

OCTOBER DOCUMENT 2003

EVENTS NOTICES.

Rogaine near Wellington 22 November
NZ website: www.mapsport.co.nz/rog/rogaine.html

SOUTHERN 6 DAY 2004

January 3 to January 11 - Southern South Island

Just a reminder that earlybird entries close on 30 October. If you enter after that date you are paying 25% more for your entry!

Entry forms available from latest issue of NZ Orienteering, www.dunedinorienteering.com or from Bruce & Sheryl Collins at (03)4658255 or [asbic at xtra.co.nz](mailto:asbic@xtra.co.nz) or 47 Stewart St, Waikouaiti.

FROM THE PRESIDENT.

Myles Thayer.

For the first time I can recall, all three events this month had score type formats. Having said that however, they were all quite different, a conventional score course as an alternative to a map memory option, a mountain bike event and a cryptic/adventure type event. Many thanks to all the organisers, planners and controllers for the variety provided.

The mountain bike event was especially successful with a great turn out from the AOK riders. Many thanks to Bruce and Sheryl Collins for planning and organising this event. We acknowledge the wonderful support of sponsors, **R&R Sports** for this event. R&R supplied many spot prizes and we would ask all club members to remember their support for our sport when purchasing any sporting goods.

Earlier in this issue you saw our proposed event programme for 2004. Everyone is expected to take a turn planning and organising so be in quickly and book a suitable event. Contact Annie Grant for more details.

Finally, just a couple of reminders. The earlybird entries for the Southern Six Day events close on 30 October. You get a 20% discount for an earlybird entry. The South Island Champs weekend events are both on new maps. Make sure you enter in plenty of time.

NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEE.

A reminder; the caravan is now parked in Moana Crescent (at the corner of Rewa St - outside the Brownings).

The NZOF technical committee has proposed some changes to the courses that junior age classes will run in Championship events. If adopted the result will be that M/W12A,

M/W14A & M/W16A will all move up a course. See the complete proposal later in this DOCUMENT. The committee decided to support the changes and a mid-year changeover date.

Michael Wood has completed mapping the part of Naseby Forest which will be used for the Southern Six Day.

A reminder to event organisers or anyone doing the results of an event. Please forward the names & addresses of new people to Nick Mortimer for addition to our mailing lists.

NEWS FROM OTHER CLUBS.

Hamilton: From Ingrid Perols, President - Mike Baldwin, our club secretary, sadly died September 14, while orienteering in Woodhill forest. Mike was a good friend, hard-working committee member and fellow orienteer.

SUPERSERIES 2004

New Zealand Orienteering's National League

The Orienteering Superseries is a competition for M and W21E based on existing major events. With the high cost of travelling to international events in the northern hemisphere, it is designed to provide more intense competition close to home.

The second Orienteering Superseries run April to June 2003 was a huge success. With the help of a travel grant from the NZ Community Trust, and sales of sponsored product by the MAPsport Shop, participation per event increased over 2002 by 52%. Popular winners Rob Jessop and Rachel Smith were confirmed at the QB final in Wairarapa. And the Southerly Storm won the regional competition.

This was an interim shape of the series which now moves to a spring-summer-autumn format. The 2004 series (referring to the year of the final) will have 12 events run over five rounds. The best 10 will count.

- Wellington Championship Weekend, Hawkes Bay 8-9 Nov
- South Island Championship Weekend, Otago 22-23 Nov
- Southern Six-Day Event Otago-Southland 3-11 Jan (selected days)
- National Championships, Manawatu 9-12 Apr
- Queens Birthday Event, Auckland 5-7 Jun (selected days)

All participants in M and W21E are automatically included in the series, they don't have to be in the National Squad and there is no special entry formality. Discussion about the detail of the series is happening with members and officials of the Squad, and this bulletin is aimed at runners outside the squad.

Some of the details have yet to be finalised, but those interested should view the draft at www.mapsport.co.nz/ss0304.html and the discussion on the Maptalk Forum (www.maptalk.co.nz) under "Technical: Superseries".

But the most important detail: enter for the first couple of rounds!

Michael Wood, Superseries Manager
Ph 04 566 2645 michael.wood@mapsport.co.nz

NEW ZEALAND ORIENTEERING FEDERATION: TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Proposal to alter M/W16A and related grades for major events. Invitation to Clubs to provide comment before final consideration by the NZOF Council at its meeting in November.

History

This proposal was initiated as a result of an article published (in abridged form) in NZ Orienteering Magazine by NZOF Selection Committee Convenor Marquita Gelderman. On her return to New Zealand after a competitive visit to Australia, she questioned the placement of the M and W 16A Grades on Orange level courses. She noted that most other countries have these grades on their equivalent of Red courses, and that because we were "out of step" with our rival nations our M/W16A runners were generally well beaten in international competition as they were unused to competing on similar courses.

The full version of her article was circulated to the Technical Committee, and the subject has been discussed at length in forums such as Maptalk by other interested orienteers. The proposal to move these grades to Red level has met with almost unanimous approval by those who would be affected by the change as well as by most experienced coaches, the selectors and others.

Coaching Director Jamie Stewart has entered the debate with a well constructed proposal which was presented to the NZOF Council meeting in August. There it was agreed that because groups other than the key grades would be affected and there was an implication for clubs as a whole, the wider (e.g. social) implications of such a change be added to the proposal and it be circulated to clubs for their comment.

Timeline

All clubs who wish to provide feedback on this proposal, are asked to forward these to Bruce Henderson, NZOF Technical Committee Convenor at brucedh at clear.net.nz or to 5B Nikau Grove, Lower Hutt, by 30 September. These will be taken into account by the Technical Committee before placing a final proposal before the NZOF Council meeting in November.

The Proposal

That the NZOF Competition Rules be amended so that M/W 16 A Grades be moved from Orange to Red course level; and that surrounding grades (M/W14A, 18A and all other Grades from M/W12 to 18 including new grades for M and W 10) be reformatted to ensure a smooth progression of difficulty from White to Red. The proposed new course tables are shown below, and can be compared with the existing tables in the competition rules (see the Technical Committee pages on the NZOF website).

The course lengths set out below are designed to reflect the current relative strengths of the competitors in the various A Grades, and an assessment of where less experienced members of the grades would be if they were to run a properly constructed B course instead of being outclassed by more experienced runners who return to their correct grades for (e.g.) trials and National and major Regional Championships.

13 Course Format (suggested by Bruce Henderson, based on tables below)

Course	Men	Women	Relative Length	Difficulty	Existing Course
1	M21E (Open)		100%	Red	
2	M20A, M21A (Open) M35A	W21E (Open)	60%	Red	
3	M18A, M40A, M45A		47%	Red	
4	M50A M16A	W20A, W21A (Open) W35A	41%	Red	
5	M55A, M21AS (Open)	W40A, W45A	37%	Red	
6	M60A, M40AS	W18A, W50A	33%	Red	
7	M65A	W55A, W21AS (Open), W40AS, W16A	27%	Red	
8	M70A, M75A, M80A	W60A, W65A	18%	Red	
9	M18B , M21B (Open), M20B, M40B	W18B , W21B (Open)	32%	Orange	Was C9 and 10; M16A
10	M16B , M50B	W16B , W20B, W40B, W50B,	23%	Orange	Was C11; W16A
11	M14A	W14A	3.5-4.5km	Orange	M50B, W20/40/50B
12	M12A , M14B , M21C (Open)	W12A , W14B , W21C (Open)	2-3km	Yellow	M/W14A , M/W16B
13	M10 , M12B	W10 , W12B	1.5-2.5km	White	M/W12A , M/W14B

12 Course Format (as suggested by Marquita Gelderman and Jamie Stewart)

Course	Men	Women	Relative Length	Difficulty	Existing Course
--------	-----	-------	-----------------	------------	-----------------

1	M21E		100%	Red	
2	M20A, M21A, M35A	W21E	60%	Red	
3	M18A, M40A, M45A		47%	Red	
4	M50A, M21AS, M16A	W20A, W21A, W35A, W40A	41%	Red	
5	M55A, M60A, M40AS	W18A, W45A, W50A	33%	Red	
6	M65A	W55A, W21AS, W16A	27%	Red	
7	M70A, M75A	W60A, W65A, W40AS	18%	Red	
8	M14A , M21B		35%	Orange	M16A
9	M18B , M40B	W14A , W21B	29%	Orange	W16A, M20B
10	M50B	W18B , W40B, W50B	23%	Orange	W20B
11	M12A, M14B , M21C	W12A, W14B , W21C	3.5-4.5km	Yellow	M/W14A, M/W16B
12	M10, M12B	W10, W12B	2-3km	White	M/W12, M/W14B

10 Course Format (as suggested by Marquita Gelderman and Jamie Stewart)

Course	Men	Women	Relative Length	Difficulty	Existing Course
1	M21E		100%	Red	
2	M20A, M21A	W21E	60%	Red	
3	M18A, M40A		47%	Red	
4	M50A, M21AS, M16A	W18A, W20A, W21A, W40A	38%	Red	
5	M60A, M40AS	W50A, W21AS, W16A	27%	Red	
6	M70A	W60A, W40AS	18%	Red	
7	M21B, M14A		35%	Orange	M16A
8	M18B , M40B	W21B, W40B, W14A, W18B	29%	Orange	W16A, M/W20B
9	M12A, M14B , M21C	W12A, W14B , W21C	3.5-4.5km	Yellow	M/W14A, M/W16B
10	M10, M12B	W10, W12B	2-3km	White	M/W12, M/W14B

Rationale

As noted above, our M/W 16 runners are out of step with their overseas competitors; this affects them adversely, and hinders their ability to develop as top-level competitors. At the present time also, most of our juniors habitually "run up" in almost all OY and Badge

events to gain better competition. As a result also, "B" Grades are generally poorly supported; when runners return to their own grades for e.g. the Nationals, there is an imbalance between the different groups within the grades. It is expected that with the provision of a better course difficulty structure, competitors will be able to compete in their own grades more regularly and have a more accurate idea of where they stand competitively.

Also:

- Team selection (e.g. for ANZ Challenges, JWOC etc) should become more straightforward
- Relative beginners in the grades 14-18 will be better provided for on "B" courses and will not find themselves pitted against more experienced runners who have returned to their correct grades for a major event.
- In running up, our juniors are forced to compete against runners up to four years older than themselves. This does not help them to develop in the context of their peer group, and places them "out of synch" with their maturity level.
- A properly constructed Novice to B to A Grade structure will provide a better progression for improving orienteers than a system where large numbers of runners run out-of-grade and B grade courses are poorly supported.

Aspects of the proposal we are seeking comment on

1. How would the above course restructuring affect the junior members of your own club a/. having regard to your current membership and b/. looking say 2-3 years into the future? Would a well-constructed A and B course structure as set out above cater for your upcoming members? (Comments on this aspect will be used to provide information for or against the proposal as a whole)
2. Given that this restructuring relates to major (Badge and National) events, to what extent would you have to alter your regional event structure to "feed into" this structure? (**Note:** This grade structure proposal will not affect the Secondary Schools Championships, as they have their own grade system.)
3. When would you feel the most appropriate changeover date to this structure would be? There are two schools of thought here -one that the changeover be made early in the year so that it will be in place for the Nationals at Easter, the alternative is that the changeover be on 1st August 2004 so that all juniors spend at least six months running in the existing system (and therefore grade and level of difficulty) before the change, ensuring that they don't have to jump in difficulty too quickly (Note that Red Kiwis can make the changes to the Nationals without any difficulty, provided they have enough lead time to finalise the courses)

*Whichever date is chosen, it will be vital that clubs ensure the affected juniors are clear about the changes and that they have time to discuss it amongst themselves, decide whether as individuals they should run A or B Grade at relevant events, and that they agree amongst those they compete against, that they make the necessary moves together to ensure good competition. For this they may need the advice and support of their club coaches and senior members.

Lastly, there is an implication in this revised structure for planners and controllers. More than ever, the careful planning of B Grade (Orange) as well as Yellow and White courses will be necessary to ensure a proper progression of difficulty for our up and coming competitors. Controllers will need to be strict in their interpretation of the NZOF Competition Rules as regards such areas as control placement and route choice, to make the structure work effectively.

Please send feedback and comments to Bruce Henderson at the addresses given above, by 30 September. All comments received before this date will be taken into consideration; anything after this date cannot be included. Also, no verbal comments please -I cannot promise to remember them, especially if I receive them at an event!

Bruce Henderson
Convenor NZOF Technical Committee.