

Thank you Chris Board ...



Sixteen years ago, Dr Christopher Board took over chairmanship of the Charles Close Society, the third chairman in our history, following Peter Clark and Yolande Hodson. Our membership roughly doubled during Chris's period in office, and keeping the Society on course during this expansion has required a steady hand on the tiller.

This Chris has always provided. A committee discussion brought to a sensible conclusion with a few points that nobody else had thought of; a quiet note of appreciation or a phone call to say thank you; a little, very mild, arm-twisting to persuade someone to take on a new role – and then gentle support while they gained confidence.

Above all, Chris Board is respected in his own field. This has built on the foundations laid by the other founder members to give the Society a standing which its 'amateur' members could not have achieved on their own and has opened many doors for us. Chris's award of the British Cartographic Society's Medal, that society's highest honour, was followed by his OBE 'for services to cartography' in the 2005 New Year Honours.



In both his academic career and his chairmanship of CCS, Chris made many friends in the right places. Temporary difficulties for CCS have been overcome following a well judged phone call or his quiet comment to the committee, "Perhaps I should write to the Director General on that one". Voluntary societies need suitably eminent chairmen, but to run smoothly they must also elect chairmen who are good with people. Chris Board has served CCS admirably on both counts and for this, and for his hard work over such a long period, we thank him.

Chris commented "If I have helped to make CCS more inclusive, to encourage anyone who wants to learn more about OS mapping, I am satisfied. I am sure that Gerry will rise to all the challenges facing us with aplomb".

*photos: top, Chris Board at 2012 AGM by Richard Oliver
lower, HM The Queen presenting Chris with OBE © BCA Films, Wokingham*