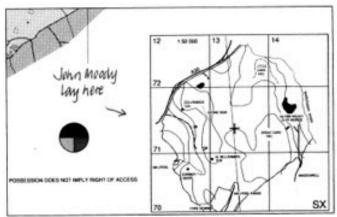
Brian Parker sends us this tale

He must have known; the man must have had a sixth sense. How else could you explain

In 1993 John Moody of Cornwall O.C. made a map of part of Bodmin Moor some considerable distance to the south and west of Jamaica Inn. In this map, entitled Cardinham Moor, John had quite a number of divergences from common cartographic practice. Some commentators called the map an interesting experiment, others suggested it was idiosyncratic. But, for the BOF Mapping Group of the time, it was a map too far and there was much jumping up and down. However, despite all these criticisms the map was used, and used again, for successful competition.

One of the unusual features of John's map was his compliance with the requirement to give a national grid reference for the area. Not for him a twoletter, six-figure entry somewhere under the legend. He added instead a miniature version of the main map, aligned to grid north and marked with the national grid squares. This meant that any feature on the main map could be given an eight-figure grid reference. We all marvelled at the precision this offered but wondered what on earth anyone would ever do with it.



Swansea Bay O.C.

Forward in Time

We now move forward to 1998. On 21st November KERNO held one of the Devon and Cornwall Night League events on Cardinham Moor. John Moody was one of the entrants. At Control 3 (183 Boulder, East side) on the flank of Great Care Hill, he broke his leg. The possibility of stretchering him out across more than a kilometre of rough moorland was considered and rejected. Instead the air ambulance helicopter was called in.

The air ambulance asked for the position of the casualty. The 'about a kilometre south west of the derelict Glynn Valley china clay pit' was rejected as unsuitable for dialling into the GPS equipment and a grid reference was requested. John's map now came into its own. 'The casualty is at grid reference SX 1339 7141' positioned him to ten metres. The big bird swooped in and carried him off.

There is no doubt that a nice comfortable ride in a helicopter is better than being bounced across rough moorland and the roads of Cornwall when you have a broken leg. And to get that ride in the helicopter at night means giving a good grid reference. John certainly made excellent provision for his own rescue. What foresight, what prescience!