

WHITE ROSE 2006

By Nick Barrable...

The White Rose was 35 years old this year and despite being a smaller affair than it was 10 or more years ago, the main idea of having a summer weekend with all the races within walking distance from the camp site / assembly ground is still central to its philosophy. Although used in recent years for EBORs popular Bike-O competitions, Wykeham was last used for Foot-O 20 odd years ago. It proved a suitable challenge to many and one anonymous person wrote on the EBOR online bulletin board, "Could this be the White Rose? Day one, I came across no brambles! Day two, I came across no brambles! Checked my location on GPS (not whilst competing I hasten to add!!) Indeed this was White Rose country! Well done EBOR for finding what I thought were 2 lovely contrasting woods. I still made mistakes, but had a blast; Day 2 was especially enjoyable. I know there was a lot of path running, but you still had to make the right choice of route!"

The camp site was a luxuriant meadow of tall grass with ample space for everyone. Wilfs were on hand from dawn to dusk to provide sustenance as the nearest shops were some distance away, with many campers going to Scarborough every day for a dose of civilisation, a shower and supplies. Water came from a handy Army Water truck. The nearest pub was 20 minute walk away, although a private function on the Sunday Night meant people had to organise non-drinking

drivers to access more distant public houses. It was noted that the camping was bargainsomely cheap which was a big welcome for families and all hoped that these prices could continue.

In recent years the White Rose has been in decline. The table shows numbers in the last 12 years.

Year	Day 2 Nos	Relay Teams
1995	1484	N/a
1996	1361	N/a
1997	1260	N/a
1998	969	N/a
1999	892	N/a
2000	807	140
2001	F+M	
2002	747	86
2003	723	85
2004	729	86
2005	739	76
2006	670	73

(Courtesy of Jim Harrison, EBOR)

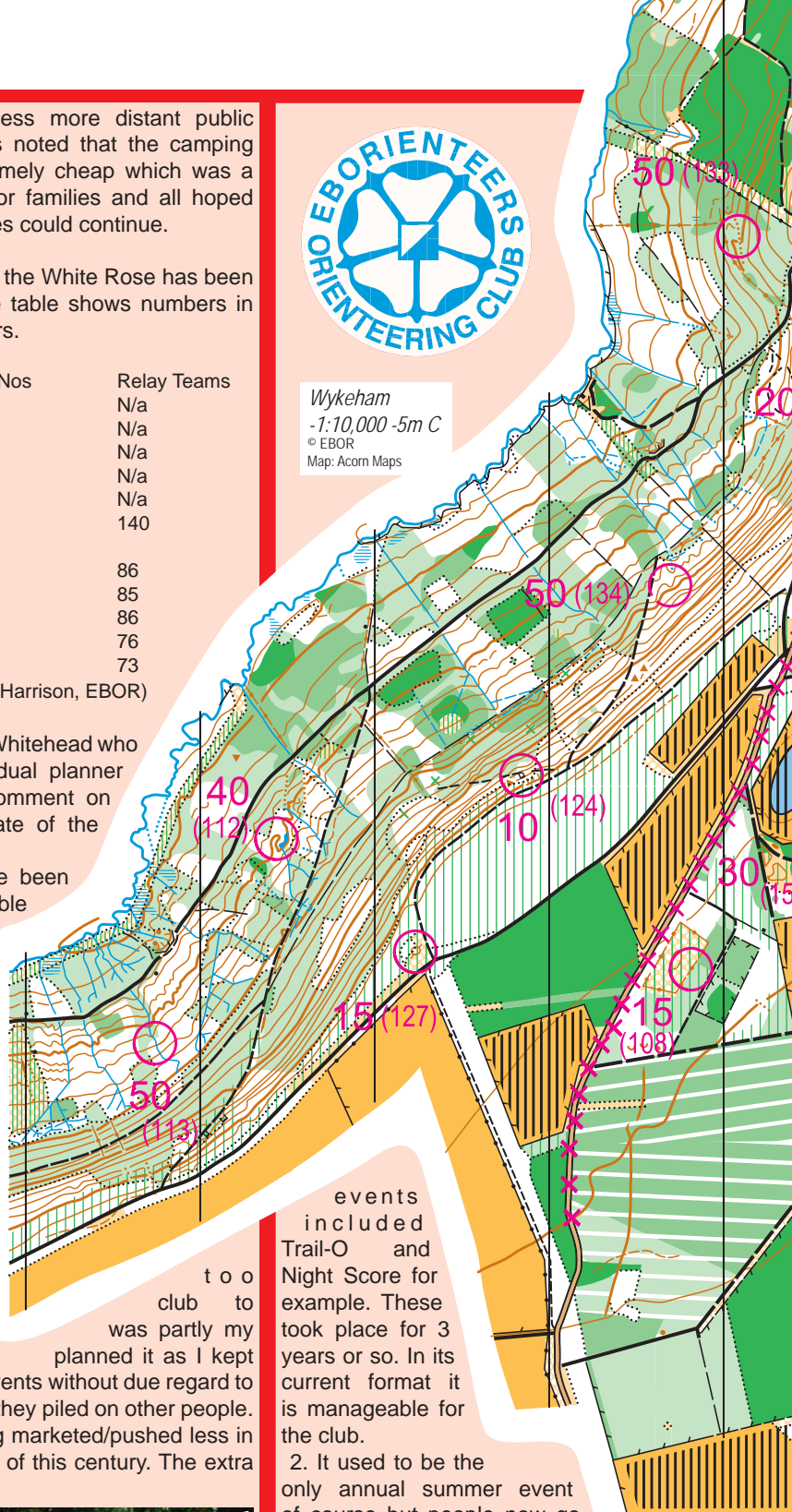
I asked Steve Whitehead who was the individual planner this year to comment on the current state of the White Rose.

"Numbers have been relatively stable for the last few years - the big decline in numbers came with foot and mouth but probably related to a few other things:

1. It was getting big for the handle - this fault when I planned it as I kept adding extra events without due regard to the extra work they piled on other people. So it was being marketed/pushed less in the early years of this century. The extra



Wykeham
-1:10,000 -5m C
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Map: Acorn Maps



events included Trail-O and Night Score for example. These took place for 3 years or so. In its current format it is manageable for the club.

2. It used to be the only annual summer event of course but people now go abroad and this must have an effect - there were lots of Brits in Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, not to mention the world Masters and the Lakes. The Purple Thistle weekend in Scotland attracted 125 competitors, some of whom might have come to the White Rose. One of the problems for the club is that having August badge events portrays many areas as grotty - as I often run round them in April and May. I know many of the areas are in fact really good! The adage "Give Blood - Run in a Yorkshire Forest", does not apply all year round!

The 36th edition of the White Rose is in Newtondale next year - one of our most technical areas (JK in the 80s).



A Harlequins team plan their route.

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