

# Capital O

THE JOINT NEWSLETTER OF INTERLOPERS AND E.S.O.C.

JANUARY 1986

Editors : INTERLOPERS

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## \*\*\*CALENDAR\*\*\*

### January

- 17 Burns supper - see social diary for details
- 17 JK relay teams arranged : contact Andy Spenceley (Int) or John Morris (ESOC)
- 18 ESOC mapping day at Glentress - details elsewhere
- 19 Moravian Open Event at Darnaway : run in the World Champs ('76) forest before it is felled.  
D.Murray, Sunnysknowe, Sanquar Rd, Forres  
Forres 72545
- 20 ESOC committee, 8pm at Ian Jackson's
- 20 JK entries close
- 25 WFO Night Event, Lochore Meadows, Fife  
J.Moffat, 182 Foulford Rd, Cowdenbeath 0383-514036
- 27 SE Area committee, 8pm at Pete Leach's house

### February

- 9 INTERLOPERS LOTHIAN O LEAGUE (LOL 6), Beecraigs, Linlithgow  
Lorna Boyd, The Old Joiner's Shop, Crichton,  
Pathhead 0875-320675
- 15 Carnethy Hill Race - entries close 25/1
- 17 Interlopers committee
- 19 Orienteering evening - details elsewhere
- 23 RR Local Event, Gala Hill, Galashiels  
L.Alexander, 31 Bleachfield Rd, Selkirk
- 2 Ski social - see social diary for details

### March

- 1 Interlopers training - details elsewhere
- 2 SW Area Champs Badge Event (SOLWAY), Mable, Dumfries  
D.McQuillen, 10 Craigvale Court, Dumfries  
0387-61741  
pre-entries, £2/£1, by 15/2; EOD 50p surcharge
- 6,12 RR Local Events, Glentress and Lanton Wood, Jedburgh  
A.Hewat, Kirkhope House, Ettrickbridge, Selkirk  
0750-52259
- 9 Scottish Schools Champs (+ Glasgow Galloper), North Achnay  
D.Orr, 13 Greenmore Avenue, Paisley  
041-881-1372
- 23 LOC Badge Event, Holme Fell, Coniston, Lakes  
N.Ditchburn, 29 Birkett Drive, Ulverston, Cumbria 0229-53668  
pre-entries, £2.50/£1, by 10/3; EOD 50p surcharge
- 26 Skating social - see social diary
- 28-31 JK '86, East Anglia

### Further ahead...

- 20/4 National IV, Torver, Lakes
- 25/5 British Champs, Achilty, Strathpeffer (ed 1/4)
- 7,8/6 Scottish Champs weekend, Dumfriesshire

### ESOC AGM - 4th December 1985

The ESOC AGM was well attended this year with about 30 present and a number of apologies. The following is a brief summary of the proceedings.

President's Report - Ian lamented the fact that ESOC had put on so few events in '85 but emphasised that orienteering is a hobby and should not become a chore. He spoke of the need for extra training runs on Thursday to cater for the slower market, urged us all to write more articles, especially event reports for Capital 'O' and emphasised again that mapping is of primary importance and that there will have to be a significant involvement in surveying by a large section of the club to finish Glentress and our other mapping projects in 1986.

Secretary's Report - Kirsteen has decided to step down from the post of Club Secretary and reported that a review of joint socials would be advantageous as it seems that there is a certain shyness amongst Capital Orienteers going to each others socials.

Captain's Report - John reported an active year with 250 badge event runs by 50 ESOCers. Well done.

Treasurer's Report - Stuart presented the ESOC accounts and a number of questions were asked by Ben Bate. Very few, including Stuart, understood what Ben was on about but following the first committee meeting Kirsteen, the new treasurer, undertook to represent the '85 accounts in a more succinct form.

Other Business - There was a discussion on the 6 Day and its effect on Scottish orienteering and following the experience of Tayside 1985 ESOC members again wished to be associated with the next 6 Day. There was also discussion, but little agreement, about the abolition clause (ie what happens to ESOC's thousands if the club folds or becomes part of one Edinburgh club). This is to be brought up again next year.

Overall the feeling was that the membership want an all singing all dancing club and are willing to take on the work that this involves.

The committee elections were again hotly contested (don't ever stay away from an AGM because you do not want to be elected to the committee - there's no danger!)

President	Ian Jackson
Secretary/New Members	Alastair Lessells
Treasurer	Kirsteen Kershaw
Captain	John Morris
Newsletter/SE Area	Ben Bate
Mapping	Bridget Jardine
Socials	Stuart Edgar

As one wag mentioned to me later the old guard still have more than a toe hold!.

### Anon



For a club with a history as long (21 years) and illustrious as ESOC's, it is regrettable that two of the basic stimulants to further club development have been abandoned for a number of years. I speak, of course, of technique training and the staging of introductory events - CATI's or as they are now called C5's. This is, no doubt, due to a number of factors, ie the two club situation in Edinburgh where each club waits for the other to do something, heavy commitments in other areas such as the 6 Day organisation and planning, Scottish Champs, Mapping etc etc.

When hearing of complaints about lack of numbers at events or the fact that there was a clash of events ie Pannanich and the Lakes Ranking Events, I can't help feeling that there are two sides to this problem. One, there are too many events and care should be taken to avoid clashes and Two, that there are too few orienteers in Scotland. Just how many orienteers there are in Scotland is unclear because the SOA seems unwilling or unable to issue a year book with such interesting information. However, there were 477 Scots entered in the 6 Day and 460 at the Ross Wood Event in November so given an entry of 50% at each event, there are about 1,000 Scottish orienteers. Now the population of Scotland is 5.2m, that of Sweden 8.1m and Norway 3.9m so on that basis Sweden ought to have 1,500 orienteers and Norway 750. Even I know that both Sweden and Norway have far more orienteers than that!. So it seems to me that there is scope to develop orienteering in Scotland by recruiting more members and I see no reason why a country with Scotland's population and orienteering terrain should not support 10,000 active orienteers. That number would require a ten-fold growth which is a great deal and whilst the development of orienteering in this country is entrusted to the SOA, the development of orienteering in Edinburgh has to rest with the Edinburgh Clubs.

How are we in Edinburgh going to increase total active membership. Undoubtedly, the staging of C5 events will do some good particularly if they are held regularly in the summer months. The market for these events is:

- Schools - easily contacted
  - Present orienteers - easily contactd
- and the two other much larger groups from whom growth must come:
- People who know about orienteering and wish to become involved
  - People who don't know about orienteering but if they did might wish to become involved.

Quite how these two groups can be contacted I do not profess to know but successfully contacting these groups is the key to a dramatic increase in active orienteers. Local events, word of mouth, the local press, adverts in sports halls and libraries must all play a part and have to be systematically explored.

The obvious desire of ESOC members to organise C5 events which has been expressed at the AGM and elsewhere is therefore most welcome, as is the work currently being done by SE Area (John Biggar and Fiona Hendry in particular) in staging Junior technique training sessions. Whether these developments are the beginning of a sustainable resurgence or a flash in the pan remains to be seen but I sincerely hope it is the former.

#### INT acknowledgements

The full story of "Capital O" production and distribution is being lined up for the next edition. In the meantime I'd like to pass on my thanks to Pete Coudery for doing the copying and to my ever willing delivery team of John, Ken, Scott, and Andy and Hilary. I'd better remind them all to keep on training as well!

Charlie

And a bit from the Interlopers editor ....

1986 appears to offer much to look forward to in Scottish orienteering : highlights could include the British championships (near Strathpeffer in July), the Scottish champs (Galloway in June), and the National event/home internationals in the Trossachs in November - not forgetting Drummond Hill in October. With a full supporting programme of events there is plenty to keep us busy, and you could always help put on an event or do some mapping as well, but if you do find a free moment why not try one of our socials? A good time is usually had by all who come along. Even more daring, why not write something for your newsletter? This "Capital O" looks a bit like ESOC news with a few Interlopers bits thrown in, so any contributions for the next one (due out in early March) will be gratefully accepted.

I'm not sure when you'll actually get to read this newsletter, as production has been held up by Xmas/New Year and by computer problems at my work (since that's where I type it and print out the originals), and also distribution may be held up by folk being slow to renew membership. There might be a new membership list enclosed for Interlopers, or there might not be! If you do get this before Friday 17th January, remember to come along to the Burns supper (details elsewhere) which is admittedly a bit costly but should be a good do. The other nearby date to remember is 9th January, the Interlopers Lothian O League event at Beecraigs (Linlithgow), when much help will be needed - see you all there!

Charlie Walton

#### KIMM 85 - BBC TV

Those of you who missed the Karrimor on BBC 2 on 6/12/85 will no doubt realise that this was because the programme was only shown in the North of England!.

#### DISCOUNT 15% DISCOUNT

Remember that all orienteers receive a 15% discount at Brunsfield Sports, Brunsfield Place. They stock a good selection of running shoes but to date no 'O' shoes. Try persuading the owner George to stock 'O' gear.

#### ESOC

Editor	Ben Bate
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	Ian Jackson
	Peter Coutts

Next Copy Date: 5/3/86

(If you can type - 5" column widths please)

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Tel. 0786-841 202



Secretary's Notes

A happy new year to all members and may the controls jump into your path. Please make an effort to get involved in the club this year. We have had very good turn-outs for training (every Tuesday and Thursday night) and socials in the year, but there are still some members we never see - don't be shy, come and enjoy yourself.

Now to business : as always at this time of year I am chasing subs. Please pay promptly, particularly if you are a club only member. As a reminder the club fees are :

Junior	£1
Senior	£2-50
Family	£3-50

If you want to take part in anything other than just club events then you should be a full member - fees are :

Junior	£3-20
Senior	£9-55
Family	£13-90

This is still good value for money as apart from the club newsletter you will receive the Scottish Orienteering Association magazine, with a comprehensive fixture list.

This year the J.K. is in East Anglia from 28th to 31st March. Would anybody interested in running in a relay team at the J.K. please tell me by the 17th Jan. Also coming up in the near future are the British and Scottish relay champs - any takers?

We are organising two main events this year and are looking for helpers. On the 9th February there is the Lothian O-League at Beecraigs, being organised by Lorna Boyd and planned by Charlie Walton. This is a last minute change of venue from Ewe's Hill due to Steve Terry's house getting flooded and spoiling the map. Then on the 6th October we are running a ranking badge event at Drummond Hill which Barry Woodfine has volunteered to plan but we are looking for an organiser, how about giving it a go?

The SOA are trying to set a permanent weekend for the Scottish Champs. It will be either the early May bank holiday or in June. If you prefer one or the other please tell me so I can inform the SOA of the clubs view.

Finally remember the Burns night supper on 17th January - please contact Fiona Craddock to get tickets for this fantastic evening of dinner and dance.

Best wishes for 1986,

Andy Spenceley

Ewe's Hill : the story so far

We nearly succeeded in our plans to use Ewe's Hill (near Galasniels) for our LOL event next month but you'll just have to wait a bit to sample this new area of runnable mature forest with superb contour detail ..... perhaps not strictly true, but who wants to know about steep featureless hillsides and impenetrable young trees? Pete Woolverton started the mapping, using a new series OS 1:10000 map as a base, and a hardy band of Interlopers took over the surveying in the last few weeks of last year, braving howling gales, lashing rain etc etc. Shortly before Christmas the survey team of Bob Cherry, Ken Ovens, Steve Terry, Barry Woodfine, Mike Burton and Charlie Walton finished the job and Steve, our cartographer, assembled the bits and pieces ready to draw the map. The map was to be ready a whole week before the event, but then disaster struck and our plans were washed down the drain when the Terry house flooded over new year. All is not lost, however, as Steve will try to piece the soggy bits of mapping film together in time for some future event - guess where the next Int LOL will be held!

Controllers Course

The course for budding controllers held in Edinburgh in November was very well attended, though not too many Capital Oers were to be seen. Those that went along had a most interesting day, and Interlopers Mike Burton and Charlie Walton are now Grade 3 controllers.

Among the renewals, late renewals and non-renewals, we have found at least two new members, and we extend a warm welcome to Jane Lupton and to Donald Watson, and to any other new faces in the club.

Orienteering Evening

With another season of major events just around the corner, we intend having a gathering on the evening of 19th February to talk a bit about techniques and improving performances. We hope to get some knowledgeable and experienced people to lead the discussion and hope lots of you will come along to add your piece, perhaps learn a bit, and join in the fun. Bring along interesting maps etc. More details from Bob Cherry (031-557-0652) or Andy Spenceley (031-668-2147).

Shop Press : Hilary and Andy's flat (54 Bankhallor St) at 8pm. Slide show as well!

Training Weekend

Graham McIntyre is going to arrange some training in Galloway on the Saturday before the SW Area Champs badge event (weekend 1st/2nd March), with accommodation etc provided. Contact Graham if you are interested in coming along - further details will be available shortly.

(Graham McIntyre : 031-668-1851)

SOUTH EAST v WEST - DEVILLA 24 NOVEMBER 1985

In all 6,318 points were awarded to the two sides and West Area ended up winning by only 60 points ie less than 1%, you really cannot get closer than that. A summary of the results is as follows:

White	SE Area	+ 68
Yellow	SE Area	+ 87
Orange	SE Area	- 61
Red	SE Area	- 76
Green	SE Area	-106
Blue	SE Area	+ 28
Overall SE Area		- 60
		=====

In Green our W21's and in Red our young men and women scored badly but so complex was the scoring that few fully understood it and I am sure that another method of scoring would give a different winner. However, thanks to John Biggar for his efforts and I am sure this competition will be repeated next year.

Ben Bate

MAPPING - GLENTRESS

ESOC are at present working on the Glentress map for an event in late 1986, there is still a lot of surveying to be done before the cartography can be started.

Two 'Mapping Days' have been arranged. Meet at the Glentress main car park on Saturday January 11th at 10.00am and/or Sat 18th January at 10.00am. Graham Pyatt and I will be there to co-ordinate the surveying. Anyone who is interested should go along as this is a great opportunity to help your club in a field where help is needed. Please bring clipboard, pencils, rubber, compass and polybag.

If anyone would like to have a go at mapping but cannot make it on these days please 'phone me Bridget Jardine (0506 882816) so that another date can be arranged. Could club members also please 'phone me if they are interested in either surveying or drawing maps so that I can compile a list of potential mappers.

Bridget Jardine



ESOC NOTICE BOARD

Highland '87 - following the enthusiastic support for this event at the AGM, if ESOC is asked to organise a day an Organiser will be required. Names please to Ian Jackson.

Club Tent - ESOC is now the proud owner of a Reguly Club Shelter Tent which will be made available for all C1 and C2 events. However, this tent has a history of collapse in windy conditions so if anyone is skilled in tent technology your services are required to make the tent more wind resistant.

Burns Supper - 17 January 1986. Tickets from Ian Jackson.

Maps - the new club Treasurer, Kirsteen, will hold all club maps. Will anyone holding maps please return them to Kirsteen. All requests for maps and prices should be addressed to Kirsteen on 667-4670.

CATI's (C5 Events) - Charles Howie and Meryl Marshall are keen to see a series of CATI events in Edinburgh in May and June. If anyone else is keen to help, contact Ian Jackson.

Woodland Trust - whose aims are to protect woods in Britain through ownership, have recently appointed a full time development officer based in Edinburgh. The Trust has 34,000 members - 1,200 in Scotland and owns 4,000 acres of woodland. Further details from Westgate, Grantham, Lincs NG31 6LL.

ESOC CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS 1986  
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Here is a list of Badge (and better) events in 1986 from which the ESOC Championships events will be chosen, together with a reminder of the Rules.

RULES

Competitors will be ranked on the sum of their four best scores from the six events. Scores will be related to Badge standards.

The Men's and Women's Open classes will be decided on performances - by any member - in M21A and W21A classes. (Performances in Elite classes, if any, will be suitably adjusted.)

The Pentlands Trophy is awarded to any Junior on the basis of performances in M/W13, M/W15, M/W17, or M/W19.

The Veterans' trophies are awarded to M/W35 and above members without regard to the class they run in (just so long as it's legal!).

Lastly, but not leastly, the M/W10's and M/W11's have their own trophy to compete for.

Results from B class runs are divided by 1.2 for all classes.

Confused? Just wait until you see the Event list! I apologise for the uncertainty - but it seems better to recognise in advance that, in a typical season, not every event, however confident its Organiser, is going to take place.

EVENTS

We intend to use the events marked as '1st' to '6th'. Events marked 'Res.' (Reserve) are likely to be used if first choice events fall through. The remainder are unlikely to be used but may be of interest, especially if you're after a Championship Badge this year.

For Club championship purposes, National Events (even if currently in Reserve) will be avoided if possible - which implies that the StAUOC event is first reserve. If they are used scores in them will have to be multiplied by a factor which reflects the higher standard of competition (probably 1.25, following the Peter Dominic Ranking scheme).

MEMBERSHIP - Attached to this copy of Capital 'O' are two copies of the ESOC Application Form. please use them to try and increase membership. Completed forms to Kirsteen.

RELAY FEES - All those owing Relay Fees will be asked, by the Treasurer, to pay them. An idea to deposit £5 with the club to be used for Relay Fees has been mooted. Anyone in favour contact Alastair Lessells.

CLUB MEMBERSHIP - 1986 Membership Fees are now due and despite what you may see elsewhere they are:

	Junior	Senior	Family
Club Only	50p	£ 2.50	£ 4.00
Club, SOA & BOF	£ 2.70	£ 9.55	£14.40

Payable to Kirsteen Kershaw, 39 Mayfield Road, Edinburgh.

New Members

ESOC welcome the following new members

- 1) Cliff White M40 5A Lauriston Gdns 229 8569
- 2) Scott Hain M15 17 Dalmeny St 554 7423
- 3) Rod Dalitz M35 2 Frogston Ave 445 4670
- 4) Stevenson Family 2I Orchard Rd 332 3045
- 5) Mitchell Family 15 Greenfield Cres Balerno 449 4680

Committee phone list

1 Alastair ; 2 Ian ; 3 Stuart ; 4 Kirsteen ; 5 John .

-	09/02	Tyne Badge (R)	Callaly
1st	02/03	SW Area Champs (R)	Mabie North
-	23/03	LOC Badge (R)	Coniston
-	20/04	National IV (Lakes)	Torver
-	27/04	Grampian Badge Event	Kirkhill
2nd	04/05	Clyde Badge Event	new area?
3rd	18/05	FVO Badge Event	Birnam
-	25/05	British Championships	Strathpeffer
Res.	07/06	National VII (Scot. Ch.)	Mabie South
-	31/08	INVOC Eagle Event	Queen's F.
4th	07/09	SE Area Championships	Cademuir?
-	21/09	Northern Lights	Darnaway
5th	05/10	Interlopers Badge Event	Drummond H.
Res.	02/11	StAUOC Badge Event	?
Res.	17/11	National IX (FVO)	Trossachs
-	30/11	National X (NE)	Nthumberland
6th	07/12	W Area Championships	Lennoxtown

TITLE HOLDERS

Here is a list of the people and the scores to beat. 1985 Winners and Runners-up were:-

Men's Open	1st	Mark Kassyk	201
	2nd	Dave Nisbet	189
Women's Open	1st	Janice Nisbet	178
	2nd	Bridget Jardine	160
Veteran Men	1st	John Morris	364
	2nd	Alastair Lessells	356
Veteran Women	1st	Meryl Marshall	400
	2nd	Trish Carmichael	375
M/W 13-19	1st	Claire Tansley	280
	2nd	Gillian Pyatt	105
M/W 10/11	1st	Ruth Lessells	394
	2nd	Richard Lessells	381

See you in the forest!

John Morris

If you are going to the J K and want to run in a relay contact j Morris by 12/1/86



At the last ESOC AGM Alastair Lessells (M35) was elected to the Committee as Secretary. This, as past incumbents will tell you, is an important and time consuming position. So who is this relatively new ESOC member who finds himself in such a position? Here Alastair gives an account of himself and some of his views on the 'O' scene which includes being in favour of more events, one Edinburgh club, a junior squad and encouraging more family involvement. For more details read on.....

#### WHO IS ALASTAIR LESSELLS?

My first introduction to orienteering was in 1978 when Katy and I went to a CATI (C5 event) organised by GRAMP in a small wood south of Aberdeen. We had seen a small advert in the local free newspaper - the equivalent of the Edinburgh Advertiser. We also made use of the permanent wayfaring course in N Kirkhill, the scene of last year's Scottish Score Champs. We then joined GRAMP but before long we moved to Manchester in November 1978. We soon found orienteering was a good way to occupy Sundays and enabled us to see parts of the countryside we would not otherwise have visited. By the end of the year I had competed in 3 events and the children aged 3 & 5 years in 2 events. One year later I was on the committee of MDOC - although I was still very new to the sport and I didn't know what I was letting myself in for. I became more and more involved and became interested in planning. I was fortunate early on to assist Dave Brittain at our Badge Event (C3). Dave is probably one of the top Planners/Controllers in the country and the Controller of the event was Ian McMillan, the present Chairman of BOF. Working with these two individuals was a memorable experience and certainly whetted my appetite.

Orienteering in England is different in several ways from Scotland. The numbers are greater - 700+ for a badge event is the norm and even club events (C4) may attract 300+. The biggest difference is in the senior adult classes where you can expect good competition in all groups without any need to run down a class, eg looking at two sets of results in December 1983 when numbers were rather lower than earlier in the year:

M35A 39 & 48	M35B 30 & 27
W35A 11 & 15	W35B 7 & 13

MDOC was a very big club compared with ESOC, but the proportion who were active was probably significantly less than ESOC where I am impressed by the number who willingly participate in the activities of the club and attend events.

Despite its size, MDOC had certain weaknesses similar to those of ESOC - putting on events and producing maps - which are probably the two most important aspects of an orienteering club. However, over the last few years things had begun to change and I see from their latest newsletter they put on 24 events in 1985.

How do I see ESOC and orienteering in Edinburgh developing over the next few years and where do I see the priority areas?

- 1) We need to put on more events, 10-15 is I think not an impossible target. The programme of events should be shaped like a pyramid with the C3 event at the top but with a greater number of C4 events and even more C5 events. Something like

1	C3 - Badge event
3	C4 - Colour coded LOL events, perhaps 1 being a score event
1	Night event, so that members have some experience of night orienteering
5-10	C5 events (CATI - evening practice events)

I would like the programme of events for the year ready by the end of January with Planners, Organisers and Controllers appointed so that everyone knows their commitments well in advance. Unless you put on a programme of events like this how can you get people to start to progress from C5-C4-C3 and without a large number of events, how can you get a significant increase in new members?

- 2) The next priority as I have suggested, is mapping and it looks as if mapping in ESOC is taking off again. Certainly, there was a very encouraging turnout at the surveying of Dalkeith Park so there certainly seems to be interest and enthusiasm in the club. I also feel that with Bridget as Mapping Co-ordinator and the enthusiasm of David Lane, the future of mapping seems quite good for the time being.
- 3) The club need to think about permanent wayfaring courses. They are a valuable source of new recruits and money, especially if the club keeps overall control of the maps etc.
- 4) training runs need to offer something for the whole family including young children, rather than being geared to the fittest members. After all, orienteering is said to be the 'Family Sport' and that is one of its strengths. Club activities, training and socials also should cater for all members including those in M/W 10.
- 5) We need to look at coaching in the club especially of juniors. Fiona Hendrie and John Biggar have started to organise a SE Area Junior Squad and for the numbers turning up at the initial events, there is a large pool of juniors interested. However, to make the squad manageable, it will have to be reduced in size and therefore it will be up to the clubs including ESOC to provide some coaching in a club junior squad. This would result in a natural progression from Club - Area - Scottish - British junior squads for promising young members.
- 6) Which brings me to the next point - should there be two clubs in Edinburgh? As someone coming in from outside who has not been soaked in the history of the two clubs, the answer is undoubtedly NO. It seems to me there is everything to gain by having one club - it makes it more feasible to put on a good programme of events, it strengthens the mapping effort, it provides stronger relay teams, a stronger team for the Compass Sport Cup (possibly the best in Scotland), it could provide a good junior squad. It would improve the chances of the club growing in that more people would be able to concentrate on attracting new members without the duplication of two editors, social secretaries, mapping co-ordinators, treasurers etc. Having said this I can well understand that those who have been in the club from the beginning or early on may feel sentimentally attached to their individual clubs. However, for the future of orienteering in Edinburgh the benefits of a merger would greatly outweigh the deficits - I hope it comes about sooner rather than later.
- 7) One last point. I feel that the ESOC AGM should be a pure business meeting. This year's AGM was a very interesting meeting but suffered from the pressure of time. At an AGM, there should be no time pressure since it is often the only forum where club members can give their opinion and suggestion for improving the running of the club. (Newsletter! - Ed). I would like to see in early January a big ESOC social event - a fun event on a local area and then a meal where everyone contributes a little, combined with a prize giving day with games, quizzes and competitions for all ages.  
Being new to the club my assessment of the strengths and weaknesses may you feel be quite wrong and perhaps my opinions have been based on a difficult year for the ESOC with the Scottish Champs and the Scottish 6 Day.

Alastair Lessells

(Any comments or views to Capital 'O' by 5/3/86, please - Ed)



As we are now in the middle of the unofficial closed season for orienteering in Scotland, our spys have little to report on since the last newsletter. A number of folk made it to the event at Devilla which incorporated the SE versus West Area match; it was a lovely day, but we hear the courses were of the sort that get planners a bad name (boulders in dubiously contoured green, for example), and Pete's careful map corrections at the Scottish relays must have been too good for anyone to even notice them - they certainly weren't among those displayed. To call the "match" poorly organised would be doing it a favour, even the organisers didn't seem to know what was going on, but there was a very good turnout for the event.

Weather worries may put people off putting on events but they don't stop Tuesday or Thursday training. We hear turnout at the Meadows was a little low on Christmas Eve and on Hogmanay, but a lot of folk were away. More worrying is the trend towards minimising the distance run on Thursday nights from Meggetland; one excuse bandied about is that the showers go cold if you're not back early. We've also heard that this is a particularly masculine problem since the ladies showers are sometimes too hot - sounds like discrimination to us.

Buying houses has been popular with Interlopers recently, with ex-flatmates Bob Cherry and Pete Couldery both entering the property market. Now they are living at opposite ends of town - was it really that bad? Pete and Chris are now just along the road from the Diggers (and are rumoured to be getting heavy on tap) and civil engineer Pete is keen to start knocking walls down - he says they aren't structural, we hope he's right. Bob and Jane now claim to have a "new town" residence, though we think it's about as near the edge of the new town as you can possibly get! New cars have also been popular, but we reckon a few orienteering events will soon bring the shiny Terry and Ovens machines down to the level of the now sadly departed Spenceley special.

That's us run out of time so no more gossip this month, we'll be back next issue, so just remember you are being watched.....

N.E.Thicket

## IRISH 2-DAY, November 1985

Early last November a few Scots made it over to Eire for the autumn 2-day event, which was held this year in the Wicklow Mountains, to the south of Dublin. The event incorporated an international match between the Scots and the Irish, with four to count from six in both mens and ladies competition, and the destination of the Fermanagh Cup resting on the combined result over the two days. In addition to the Scottish team, plus officials, a combined Interlopers/St Andrews Uni expedition swelled the foreign entry to the event, along with about twenty from the south of England, a few Belgians, and even some New Zealanders.

After a lengthy journey the Int/St A's car got to the event centre, a school in a small town called Bray, in time to sample the Guinness before bedding down on some relatively comfortable flooring. Half the Scottish team arrived, narrowly missing last orders, while one carload stopped off further north, but every-one eventually met up at the event the next morning. There were actually only four team men and four team ladies, but coach Graham McIntyre joined brother Colin, Jonathan Musgrave, Jack Maitland, and Dave Anderson to make up numbers, while I think it was agreed to take the top three ladies from Hazel McNeen, Ann Heyworth, Fiona Hendrie and Angela Panther - note plenty of Interlopers involvement! Team manager Gordon Ross did the talking, would-be-but-injured team member Martin Dean carried the tracksuits, and team doctor Douglas McKie did not a lot - but the Sports Council apparently like international teams to be well supported. They provide the cash, and the sport goes up in their estimation.

The first day's competition was at Glendalough, a beautiful area but with a fearsome reputation after last year's Irish Champs were held there. The main problems were to be found on a steep and intricate muddy hillside which competitors visited towards the end of their courses, and many must have wished they had listened when warned to take it easy by those who had visited the

but so did most of the Irish, so the competition was far from over. Chilly rain dampened an otherwise excellent event, and while many found their courses physically demanding this was compensated by good organisation and Irish hospitality. Doctor McKie ironically suffered most amongst the Scots, retiring injured after only a couple of controls!

The lack of official social (I wonder what went wrong there?) was a pity but there was plenty chance to sample further Irish hospitality and specialities on the Saturday night, which was very enjoyable, though the weather was getting rougher and the temperature dropping fast. Sunday dawned bright and clear but freezing, and the competition area at Ballinastoe included large frost-covered hills with an evil wind sweeping across them. The courses were faster and had no technical nasties but still offered a hard days orienteering. The Scottish team showed a bit more form, the men emerging as clear winners as Jonathan had the fastest time on the day and moved up to third overall, just behind Colin who maintained his overnight second position. (The Irish winner in the mens event, Aonghus O'Cleirigh, had not been selected for the Irish team.) I think Hazel won the ladies race on day 2, though the Irish ladies still won overall, but not by enough to stop the cup returning to Scotland.

This was my fifth orienteering trip to the Emerald Isle, and each one has been hugely enjoyable. The orienteering was excellent, with good maps, interesting courses, good areas and top class organisation. The events are very friendly and you soon get to know faces and names, so I'd thoroughly recommend a trip over - I certainly hope to be back a few more times.

Charlie Walton

While I was in Ireland I picked up a few copies of the Irish orienteering magazine, "The Irish Orienteer". You might be interested in some comments from it:

The JK: "The favourite establishment of the weekend was the Nag's Head .... residents of the house were well treated, being served after closing hours, so we inevitably became residents until the early hours of the morning." (Numerous Capital orienteers were also present at this watering hole.)

## Scottish Champs

Individual: "A copy of the map was displayed, too late to go home: the map was the greenest I have seen, not only that but the controls were planted in the darkest of the green." "Anything you could stand up in was classified as fast run."

Relays: "The relay was held at Devilla, a flattish area near Kincardine Bridge, wherever that is." "Ted Russell introduced ECO tactics to Scotland when he had failed to locate the penultimate control....not being alone, he organised his troops in a sweep search, with the discovery of the control to be indicated by the standard course."

## Tayside '85

"Despite the bad weather the week was a great success, with good orienteering and only one day with 8 foot high bracken."

"The organisation from Day 1 to Day 6 was superb. The planning, controlling and mapping were of the highest standard."

"Yours truly could have done better but for mistaking a taped river crossing for the finish and spending the day running up and down it. Roll on '87."

"Declan's site was soon submerged as five tents made themselves welcome there - not surprising considering the rising cost of o-campsites....this was to be the noisy end of the campsite and we were determined to make it such."

"The real Tayside '85 was all happening in the cattle sheds to the rear of Faskally House. The pens provided excellent crowd-control barriers and paralytic juveniles could be corralled into pens of their own where they could get sick over themselves."

"For the savage and hungry it was the haggis eating competition....participants, hands tied behind their backs, buried their faces into plates of potato, turnip and haggis....this new type of face mask is not recommended for aspiring beauty queens."

"If no official prizes came to the tents at least some Scandinavians did...."

"Remember the rain. How could we forget..."

Charlie



## \* Jan 17th : Burns Supper \*

First the bad news - tickets for this momentous evening are £8-75, available from Fiona Craddock (031-343-1828) or Ian Jackson (031-445-2921). But don't be put off, an excellent evening is promised, with a decent meal and live band, and plenty of "Burnsian" bits and pieces. It all happens at the Marwell House Hotel in Etrick Road, starting at 7-30. (I was going to say it was going to be a ceilidh, but it's awfy difficult to spell!)

Feb 26th : "Ski Ian Do"

Part I - ski-ing at Hillend, 6:30 to 9:00pm, just come along and join in, the more experienced can help the less experienced!

Part II - apres-ski at Ian Jackson's, 19 Swanston Crescent (031-445-2921). Bring red wine for gluhwein.

March 26th : Skating night

More winter sports! Meet at Murrayfield Ice Rink. Details soon from Fiona Craddock, so keep the date free.

FOYER,  
7-30pm

## PENTLANDS - AN UPDATE

With the closure of the firing range at Dreghorn it seemed an appropriate time to ask the Army their future intention in Howden Glen. In a (polite) letter to Lt Col Fairweather, the man in charge of the Scottish Infantry Depot at Glencorse, I asked a few questions - about the erosion of the track up Howden Glen, when the flagpoles on Caplaw Hill would be removed and whether vehicle pressure would increase. In reply I received a courteous and helpful letter explaining the Army's intention (or some of them) for MOD land in the Pentlands.

Basically, although there will be no more live firing at Dreghorn, Howden Glen through to Castlelaw will remain an Army Training Area and troops will therefore train there - trench digging, firing of blanks and pyrotechnics and occasional vehicle movement (not tracked). The erosion of the track up Howden Glen will, hopefully, be minimised by infrequent vehicle use and replacing Land Rovers by "civilian 3 wheelers". Finally, the shooting butts at Dreghorn and the flagpole on Caplaw Hill will be removed "in due course".

So, all in all, there are plus and minus points. I think that the Army will be helpful to orienteering in the future but I'm worried that increased military use will interfere again with public access.

Perhaps I should adopt Ben's pragmatic attitude - "let them dig all the trenches they want - just make sure they're all mapped!"

Cliff White

REMEMBER :

BURNS SUPPER

17<sup>th</sup> Jan, 7-30pm

Marwell House  
Hotel,  
Etrick Road

Tickets : £8-75, from Fiona or Ian

I was disappointed to read of the apparent joint Club approach of ESOC against the current organisation of the Scottish 6 Day events and in particular Ian Jackson's letter in Capital-O November 1985.

My response to his numbered points would be as follows:

- 1) The six day events are already booked upto 1993 at two yearly intervals with host areas anxious to be involved. Is this really sour (East Scotland) grapes because the south East has insufficient quality areas to host the event? There is no way a bi-annual event of this excellence should be wiped off the International 'O' calendar and lose its identity in a four year cycle with no momentum.
- 2) Mapping by professionals will become more and more essential as the event grows in strength but do not make it compulsory! The organisers of Highland 1987 couldn't afford the risks involved in fully professional mapping outlay and at over £2500 per map we must have sympathy. Private mappers correctly scrutinised will provide competition in the industry and nobody now underestimates the amount of time involved in quality mapping.
- 3) Controllers of events of this calibre have to be Grade One controllers. Day 6 1985 was the biggest most complex event I have controlled in 10 years of international controlling. Such an event controlled by a Grade two controller could be a nightmare for all!
- 4) Club pairings should disregard all University Clubs as they effectively do not exist in Holiday periods.
- 4) Event-day assistance is available from other UK clubs but how much better if Scotland could manage its own event. Remove the jobs by computerisation or employ daily results teams etc but leave out the visitors when organising the event. Otherwise what price Scottish 6 Day event Northumberland or Cumbria!
- 5) 33 Courses. 58 Classes. Yes with over 3200 competitors we do need them. Averaging 100 per course and over 50 per class we have no alternative if the nature of the sport is to be protected in this event.

So in conclusion I would say, stop knocking the Scottish 6 Day. Get behind it every two years or restrict your personal commitment to every four years, but do not wreck our national sporting identity; for that is what the 6 day event could become for Scottish Orienteering within a decade. Perhaps it is relevant to note that in 1972 the Swedish O-Ringen had the same number of competitors as Tayside '85 and that if Scottish Orienteering produces 6 new maps and £10,000 every two years and does nothing else the sport will be stronger and the interest greater for the future.

There are many emerging nations in orienteering much further from the European core of our sport who would take up rapidly any slack offered by our 'O' calendar and if we as a sport can afford to turn them away, we as a nation cannot!

Dick Carmichael

IN REPLY.....

To clarify the position of the ESOC Committee. They were never of the view that ESOC should disassociate itself from the 6 Day, only that we were concerned that the momentum generated by a large biennial event might crush everything in its path - crush such things as getting new members into the sport (Scotland has only a few hundred orienteers compared with the thousands in Norway and Sweden whose populations are similar to ours), crush club training, CATI's, Badge Events and Local mapping projects. It is no co-incidence that the only SE club who were not involved in Tayside - Roxburgh Rivers - put on as many events in '85 as the other 4 clubs put together.

There is also the danger that the 6 Day might crush the odd Planner, Organiser, Controller of whom Dick will agree there are a limited number in Scotland. Dick seems to think that the 6 Day is fine, I and one or two others on the ESOC Committee think we need to be a little bit careful and ask ourselves from time to time in the words of Brian Porteous "Is the 6 Day still an asset to Scottish orienteering?"

Ben Bate