

INTERLOPERS

ORIENTEERING CLUB

EDINBURGH

NEWSLETTER NO. 79

SEPTEMBER 1991

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The Long Wet Six Day Summer

All in all quite a busy summer for orienteering at all levels. The Scottish Six Days, World Cup events, Club Championships; Harvester Relay, 14 Person Relay..... (I'd better get a newsletter out soon ! Ed.). Looking back in mid September at about a month's uninterrupted running you can be forgiven for thinking what it was like over much of the summer. Abiding impressions of Southern Uplands 91 are that it rained, with the exception of the rest day, of course, and the next. Cast your mind back to June and the next Ice Age seemed a

better bet than the Greenhouse Effect for the next global catastrophe. Fortunately, there wasn't much orienteering then. The Summer Series ended on a pleasant evening so the barbecue went well thanks to Cathy and Rudolf's culinary skills. The Club Championships at Kinneil went ahead in a window of good weather but when we went to enjoy ourselves after all that orienteering nonsense, the heavens opened. More on all these events and others inside. Happy reading

In This Issue

**Three Get Lost
In Finland**

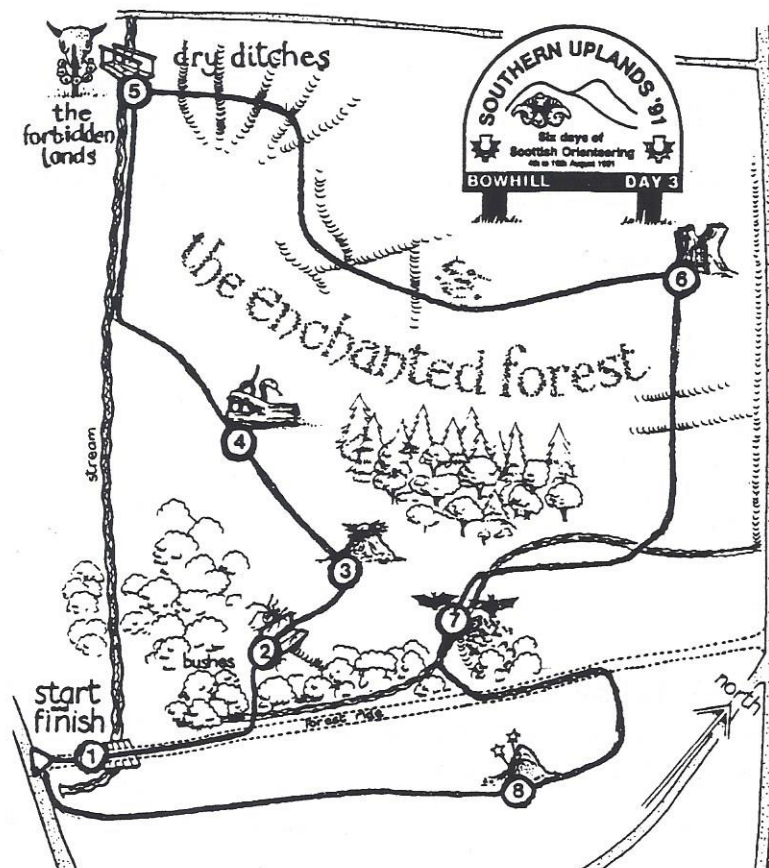
**The Club
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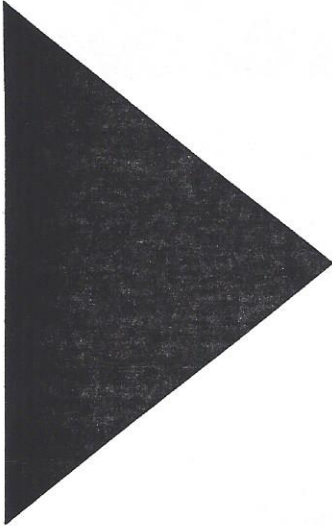
**Southern
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much more !**





91 Southern Uplands

It only happens every two years. It gives you the opportunity to sharpen up your skills over a short period of time. It's a test of stamina and staying power. It's the Scottish Six Days.

Come Along To The

Jolly Pizzeria

at 9 Elm Row

on Wednesday, 9th October

at 8.00 p.m.



Roberto says: 'Questo è il cibo più schifo in Scozia'

(Probably the best food in Scotland).

'Chi ha scelto questo sciocco per effere un agente sociale'

(A pleasant and sociable atmosphere).

The meal should not be very expensive.

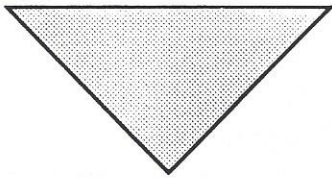
*Please phone **Andrew Bankhead** (031 556 5141) a week before so that the right number of tables can be booked and we don't end up with an irate restaurateur.*

The Scottish Six Days returned to the South West after an absence of ten years. As on the previous occasion, the event centre was the market town of Castle Douglas. This time there was no camp site so the two thousand or so orienteers commandeered just about all the available bed spaces in the Stewarty of Kirkcudbright and further afield too. Hotels, guest houses, cottages, caravan sites, village halls, friends and any kind of distant relatives' homes were besieged. The vast influx of strangely garbed hordes caught many of the local inhabitants by surprise but by the end of the week I'm sure many of them were a bit sad to see them go, particularly the shopkeepers and publicans.

With no obvious focal point for our widely scattered orienteers it was a very disparate bunch of Interlopers arriving in dribs and drabs at Day One at Ae Forest. The main concern with the ominous clouds overhead and the prospect of much impending rain was "Where's the club tent?" As if by magic, Pat and Anthony appeared on cue as the first drops of rain started splattering down. The scenario for the rest of the week was set. Best performance of the day was Fay Balfour's win in D13B. For many of us Day One turned out to be our best run! Perhaps we should have just gone home then. The planning of the H21E course must have deserved an award of some sort. Ian McIntyre seemed less than enthused afterwards about the variety of controls on the course having visited 13 re-entrants in succession. Or was it 14, Ian? Monday, Day Two. Pulnagashel Glen in the heart of Glen Trool. Access here was a bit tricky so competitors had to be dropped off, drivers continued round in a loop and were then transported by what seemed like every available Dumfries and Galloway

school bus back at the drop-off point. It added a fair bit to your journey time but the magic roundabout seemed to work efficiently. The sole Japanese competitor seemed fascinated by it, videoing the bus I was in as it went past. The tent was up and ready. It was quite muggy. Surprisingly it was raining and... the midges were out in force! Did anyone do well here? Fourth places for Rachel Balfour in D11B and Anthony Squire in H13A. Carol McNeill, our Honorary President, turned up and won D35L by over eight and a half minutes. Former Interloper and now resident Canadian meteorologist Ian Miller turned up at the tent. One of my wife's ex-boyfriends and consistently about 30 minutes faster than me. Is there some link between these two facts?

Well if the international competitors thought it had been wet so far, Day Three at Bowhill showed them what Scottish rain can really be like. Balancing this was the fact that there was some open moorland to run over and a fairly dense track network to give the less technically minded a chance to stretch out. This was the first outing of the Inverarity clan en masse and needless to say coincided with our longest journey and our earliest start times. We made it though, and the tent was up too! A lightning change and a quick squelch up to the start. I felt a lot of sympathy for a fellow M35, Alistair Paul of ELO, positioned at the drinks station on the remotest part of my course. If he'd ran out of water I'm sure he could have squeezed a few gallons out of his anorak! I had my fastest and probably most enjoyable run of the week. Elsewhere in the results, Rachel came in 3rd and Fay 5th. Carol McNeill only won by two and a half minutes. Special mention must be made about the string and off-string courses here



which deserved an award of some sort for their entertainment value which obviously reflected the time, thought and enthusiasm put into the planning of the course. Unfortunately, by the time I was dragged around by M7 and M5, conditions were becoming a bit quagmish underfoot and M35 found some of the Enchanted Forest hard going after his earlier endeavours. The cost of Selkirk bannocks forced us back to Moffat where many fellow orienteers had decided to break their return journey also. Ever tried find a parking space in Moffat at the best of times?

Day 4 - the Rest Day! The chance for those in humbler accommodation to let their kit dry out a bit. For others of a more active disposition and not yet in the stages of terminal exhaustion the opportunity to go mountain biking or canoeing. Others took the easy option, climbed in the car and headed for the Solway Coast. And surprisingly, it was sunny today. As might

have been expected though when you walked in the tourist information centre - orienteers. No seats in the nicer cafes because they were full of - orienteers! Every second car in the car park - plastered with orienteering stickers.

By some meteorological freak the good weather continued. For the real Day Four we headed westwards towards Newton Stewart and Penninghame Forest. By this time, along with many other orienteers, days of the week have gone out the window. For some, even remembering what month it is has become a bit of a problem. The only common reference point we have is a Day with some number after it. Just before I reach the car park I pass an intrepid soul on his bike laden down with panniers all round. It's bad enough having to drive to the events each day. Cycling between them really is masochistic. As we're putting the tent up, who should appear to set his tent up beside us but the biker. Scott is soon engaged in conversation with him no doubt curious about the logistics of doing the Six Days by bike. The car parking here causes difficulty for some drivers. Just as well it wasn't raining. The organisers erred somewhat on the side of

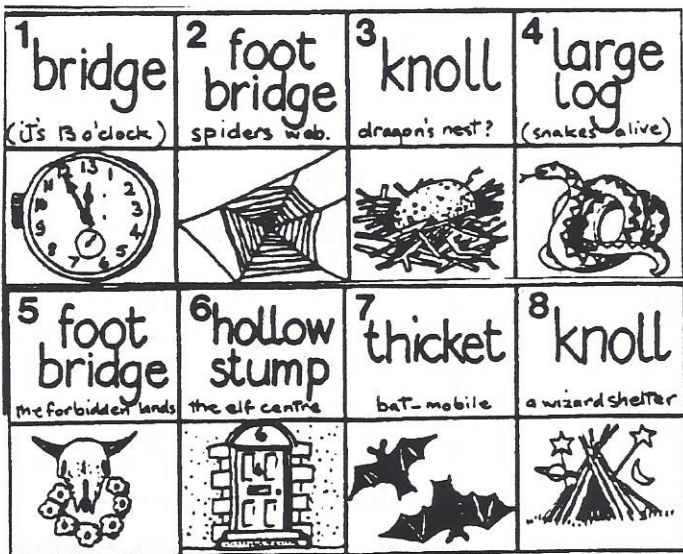
caution in the stated times to the start. Walking at a fairly leisurely pace I arrived with over fifteen minutes to spare to find a considerable number of competitors crammed in towards a dyke and huddled under trees and trying to pretend that there were no midges around. And the results? For a change various Balfours did well. This time Fay and Gail both got third-places. Carol won again also. Simon Thompson reappeared and despite carrying an injury romped home to win H21C. And there was me with a thigh twenty shades of purple after an argument with a tree stump on Day Two.

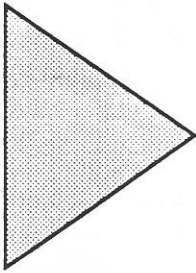
Rumour has it that we're lucky to be officiating on Day Five at Dalmacallan as there is a lot of green out there. I don't really have a lot to say about this day because I don't think I saw any other Interlopers at all. I was nominated to help out with the String Course. When I got there I found a tent, the course set up, but no-one there! So I did what any other normal orienteer would do - cleared off! When I returned some fifteen minutes later there were a number of STAGettes busily setting off youngsters on their courses. When I said that I had been allocated to help there wasn't much response but I found something to do (blow a whistle) and stuck at my task for the next two and a half hours. Truth be told, I think they could have managed without me which is the impression I have gained from others about their jobs for the day too. The event in the main did seem to be a bit overpersonned but I suppose that is preferable to the opposite situation. Some people managed to get runs. Third places for Gail and Fay, and a fourth for Rachel. Anthony got a fifth place. Simon won again - (Was he really injured?) and Carol once again won by over eight min-

utes. It rained, by the way!

Day Six at last! Making our way along the forest track to the car park we come across a foreign competitor trying to get out. I marvel at how far he's managed to get along that narrow track. We all have late starts. Some people seem to be leaving and we haven't even started. There's some fairly bedraggled figures coming in. It was raining in case you were wondering. Five days of orienteering seems to be taking its toll. I feel some trepidation about what sort of time I will record but at least I have some knowledge of the course having orienteered here before. The fact that I got hopelessly lost here doesn't help though. In the end there are still tents up when I arrive back. In fact, just as at Achray in '89, I record my best placing on the final day. Tremendous stamina, useless navigating. My 70th place puts me 101st overall. So despite running better, faster and scoring more points than two years ago I find myself lower in the placings. Why did I bother? Where were all the really useless orienteers? It was fun though, wasn't it? Anthony has a notice up in the tent reminding us of the club championships next weekend. Well, we can't do any worse there. Final placings went as follows -

D11B Rachel 4th, D13A Gail 4th, D13B Fay 4th (highest points scorer with 3721), D21L Lucy 49th, D21S Stephanie 30th, Jane 49th, D45S Eva 52nd. H13A Anthony 7th, H17A Gordon 15th, H21E Ian 43rd?, H21L Phil 128th, Robin 138th (out of 218!), H21S Mike 104th, John 131st, H35L Colin 101st, H35S Ian 70th, H40L Pat 46th (and still Gold standard), Scott 89th, H45L Rudolph 121st and H60 Ray 39th. Apologies to anybody misplaced or competing and not even mentioned. Royal Deeside 93, anyone????





Have you tried
SPRINTO™?



"It's no use ! You can't make me.
I'm not going to enter the Tinto
Twin and that's that !"

- Saturday 19th October**
LBOA Night Badge Champs
(ESOC)
Braids and Blackford
 (259707 - Top of Observatory
 Road). Starts from 6.30 p.m.
 Further information from E. Scott
 (031-332-9108).
 Pre-marked map entries (£3 / £1.50)
 by 9th October to
 K. Lessells
 40 Ormidale Terrace
 Edinburgh
 EH12 6EF
- Sunday 20th October**
LOL 1 (RR)
Gala Hill, Galashiels
 Information from
 Judy McNeilly (05783-209)
- Weekend 26th / 27th October**
Tinto Twin Event
Saturday (Night Event)
Carmichael, Biggar (940391)
Sunday (Day Event)
Douglas and Happendon Woods
(837311)
 Closing Date for Entries - 13th
 October. £4 / £2 for single events.
 £7 / £3.50 combined fee.
 Organiser -
 L.Young
 7 St. Ninians
 Lanark
 ML11 7HX
- Saturday 2nd November**
Scottish Score Championships
(CUNOC)
Penninghame, Newton Stewart
(372679)
 Closing Date for Entries - 20th
 October. (£4 / £2). Entries to
 Howard Moiser
 8 Drumilling Avenue
 West Kilbride
 KA23 9BG
 (0294-822880)
- Sunday 3rd November**
Scotlands Galoppen 7
Solway Badge Event
Dalmacallan, Moniaive (800875)
 Closing Date for Entries - 20th
 October. (£4 / £2). Entries to
 J. Oxley
 1F2 137 Morrison Street
 Edinburgh
 EH3 8AJ
 (031-228-1903)
- Sunday 10th November**
LOL 2 (EUOC)
 Venue not known !
- Sunday 17th November**
Lothian and Borders Champs
ELO Badge Event
Glentress, Peebles (284397)
 Closing Date for Entries - 3rd
 November. (£4 / £2). Entries to
 Sheila Strain
 39 Bankpark Grove
 Tranent
 EH33 1AU
- Sunday 8th December**
LOL 3 (LINOC)
 Venue not known !!!

Here are a selection of up
and coming events which
you might care to jot down
in your diaries. Remember
the stamped, addressed en-
velopes and send them off
well before the closing dates.

Lost

in the

Woods



With the continued absence of our chairman and erst-while treasurer in antipodean locations and not being able to con any gullible idiot to put pen to paper more rubbish from your editor.

Recent postcards from Charlie and Janet intimate that they are/were in New Zealand and enjoying the ski-ing. My mind goes back to the committee meeting before their departure and talk that evening of Scottish Championship monies going into the club account and queries as to whether we were going to be liable for corporation tax. Questions may be asked on the chairman's return. (If he returns !). I suppose that one good thing is at least our account wasn't with BCCI.

Club activity seems to have been fairly considerable of late but readers of the SOA newsletter SCORE for July/August might have got the impression that we're a rather inactive, disorganised lot. In a survey of club activity and forward plans, Interlopers came 18th out of 19. From what I can see, the only reason we weren't last is because Solway didn't bother to reply ! Is this true ? Is it fair ? The compiler of these statistics was not named and how some of his figures were calculated was not explained in much detail. For a smallish club such as ourselves who have just recently organised what seems to have been a fairly successful Scottish Championships this might seem a bit harsh. Do you have any views on the matter, or are there any suggestions or changes you would like to see happen in the club ? If so, approach your nearest committee member and let them know what you think or write (in confidence) to the editor about it.

Why 'Lost In The Woods' ? Well, if you'd seen me repeatedly running past control 14 at Airthrey Castle looking for it with the description for control 13 firmly fixed in my mind. It was a scorcher that day, of course. But hope may be at hand ! Moves may be afoot for some more technique training / tips from some of our elite members to help out those of us who can run alright but tend to find that the trees get in the way a bit.

The Editor's Bit



Summer tends to be a slack period for events in the main. The only major national event of late has been

Scotlandsgaloppen 5 - Airthrey Castle 1st September 1991

As mentioned elsewhere, one of the hottest days of the year, some long courses taking us out over the moors and bringing us back into the forest for some finer navigation just when exhaustion was setting in.

W11A	6th	Rachel Balfour
W13A	2nd	Gail Balfour
W17A	5th	Ynske Riemersma
W21A	2nd	Jo Mitchell
	16th	Jeni Martin
W21S	10th	J. Brannan
M13A	2nd	Anthony Squire
M21L	1st	Andy Kitchin
	10th	Robin Galloway
	12th	Phil Smith
M21S	10th	John Kenworthy
M40L	3rd	Pat Squire
M60	2nd	Ray Heyworth

Earlier on, in August, Andy Kitchin notched up two fine 2nd places in the World Championship Selection Races. This gained him a place in the Individual and the Relay. With the later withdrawal of Steven Hale through injury, Andy arguably assumed the mantle of British No.1 in Czechoslovakia. Pakit Hyman and Lorna Boyd were also involved in these races but failed to make selection. An ankle injury to Rob Lee probably robbed him of the opportunity to represent Britain also.

The Editor would welcome any results or reports from any events which our elite competitors take part in. So if there are any accounts of the Harvester Relays, the World Champs, etc., send them in - I'm sure they'll be published.

Be careful when
you use
SPRINTO™

Junior Page

Over there a report from Gail Balfour on her Finnish escapades showing that our young Interlopettes are as handy with a word processor as they are with a compass. (You didn't mention what the weather was like! - Ed.)

As we go to press the article from our Junior Committee Member has not yet materialised. With a bit of luck it might provide a contrasting view for the next issue.

Not mentioned either was how well they all did. What a modest lot you are? Anyway, Gail finished 18th, Ynske 6th and Gordon came in a magnificent 2nd, missing first place by a few milliseconds or thereabouts. He's now gone to Sweden to speed up his control punching technique for next time. Congratulations all round from all the toothless club members who stuffed themselves with fizzy juice and sticky sweets to get you there.

Some of our juniors hopefully will be representing Scotland in the Junior Home Internationals in Cork in October. Best of luck to you all.

Our juniors also did the club proud (it's a footballing expression, I believe) in the 14/15 Person Relay. See the report on Page Whateveritis.

O L E E H V F L I N O C
G Z V G Y E B N Z J Z R
R C O V N I M M A R O C
O V F C U N O C T X S F
F S O L W A Y T I N T O
W T R D C X E E B R I Z
S A A X Y S Q U R P Q G
C G L C O U E E X E Y P
L G B C A N C J V A M R
Y G P T K K Y V E A L J
D Q O Y O T M O R F A Z
E K O T T A W G L P U L

Can you find TWENTY of Scotland's 'O' clubs hidden in the wordsearch above?

What is
SPRINTO™?

World School Championships 91

(or Three Get
Lost In Finland)

Why Finland you might ask? Well, when you are going on tour it has to be expensive (£600) and there has to be some orienteering there. Whatever the reasons, we found ourselves at Edinburgh Airport on Saturday 13th July at the unearthly time of 4.30 a.m.

The plane journey was interesting, everyone hyperactive and generally trying not to get on Ian and Fiona's nerves too early on in the day. The day passed quickly, perhaps too quickly for some, but nevertheless we all arrived in Helsinki safe and sound, rather sleepy, but ready for fun.

We were all keen to model the tour t-shirts, (thanks to Rudolph and his wonderful way with the people in the Milk Marketing Board), so we paraded our way round the deserted streets of the capital. Of course being citizens of Scotland, we made sure to behave in a respectful manner. We paid particular attention to a "Carrol's" restaurant (a cheaper version of MacDonaldis with scrumptious ice cream) but I'm afraid you will find no explanation why here!

Our first full day in Helsinki was spent on iron age trams and in Carrol's restaurants. I've got to admit that being a tourist for a day was fun. For the more adventurous a trip to a well known fun park was simply a must, although it turned out to be a little more expensive than everyone

had imagined.

OK, enough of this waffle! Let's get on to the important part of the tour. After all, orienteering was the main reason for travelling all the way round the world and back again, a bit like Phileas Fogg.

The first day of the Finnish 5 Days was hard for all. General excuses for the bad runs included the maps being different, stupid course planning, the terrain being un-runnable . . . need I say more? We all had bad runs. I found my course about W15/W17 standard and was not the only one to take 45 minutes trying to find my first control, be totally unsuccessful and give up. By the fifth day of orienteering we had more or less got the hang of running around like headless chickens and somehow finding controls.

Apres-orienteering included sweating in saunas - there was one at every event - and buying strawberries from the fruit and vegetable stall situated in the assembly field. On the rest day we all trooped into Lahti and climbed (by lift) the Olympic ski-jump, ate lunch in a Carrol's restaurant and meandered around the town centre shops (which was incidentally very boring). Overall, however, this was a very enjoyable trip.

Thanks again to all the club members who supported the wee stall and Eva, especially, for masterminding the stock and buying Makro.

The Club Championships

Saturday 17th August was the date for this year's club championships. In charge of the organisation for this prestigious event was trainee superstar of the future, Anthony Squire. What devious competition had he planned for us? How could he top some of Lucy's wizard ideas last year at Colinton Dell? How many of you remember trying to overcome your presbyterian inhibitions and go into the churchyard and look for the clue while all the dedicated churchgoers milled around outside or the looks you got from bemused fishermen as you plunged through the Water of Leith to an island of thistles and nettles to find that you then had to go back to the finish with your shoes on the wrong feet.



"Captain, these starfleet flashes are beginning to bore me. Why can't we get some of the new Interlopers cloth badges instead?"

Anyway, enough of last year. The weather was looking kind for us as a small band of dedicated club members gathered at the car park at Kinneil on the outskirts of Bo'ness. Neither Planner Anthony nor Controller Dad were giving much away as we registered other than the event was in two stages. Part One was composed of a fairly straightforward blast round a short course in the northern area of the map. Halfway round the course you began to get the impression that everybody was doing the same course as you, but some in reverse order. This caused some problems for the more fleet of foot and less wary as they approached some of the controls and found themselves plunging down some fairly precipitous slopes into the nettles below. A lingering suspicion dwelt in the back of my mind as I went fairly swiftly round the eight controls that it might be advantageous not to go round too quickly but I soon dismissed this thought, although I did trot in the last 20 metres to give myself more time.

We then waited for everybody to return. Gordon had turned in a fast

time which looked as if it would be difficult to beat. Guest orienteers, John and Alister Biggar had mixed fortunes. John somehow managed to lose himself in one of his favourite and best known woods while Alister managed the fastest time of all. This experience proved too much for the both of them and they sloped off before Part Two, citing some football match as the reason for their departure. Most of us were itching to start off again but Eva hadn't returned by this time.

The organisers then informed us that the second part of the champs was to be a score event but the controls were not marked on our maps - we had to find them! We were given written descriptions as to what and roughly where they were and told that they were all located south of the road. Also, our limit was to be the time taken for Part One plus five minutes. Poor Gordon had something like 20 minutes to find 24 controls. By this time a lot of the serious money was on Eva as she still hadn't returned.

The first brave souls ventured off into the unknown. Various wild strategies were proposed around the start. Then Eva arrived. (Was it 45 or 55 minutes you took?) Anyone wandering through the wood at this time must have been amused at the sight of some brightly garbed idiots tearing around in some very haphazard directions. There were some accusations of following but I'm sure no Interloper would resort to such underhand techniques. Most of us seemed to find the

controls alright but found it took quite a lot of time trying to work out from the descriptions where you actually were. Back at the finish we began swapping tales - "I thought you knew where you were going", "I ran right past that one", "Did you find the one south west of the loch?" "I just fell over that one", etc. The term 'headless chickens' was used more than once. By this time Ian McIntyre had arrived, determined to improve on his 2nd place of last year. For some reason he started on Part Two. Quite what time the handicappers gave him is open to question after his performance at the Six Days.

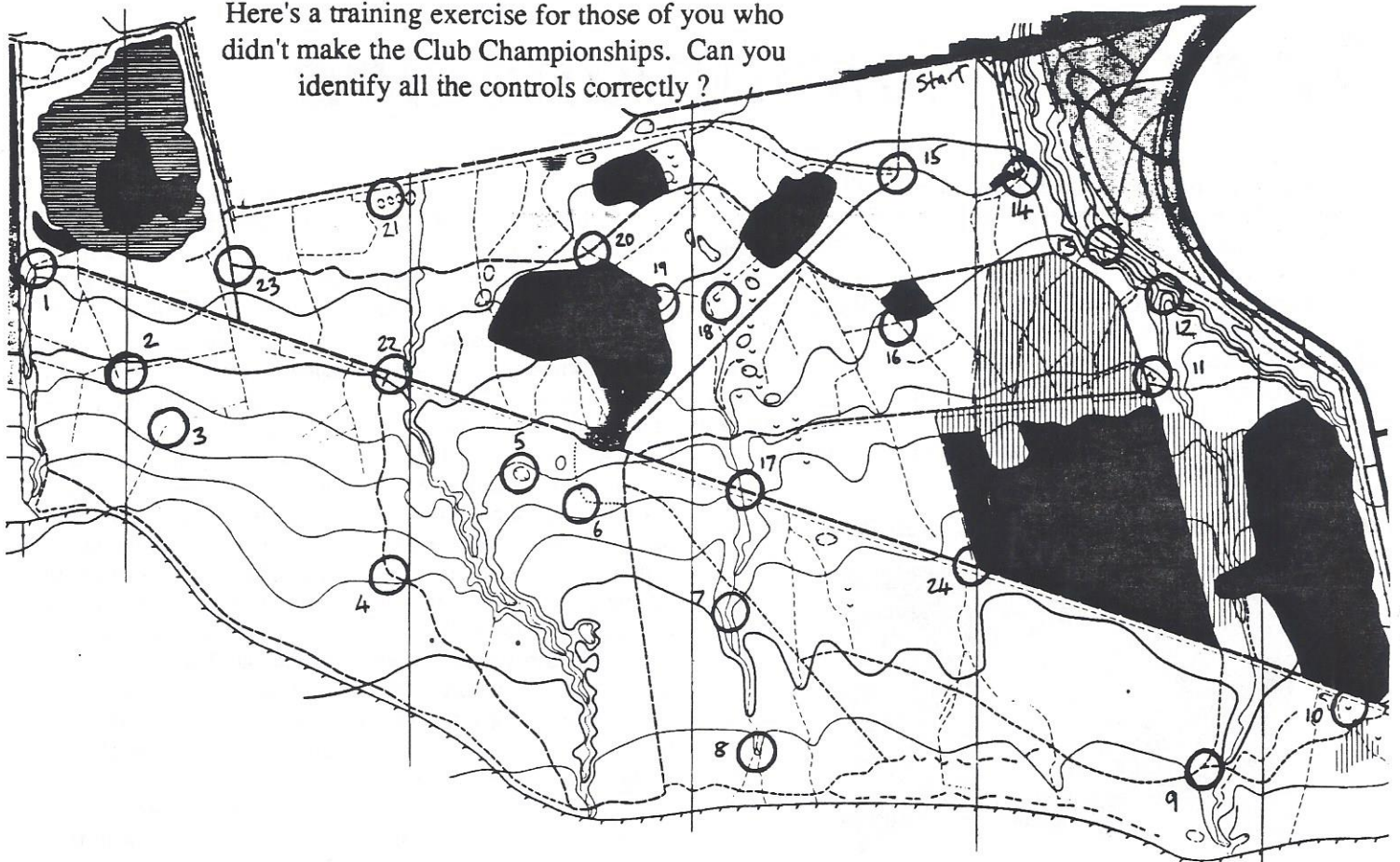
Pangs of hunger began to take over and a variety of hi-tech flame throwers and converted oil drums were brought into use for various vegeburgers and the like. We munched away contentedly in the sunshine admiring the flames rising up over Grangemouth while we waited for the return of Eva. The suspense built up as Anthony and Pat totalled up the scores. Would Fay retain her title or would one of the wrinklies win it this year? In true fashion the results were announced in esrever order.

3rd - Andrew Bankhead
2nd - John Barrow
1st - Eva Riemersma

(with 330 points out of a possible 550?). Unfortunately, our luck ran out soon after and the apres-orienteering activities were forgotten about as the sky turned a magnificent grey, the lightning flashed, the thunder roared and the rains came down and everybody rushed for their cars and home. Well done to Anthony for a super and most enjoyable event.

Well Done Eva !

Here's a training exercise for those of you who didn't make the Club Championships. Can you identify all the controls correctly?



Points	Description	Control Points	Description	Control
20	Ditch Junction on bearing of 200 degrees on the southern edge of an area of walk	30	Ditch / Large Path Crossing north of 'open land' clearing	
30	Large Path Bend on bearing of 229 degrees	20	Pond	
20	Spur where Stream splits south of start	20	Large Depression west of 'open land' clearing	
20	Ride / Vehicle Track Junction	30	Vehicle Track / Large Path Junction north west of 'open land' clearing	
10	Stone Gate Post South of Start	40	Stream Bend 206 degrees from Start	
20	Bridge over Stream which passes near to Start	20	Large Path Junction south west of Loch	
30	Small Path Junction south of impenetrable area	30	Ditch End south of Loch within 10m of another Ditch End	
20	Stream / Vehicle Track Crossing east of 'open land' clearing	30	Ditch Bend south of Loch	
10	Seat south of Start	10	Wall / Path Crossing south west of start	
10	Distinct Vegetation Change Bend	20	Large Path Junction south east of Loch	
20	Small Depression near a Ditch End east of Pond	40	Small Depression south of an impenetrable area	
30	Ditch Fork 50m from the Fence at the very southern edge of the map	20	Westmost Large Knoll of four	

dnf - as well as standing for did not finish, on this page it means **do not forget !**

Training

If you're mad
keen on this sort
of thing do remember
the weekly runs in the Meadows
on Tuesdays and at Meggetland on Thursdays.

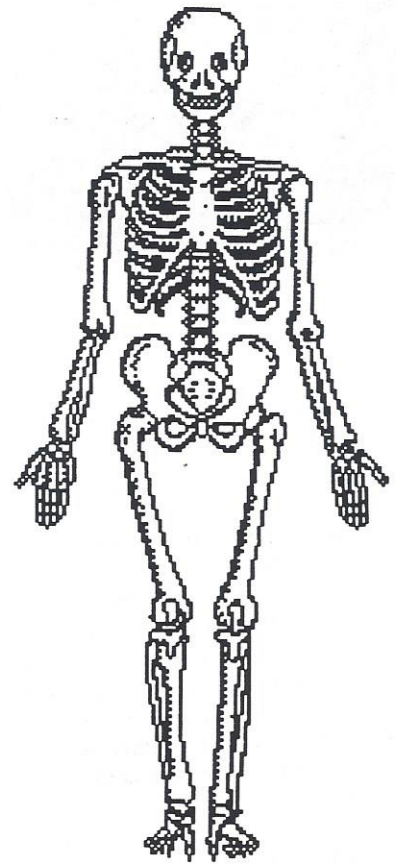
For The More Intrepid

Occasionally during the winter, it is said, groups of orienteers / runners at a loss some weekends for a run have been known to venture in to the Pentlands.

Numbers usually range between six and twenty. One run is normally a light canter of five miles or so over undulating terrain and the other is generally considered to be more demanding. These chariots of fire meet around 11.00 p.m. on Sundays at the Red Moss / Bavelaw Car Park. If you want to know if the run is on or just want more information, Pakit Hyman (668-2822) is the person to get in touch with.

Circuit Training / Weights

Wednesday Evenings 6.00 p.m.
Moray House Gym, Holyrood Road
If you want to keep in shape now that the nights are drawing in and getting a bit on the chilly side then why not pop along here and see how things have progressed since the Spanish Inquisition and Indian Clubs.
Seniors £1 - Juniors 50p



"Well, Doctor, maybe I have been over doing the training a bit of late !"

Get your Interlopers cloth badges now ! As recommended by Mr Spock (VOF champion, Stardate - Day 3 Bowhill). A bargain at only £1. Get them from Eva quickly before they're all beamed up.





PERSON RELAY

The Team

Green

1. Anthony Squire

Yellow

2. Jenny + Mark Squire

Light Green

- Steve Ambler

Blue

- Andrew Bankhead

3. Graeme Ambler Steve Terry Colin Inverarity

4. Rachel Balfour Ynske Riemersma Pat Squire

Light Green

5. Fay Balfour Gail Balfour Scott Balfour

Green

6. John Barrow

The Idea

The first leg runner goes off. When he / she returns, all the second leg runners depart at the same time. As and when they return, they hand over to one of the third leg runners who then hand over to a fourth leg runner and they hand over to a fifth leg runner. The last leg runner can not depart until all the fifth leg runners have arrived back.

For this inaugural event we were led to believe that there were no restrictions on the ages of runners or what classes they could run in. With the spirit of fair play in mind, John selected a fairly representative cross-section of the club and not just the only fourteen he could scrape up on Thursday night.

So What Happened ?

Well, Anthony blasted off and was back in no time. Around about 25 minutes if I remember. He set our second leg runners off in third place. First back were more Squires. This was when it started getting tricky. The on-course computers of Messrs Barrow, Balfour and Squire had been whirring away trying to work out the optimum change over pattern. They had come to the sensible conclusion that it would be a pretty good idea to get the editor out there as soon as possible. He of course made the fatal mistake of going off the same way Andrew went but from all accounts came to his senses a bit sooner. Things went well apart from a costly blunder at the second last control. Graeme had come back and Steve was still out there when I handed over to Rachel. Looking at the masts with the maps on them the race seemed to be between the

ESOC 1 team and EUOC who only had about 6 runners, were all fairly fit and thus running non-competitively. If we had calculated things correctly Team Balfour should all arrive back at roughly the same time on the fifth leg. As it happened, our dead time was about five minutes which was one of the better ones. By my calculations John had set off in sixth place. ESOC 1 had started the last leg narrowly in front of EUOC. They in fact crossed the line first but ESOC were judged to be the winners, which was hardly surprising considering the calibre of some of their runners and the courses they were running. Next to cross the line were LINOC who no doubt benefited from home ground experience. Then came a long wait until bounding over the hill for third place came an Interloper. Unfortunately in his enthusiasm John managed to do his hamstring in as

he came over the final hillock and painfully hobbled over the line. As if he hadn't given enough already he then gave the barbecue area all the cola he'd drunk prior to setting off. What a club servant! Understandably, there was some euphoria amongst the assembled geriatrics and infants who made up our team. The verdict of all was a most enjoyable event. A sour taste has been left though with the publication of the results which showed us to be deemed non-competitive. Some club, on the day, had objected about Jenny running round with Mark (M7). For a supposedly informal, fun event where you would hope to be encouraging orienteers of all ages this has to rank as one of the pettiest complaints ever, especially as John had tried to match the courses to the standard of the runners. What are your views on the matter?

M thirtysomething



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No great discussion point or humorous article this newsletter I'm afraid. The pressures of Editor are beginning to tell already. I feel as if I'm well on my way to being the most feared and avoided person in the club already. I hope you all enjoyed the first issue and forgave the spelling mistake and any other inaccuracies. I hope everybody got their copy. Some of you who live in South Edinburgh had yours personally delivered to cut down postage costs. I think I managed to put them all through the correct letterboxes with the possible exception of Graham McIntyre. If you did get a copy, Graham, you can thank whoever resides at 5 Summerhall Square. The

printing deadline was very tight - I had to get Issue 78 out before school term ended - so some important things were omitted, like how to get in contact with the Editor, so if you have any articles of interest, coaching tips, complaints, views, interesting hobbies, suggestions for the social secretary - drop a line to

Colin Inverarity
161 Dalkeith Road
Edinburgh
EH16 5BY

Telephone 031-668-2170
 Alternatively, you can leave any submissions on my car if you see it at events. Look out for a dark red VW Golf, registration number G573OYS. Finally, profuse apologies for the

delay in the appearance of this issue. Things were fairly well on schedule up till the Club Weekend. My exertions at Anagach must have lowered my resistance because on my return I promptly contracted whatever nasty virus my wife had when I left her on the Friday. Was it retribution for me escaping from her and the children over the weekend? Whatever it was I was certainly incapable of lifting a finger to a keyboard all week. This means that Andrew will be fairly worried if he doesn't receive any phone calls fairly soon. If you're intending to go to the meal out dial immediately after you've read this. So until Issue 80, 'Happy Trails' as late 60's hippies were wont to say.

GHOSTS and GHOULS...

A ghost tour has been arranged with Mercat Tours for **Hallowe'en**

Thursday 31st October at 7.00 p.m.

This should be good fun for adults and children alike. The cost is £3 with reductions for children (and for more than 20 people!). Please contact **Andrew Bankhead (031 556 5141)** the week before so that numbers can be communicated. The tour starts from the Mercat Cross next to St. Giles Cathedral.

Remember - the ghosts will probably be as frightened about meeting you as you are about meeting them !

