

Many abject apologies for the lateness of this issue: about 1 month! I'm now rushing it somewhat to get it done without further delay, so more apologies in advance for its chaoticness. All the usual excuses apply, including the fact that I now have several more time-consuming tasks than I bargained for when I took on the job of Editor, AND the fact that scarcely anyone has written anything to/for me, apart from the "old stagers", making the job seem not very worthwhile. If someone as busy as Carol can write the vast amount she does, there is absolutely no reason why everyone in the Club should not write something! There are also rumours that some people didn't receive the last issue -- all the more reason to write and tell me that you have! And if you find you can't plough your way through all this lot, write and say what you would like. Address: STEVE TERRY, 36 NETHERBY ROAD, EDINBURGH EH5 3LX. Phone 031-552-5673; Office Phone: 031-343-2171/2/3 -- NOTE!- office phone no has changed since last time.

This issue is being sent to many more than appear on the Current Official Address List -- for the last time. The aforementioned C.O.A.L. is enclosed with this Newsletter to everyone who's on it, so if there's no address list enclosed, it means you're not on it for one reason or another, and you won't be getting any more of these handouts. If you want to ensure a continued supply of Orienteering, the solution is to contact John Barrow (Sec) 10B Forrester Park Grove EH12 9AJ, 031-334-8528, or Bob Stobie (Treas) 9 Bramdean Rise EH10 6JT, 031-447-6898, preferably demanding affiliation forms and/or offering large cheques/PO's (which in fact need only be 30p for Juniors, £1 for Seniors -- see last NL or J.B or B.S for more details). Also enclosed with this issue, to those on the C.O.A.L. only, is a copy of the far-famed INTERLØPERS CONSTITUTION, for your edification and delight.

Which reminds me.....

.....: AGM AND DINNER :.....

This is official notification that the Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 5th May 1978 at 7pm at the "Trade Winds", Shore, Leith. This will be followed at about 8.30pm by the Annual Dinner, for which the cost will be about £3.50 per head (definite price in next Newsletter (it will be out in April, I say!)). There will be a band, too, it seems. Please inform Fiona Jolly (Top Flat, 5 Bellevue Rd, EH7 4DA; 031-556-8203) by 15th April if you intend to come.

I would like to add some remarks about "AGM's", at the risk of boring you to tears. The purpose of the AGM is so that every Member can contribute to the major decision-making in the Club, especially by forming a Committee and ratifying its activities. It is essential that everyone knows in advance what major issues are to be discussed so that each can decide whether to make the effort to attend the meeting and help influence the course of events by voting or by sending a "postal" vote. This is why the Constitution requires that a full Agenda of the meeting must be circulated 2 weeks beforehand, and if you want to raise any issues for the meeting to vote on, you must inform the Secretary (John Barrow) in good time for him to prepare the Agenda, i.e in this case by the end of March. It is a fair interpretation of the Constitution that votes may be taken only on matters stated in the published Agenda (perhaps it should be amended to say so explicitly?) i.e it is not fair to take votes on points raised within the meeting (as happened last year) as then those Members who are unable to attend are denied their right to vote.

While on the subject, the South-East Area AGM was held last November, and the organisation seemed to be in some disarray. No minutes of previous meeting, a rather chaotic performance by the Treasurer, and apparent confusion generally. With the notable exception of the Secretary (Dewi Jones) I feel that the Committee created a poor impression in the minds of the responsible adults present (in mine, anyway) . I hope the new officials can pull things together in a more businesslike fashion during 1978. Gordon Ross is now InterlØpers Rep. on S.E Area Committee.

The South-East Area has now a quantity of money to spend, with the restriction that it must be spent before March 31st, i.e the end of this financial year! It is hoped that what's left will be mostly spent on courses, but these need organising, so if you feel able to organise a course of some kind (and publicise it) right now contact Dewi Jones, 40 Christiemiiller Avenue EH7 6ST, 031-669-4581, immediately. Some hopes!.....

!! EDITORIAL !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I do not have any journalistic ambitions (yet), so I'm not planning to desert this post for a plush office on North Bridge, but I do intend to express thoughts and opinions of my own in these columns. Not necessarily strongly-held opinions, just ideas which I hope will cause some of you to choke and splutter and get out your dust-encrusted quill & ink-pot. Yet I still reserve the right to treat all correspondence received as I think fit, i.e to correct spelling, cut, comment etc, while taking care not to misrepresent anyone's views. Oh get ON with it...

Big Surprise, folks, I went Orienteering last Sunday, to the Scottish Univs Champs & Badge event at Newcastleton, and I think I enjoyed it as much as any event I've ever been to. O.K so it rained, but it's always raining in Newcastleton, isn't it? O.K so the forest is thickish, but that just serves to hide the other competitors and prevent distractions and following; nowhere was I noticeably impeded by the trees. O.K so the ground is rough with brashings, but you don't have to sprint through them, just take it easy and the natural bounce God gave you makes it a pleasure. And the forest was very wet, especially with the snow just thawed, but I wore my "Joggers" and my feet ended as dry as they started. And the usual suspicions that some controls were not quite where they should be, but that just made the navigation more interesting. A good map, with Heriot-Watt O.C's survey and Jolly old Fiona's drawing doing ample justice to Andrew Smith's photogrammetry. I didn't come anywhere near winning, even though the keenest types had buzzed off to Sherwood Forest for the Midlands Champs, but I managed a good average time, with no serious mistakes and managing to keep trotting most of the way. Because of the rival attraction the number of competitors was fairly small and manageable -- a great attraction for me (compared with figures like 2400 at the forthcoming J.K -- that sounds like insanity!). It's all these good things that orienteering is all about, for me. It's the enjoyment that counts.

Many people grumble about the "nasty", "thick" Border Forests, but when I compare these with the scrappy, scrubby "commons", barbed-wire entanglements and general rubbish that I was accustomed-to "down South", forests like this are still like fairyland to me. It would be very nice if they were all like Culbin, Darnaway or Alvie, but they are not, and I think we should be grateful for the forests we do have and make the best we can of them. If you don't like Newcastleton, then, as if it were spinach or tripe or potato-skin, you just don't know what's good for you! Another such Border Forest is Castle O'er, and if the F.C have left any trees standing I intend to start mapping there (again!) this Summer, using a superb photogrammetric plot done by Kari Dahl two years ago. Anyone who can swallow their prejudices and assist with mapping (or with planning or organising for the event, the South-East Area Champs in June 79) will be very welcome.

!! FAREWELLS & HALLOS !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The world is full of bewildering changes, and nowhere more so than in Scottish orienteering, now. Many of the names that have disappeared from the Address List have done so as a result of the formation of a new club, West Fife Orienteers. (P.S whatever happened to "Ochils"?) The inaugural meeting was held on 18th January last, and although I don't have any details, I gather that WFO is now officially in existence. If any of you "Wee Fifers", as ex-Interlopers, wish to communicate with others of the long-standing Interlopers who are remaining faithful to the old standard, I will be happy to include here any news you may care to send. If you are starting a Newsletter, how about both Editors keeping each other on their address lists?

The idea of this new club was hatched-up by Liz Mills in her palatial hideout at Saline. (I think she was feeling lost amongst all those enormous rooms!) Liz has been a member of Interlopers for .... years (insert large number of your choice). When she first took up orienteering she made rapid progress, due mainly to her extreme fitness, and maintained by her ability to stick to a well-organised training programme. She represented Britain in the 1974 World Champs in Denmark, and again in Scotland in 1976 with Carol and Hilary. She finished up as the first formally elected (in her absence) Chairman of Interlopers in 1976. As a member (and Newsletter Editor) of the British International Squad, she takes a keen interest in coaching members of the Junior Squad, including Interlopers Fiona Craddock and Kate Richards. Apart from orienteering, Liz has spent her life floating around various Sporting and/or Educational Establishments, including Edinburgh and Southampton Universities, DCPE, Meadowbank S/centre etc, picking up a variety of qualifications and experience, and Doug, on the way. She is also a top-class Squash player, having represented Scotland in International events. Although of a somewhat talkative nature (!) herself, she nevertheless made a very able and generous ///

Chairman, and I am personally very sad to see her "deserting" us. However, I join Interlopers everywhere in wishing her and WFO every success, and in looking forward to many years of friendly rivalry.

As some leave, others (many!) join: among the new names are several more juniors (just) from George Watson's College, where Roger Vandersteen was teaching before he mathematicked off to Peru -- Welcome folks! I'd like to hear from all newcomers, about your interests and ideas, and what you expect from the Club. (Then I'll get the old stagers to write why it's impossible!)

----- PAST EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS -----  
(Alternative title: Ancient History.) No reports or results were received for the Mountain Marathon, but it is believed that Carol & Hilary, Frances, Jenny, and Ian Miller & Gordon Ross all ran, finished, and enjoyed themselves. The map used this time was specially surveyed by Robin & Sue Harvey (Map Service Ltd), an impressive production.

The BOF Junior Home International was held in Epping Forest on 5th November last year, and about one-third of the Scottish representatives were Interlopers: Ann Heyworth, 3rd W13. Fiona Craddock, 4th W15. W17: Frances Ashmole 4th, Jenny Doig 5th, Kate Richards 9th. M17: John Coppock 10th. Our 3 W17's also won the B relay for Scotland, in 136.55 against England's 139.23.

Fresh from her success, Jenny went on to organise Lothian O-League No. 2 at Saltoun the following weekend in very capable style. This event marks the first appearance in the results lists of Caireen and Dearg Stobie -- as W9 and M7 are they our youngest "newcomers"? As usual Mr G Ross crashed out (plastered) after control on the Blue course... Alas and alack! he has now joined our numbers - about the 144th club he has run for (or against?) I believe. White: C&D Stobie 3rd. Yellow: Katherine Shiach 2nd, Cathy Balfour 7th. Orange: Ann Heyworth 1st, Kirsty Herd 2nd, R&A Gardner 4th, Gordon Shiach 7th. Red: Dermod Ruddock 1st. Green: Kate Richards 1st, Fiona Craddock 2nd, George Jolly 9th. Blue: Dewi Jones 15th, David Muiry 16th, Scott Balfour 19th, John Mitchell 24th, Alan Burchell 32nd, Ray Heyworth 35th.

For the Irish Junior Championships, held at Newcastle N.I. (by the Mountains of Mourne) on 19th Nov, I have still only provisional results. If anyone has received final results they haven't told me about them. Also, no-one has given me any report on Carol's tour to this event, although I gather that all went well, apart from nearly missing the ferry on the way home! Vicky Alexander and Fiona Craddock, who did not have the benefit of financial support in the form of Lothian Region Sports Awards, received £5 each towards the cost of the trip from Carol's "Badge Fund". This fund consists of the profits from the sale of the "I Go Orienteering" badges, and Carol intends this to be used mainly for the benefit of Junior Members. Any Junior who thinks he/she has a good cause should write to Carol with details. Also, some Juniors have been making their own profit by buying badges from Carol at 10p and selling them at 15p; I think there are plenty left, so if the market is not yet saturated any Juniors who want to cash in should contact Carol. Meanwhile, back in Ireland... W17: Frances Ashmole 1st, Jenny Doig 4th, Kate Richards 5th. W15: Fiona Craddock 1st. M17: John Mitchell 6th. Fiona, Kate and Frances also won their relay event.

Meanwhile, on the same day back in Scotland, Interlopers made a good showing at EUOC's Badge Event at Firbush, by Loch Tay, in spite of bitter cold and impending snow... (only the more impressive results here!) M21B: Alan Burchell 4th. M35: Dewi Jones 1st, Bob Stobie 3rd. W19A: Fiona Jolly 6th, Sue Mustard 7th. W19B: Val Thom 7th. M15: Dermod Ruddock 4th. W15: Alison Fairley 2nd. W13: Ann Heyworth 1st (wouldn't you guess?). W12: Kirsty Herd 1st, Lucy Richards 2nd.

The Lanton Moor Badge Event saw some of the easiest courses ever -- I took about half my usual time, and SOA president and ESOC member John Colls won M21A in 50 minutes! John Barrow was 13th only 9 minutes behind. Ann H\*yw\*rth won W13 yet again - it's about time you moved up, my lass!

Qualifying here as a "happening" is Fiona's Christmas Party, and she writes: "A fair number of Interlopers managed to stagger up the stairs of Bellevue Rd, and it was especially nice to see some of the newer members. David Muiry managed to win both Pass-the-Parcel and the Guess-Who Game, where although everyone recognised Geoff Peck's picture, most were baffled by the handsome Kris Kristofferson - is this a sign of unbalanced priorities, or am I just biassed? My thanks to everyone who brought presents - everyone went away with at least one - and especially to the donor of the Thermos-flask, which will be filled with soup for the Club at forthcoming events, and the pen, which I have given to Steve as encouragement for Newsletter writing!" (Ta - Ed)

