

DECEMBER DOCUMENT 2003

EVENTS NOTICES

Chingford Fun Event and Picnic, 7 December

After the exertions of the Cuttance Block and Mount Ross, Chingford Park offers a less strenuous finish to the 2003 orienteering calendar. Start times are between 11.30 a.m. and 1 p.m. There will be white, yellow, short orange and long orange courses. Bring a pen as there are questions to answer for all of the courses. There will also be chocolate bar prizes. If the weather is good bring a picnic and socialize. Hopefully it will be a fun event for all concerned.

FROM THE COMMITTEE

Jane Forsyth.

The committee discussed (largely by email) the "Orienteering superseries" and the Southern Six-day events in January. The Superseries is NZ orienteering's "national league" competition, and those who went to Cuttance and Mt Ross would have noticed an influx of North Islanders and perhaps more elites than usual at our events. Cuttance and Mt Ross were Round 2 of the superseries, and 3 events at the Southern Six-day will comprise Round 3. It's great to see the best orienteers in the country coming to our maps and I think the system will enhance competition for our own up and coming challengers.

We also looked at t-shirt designs for the Southern Six-day and they were all nice – but we had to choose one – I hope you'll enjoy wearing the one we decided on.

Jane Forsyth has approached GRDMacraes about the possibilities for orienteering in the area that they will be rehabilitating after mining. As the whole area will be landscaped after mining has finished, it seems like an opportunity to make a landscape more suitable for our sport that might otherwise be the case. Thanks to Michael Wood for coming up with the idea in the first place. A very productive first discussion was held and there are hopes that this long-term project could turn into a good map. Don't hold your breath though – mining is expected to continue over much of the area for several years yet.

The NZ Masters Games are coming to Dunedin again, 31 January - 8 February next year. Orienteering will, as usual, be offered as part of the competition. The events are at Logan Park (3 Feb) and Ross Creek (4 Feb) in the evening. Entry is \$10 per event, but you also need to be registered for the Games (\$45 now, as the earlybird entry date has passed) so it is usual to enter for several other disciplines as well. There are plenty to choose from (sheep shearing, cycling, bowls, waka ama, scrabble anyone?). The other great thing about the Masters Games is getting a medal instead of just a certificate. (You need to be entered in the A grade to get a medal, however the courses are of orange standard rather than the red courses more usual in A grade orienteering.) Entries close 24 December.

MEDIAWATCH.

Jane Forsyth.

Our orienteers are so talented they just can't stay out of print! I hope you all saw:

-the exceptional Jesse Robertson who appeared in the ODT on 29 October after winning an Australian Schools English competition. The headline "Success attributed to absence of TV" reportedly has not convinced certain other teenagers that they should give up watching. In addition to his academic skills, Jesse is known for his musical ability. He plans to take geology next year at Otago – good choice! Also Jesse Robertson was Dux at Kings High School.

- Tane, Riki and Jesse all got orienteering blues
- Tane got a blue for cross country.
- Tane shared the top all round student prize.
- Jesse got blues for music and scholastic achievement.
- Tane got the Melville trophy for orienteering.

-perhaps our best-known member Bunny Rathbone, who featured in a Star Midweek issue towards the end of November. The article had beautiful colour photos including one of the very photogenic club O-suit and an O map. Great publicity, Bunny!

-the amazing Jim Cotter who not only competed very strongly in the Southern Traverse (his 11th) but designed a programme to test the effects of the experience on the body and mind. "The most extensive known scientific study of the effects on the human body of a continuous ultra-long distance adventure race" according to the ODT. And Jim also participated fully in his own experiments – undergoing blood samples, muscle biopsies as well as a number of less invasive investigation. It turns out that exhausted people made more mistakes and took longer to make decisions. Exhausted in this case refers to 4 days practically without sleep, not just running around Logan Park. Jim also gave an interview on National Radio shortly after finishing the race, and I thought he sounded remarkably compos mentis considering what he had just completed.

- and spare a thought for Queenstown member Rachel Barton, who was also in the Omni Graphics team with Jim Cotter for the Southern Traverse. The team was well placed during the early stages of the race, but Rachel had to withdraw after suffering hours of serious vomiting and some busted fingers. Bad luck Rachel, but you're still an inspiration to us lesser beings. Rachel was part of the Southern Traverse winning team with Bruce McLeod 2 years ago.

SUMMERTIME SUPERSERIES.

The 2004 Orienteering Superseries is already under way! The new series completes a transition to a spring-thru-autumn format which better fits the elite preparation cycle and top events. Straddling the calendar, it will be known by the year in which it ends. The events are:

Round 1: Wellington Championship on 8/9 November, two races

Round 2: South Island Championship and Challenge, Otago on 22/23 November, two races

Round 3: Southern 6-day Series, Otago/Southland from 3-11 January, three races counting

Round 4: The Easter NZ Championships, Manawatu 9-12 April, three races

Round 5: Queens Birthday 3-day, Auckland 5-7 June, two races.

The same simplified scoring system as used last time will be in effect, allowing rapid assessment of the position as soon as a race has been run. The best 10 out of 12 races will be counted for each athlete.

Predictions are always a dangerous game, made worse when the first two rounds will be run between writing and reading this story! But lets look at the big picture, for which the last brush-strokes won't be applied until June of 2004!

Rachel Smith and Tania Robinson have to be the womens favourites. For Smith who has won both series so far, it may depend on finances, she has just completed her environmental masters degree and is hunting for work. For Robinson it may depend on time, she has a 5-year-old son and a graphic design job; a business trip saw her miss the last test match in Australia. Marquita Gelderman can still win elite races which have high technical demands (as the recent Auckland Championship), so will influence those races she chooses to run – she is eligible for W35! But 22-year-old Penny Kane, NZ long-distance champion for both 2002 and 2003, has the strongest potential for improvement.

The lack of Carsten Jorgensen at the final round robbed the last series of an exciting battle, given that the Dane went on to fourth in the World Championship long distance. Titleholder Rob Jessop will also be challenged by the find of 2003 Chris Forne, and Karl Dravitzki returning from leg surgery. The form of Jason Markham, who won the extra-long final race in the 2003 series, is unknown; he pulled out of the World Champs team with injury, and hasn't been seen much at local events since.

There are also dark horses in the race: Neil Kerrison returned from OOE (that's Overseas Orienteering Experience of course) to all but win the Auckland Champs – only Jorgensen was faster. Darren Ashmore came down off Mt Ruapehu to win the Central Districts Champs, and the OY next day. And Mark Lawson's legendary strength could get him off to a good start in the gorges of Smedley Station, Hawkes Bay.

The teams competition adds another dimension and at least one region is getting behind with a team uniform. The Northern Knights (north of Taupo) and Southerly Storm (South Island) will have one round apiece when you read this. Knights should take Round 1 in the Hawkes Bay where the main opposition will come from the Central Raiders (southern North Island), while Storm will hit back at Round 2 in Otago.

Storm may be able to inch ahead in Round 3 (Southern 6-day in Otago/Southland), although there will be a strong North Island presence, and international competitors will dilute the team scores. Round 4 which is the national champs in the Manawatu is hard to call either way, leaving the Knights to stage a comeback in the final round at Woodhill. The Central Raiders doesn't look like a serious challenger even with the transfer of Smith and Markham, the return of Dravitzki and the rise of Kerrison. Smith who has returned to Christchurch will start the season as a Raider but return to PAPO/Storm in the new year.

Travel support is vital to achieve the level of competition which is desired, and was responsible for a 52% increase in per event attendance last time. The NZ Community Trust has renewed its support with another substantial grant for air travel. Land travel is

also helped by a fund set up by the MAPsport Shop and its major suppliers. And the winners of each event will receive PRO4 sports nutrition products.

Follow the series including events, prospects and results on the Superseries website www.mapsport.co.nz/ss/ss.html. Out of my way Rugby World Cup - bring on the Superseries!

McLeod's Farm OY2 - 2 November 2003

Bunny Rathbone - Planners Report.

The choice of Peter McLeod's yards area for parking and registration was necessary for the shelter it gave us on the day. Weather patterns have persisted with wet and windy easterlies and wet and windy southerlies so I was glad I had not made you all stand out in the exposed paddocks.

Up and over or down and around were the route choices for the day and the kanuka filled gullies stretching their fingers every which way into the hillsides were as confusing as ever, even for those who had been in the area many times before.

Planning was done on paper back in May and only fine tuning of the white course was needed with controller Kevin Knowles suggestions being implemented. Control stakes and flags were put out 2 weeks before and all stayed put in the wind and rain. The sheep were kinder to the stakes than cattle would have been.

Numbers at the event could have been more but examination time does keep people at their books instead of outside being challenged by orienteering courses.

Not many of you noticed the missing tags on the fences and the gap in another fence for those using fenced maps. The fences also appeared on the unfenced maps without the tags - see if you can spot them on your map if you hadn't already done so. (We did Bunny and Grant with his colour blindness tried to tell me they were streams - Editor). Luckily none of the courses were compromised by these mistakes.

Thanks to Kevin for the efficient controlling of the event, the McLeod family for the use of their land, Dave Browning for his efficient controlling of all the equipment, Marjorie and Bruce Spittle and their helpers for handling the organisation and George McLeod to whom nothing is a bother, for helping on the day and collecting the majority of the controls with his trusty 4 wheeler.

Jackie Wilson deserves the "sitting at her post for the longest time" award for manning the finish for so long in the windy conditions.

Sorry about the missing compass by the Lawrence family - we didn't find it.