

Brian Jones.

Eborienteers was formed in 1969. I'm not sure when Brian Jones joined but he became chair of the Yorkshire Association in 1973. Brian was not one to stand aside when a job needed doing and was often a committee member. I remember him organising events, always in a quiet, easy-going but totally determined manner, including many White Roses which often had more than 1,000 entries.

In 1993, Brian Jones was the organiser and was let down by X (a private contractor) who sent a lorry that couldn't cope with the "rough" terrain and had to be pushed out of the field by club helpers. The firm then had the cheek to claim an extra £491.20 from the club because of loss of earnings as it took a long time for them to remove the toilets after the event (much to the annoyance of the farmer). Brian, an architect and developer, by profession seems to have relished counter-claiming for £793.34 (for assisting with unloading, helping to recover the lorry, loss of use of the toilets due to the delay in setting them up, having to provide toilet rolls, going back to the site once the toilets had been removed to clear it of rivets etc.) and taking the matter through the small claims court. Ebor won the court case.

In 1995 he was one of the victims of the Great Hovingham High Wood April Fool as Steve Whitehead remembers:

It was too good to miss. We had an event scheduled for Hovingham in February but it needed to move because of a clash with a CLOK event and the only available date was Saturday 1st April. This was just before the JK was due to take place in Yorkshire. There had been lots of publicity in CompassSport about drug-testing for elite athletes due to take place at the JK.

We had a friend whose daughter was a nurse. Lionel Carter (EBOR secretary) was a pathologist at the hospital and obtained the correct sample kit and bottles. We printed official-looking signs and labels. On the day we erected a tent and a toilet tent and when the competitors arrived, the car park officials gave them the news: "a number of finishers will be selected randomly to give a urine sample so that we can make sure that everything will work smoothly at the JK".



I stood at the finish with a clip board and “randomly” selected key EBOR members! The nurse managed to keep a straight face once the competitors arrived at the tent. She took their name and the number of their sample bottle and sent them round to the toilet tent. She had to reassure a lot of folk that the various prescribed medicines they were taking would not be of concern and that under no circumstances should they stop taking them.

Of course, once they unzipped the toilet tent, there was a large sign saying “April Fool! Please fill your sample bottle from the carton of apple juice provided and return it to the nurse – don’t tell anyone else!”

Brian Jones, the chair of the club, was of course one of those selected and thoroughly enjoyed the joke.

The photo shows Brian receiving his bottle and being directed through to the toilet tent at the back.

Brian became chair of EBOR once again in 1997 and oversaw the club’s first website! He retired as chair in 2001 to emigrate to Switzerland and went on to organise the fantastic Swiss O Tour of 2006. He also designed a fabulous house in the countryside near Zurich, a house complete with indoor forest, reminiscent of the Eden Project!

He was one of those people who always made life more enjoyable for those around him.