

NEWS FLASH

Entries for the Club relay championships at Seacliff on Sunday 12 November are very slow in coming in, reports organiser Ross Davies. "It has been a real trickle so far" he said, pointing out that the closing date of 3 November is not far away.

"To date I have received entries for only 9 people, with six of these in the last two days. Already, there is a mixed team of two looking for a short person, and a tall person looking for a team of any kind."

Mr Davies did concede that his own family entry had not yet quite crossed the room, but claimed that was not the point. "People need to find their forms, get on the phone, fill the forms out, and get them in the post. And remember, if you have not got a team of three, send in your entry anyway, and we'll make something of it."

"And another thing" he went on, "with respect (have you ever noticed how people say that when they are about to be totally disrespectful) with respect, so far the team names are a wee bit on the unimaginative side. I think there should be an Organisers Trophy for The Best Team Name, judged entirely subjectively on wit, obscurity, depravity, silliness, or anything else. Judges decision final, no correspondence entered into etc, but medium sized chocolate coated items received with interest."

"So in conclusion" he said, telegraphing his closing, "if you don't bury me in a pile of entry forms, I'll have more time for composing weird reminders. Idle hands and all that..."

MESSAGE ENDS

NEXT TRAINING DAY SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER.

LOGAN PARK 10am – 4pm

Jean Cory-Wright, national coaching coordinator, is coming from Christchurch to run this one-day course for us. Other possible coaches are Rebecca Smith, Bruce McLeod and Sasha Middleton, all subsidised by our Hillary Commission grant. As well as improving your o-skills, there will be the chance to improve your coaching skills.

Meet at the Hill City Athletics Club rooms in Logan Park. We will be using the Logan Park map and perhaps striding out on the new Caledonian track also.

Bring: usual orienteering clothes and gear warm clothes to put on between exercises your lunch pen and paper.

We will supply hot water, tea/coffee etc and bikkies.

The cost, as for the last course, will be \$3 per person, and it's ok to come for only part of the day. Please let Jane Forsyth know as soon as possible if you want to join this event, and what level of course you usually do. Jane's contact details are: email j.forsyth@gns.cri.nz; home phone 478 0281. Thanks to those who have already registered. We need to know numbers in plenty of time so we can get the right number of maps printed and the right number of coaches for the number of students.

See you there!

CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting of the Dunedin Orienteering Club will be held on Wednesday 29 November 2000 at the Hill City Athletics Club clubrooms.

This is between the old Art Gallery and the new Caledonian Stadium at Logan Park.

The evening will begin at 6:30pm with a pot-luck dinner.

At approximately 7:30pm the meeting will commence.

The club prize giving and presentations will follow.

Meeting Agenda

Welcome and Apologies

Minutes of the last AGM

President's Report

Treasurer's Report and presentation of the Annual Accounts

Motion to change the end of the Financial Year from 30 September to 31

December.

Election of Officers

Appointment of the Honorary Solicitor and Honorary Auditor

General Business

WOMEN'S CAMP 2001.

Jean Cory-Wright is planning to run a women's camp in our area next year. For those who would have liked to go to the Nelson camp a couple of months ago, but thought it was too far, here is your chance. We have mentioned to Jean the possibility of holding the camp at Waikouaiti, using the Seacliff and Waikouaiti maps. No date has been set at present, but watch this space.

FROM THE COMMITTEE.

Lindsay Smith has kindly agreed to take up the role of Kiwisport Officer. This involves working with schools to run orienteering sessions, often in their own school grounds, or on local maps such as Kettle Park and Ross Creek. These sessions are intended to be a fun outdoor activity that builds confidence and social skills, rather than strictly competitive events. Lindsay takes over from Annie Grant, who has been doing a great job in this role for the last 2 years. Annie has now taken over as Landowner Liaison Officer from Suzanne Clegg.

The Katie Fettes calendar for next year is out now. It costs \$20 and has an o-picture for each month. January's picture is of the mass start at YODA's recent Naseby Hillbilly Challenge, starring Peter Snell of course! Your \$20 goes to a good cause - the Katie Fettes Memorial Trust which provides sponsorship and assistance to young orienteers. Look out for this calendar at the next event or contact Bruce Collins to place your order.

Also in the caravan are some number plate surrounds with an orienteering theme, as seen on all the best people's cars. The money from these goes to the national squad and I think they cost \$15. A pair would make a very good Xmas present for the orienteer who has everything else. A variety of messages is available and you can have the same front and back, or mix'n'match.

The schedule for next year's events has been set, and was circulated at the committee meeting. We are now seeking organisers, planners and controllers for events in the first half of next year. Annie Grant is coordinating this, so talk to her if you have a particular area you would like to help

in. If you wait until she phones, all the best jobs will have gone! Newer members who don't want to plan courses can still help with organising events on the day. This can be only an hour at the start or finish, before or after your course, but is an excellent way to get to know people.

TRAINING DAY (Saturday September 2nd)

Ross and Michael Davies

After more horrible weather, at least it stopped raining for the training day. The paddocks out at McLeod's farm were soggy, and the sheep sodden, and gumboots were not a bad idea. Jane Forsyth had organised a good training day, with some expert tuition from Bruce McLeod and Sasha Middleton from Queenstown. There was a good cross-section of club members, looking to improve our skills.

We started out with a mapping exercise, where we had to map the paddock by the pond, onto either a blank sheet of paper, or one with the border fence marked on it. This is a good thought-provoking exercise, especially trying to get the contours to line up. Then it was off with real maps, in pairs, taking turns with controls, having to verbalise our thoughts. Given that we often don't know where we are, or where we are going, this required a bit of organisation. It was also interesting to figure out what sort of orienteers we are. Ross turned out to be a RACE - Route, Attack point, Control, Exit. No hang on, that was Michael. Ross is a CARE - Control, Attack point, Route, Exit. Although most days he is Control, Route, Attack point, Pray the control is where he thinks it is. With Sasha and Bruce out around the controls giving us tips as well, this was an interesting exercise.

After soup and sandwiches for lunch, there was a distraction when the sun almost came out. Then it was time for the last exercise of the day. Again we went out in pairs, and this was bit more tricky. One partner had the map, and could take the other anywhere. Then, when we got to anywhere, we handed the map over to the other, who then had to navigate to the control. This meant taking a good look around while mapless, orienting once handed the map, and then finding the control. Good skills. Then, half way round, we changed tactics. The person to find the next control got to memorise the map, and then hand it over, before heading off to hopefully the control. This meant taking a wider view of each leg, again good skills. We thought we'd get away from the crowd, and do the course in reverse order. This gave us a clear run, until we met Bruce and Michael Tagg going the other way collecting the controls. Oh well. We carried on, trying to figure out where the controls had been.

By the end of all this, for the second time, the map was starting to make sense. Using glasses for the first time may have helped, but mainly it was the chance to think about what we were doing, and some good pointers. It was a day for everyone, us newcomers, and the experienced orienteers as well. Michael Tagg never did show us how to vault fences, but maybe he realised

most of us were likely to rupture ourselves trying. On behalf of everyone, thanks to Jane for organising the coaching day, and thanks to Bruce and Sasha for their coaching. The day left us full of confidence for the next day's event at Waikouaiti, but that's another story.

MAP MEMORY – TOWN BELT SOUTH.

Jane Forsyth.

Map memory – the ultimate! So said the notice when I fronted up to the caravan to pay my money. Well, I had planned courses on this map before and even set a map memory course – in other words I had sent other poor fools out on this sort of escapade - without ever having done one myself. But I had very much enjoyed the exercise with Bruce and Sasha at our last training day, when we had to memorise each leg and then run it without the map. I thought that was a fun exercise in simplification.

As I left, Stuart Melville shook me solemnly by the hand saying "I'd just like to formally mark this occasion – it may be the last time anyone sees you alive!". Privately I thought I might get about 3 controls before the course closed. And so I set off, taking a minute to memorise the route to the first control from the tiny little piece of the map on display at the start. I verbalised it to myself to help it stick in my mind (another useful trick from the training day).

The first 3 were not too bad, all quite short distances, each taking just a few minutes (although taking Richard Thum a lot fewer minutes, he caught me up very early on). But then the fun started. 3 long legs one after the other, long distances to be done by a combination of roads, tracks and bush-bashing. I came unstuck almost at once, finding myself in the bottom of Sepentine Ave when I should have been miles uphill above Jubilee Park. You know how it feels when you can't make anything on the ground match your map? Well how about when nothing on the ground matches your vague memory of what might have been on the map? I decided I had better take a different route back to control 3 and look at the map again. However while walking back up the hill to do this, I spotted a distinctive intersection that I had been hoping to find – and was back on track again. I despaired, though, as I stood at control 4 and tried to plan a route to 5. How will I ever get across there? It looks so complicated! As I bewailed the impossibility of it all, Michael Tagg and Julie Grant came through, and as he sprinted away Michael suggested I take the little piece of map with me to help. However I did find my way to a bunch of bike tracks underneath Jubilee Park, at the same time as he did, and we thrashed about for a while with him complaining that this was not orienteering. We picked up Lindsay Smith briefly, he seemed to know where he was going, but I was sure the reentrants we wanted were lower down. The bike tracks around here are very confusing and ever-changing, making Michael's plan of following a particular track that was marked on the map basically useless.

We set off in different directions to find control 6, met up part way along, and then Michael went charging up a heinous looking steep wet cliff in thick bush while I wimped out and took a longer but less steep track. I still got to the attack point before he did, but by then I had totally forgotten

where the control was in relation to the attack point. I waited round hoping someone would show up – fortunately Bob did, and he had a map, and Michael was following him (still muttering about it not being orienteering)... I guess he does not find himself following other people very often! The next control was a breeze and there we met Julie again, and also spotted Gavin watching from his car – we reckon he was checking to make sure we didn't run across the golf greens for a short cut. The eighth control was again near Jubilee Park, and Julie and Michael both decided to reverse their earlier routes to get back there. I thought it would lose less height to trot back along Queens Drive. Unfortunately I had forgotten that Jubilee Park is not on Queens Drive, which led to my overshooting it and needing a little bit of help from Andrew and Danielle Kelly. Finally I popped out at the back of Jubilee Park, looking for a large cliff feature like an old quarry, in thick green bush. Picking the wrong cliff to start with, I slithered down a pile of old stoves and rusty iron - plenty of man made objects but none of them had a control flag. Remembering from previous visits that there is another cliff, I found it was the right one. On leaving it I met Lindsay Smith again – and shot away like a cork out of a bottle, thinking he'd be right on my tail and not wanting to make it too easy for him. The last control must be near where I just saw the Kellys, but I was so busy looking over my shoulder for Lindsay that I missed it the first time past. In the end it turned out that Lindsay had gone another way completely and given up on the last control.

So I finished last, of those who did finish. So what, I learned quite a lot of things. I had an enjoyable hour and a half out there, even if it was the slowest 4.4 km I have ever done outside Naseby. I reckon we should have more of these, it's a great mental exercise that really taxes the brain cells and I highly recommend it. Thanks to Gavin and Stuart for making it happen.

NO TITLE!

A DOC Member.

A long time ago about last July there was an intrepid orienteering family that decided to try ski-orienteering. They had been introduced to nordic skiing by their grandmother a couple of years ago and thought they could combine the two activities. Their grandmother had only started nordic skiing at the age of seventy and the intrepid orienteers thought it was easy because they'd been alpine skiing for years.

So after travelling to Wanaka on a Friday night and staying with their grandmother the intrepid orienteers headed for the Waiorau Snowfarm. The weather was cold but fine and they soon found that nordic skiing is just like riding a bike. I wonder who ever thought of such a silly saying; of course its quite different from riding a bike. Anyway they found they could still do it even though they had only done it twice before. Even number one daughter's friend who had never been on skis found it easy to learn. With lots of energy especially from number one son, they traversed many of the tracks and planned all sorts of shortcuts that would be so invaluable during the big event the following day. By four o'clock they were all exhausted but happy with their day in the mountains and looking forward to hot showers, hot food, hot drinks, warm beds and of course the big event.

The Sunday morning dawned clear and cold, ideal for ski orienteering. The intrepid orienteers rose slowly and with many muscles that they had never been aware of before, at least this was true for the mother and father of the intrepid orienteers. The younger ones didn't seem to notice this and the grandmother just smiled. So up the hill they trekked and prepared for the big event. After last minute instructions from the kindly Grant Family they were off. The orienteering skills turned out to be average and the skiing skills turned out to be average but the day was nice and in an hour and a half everyone was finished. The intrepid orienteers now relaxed and enjoyed a well-earned meal, the great surroundings of the Waiorau Skifield and the wonderful alpine views. Then came the announcement of the results and the prize-giving. Guess what? The results were average but the prizes were of the SPOT variety. Now that meant that names would be drawn from a box and the person could rush up to the prize table and choose their very own award. There were some very good awards! One in particular attracted much comment and speculation - A FREE BUNGY JUMP. So the first name was drawn from the box,.....YES, it was the intrepid orienteers' Mum. Up she jumped and without hesitation, deviation or repetition went straight to the bungee jump voucher. "Yes!", she exclaimed, "I've won it!" Many other similar exclamations and self-congratulations followed and it definitely contributed to the huge success of the whole weekend for the intrepid orienteering family.

Now much more recently, last Friday in fact, the intrepid orienteering family decided to forego the pleasures of competition in their favourite sport and visit Fiordland for Labour weekend. There they enjoyed several white courses of their own choosing and saw Hidden Falls, Humboldt Falls, Bowen Falls, Marian Lake, Mirror Lakes and a historic grave. They watched avalanches, from a safe distance. They enjoyed three nights at Gunn's Camp and three days of beautiful fine weather. The only flies in the ointment were, of course, those small bitey ones but with the appropriate chemicals even they weren't too much of a nuisance.

In no time Monday afternoon arrived and the intrepid orienteers had to leave for home. They made a rather indirect route-choice and eventually ended up at the Kawarau Bridge. The intrepid orienteers' Mum lined up with her voucher and soon two nice young men were tying her up. In next to no time and after a very tentative wave to her family but no pushing from the nice young men, the intrepid orienteers' Mum proved that orienteers can fly and that bungee jumping is only a white course.

Many thanks to all the organisers of the ski orienteering and of course, A J Hackett Bungee from Pam Thayer and a family of occasionally-intrepid orienteers.

CONTROLLER'S REPORT – LOGAN PARK 29 OCTOBER 2000.

Richard Thum.

Hands up those people that believe that an 'O' event such as that at Logan Park should be a doddle in the park! I suspect that there are one or two of you and also some that got a bit of a surprise at the amount of climb on the Orange!!

Anyway, 'Thankyou' to the numerous participants that came along and took advantage of the sunshine (and associated heat). As controller for the day, I have to admit that I was one of those that thought the first sentence above would apply, and unfortunately partly reneged on one of my responsibilities. i.e. competitor safety and water supply – I'm not even going to bother looking up what the 'rules' say. Suffice to say however...I am going to make a point of getting water put out into the course(s) on any warm/hot day no matter what the course length or time constraints. The number of 'DNF's was a little disappointing and I would like to think that one of the reasons was the weather on the day and the lack of drinking water. Another could be the misinterpretation of contours. i.e. 10m rather than the usual 2.5 or 5m.

Logan Park is acknowledged as a map that needs re-mapping and this event confirmed this especially in the NE corner. The planner might have something more to add to this.