

HISTORY OF SUFFOC

Richard Raynsford, a footballer who wanted an interesting way to keep fit outside the footballing season, started the East Anglian Orienteering Club in Nov. 1971 in Bury St. Edmunds. He was on the staff of the County Surveyor, and so was in a good position to seek out landowners with areas suitable for orienteering. The areas being divided up for orienteering on a geological map, not one with county boundaries.

The Suffolk Club was inaugurated at a meeting on 13th Oct. 1972, with Richard Raynsford as Chairman, Denis Arnold (who came into orienteering via cycling) as Secretary, and Tim Leedham as Treasurer; from this start, NOR, SUFFOC and WADC branched off, it was affiliated to BDF and EADA, and the subscriptions were BDF £1.45, EADA 50p., SUFFOC 25p. The first SUFFOC event was on 5th November in Tangham Forest.

In 1973 Geoffrey Hines was Chairman of SUFFOC, Hally Hardie was Deputy Chairman, Julian Gillett Treasurer and Equipment Officer, Barrie Sullivan Secretary, Richard Raynsford Events Secretary, and the membership was over 40. At this time, Derek Keeble was in the process of building up Essex Stragglers. In 1974 the first Suffolk Youth/Schools/T.A. Championship event was put on.

The next year, Hally Hardie took over as Chairman, and Geoffrey Hines became Youth Officer, where his work was much assisted by his connection with Mr. Coatsworth, then Director of Education in Norfolk. Lord Stradbroke used his influence with Suffolk County Council to appoint a County Youth Officer in charge of orienteering, and in 1975 Stephen Foxall was appointed to this post. Brother William at St. Joseph's converted that school and Holbrook, Woodbridge and Ipswich Schools, and training events were held for them.

The first SUFFOC Newsletter was sent out in March 1979, and it became 'The Punch', and in December 1981. The SUFFOC Punch. The new badge was adopted as a result of a competition arranged for the SUFFOC AGM in October 1981, when the design chosen was that submitted by Goff Hill.