



Carol Stewart (1942–2026)

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Carol Stewart, NGOC club member from time immemorial, an almost permanent fixture at Registration until very recently, massive contributor to the club, and lovely person.

Carol went into hospital for a hip operation in May, went home after a longish spell (until home support was organised), but then suffered a relapse, returned to hospital and died there on May 24th. She was one of, if not the, longest serving member of the club, and will be greatly missed.

We are advised that a memorial service is planned for **Wednesday, August 5th**, at the **Oak Chapel, Cheltenham Crematorium**, Bouncers Lane, Prestbury, Cheltenham **GL52 5JT** commencing 11:00am. ❤️

Pat MacLoed

Refreshments from **12:00 Noon**, after the Service at **The King's Arms**, High Street, Prestbury, Cheltenham **GL52 3AR**



Photo © Pat MacLoed

Carol Stewart ❤️

Contents

Carol Stewart (1942 – 2026)

From the Chair

Editorial (including words by Carol)

A childhood remembered ...

Carol ... her welcoming smile will be much missed

The beaming, happy face
of Registration

The perennial face of NGOC

Our quiet hero of the club

More sad news ...

NGOC Committee

How to print LEGEND on
A4 copy paper

I recall meeting with Carol in a carpark during COVID for her to hand over several carrier bags of documents and folders when I took over as Treasurer. She said it had taken a while to sort through it and discard a lot of older documents.

Alan Pucill

From the Chair

Welcome to the second issue of Legend under our new editor. My thanks to Duncan for assembling such a heart-warming edition in sad circumstances.

Carol was a true stalwart of NGOC, having been an active competitor for many years and serving in many of the committee roles over the decades as well as volunteering to help at countless orienteering events. This edition contains many tributes from club members that reflect how much our club owes to Carol and the contributions she has made.

As the second generation in the Jones family to be part of NGOC, I asked my Mum for her thoughts and I share them here:

"I was sad to hear that Carol had died. I have many happy memories of catering with her for the Chairman's Challenge every September. She was always so organised and arrived at the event with everything we would need packed in the back of her car, and I mean everything. I don't recall her forgetting anything in all the years.

"She was a good orienteer too. I remember being terrified when I was put in a relay team at one JK event with Carol and Ann Lee. I did one of my fastest runs ever trying to avoid putting Carol in the mass start! Having said that, Carol was such a kind, generous person that she wouldn't have said anything or acted the slightest bit upset if I had come in late."

I will see many of you at Carol's memorial service on August 5th. If, after reading this Legend, there is something you would like said at the service, please let me know.

Ian Jones (Chair)

NGOC events are always so welcoming and friendly, and it was certainly the presence of Carol which helped the ambience. She was a reliable and ever-present volunteer who will be sorely missed by everyone.

Innes-Farr family (SWOC)

Editorial

It is impossible to overstate the impact and influence Carol has had on our club. She pre-dates all current members; the most senior of which acknowledges her leadership from as far back as the mid-1980s.

Carol served the club unremittingly for more than forty years, first as Chairman, and later as Treasurer (a post she held for 26 years until 2020). During the 1990s and 2000s, she was active in planning and organising events. But, for most people, Carol will be remembered as the gentle, always smiling face of the club, alongside John Fallows in the Registration and Download tent.

Writing as Chairman, in an edition of Legend dated February 1990, she informs us ...

"Orienteering may seem to be a fairly young sport in this country, but we are already of interest to the Dean Heritage Centre. Not, I hasten to add, because of our 'olde worlde' charm, but because we represent one of the many activities which people can enjoy in the Forest. We hope to set up a small display at the Centre, and to put on something for the next national Come-And-Try-It day on

September 16th. In the longer term, the Centre would like to have a permanent course, but for now they are simply keen to be involved with us, and I'd like to be able to respond. Peter Poole has already been in touch with them, and if anyone has further ideas, please talk to me or to Peter.

"Looking ahead is very much the name of the game these days, and SWOA is already giving thought to such impossibly-distant events as the '1997 British' and the '1999 or 2000 JK', which are likely to be in our region. We have some excellent terrain, but finding the effort to coordinate, organise and plan these major events will not be easy. If you dream of master-minding an event for several thousand competitors, but aren't quite sure you can manage it, why not see Mark Clancy and offer your services for an NGOC event to get in some practice with more manageable numbers?"

Her characteristic dry humour is again evident in a subsequent edition of Legend, in which she writes ...

"Observant readers may have noticed our revered editor (David Lee) referring to himself last time

as the 'current editor'. As well as inviting suggestions on form and content of Legend, the (current) editor would be interested in offers to take over his job. This issue will be David's 24th, and while I think a congratulatory Silver Jubilee edition would be fun, I know David would like to hand on the green eyeshade before too much longer. So, if there are any budding Murdochs, Maxwells or Citizen Kanes out there, let me or David know and we'll see about arranging the special edition!

"Looking ahead, we reach our 21st anniversary in 1991, and I'd welcome ideas on something special to celebrate. One possibility might be a cross-country relay, say, along the Cotswold Way, perhaps raising funds for a suitable charity. All reasonable suggestions considered! Meanwhile, see you in the forest!"

Whatever we achieve as a club in future, we will be forever indebted to Carol for the foundations she laid and for the continuity of her service, which is unsurpassed. There'll never be another Carol. ♥

Duncan Liddle

A few words from Carol 'A' Alex
(childhood friend of Carol 'S' Stewart)

Carol 'A' is the mother of Kirsten
McMurray (goddaughter of Carol 'S')

A childhood remembered ...

Carol and I first met when we were three years old and had to attend the Congregational Church Hall once a fortnight for *sunlight-exposing* wearing only vest and knickers and eye-protecting goggles. [We would] pick up string and pencils with our toes, and the reward was concentrated orange juice in rectangular bottles, to improve our vitamin C ... one teaspoon to be diluted with water, daily.

The next time we met was in 1949, when Carol and her family moved to Chorltonville, Manchester. I lived at 85 Claude Road (Carol at 97). We went to school together, walking half a mile to the local terminus, and then took a 20-minute bus ride. On the way home, if you got off the bus one stop early, you could save a penny, which we promptly spent at the local sweet shop.

[The shop] was next to a Shell petrol station, which had white posts linked by chains to separate it from the pavement. I challenged Carol to jump over the chains. I went first and

cleared them. Carol fell and broke her arm just four weeks before the '11-plus' exam. I wasn't very popular with her parents ... but she still passed with flying colours.

We spent many happy hours on a track leading down to the River Mersey. There were two trees that occupied our time; one known as the Giraffe, where we climbed up its hind legs, went along the body up to the neck, and then dropped to the ground.

Our other passion was on Mondays and Thursdays when we took our bikes two miles to the local library, gave our books in, and went to the 'ladies only' session at the local swimming baths for an hour. We had it to ourselves. Then back to the library for new books and cycled home.

On to senior school, Carol was in the top stream, [while] I was not, but we still went to school together. After 'A' levels, she went to Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, [where she] met her long-term friend, Margaret. And then on to the Foreign Office. (She didn't know she was going to GCHQ). I got vetted as a possible *subversive contact!!*

We kept in touch, particularly at birthdays and Christmas, along with holiday postcards. She was my chief

bridesmaid when Roger and I married on 30-July-66 (the day England won the World Cup), and she has been a wonderful godmother to our daughter, Kirsten.

She was an outstanding linguist ... taught herself Chinese from listening to the radio. During the Iraq war, I asked her how her Arabic was coming along. I got a two-word reply:

"It's Farsi!!"

I leave love with many happy memories of a dear friend who I shall sadly miss. ♥

Carol McMurray

When we first started coming to NGOC events, when James, Katie, and Hannah were small, Carol was the friendly welcoming face of NGOC. Always on the Registration, and always friendly and happy to help. She will be much missed by us all.

Alex Agombar

Carol ... her welcoming smile will be much missed

Carol had been a familiar face at the NGOC registration tent, and we had often chatted about '*things orienteering*' and life in general ... but imagine my surprise when attending an alumni event in September 2013, to bump into Carol in the foyer of Manchester High School for Girls! One conversation we had never had! I was a couple of years behind her. She left MHSG in 1962 and went on to study at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford.

The archivists at MHSG have been kind enough to pass on to me some information about Carol's time at the school ...

She was a keen member of the drama group, performing in several plays, as well as singing in the school choir and madrigal group. She also played in the orchestra, even returning to the school to take part in the School Concert in 1963. She was a class monitor in the years 1959–60 and a prefect 1960–1961!

Carol did her 'A'-levels in 1961, but returned for a third year in the sixth form while applying for Oxford, where she was offered a place at

Lady Margaret Hall. Before taking up the place to study Modern Languages in 1962, she spent some months as a boarder at a *lycée* in Le Havre, and subsequently wrote a perceptive and amusing article for the school magazine entitled '*Life in a Lycée*'.

Carol was awarded a 1st Class degree in 1965 and went on to take up a post at the Foreign Office in Cheltenham.

Orienteering was not a sport on offer at MHSG in the 1950s, but Carol obviously discovered it later, as so many of us do, and it became an important part of her life. After our encounter at the reunion, we continued to chat at NGOC events – her welcoming smile will be much missed at the NGOC registration tent. ♥

Sally Thomas (BOK)

Carol was always a friendly, welcoming face at NGOC events. I remember her from so many events I have competed at, over the years (probably in excess of 100), and I will miss her.

Duncan Innes (SWOC)

The beaming, happy face of Registration

It was such a shock to hear that we had lost Carol. I had only seen her in hospital a few days before.

I met Carol when I joined NGOC in 2012. She was the beaming, happy face greeting us at Registration, and explaining what to fill in on the entry form slips. After a few events, I decided I'd like a club shirt. Not being the *standard shape participant*, she said leave it with her and she'd look around at home. I became the very proud owner of a retro NGOC t-shirt which I wear to this day – thank you, Carol.

At events, as well as managing Registration and being Treasurer, she also set up the NGOC café, which was always welcome at the end of a run, especially in the cold when only a cup of tea would do.

As I worked there [Cheltenham General], I visited Carol a number of times while she was in hospital, earlier this year. She was always very stoic and we enjoyed banter about her situation. After her hip operation she joked about the hippies having a combined exercise class at a ballet-type barre which she said was very entertaining. Some mornings I would

get texts about the latest goings-on, on the ward – new, rude patients, quality of mattress, different grades of zimmers, “quite an upgrade to the 9th floor, single room with facilities,” the treat of having puddings, which she didn’t normally do at home.

While in hospital, we discovered a mutual appreciation of jigsaws. Over those weeks, Carol would speedily complete the charity jigsaws I brought in for her. As much as I wish I had discovered this common theme earlier, I will continue to complete jigsaws for you too, Carol. ♥

Hilary Nicholls

Very sorry to hear about Carol. She was a lovely lady who always had a welcome smile. She will be very much missed.

Rachel and Nick Dennis (BOK)

So sorry to lose such a lovely person. Carol was always a friendly face greeting Sue and I at Registration and Download. Events won't be the same.

Peter Colbert (SWOC)

The perennial face of NGOC

Having been introduced to the sport by Pat MacLeod, the Taunton family went to their first orienteering event at Parkend in October 1994, and, in the New Year, joined NGOC. At that time, now over 30 years ago, we first met Carol who was then Club Treasurer; she remained so until Alan Pucill took over the role after the 2020 AGM.

Everyone will remember Carol as the ever-present face at Enquiries and Registration, right up until our event at Merthyr Mawr on March 14th, this year. She had also, until not long ago, managed both the club café and club clothing. But those who have joined the club only recently won't know that in her earlier years, she was both a keen competitor and also a regular organiser of NGOC events.

Records of Carol's competition history are somewhat lacking as the BOF results database goes back only to 2009 and used to omit most local events. In a BOF ranking list for NGOC members dated November 2000, there are four W55 runners listed, including Carol. Her ranking is based on the full six events, showing that back in those days she was quite a regular competitor, travelling to Regional events.

A printout of the results of the mini-league event at Sheepscombe on February 3rd, 2001 presents a snapshot in time: I was then an M50, running Blue – Carol, who was W55, ran the same course and wasn't far behind me.

NORTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE ORIENTEERING CLUB RESULTS OF MINI-LEAGUE 2000/01 EVENT 3 SHEEPSCOMBE 3 FEBRUARY 2001

BLUE		5.7 Km	270m.
1 M. Cowan	BAOC	M21	52.02
2 Bill Smith	NGOC	M40	53.53
3 George Swindin	NGOC	M60	55.21
4 Eddie McLarnon	NGOC	M50	56.14
5 A. Bray	NGOC	M45	57.52
6 Ian Stirrups	NGOC	M50	60.47
7 E. Forman	BOK	M50	61.51
8 A. Cooper	BOK	M45	62.03
9 D. Atkinson	NGOC	M40	65.56
10 Bob Teed	NGOC	M60	66.38
=11 J. Ward	OD	M55	67.16
=11 Hal Young	NGOC	M35	67.16
13 Neil Cameron	NGOC	M55	67.59
14 Stuart Rochford	NGOC	M40	68.39
15 Mike Palmer	IND	M35	69.29
16 Steve Williams	NGOC	M45	73.00
17 Steve Oliver	NGOC	M40	78.25
18 Paul Taunton	NGOC	M50	80.41
19 Peter Dinnage	NGOC	M45	82.39
20 Roger Coe	NGOC	M50	90.00
21 Matthew King	NGOC	M35	90.09
22 Carol Stewart	NGOC	W55	116.22
23 John Evans + 2	IND	-	135.40
Simon Gibbs	IND	M21	143.26 m13

The BOF database does show very positively how, even though Carol competed much less often in recent years, she did make a point of taking part in the Compass Sport Cup (where every runner helps) right up until 2022. This was probably her last competitive run.

Date	Event	Course	Time
13/02/22	CSC (Heat)	Sh. Gr. (S.Vets)	01:43:39
17/03/19	CSC (Heat)	Sh. Gr. (S.Vets)	02:02:16
11/03/18	CSC (Heat)	Short Green	01:25:22
22/10/17	CSC (Final)	Sh. Gr. (Vets)	02:03:52
13/03/16	CSC (Heat)	Sh. Gr. (Vets)	01:22:39
15/03/15	CSC (Heat)	Short Green	02:08:12
16/02/14	CSC (Heat)	Sh. Gr. (Vets)	00:59:11
20/10/13	CSC (Final)	Sh. Gr. (Vets)	00:58:29
17/02/13	CSC (Heat)	Short Green	01:48:36
19/02/12	CSC /CST (Heat)	Green	01:14:17
22/01/12	SWOA Galoppen	Green	01:23:31
16/10/11	CSC (Final)	Sh. Gr. (Vets)	01:00:49
19/02/11	HOC/NGOC League	Green	01:17:04
16/01/11	CSC /CST (Heat)	Sh. Gr. (Vets)	00:54:20
01/05/10	Br. O. Champs.	W65L	01:38:30
24/01/10	CSC (Heat)	Short Green	01:00:49
03/05/09	M/Nelson BOKTrot	W65L	01:23:03
28/02/09	Br. O. Champs.	W65L	01:23:26

Carol Stewart (National & Regional Results)

Fixture lists included in old copies of Legend shows that Carol was a regular event-organiser in the late 1990's - and perhaps before? Printed annual fixture lists show that she continued organising league events, including at Painswick Beacon in 2004, and at Mallards Pike and Minchinhampton in 2006, and no doubt other events for some years afterwards.

Events were very different before the advent of Sportident electronic timing in 2000. It's my recollection that Carol almost invariably took on the important role of team-leader for both the finish timing and control card checking at 'badge' events.

She supervised an army of helpers noting finish times, handing numbered cloakroom tickets to finishers, collecting control cards, stapling tickets to cards, adding times, and checking every control card to ensure that the punches showed that the course had been correctly completed. This was often a difficult job, with soggy wet cards covered usually in mud and sometimes with blood! Carol was always a strict supervisor of her large team of helpers.

Date	Event Type	BOF Event
07/08/14	Street Challenge	66214
27/06/13	Summer Evening Event	64206
11/08/12	Summer Saturday	62777
13/07/11	Summer Street Informal	60743
22/07/09	Wednesday Evening Training	56091
06/10/07	Local Event & Mini League	29341
30/09/06	Local Event & Mini League	28783
06/05/06	Local Event & Mini League	28336
03/12/05	Local Event	27492
05/03/05	Local Event	27161
25/09/04	Local Event & Mini League	27820
18/01/04	District Event & SW Galoppen	27304
11/10/03	Local Event	27398
01/02/03	Local Event	26518
12/10/02	Local Event	26459
06/10/01	Local Event /New Members Day	25993
17/02/01	Local Informal Event	25446
07/10/00	Local Informal Event	25249
11/12/99	Local Event	24353

BOF database only includes records from 1999 to 2026. No events organised by Carol after 2014.

Confirmed events organised by Carol Stewart

In 2020, to mark her exceptional service to the club, Carol was granted honorary life membership of NGOC. She long continued to help at events, even after she no longer competed, and this was also recognised by BOF presenting her with a well-deserved volunteer award, in 2022.

Carol will long be remembered as a dependable and efficient lady who made an outstanding contribution to the club. ♥

Paul Taunton
[Graphics: Duncan Liddle]

♥
Dear Carol
Always there
Never really known!
Will be missed

Allan Darwell and
Clare Fletcher (BOK)



Continued Contribution to Orienteering runner-up: Carol Stewart

Carol should be recognised for her decades of service as Treasurer on the North Gloucestershire Orienteering Club committee. Carol's careful stewardship has ensured club solvency while enabling the club to invest in the latest innovations in the sport. Carol is a dedicated and dependable constant volunteer at all our events, where she runs registration. Carol is the first point of contact and face of the club for new orienteers and initiated, stocks, and runs the club tea tent for post-event sustenance. Although largely retired from active orienteering, Carol still turns out to represent and compete for the club when it counts (i.e. CompassSport Cup) as a W80.

Club Nomination and BOF Award: Carol Stewart

Our quiet hero of the club

We live in a world of celebrity culture with its *false heroes, self-promotion, and self-praise*. Carol was the anti-thesis of this culture. She was someone who sought no reward, no recognition, nor praise. She was a person who simply got on with the job. Her jobs in the club were many, varied and valuable, but done in such an efficient way that they were never prominent in anyone's mind. Private and confidential, there are very, very few 'Carols' in this world, today. It is a shame that her character type is not the one celebrated; rather it is the superficial, shallow icons of the media. ♥

Tom Mills

Carol was one of the first NGOC-ers that welcomed me, back in 2012. When I asked to purchase my first NGOC T-shirt, she gave me a retro one, which I wear to this day. I took over the café from her. She is very much missed.

Hilary Nicholls

More sad news ...

I am also very sad to report the passing of Daisy, who many of you will know very well from her being ever-present at NGOC events for most of her life, except the last couple of years when her vast store of energy finally began to wane.

Going to see all her many friends at an orienteering event was always the favourite outing, so Daisy became my constant running companion at both day and night races. With neither map nor compass, she would nearly always find her way to the flag before me – how will I manage to find them now?



Photo © Greg Best

A mere Blue, Brown or Night course was never enough for her, and she'd spend the remainder of the day by Registration, retrieving sticks for hours that the kind people of NGOC would throw for her.

Then on the extra good days, there'd be control collecting too ... yes please! The muddier it was, the happier was Daisy, although she was never keen on having to be hosed down when back at home!

She often managed to sneak into Carol's lair (the Registration tent) and everyone around would know about it, because of Carol's familiar shout: "Out Daisy!" When the sad time came for Daisy to finally retire from orienteering, she would sniff me all over on my return from events and give me that knowing look which clearly said: "You're two-timing me again, why didn't you take me?"

She had been suffering a lot recently, but is now pain-free to explore the



Daisy 9/9/12 – 12/7/26

great orienteering forest in the sky, with all its lovely smells, bogs and streams, endless sticks to retrieve and orange flags to find. Thank you for all the memories. ♥

Greg Best

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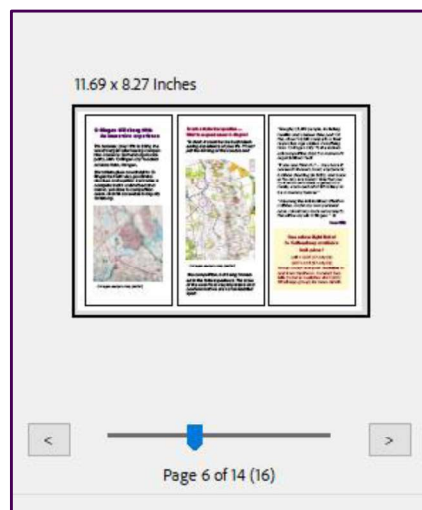
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Legend

Published by:
North Gloucestershire Orienteering Club (NGOC).
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