

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

Margaret Tagg.

It seems a long time now but thank you to everyone who participated in the Chingford Park Fun event on December 5th 1999. Hopefully we have used that black and white map for the last time! Having a picnic and barbeque gave people a chance to socialise, and finding Santa in the bush (you were great Suzanne) was a bonus. The prize for the most unusual hat went to Ross Davies and the prize for the most interestingly dressed was Jane Bruce.

The 1999 AGM and Prize Giving was well attended - Suzanne had to keep finding more chairs - and we were treated to interesting talks given by Jane Forsyth, Gavin Crow and Bunny Rathbone about their overseas experiences.

Several DOC members have had a wonderful time in Feilding at the World Masters Orienteering Championships which were attended by about 1500 competitors from about 27 countries. Special congratulations to Bunny Rathbone who won the W65A grade. We know Bunny as an amazing orienteer but also as an enthusiastic coach and encourager. Well done, Bunny.

Our own WMOC warm down event at Mt Ross was a great success. Thank you to Bruce Collins and all the other hard working people who contributed to such an enjoyable day.

It was with sadness that we learned of the sudden death of our oldest club member Hugh Dickson. Hugh enjoyed coming to events and liked to complete a course satisfactorily. We will miss him at the Masters Games where he was proud to compete in M70 grade. Sympathy is extended to Hugh's family.

Please check that you have paid your annual subscription as a new financial year began on 1st October 1999. You may be a NZOF affiliated member receiving the New Zealand Orienteering magazine and being able to enter NZOF events, or a local member. And please volunteer to assist with organising, planning and controlling. It's a great way to get to know people and develop orienteering skills.

SOUTH ISLAND TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVE.

Bruce McLeod is now the South Island's friendly representative for the Technical Committee for the NZOF, so you can moan to him if you are not happy with the rules etc.

Congratulations Bruce.

IMPRESSIONS OF WMOC 2000

Jane Forsyth

I had a good time at WMOC 2000. It was not a huge event as international events go - certainly smaller than some I went to in Scandinavia last year - but I knew more people at this one so it seemed friendlier.

I was lucky enough to stay in a student hostel in Palmerston North, with a bunch of about 20 Brits and a few other Kiwis, organised by Roz and Andy Clayton. To begin with, of course, they were all just faces to me but as I gradually learned their names it dawned on me that they were almost all famous names - at least in British O circles. Roz said "There are a lot of good orienteers here - so learn from them" but I felt a bit shy, especially given the elementary mistakes I was making. We played a few "training games" in the

evenings and I did discuss my courses once or twice but it was an opportunity I could have made more of.

The maps and running conditions were super. It was the first time for me on the sand-dune forests of the NI, and despite being a Wellingtonian I had never been anywhere near that part of the Manawatu. The forests were quite old and had been pruned high and thinned, so you could see for quite a long way. The sandhills were mapped so accurately that finding the way was really no trouble - as long as you walked! The closest Dunedin map I can compare it to is the better pine forest block at Allans Beach - but instead of taking 2 minutes to run across, the Manawatu forests might take 30 minutes or more to get across in a straight line - and days to run along. There were also marram-grass dunes backed by long strips of gorse etc, as at Allans Beach, but I generally did not get into these areas, which were used more on the longer courses. The other thing that impressed me was that the thinnings, logs etc on the forest floor were completely rotten, and crumbled to powder as you stood on them - so much easier to get through than some other pine forest areas I could mention.

I had 4 races and a model event. I decided to use the first ("public") race, which was not part of the masters series, as a familiarisation exercise, so walked most of it, and this was followed by a day when you could visit some training maps and familiarise even further. So at the end of these 2 days I was confident I could read the contours and the shades of green, and know how many paces made 100m in this terrain.

The next 2 days were the first and second qualifying races - in a large class your performance in these would decide whether you made an A or B final, but in W45 there was to be only one final so all I had to do was finish. I did so, but in no very creditable style, with one huge error each day, and some smaller ones to keep it company. The winner both days was Roz Clayton, who was the world champ in that class so that was no surprise. As in Europe, I counted it a good day when I did only twice her time.

The final was a bit of a surprise, and not just for me. The map was in a much younger forest and the going was much worse - head-high thistles, thick belts of hard unrotted prunings, bracken and marram and other thick weeds all

occurred in parts of the map. There were lots of moans about the rubbishy conditions, as we had probably all expected something similar to the previous maps. However I have to say that having the fast runners slowed down is always to my advantage! And I made only 2 small errors on this day, so finished with a bit more credit this time. The big disappointment was Roz, who received some bad news just before her run and lost concentration, allowing the Australian Jenny Bourne to take the medal. But of course Bunny won her class which was a real buzz.

One thing that worried me was the number of people who asked you where they were, called out to their friends or followed you. I had one woman ask me where she was at the second control and then follow me for the next 5. I talked to her about it afterwards and she said that in Switzerland it is not OK to talk to elites but she could see I was not an elite!! Asking for help does seem to be very prevalent in Europe and I guess as a slowcoach I am an obvious target. If you stop at any stage you are often approached by someone. Pat Ehrhardt claims it works if you say "No spik Eenglish" in whatever accent you can muster - and you have to hold onto your map firmly. I suppose coping with this is part of learning to ignore distractions and focus on your own course. I know I have been guilty as a beginner of asking for advice out on a course and I now realise how distracting it is.

I thought the organisers did a wonderful job of showing off NZ to the overseas visitors, with plenty of "Kiwiana" at the ceremonies and available throughout, e.g. farm visits, barbies and pub nights. However visitors would not have seen the full range of NZ orienteering terrain - unless they came to the warm-down events afterwards and got out of the pine trees and among the rocks of Flock Hill and of course wonderful Mt Ross.

WMOC 200.

Bunny Rathbone.

What a great chance for some world class orienteering right on our back doorstep during the holiday period and tacked on to the celebrations for the new millennium as well. I had paid my dues before departing for Europe, the UK and the WMOC 1999 in Denmark and I was looking forward to running on the pine forested sand dune maps where I had last been for the 1997 Nationals. The areas used for these WMOC events were embargoed since the beginning of 1998 so for two years were off limits for other regular club and area events.

The standard of the mapping and the courses was excellent as the mappers were able to continue making any adjustments needed as the planners finalized their courses. The maps were printed on Polyart synthetic paper which is waterproof and difficult to tear - the printing does not rub off either. Even for me with my short courses on W65 I was still given a full sized map instead of a reduced sized one, which I really appreciated to take home.

It was great fun being part of Feilding celebrations on New Years Eve. The Town Square was packed with people and the stage in front of the new clock tower had entertainment hosted by Lloyd Scott and featured John Rowles and a choir of 100 Manawatu children's voices.

The orienteers' special contribution was to have a score event at midnight around the streets and at the Race Course and adjacent Kowhai Park billed as the First Orienteering event in the world for the new millennium. Then to follow in the morning, a sunrise event at 5.51 am (it was cloudy however), at the Race Course with a mass start short O race which 300 mostly wide awake participants enjoyed.

New Years Day was spent checking out the map available for us to train on and enjoy watching the TV coverage of the rest of the world celebrating. Spending time on the training map was very valuable as we could appreciate the style of mapping and test ourselves with the compass and map reading between the controls. The terrain can be quite intricate in some places and bland in others so a combination of accurate compass direction taking and map reading was

essential. I felt very confident I would handle the coming four events very well during the following week.

As it turned out I was mostly able to keep my head throughout the week ending in a very good result in the final almost 7 minutes ahead of the second place getter from Finland. The advantage of using an electronic punching system instead of carrying a card to record your visits to a control means that at the finish of the race you can have a print out of not only your own splits between controls but everyone else's splits on the course as well. I can instantly see where the time wasting mistakes were made by other competitors and how my steady and accurate run paid off. What I don't know is what they were doing when they were taking a long time - perhaps that will be the next on the electronic agenda - a tracking device.

As I found in my orienteering activity overseas in 1999, this time I rubbed shoulders with a lot more people and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. I met a Scot who was at the Scottish 6 day this year. I didn't meet him then but this time he was sleeping three cubicles away from me at the hostel. I'd shared floor space in Denmark with a German woman from Saxony and she was at the WMOC event and was even able to stay here at Glenelg St after the Mt Ross event - along with three Swedes and two Australians.

I've promised that I'll do a detailed piece on how I ran my Finals day course - to be continued.

NZOF DEVELOPMENT SQUAD TRAINING CAMP.

Michael Tagg.

The Y2K NZOF Development Squad Mainland tour was an epic week of exploration of some of the South Island's most unique orienteering hot spots, attended by the crme de la crme of Southern Juniors. Meeting up at Spencer Holiday Park were three bright DOC orienteers in Julie Grant, Aaron Searle and Michael Tagg, the 1999 National M16A Champ Keith Agmen (TOPS) and the 1999 NZSS Intermediate Champ Bryn Davies, the only junior who hopped over Cook Strait to attend.

Attempting to keep us under control was the ever energetic Michael Wood and our "celebrity coach" Nick Barrable, an elite who narrowly missed out on making the British team last year, a story that he delighted in telling us frequently.

The first WMOC warm down event was staged on the legendary Flock Hill map. It was a blistering hot summer's day as we ventured out on to "Mt Ross's steep evil brother". We then decided to cool off by clambering under the parking lot through sub-zero temperatures, a task made considerably easier by Nick's portable lighthouse beacon.

That night we shacked down in shearers quarters at Craigmore, an eerie experience to have sheep munching two metres from your bed. The accommodation was good, plenty of hot water in one cabin and plenty of showers in the other but a frustrating lack of pipes between the two.

After several low speed exercises on the "lunar" landscape, we all fired up for a great Micro designed to make our legs feel a little more like lead. Michael Tagg won the first pool while Nick showed his class to clean up the speedsters pool.

So onward to Dunedin for the night before heading to Mt Ross for the final WMOC race. The courses were long, the temperature hot and at times fast as most of the campers recorded satisfactory times, although holding on to your clip card at all times is still an essential skill to have. We then raced round

another Micro in the intricate gold-digging area won again by Nick with Michael Tagg second.

No southern tour is complete without Naseby so into the jungle we ventured for two nights and one long day of hard navigational training. Fran Cunninghame joined us. Rather than a Camp Champs, coach extraordinaire Michael Wood organised a three leg knock out handicap Micro Series (not as complicated as it sounds). These three short sharp races in the Naseby intricacies caused problems for all involved and shifted the focus from speed to safety. Nick and Bryn were expected to come from opposite sides of the draw to meet in the final but when Michael upset Nick, and Fran went past Bryn it became an all DOC final.

The friendly atmosphere was a testament to the wonderful way the coaches ran the camp and full credit must be given for their energy and enthusiasm. In fact they both had enough energy to go straight from Naseby to Christchurch for the World Rogaine Champs, while Dunedinites opted for the transport once again kindly supplied by the Taggs back to Dunedin for some well earned R and R.

Thanks must be extended to Michael Wood whose amazing efforts made this camp possible.

DESPERATELY SEEKING CONTOURS: Orienteering the Cambridge Way

Wayne Patrick.

It's been a while. But you know how it is - "Old Spices" like me (thanks Willy!) can't type as fast as we used to. That aside, Y2K finds me immersed in Cambridge life....lab work, beer, lab work, orienteering, lab work....(did I mention lab work?). I'm a fully paid-up member of the Cambridge University Orienteering Club (CUOC), though have only managed to get to three events since I've been here. It's still all rather novel - I sign up for an event (not knowing where it is, what sort of grades there are or what sort of terrain it is), meet the mini-van at the appropriate time and place, and drive in a seemingly random direction till we get to some place. [Oooo....that last sentence just got the Big Green MS Word Bad-Grammar-Underlining treatment - harsh!] A far cry from the days of knowing all of DOC's maps back-to-front! Equally novel is belonging to a club (admittedly of only about 30 members) in which we're all between ages 18 and 25....as you'd expect, most things are handled a little differently from what I'm used to (beer generally plays a more central role in event organisation).

The first thing to mention about Cambridge is that it is flat. Dead flat. Flatter than a particularly flat pancake on the flattest day of its life. So flat that I've been forced to spend two weekends in the "mountains" (topping out at a monstrous 1085 metres) of North Wales, just to remind myself what hills are like (especially important since I'm spending six weeks trekking in Nepal in March-April - but that's another story). The orienteering maps I've run on - being in the Cambridge vicinity - have also been rather flat. Hence the title of this whimsical little piece.

The first event was a local club event, run by the Essex Stragglers Orienteering Society on a map called "Chalkney Wood". Picture Ross Creek minus the reservoir, with lots more tracks and at a scale of 1:10,000, and you've pretty much got the idea. Course 1 was cunningly planned in two loops, with the second master map halfway round, so they could eke a 6.9km course out of the map. Unfortunately, it being only my third weekend in the Northern Hemisphere, my internal compass was obviously pointing the wrong way. The first loop took an embarrassing 59-odd minutes, while the (longer) second loop took 29 min. Not a good way to impress my new-found club mates, but good fun nonetheless. Or maybe the problem was that it's against the rules to wear shorts for forest events, so I had to borrow some O-pants. I'm sure the likes of George and Jane will understand my consternation at having to wear longs!

CUOC only plans two events a year (but then, our only maps all adjoin each other in Thetford Forest, so variety is a little lacking), one of which was November's infamous Sprint-O/Alc-O, held on the "Santon Downham and Santon Warren" map. Being quite possibly the most fun orienteering event I've ever run, it seems worthy of a few (hundred) words. The format broke down like this: the first race was a free-for-all qualifying race. The top 32 men (from the field of 66) and top 8 women (of 16 starters) went through to a semi-final - everyone else ran the afternoon's B-final. The first 8 finishers (4 for the girls) in the semi-final went into the A-final. Each course was two loops (passing through the Start/Finish), so there were eight possible combinations of loops and directions around them. The A-final was followed by the elite Alc-O and the regular Alc-O. A lot of racing for a short English winter's day!

The qualifying race was 14 controls in 2.6km of easy navigation through mostly open (and, of course, flat) forest. So you can imagine the carnage when 66 of us mass-started....after quickly breaking into four groups (depending on which loop we had first), the charge was on. "Fast and furious" is dramatically understating the situation - those who stopped to think, lost. Or at least, that was my theory. It was won in 14.35 by someone called Siggy Gould. The car full of London-based Kiwis all safely reached the semi-finals: Dave Farquhar was 8th, Shaun Collins 12th and Stu Barr 18th. On finishing, I was stoked with my 22nd placing in 16.24 (14 seconds behind Stu) - especially as I was the second-best performed member of CUOC. Unfortunately, however, I'd fallen into the trap cunningly laid by the planner, our Club Captain, Mark Brown. There were two controls inside the circle at the end of my first loop, and in my rush to get away from some guy who'd been hounding me for the previous three controls, I punched the wrong one. Ignominiously disqualified (along with two others), I suddenly found myself one of the top seeds for the B-final. The women's race proved to be a show-down between Hannah Wootton and Helen Palmer (both top-ranked W20s), with Wootton coming out on top. Madeleine Collins/Barr/Collins had a slow start, but in a comparatively weak field, was always going to make the semi-final.

Things got a little more tense in the semi-finals, for competitors and spectators alike. It was do-or-die time now: the big guns couldn't hold back any longer. The terrain was identical to the first race, and the times were just as quick. Stu Barr rose to the occasion, blitzing the men's field to win by 11 seconds - as an indication of just how significant that margin was, the next seven finishers (i.e. those who qualified for the A-final) were within 13 seconds of each other. Farquhar and Collins also upped their work-rates, coming in 5th and 7th. In a twist of fate, Wootton and Palmer had identical courses in the women's race. Not surprisingly, they came first and second, recording the same time (though Palmer was the first to the line). Madeleine was also getting into the swing of things, and finished third - though almost two minutes behind the other two. It looked like NZ was going to be well-represented in both finals, then.

The afternoon saw us move to the northern part of the map, where less forest and more open terrain brought the promise of even faster racing. The grey skies brought occasional icy showers, but hell, this is England - what do you expect? As we lined up for the B-final, the smart money was on Andy Middleditch, who'd also been disqualified from Round One. As we grabbed our maps and sprinted down the track towards the first control, it became apparent that he and I had the same first loop. Into some pine trees we crashed, with the others starting to fall away behind. Only Tim Taylor, from my club, kept up with us as we went through the first loop comfortably ahead of anyone on the other loops. The second loop took us out over a recently-felled field....again, Andy and I were on identical courses. He started pulling away as my lack of fitness training began to tell. As we flew through some open trees to controls 10 and 11, my concern shifted from catching Andy to keeping Tim behind me. Towards the final control, and I couldn't shake him. His inexperience told, though, and a faster punch at the control meant that I got a crucial few yards on him. And so it finished: Middleditch 1st in 15.59, Patrick 2nd in 16.34, and Taylor 3rd in 16.41. I was pretty happy: I'd completed the 3.1km course at 5.34 min/km, and, more to the point, it had been exhilarating, exciting, action-packed, head-to-head racing. How often can we say that about our sport?

The A-finals were equally exciting, though not without their comic aspects. The men's field split faster than an atom in the hands of Lord Rutherford. Or, at least, seven of them did. Shaun Collins stood at the start for a while, staring at his map, then his compass. As laughter erupted amongst the onlookers, he dashed over to his bag, pulled out another compass, and finally disappeared up the track. Madeleine suspected he'd taken his Southern Hemisphere compass by mistake - I didn't mention that I'd been using mine all day, to no ill effect. As the best of the best flew through their first loop, the Kiwis seemed a little thin on the ground. In fact, they ended up filling the last three places, with Farquhar 6th, ahead of Barr and finally the hapless Collins, who finished over 5 minutes adrift of the others. D'oh. The final was won by Mark Chapman, 12 seconds clear of our old friend - and the day's most consistent performer - Siggy Gould. The women's race was one for the loners - in a field of four, you were guaranteed to be on your own. After the first loop, things looked grim for Madeleine: the two Helens (Palmer and Ashton) looked to have it all sewn up, leaving Collins and Hannah Wootton to fight for the wooden spoon. Remarkably, though, when a figure next appeared, it was Wootton - having been last through the first loop, she got up to win. Madeleine had also picked up the pace, and was suddenly in an epic duel with Palmer for 2nd. Palmer lost the plot, lost the penultimate control and lost the way through a pile of thinnings, leaving Madeleine comfortably 2nd, over a minute clear.

After all that namby-pamby pussy-footing around, we finally got to the real event: the Alc-O. The elite race was staged in 5 two-control loops, with a pint of beer (or its equivalent in spirits/punch/cider) to be consumed before starting, after every loop, and before finishing. To make it a little harder, the "maps" were merely sets of control circles drawn on bits of cereal box. The event was won by Tom Norton, a sizeable Oxford student, who happened to be able to drink approximately ten times faster than the poor little M18 who was leading right up to the last pint. Remarkably, I think everyone made it back to the finish - though in many cases not without falling over, throwing up or stopping to relieve oneself. A fine example of English culture, methinks. For those of us too soft to mix it with the big boys, the way back to the car-park involved four half-pints....the control codes were imaginatively named "Lager", "Bitter", "Punch" and "Lager". We, too, were a little confused. Because on collecting our maps, it became apparent that they bore absolutely no resemblance to the surrounding terrain. Rumours were rife that someone "had the right map" - but really, we just ran in

the general direction indicated on our maps, till we came across the drinks stall. By the time we got back to the vans, night was falling (i.e. it was about 4.30pm). Not a bad day in the forest, all in all.

I was going to tell you about the Midland Night Championships that I ran last night (also on the Santon Downham map), but this article is rather too long already. Suffice to say that the 4.8km course 3 (M21A Short) took me about 65 minutes - I have no idea whether that was a good time or not, though I suspect probably not. The moral of the story is to stick to tracks when you're night orienteering....a conclusion I didn't reach till fatally late on my course.

Anyway, I should get back to lab work. But let me just finish by saying that Bunny - you're an inspiration to us all. Masquerading as a W45 whilst winning all those South Island Champs....I was shocked to read that you qualified as a W65 for WMOC! I'm sure I'm not the only orienteer around who knows full well that - regrettably - they won't be running to your level in 40 years time: well done, and good luck defending the title next year....

MT ROSS EVENT 12 JAN 2000

Bruce Collins.

Or how not to organise a large event!!!

This is a story of the trials, tribulations and memories of planning (and organising) an event of some 340 entries in conjunction with the World Masters O Champs and right on Xmas. Don't read this if you are easily put off!!

When I first saw that DOC were holding a warmdown event for the World masters I was immediately interested in planning it as I hadn't planned a good sized event for a couple of years and events this size don't come down this part of the world that often. Unfortunately this was the start of one of the most difficult events to coordinate that I have ever experienced!

To start with there were considerable delays in being accepted as planner and then finding out Course requirements due to communication difficulties between WMOC, DOC and myself.

It was early November before Barrie Foote was confirmed as controller but there wasn't an organiser. At this stage WMOC wanted Course lengths for the WMOC programme. Thankfully that was easy enough as the km rates were there from the Nationals in 1998. It was about then that we found out that we could take entries ourselves and someone suggested that entry forms be sent out to Invercargill and Christchurch areas.

Barrie wanted controls in place before Xmas as he was going to WMOC and wouldn't have time afterwards to check them. This left rather a tight schedule as I was also planning Day 2 of the SI Champs on 21 November (dumb move on my part!)

After SI Champs WMOC wanted to know the Course lengths again! They also wanted to know all the other details of the event again which Myles thankfully provided. We now found out we had an organiser but early in December he pulled out because of work commitments. Jane Cloete had volunteered to help him but she wasn't experienced in large events. Therefore still no organiser. Entry forms had not been sent out!

By this time the Courses were roughed out but I needed competitor numbers from WMOC. All they said was look at our web page. Well I suppose the information was there even if the Dunedin event was a whole screen away from the age class!

By mid December Barrie and I had agreed on Courses and all the controls were out.

We still had no organiser and I was beginning to panic. Mid December with the event less than 4 weeks away and people were going away over Xmas and to WMOC at Feilding. Finally, since everything was more or less under control planning wise, I said I would be organiser with Jane helping. First job of the organiser is to draw up a schedule of duties and see who can do what and when. I couldn't

do this because I didn't have a start list. A number of emails and a phone call to WMOC finally produced a start list on 16 December. This start list had two Course 1's, two Course 2's down to two Course 4's. After an irate phone call telling them we had already planned the Courses and put out the controls and did not want to plan another 4 Courses and what right did they have to tell us what to do at this late stage etc etc.....we got another start list the next day!! This time with the same number of Courses as were planned.

By 21 December a list of helpers duties was on the way to everyone that was entered. I'd contacted most people and hoped the others would come to the party. Then it was time to finalise the maps and get a test print done of each for Barrie to check. It pays for them to be checked because I had left the fences on two maps! Barrie didn't pick up the spelling mistake on "Course 1" though! Next for Barrie to give the final OK on the control descriptions because I wanted them photocopied on the back of the maps and wanted the whole lot done before 1st January in case of Y2K problems at the printers. This was the first time I had photocopied control descriptions onto the maps as well. Usually I, and others, have sellotaped them on so that was quite a timesaver.

Xmas was here and a couple of days later all the maps were ready. Big sigh of relief. Our daughter Kirstine was home for a couple of weeks and she was pressed into putting maps in bags. What a tiresome task putting 360 maps into plastic bags and making sure the air is outside the bag not in!! We've now got some test samples of waterproof maps to try which should be wonderful.

Despite telling WMOC I was the organiser and would they please send clipcards to me they hadn't arrived. Barrie hoped that they would give them to him at the Feilding WMOC events.

Three days before the event we put the flags on the controls so Barrie could do a final check. Daughter helped Sheryl and I do this and seemed to enjoy herself navigating in all the rock. Her years in the Development squad and trips to Aussie must have helped because she found it quite easy.

When I'd sent out the list of helpers duties I'd also sent out a list of who was responsible for bringing what. This was put together with valuable input from Jane and George. In the last few days it was just a case of checking that everyone was doing what they were supposed to. Finally we had a key to the caravan and this showed we needed more "out of bounds" signs plus one of the "Orienteering 1km " signs was missing so these had to be hastily made.

Two days before the event Barrie happened to mention that he had the clipcards from WMOC and he had been told that some of the start times were different from the previous information they had given us and they would be sending down a new list of start times

and entries sometime!! More emails and frantic phonecalls to WMOC (and grumpiness on my part). explained patiently that we had taken entries ourselves and entered them on WMOC's database as they had asked us. What did they want to do about those! Finally I received information showing 11 changes at 7:30pm on Monday night! We had to leave for the event venue at lunchtime next day!

Tuesday afternoon Sheryl and I put out the tape and set up a few things. We called into the landowners to ask about taking the paddock gate off and turning the electric fence off and Jill Bagley told us that a couple of competitors had already arrived. They were inside having a cup of tea and watching the cricket!! Darren Scott and a Polish friend!! The Pole was having a good look at the Bagleys framed map and wanted to go for a run with the map in its frame! We suggested that it was time they left Jill and go and camp down by the river.

DOC advance party turned up about 6pm to set things up. Jane in her campervan with Linda, the Thayer family in their van, the Grant family and Amri in their truck laden down with tents and gear, George McLeod in his truck complete with all fencing gear imaginable and Barrie with the caravan. By about 8pm all was ready for the first starter at 9:30am the next day. Only trouble was I still had to put the water out. Luckily (clever planning!) all the water was on the road apart from one Course 1 control way out the back of beyond. Even so with Sheryl driving and me hopping in and out it was dark by the time we got back to the campsite and started our dinner. Everyone else was getting ready for bed!! By the way a note for planners - for every person that crossed the road at a water stop I allowed 150mls of water and despite it being a stinking hot day only half the water was drunk! Murphys law!

Race day dawned fine and then a fog started to creep in. One hour before the first start and visibility was down to less than 100m. That would have been wonderful as this map is very fast and open and could do with being covered in pines. However by race time the fog had cleared and it just got steadily hotter during the day. Just about every DOC helper was there bright and early and we were just waiting for competitors.

And then the competitors came... "I want to change my start time"... "I want to run a different Course"... "Can I enter"... "Why can't I have an earlier start"... etc etc. Apparently at WMOC they were told it would be "no problem" to change times, Courses, etc and even enter on the day. Despite us telling WMOC we would not be accepting entries on the day. Also WMOC in their wisdom had allocated start times with no spare spaces so if a competitor arrived at 9:30am and wanted to change their time on Course 3, the next available time was at nearly 1pm. Some were not amused!! Luckily about 15% of entrants didn't turn up so we could juggle most times around. Bouquets go to the people who understood we were doing our best and were polite. Brickbats go to the Swedish woman who changed times/Courses twice and then decided she would stick with what she had originally entered and also to the group from Britain led by a particularly obnoxious, rude and horrible little man called Gordon Ross. Gordon Ross and his group of 6 arrived about 10:30am and insisted they all have start times before 11:30am as they had a plane to catch. The saying "whinging Pom" suddenly was brought to life. When told that it was impossible because of the start times he was abusive and started going on about "bloody Kiwis". He then demanded to see the controller and when told the same thing said he wanted to put in a protest. When asked what that would achieve

he said that it wouldn't achieve anything except give the organisers a lot of grief! Ross was still abusive and wanted to just pick up a map and "go for a run". Finally I walked the group up to the start line and slotted them in with any vacancies in start times, in the process pushing in front of other people I had already fitted in. I later found out that Ross wasn't even entered and had used someone else's card! (He DNF'd!!!!!! Ha ha) About the time they said they absolutely had to leave I saw him talking to a group of people and asked shouldn't you be leaving. He smiled and said there was no hurry. Later I heard a rumour that they weren't catching a plane but heading off to Queenstown. Naturally we received no thanks for our efforts!

Apart from that the Day went smoothly, no one was hurt, the sun shone..and shone..and shone, there no protests, everyone did their bit.

The last competitor started about 1pm and the last finisher (not the same person) was back by 3pm. Everyone helped to pack up, bring in controls etc just like clockwork. By the time Sheryl and I had chatted with the landowners and brought in the last 3 controls and driven the hour and a half home it was 8pm. A feed and a glass of wine and then bed!!

For the statistics people Janne Salmi (30), World champion a couple of years ago, had a km rate of 5.26 but the oldies weren't far behind with M40 at 5.33min/km and M55 at 6.2min/km. Women were 6.8min/km and W55 at 8.5min/km.

I sent off the results the next day to WMOC but they didn't appear on the WMOC web page as of time of writing this (one week after the event). In fact the WMOC web page doesn't even have a space for results from this event!! How come the warm up events had results but not warmdown events. Anyway I put a message on the Internet that if anyone wants results to email me and David May from England (A nice pom not a whinging one!) emailed back to say that he had actually run Course 1 not 2 and could I please change this. On checking his clipcard I verified that he had run Course 1 but when he changed his Course I had put a line through his name by mistake. This caused all sorts of confusion at the results and the card was then put to one side until I told them it was actually David May (with a line through the name) that had run. In this confusion the clips were never checked until just then when I confirmed that he did run Course 1but the bad news was that he didn't clip number 9! He emailed back "This explains why I never really got things to fit when I was heading for no.10! Just goes to show that I should know my place and run my proper Course next time. David was British O Federation Technical Officer and is now on the IOF Foot O committee.

As a matter of interest after all the fuss in getting a creche tent with special fence around, it was interesting that no one used it (apart from helpers who slept in it the night before)!!

Despite what I would call inadequate information from WMOC I would like to express my sympathy and gratitude to Rolf Wagner for putting up with my gentle (I hope) abuse and for bending over backwards to help.

After such a frustrating time trying to finalise Courses, start times and the lack of an event organiser it was really wonderful to have so many DOC members helping at the event. I definitely appreciate DOC's usual policy of having an event organiser hence allowing the planner and controller to concentrate on the course requirements.

Thank you to everyone for your help and especially Barrie Foote as Controller, Jane Cloete as assistant organiser, George McLeod for helping put everything up, collecting and taking back the porta-loos and then having to clean them (beyond the call of duty!), those already mentioned who helped set up the day before, the control collectors Ian, Gavin, Dave, Judy, Maria, Jane F, Bunny and Bob, and last but definitely not least my wife Sheryl for helping put out controls, flags, water etc etc plus working all day without a run. There were lots of things that people did that were special and it was good to work with such a great group of club members.

4th WORLD ROGAINING CHAMPIONSHIPS

January 15-16 2000 at Solomons Throne, North Canterbury.

Map Scale 1:50 000 Contour Interval 20 metres

Bunny Rathbone.

Not content with a weeks normal foot orienteering I also had to enter for some endurance orienteering as well which although the sport involves using a map and compass as orienteering does is actually called rogaining.

Rogaining is the sport of long distance cross country navigation for teams travelling on foot. A team consists of 2, 3, 4, or 5 members and they must stay together at all times. Categories are for men/women or mixed teams with classes of Juniors, Open, Veterans and Super Veterans.

The object is to score points by finding check points located in the rogaine area within a specified time. Check points may be visited in any order and are marked with O flags and clippers. This rogaine was 24 hours long and my team member was Trish Faulkner, a member of the PAPO club. The area of the map we used, situated west of Parnassus, was 22 km by 15 km and called Solomons Throne. Solomons Throne is a medium sized hill of 360m set in the middle of the map. It is dwarfed by Mt Stewart, 938m high in the north west corner and Mt Parnassus, at 697m in the south. Several large rivers and smaller streams bisect the area all ending up like the Stanton and Leader Rivers, in the larger Waiau River.

By the way, you are only allowed to carry a compass, a watch and a map for your navigational aids - no pedometers, altimeters or GPS receivers. Planning with the map can start 3 hours before start time and is essential if you are going to make the best use of your time, the terrain and get a good score. depending on difficulty and distance from the base or Hash House check point are given a value of 10 - 90 points.

Entered in the Women's Super Veterans class for 55 years our rivals were a couple from the United States, Sharon Crawford and Judith Dickenson who had performed very consistently in the WMOC events, Sharon coming second in the final of the W55. They had also entered Rogaines previously. Trish had entered several TWALK (Twenty Four Hour Walk) events run by Canterbury University Tramping Club and other Rogaines and Mountain Marathons in NZ, West Australia and Canada. Trish and I had blooded ourselves at Scargill in a 12 hour winter Rogaine in 1998 and were keen to do better.

Our Team had support from Trish's husband David - he drove their van up from Christchurch on Friday, set up camp and took care of cups of tea and hot water, gave advice, took photos and drove the sleepy team back to Christchurch on Sunday.

By 9.00 am on Saturday morning we had our map each with control descriptions and were using our highlighters, pins and measuring string to plan our route, getting ready for the start time at noon. Our estimated km rate was from 2 - 3 km per hour depending on rough or steep terrain - we had heard that there was a lot of thick vegetation in the gullies. We chose the area east and south east of the Hash House (Registration and Food Area) which had less steep terrain and some high scoring check points. We estimated our stopping points for certain times so that we could modify or change our plan and had a 5.30 - 6.00 pm stop and a 9.30 pm stop built in to the route. We planned when it got dark at 9.30 pm to eat then use roads and tracks to get back to the Hash House to sleep for about 4 hours getting a check point or two on the way if we could see well enough. Then we planned to get up by 5.00 am on Sunday to start off at daylight for another 6 - 7 hours.

All went according to plan right up until our 9.30 pm stop, all planned check points were visited and we had done a total of 32 kms or 3 km per hour. We started off again about 10.00 pm no sign of any moon and went really well with our headlights finding one check

point on a hill not far from a fence and started following a farm track which unfortunately led us astray along the Leader River where we traipsed back and forth trying to find the track marked on the map and ended up finding a check point instead - at least we knew where we were! This helped us to make a decision to go straight up a steep hill to try and pick up the track at the top which we eventually achieved after fighting with some tight matagouri and waist high nodding thistles. The track became indistinct several times but with the help of another lost couple we eventually got back to the Hash House by daylight after covering 13 kms for 60 points.

After an hours rest lying down we were up again for a bite of breakfast, put on dry socks and shoes and went off refreshed for 3 hours covering 13 kms with 120 points gained. At the end of the day we were 200 points down on Sharon and Judith who stayed out all night, but we had had a lot more experience to assist us for next time. We won the NZ title, came second in the world and were happy about the outcome. As is usual at the finish of a Rogaine it is time to eat up large and my plates were brimming with salads and cold meats, pavlova and chocolate cake supplied by the organisers but paid for in our entry fee.

The body survived to live another day, no injuries, no sunburn, one small blister and a few thistles in the knees plus a great sense of achievement. All you other fellow Dunedin Orienteers who did not enter - give it a go next time - it's great fun.

NZOF NEWS - NZOF NEWS - NZOF NEWS - NZOF NEWS

Following the NZOF Council meeting on the 27 November the following were discussed

Council feels that the management of the NZOF should be altered to have a paid General Manager instead of a Secretary and a Treasurer. This will also involve an elected position of Vice President. A remit and background to this will be circulated to Clubs, and published in "NZ Orienteering" for voting on at the NZOF AGM.

Also a paid position of development Officer should be formed to promote the sport of orienteering and increase the participant base. Again a remit and background information will be circulated.

For NZOF affiliation purposes Junior membership was clarified as being 20 years and under at the end of the calendar year with no affiliation for those aged 10 and under.

Family membership was defined as "two adults and any children (juniors not earning an income) who look to at least one of the adults as a parent"

NZOF will pay for the engraving for any trophies won at the National Championships and the National Secondary School Championships. Payment will be made on presentation of a receipt.

NZOF Council is considering whether to buy the electronic punching system being used at the World Masters O Champs out of WMOC profits. As this is a large expense all Clubs will have background information circulated to them for their input.

There was concern that while the number of orienteers overall was not decreasing the percentage between local and affiliated was changing with less orienteers affiliating. While providing more benefits, such as the National magazine free, to affiliated orienteers may help, this would require an increase in affiliation fees (self defeating) or an increase in the event levy. No decision was made and this subject was to be discussed at a workshop in conjunction with the National championships in 2000.

It was decided to recommend the NZOF affiliation fees remain the same for 2000. These have remained unchanged since 1994.

The Strategic and Management plans were discussed and will need revising for the current year.

The following appointments were confirmed:

Director of Coaching - Jean Cory-Wright

National Squad Manager - Rob Crawford

National Squad Coach - Jean Cory-Wright

Development Squad Manager - Les Warren

Development Squad Coach - Michael Wood

ANZ Challenge Manager - John Doolan

JWOC Manager (No Applicant) - (These two posts to become responsibility

JWOC Coach (No Applicant) - (of National Squad

NZOF AGM will be on Saturday 22nd April at 5.00 pm Venue to be announced. Seminars will take place on Friday between 4.00-5.00 and 7.00-9.30 subjects will be notified to clubs. Travel equalisation for delegates at the AGM will apply regardless of the fact that it is held in conjunction with the Nationals.

NZOF appreciates the financial support from the Hillary Commission, NZ Sports Foundation, SILVA (Ampro sales Ltd), the MAPsport shop and Air New Zealand.

NZOF would like to acknowledge the support of the MAPsport shop with a further contribution of \$220.00 to bring their contribution to \$650.00 for the 1999 year. This contribution is under the J alas sponsorship agreement where NZOF receives a proportion of all sales of J alas shoes from the MAPsport shop. Thank you Michael Wood and the MAPsport shop.

I WON'T FORGET MY 49TH BIRTHDAY!

Jennifer Hudson

We were in Palmerston North on my birthday (2nd Jan) staying with our son Mark. During the morning of that day Mark asked if it was OK to ask a few friends to stay in his flat. I replied you surely don't have to ask me as it is your flat. He replied yes but you were here first and I have asked 20. I took little notice of that number. He did mean it though as later that afternoon they kept pouring in the door. That night I cooked for 18! I had been very organised in the morning and put a turkey roll in the oven set on automatic. Little did I know how many I would end up feeding.

The next morning I made 3 batches of muffins and then I went off duty except for the 3 of us for the next 4 days. Getting up in the night to go to the toilet was a challenge with stepping over numerous bodies and not actually stepping on them! They were all nice and it was kind of fun. Because it was for only 5 days it was not a problem but too much longer and one would begin to consider alternative accommodation. I managed to get a hot shower every morning but I know some of the young ones often had rather cool ones later in the day. I am glad I didn't know in advance that that was going to happen. With it just happening one just got on with what one was there for and enjoyed the company of all those young orienteers who worked hard daily at all WMOC events. We appreciated their work and they are a great group. It was rather a privilege to spend that time with them and I hope we didn't cramp their style too much.

NEW ZEALAND ORIENTEERING.

New Zealand Orienteering is the official publication of the New Zealand Orienteering Federation. It is published five times annually, in February, May, July, October and December.

New Zealand Orienteering is a **quality** publication which compares favourably with its overseas counterparts. Priced at \$5 per issue, it is made available to members via clubs **for only \$2 per issue**. (And for only an extra \$1.10 can be mailed directly to your home.)

Different clubs have different policies regarding New Zealand Orienteering. Some ensure all members receive it, others include it in the subscription for only affiliated members, while others make it optional for all members. Orienteering in New Zealand is stronger for having a strong, vibrant magazine. Every new reader makes it stronger.

If you currently do not receive New Zealand Orienteering, please consider subscribing when you renew your club subscription this year. If you are a non-affiliated member and the magazine subscription does not appear to be an option in your club, then see your club treasurer - it should be!

If you have not seen New Zealand Orienteering and would like to "try before you buy" then either: Ask another orienteer to show you their copy, or; Ask your club secretary to show you the club's complimentary copy (clubs all received a copy of the October and December magazines), or; Simply **send** me an **80c** stamp, and your **name & address**, and I will send you a recent edition **absolutely free**. Send to Jim Barr, New Zealand Orienteering, West Road, Mauriceville West, RD 2, Masterton.