

MARCH DOCUMENT 2005

WELCOME to Anne Saupe and Cheryl Adams who are new members and former DOC members Elizabeth Duke and Colin Hope.

COACHING.

Wednesday 23rd March

What comes next? ~ A helpful session for orienteering beginners.

This is aimed at people who have started with the Wednesday evening events and are wondering about doing more orienteering - club events, OY, Otago Schools Champs, South Island Champs

If you are a complete beginner, or usually do White courses, or have done Yellow courses but would like more confidence, come along.

- * introduction to the orienteering scene
- * hints for happy -and successful - orienteering
- * information about procedures, grades, etc.
- * get to know other orienteers
- * some food to keep you going

Venue: Hill City Athletics Clubroom at Logan Park (Before the athletics ground)

Wed 23 March, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. (If you can't get there by 4, just come for part)

If you are a more experienced orienteer, tell others about it and encourage them to come.

We would like some idea of numbers (to order the pizza), so if you expect to be there ring Pat on 453 4012 or e-mail secretary at dunedinorienteering.com

FROM THE COMMITTEE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The club's AGM will be held on 2 March, following the Chingford Park summer series evening event.

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

This will be your last DOCument if you have not yet paid your subscription (subs were due before Christmas). If you can't remember if you have paid or not, please contact the treasurers by email ([treasurer at dunedinorienteering.com](mailto:treasurer@dunedinorienteering.com)) to find out.

TANE CAMBRIDGE

Congratulations to Tane who has been named in the NZ team for the Junior World Champs (JWOC) in Switzerland this year. This is a great achievement and we are very pleased to have a DOC member in the team again. We also wish Tane all the best in his studies at Canterbury University.

OTAGO CHAMPS 2005 - CONTROLLERS / PLANNERS REPORT

Bruce McLeod

Organising a weekend of orienteering up in Queenstown had been nagging me for a couple of years, so I finally decided to "bite the bullet" and give it a nudge. A big thanks must go out to all those who supported the event, I hope you all enjoyed the areas (and perhaps the courses)!

Queenstown Hill was always going to be a mission due to the remote start and finish so I was a bit cautious with the course lengths thinking many would be pretty stuffed just getting to the start! It turned out that you are all a rather fit bunch who gobbled up the walk with apparent ease!! Having said that, the weather was very kind. If the event had been one week prior we would have seen quite a few melt in the heat up on the open tops. I must apologise for those who were confused by the change in venue of the carpark. We had rather more competitors than anticipated so I called upon a local developer to use a bit of vacant land for parking rather than clogging up the streets. This only happened a few days prior to the event. It was a bit late to notify everyone so I thought a few signs would redirect the masses. Turned out I was about two minutes late with the critical sign, missing two car loads of club members turning up early to help out. Bugger!

Paradise was a pleasure to set up, and again the weather was all good. I thought this map would be the most enjoyable, but under estimated how tricky it is. Unfortunately there were a few lost souls and a few not-so-happy finishers, but hopefully everyone at least enjoyed the scenery!! The "large boulder" control early on courses 1 to 5 caused rather more trouble than imagined. I had run that leg during course checking and found the boulder with no problem (having not been there for about 9 years). I checked it again after the event, following comments from competitors, and concluded the following. There appears to be one extra contour on the map between the previous control and the boulder site. This gives the impression you need to climb more than you do in reality. The extra contour needs to be pushed up the slope to steepen the hill and increase the separation between the small rock face (the one on its own) and the boulder. That said, I still don't quite get why so many lost so much time here. My approach on this leg was to cross the green area and the two streams to meet the steep hillside and open bush. Then to climb (but slide below the lone small boulder, if visible, which is shown 10 metres above the level of the control), then contour to the obvious spur (being my attack point / feature). The terrain is shown to flatten considerably near the control, and so when I hit the spur I was looking for it to flatten. That was reasonably obvious on the ground and so was the flat gully beyond it. The boulder was not so clear as it was wearing a wig of trees, but you could still see it's shape (or at least question why there wasn't an extra hill shown on the map). What was actually more obvious in the bush was the oval hill beyond the boulder, which I used as a catching feature. The hill is drawn with a solid contour, indicating it is reasonably significant (the boulder was quite obvious from that hill). Also in my mind was that if I was too low (or southeast) on final approach I would have steep terrain falling away below me and so know to go west. Conversely if I was too high (or north) on final approach I would see the flat ground below me and hill slope above. Overshoot and you would hit the creek. Anyway, that is my defence, but I am sorry if my rough mapping in that area tainted your enjoyment of the day.

Thank you to all those who helped out in some way during the weekend, in particular to Joe Sheriff and Jo Wilson for collecting controls on Saturday after climbing back up the hill for a second time that day just to help out (legendary). Thanks to Graham Hardy for dragging the caravan all the way from Dunedin and helping out all weekend. To Eunice and George for helping out all over the place as usual!! To Lyn and the organising team for putting the event together. To Myles for his assistance at the start on Saturday and to Brian

for all his assistance on both days. To Bunny for helping collect up the start and controls on Saturday. To Pat for the lonely job holding fort at the carpark on Saturday, and then running the starts, along with Annie, on Sunday. To Annie and Alan for their help on the Sunday. To Grant for his maths skills on the results both days. To Ian for assisting with the horrible toilet duties. To Sasha for all her help, and to anyone else I have perhaps missed who chipped in to make everything happen.

The following has been sent by Ken Dowling, former DOC member. Ken keeps in touch with DOC and we are delighted to receive snippets from him, from time to time.

THE INVENTION OF CONTOUR LINES

I had always thought that contour lines were a by product of the pyramids. Not so according to Bill Bryson.

...As for Mason and Dixon, they returned to England as scientific heroes and, for reasons unknown, dissolved their partnership. Considering the frequency with which they turn up at seminal events in eighteenth-century science, remarkably little is known about either man. No likenesses exist and few written references. Of Dixon, the Dictionary of National Biography notes intriguingly that he was 'said to have been born in a coal mine', but then leaves it to the reader's imagination to supply a plausible explanatory circumstance, and adds that he died at Durham in 1777. Apart from his name and long association with Mason, nothing more is known.

Mason is only slightly less shadowy. We know that in 1772, at Maskelyne's behest, he accepted the commission to find a suitable mountain for the gravitational deflection experiment, at length reporting back that the mountain they needed was in the central Scottish Highlands, just above Loch Tay, and was called Schiehallion. Nothing, however, would induce him to spend a summer surveying it. He never returned to the field again. His next known movement was in 1786 when, abruptly and mysteriously, he turned up in Philadelphia with his wife and eight children, apparently on the verge of destitution. He had not been back to America since completing his survey there eighteen years earlier and had no known reason for being there, nor any friends or patrons to greet him. A few weeks later he was dead.

With Mason refusing to survey the mountain, the job fell to Maskelyne. So, for four months in the summer of 1774, Maskelyne lived in a tent in a remote Scottish glen and spent his days directing a team of surveyors, who took hundreds of measurements from every possible position. To find the mass of the mountain from all these numbers required a great deal of tedious calculating, for which a mathematician named Charles Hutton was engaged. The surveyors had covered a map with scores of figures, each marking an elevation at some point on or around the mountain. It was essentially just a confusing mass of numbers, but Hutton noticed that if he used a pencil to connect points of equal height, it all became much more orderly. Indeed, one could instantly get a sense of the overall shape and slope of the mountain. He had invented contour lines.

Extrapolating from his Schiehallion measurements, Hutton calculated the mass of the Earth at 5,000 million million tons, from which could reasonable be deduced the masses of all other major bodies in the solar system, including the Sun. So, from this one experiment we learned the masses of the Earth, the Sun, the Moon, the other planets and *their* moons, and got contour lines into the bargain...

from A Short History of Nearly Everything, Bill Bryson, Doubleday, 2003