

INTERLØPERS

ORIENTEERING CLUB

EDINBURGH

NEWSLETTER NO. 96

December 1994

96

Charles and Janet ?

The belief that Interløpers is just an excuse for young people of the opposite sex to meet and become attracted to one another recieved further confirmation when one of Britain's most powerful men (and eligible bachelors) finally put paid to the many rumours which have been circulating about his troubled lifestyle. He has finally decided that his differences with the Princess of Wales are irreconcilable and now realises his feelings for Camilla Parker-Bowles must remain unrequited. The loyal woman who has stood faithfully by him all these years has finally decided to make an honest man of him. By judicious use of an

armlock round the neck and a knee pressed in at the base of the spine Charles Walton, esquire did propose to one Janet Fallon, spinster of this parish. This momentous decision was confirmed at Tuesday night training in the Meadows recently when the glare from the ring made us wonder whether more money had been set aside for additional street lighting for the Safer Edinburgh project. Cunning devil that he is, our esteemed chairman has not actually told his fiancée when he intends to wed her. Never mind ! Lots of congratulations and best wishes to you both from all of us.

**Just Out
In Time
Edition**

**Social Scene
Reports**

A Happy 1995 ?

Treasurer's Notes

**If You Go Down
To The Woods...**

**and quite a lot of
padding to fill this
issue out**



The Interløpers Chairperson and his fiancée

Halloween Party



A veritable multitude gathered Chez Eades to kick off this year's Social Season. The prospect of large quantities of food and drink being available for consumption brought all manner of freeloaders out of the woods for once. Arriving fairly early with the junior section we came upon one of our antipodean emigres and sometime Interlopers Head Honcho comfortably ensconced in the kitchen attending to the mixing and distribution of the punch. Beneath a snazzy line in coiffure and a somewhat debatable excuse for facial hair was Pakit. Our erstwhile refugee from a biker gang in Mad Max II regaled us with a dull, boring account of where he'd been and what he'd done en route from the Land of Kylie. He didn't run the Everest Marathon but if you remember he was part of the winning M21B team at the APOC Championships in New Zealand. He didn't catch the bubonic plague in India but he did manage to catch one of the few flights out before his money ran out. Pakit also seemed to be devoting a fair amount of energy into decimating a rather large stockpile of a strange liquid called Diamond White, which few, if anyone else at all, seemed interested in.

More small persons arrived from the Haley family and the visiting Inghams from New Zealand. A large collection of predominantly pumpkin lanterns was developing. Some fairly hi-tech ones too, with those new fangled flashing cat's-eye type thingies you see on the backs of bikes these days, instead of candles. There were questions raised about the impartiality of the judging though all the people that were important (the small ones) seemed to get a prize of some sort. There was dooking for apples and a test of manual dexterity and co-ordination involving along bit of string, a chair and a ping-pong ball which kept many of the adults amused also.

More people continued to arrive. Old, young, elite, useless. The Social Secretary confided afterwards that he couldn't recall so many people being in the flat at one time before. There was plenty to eat and drink. The 'curried' soup proved a major talking point with many of the company.

Our charming hostess eventually persuaded enough of us to attempt the Passengers/Destination type game. Curiosities had been whetted by the positioning of strange lists of places on any available surface. Everybody was given a starting point and a destination on a piece of paper and you had to mark down all the places you visited en route. Was it 20 or 26? I never got that far getting stuck in Peking for ages, amongst other places. When the game really got going the hall must have resembled the M25 during the rush hour peak. The competitive instincts of some couldn't be quelled. Who eventually won it I don't know. Frustration having got the better of me I sought the solace of a bottle of Younger's No. 3 in the kitchen. Was it worked out by computer program or had Lorna sat there for hours working out the combinations of 26 places on 26 pieces of paper? The silly things people did when they were students!

Many thanks to Colin and Lorna for letting their flat be trashed by hordes of peanut trampling, cider drinking morons. Don't let it put you off hosting another event as a very enjoyable evening was had by all.



Membership Renewals for 1995

Full members will soon be receiving the BOF membership renewal forms for 1995. (I've got mine! - Ed.) This year the combined fees for BOF + SOA + Club will be more than before (owing to considerably higher fees for the SOA, and some increases for the Club fees). The Combined fees and the Club-Only fees for 1995 are:

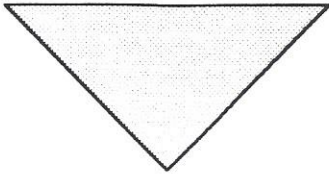
Category	Combined	Club-Only
Junior (Born 1975 or later)	£5.00	£1.00
Senior (Born 1974 or earlier)	£17.50	£4.50
Family	£26.50	£7.00
Group	£18.25	£2.00

Note that Juniors aged 19 or 20 are expected to be Individual members; Juniors include in families may be aged up to 18 only. Ages are taken as at 31st December 1995.

If you intend renewing your BOF membership, please send the entire form and subscription directly to BOF. Note that the subscription to CompassSport is handled independently of the BOF subscription.

Would Club-Only members please send their subscriptions (payable to INTERLOPERS) for 1995 directly to the Club Secretary. John can also handle conversions from Club-Only to full BOF membership. Please phone 0131-440-2136 for answers to any queries.

John Barrow
3 Charlton Grove
Roslin
Midlothian
EH25 9NY



More sound financial advice from the man with his grubby hands on the club cheque book. Be nice to this man ! Also, a breakdown of where the money comes from and goes to in a typical event for would be organisers and other people interested in that sort of thing.

Treasurer's Notes

by Steve Ambler



Events

Interlopers have been involved with two Badge Events so far this year - the Scottish Championships and our own event at Archerfield. The 'profit' to the club in each case was :-

Scottish Championships	£500.00
Archerfield	£397.64

Costing Archerfield is somewhat difficult, as the major expense was a map reprint at a total cost of £455.63 for 2000 maps. The bulk of this cost is in preparing the plates for printing, and after 500 copies, the cost of additional copies is marginal. The maps used for Archerfield were costed at a notional value of 23 pence each.

A full costing of the Archerfield event should be elsewhere in the newsletter (See left !-Ed.). No similar breakdown of the Scottish Championships monies is available.

Juniors

The club likes to encourage juniors and made a donation of £50 towards the LBOA Junior Squad. Limited financial help is also made to individual juniors who are invited to orienteering events, usually (but not necessarily) overseas. Gail Balfour, Anthony Squire and Gordon Riemersma have all received help this year. A short letter to the Committee usually receives a sympathetic hearing.

Other Events

Social events tend to run at a loss. While not wishing to be a killjoy, a few more of you anti-social persons turning up at them would help.

Likewise Circuit Training also continues to run at a loss. While it may not be everyone's idea of a fun way to spend a Wednesday evening it does provide club members with an excellent facility at low cost during the long, cold, dark winter months. Another 2 or 3 reasonably regular attenders would make a big difference.

Archerfield Badge Event

Income

Badge Entries	615.00
Colour Coded Entries	100.00
Results Envelopes	4.40
	719.40

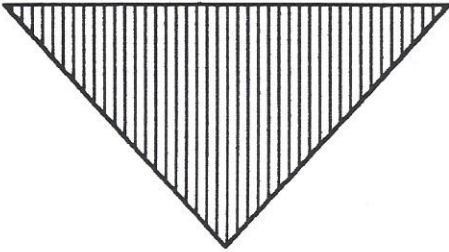
Expenditure

Maps	57.50
Bags	16.00
Labels	11.74
Postage	8.33
Travel Expenses	24.00
Miscellaneous	33.04
BOF Levy	84.00
SOA Levy	62.15
Donation (St. Andrew's Ambulance)	25.00
	321.76

Profit 397.64

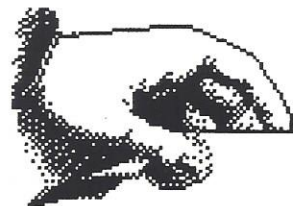
Miscellaneous Expenditure

Pen	1.05
Elsan Fluid (toilets)	7.90
Refreshments	2.40
Cups / Juice / Toilet Rolls	17.17
Photocopies (String Course)	3.00
Pritt Sticks (2)	1.52
	33.04

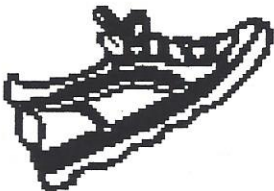


Events

- **Tuesday 27th December**
ELO Local Event
Yellowcraigs, North Berwick
(NT 515855)
 Information from
 Trina Rogerson (0368-864922)
 The ideal opportunity to work off
 some of the Christmas excess and
 have some fun too !
- **Sunday 29th January**
LOL 4 (ELO) Score Event
Salton and Humbie
 No information available
- **Sunday 29th January**
Local Event (PO)
Linn of Tummel (North Side)
(NN914612)
 Information from
 Liz Fraser (0738-828219)
- **Thursday 2nd February (?)**
MAROC Score Event
Sluie Woods, Aboyne
(NJ106332)
(BOF Squad Fundraiser)
 Information from
 Evelyn Hall (03398-86685)
- **Sunday 5th February**
LOL 6 - Corstorphine Hill
(EUOC)
 No information available
- **Saturday / Sunday**
18th-19th March
British Championships 1995
Gwynedd, North Wales
Individual Event -
Newborough, Anglesey
Relay Event - Rhos &
Bryngyfeiliu, Capel Curig
 Relay Entries will be handled by the
 'Club Secretary'.
 Entries before 8th January
 Seniors £10 Juniors £5
 Entries before 5th February (CD)
 Seniors £11-50 Juniors £6
 Further information from
 Judith Powell
 PO Box 22
 Whitchurch
 Shropshire SY13 2Z
 (0948 840522)
 Entry enquiries only
 David Williams (06906 262)
- **Friday / Monday**
15th-19th April
Jan Kjellstrom International
Festival of Orienteering
Harrogate, Yorkshire
 Relay Entries will be handled by the
 'Club Secretary'.
 Entries before 31st January
 Seniors £18 Juniors £9
 Subsequent Juniors £7.50
 Entries before 25th March
 (Elite entries must be in by this
 date)
 £21 / £11 / £9.50
 Up to 15th April subject to
 available spaces and maps.
 £24 / £13 / £11.50
- **Sunday 30th July - Saturday 5th**
August
Strathspey 95
Scottish 6 Days
 Entry fees per day
 Before 31st January
 Seniors (21+) £7 Juniors £3
 Before 30th April
 Seniors £8 Juniors £3.50
 Before 30th June
 Seniors £9 Juniors £4
 Thereafter
 Seniors £10 Juniors £5
 Further information from
 Starthspey 95
 40 Ormidale Terrace
 Edinburgh EH12 6EF



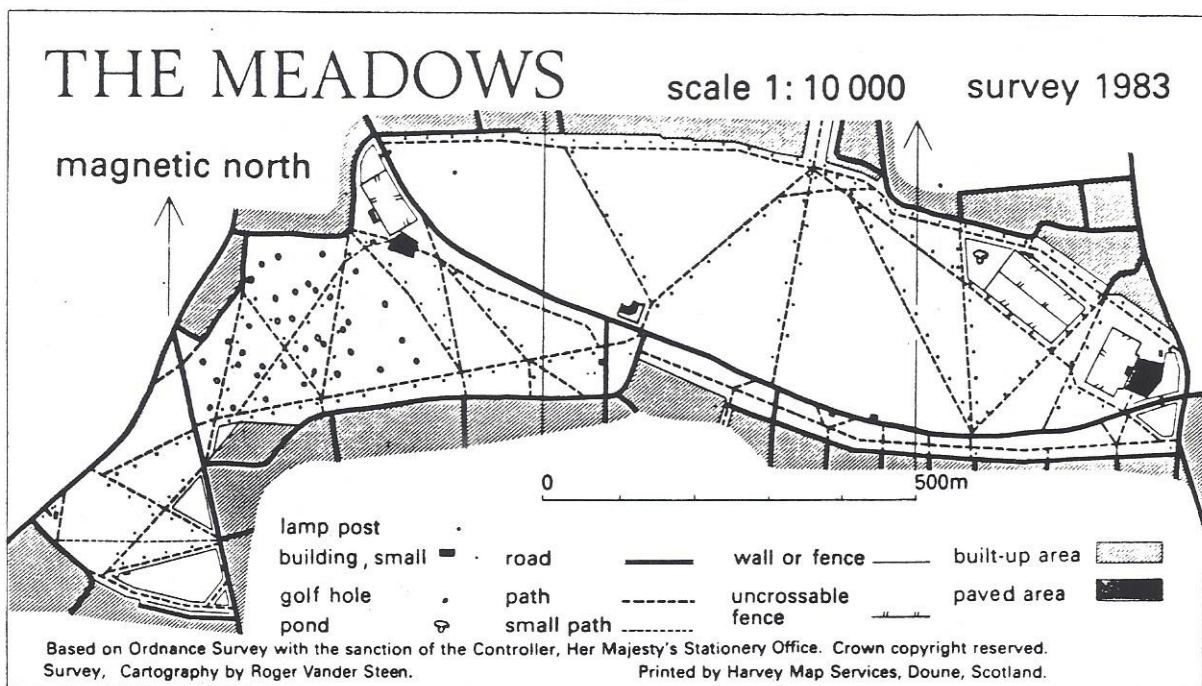
**Get Your
Entry
Forms In
Now !**



Junior Page

The LBOA are looking for suggestions of young orienteers to join the squad. Any M/W11-13's out there fancy benefitting from squad experience. The Lothian Mountain Challenge has been mentioned elsewhere. To some people this hillwalking challenge seems to have degenerated into something more akin to a longish orienteering event with rucsacs. Certainly, a lot of what I saw on Day 1 just involved going around the tracks in Glentress. There was some up and down but not a lot of hills and certainly no mountains. The children seem to enjoy it though. Another feature of the event seems to be its domination by schools from the more exclusive parts of the city with predominantly middle class catchment areas. Orienteering is happening with schoolchildren as mentioned elsewhere, although maybe not for long. See the back page for more on this issue.

On the serious competitive front, Ynske and Anthony represented Scotland in the Junior Home Internationals in October. Ynske came 3rd in the Individual Event and Anthony 2nd. Both their relay teams finished in 2nd place also. Overall Scotland came 2nd. Gubbed again! Anthony also made the long journey down to Sandringham in Norfolk to take part in the British Schools Championships and came in 6th in M17. Both he and Gail have been helping with the coaching of some of the younger squad juniors at a weekend down at Lakeside in November. Anthony seems to think that this is an area he is quite keen on and fancies obtaining the Club Coach Award in the future sometime. Perhaps you could allay the fears of the abusive figure mentioned in M fortysomething. And last but not least, a use found for the Meadows map at last!



My wife has got herself roped into so many activities with our childrens' school it's untrue. Once they know you've been a teacher and have given up to raise your family they're always on at you to help out at this or that. The oldest one was away at Lagganlia to do orienteering, amongst other things recently, and so she thought things would be easier that week. "It's a shame for those left behind" said one teacher after my wife had given the P6's a brief talk about orienteering prior to them going. "Wouldn't it be nice if they could do something the others are doing while they are away. Would'n't

it be nice if you could organise something for them perhaps?" Not being one to say no my wife was soon asking me for Holyrood Park maps. After humming and hawing about the ability of the children and where she could hold it when all of a sudden she hit on the idea that it might be better if they did it in the Meadows. It's just the same distance from Preston Street, it's a lot flatter and she could easily copy it from a bus map. "Hold on a minute," I said, "I think that we might have a few spare maps of the Meadows!" Only another 990 to go. That should keep the school busy for a few years!

dnf

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

-  Lots of pleas for help this newsletter with most of them event related. We need an Organiser and a Planner for the Scottish Relay Championships, preferably people with previous experience of organising a major event. It is a fairly prestigious affair and we would like it to be a success. If you think you have the time and are up to either of these challenges then please let a committee member know. The date is the 28th May and the first task of the Organiser will be to find out where the event actually is ! Someone told us it was Dunalastair in Perthshire while another source seems to be suggesting it is Allean North. Can anyone help here ?
-  We're also down to organise Scotlandsgaloppen 7, the last event in the 1995 series on September 17th. Once again the venue is uncertain. First choice is Creag Mhic, but it may be earmarked for the 1996 British Championships. Should that be the case an alternative has been suggested - "A good forest somewhere not near Edinburgh." He doesn't know it but Gordon Riemersma's name was put forward as a possible planner because these students have such long vacations and it would give him a good opportunity for some quality training. Will he pick up the gauntlet ? We also need a controller, an organiser
-  The dates for our events in the LBOA Summer Series are 26th April and 14th June. Pat Squire has put down his name as the contact for these events but that does not prevent anyone from organising them. These low key events are an ideal opportunity to take the first cautious steps in planning. Venues will be Colinton Dell, Inch Park or any other suitable location which hasn't already been bagged. Let us know if you want to be responsible for one (or both) of them. Was that John Kenworthy I heard volunteering there (or just his wife suggesting it) - Ed. ?
-  The SOA are short of a Minutes Secretary. You too can be a person of power and influence and have full voting rights in the higher echelons of our sport. Please let the SOA Secretary, Lindsey Knox (0450-377383) know if you are interested.
-  We're still looking for someone to negotiate access with the landowners on the Glenearn and Berryknowe map. Can you help us ?
-  Organising of our LOL event is now under way. It is, if you haven't already guessed, at Archerfield on Sunday March 12th. Dave Simmons is busy writing off letters for permission to hold the event and Ben Hartman is thinking about some courses. Needless to say, all offers of help will be gratefully appreciated by the aforementioned persons. Let them know now if you can help out in some way on the day and ease their burden. The event has also been designated as the LBOA Inter-Club Championships - one of those very popular competitions which we never seem to bother about and inevitably end up finishing a very close 2nd in. With a lot of manpower tied up we'll probably win it this time !
-  The LBOA recently held its AGM and is short of ordinary members. Scrutiny of the office bearers suggested that they tend to be sad, old, male orienteers of limited ability. Do you fit the bill ? Is there no one else who will have you, or are you young, female and competent and the sort of person to redress the balance and their concerns ?
-  The LBOA are also still looking for donations of trophies for the Area Championships. They are seeking trophies for all classes upwards and including M/W45. Does anyone have anything horrendous they wish to get rid of or wish to be magnanimous and have their name recorded for posterity on a cup. It needn't be anything grand. Any offers to our curret LBOA representative, Pat Squire (031-445-4830).
-  The Compass Sport Cup has come around again. We've managed to get a bye into the 2nd Round along with 30 other clubs. Will it be Chigwell or Dartford who fail to get through Round 1 ? (Any place which had Norman Tebbit for an MP surely deserves to lose - Ed.) Maybe that's a bit unfair. Anyway, we're due to face the Electric Light Orchestra sometime before March 12th. Isn't there an event on somewhere that day ? No contact has been made yet with ELO. Possibilities are LOL 5 at Saltoun on January 29th or LOL 6 a week later at Corstorphine Hill. Is anyone up to the task of being Compass Sport Cup Co-ordinator ?
-  Don't forget the Christmas Party at the Riemersma's, one of the most popular social events of the year. 36 Buckstone Loan on Monday, 19th December from 7.30p.m. onwards.
-  Next Committee Meeting - Monday, December 30th at 22 East Preston Street from 7.30 p.m. Colin Eades be there or we won't get in !



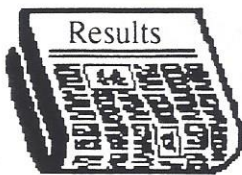
Lothian Mountain Challenge

The Winning Teams

Boroughmuir Backpackers sprinting to the finish



Newbattle Nohopers



Sunday 9th October LOL 2 - Hillend (ESOC)

Not up to ESOC's usual ruthless efficiency I thought as I almost missed the carpark. Crunching up over the kerb I had a good attempt at running over SOA President, John Morris for wearing those tartan leggings again. It was a lovely day, I was feeling good and hit the first two controls spot on but then wandered about in the gorse for 20 minutes and blew it completely. Spirits sank with a lot of climb still ahead of me and I'm afraid I completed the rest of the course with little enthusiasm. Kitchin was doing a bit better on the Pentland Skyline.

White

1st Emma Mason W10 13.29

Yellow

7th Ruaridh Inverarity M8/W40 30.25

11th Niall Inverarity M10 34.07

Light Green

24th Graham Halley M21 63.46

27th Mark Sodergren M15 66.11

Green

25th Ray Heyworth M65 72.56

33rd Lesley Kenworthy W21 82.21

Blue

2nd Paul Caban M21 49.39

6th Bill Mason M45 57.56

11th John Kenworthy M21 61.59

14th Karen Dobbie W21 64.19

16th Ann Haley W21 65.20

17th Steve Ambler M45 65.53

Brown

8th Pat Squire M45 88.18

14th Colin Inverarity M40 100.53

Graeme Ackland M21

(Wrong 17 - again !)

Lothian Mountain Challenge 1994 Moorfoot Hills

My Outdoor Ed. pal, Chalmers, got me roped into helping him with this. 3 teams from Newbattle High piled into the minibus and headed down to Glentress for 2 days of fun and frolics in the Moorfoots. Arriving there, get the map, talk the children through it, make suggestions for route choice, and the off to the equipment check. Travelling heavy are our lot with all the essential gear, needless to say, at the bottom of their packs. That done, up to the start and wait patiently for the off. Calming nerves, keeping an eye on the race clock which is hand controlled and somewhat confusing. Position myself in front of the starting boxes to get some good photos of them sprinting off and find the red low light indicator flashing and me without one. The photos might come out! Once they're off it's milling around time. Eventually delegated to take a perverse delight in forcing young adolescents to empty their rucksacs to confirm the presence of cagoule, overtrousers, tent, stove, fuel, compass and whistle. One team didn't make it through. With all 85 teams off the next task was to head off towards Control No. 3 sweeping up any lost souls en route. Me and my companion made it a good hour before some of the teams who had set off. There was an 'obvious' route following a wall and an area of classic Glentress fight along a stream which quite a few opted for. The waiting staff at the control preferred to stand and shout rather than venture off into it. Fortunately for me I was only there for this part of the proceedings and missed the fun of camping up near Gladhouse Reservoir with around 200 excitable teenagers.

In the Silver Class, Boroughmuir Backpackers (including Fay Balfour) came in 5th and had the honour of being 1st Ladies Team. Other teams with Interlopers connections were there from Newbattle and Trinity. Newbattle Nigellers came in 12th in the Silver with a good showing on Day 2 after a disappointing Day 1. Trinity Tribulationists came in 19th while Tannoy and the Triers missed controls on Day 2. In the Bronze Class, Newbattle Green Machine were 22nd, Trinity Tikes 23rd and Trinity Reserves 26th. Trinity First Timers had a wrong control on Day 1 and Newbattle No Hoppers a wrong control on Day 2.

When Was It ? What Was It ? Where Was It ?

M15A	Pakit Hyman	1st
	R. Paterson	9th
	Neil Melville (CUNOC)	17th
M21B	Andy Spenceley	1st (n/c)
M21A	Jim Doig (GRAMP)	1st
	Steven Hall	5th
	Donald Petrie (CLYDE)	9th
	Hew Fraser	18th
	Pat Squire	20th
	Dave Kershaw	23rd
M35	Cliff White	5th
	Pete Woolverton	6th
M43	Ronnie Sinclair	2nd
W17	Janet Fallon (CHOG)	9th
W19	M. Fraser	2nd
W35	J. Pond	4th

Wayfarers 3km

2nd	N. Buchanan	33.50
4th	Lorna Boyd (LHS)	50.36
6th	Anthony Squire	59.00

A poser for you. No doubt some of you were put off by the fact that some of these lot were ever young and that some of them were in fact Interlopers at one time. The controller was Ray Heyworth assisted by daughter, Ann; the organiser was Ken Ovens; the planner was Scott Balfour and the map was drawn by Steve Terry. Very much an in-club production. (Were they allowed to do that in those days? - Ed.) As another clue, the location has some topicality to an ongoing (?) mapping project.

TISO SCOTTISH HILL RUNNING CHAMPIONSHIP (Pentland Skyline Hill Race, 18 miles/6,200ft). Men: 1, A Kitchin (Livingston & District) 2hr 22min 40sec (record/holder); 2, D McGonigle (Shettleston Harriers) 2:25:40; 3, M Rigby (Westerlands CCC) 2:30:15; 4, G Bartlett (Forres Harriers) 2:33:24. Veteran: D Bell (HELP) 2:37:36 (8th). Super Vet: C Love (Dundee Hawkhill Harriers) 2:54:55 (33rd). Team: 1, Carmeth HRC (6, 11 and 13) 30pts. Women: 1, A Brand-Barker (Eryri Harriers) 2:49:41 (record); 2, A Mudge (Ochil HR) 2:54:27; 3, J Farmer (Lochaber AC) 3:04:02. Veteran: S Hay (Highland HR) 3:24:11.



ORIENTEERING

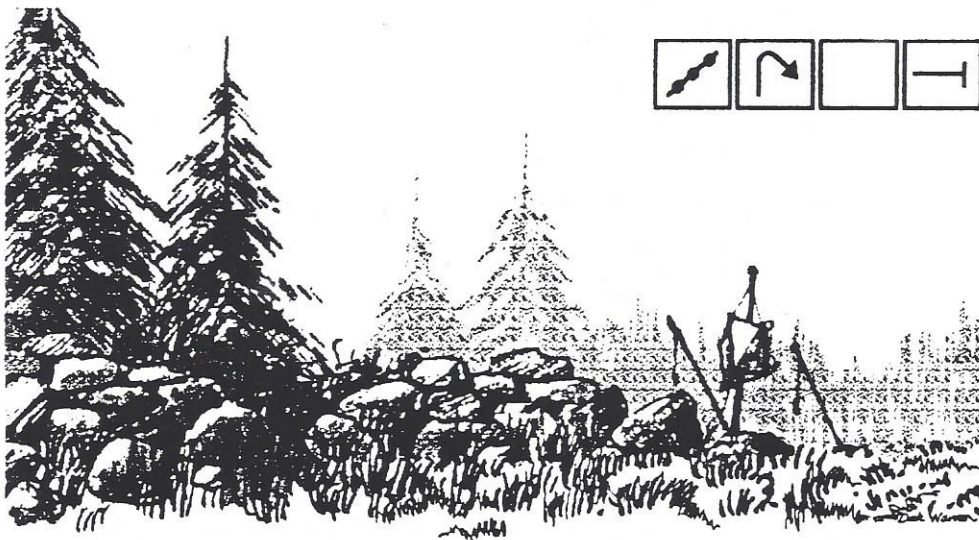
SCOTTISH SCORE CHAMPIONSHIPS (Bimam, Perthshire). Men: 1, P Walder (Clydeside) 589pts; 2, D Weir (Perth) 529; 3, S Wilson (Clyde) 550. Women: 1, H Dean (Forth Valley) 390; 2, P Blake (Perth) 378; 3, H Hartman (Edinburgh Interlopers) 355.

Skittles Evening

A moderate turnout of twelve at the Sheep Heid for the annual skittles evening saw Charlie won the Individual Competition with 95 points, well ahead of C.D. Eades on 82 points and Ken Ovens, 3rd with 78 points. The "Odd" Team won the Team Competition (Lorna, Charlie, Lesley, Steve A, Dave S and John B (Sloop to his friends? - Ed.)). Needless to say, our roving reporter (aka the Social Secretary) was in the Even Team along with James, Graeme, Ken, Paul and John K. Paul Caban won the Cup Competition defeating Graeme Ackland in the Final after a bye in the First Round. The score in the final if I can decipher Colin's shorthand was Paul - "Lots" - Graeme - "Bugger All!". His task will be more difficult next year when British players will have to take part in preliminary rounds after our poor showing in the European competitions this year. John Barrow won the "New" Competition, a product of Mr. Ackland's warped imagination where the skittles are not set up again until they have all been knocked down, but you are out if you don't knock any down! To the jaundiced view of the editor it seems based on the former chairperson's recent attempts at orienteering where the controller doesn't take the kites in until Graeme's found all the ones he's supposed to be looking for. For those who may be unaware of it, our Graeme seems to have a tendency of late not to find at least one control. This especially seems to be the case at any event planned by Bill Stevenson.

Charlie Walton	95
Colin Eades	82
Ken Ovens	78
John Kenworthy	74
John Barrow	54
David Simmons	49
Paul Caban	47
Lesley Kenworthy	41
Graeme Ackland	37
James Laird	34
Lorna Eades	31

the scores from the individual competition



**Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year
to all Interløpers**

Assorted musings on matters topical with some sort of tenuous link or interest to orienteering including some which couldn't be fitted into the last issue and others which the editor just plain forgot about but has dredged up now because he's desperately short of copy.

If You Go Down To The Woods Today

Lost in the land of the midnight sun

A FISHING trip went badly wrong for a 72-year-old Swede and his 16-year-old grandson when they got lost on the car drive home and ended up 900 miles from home, deep in the Arctic Circle.

Police in Kirkenes, a northern Norwegian town bordering Russia, said the 72-year-old was being treated in a local hospital for exhaustion after driving for three days without stopping — in the wrong direction.

The pair set off from the central Swedish town of Sundsvall last week for a trip to the inland lakes region of Jamtland, about 60 miles away.

On the way home, the man headed north instead of south, and despite asking directions regularly on the way, the pair ended up in Kirkenes. The next stop north after that town is the North Pole.

Kirkenes police told the daily *Dagens Nyheter* that the epic journey came to an abrupt end outside Kirkenes when the man fell asleep at the wheel and crashed into a ditch.

The pair were convinced they were near Sundsvall, despite northern Norway's dramatic fjords and mountains being very different from the rolling plains of central Sweden.

A police spokesman said the pair may have been confused by the region's midnight sun. In northern Scandinavia at this time of year there is 24 hours of daylight. Constant daylight has been documented as causing severe confusion.

— Reuter

You often hear horror stories of British orienteers going off the map in Norway, Sweden or Finland because of the lack of identifiable line features but here's a piece which dispels the myth that all Scandinavians are born with an innate sense of direction and map-reading ability.

Attempt to save rare plants

By Auslan Cramb

ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

ONE of Scotland's rarest plants, the sticky catchfly, has been given a new lease of life high on Arthur's Seat in Edinburgh's Holyrood Park.

The small, pink-flowered Alpine was first discovered in the park in 1670, but has been reduced to just three clumps and was in danger of extinction.

Staff from the Royal Botanic Garden yesterday planted 20 catchflies at a secret site and hope to establish more flowers in the autumn.

The plant earned its name because of the sticky, black bands below each pair of leaves which trap insects as they climb the stem.

The Holyrood population is the last known to remain in Edinburgh and has been depleted in recent years by fires.

There are two populations in the Borders, one of which has been lost and the other reduced because of encroachment by scrub.

The initiative to save the Alpine involves collaboration with Historic Scotland and is supported by Scottish Natural Heritage.

A favourite training spot for many of us is Holyrood Park but be careful where you're putting those muckle big PB Trainers next time out because you might be doing untold damage to our flora.

There's no truth in the rumour that a joint team of geneticists from SNH and SOA are attempting to develop a giant strain of this carnivorous plant which catches orienteers who damage SSSI's or forget to pay their subscriptions.

Meddle, fiddle, butt in, chisel in, cut in, horn in, impose, infringe, interfere, intervene, intrude, mess around, obtrude, peer, poke, pry, snoop, tamper with.

Do you come across anybody who does this in the forest? If you have you've probably met an alien, busybody, foreigner, gossip, immigrant, intruder, kibitzer, meddler, newcomer, refugee, snoop, stranger or yenta.

These are the interesting words which come up when you type in interlope or interloper in your thesaurus in various popular computer software applications. Makes you wonder what sort of club you've joined. It sounds like half of them should be locked up.

The 'non-privatisation' of the Forestry Commission goes on apace. They seem to have taken to putting advertisements in major national daily newspapers to drum up custom. Such is enterprise. Here's one of everybody's favourite forests. Needless to say there isn't a symbol for orienteering. Maybe the responsibility has been hived off to some offshoot called Foresttrack or something like that. We'll probably end up having to rent the forest from them at the going rate if we wish to hold an event there.



An intermediate technology solution to the problem of providing drinks at water stations for the organisers of the Six Days this summer. Necessity was obviously the mother of invention in Goma. Where will we see the first water scooter ?




Forest Enterprise


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All enquiries welcome at
AE FOREST DISTRICT, PARKGATE 247

Forestry Commission

M fortysomething



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Never a season goes by without yours truly being laid low by something. This time round I caught an ear infection when everybody else had that flu bug. Just when I was beginning to get some semblance of fitness back I seem to have done it in. My back, that is. I'm obviously getting too old to play indoor football. So unfortunately I had to miss Bowden Hill last week but with the weather the way it was maybe it was just as well. What a big softie ! If anybody has any results then from places like Dalmacallan, Devilla, Birnam Wood, Bowden Hill and could lend them for a while, I might be able to relate them in the next issue.

One of my recent experiences was helping out with an orienteering course for school children. My pal Chalmers, (again !) has got himself roped into staff development and appraisal and had to attend a course at the Royal Scot for a few days at no small expense to the taxpayer. As outdoor education teachers are none a penny these days, it was suggested that I might do what he was down for that week (orienteering) as it would be a lot easier to get someone to cover my classes. (Shows what they think of me ! - Ed.)

Anyway, I found myself travelling out to Lowport Centre at Linlithgow for 3 days orienteering with eight 3rd Year pupils. I was very interested to see what it was like and how it was done because although a teacher, I'm not really trained in handling outdoor activities or even teaching orienteering for that matter. To my unqualified eye, the course seemed well organised with graded exercises, ready prepared maps, colour coded canes and other ideas designed to make it easier and enjoyable for the participants. None of the Lowport staff or the teachers involved were orienteers but all have had considerable experience of leading children in a whole variety of outdoor activities. As a group they had got together a few years ago and decided to organise these courses over a 4 week block with the schools involved. To me this seemed a very good idea, a way of introducing and stimulating children's interest in our sport in a fairly intensive burst. A variety of areas were used - Kinneil, Beecraigs, Cammo, Bonaly and Dechmont. People in orienteering circles have been bemoaning the lack of juniors coming through and here are a group of teachers doing something about it. In

some respects, a lot of clubs are not addressing the problem and there are still a lot of bolshie teachers around like me who are not doing as much since the strikes of the late 80's. The course wasn't perfect. There were improvements which even I could suggest but the feedback I got from the kids driving the minibus was among one of the more positive I have ever come across. They had really enjoyed themselves.

About a week later, Chalmers came up to me and said that someone (a rather prominent figure in orienteering) had been out in Beecraigs and came across that week's group. This person proceeded to berate the instructor for teaching children orienteering without a proper qualification. Not content with that, he drove to Lowport and proceeded to harangue office staff, centre managers and anyone within earshot. Threats of involving the papers were made if someone important couldn't be contacted. To me that is a fine advert for our sport when someone like that behaves in such a downright rude and impolite manner without any knowledge of what is being done and why. Sometimes it makes you wonder why people bother when that happens !



Christmas Party

Monday 19th December

Chez Riemersma

36 Buckstone Loan
From 7.30 p.m.

Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

Convivial Conversation
and Games Galore

Anyone not there runs the risk of being selected to plan, control or organise one of our forthcoming events.

Phone Eva or Rudolph (031-445-4419) to see what you can bring.

and finally

John Kenworthy is obviously spending too much time in front of a computer because he is probably going to get involved with the SOA Computer Interest Group. The multi memory watch is no longer under the Eades' bed but in Charlie Walton's shoe (!!!) There's a conference being organised by Ken Hall on the 4th February somewhere with the topic being juniors in orienteering. Is anyone interested ? We can try and find out where it is for you. Do go along to Circuit training if you can. It's on until April at Moray House Gym on Wednesday evenings and don't forget intervals on Tuesdays at the Meadows and a longer run at Meggetland on Thursdays. Pat Squire has bought some storage boxes to make handling some of our equipment a bit easier but no water containers yet. There is still believed to be a large consignment of Diamond White at 22 East Preston Street. 50% of all competitors at LOL events only ever attend one event. Where do they all go ? Could organisers make the presence of results envelopes more prominent at events ? A club training weekend is being considered for March / April. Who said the Galloways might be willing to host the Burns Night extravaganza. Andy Kitchin has volunteered to peel the potatoes to make his life a bit more meaningful and exciting allegedly.

th-th-that's all folks !