for this camp by youngsters from the East Midlands

Aug 22nd -30th – The highlight of the year – a 9 day orienteering training camp for 35 youngsters from the Welsh Junior Squad and Bristol Orienteering Klub in Salo, Finland. This was a very successful trip with great technical forests to run in, fun accommodation on an island and good support from the local clubs. Everyone had a good time and learned a lot. Many thanks to all the parents who helped.

Sept 26th-27th – Attending Junior Inter Regional Championships held in the West Midlands. Wales placed 8th.

Oct 24th/25th – Junior Home International in Northern Ireland.

Nov 21st Training day at Merthyr Mawr West alongside a SBOC local event.

Nov 28th/29th – Training weekend at Hawkshead in the Lakes for M/W 16s Alongside youngsters from all the other Junior Squads

Dec 5th – Training day at Llantrisant.

So another very active year.

However we are a bit concerned by our reducing numbers - particularly in the autumn. We try to make dates as convenient as possible – arranging days to fit in with Welsh League events – train on the Saturday, race on the Sunday. We are also more and more inviting juniors from elsewhere - BOK, NGOC, West Mids. That helps with the numbers and keeps things fun – much more fun for everyone training in a group of 15/20 rather than just 5 or 6.

So to re-emphasise. Our training is open to any Welsh youngsters. Generally we can arrange exercises for all standards - Yellow/Orange and upwards. Parents are welcome to come along / take part or not as they wish. If you want to know more – or just be included in our mailing list – email us markandalice@btinternet.com

Mark Saunders / Alice Bedwell BOK/SWOC

Welsh Senior Squad report

This report outlines the activities of the senior team in 2015 and also highlights the achievements of the senior athletes at international events.

2015 was a magical year for Orienteering in Great Britain. A home world championship is something special for any athlete in any sport. From a personal point of view having been part of the staff for the team it was great to see the support and warmth that was being generated by the championships. More on Wales at WOC 2015 later.

The key annual event for the team is the Senior Home Internationals. This year the event was hosted in England in North Yorkshire. The event itself was very well organised and huge credit has to go to the organisers. It is unfortunate to start on a slightly tough note but it was (unfortunately like most years) once again difficult to raise a team. There were legitimate reasons from people why they couldn't attend and this is definitely not to be critical of them. I have over the last few years tried to engage the others teams to discuss the SHI and its positioning in a busy calendar with limited success. I do believe this is a key factor regarding attendance. The conclusion really is that I as TM have to take responsibility and strive each year to work to fill the team and make it as competitive as possible. I won't be pushing any further for changes to the competition.

In addition there was a discussion generated around eligibility and one of the Scottish athletes. The issue arose where said athlete had competed earlier in the year for Hungary. The issue was raised after the event citing the rule of competing for different countries and the lag time requirement. For the avoidance of doubt and clarity and openness I argued the case for this athlete's inclusion based on the clear principal that the athlete was competing for Hungary in a different competition (and an IOF competition) and that the rule I interpreted to be in place for the Home Internationals only. This argument was never fully answered. Wales has benefited in the recent past with a top class international orienteer residing in Wales, contributing to the Welsh Orienteering scene and competing in the Home Internationals (and also for their own nation.) I would hope that if future international orienteers came to Wales (non GB orienteers) we would continue to embrace them and support them running for Wales.

SHI

As detailed the 2015 SHI was held in North Yorkshire. Genuinely it is important to note the fantastic event that was put on.

Individual

In Men's 21 Ben Mitchell was stand out performer finishing in 8th place. The rest of the positions were filled by Jonathon Rhys finished in 17th; Ed Nicholas in 20th Ciaran Allen in 21st and Ben Doherty in 23rd. In Women's 21 Clare Dallimore was top runner finished in an excellent 6th place beating many seasoned GB internationals. Delyth Darlington finished in 15th, Jenny Williamson in 17th and Caitlin Pearson finished in 22nd.

In Men's 20 there was a nice significant gubbing of the Irish team. Patrick Jones was in 8th and Sam Mitchell was in 9th ahead of all 3 Irish runners. In W20 unfortunately we only had one representative, Fay Walsh, who finished in a good 6th position (once again ahead of all of the Irish runners)

Going into the relay it was all square between Ireland and Wales for 3rd equal place.

Relay

Relay day unfortunately didn't deliver the results we were hoping for to secure 3rd place. The two men's teams finished up 10th and 11th place respectively. Special mention to Ben Mitchell who came back in 7th place on leg 1 within sight of the lead. The Women's teams managed to salvage some pride with Wales 1 (Fay Walsh/Clare Dallimore/Delyth Darlington) finishing in 6th place and ahead of all of the Irish teams. Carrying on from her individual performance Clare Dallimore ran excellently to win her leg. Unfortunately Wales 2 mis-punched.

The overall picture with the significant swing to the Irish on the relay day meant unfortunately another 4th place for Wales in 2015.

Overall

	Men	Women	Overall
Scotland	28	30	58
England	24	22	46

Ireland	12	10	22
Wales	8	9	17

Great Britain Internationals

World Orienteering Championships 2015

As previously detailed 2015 saw the World Championships hosted in Scotland. It was a home WOC with the orienteering public really buying into the event and supporting the athletes and the team. Wales had one representative in the British team with Kris Jones running in the sprint. Kris started exceptionally winning his heat by 9 seconds from the Norwegian Oystein Kvaal Osterbo.

'My race was fine. I was orienteering really well, although I missed a few route choices. The terrain was as I expected – it was a typical Scottish housing estate – and the home support was a bit crazy in really good way! It doesn't hit you until you get to the arena, and then you think "Oh my god, this is really loud!"

The final was a gripping affair with Kris finishing up in 8th 12 seconds down on gold and 8 seconds down on a medal. That doesn't really tell any of the story and I would always ask that for the full picture ask the man himself. All I can say is 8th in the world is an amazing achievement and there is more to come! Welsh Orienteering should be rightly proud of his achievements and efforts.

Special mention also to Sander Vaher competing for Estonia. Sander's best result was an excellent 6th place in the relay. He also competed in the sprint where he just missed out on qualification finishing in 16th place.

There were other international races throughout the year with a series of World Cup races in Australia, Norway/Sweden and Switzerland. Kris Jones and Helen Palmer took part in the Norway/Sweden races.

The Welsh Senior Team continues to be very grateful to the Welsh Orienteering Association for the support that it is given.

Ed Nicholas

Welsh Veteran Squad report

VHI Results

	ENG	SCO	CYM	IRL
Relays	112	108	56	36
Individual	142	115	93	73
VHI TOTALS	254	223	149	109

Sophie Brown