



# Interlopers



December 2021

*Ho ho ho! Deck the halls with kites and dibbers! With much more time now being spent indoors, inevitably perhaps the Christmas Variant of the Interlopers newsletter is now in circulation ... Another weird year. Lots of uncertainty, nail-bitingly so for organisers (especially of the big events), but amazingly, quite a lot went ahead in the end, and there was plenty of great orienteering to be had. Merry Christmas and here's to a happy, healthy and generally more normal 2022. Katherine & the Interlopers committee*

**JANUARY** On-going travel restrictions; INTs interlope off to other clubs for Covid-legal orienteering. Zoom Strength & Conditioning starts up. Terms such as floorwipers, deadbugs and aeroplanes enter our vocabulary (as well as 'ow') and we discover that extreme toe-wiggling is one way to spend the dark evenings. Thanks to Zoe, Lorna and Mette from Club la Santa!! We try an online Burns Night Haggis Drive and rusty orienteering-deprived brains puzzle over the rules.

**FEBRUARY** Club events remain online with INTEResting talks (packrafting, a year in Sweden, mountain marathons) and more quizzing. Winterlopes start up, hurrah! - neatly dovetailed with EUOC's FWTN, and with the magical combination of new mapping, Maprun, and Munroleagues software to enable some competitive winter orienteering (INT runners do well). Prestonfield, Liberton and Duddingston provide new terrain: we officially love golf courses! Some even enjoy some ski-O in the snow too.



**MARCH** INT Thursday training gets back on track, at least for those in the Edinburgh area. Thanks Graham M for valiantly keeping things going, and diligently doing Covid admin.



**APRIL** Farewell to Martin Hyman (1933-2021), who will be much missed. First INT local event since lockdown – gloriously sunny Craigmillar Park, thanks Team Ackland. [Spot the anti-Covid cones.] At the end of April, travel restrictions are eased at last; a huge hurrah all round, and the Eades family is now allowed to join in club activities again.



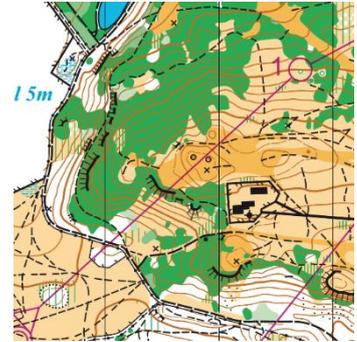
**MAY** Another INT local event at damp but still delightful Dechmont Law, with Lorna planning yellow-blue courses and Robin organising. Wider competition gets going, hurrah! First event in the new Scottish Juniors' Cup (three events in lieu of things like the Jamie Stevenson, Scottish Schools and InterAreas weekend) at Auchengarrich. It's nearly summer so Sprintelopes commence! The MoWsquad kick off the series, followed by one planned by Ann. Online booking continues with William

incorporating exciting tech innovations such as the Google form 'Choice Eliminator' [*sounds a bit worrisome? – Ed.*]. Masterplan's SprintScotland takes place at the end of May.

**JUNE** British Middle Distance Champs: no champions but a silver medal for Mairi and bronze for Fiona. The Scottish Champs takes place at Craig a Barns, hosted by ESOC. Very much a case of *will-it-won't-it-happen* ... but it does! The sun shines over the fabulous terrain and it's just great to be out in the forest again for some really enjoyable courses. Congratulations to a number of INTs: numerous top three finishes, and four Scottish Champions - W12 Lucy Ward; M18 Angus Ivory; M21E native Scott Fraser; W45 Mary Ross. Well done all! Another INT Saturday event, at Polkemmet - thanks to Colin Ledlie. A Marvellous Moredun Sprintelope, newly-mapped and planned by Angus.



**JULY** An enjoyable and well-attended Ackland-led B2B cycle ride (Butterfly World to Belhaven) in support of phenomenal Bristol2Beijing effort and fundraising (google it). Scott Fraser plans a Blackford Sprintelope with route choices that nobody gets right (hehehe).



Quite a large INT contingent enjoy the new Coasts & Islands 'bare bones' style event (top notch planning and no frills) in the north-west - masterly executed by the remarkable Chris Smithard who, single-handedly, seems to do everything, everywhere, every day. A good warmup for the Six Days with plenty of delights in rough-stuff terrain around Culag (Lochinver), Inverewe, Shieldaig, Kyle of Lochalsh (the Plock) and Armadale as well as urban Ullapool.



**AUGUST** The most severe case of *will-it-won't-it-happen* ... IT DOES! The Scottish 6 Days goes ahead, albeit as an event of two halves (two x three days for everyone). Archattan delights. Interlopers has the 'honour' of Day 1, with Graham McIntyre and Mike



Stewart planning, Max organising, Brian Bullen and Ross Lilley controlling. Kudos to Colin Eades for controlling Day 6. Super high-quality orienteering in beautiful weather and best of all, places that are not in our back yard! Lots of lovely loch and river swimming (then what might as well have been a swim on a supremely drenching Day 5 at Creah Dubh at Newtonmore). An outdoors club social at the campsite, assisted by a very nice orienteering lady in a campervan volunteering her kettle as a stand-in for the delayed Haley-van's one. Another good hunting ground with class victories for Lorna, Matthew, Joseph and Peter and good showings for others.



Congratulations to Mairi and Pippa, selected for British JWOC Turkey squad, though alas no travel for team due to Covid. Peter Hodgkinson was on duty at the World Championships in Czechia. More wins, at the British Sprint Orienteering Champs: Rachel W50 and Mairi W20 in the individual and then Paul, Jane and Phil in the Mixed sprint relay. Fantastic! Second race (the 'East' one) in the Scottish Juniors' Cup at Tentsmuir, planned by Colin Eades.

**SEPTEMBER** Lots of INTs are selected for the SHIs in Aberdeenshire (Mairi; James, Sasha, Iain, Scott). Relays at Balmedie, and individuals at Glen Tanar. Mairi is selected –and makes it- to the Eurometing in Switzerland; soooo lucky). Swimmerlopers finally get a 'meet' at Seacliff. The INT AGM is an ACTUAL social, once again at the Charwood Grill (though sadly short on steak). Congratulations to Stephen and Laura Haley on their wedding! Junior selections for JIRCs (Redcar) and JHIs (Guildford): Laurence Pippa, Fiona & Angus.



**OCTOBER** British long distance Champs at sandy Braunton Burrows. Another INT local event takes place at Braidburn Valley Park, planned by Paul. Another *will-it-won't-it-happen* wait for the CSC Trophy ... It does! A gaggle of INTs make it to Tankersley, though were pipped to the post for the shiny shoe.



**NOVEMBER** Livingston SOUL, planned by Iain & Zoe, organised by Robin. Another new member: congratulations to Stephen & Laura on the arrival of James Andrew Haley on 7 Nov!

**DECEMBER** VHI races for Ann Haley, Rob Bloor and Colin Eades. Weekly Zoom torture sessions start again, yay! *Will-it-won't-it* continues: ESOA Champs (Vogrie) in jeopardy yet again (Storm Arwen) but goes ahead; trophies for Ben, Mary, Rachel & Paul. Fingers crossed for orienteering in 2022!

