



Blood, Sweat and Gears

Newsletter of the National Governing Body for Mountain Bike Orienteering.

bmbo.org.uk

A Happy New year to you all.

2017 is now a distant memory but here are a few recollections.

MBO SCORE 2017

The MBO Score League was a big success with increased participation and a close finish to the season. After 40 events it came right down to the last event to decide the Overall champion. Ian Cartwright and Graham Tibbot had swapped the lead regularly throughout the season. Ian went to the last event at Crich knowing that nothing less than an outright win would secure the title. Killian Lomas was the man to beat and in the end he won by 7 pts and took the Championship away from last year's winner, Graham Tibbot.

It was a similar story in the M60 class where Michael Rackham in his first season of MBO had to score more than 77% to overtake seasoned campaigner John Rawden. 79% saw him take the honours.

A late charge by Killian Lomas was not quite enough to see off Ifor Powell in the M40 class.

Congratulations go to all of the 2017 Champions.

Overall Champions were Ian Cartwright & Sheila Pearce.

M21 - Graham Tibbot

M40 - Ifor Powell, Runner up Killian Lomas.

M50 - Ian Cartwright, Runner up Mark Rowley

M60 - Michael Rackham, Runner up John Rawdon

M70 - Roger De Faye

W40 - Sheila Pearce

W60 - Clare De Faye

W70 Jackie Aspden

Mixed - Tony & Angela Brand-Barker



Sheila Pearce & Ian Cartwright

2017 also saw the retirement as series coordinator of Steve Willis. He has coordinated and organised events for NYMBO for around 20 years. His efforts have been greatly appreciated by countless riders over this time. It is wrong to say that we will miss him because he assures that he is now going to enjoy competing in his own right and we are going to see him around a lot. Good luck Steve.

MTBO 2017

Unfortunately there was not an MTBO league in 2017 due to lack of organisers and problems gaining access to areas. However there was still plenty of activity from members on the International Scene. Congratulations to Emily Benham for Gold medals in the World and European Championships. The GB Master were not to be left out though and also came home from the World Masters Championships with a clutch of medals to show for their efforts. The full list of honours can be seen on the [MTBO>Roll of Honour](#) page of the BMBO website.



Emily Benham receiving her World Championship Gold medal.



Post Championship celebrations after the World Champs in Orleans

The World Masters MTBO series is being increasingly popular with around 30 individuals from GB taking part in 2017. The series consists of 13 events over 7 weekends throughout the season. A riders best seven events count in the series. The events are mainly in Europe although four riders did make it all the way to New Zealand last year. In addition to providing World Class MTBO competition, these events are great social occasions and an opportunity to make friends far and wide. Congratulations to Charlie Somers Cocks (W55 Gold), Karena Hanley (W50 Silver), Andy Conn (M50 Silver) and Angela Brand-Barker (W55 Bronze) winners in 2017.

Charlie Somers Cocks has updated the Team GB News pages on the BMBO website where you can find more details about these events and new developments in the sport.

2018

The 2018 MBO Score League is already underway and looks like being another very competitive season. Already there are 33 events registered as part of the National League and this number is sure to grow before the March 31st deadline. We welcome back the West Coast winter series as part of the league after a couple of seasons missing. Keep an eye on the BMBO Calendar for details of new events as they appear.

A change to the rules this year allows both days of a 2 day event to count in the final rankings. This will mean that if you enter the OMM Bike, Somerset Sleepover or the British Championship weekend you will get two scores in the league instead of one.

The British MBO Score Championship weekend will be visiting an area that has not been used for a number of years. Somewhere in the Pennines is all John Houlihan is letting on at the moment. So watch this space for details of what should be cracking weekend of competition.

Sion James is organising the OMM Bike weekend in the Forest of Dean this year and is promising a whole weekend of activity around the core competition. His plans include some foot orienteering if you are getting a bit saddle sore and an MTBO event on the Bank holiday Monday. It promises to be a busy weekend. Bring the family and enjoy the holiday weekend. Full details will be appearing on the BMBO & OMM websites in the near future.

An increasingly common site nowadays is the appearance of E-Bikes. Clearly there is some advantage to be gained with these. The BMBO stance on this is to encourage all forms of biking and therefore E-Bikes are welcome at events. However they will be regarded as non-competitive in the National League at present. Individual organisers may wish to award separate categories for E-bikes. This situation will be reviewed by the committee as and when E Bikes become more common.

SI Timing is now firmly established in MBO and during 2018 BMBO will be investing in a third set of equipment to make it easier for organiser to make use of this very useful tool. As an organiser I can vouch for the fact that having SI Timing makes the organising on the day so much easier and more accurate. The kit is available to all organisers of BMBO registered events.

As things stand there are number of MTBO events proposed and it is hoped that the MTBO League will be re-established in 2018. Details will appear on the calendar in due course. Meanwhile the World MTBO Master series is already underway and flights are being booked. If you fancy trying a completely different aspect of our sport and combining it with a holiday why not give it a go. You'll be hooked!

Details of all of the things mentioned in this Newsletter are on the BMBO website or you can email a committee member who will guide you in the right direction.

A final word is to remind you that Membership renewals are now due and I hope you will agree represent good value at £8 for the year. We are always looking for new members so make this the year that you bring a friend.

I hope that the weather warms up a bit so that you can try out all of those new Christmas presents and that you have a very enjoyable and successful 2018.

Best Wishes

Tony Brand-Barker, BMBO Chairman.