



Blood, Sweat and Gears

Newsletter of the National Governing Body for Mountain Bike Orienteering.

bmbo.org.uk

Festive Edition 2020

Christmas Greetings

Looking back over the last year I do not think any of us expected things to turn out as they did. Once the spring lockdown was over, we were all eagerly anticipating getting back to the sport we all love. Little did we know that nine months later there is still uncertainty hanging over us. The rules have changed many times over that period and we still do not know what lies ahead as we go into 2021.

Unfortunately, the 2020 league had to be cancelled. It is our hope to run a reduced league in 2021, the exact format of which cannot be decided until we get an idea of the restrictions in force. Under the current tier system, it is still possible to run an event in most tiers but we will have to wait and see what effect the Christmas easing has on the restrictions.

For a brief period in the late summer SLOW and NYMBO proved that it is possible to run a COVID secure event. Hopefully this will encourage a few more organisers to have a go. For the events to be successful though, we ask that all riders be responsible for their own and others safety and not to travel from to restricted areas until restrictions are lifted. The extra rules may be tiresome but they make the difference between an event or no event.

The lack of events has meant that the website activity has been and provided the opportunity to carry out some much-needed maintenance work. Liam Drew assisted by John Houlihan have been working hard to move the website to a new host. This process is complete. We can now start looking at all of those updates that have been promised over the last couple of years. As the site is fully functioning, we asked organisers to register any new events. We are looking forward to seeing some dates appear on the calendar soon. However, bear in mind that these are likely to be provisional dates at this stage with the current uncertainty.

One positive spin off from the restrictions is the use of virtual Apps such as MapRun and Sporteering. Both of these Apps have been around for a number of years but the current situation has led to a number of organisers experimenting with them to create Anytime Challenges. This has enabled riders to ride under event conditions and be COVID secure. Many thanks to Sion James and Anthony Bowmer, to name but two, who have been proactive in this area. From the reports I receive, these Apps are not yet quite reliable enough to replace more established systems such as SI Timing but they have created an otherwise missing opportunity to ride competitively. Clearly, they are only going to get better.

As we go into 2021, BMBO will be ready to hit ground with wheels rolling. We just need Boris and his pals to give us the green light. We hope that you will continue to support BMBO and re-join in the New Year. With all of those thousands of new lockdown cyclists out there, spread the word and hopefully we will see some new faces at our events as well.

Sadly at this time of year as we focus on family and friends, I would like to remember Geoff Moorhouse who passed away in September, a stalwart of the sport, an obituary in this newsletter.

In the meantime, enjoy the festive break the best you can. Hopefully Santa will be able to avoid the lockdown restrictions to deliver that new bike that you have been dreaming about.

We look forward to seeing you all sometime in the New Year.

Tony Brand-Barker, Chairman, and the BMBO Committee.

NYMBO Announce Geoff Moorhouse Trophy.

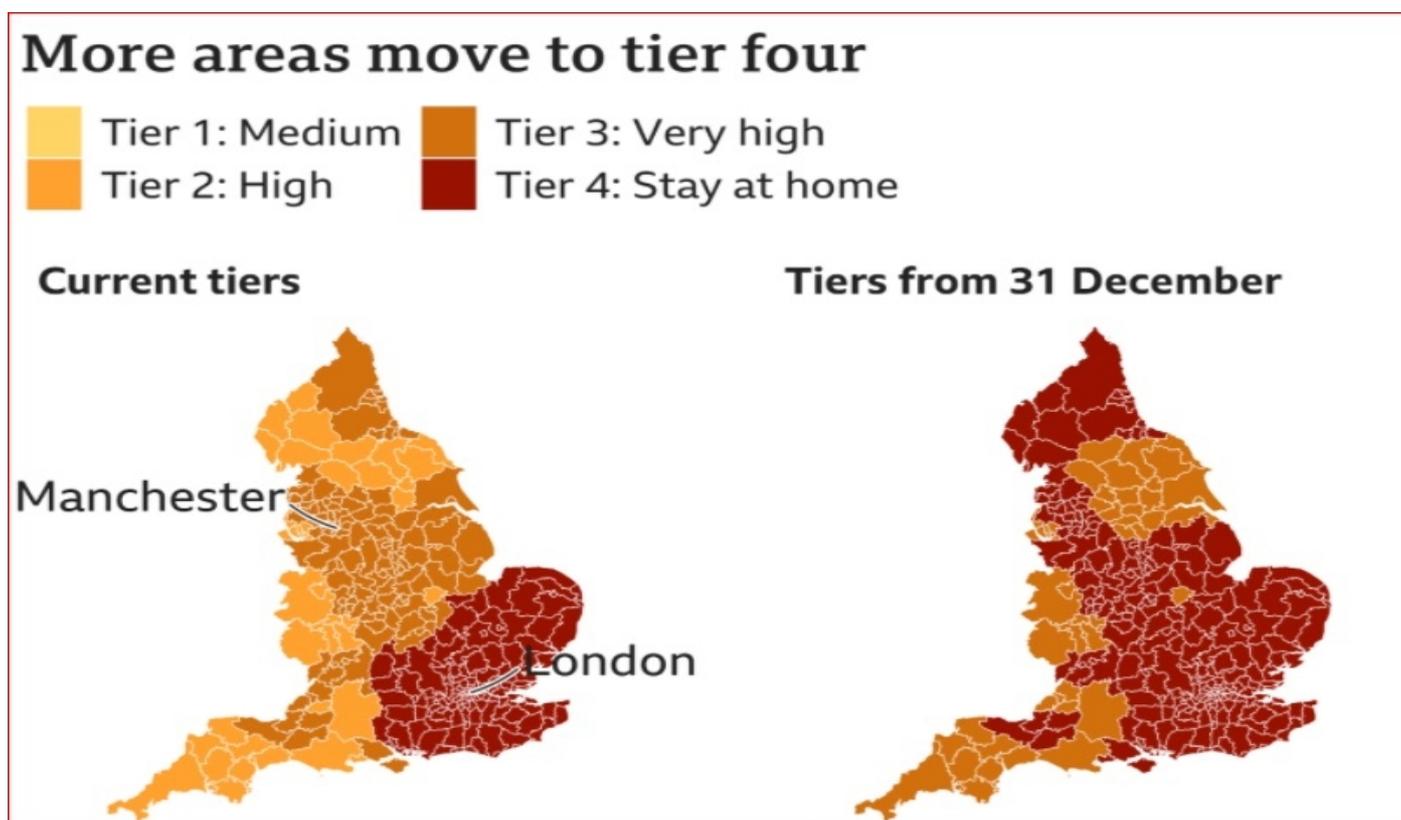
By Steve Willis

Geoff was a stalwart of TCA then BMBO as well as Ebor MBO and NYMBO since I first took up mountain biking in 1997. His enthusiasm for our sport was boundless and he was always ready to volunteer for committee roles as well as help at events. He kept the Malham Show Trailquest going when the original planner had had enough, he took over the SI Registration at NYMBO events after Dave & Sue Relton stepped down and often went out after his ride to collect controls. He will be sadly missed by everyone who knew him.

To mark Geoff's contribution to Mountain Bike Orienteering in general and NYMBO in particular, NYMBO are creating the Geoff Moorhouse Trophy, awarded annually to the person who contributes the most to mountain bike orienteering in Yorkshire.

Covid Restrictions in England, check for Wales and Scotland.

Latest Tier 4 restrictions will stop any events from taking place in many parts of the country. In Tier 4 you may exercise in your family or bubble, but otherwise, you can only ride outside solo. Please check your area Tier before considering attending any events which will be running. NYMBO events are currently taking place in Tier 2. Tier 3 or Tier 4 should not be attending these events. Please police your attendance accordingly.



Guidance here for organisers and competitors.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-grassroots-sports-guidance-for-the-public-and-sport-providers>



Geoffrey Moorhouse 2 November 1946 – 26 August 2020

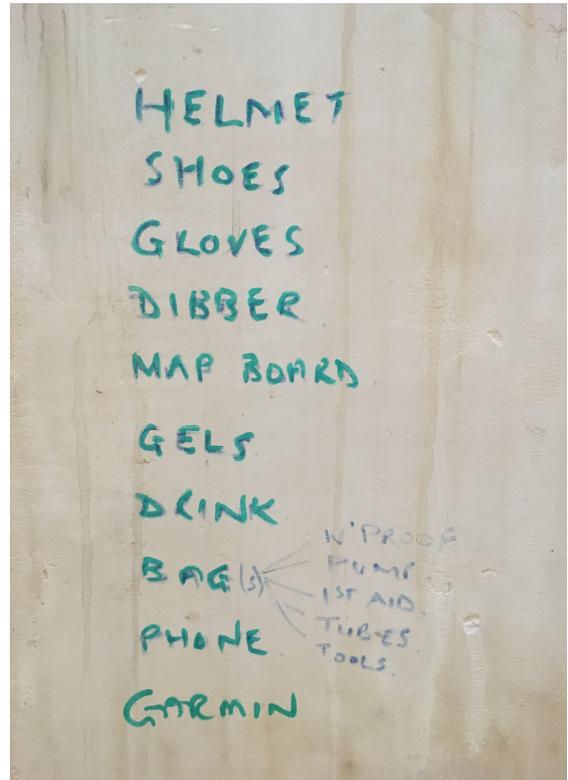
With the passing of Geoff, we wanted to mark not only his contribution to Mountain Bike Orienteering but the kindness and spirit that embraced everything he did and everybody he met. So here are a few memories and hidden gems which even if you knew Geoff, you would not necessarily know, he wore his talent modestly.

Geoff always had a jovial “hello” for everybody he knew or even didn’t know, with a smile. We had many BMBO committee meetings at my house and he always spoke with my kids, he delighted in entertaining or being entertained by them, his warmth was genuine.

His commitment as BMBO treasurer, sorting the finances, checking paper risk assessments, sending out OS licences was herculean volunteering, for 10 years! Always supportive to the efforts made in modernising TCA to BMBO. However he always felt, along with his then riding partner Steve Foster that the early days of Trailquest were special. His wearing of the Yellow National Champion TCA Cycling jersey (along with Steve) to any event which they thought I might attend was his nod to the pioneering TCA days and a gentle mickey take to me. Laugh we did, as he always laughed and seemed to be in perennial good humour.



Bare plaster wall leaving Geoff's kitchen, TCA kit list, his passion for the sport never diminished.

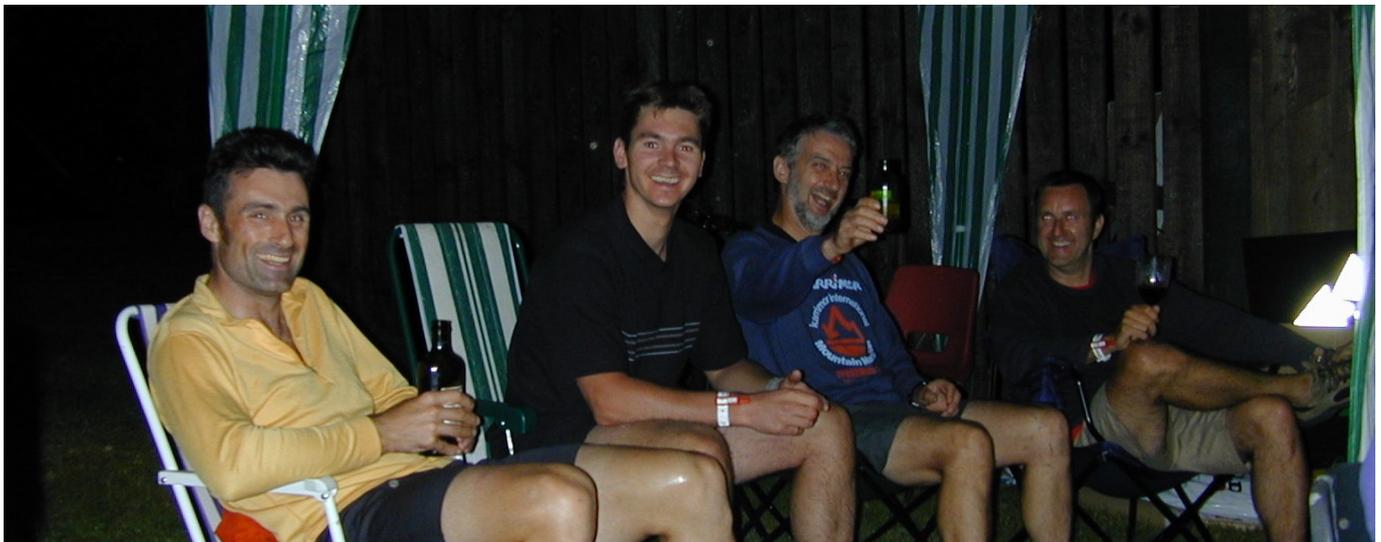


More recently we have had the pleasure of seeing Geoff at local Cyclocross races and training. Always cheerful, always speaking with the kids with his good humour and interest. He delighted in seeing his own grandchildren ride and it was lovely seeing his family focused life reward him so strongly.

Marathon Runner, KIMM Competitor, TCA Champion, BMBO Treasurer and committed family man, Geoff Moorhouse, just a great bloke to know.

Cheers Geoff...

John Houlihan



Andrea and Steve Foster share their thoughts on Geoff.

I find myself asking 'what would Geoff say' in some situations – and he had some great phrases – 'stop shilly shallying', 'look at him in his fancy Dan trousers'. And some blunt ones – 'What did you do that for? Well that was stupid'. But he was never cruel (unless you were an M60/M70 rival) and knew how far to tease.

When I first met Geoff he was still a working man – a senior bean counter at Bradford & Bingley before it fell from grace.

Although he was originally a distance runner with many a KIM under his belt, he eventually saw the light and took up Trailquests and Polaris events.

Geoff had a series of cycling partners over the years – Falco, Geoff Hunt, Steve and I to name a few. I had the great good fortune of being able to persuade him to partner me on many occasions – always entertaining!

During this time he had a series of young people who lived in his house and went biking with him – all of whom will miss him greatly. He was a father to two daughters but also a surrogate father to others.

His relaxed 'whatever' attitude combined with a wonderful lively sense of humour (often slapstick) ensured that he had many friends of all ages.



I think he felt as though life had lost its sparkle a little after he retired – understandable as his job was quite high powered - until the grandchildren came along a few years later. He confessed that this had given him a new lease of life. And surprise, surprise he was a super granddad.

Many of you will know Geoff as part of the organising team at events. He was generous with his time and advice on the SI software, as many event organisers will testify. It always amazed me how many people Geoff knew at every event.



You may not know that he was also a drummer, introducing my daughter and his grandchildren to the art. Remember his ACDC cycle top? A man of many talents and not always what you might expect. I'm told he also had a scooter phase as a young man...

All in all, a great loss to us and to many others - Rock on Geoff.

Andrea and Steve Foster



If there is anyone who would like to come off the circulation of the newsletter, please contact me via chairman@bmbo.org and I will ensure that we delete your record from the database which will have been created when you entered an event sometime in the past.

