



News -

You will remember the 'Interesting Snippets' from 1971 in last week's newsletter. Well for one Club member, the mention of a certain Club that existed at the time but no longer, caught his attention. Here is Roger Thomas to tell you more:



The Editor has asked me to try and switch on the grey matter (a big ask!) to comment on the snippets from 1971 about orienteering 50 years ago in last weeks newsletter.

It was the year that I started orienteering in the 'Boys' class as it was then known, with the Club Southern Navigators.

However it was the snippet about the "splendidly named **Bangor Backwoodsmen**" that caught my attention. BB as they were known was the orienteering club for Bangor University in North Wales, a constituent College of the University of Wales in those days.

I can't vouch for the derivation of the name, but as it was me who resurrected the club in 1978 when I went to Bangor to study Forestry, I can have a guess. Maybe we got our name because the founding members were also studying Forestry in the backwoods, or maybe in those days Bangor was such a remote spot to get to it seemed apt (no A55 dual-lane then!).

Anyway it was too good a name to tamper with when I wanted to set up a university orienteering club. So fresh faced off the train on Day 1 of Uni, I went along to see the president of the student athletics union and asked how to set up an O Club. He was a bit dubious, but promised a small grant and use of the Union minibuses if I could get enough people signed up, including someone old enough to drive the minibus.

So Freshers Fayre in my first week at Uni saw me sitting at a desk in the Students' Union car park along with all the other Student Clubs and Societies, trying to sign up any runners and those who wanted to try orienteering. I was quite successful, including a few post graduate students who could drive a minibus. And so started many weekends of tripping around all areas of the UK from the Bangor Backwoods.

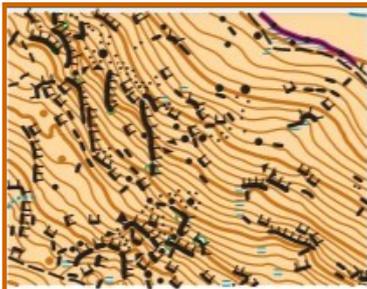
There were a few local events in some very rough Snowdonia Forests, but unfortunately in those days we never got permission to orienteer in the lovely sand dune forest at Newbrough on Anglesey. And talking of splendid names, our neighbouring club in North Wales, who helped us with events and equipment was **Offa's Dyke Raiders** (ODR), another club that is no more and was probably subsumed into Deeside.

After Bangor my next orienteering club was **Peninsula and Plains Orienteers** (PAPO) in New Zealand, but that's another story.....

Roger Thomas



Thanks to Pete Nelson for this information on—**passable and impassable**. This is useful to course planners and mappers but also to runners, especially in sprint orienteering when heading down the wrong alley, only to find that you cannot get through, can waste valuable time.



Passable and impassable crags. Look for the thicker black lines along the top

Daniel Hubmann—spotted this post from Daniel this week. Doesn't this fortress look amazing! Even I thought that it would be fun to orienteer around it!

Daniel Hubmann

31 January at 14:00 · 🌐

This weekend I've been doing some tricky fortress orienteering in France, which might be relevant for the World Champs sprint this summer in Czech Republic!

PASSABLE and IMPASSABLE

On sprint and urban maps (ISSPrOM 2019), if it's marked as impassable, you **MUST NOT CROSS**. In particular, thick black lines are used for impassable Cliff, Impassable Wall, Impassable Fence, Uncrossable body of water, and Uncrossable marsh. Even if you feel like having a go, you mustn't.

It's different on Fell and Forest maps (ISOM 2017-2). You can generally have a go at things marked with black lines, even if they are technically 'impassable'. You've got a good chance of getting hurt, though.

First, things you must not cross:

-  Area that shall not be entered (with or without a black line)
-  Out of Bounds area
-  Out of Bounds area (not much used)
-  Wall or fence marked in purple (on top of or below the black line)

Things that are considered impassable, but you are allowed to cross them if you're daft enough to try, and their 'passable' cousins:

- | Passable | Impassable | |
|---|---|--|
|  |  | Impassable Cliff has a thicker black line than passable cliff, though the difference isn't very obvious. |
|  |  | Impassable walls and fences are generally over 1.5m high |
|  |  | Water - black line says it is uncrossable |
|  |  | Marsh - black line says it is uncrossable |

