

Well, as I have not been up to Edinburgh as of late, I feel again slightly out of touch, but, as Hilary (your Social Secretary) has gone into action and organised a Club Dinner, it was worthwhile to combine all my bits of gossip and news and produce a slimline Newsletter.

#### Recent Results and Events

This is always the hardest part of the Newsletter to write, but I think it remains a good idea, so I have put into operation in this issue a new scheme to get some idea about what all the club members are doing. At present I rely on seeing people at events and the odd letter from the north!

The most recent major event was the English Midlands Champs. where I saw Liz Mills, Carol McNeill, Mike Smithard, and Mr. & Mrs. Smithard (recently returned from Malta). I know that Liz, Carol, and Geoff all did well (Geoff winning by about 4 minutes), but I'm afraid that we could not wait for the results as we had a four hour drive home! The event was very well attended with over 1000 competitors, and the weather was superb for the time of year. One or two doubts were heard about the map and the siting of controls, but the area was beautiful and the terrain varied, and altogether it was a very pleasant day.

Liz, Carol and Hilary took over M21B at the D.U.O.C. event on 15 Feb (more about this event later from Hilary), and we (Geoff and I) saw Duncan at the Reading event in Feb (where were you, Bill Lang?).

#### Future Events

Entries for the British Champs. close on 31 March, so be sure to get them off in time. Before that, of course, are the Scottish Champs and the J.K., where I hope to make the acquaintance of most of our new members. I hope as many as possible will come to our Dinner before the Scottish Champs (details later in this issue). It should be good! Several club members are helping with the running of the Scottish Champs, and the Autumn Badge Event that we had undertaken to run has now been changed to the 1977 Scottish Score Champs. These things have a nasty habit of creeping up on one unawares, so don't think of 1977 as the dim and distant future.

#### Thumbnail Notes

Robin (R.D.B.) Sloan (ex-EUOC) was lured from the Hares & Hounds to the Orienteering Club by the chance of fame and the realisation that he did not need to train so much for O-ing! (Or perhaps it was the attractive balance of payments that the club had at that time.) Anyway he became a stalwart, if somewhat unpunctual, member of EUOC. He scored successes in the J.K. Relays and University Champs. He took to pulling teeth in Aberdeen, and, after two children and a couple of years, was driven south to Melrose by the cold.

Good points: reliable Relay man, produces whisky on cold days, improved O-ing in N.E. Scotland considerably, works hard when finally pushed to start.

Bad points: unpunctuality, funny feet, spikes drinks at stag parties (personal complaint - Ed!), dentistry on Monday mornings, unfit.

#### News of/from members

I had a letter from Jennifer Whitehead enclosing a page from Youngers company newspaper (The Tartan Star) publicising the World Champs, and explaining to a few more people what O-ing is. This included a photo of Sue Banner and Chris Brasher, and a fairly large amount of column space. William Youngers are sponsoring the World Champs and are going about publicity in a very enthusiastic way.

Also a letter from Alistair MacLean, sounding cheerful, and now a Swedish speaker and cross-country skier (another candidate for Interlopers ski team?), and planning to go to Germany next. No doubt he will find the drinking habits there much to his liking! From Alistair, I also learn that Hew Fraser, our Australian member, has reached the heights of the N.S.W. training pool.

Out of seven women selected for the British Squad training week at Stirling, Hilary, Liz, and Carol have been included. Congratulations!

### News from the Social Secretary

The first club party, at Saline in the home of Doug and Liz Mills, was a small gathering of about 20 People - but all enjoyed the food, drink, and conversation. It wasn't a totally Interlopers affair, with Dave Menzies and Cathy Fenwick popping in too, and one or two other non-members. Thanks go to Liz for preparing the food and making us all welcome (the dog made us all very welcome!).

The Club Dinner is to be held on Friday 9 April in the Rockhall Hotel at Collin, which is about five miles out of Dumfries along the A 75 Annan road. A brief (and the first ever) Annual General Meeting will be held in the Hotel at about 7.30 p.m., and the Dinner will be at 8.30 for 9 p.m.. The cost of the meal will be about £2 . . . plus of course wine, other drinks, etc.. Accommodation in Crockett Ford is still available for those who want it. About 25 are coming to the Dinner - it should be good!

### Club Organisation

Since the last Newsletter, there has been some thinking about the club and the need for some more structure and organisation, especially at the Edinburgh end with its large number of members. We intend at the A.G.M. to hold elections for club Office Bearers, to adopt a Constitution (a draft of which is enclosed), and to decide some new policies for the club. Steve Terry has been very active in putting forward some ideas (a rough summary of these follows later, together with some other suggested amendments), and if anyone else would like to propose changes or new methods please feel free to do so, and write either to John Barrow or to myself; we will make sure that any suggestions get an airing at the A.G.M.. I would like to see some of our newer members taking a part in running the club, so, if you would like to volunteer - no previous experience necessary, I would be delighted to hear from you.

Communication in the club has always been lacking (I think), so I would like some help from members (a) to give me some news for this wonderful tabloid, and (b) to get some idea about whatever else the club lacks.

So, here goes:

For newer members only (since, say, 1974, i.e. not "founder" members)

1. How did you come to join Interlopers rather than any other club in the area? In what ways have you been disappointed by the club since joining it? Have you introduced anyone else to the club since then; if so, could you write a few lines about that person (background, orienteering interests, personality) for my Thumbnail Notes?

For everybody

2. Give the last three events you attended and your results (and the class you ran in).
3. Would you be prepared to help in running the club as a Committee member - Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, ordinary member?
4. Are you interested in mapping/helping to map/learning to map for future events to be organised by the club?
5. Are you interested in helping to organise such events?
6. Would you be interested in an orienteering holiday (a) abroad, e.g. Norway, camping, staying in huts, which would be expensive but good fun, (b) in this country, which would be in some kind of fixed accommodation, e.g. youth hostel, outdoor centre, which would be not so expensive, but not so exciting either, and the orienteering would be less of a challenge. This idea is only an idea as yet!
7. How much organised social intercourse do you think club members should have outside going to events (as compared with what there is now)?

Comments not covered in above: anything you feel a burning desire to say. All replies will be kept in confidence, and I don't really mind if you say the Newsletter is a load of old rubbish and that you are fed up with my asking you questions!

Please return answers to this questionnaire to me before ~~7~~<sub>5</sub> April, if possible.

Steve's Comments (some of them!)

His first point is that the club organisation must be seen to be working, and that all members should know who the Committee members are; this could be solved by indicating the posts held on the Directory.

Steve's Committee, which he calls the "Board", would meet at least six times a year, if not more, if only to keep such meetings short enough to get to the pub before it closes! The Board would be required to actively pursue suggestions received by it, to come to decisions in plenty of time (e.g. decide what and how to map well over a year in advance), and to communicate its decisions to the appropriate people, by word of mouth if necessary (people don't necessarily take note of the content of the Newsletter). To ensure that the Board is seen to be working, a Minute Book should be kept, and a Newsletter published very soon after a Board meeting. Also, to ensure that the Board can function, and that one or two people are not unduly overloaded, Steve suggests that the quorum for a Board meeting be four, not two (Robin also suggests this).

In addition to the listed Officials in section 4 of the Draft Constitution, Steve suggests that there should be a Junior Representative and also two ordinary members (any two?). The main point to be stressed behind all this is that we should establish a strong Club organisation, in line with the B.O.F. Chairman's views in the February "Orienteer", and, as Steve says, most of it is fairly obvious and makes good sense; it just isn't happening yet.

Robin's Comments

Robin feels that an extra Official should be appointed, an Events Secretary, whose main duties should be to communicate with the S.O.A. Fixtures Secretary, to arrange mapping of suitable areas, and to see to organisation of the events which the club undertakes to stage.

He also suggests that sentences 2 and 3 in section 9 of the Draft Constitution be replaced by:

"An Extraordinary Meeting or Special Meeting may be called by any two Officers or by any five club members giving two months' notice. Any notice to all members must be issued six weeks before the date proposed, amendments to the Constitution and the Agenda must be sent to the Secretary four weeks beforehand, and final details plus the Agenda must be sent to all members two weeks before the meeting."

Notes from J.B. on forthcoming Team Events

Two H1 and one D1 teams have been entered for the Scottish Relays, and I understand that Geoff, Graham, myself, Gareth, Martin, Alan, Steve, Marjorie, Jan, Hilary, and Eileen are all entered.

Two A and one B teams have been entered for the J.K. Relays. I gather that our Lady members have made their own arrangements; as far as I know, of our Gentleman members, Geoff, Graham, myself, Gareth, Martin, Robin, Duncan, Bob, and Roger are going. There may or may not be spare places available in a G team; I gather that Eileen and Jan may be looking for a place in a team.

In fact, I'm afraid there may be spare people for both events, but I didn't have enough names for another team in either case. As Eileen said in January, we don't want the club to have to pay for unused team entries.

That's it for now. Don't forget to enter for the British, and also to let me have your answers to the questionnaire on page 2 by 5 April, please (so that we can raise any points at the A.G.M.).

Eileen Peck